



MISHPACHTENU

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Congregation Beth Shalom
5915 Beacon Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15217
412.421.2288

don't forget to visit
www.bethshalompgh.org



CONGREGATION BETH SHALOM
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Beth Shalom COVID-19 Update 3
 A Message From Our President 5
 Words of Kedushah..... 7
 Directing the Way 8
 Walking the Derekh 9
 Growing Through the ELC 11
 Sisterhood Says 12
 Learning with J-JEP 13
 Legacy Circle Update 14
 Artist's Reflection 15
 Benei Mitzvah 16
 Humans of Beth Shalom..... 17
 You Should Know..... 19
 Our Congregational Family 20
 Staff Directory 23



Beth Shalom COVID-19 Update

As of Friday, June 19, 2020

Now that the Commonwealth has declared Allegheny County to be in the “Green” phase, it’s time for another update on what we’re doing at Congregation Beth Shalom. Unfortunately, the seriousness of the virus has not really changed over the past few months. There is no vaccine and no cure. What is different is that we’ve figured out better how to adapt to life with the virus, and how to live with it in our community.

First and foremost, simply being in the green phase doesn’t mean that we are opening our doors and are once again fully open. We’ll get there someday, but right now we’re going to continue to take a cautious approach, including **ensuring that the infection counts in the area continue to drop** before starting up certain activities, **starting up activities in a phased manner**, and putting **procedural precautions** in place.

Ensuring that the infection counts in the area continue to drop will mean, at the very least, watching the results of the infection numbers in the county a couple of weeks after the recent demonstrations and marches. Large gatherings in recent weeks have raised the risk for us all, and we need to understand the effects of those gatherings.

Starting up in a phased manner means that not all activities will begin at once.

- At the top of our list was getting our Early Learning Center (ELC) open once again. The ELC is critical for child care for so many of our families that have essential personnel working to alleviate the effects of the virus, and/or have people who need to get back to work outside the home. The ELC opened up its Camp Gan Shalom, on schedule, on June 16. There are many new procedures in

place at the ELC, including a restriction on parents coming in to the building (dropoff and pickup will be curbside), temperature taking of all children (and staff), mask wearing for staff, separation of activities by classroom, new cleaning protocols, and much more. ELC families have received a detailed email on the changes, and last week the ELC staff was trained on the new procedures.

- From there, plans become less definite. And we have created a new Building Reopening Taskforce to provide recommendations, and augment the existing Coronavirus Taskforce that has been guiding us from a medical perspective.
- The next item of discussion is allowing people back in the building for religious services. We are actively discussing this possibility. At the earliest, it’s still a another week away (pending tracking of local cases, as indicated above). As of Monday, June 22, the decision as to whether or not to enable a limited number of people to come in to the building for services on June 27 will be made. When this does become effective, new procedures will be in place for anybody physically attending, and remote Zoom options will continue to be offered, at least for quite a while.
- Larger gatherings, such as for simchas, are trickier, and it might be a while before the building opens for them. They are, by their nature, social events, and no matter what procedures we put in place, it’s difficult to socialize and enforce the restrictions. We need to be responsible in

IN THE KNOW

keeping everyone safe.

- Lastly are all the programming and meetings. Mostly, these are occurring very successfully over Zoom and will likely continue that way for quite some time. Some activities, such as synchronized singing, cannot be done over the network, and we'll likely just have to do without them for a while.
- High Holiday services are also being actively discussed, and we'll be developing plans for those over the next couple of months.

Procedural precautions are being drafted for building use. They already include a requirement for anyone in the building to be wearing a mask (unless working in his/her own office or in a secluded manner), and will soon include requirements for temperature taking upon building entry and logging of who is coming in and leaving the building. Other requirements are under discussion, and these will all need to be solidified, documented, and communicated before people are permitted back in the building.

In the meantime, we've taken advantage of this time of low occupancy to make some upgrades within the building. The maintenance staff is at full strength and has been working hard to keep the building clean and sanitized and to get to many backlogged projects.

Thank you for your continued understanding and support. We hope to see you all soon.

Rabbi Seth Adelson, *Senior Rabbi*
Ken Turkewitz, *Interim Executive Director*
Debby Firestone, *President*

Beth Shalom ELC Important Upcoming Dates

- Camp Gan Shalom Session 1 ends Friday, July 10
- Camp Gan Shalom Session 2 starts Monday, July 13
- Last day of camp: Friday, August 7
- In-service week for teachers – ELC CLOSED- Monday, August 10 through Friday, August 14
- Back to School Open House: Sunday, August 16 (Time of event TBD)
- First Day of 20-21 School Year Monday, August 17

Please note that all dates are subject to change

Attention Congregants: Do you know someone who is looking for childcare for the 20-21 school year? We have limited spaces available in our older toddler program, older two year old program, three year old program, and prekindergarten program. All inquiries should call the ELC office at 412-421-8857. Please note that some classrooms are full and classroom assignment depends on the birthday of your child.



ELC Drop-Off procedures during COVID-19

A Message From Our President

Debby Firestone, *President*

I'm including in this edition of *Mischpachtenu* my message to the congregation from our May 26, Annual Spring Meeting:



We are fortunate to have a positive image in our community, increased membership, have a stable and very effective staff and skeleton crew now (thank you to our Interim Executive Director, Ken Turkewitz). Although may I remind you that even before COVID-19 we were still operating with a bare bones office staff. Rabbi Adelson continues to bring much to Beth Shalom with his vision and the *Derekh* program headed by Rabbi Jeremy Markiz, other programs and initiatives are going along well in their on-line format. J-JEP, Youth Programming have also used Zoom formatting. We have many very talented members that are helping us think outside of the box. Thank you to Board of Trustee member, Bruce Rollman, his vision for our solar roof on our ELC building will be beginning this summer.

For the last 18 months we have crafted a new Strategic Plan with guidance from United Synagogue; which enabled us to plan for the future and guide our undertakings. You've heard a great deal about this but more will be happening as we move forward. We set priorities with fundraising being paramount and development (which now is on hold and trying to regroup), continuity for shul leadership, and a renewed effort for membership and volunteers to help us. (Thank you to Jessica Hammer and Chris Hall.) Thank you also to all those members (over 40 people) of the Strategic Plan who put in countless hours in helping us create the future of Congregation Beth Shalom,

especially Jordan Fischbach who will guide the implementation.

Thank you to our Legacy Circle members who continue to ensure Beth Shalom's future. We have met our goal for this year but would really like to exceed that goal of 18. We could receive an extra cash bonus from the Harold Grinspoon Foundation for achieving and documenting a total of 25 declarations of intent before February. Please, you can still help us. Give me a call and our committee will reach out to you.

For those members interested in the ELC summer camp, we have begun the mid-June opening but we have many logistical issues to consider plus we continue to follow the guidelines of our Shul's COVID Taskforce, the CDC, our governor, county and city officials.

Here are a few other areas I would have focused on but I'll just touch upon them:

- **Minyan** –our Zoom twice daily minyan is running smoothly.
- **Our physical structure** -We will always have a capital campaign for our building needs.
- **Fundraising** – We need to think creatively to maintain what we have for now and later.
- **Lay Leadership** –There are many of you who could be officers, board members and committee members; if you have time, please volunteer.

Thank you to the outgoing Board of Trustees members, your commitment to Beth Shalom has helped us in so many ways. I hope you will continue to volunteer. Just know we will be calling you! Welcome new Board of Trustees members, thank you for your willingness to serve. Connie Pollack and the Nominating Committee are to be commended for providing our Shul with an excellent slate.

OUR LEADERSHIP

Even though we are separated now, Beth Shalom is our spiritual home. We are at a special crossroads for our congregation. We all here tonight wish to have Beth Shalom continue to succeed with the hope we are going to make the smart decision necessary at this time knowing there are many unknowns. We all know that when we come out of all this Beth Shalom will continue to be a strong anchor in the Squirrel Hill Jewish community.

Lastly, thank you to everyone who has given me advice and helped me in so many ways this year. I lean very heavily on the Executive Committee and Board of Trustees members. I truly appreciate all of you. This is already starting out as a difficult year, but I know you will help me. Thank you also goes to those individuals who helped to make our Webinar Annual Spring Meeting run so smoothly, Evan Stein, Yael Silk, Jordan Fischbach and Ken Turkewitz.

Report on Motions from the Annual Spring Congregation Meeting

Our Annual Spring Congregation Meeting on May 26, held over Zoom Video Webinar, had in excess of 130 participants participating for the majority of the meeting, both on the video call and on audio-only. All voting was done by paper ballot. There were four motions made:

- Motion to approve the minutes of the May 28, 2019 Congregation Beth Shalom Annual Spring Congregational Meeting (amended with one typo change)
- Motion to approve of the slate of candidates for the Board of Trustees proposed by the Nominating Committee
- Motion to approve of the Congregation Beth Shalom Amended and Restated Constitution and Bylaws proposed by the Constitution/Bylaws Committee
- Motion to approve of the first quarter Fiscal Year 2020 budget, proposed by the Finance Committee, as presented

All four motions were approved by overwhelming majorities.

Volunteer Awards Nominations

- **Lester A. Hamburg Member of the Year Award** honors a member who embodies volunteerism, leadership, and a long history of participation within the congregation.
- **Ethel and Bernard M. Halpern Young Leadership Award** recognizes a young leader in our congregational family who has set an example of volunteerism and decision-making.
- **Nathan E. Snader Distinguished Service Award** rewards a member who has demonstrated exemplary service and dedication to Beth Shalom and the larger Jewish community.
- **Pittsburgh Jewish Chronicle Volunteers of the Year Award** celebrates a member whose devotion and involvement has positively impacted Beth Shalom and Pittsburgh's Jewish community.

Please submit nominations to our Receptionist, Tika, at x114 or via email at receptionist@bethshalompg.org.

Help Your Shul...

by wishing our friends a Happy Birthday!

As part of revamping the birthday greetings, you can now write one larger check and draw down on your deposit as you send greetings during the year. Look for more improvements soon!

PLEASE download the birthday form from our weekly announcements or see the form in our office to complete and return it to our office. Thank you!

Words of Kedushah

Rabbi Seth Adelson, *Senior Rabbi*

Tish'ah Be'Av: Redemption is Coming



As I write this column, it feels as though the world is on fire. The coronavirus pandemic continues to rage around the world, as cases rise in Brazil, Russia and rural America. Protestors occupy the streets of Pittsburgh and other cities, as people decry the killing of George Floyd. So many people are newly jobless and hurting economically. American society - our values, our democracy, our stability - seems to teeter on a narrow bridge.

Was this what our ancestors felt when the Romans besieged Jerusalem? Was this how Rabban Yohanan ben Zakkai was feeling when he had himself smuggled out of the Holy City in a coffin, to be reborn in the court of Vespasian and request Yavneh as the foundation of rabbinic Judaism? When the *Beit haMikdash* burned on Tish'ah Be'Av, the ninth day of Av in the year 3830 (70 CE), is this how the spiritual landscape appeared?

My primary goal as a rabbi is to remind us to read our ancient texts and stories in our current context, that is, to put ourselves in the story. On Pesah, we see ourselves as slaves seeking freedom. On Hanukkah, we see ourselves as being responsible for illuminating the world.

And on Tish'ah Be'Av, the nadir of the Jewish year, we commemorate loss. "Oy, meh hayah lanu," reads the 13th-century kinnah (poem of lament) chanted on Tish'ah Be'Av morning. "Oy, what we had!" And right now, I must admit that I am feeling the loss.

But then I remember that the period after Tish'ah Be'Av is marked by an upswing: Tu Be'Av the rough Jewish analog to Valentine's Day, is a mere six days later. And then it's Elul, during which the daily sound of the shofar calls us to action. And then the triumph of Rosh Hashanah. And while right now the situation might seem pretty desolate, our history teaches us that we will soon be redeemed. I'll see you in Yavneh!

Tish'ah Be'Av 5780 Wednesday, July 29, 2020

Presented by Dor Hadash

- **8:15 p.m.**
Opening Program
- **9:00 p.m.**
Ma'ariv
- **9:15 p.m.**
Community Eykhah Reading
- **Join via Zoom**
<https://zoom.us/j/97713104277>

COVID-19 Emergency Assistance Grants
Grants with no repayment are available - for immediate and pressing expenses related to financial impact of COVID-19 crisis
412.521.3237 or JewishAssistanceFund.org



**Jewish
Assistance
Fund**

Directing the Way

Ken Turkewitz, *Interim Executive Director*



Our electronic tools have made it very easy to address large groups of people at a time. We work with mass e-mails, Twitter blasts, posts to Facebook pages with hundreds or thousands of "friends," surveys that purportedly collect data from lots of people, phone robo-dialers, electronic forms on websites, and even common-form college applications. All of these methods, and many others, are designed to provide a method of communication with many people at one time. The supposed goal is efficiency and reduction of work effort to communicate with the masses.

But how effective is this mass communication? How many people respond to a mass or general appeal for volunteer time or for funds? How effective is it to try to work with a big bank rather than with a small one? Does the phone tree answering process of a large company, designed to effectively route you to the right person or to get you an answer without human intervention (but really designed to cut down on company personnel to deal with phone calls) always leave the caller with a satisfied feeling?

With larger numbers, even if we get a lower response rate, we still end out with a higher number of responses, right? Do the low percentages of responses, times the high number of people these companies can deal with using these methods make up for the loss in quality of the connection?

I suppose I can go on asking rhetorical questions, but the real point here is the value of individual attention. Those connections we make one on one are the basis of our

lives. And even when we're dealing with an organization, making the individual connections within the organization makes our interactions so much richer.

Our challenge today, in this world of COVID-19, is how to find that connected living when almost all of our connections are done in a remote manner. Can we find those connections over a Zoom call with a half dozen or more other people on the call? Can we work through issues in a personal-enough manner when the email message has 15 people on it? How long does the joy last after seeing a YouTube or Facetime video?

How do we get those connections when we don't see one another in the flesh?

The key, I believe, is picking up the phone and calling someone you haven't seen in a while; arranging a distanced rendezvous; writing a one-on-one letter (even if it's over email). These are the things that keep us connected to one another and to humanity.

Congregation Beth Shalom is now at 600 membership units, and we, too, have that challenge of staying connected to one another. It's difficult to strive to be a large congregation but to act in an interpersonal way like a small one. I'm proud of our Community and Connections initiative, which strives to keep us in a connected living environment. This group has made individual phone calls to congregants, delivered prayer books and food and other necessities to those that can't go out, and is working on programming to keep us connected – all on a one-on-one basis.

And when we pull out of our current lockdown state and mentality, I'm not looking forward to seeing the masses back in the synagogue; I'm looking forward to seeing the individuals.

Walking the Derekh

Rabbi Jeremy Markiz, *Director of Derekh & Youth Tefillah*

I have been reflecting on Congregation Beth Shalom's Civil Rights Trip in 2019 and the work we've been doing the past year or so. I have realized how deeply I have changed as a person as a result. I am so grateful for what we've done so far.



In Spring 2019, Beth Shalom went on Etgar 36's Civil Rights Trip. We explored our nation's history with slavery, Jim Crow, and lynchings as we traveled through Georgia and Alabama. In anticipation, we read the book, *White Fragility* by Robin DiAngelo, which speaks about the discomfort white people have when we discuss racial issues.

I read the book because I wanted to better understand myself and my own discomfort. How did I fit into this story? How do I understand racism as a Jewish person and as a white person? *White Fragility* described the chest tightening experiences that I felt when the subject of racism or discrimination came up.

As I digested the book, I understood that I do have a part in this story. That many Jews have both benefited from the society we've constructed and been penalized by it. It is not a simple question of hate in our hearts, but a system that impacts everyone at every level. It was like wearing glasses after years of blurriness. The new lens was lifechanging.

I will never forget walking through the National Memorial for Peace and Justice, also known as the Lynching Memorial. It felt like walking through one of the death camps in Poland. Large stones hung from the ceiling with the names of lynched people and the county that

lynched them. Each county has been invited for the last few years to take their stone and display it. It is heartbreaking to see how many counties have refused.

When we came home, I knew that I wasn't the same person that I was before.

In the Fall, Derekh launched a reading group for Dr. Ibram X. Kendi's fantastic book, *How to be an Antiracist*. This book describes Dr. Kendi's own journey maintaining a racist system as a black man and his work in outlining what it means to strive for a different world.

I admit that it made me feel uncomfortable but ultimately worth it. The book and reading group showed me all of the ways that I have held up a system without intending to and clarified the ways that I could do better. Knowing that I could do better made every bit of a difference. Dr. Kendi defines being an antiracist as, "one who is supporting an antiracist policy through their actions or expressing an antiracist idea." Our actions make a difference, the policies we support matter, not just what we hold in our hearts. I realized that I could be doing a racist things, even without intending to do so.

Our reading group, which swelled to as many as twenty-five people, contained Beth Shalom members and non-members alike. It was so valuable to hear from a variety of experiences and how racism had impacted each and every one of our lives.

In reading this book and engaging in understanding my role in the universe of systemic racism, I kept coming back to our Tradition. Throughout the Torah, we're told about the need for justice, for a fair system with honest judges and laws. We know that each and every one of us is made in the Divine image, but are we honoring that? The demands of our Tradition ask, how can I do

OUR LEADERSHIP

different? What can I do to help? How can I be better?

I believe our responsibility starts with ourselves. To be good neighbors, we have to learn our own history and our own role. To be good neighbors, we have to do our homework. To be good neighbors, we have to be in relationships with others. Like with Jewish life and learning, there's always more we can do. It is my hope that we will relaunch this reading group, with *How to be an Antiracist* in the near future and with the many other valuable resources we can use to educate ourselves. If you are interested, please reach out to me by email, jmarkiz@bethshalompgh.org.

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For more information, contact:
Lonnie Wolf, Cemetery Director at
412.421.2288 x 293, 412.654.7550 (c)
or cemetery@bethshalompgh.org



Come join us for exciting virtual programming all summer long!
#MyUSYfiSummer is open to all Jewish youth entering 5th grade through the Class of 2020.

#MyUSYfiSummer consists of two overall categories of programs: All-Access and Premium. To gain access to All-Access Programs, register on Regpacks by paying the \$99 flat fee for six weeks of programming. All-Access Pass programming will be recorded for pass holders who are unable to make it to a program but still want to participate. To gain access to Premium Classes, please read the description to find the separate program fee, and sign up on Regpacks.

Find out more online at:
<https://www.usy.org/myusyfisummer>

Growing Through the ELC

Hilary Yeckel, *Director of the ELC*

The voices of this piece are Beth Shalom Early Learning Center Educators: Brenda Madyun (**BM**), Older Infants, 7 years; Norah Cauley (**NC**), 3-4 yr. Olds, 6 years; Bryce Tallon (**BT**), Toddlers, 7 years ; Michelle Mark (**MM**), Young Two's, 31 years



1. How have you seen the center grow over the years that you have worked at Beth Shalom? From beginning to present.

From beginning to present, Beth Shalom has become more diverse in both staff and families.- **BM**

I have seen a lot of the teachers become closer as colleagues and work together to collaborate on many projects for the children as well as for the center and community. - **NC**

When I started at the center seven years ago enrollment was low—so low that the two toddler classes combined twice a week so they'd have ~ten kids for the whole day. Now it's rare to have a day with less than 10 or 11 kids per classroom. It's been wonderful to see the center grow in numbers and the rooms fill with energetic children. - **BT**

In the past 31 years I have seen it grow immensely. I have seen it grow from two classrooms and four teachers., to 36 teachers and 11 classrooms. It started with the two year olds and now we begin with infants starting at 6 weeks. We began with an all Jewish school and now we educate families from different cultures and religions and still keep within the Jewish framework. We are also a Reggio inspired school in which we have a Reggio

Art Studio. Our school continues to grow with various enrichment programs, such as science and art. - **MM**

2. In today's virtual world of live circle times and play-dates, how has your class stayed connected?

Our class has many available activities. Each week a lesson plan is sent home to give the parents ideas for at home projects and learning tools to assist in at home learning. We have art and gardening on Mondays, music on Wednesday, circle time to explore the weekly lesson on Thursday, Friday we have a combined Shabbat service with another classroom, an all school Shabbat service, and Hebrew lessons with our Pre-k teacher. Science is also available on a website. I have also conducted one-on-one conferences with each family. - **NC**

As the center has grown, so has the strength of our community. I love the way teachers and families are always staying connected and supporting one another.- **BT**

I am fortunate to have the families connect with us through our Zoom classes and emails. It was important to the staff to keep educating our little ones through the pandemic. - **MM**

3. How has your team stayed connected?

My immediate team has met on numerous occasions on Zoom to discuss upcoming lessons, brainstorm ideas, personally connect, and explore Zoom abilities to use the tool to its full potential. Our staff as a whole has had staff meetings and many opportunities for professional development. I have collaborated with floaters and specials teachers to add more into each lesson *i.e.* art, gardening, Shabbat. - **NC**

OUR LEADERSHIP

While it was strange to all of the sudden be away from our physical space, we've done so much to keep the children engaged and make sure families know we're there for them throughout this crazy time. I've loved seeing my kiddos on our Zoom circle times twice a week, singing the same songs we all know and sharing new books. -**BT**

We stayed connected with the use of modern technology. We have called each other frequently, had Zoom meetings and lots of texting. We are always checking in with each other to see how everyone is doing. Our team is always there for each other.- **MM**

4. How do you see the Beth Shalom ELC community thriving in this new normal?

Through continuous trial and error I'm sure the community will thrive. - **BM**

Although we are unable to be physically together I see how hard many of our educators are working. I have seen many creative and inventive ways teachers are working together to keep education and relationships going. - **NC**

We've been so lucky to have this special time together. I'm grateful the parents have been so willing to join us on this e-learning adventure and help us continue to grow the warm, loving relationships we are known for in the ELC. - **BT**

As teachers we are role models. I feel if the children and families see us teach in a calm and positive way then the ELC community would thrive. I have seen how the ELC teachers go above and beyond to ensure that the children have been learning throughout the challenging times of the pandemic.- **MM**

BE SURE TO SEE THE IMPORTANT DATES INFORMATION LISTED ON PG.4

Sisterhood Says

Judy Kobell, Sisterhood President



The 2019-2020 year was an exciting one for Sisterhood. We opened in September with delicious potluck supper at my house. In the following months, we co-sponsored several Friday night Shabbat dinners with Men's Club. Our annual Hanukkah party and Sisterhood Shabbat, chaired by Helen Feder and Lidush Goldschmidt, were great opportunities to get together and celebrate with friends and congregants.

On a regular basis, Connie Pollack led our fun Latin Cardio classes and Sisterhood Book Club met for discussions. I want to thank Barbara Kaiserman and her committee for chairing our outstanding Judaica Shop and Elinor Zaremborg for ordering holiday flowers for the congregation through the Sisterhood Flower Fund. Before the stay-at-home quarantine, Men's Club and Sisterhood celebrated Purim with costumes, music and a tasty Israeli dinner. Unfortunately, our end of season Torah Fund Brunch had to be postponed.

As always, Sisterhood continues to financially support and participate in congregational activities such as Latkapalooza, Purim Carnival and many other events. Sisterhood is also pleased to present our yearly donation at the Congregation Annual Meeting.

As soon as your isolation is over, Sisterhood plans to again provide its many functions to its members and the congregation.

Learning with J-JEP

Rabbi Larry Freedman, *Director of J-JEP*



As we are all apart in this lock down world so many people and organizations have been helping us stay alone together. Theaters are putting online productions. Celebrities are sharing stories or leading workouts. Non-profits are having special lectures or classes or all sorts of material to keep our minds and bodies sharp. (Sometimes it feels like too many.) Our screens are a portal to the larger world.

At J-JEP we were fast out of the box to get us online back in March and we are now planning rainy day activities over the summer jointly with Rodef Shalom and Beth Shalom youth advisors. And I am planning a few virtual get-togethers just for parents.

That's all great. But...

When I was in New York this April, I was disconnected from my city, my work, my wife, my friends. I was with 300 troops which made me feel very much together but alone. As I got to know people I wasn't really alone but I was unmoored, not quite connected in the same way. For me the solution was to go old school: Shabbat. I brought a travel Shabbat candle set with me and enough candles to last six weeks (just in case). I had grape juice and some classic Kedem wine. There was a Fairway just up the street so I had some tasty challah. Then, either on my own or with some of the troops, I lit the candles and said Kiddush.

Talk about alone, together. I was with my family, with Jews in Pittsburgh and around the world. I was, for a day, anchored with the Jewish people knowing that no matter where, no matter the circumstances, I was with them.

It was a lovely spiritual connection. I left the portal to the larger world for a portal to an even larger world and it felt good.

8/18 - 8/27

Hebrew Level Testing

Families with students enrolled in J-JEP midweek Hebrew classes will receive information about signing up for level testing in early August.

8/30 at 9:30 a.m.

J-JEP's First Day of School

Students and their families are all invited to join us in kicking off our 5781 school year!

For all the latest news and to enroll in religious and Hebrew school for the 2020-2021 school year, visit JJEP.org!



Legacy Circle Update

Legacy Circle Team

Legacy Circle Spotlight: Julian Elbling

Julian doesn't remember a time when he and his family haven't been members of Congregation Beth Shalom. Every major family life cycle event has occurred at Congregation Beth Shalom: his parents' wedding, his bar mitzvah, his confirmation, his wedding, his 60th birthday, his daughters (Sarah and Rachel) becoming benot mitzvah, their confirmations, his daughters' weddings, his mother, Gloria's second wedding and the bris of his grandson, Jonah.

Irv Elbling, Julian's dad, moved to Pittsburgh from New York for a job opportunity with Westinghouse. His father met his mother, Gloria, at a Young People's League event, an organized social function, held at Beth Shalom. Over the years, their lives were enriched by their affiliation with our synagogue. Many may not know that a young Gloria took dance lessons at Beth Shalom from Gene Kelly. After getting married at Beth Shalom, Gloria and Irv's social life revolved around our shul. Irv even taught in Beth Shalom's religious school as a Confirmation teacher, Julian's teacher. While at the same time, Gloria became involved with several Jewish causes, especially NA'AMAT originally called Pioneer Women. Gloria happens to be one of the past National Presidents of NA'AMAT and she even spent time with Golda Meir. Today, Gloria, who's in her 90's and lives in Florida and is still very involved with NA'AMAT and many other Jewish organizations, continues to thrive. Julian remembers a time when at a young age, he along with brother, Howard, and parents,

called members of our Jewish community asking them to purchase Israel Bonds – when Israel Bonds were \$36 dollars each.

Julian has committed himself to Jewish organizations and causes over the years, having been a member of AZA through high school, president of Moshavim, an affiliate of Hillel, on campus in college and later president of B'nai Brith – Judge Weiss Lodge.

Julian began his adult involvement with Congregation Beth Shalom by serving on the Catering Committee alongside Herbie Silberman, who owned Silberberg's Bakery in Squirrel Hill. At that time, the catering committee ordered the food, bought the pots and pans, and kept a tally of all items in the kitchen. Later, Julian advanced to a leadership position and was president of our congregation during and after the fire, which was a critical and demanding time. His leadership was greatly appreciated by all members of our community. Julian lived and breathed Beth Shalom during this most difficult time – his heart and soul went into this effort. Many may remember his true dedication to the rebuilding of Beth Shalom. He will always be remembered as one of the great leaders in the history of Congregation Beth Shalom. Julian continues to be a very busy person, owning a business in downtown Pittsburgh, J and B Sales, which sells institutional clothing, printed goods and activewear. This business has been in his family for several generations.

We are proud of Julian's commitment to Congregation Beth Shalom over the years. His family's history with our shul is one of dedication and love. Julian has been the honoree of NA'AMAT, Pittsburgh for his strong commitment to Israel and the Beth Shalom's

honoree for an Israel Bonds event a number of years ago. Today Julian's dedication to Shul and community continues as he serves as an advisor to Beth Shalom's Executive Committee, Chairman of Israel Bonds of the Greater Pittsburgh Area and member of Beth Shalom's Legacy Circle. When asked why he was leaving a legacy gift to Beth Shalom, he replied, "In past years, older members would give monetary gifts to Beth Shalom while they were living. By being a part of Beth Shalom's Legacy Circle, I want to ensure that Congregation Beth Shalom will be there for my Pittsburgh children, Rachel and Steve, and grandchildren, Jonah and Olivia."



Julian Elbling with his daughter and mother.

Artist's Reflection

Anthony Colaizzi
Communications & Design Manager



Connected Living

The last three months have been a difficult adjustment for all of us in one way or another. No one has been spared by the societal changes brought on by COVID-19. We have all been living through teleconferences, instant messenger and e-mail day in and day out. While we sit inside with our technology, the world does still turn just outside our windows. It is these changes that I wanted to reflect in my piece, *Connected Living*.

While people across the nation look within ourselves and to our leaders for guidance, we persist in being our best each day. Congregation Beth Shalom has continued to bring together our members using technology throughout this global pandemic. Technology has helped us every step of the way: from our daily minyan services, weekly educational events, and special programming to keep our hearts as full as our minds. Our community is full of diverse interests, passions that have not been lost though we have been apart.

Looking toward the future, we might not know what our new normal will be. We do know however that it will be enriching through the values of community, connection, and faith.

HAS YOUR EVENT BEEN IMPACTED BY COVID-19?

If so, please call Michelle Vines,
Events Coordinator for more information on how to reschedule for the future.

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catering1@bethshalompgh.org

BENEI MITZVAH

Tobias Steinberg is the son of Marissa Fogel and Chaim Steinberg, grandson of Shirley Steinberg, Grampa Bruce Fogel, and Bubbe Adrienne Fogel. He is a rising 8th grader at Community Day School where he is involved in the Ultimate



Frisbee team and loves to read, wrestle, play video games, and remember everything his parents have ever said to him (much to their dismay). He is a member of Young Judaea and loves spending his summers at Camp Young Judaea Midwest in Waupaca, Wisconsin. He will celebrate becoming a bar Mitzvah on August 10, 2020, in a living room ceremony via Zoom.

Bar Mitzvah: 8/10/2020

Hannah Vered Adelson

is the daughter of Rabbi Seth and Judith Adelson, sister of Zev Adelson and Oryah Meidan, granddaughter of Leonard and Patricia Adelson, and the late Ervin and Anna Marie Hoenig. Hannah is a rising eighth-grader at Community Day School, where she relishes participating in the annual spring musical. She does ballet, tap and contemporary dance at Bodiography Center for Movement, and plays violin at the Pittsburgh Music Academy. In the summer she loves going to Camp Ramah in Canada. Her favorite pastime is reading and cuddling up with her pet cat, Shira. Hannah will become a Bat Mitzvah at Beth Shalom on Saturday, August 29th.



Bat Mitzvah: 8/29/2020

Sonia Bernice Schachter and Theresa Leo Schachter

are the eldest daughters of Ben and Abby Schachter, the sisters of Pearl and Isaiah Clemens Schachter, and the granddaughters of Ruth and Leonard Wisse and Jennie and Richard Schachter.



Sonia is a rising 8th grader and Theresa is a rising 7th grader at Hillel Academy of Pittsburgh. Sonia loves Torah and Hebrew language learning, plays piano, composes verse, sews and is a terrific athlete. Theresa loves Rashi's commentary, plays guitar, produces, writes and directs weekly family productions, and is a budding contortionist. Sonia and Theresa will celebrate becoming benot mitzvah at Congregation Beth Shalom on August 20, 2020.

Benot Mitzvah: 8/20/2020

Shayna Dawn Valinsky,

daughter of Nicole (Cohen) and Howard Valinsky and sister of Alex (Natalia), Andrew, Brad and Eric, will become a Bat Mitzvah on Saturday, September 5th, at Congregation Beth Shalom. Shayna is the granddaughter of Mira and the late Sanford E. Cohen and Toby and the late Marvin Valinsky. Shayna will be in 8th grade at Community Day School. She enjoys playing basketball and hanging out with her friends. For Shayna's mitzvah project, she will be selling personally designed Pura Vida bracelets and the proceeds will be going to the National Kidney Foundation in honor of her Nana, Mira. Shayna is also taking part of the amazing program Remembering the Children B'nei Mitzvah Project where she is able to remember as well as honor a child that may or may not have survived the Holocaust.



Bat Mitzvah: 9/5/2020

Ed Frim, 61

**A VERSION OF THIS PIECE WAS FIRST PUBLISHED
IN THE PITTSBURGH JEWISH CHRONICLE ON
MAY 6, 2020. IT HAS BEEN EDITED HERE FOR LENGTH.
WRITTEN BY ADAM REINHERZ**



Ed Frim plays the accordion at a USCJ conference in July 2018. Photo by Aimee Close

After more than 20 years in Ohio-based nonprofit Jewish work, Ed Frim relocated to Pittsburgh in 2005 to serve as executive director at the Agency for Jewish Learning. In Pittsburgh, a city where residents often pride themselves on counting generational predecessors who occupied the same tree-lined streets, Frim found a way to not only enter the area and nourish its roots but plant the seeds for later growth.

During Frim's first Chanukah party at the AJL, "he pulled out an accordion," recalled Carolyn Linder. "We were like, 'Oh, he plays the accordion. It's not a common instrument.'"

In Frim's case, it seemed like the perfect instrument for a man who was able to adapt to a variety of purposes.

"He was a creative thinker, using that same accordion to hold the back of his seat up in his run-down used car," said Frim's sister Sara Forman during the May 1 funeral.

Frim's arrival cemented the AJL as an organizational home for adult education,

through teacher training and the Florence Melton Adult Mini School, and as a space where high school students could enjoy supplemental learning through SAJS (School of Advanced Jewish Studies). During his nine-year tenure at the now defunct organization, Frim spearheaded several new community initiatives, including introducing a student-centered Reggio Emilia approach through the JECEI early childhood initiative, facilitating systemic change through the Congregational School Improvement Initiative, enabling career development through the Spertus College Master of Arts in Jewish Professional Studies, and introducing multisensory teaching through DVASH, a Hebrew curriculum. Most of those programs continue today through the Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh or the Jewish Community Center of Pittsburgh.

Streamed over Zoom and Facebook, the service attracted more than 300 viewers. The large attendance was evidence of Frim's enormous impact, noted funeral officiant Rabbi Beth Naditch, a MetroWest Jewish Day School board member. Echoing the rabbi's sentiment were more than 100 comments posted by childhood friends from Camp Yavneh in New Hampshire; Prozdor: The High School of Hebrew College in Boston; and Brandeis University. While Naditch and Frim's family eulogized Frim on screen, the digital community remarked upon Frim's qualities and offered condolences to his wife, Lori, and daughter Naomi.

(HOBS continues on next page)

Tell Us YOUR Story!

**E-mail Judi Rosen at
judirozen2828@gmail.com or
Marlene Berhmann Cohen at
berhmann@cmu.edu to be a
part of the growing Humans of
Beth Shalom project!**

Milton Eisner, 90

WRITTEN BY JEFFREY FINKELSTEIN



When you are 40 years younger than a friend, it is inevitable you will attend the other's funeral. When I first met Milt in 1998, I was 28 and he was 68. I had just moved to Pittsburgh to be the Federation Campaign Director and Milt was a well seasoned volunteer fundraiser. We got closer and closer over the years. When I turned 40 and he turned 80, we had what we called our 120th birthday celebration. That began an annual summer tradition of a dinner out with Jenn, Sarita, Milt and me.

I have only experienced a passionate volunteer fundraiser like Milt a handful of times in my career. He would solicit anyone, anytime, for any cause. He was a workhorse. He pushed us hard at the Federation to not only raise money but to acquire new donors. He saw that push as more than just a strategy to raise money for the bottom line, it was bringing more people into the fold as donors and engaged Jewish community members.

If Federation held a phoning, Milt was there. When we had our Super Sunday, Milt was there. When we sponsored an overseas mission, Milt was there. He loved working for the Jewish community and the Jewish people. He also loved getting to know people and building close relationships.

Now, we all know Milt. Sometimes his passions got the best of him. For every dozen or so solicitations he did, one of us at Federation would have to "smooth" things over with one of his prospects. He might have said something like "You drive a Lexus, you can give more". While he was absolutely right, it wasn't exactly what donors wanted to hear.

A past Campaign Chair with two record breaking years in that role. Twenty years on the Federation Board. A solicitor of probably thousands of so called cards over the years. A leader of an initiative that brought our Federation 1,000 new donors in a single campaign year. These represent a handful of Milt's accomplishments. And this is just at the Federation. This Beth Shalom was near and dear to his heart and he gave so much time to it, Israel Bonds, and so many more organizations. To say they don't make 'em like Milt Eisner anymore is unfortunately, for the Jewish community, too true.

He never sat with his back to the door. He always asked for the heels of the bread at restaurants. He asked for extra onions on his salad. He drank iced tea at lunch and Kettle One in the evening.

Milt and I called each other that great Pittsburgh term: Jagoff. I actually bought him a magnet and a t-shirt imprinted with that on it. This is the way I still talk with only my high school and college friends and no one else, except for Milt. I can't imagine ever having that close a relationship with someone so much older than me.

So Milt, you jagoff, thank you for enriching my life and that of my family. You will always have a place in my heart and in my memories.

Order Mahzor Lev Shalem in Time for the High Holidays 5781

Our High Holiday services this year will primarily be available over a network medium. (More information on this to follow as details are worked out.) We have decided that we will once again be using Mahzor Lev Shalem for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur services. Participating from home, there are several options to follow along in the Mahzor Lev Shalem:

1. Borrowing a book from Congregation Beth Shalom. These will be made available at the synagogue beginning August 17. Details for how to borrow a book will follow, sometime before this date.
2. Purchasing your own copy of the book. This can be done at a discount rate through Beth Shalom, skipping most of the shipping cost, as we will purchase in bulk. To order your own copy, for \$33/book, fill out the form at <https://tinyurl.com/Mahzor-Lev-Shalem5781>, by July 29. Anticipated availability, to pick up the mahzor at the synagogue, will be about August 17.
3. Mahzor Lev Shalem will soon be available as a digital publication via Issuu (www.issuu.com). Issuu is a digital publishing platform that preserves the appearance and pagination of the printed book. Beth Shalom will have the option to purchase licenses for our members at a cost of \$1 per user/family. Details on this are expected to be available in July.
4. The digital edition of Mahzor Lev Shalem will also be available for individual purchase via the Issuu app at a special price of \$5.99 (from launch until July 31) and \$8.99 (starting August 1). Again, details on this option are forthcoming.



Rabbi Adelson leading services in the age of COVID-19



Memorial Day Flag Planting at the Cemetery

Your Contributions

April 1 — May 31, 2020

Beth Shalom Judaica Museum

In Honor Of:

Steve Hecht's retirement

Jeffrey & Lynn Rosenthal

In Memory Of:

Elmer Judd

Jeffrey & Lynn Rosenthal

Rachel Lehrer Stein

Jeffrey & Lynn Rosenthal

Milton Weiss

Jeffrey & Lynn Rosenthal

Cemetery Donation

(non-appeals)

In Memory Of:

Barry Davidson

James & Cindy Tauberg

Derekh Donations

In Memory Of:

Ed Frim

Mitch Dernis & Brenda Kurland

David Moses

Bruce & Jane Rollman

Donations:

Richard & Helen Feder

Lawrence &

Deborah Freedman

General Fund

In Honor Of:

Noah Sindler

Ronald Angerman

Jackie and Evan Stein

David & Teddi Horvitz

Gert's 100th Birthday

Daniel & Ronna Askin

Dr. James Tauberg

Alan & Fern Steckel

In Memory Of:

Carol Adelsheimer

Lonnie & Natalie Wolf

Max Cohen

Nate & Debby Firestone

Noah & Aviva Lubowsky

Bary Davidson

Daniel & Ronna Askin

Alan & Linda Doernberg

Robert & Ellen Garvin

Nate & Debby Firestone

Lonnie & Natalie Wolf

Robert Zaremborg

Sanford & Elinor Zaremborg

David Dinkin

Jay & Jessy Stein

Ed Frim

Daniel and Ronna Askin

Nate & Debby Firestone

Nicolette Canterna

Robert & Ellen Garvin

David & Teddi Horvitz

Frank & Paula Pagnotta

Yvonne & Barry Stein

Howard & Nicole Valinsky

Rose Geller

Nate & Debby Firestone

Lawrence & Eileen Paper

Richard Gold

Alan & Linda Doernberg

Peter Kogan

& Elinor Nathanson

Molly Kramer Gordon

Alan & Linda Doernberg

Nate & Debby Firestone

Richard & Rhoda Judd

Stanley & Cherie Maharam

Yvonne & Barry Stein

Elmer Judd

Richard & Rhoda Judd

David Moses

Alan & Linda Doernberg

Richard & Helen Feder

Nate & Debby Firestone

David & Teddi Horvitz

Daniel Kass & Deborah Gillman

Mindy Shreve

Mark & Deb Sindler

Janet Harden

Richard & Helen Feder

Dorothy Schorin

Gerald Davidson

& Debra Kocar

Lauren Gluckman

Ethan Goldwasser

& Eliza Montgomery

Jane Jaffe Rudov

David & Teddi Horvitz

Burton & Marolee Pollock

David Sufrin & Diane Samuels

Howard & Nicole Valinsky

Norman Rosenfeld

Daniel & Ronna Askin Barbara

Braunstein

William & Nancy Berkowitz

Nate & Debby Firestone

Emanuel & Dorita Krifcher

Arthur & Judy Sales

Dee Selekman

Meyer & Evelyn Simon

OUR CONGREGATIONAL FAMILY

Nancy Shuman's beloved brother

Louis & Janice Greenwald

Dorothy Schorin

Richard & Helen Feder

Ronald Gutman
& Ellen Heuman

Lauren Gluckman

Steven & Janet Stoller

Speedy Recovery:

Ronna Askin

Noah & Aviva Lubowsky

Seth Harris

Noah & Aviva Lubowsky

Donations:

Alan & Fern Steckel

Yvonne & Barry Stein

J. Leonard Frank

Early Minyan Endowment

In Memory Of:

Max Cohen

Ira Frank

Janret Harden

Ira Frank

David Moses

Ira Frank

George William Reynolds II

Ira Frank

Norman Rosenfeld

Ira Frank

Linda Herer Goldsmith

Camp Ramah Fund

In Memory Of:

Norman Rosenfeld

Steven & Sharon Schwartz

Rabbi Adelson Disc. Fund

In Honor Of:

Rabbi Seth Adelson

David Plaut &

Marlene Behrmann Cohen

Helene Burke

Joshua & Randi Grimes

Talia Solomon

Fred & Randee Solomon

In Memory Of:

Janet Harden

Jonathan Weinkle
& Vita Nemirovsky

Molly Kramer Gordon

Mr. & Mrs. Jeffrey Lederer

David Moses

Roger Zimmerman
& Jane Liebschutz

Jonathan Weinkle
& Vita Nemirovsky

Sisterhood

In Honor Of:

Jasper Winston Pollack

Nate & Debby Firestone

The Stein Family

Nate & Debby Firestone

In Memory Of:

Arlyn Gilboa

Mark Perlin & Ria David

Dorothy Schorin

Earl & Barbara Kaiserman

Yahrzeit Donations

In Memory Of:

Barry Davidson

Alan & Linda Doernberg

Youth Donations

In Honor Of:

**Evan and Jackie Stein on the
birth of their son, Ronen**

**Barry and Yvonne on your
beautiful new grandson**

Barbara Spiegelman

In Memory Of:

Barry Davidson

Cheryl Blumenfeld

Molly Kramer Gordon

Milton & Shirley Estner

Youth Fund

In Memory Of:

Ed Frim

Jeffrey L. Schein

Mo'at Hittin Donations 5780

Steven Berger

Mitchell Dennis
& Brenda Kurland

Jay & Ilene Fingeret

Jonathan & Nina Grossberg

Stanley & Reva Horn

David & Teddi Horvitz

Mark & Rhonda Horvitz

Daniel Kass & Deborah Gillman

Adam Kolko

& Dr. Eydie Moses-Kolko

Carl & Elaine Krasik

Gail Neft

Zarky Rudavsky

& Merrienne Leff

Adam & Shoshanna Shear

Mindy Shreve

Rabbi Stephen & Lisa Steindel

Kenneth & Carol Turkewitz

Morris & Claire Weinbaum

Jonathan Weinkle

& Vita Nemirovsky

Sanford & Elinor Zaremborg

Yizkor Appeal Donations 5780

Stanley & Reva Horn

Richard & Sharon Sweet

Sanford & Elinor Zaremborg

Nihum Avelim

(Comforting Mourners)

April 1 — May 31, 2020

Lori Abrams and Naomi Frim-Abrams, on the passing of **Ed Frim** on April 29.

Dr. Joshua Geller and his family, on the passing of **Rose Geller** on May 3.

Family and friends of Dorothy Schorin, who passed away on May 9.

Adrienne (Larry) Savitz and family, on the passing of Adrienne's brother-in-law Barry Davidson on May 3.

Neil (Debbey Altman) Diamant and family on the passing of Neil's stepfather Richard Gold on May 12th.

Susan (Mikael) Kimelman and family, on the passing of Susan's mother Doris Shaiman on May 21.

Milestones – Mazal Tov!

April 1 — May 31, 2020

Myriam Gumerman on the birth on April 24 of grandson Asher William Kantz, son of Karen Kantz. He is named Zev Mordecai after his paternal grandfather William Kantz (z"l) and maternal great grandfather Mordecai Ohnona (z"l).



School wing roof construction has begun

New Beth Shalom Executive Officers

The newly approved and certified Constitution of the synagogue includes a section on Transition of Officers. In accordance with that section, the Board of Trustees on June 16 approved the appointment of the following people as Vice Presidents of the synagogue for one year terms, completing at the end of May 2021:

- **Alan Kopolow**, elected by the Congregation as Vice President in May 2019, as the Vice President of Finance.
- **Joseph Jolson**, appointed by the President and ratified by the Board of Trustees on June 16, as the Vice President of Operations.
- **Mindy Shreve**, appointed by the President and ratified by the Board of Trustees on June 16, as the Vice President of Member Engagement.
- **Jordan Fischbach**, elected by the Congregation as Vice President in May 2019, as the Vice President of Synagogue Life.
- **Adam Kolko**, appointed by the President and ratified by the Board of Trustees on June 16, as the Vice President of Youth.
- In addition, the Board of Trustees approved **Paul Teplitz** as the new Secretary of the Congregation.

Mazel Tov to Alan, Joe, Mindy, Jordan, Adam, and Paul, and thank you in advance for your service.

All other Executive Officers –Debby Firestone: President; Kate Rothstein: Executive Vice President; and Fred Newman: Treasurer – remain as is, all elected by the Congregation in May 2019 for two year terms.

Please reference this directory for updated staff and leadership contact information.

We look forward to speaking with you!

OFFICE HOURS: Monday - Thursday, 8:00 am - 5:00 pm and Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.*
* Staff schedules vary

Our Leadership



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HOW WILL YOU ASSURE JEWISH TOMORROWS?



“The Legacy Circle is a community of people who are committed to sustaining **Congregation Beth Shalom and our families.**”



To create your Jewish legacy, contact:

Rabbi Jeremy Markiz at jmarkiz@bethshalompgh.org • 412-421-2288 x111