

MISHPACHTENU

Volume 22, Issue 4

May — June 2020

Iyyar, Sivan, and Tammuz 5780

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A Beth Shalom Update

Ken Turkewitz, *Interim Executive Director*

The *Mishpachtenu* has been on a regular schedule of being produced every three months, roughly corresponding to the seasons of the year. Our “spring” issue covered March, April, and May. When we put these issues together, we start gathering input about a month and a half prior to the periods they cover, to allow for composition and layout, editing, and production. Hence, the most recent issue has content that was produced in late January. Needless to say, our world has changed significantly since then, as has much of the content from that spring issue. We are therefore going off-book, and producing this *Mishpachtenu* which covers the months of May (redux) and June.

This *Mishpachtenu*, put together very quickly, may not have all of the columns from all of the people you’re used to seeing. It will, however, update the information for May (now that we’ve pivoted to a more remote/digital way of operating, at least temporarily), and give you some updates on the synagogue from groups we don’t typically hear from. It also allows us a means of communication to those people who get their information via print media instead of via the network.

As this article provides an update on our situation in the synagogue, some of this may be duplicative to many of you, and some may even be out-of-date by the time this gets published.

* * *

The building is currently closed for all general functions indefinitely, contingent upon public health officials’ guidance and local and Commonwealth directives. This means no religious service gatherings in the building, no meetings, no programming. This includes closing the facility for Early Learning Center (ELC) activities through at least the end of the current school year (June 11).

At this time, ELC administrators will prepare for summer camp to begin as scheduled on June 16. However, this is contingent on public health officials’ recommendations and the safety of staff, campers, and families.

ELC classes and activities continue to function online, through Zoom, to the best of our ability, given the respective ages for each classroom. *Kol hakavod* to all of our teachers who have been remotely engaging our children and moving them forward in their development.

We are continuing to provide Derekh programming using Zoom. While some programs were initially postponed or cancelled, we’ve now adjusted to our new normal and have found ways to do most of our Derekh activities.

Daily, holiday, and Shabbat services are also using Zoom. They can all be found on Zoom link <https://zoom.us/j/896828166>.

With so much happening on Zoom, and the prevalence of “Zoom Bombing” (unwelcome characters joining Zoom sessions to share undesirable content), we have tweaked our Zoom parameters over the first few weeks of use, to avoid undesirable effects. In addition, all religious service offerings are held with all participants (except the service leader) on mute, and services during Shabbat or Yom Tov now have the chat capability turned off. We also have a moderator on duty for each service. These extra measures not only help prevent the nefarious characters from participating in unwelcome ways, but also enhance the quality of our Shabbat and holiday services. Though we’d rather be together in person, we’ve found that the remote Zoom offering for services has resulted in a higher participation level, making it easy for many (not everyone, unfortunately) to participate.

OUR LEADERSHIP

We are now beginning planning to have an online video and audio Annual Spring meeting, on the originally scheduled date of May 26. More information on this will be forthcoming.

Though the building is mostly unused, most of our employees have found ways to work remotely. And the maintenance staff is continuing the upkeep of the building, including getting to some backlogged projects. Regardless the level of contribution that each employee has been able to give during this crisis, the Beth Shalom leadership has decided to keep staff employed and fully paid. As of this writing, that commitment is in place through at least May 31; the Board of Trustees will evaluate further as we get closer to this date.

We will continue to provide updates on our decision making as the situation with the COVID-19 virus progresses.

* * *

As for the COVID-19 virus itself, here in Allegheny County, we've been doing relatively well, compared with many cities in the country. But it's important that we keep up our vigilance with respect to preventative measures. So we'd like to remind everyone of procedures that we should all be following:

- Wash hands thoroughly and frequently
- Avoid touching your face
- Stay at least six feet apart from all people not living in the same household
- Avoid in-person socializing with people who are not members of your household
- Wear face masks when out in public or near others who are not members of your household

The better global adherence we have to these principles, the sooner we will be able to stem the tide of the COVID-19 virus.

The new light theme on the cover reflects us coming out of this darkness into a brighter future. And so we shall.

A Message From Our President

Debby Firestone, *President*



During this most extraordinary time, the business of running our shul has continued at full speed. I am privileged to participate in a ZOOM meeting each week which includes all presidents of the conservative and reform congregations in the greater Pittsburgh area. It is reassuring to know we are not alone in our troubles. We all face the same concerns: connecting with our members, reaching out to check on their health and well being; preparing a budget in a time of great financial stress, working day and night to secure funding from the Paycheck Protection Program; monitoring the well-being of our staff and employees; planning for an on-line annual meeting; seeing to ongoing religious education and services; and thinking about the shape of High Holiday services at a time of such uncertainty. We have been sharing information and helping each other in all of these areas. These meetings have also helped to create a special camaraderie that we all hope will continue after our current situation subsides.

We thank all of our staff and committee members who have worked diligently over these past few weeks. The by-laws committee has worked tirelessly to prepare our new constitution for our annual meeting, as have the budget and finance committees. Other committees also working hard at this time are Executive Director Search, Religious Services and Community and Connection. The executive committee meets more often than usual to discuss new challenges that we seem to confront daily. We all work together as a team and hope that our decisions for the shul are the right ones. And we offer a special thank you to our clergy for keeping us spiritually nourished. We hope you've had the opportunity to attend our on-line ZOOM services.

Notwithstanding all that we're doing, we can't ignore the fact that this is a difficult time for all. I hope this issue of *Mishpachtenu* finds you and your family well.

Words of Kedushah

Rabbi Seth Adelson, *Senior Rabbi*

Why the Gift of Torah Matters Now More Than Ever



As I write this, it has now been over five weeks since life has felt at all normal. The current norm is one of physical distance, of avoiding people on the street or in stores, of telecommuting. And this is really hard for us, the Jews, because we are a people whose tradition is fundamentally communal. “*Al tifrosh min hatzibbur*,” says Pirkei Avot 2:5. Do not separate yourself from the community. For many of us, not being close has been particularly difficult.

And yet, we also know that our tradition teaches us that we must do everything we can to save a life. By keeping our distance from each other, we are in fact saving lives. And so we are going to have to keep doing this for some time; for how long is still at this point a multi-trillion-dollar question.

Dr. Gershom Scholem, the early 20th-century German-Jewish scholar who established the academic study of Jewish mysticism, once described Kabbalah as an attempt to bridge the gap between humans and God, a gap which began to grow as soon as Adam and Eve were dismissed from the Garden of Eden. The contemporary Jewish experience of God is typically a distant one: God is on a mountain, or in the sky, or perhaps in the interstices of every electron cloud, or maybe just not there at all, but definitely not perceptibly present, not immediate, not here with us right now.

And yet, Martin Buber, Scholem's Austrian-Jewish philosophical contemporary, saw God

as being exactly the opposite: immediately present, completely non-conditional, in complete and yet completely indescribable contact with us at all times. Torah, now as at Mt. Sinai, flows from that unconditional presence, wordlessly and yet filling our lives with meaning.

And both ideas - the great distance and the immediate presence - are found in our tradition. The distance is the Sinai moment, with the people at the bottom of the mountain watching pyrotechnics on high; the immediacy is the “*kol demamah dakkah*” (I Kings 19:12) the still, small voice that continues to murmur in our ears after the sound and fury have passed.

Now is the time in which we find connection through distance. Now is the time in which the words of Torah continue to be the glue that holds us together, even as we are apart. Now is the time in which we need our tradition most of all.

And Shavu'ot, celebrating that gift of Torah, the Sinai moment and the still, small voice, is now the holiday that we need most, because of that great physical gap between us all. Torah fills that gap, and will keep us together, as it has always done. Hag sameah!

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**

Walking the Derekh

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

As we find ourselves at the beginning of the Jewish year, I'm drawn to the other side of the pendulum, the High Holy Days. We are encountering a time in our lives that we will never forget. The COVID-19 pandemic has brought the world to a standstill, keeping each and every one of us at home, watching healthcare professionals step up as heroes.



In the near future, we'll be released from this stay-at-home order and we will all strive to find a sense of the new normal. This drive for normalcy is key to our mental health and our resiliency as a community. I believe the High Holy Days have a framework that can be helpful to us: tefillah, tzedakah, and teshuvah.

Tefillah. As we move into what this brave new world will have in store for us, it will be essential that we move forward as a community. We can find inspiration from the fact that as Jews, we pray in the plural, ideally with a quorum. We are encouraged to pray together. If we cannot, we are to try praying at the same time. We will need to strive to be a community that moves together as one. We will have to push forward towards our shared goals.

Tzedakah. This time will have unknown and unimaginable repercussions, felt for decades. It is fundamental that we strive to serve the needs of our neighbors. As our teacher, Mr. Fred Rogers taught us, always look for the helpers. At this time, we all have something to offer, we all have something to give, and we all have something to support those close to us. Beth Shalom, while vibrant and strong, will face its own challenges in navigating the

near future, and you can help. That being said, there are many without work and food in Pittsburgh. It is in this time that we must make sure that all of us have the basic essentials. As we learn from Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs, we must make sure that each and every one of us has enough food to eat.

Teshuvah. As we return to a new world, we will also have an opportunity to reflect on this experience. What we believed was necessary to us, turned out to be a luxury. What we believed was just icing on the cake, turned out to be life-giving. I think this time is an opportunity to take stock in what we believe, in what we care about, and with whom we connect. As we contemplate the ending of the crisis, this is the time to return to the fundamentals, to evaluate what and who we want to be in our lives.

This time is a chance to reorient.

This time is an invitation to be empathetic.

This time is an opportunity to walk together.



Beth Shalom Youth Zone

Marissa Tait, *Director of Youth Programming*



As we navigate these uncharted territories, I have turned to our youth as my co-captains. We can learn a lot from their ability to adjust and 'go with the flow'. This is the second year with a major disruption to their daily lives and their resilience and strength is inspiring. Each person has had to adapt to their new normal. Still, our youth have not complained once.

On March 16, when Beth Shalom officially closed the building, we had to quickly alter our entire program. This smooth transition to a virtual format was possible because of our incredible advisors, Adi and Ethan, staff, dedicated lay leaders, and creative teens. Personally, I have been inspired by the quick thinking and true leadership from our BSUSY board. Several events were created to meet their different needs. Our hope was to have accessible programming available for all of our youth to enter when desired. For now, the most successful formula is intentional, fun, small group programs where participants can connect, talk, and play. A few offerings we have had so far include Baking with BSUSY, Lunch and Learns, Virtual Lounge Nights and the Matzah House Building Competition.

As we continue to evolve, we will evaluate our program to keep our youth engaged and maintain relationships. Adi, Ethan, and I are always available.

**Kadima/BSUSY Virtual Lounge Night:
6:00 p.m. on Mondays!**

Open to all 6-12 graders.

Go to <http://bethshalompgh.org/mondays-virtual-lounge-night/>

MAZAL TOV TO THE 2020 - 2021 CRUSY REGIONAL EXECUTIVE BOARD

Regional President
Benji Himmel

Religion Education VP
Elana Kolko

Communications VP
Eric Valinsky

Congratulations to BSUSY for winning the following awards:

Greatest Year Long Commitment to Israel - second year in a row!

Jewish Programming Award - won for the best year long continuous Jewish programs.

Shabbat Experience Award - won for year long positive Shabbat experiences (Kabbalat Shabbat services and discussion).



Growing Through the ELC

Hilary Yeckel, *Director of the ELC*

Hello Congregants -

I would like to start off by saying that I hope each and every one of you, your children, your families, and friends are staying healthy and safe during these unpredictable times.

It's hard to believe that only a month ago our students, parents, and educators filled the hallways and classrooms of the Early Learning Center and now we are all at home. While we cannot physically be together right now, our team of educators recognized how important it was to continue to provide connection, learning, and normalcy to our students and families from a distance. Over the past month, our educators have worked to prepare and provide virtual learning for their classrooms in many forms. In addition to typed lesson plans, activity ideas, and resource links being sent home to parents, our ten classrooms are now holding weekly live circle times via zoom. Individual classrooms have created weekly schedules which they share with their families, and a majority of classrooms now come together virtually at least twice a week.

Additionally, our specialist teachers have created virtual platforms and connections for families: our music specialist, Morah Debbey, has a live music class with every class once a week; our science specialist, Morah Elaine, has created a science website for Beth Shalom families to access securely which is filled with filmed lessons for families to watch together and other activity ideas; and our Art specialist, Morah Julie, has been collaborating with classrooms to join their live circle times and has done various activities such as making



playdough, baking matzah, and painting! A highlight of these weeks for me has continued to be our weekly Shabbat service with Rabbi Adelson.

Every Friday morning, our ELC community joins together via zoom and we welcome the Shabbat with songs and dancing. There is truly nothing that can bring a smile to your face quicker than seeing 60+ little faces smiling and dancing with Rabbi, their friends, families, and teachers. As Beth Shalom continues to navigate through these difficult times, we as educators and an ELC community, will continue to support our families and students in as many ways as we can.



Learning with J-JEP

Kate Kim, Assistant Director of J-JEP

As I'm writing this, J-JEP's 170+ students and madrichim along with our educators are in the midst of pursuing Jewish education online - a first for our program. Quickly and without hesitation, our educators have taken what on the surface looked like limited and static resources for learning, and got creative; utilizing our students' homes and online environment in new and engaging ways. J-JEP has taken the challenge of remote learning and turned it into an opportunity for further exploring and recognizing the diversity of Jewish culture and identity among us, bringing everything closer to home - literally and figuratively.

And now, as you're reading this, our academic year has come to an end, but our community and its pursuit of Jewish learning for our children will not. We know that our connection to Judaism and to each other is more important than ever, and we are looking forward to offering new programs throughout the summer to support this. From what I've seen of the resiliency and dedication of our educators and families, I know we'll find that our community is as fully engaged as ever, whether we're coming together virtually from within each of our homes or in person outside them.

Stay tuned! Visit JJEP.org this summer to find out about programs being offered and about registration for our 2020-2021 school year.



Facilities Update

Ken Turkewitz, *Interim Executive Director*

There's been a lot going on to keep the Beth Shalom facility in shape over the past half year or so, and we'd like to update the congregation on recent developments.

In the Early Learning Center, just before the turn of the year, we switched our nightly cleaning company, resulting in both a superior service (a noticeable improvement in cleanliness) and a reduced cost. In addition, we've replaced worn rugs in the ELC.

The building's heater condenser pump broke down during the winter. This actually caused some areas of the building to overheat. After a series of temporary pumps, and temporary repairs, while waiting for a new pump that was on order, we finally received the new one and had it installed, providing us with a consistent temperature in our rooms.

Along the same lines, we replaced our water circulation pump this winter. We'd had poor water pressure in the building for quite some time, believing it to be a City of Pittsburgh problem. When they confirmed it was not their problem, we tracked it to our own failed pump. The replacement of it now means that toilets are flushing properly (with a single flush!) and water is coming out of faucets in a strong stream.

Heavy rains had been causing regular flooding in the Ballroom handicap bathroom. While investigating the problem in February, the pipes got flushed, and that problem has now gone away.

Planning continues for replacing the school building roof and installing solar panels. We did not quite get the results we were looking for with our open bid for a combined roof/solar project this spring. We have now split this

project into two. The roofing portion we will begin as soon as we can, and the solar portion will go out for public bid again, using the grant we obtained, and under the rules of the public bidding procedure for the grant.

Investigative work on the Sanctuary building façade continues. We learned a lot of valuable information by employing MCF Architects to study it and advise us. There are four major areas that have to be addressed. In order of priority, they are:

1. Cornices around the building – though mostly decorative, falling panels on the cornices are a pretty big safety issue, making it our number one priority. This area is also a source of water damage in the building.
2. Roof – The roof is past its usable lifetime and is in need of immediate replacement
3. South façade – The face of the front of the building, above our closed plaza, is the most visible area of damage. In addition to the appearance it provides the building, the crumbling stone is also a safety hazard, and is another source of water leakage in the building.
4. Plaza – There are many pavers damaged from the falling façade, and we're informed that the material beneath the pavers (another "roof" really) is not the right type of material for this type of use.

There are a few other problems identified by the architects, as well, but these four are the major findings.

Security Update

Steve Albert, *Chair of the Security Committee*

Beth Shalom's Security committee has been busy behind the scenes. Our committee has prioritized recommendations for operational and physical infrastructure changes to improve security at Beth Shalom. The committee, with Fred Newman's help, applied for Pennsylvania's security grant. Although our application was not awarded funding, in this application cycle, we will continue to pursue vital projects to replace our video surveillance equipment and install a panic/emergency response system throughout the building. As of this writing, Beth Shalom is scheduled to have such a system from BluePoint Alert Solutions installed this summer, funded by the Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh. The BluePoint system will include blue police "pull stations" (similar to our red fire pull stations) throughout the building, providing contact to the police, and strobe light warnings through the building. There will also be mobile panic buttons available, and several green medical pull stations for the building reception desks.

In February, members of our committee including Elaine Beck and Steve Albert volunteered at Rodef Shalom to assemble "Go Bags." This was a project of Pittsburgh's Jewish Federation to provide critical emergency supplies in backpacks to all Jewish organizations in the community. Beth Shalom received a large quantity of these bags to distribute across our classrooms and other spaces. This project was led by Shawn Brokos, Federation's new director of Community Security. Beth Shalom's leadership has developed a relationship with Shawn and she has been a terrific resource for our congregation.

We recently submitted our application for the Federal Homeland Security Grant. If

awarded, funds from this program will help the congregation replace or upgrade critical elements of our security infrastructure. Prior to submitting the grant, a survey of our facilities was conducted by our local Homeland Security representative. The survey produced a range of short-term and long term operational and infrastructure improvement suggestions. The security committee will review these suggestions and prioritize the recommendations.



**IT'S OKAY TO
ASK FOR HELP**

If you or someone you know
is experiencing a **mental health
crisis**, contact the crisis text
line by **texting PA to 741-741**.



Membership Update

Jessica Hammer, *Chair of the Membership Committee*

In the past eighteen months, Beth Shalom has successfully completed a strategic planning process. Two of the key areas from the resulting plan are making the synagogue more welcoming, and improving member engagement. We see these as critical priorities for the membership committee in the coming five years.

Our first step was to understand the synagogue's needs in these areas. We interviewed 30+ members about their Beth Shalom experience, including new members, lay leaders, ELC families, and other key stakeholder groups. We discovered two core themes. First, people were proud to be part of such an active and exciting synagogue, but that came with drawbacks. Most members - even long-time members - felt overwhelmed by the number of synagogue events and struggled to identify activities that were relevant to them. Second, people were proud of the synagogue's sense of community, but didn't always know how to connect. Meeting new people - again, even for long-time members - was hard, even when everyone involved was enthusiastic about creating relationships.

Based on what we learned, we see our place in the synagogue as creating connection. That means connecting members to the right programs for them, fostering relationships between community members, and making sure that people who are interested in the Beth Shalom experience get to see what we are all about.

The committee has been meeting regularly since October, and we have already made progress on our strategic priorities. We have improved the new member experience,

including hosting a new member brunch and ensuring that every new member is personally contacted by a member of the committee. We started a greeters program to help people feel more welcome at Shabbat morning services. We are also working on initiatives behind the scenes to improve event searchability and help committees better target their communication to members.

Since the onset of the coronavirus pandemic, we have pivoted to co-lead the Community & Connection Taskforce, along with Chris Hall and Rabbi Jeremy Markiz of Derekh. We believe that creating connection is even more important during this time when we are physically separated. To this end, we have organized a group of volunteers to check in by phone with every member of our congregation, so that we know what people need. Our volunteers are also running online events like mindfulness practice and book clubs, and participating in direct action like delivering Passover supplies. To all who have participated, a hearty thank you for your time!

We know this is a difficult time for everyone, but it is our honor and our pleasure to serve the community. If you'd like to join us, you can fill out the volunteer form here: <http://bit.ly/helpCBS>

Jessica Hammer (chair)

Natasha Berman

Oren Lieberman

Linda Newman

Adam Perer

Cemetery Update

Lonnie Wolf, Cemetery Director

Our cemeteries are open during the coronavirus pandemic with strict guidelines which the funeral home will advise. We are very proud of our cemetery, and with the help of your donations making this one of the best maintained Jewish Cemeteries in Pittsburgh!

Ray and his staff are busy with the cleaning up of the 95 years of overgrowth (if you can imagine!) and resetting monuments. Currently, we are holding back planting since the deer are eating all the new growth. All the old bushes are being removed and the cemetery will be easier to maintain and will look a lot better.

We are addressing outdated and non-existing cemetery infrastructure which is a top priority. Also we are cleaning markers and monuments; along with installing road drainage catch basins, piping and receptacles. This will be followed by revised road replacement and replacing faulty sewage lines at the maintenance garage.

A warm welcome to our new Homestead Cemetery maintenance crew helping to keep it well maintained!

Finally, Temple Ohav Shalom maintains an interfaith cemetery near Congregation Beth Shalom's Mausoleum. Beth Shalom's members who choose to avail themselves for this interfaith burial may do so.

Any question please call the cemetery office or Lonnie directly at 412-654-7550

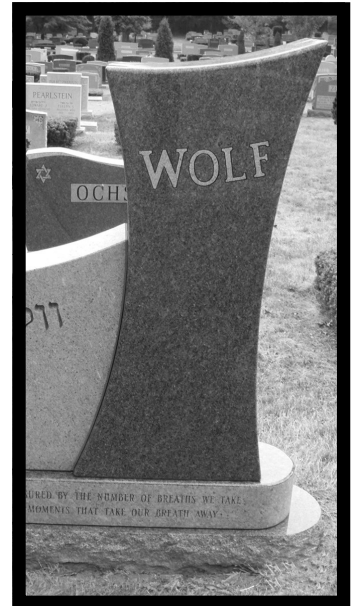
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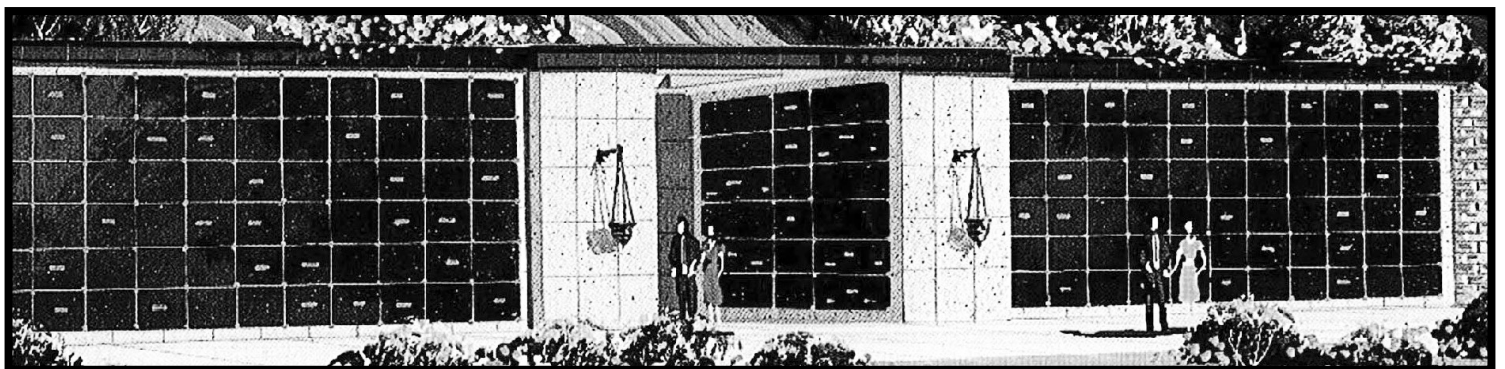
- Beth Shalom Cemetery
- Beth Shalom Mausoleum
- Homestead Hebrew Cemetery
- Temple Ohav Shalom Memorial Garden



Visit Our Cemetery

Cemetery gates open at 8:00 a.m. & close at sunset. The Cemetery is also closed at sundown on Friday through the Sabbath and all Jewish holidays.

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



Contact Lonnie Wolf for our Mausoleum prices!

Legacy Circle Update

Legacy Circle Team & Rabbi Jeremy Markiz, *Staff Liaison*

Debby Firestone's Message from Our President (March-May *Mishpachtenu*) admirably described Life & Legacy and how Beth Shalom is now a Legacy partner. A quick refresher – Life & Legacy is a partnership of the Harold Grinspoon Foundation, Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh, Beth Shalom and other local Jewish organizations that promotes after-lifetime giving to benefit local synagogues, Jewish day schools, social service organizations and other Jewish entities. Through training, support and monetary incentives, Life & Legacy motivates Jewish organizations to integrate legacy giving into their philanthropic culture in order to assure Jewish tomorrows. Beth Shalom is proud to be part of the learning and support we receive from the Life & Legacy partnership.

We formed Beth Shalom's Legacy Circle team last Fall whose members include clergy, congregants and staff. The team attended two lengthy training sessions at Federation (the third was cancelled due to the shutdown), held many internal meetings, gave informal presentations and updates to the Board of Trustees and engaged in individual conversations with several congregation members. We have obtained a wealth of information about "Why Life & Legacy," "Why Participate in Making a Legacy Commitment," and "How to Participate," all of which we want to share with you! We plan to spend time educating all of our congregants on the long-term impact of this type of giving and to ask that you consider making a legacy commitment.

Some outreach/marketing has already occurred despite the current ban on in-person gatherings. Hopefully you noticed (when we could be in shul) the huge Life & Legacy

banner at various locations in the synagogue. The Legacy Circle also now has its own page on Beth Shalom's website where there is among other things, informational content, a listing of and testimonials from congregants who have made legacy commitments and links to the Declaration of Intent form to become a part of Beth Shalom's Legacy Circle. Once we are "back together," we will be able to ramp up our awareness and educational efforts.

In the meantime, we can still accomplish one action item -- learning who among our members already have included Beth Shalom in their legacy plans. If you have, please tell us — first and foremost, we want to be able to thank you and acknowledge your commitment to Beth Shalom's future for generations to come. Second, we would ask you to please complete the simple Declaration of Intent form to "officially" become a Legacy Circle member. The Legacy Circle team is profoundly grateful for the existing and anticipated participation to assure Jewish tomorrows for Beth Shalom.

**For more information,
see the promotion on the
back cover!**

Artist's Reflection

Anthony Colaizzi
Communications & Design Manager

The Light of Hope

When we decided to create this special edition, *light in the darkness* as the central theme came to mind for a few of us. The darkness right now is both the global pandemic and the unfortunate ignorance of others driven by fear. This ever-present fear has overtaken our lives. Our response to it matters. Through education, art, music, self-care, and the bonds of community we can choose to survive the darkness. We can find a light to outshine it. As mentioned by Ken in his Beth Shalom update, we are seeking a new light for the foreseeable future. This light will serve as our hope for a brighter tomorrow in the face of Covid-19's impact on our world, both individually and that which we share together.

In the four years I have been with Beth Shalom, I have seen a community of people with a resilience and persistence that has impacted my soul. From the routine daily struggles of life to the horrifying impact of anti-Semitism, a sinister cloud of hatred in this world I did not fully understand before, this community has always found a way through the darkness. It is that spirit that has inspired this painting, *The Light of Hope*, featured on the cover of this *Mishpachtenu*.

The Light of Hope represents the brilliant colors of possibility and the individual spirit in us all. By embracing the best in each of us we will endure and outshine this incredible challenge. The sunrise dances across the treetops, those physical embodiments of our spiritual strength. It plays against the green grass, giving vibrancy to our foundations. Our lights will cast away the darkness and push out the shadows of fear. If each of us is a light, then together we are a bright burning shining star.

Aliza Michal Shear, daughter of Shoshanna and Adam Shear, will be called to the Torah to celebrate her becoming a Bat Mitzvah on Saturday, May 23, *Parashat Bamidbar*, at Congregation Beth Shalom. Aliza is the granddaughter of Sharon (z"l) and Benjamin Liptzin of Stockbridge, Massachusetts, and Natalie and Henry Lewis of Chevy Chase, Maryland. Her older siblings are Daniella and Sammy Shear. Aliza is in seventh grade at Winchester Thurston School. She loves musical theater and all of its components (acting, dance, and singing), as well as playing basketball. In the summer, she attends Emma Kaufmann Camp.



Bat Mitzvah: 5/23/2020

Liya Gilboa is the daughter of Amit Gilboa and Lily Shi, sister of Ron and Dan Gilboa, and granddaughter of the late Nisan Gilboa and Arlyn Gilboa, who passed away very recently.



She is in her first year at Cedar Girls Secondary School in Singapore. She excels at mathematics and, a vegan, is passionate about animal welfare. Liya will become a Bat Mitzvah on June 13, 2020, in either Pittsburgh or Singapore depending on travel restrictions at the time.

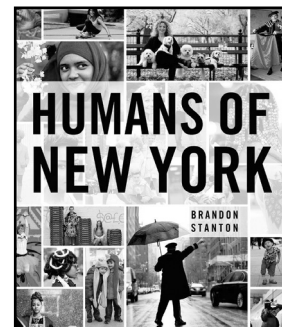
Bat Mitzvah: 6/13/2020

Humans of Beth Shalom (HOBS)

Here, we highlight member "units" (a family or individual) and we look forward to introducing others in the future. We asked the responders to identify themselves and then to respond to a subset of pre-selected questions.

Thank you to all,
Judi Rosen and Marlene Behrmann Cohen

Inspired by the famous Humans of New York, or HONY, series.



HELEN AND RICHARD FEDER

Name in English and in Hebrew (phonetic).

Helen and Richard Feder
Hinda Riska bat Yehuda v Rivka
Yacov ben Meir v Malka

Where were you born and which places have you lived in?

Helen was born in Watertown, New York and grew up in the village of Sackets Harbor, New York. Richard was born in New York City and grew up in the Bronx.

We have lived in Sackets Harbor, NY, Bronx, NY, Cleveland Heights, Ohio, and Pittsburgh, PA.

How long have you been a member of Congregation Beth Shalom?

We have been members of Beth Shalom since 1997. We chose Beth Shalom as our Congregational Community because of its Conservative movement affiliations, there was excellent youth programming for our two daughters, as well as the Library Minyan which provided a lay-led small group praying and learning community.

What food connects you to feeling Jewish? Where is that memory from?

Bagels, lox, potato pancakes, gefilte fish, blintzes, cheesecake are foods that connect us to feeling Jewish. These are foods that we have enjoyed during family celebrations and Jewish holidays with family. For Helen, gefilte fish was often given to me by her mother for lunches. Rich has always loved cheesecake and makes an excellent NY Style cheesecake for special occasions and for Shavu'ot.

When do you feel the most Jewish? And why?

Both of us feel passionate about our Squirrel Hill Community - keeping it vital and strong with a Jewish presence. We strive to support our local institutions, restaurants, stores, etc. so that we can continue to live in this wonderful neighborhood.



(HOBS continued on next page)

Pesah Questions!

MARILYN ROXIN STERN

Why was your night different from all other nights?

Last night I was totally alone because my children weren't able to do a virtual seder with me. When I read the first lines of the Haggadah, the references to "we" made me cry. But at the end, I found that engaging the Haggadah alone, reading and thinking about it rather than worrying about who would read next, and who was having trouble reaching the haroset, made me really engage with the text.

It was uplifting, and it was memorable. I felt totally connected to the words and their meaning. Yes, I miss my family and friends around the table. I miss the communal joy and chaos. But I will never forget that experience of intimacy with the Haggadah that was created by being alone with the text and its meaning.



RABBI JEREMY MARKIZ AND ELANA NESHKES

How did you celebrated this year's Pesah and what did you learn from the experience?

This year, Elana and I held a seder for just the two of us. We set a beautiful table, grabbed no fewer than four haggadot, and prepared to sing together. What we discovered was a seder that was quiet, beautiful, and calm. Each year we labor to provide a Passover experience for friends and family, balanced between everyone's needs and this year, we had the opportunity to focus on ourselves. We sang our favorite songs and we discussed the texts deeply. We kept a pace that felt right to us. We hid the afikomen for one another and shared a lovely evening, just the two of us.



Tell Us YOUR Story!

Email Judi Rosen at judirosen2828@gmail.com or Marlene Berhmann Cohen at berhmann@cmu.edu to be a part of the growing Humans of Beth Shalom project!

Your Contributions

February 1 — March 31, 2020

Beth Shalom Judaica Museum

Donations:

Paula Rubin

Derekh Donations

In Honor Of:

**Noah Lubowsky and team for
an entertaining night of Clues
& Schmooze**

Mitch Dernis & Brenda Kurland

In Memory Of:

Arlyn Gilboa

Sandra Hirsch

George William Reynolds II

Richard & Helen Feder

Herbert Zimmerman

Richard & Helen Feder

Bruce & Jane Rollman

Early Childhood General Fund

In Honor Of:

**Brad Salitrik & Liron Lipinsky
Salitrik's son Benjamin**

Cookie Elbling

In Memory Of:

Arlyn Gilboa

Cookie Elbling

General Fund

In Honor Of:

Adam Lehman

Emanuel & Dorita Krifcher

**Stephanie & Alon Bendas'
marriage**

Nate & Debby Firestone

**Adam Perer & Bitá Azhdam on
the birth of your son**

Noah & Aviva Lubowsky

**Nate & Debby Firestone on the
birth of your grandson**

Noah & Aviva Lubowsky

Michelle Vines

David Guzikowski

Michael & Trish Morchower

In Memory Of:

**James (Jamie) Bayer,
Gail's beloved husband**

Bunny Morris

George William Reynolds II

Dan & Ronna Askin

Alan & Linda Doernberg

David & Teddi Horvitz

Max Cohen

Dan & Ronna Askin

Richard & Helen Feder

David & Teddi Horvitz

Roger Zimmerman

& Jane Liebschutz

David Dinkin

Alan & Fern Steckel

**Brian Gershon, beloved
brother and uncle**

Dan & Ronna Askin

Richard & Helen Feder

Peter Kogan

& Elinor Nathanson

Arlyn Gilboa

Nate & Debby Firestone

Abby Morrison

Emanuel & Dorita Krifcher

Linda and Robert Goldstein

Bunny Morris

Meyer & Huvvy Simon

Ellen Falk Hirsch

Nate & Debby Firestone

Rachel Lehrer Stein

Alan & Fern Steckel

Murray Sachs

Meyer & Huvvy Simon

Fern Schless

Joshua & Rose Geller

Genya Sigalov

Stuart & Susan Beckerman

Arnold Wagner

David & Deborah Baron

Alan & Linda Doernberg

Steven & Lynn Hecht

David & Teddi Horvitz

Adam Kolko

& Eydie Moses-Kolko

Greg & Nicole Leininger

Bunny Morris

James & Louisa Rudolph

Mindy Shreve

Meyer & Huvvy Simon

Gary & Nancy Tuckfelt

Herbert Zimmerman

Gary & Margaret Fischer

Adam Kolko

& Eydie Moses-Kolko

Mindy Shreve

Speedy Recovery:

Harry & Patty Schneider

Gary & Nancy Tuckfelt

Leslie Spiegel

Nate & Debby Firestone

Donations:

Jon & Miriam Adler

Michel Kentor

**J. Leonard Frank Early Minyan
Endowment**

In Memory Of:

Arnold Wagner

Judith Kline

Ruth Garvin

Jodi Klein

OUR CONGREGATIONAL FAMILY

Kiddush Fund

In Honor Of:

Nate & Debby Firestone on the birth of your grandson

Emanuel & Dorita Krifcher

In Memory Of:

Max Cohen

Bruce & Jane Rollman

Linda Herer Goldsmith Camp

Ramah Fund

In Memory Of:

James (Jamie) Bayer, Gail's beloved husband

Lonnie & Natalie Wolf

Ruth Garvin

Lonnie & Natalie Wolf

Mark Glasser Fund

Linda Goldstein, beloved wife, mother, and grandmother

Nate & Debby Firestone

Rabbi Adelson Disc. Fund

In Honor Of:

Nate & Debby Firestone on the birth of your grandson

Helen Eaton

In Memory Of:

Max Cohen

Dennis Jett & Lynda Schuster

Danny Kass & Debby Gillman

Arlyn Gilboa

Franklin & Ellen Toker

Harry & Laurie Zions

Arnold Wagner

Robert & Judy Danenberg

Harry & Laurie Zions

Samuel & Ida Cohen Fund

In Memory Of:

James (Jamie) Bayer, Gail's beloved husband

Leonor Szlepak
& Raquel Szlepak

Sisterhood Fund

In Memory Of:

Arlyn Gilboa

Earl & Barbara Kaiserman

Alan & Linda Doernberg

Sisterhood Keshet Fund

In Memory Of:

Rabbi Stanley Savage's mother

Nate & Debby Firestone

Youth Fund

In Honor Of:

Brad Salitrik & Liron Lipinsky Salitrik's son Benjamin

Doohwan & Kate Kim

In Memory Of:

Leah Buckler

Milton & Shirley Estner

Linda Goldstein

Jay & Jessy Stein

Ian Tanowitz

Jay & Jessy Stein

Donations:

Dina Rayzberg

Ruth Weiss

If you would like to direct your donation to a named fund to support Beth Shalom, we have a number that were created to honor specific people and focus activities.

How about the...

- Hertz and Etz Chayim Chumashim Fund
- Sigel-Mandel-Cohen Scholar in Residence Fund
- Betsy and Allan Kanarek Shabbat Alive Fund

or, why not set up your own fund to sponsor a kiddush in perpetuity?

Call the office for details!

Kiddush Sponsors

February 1 — March 31, 2020

February 1, 2020

sponsored by the **Beth Shalom Sisterhood**

February 8, 2020

sponsored by **Kate & Ira Rothstein**

February 15, 2020

sponsored by **Deb & Mark Sindler**

February 22, 2020

co-sponsored by **New Light Congregation** in honor of Magevet

February 29, 2020

sponsored in part by **Lydia Bestul**

Nihum Avelim

(Comforting Mourners)

February 1 — March 31, 2020

Family and friends on the passing of long-time member **Nancy Recht**.

David & Jamie Harris-Gershon and family on the passing of David's brother **Brian Gershon** on Sunday, February 9, in Antartica.

Jimmy & Rochelle Wagner on the passing of Jimmy's father Arnold Wagner, who was also brother of our member **Sandra (Sissie) Margolis**, and first cousin of our members **Richard (Suzanne) Wagner, Natalie Klein, and Norton (Adrienne) Freedel**.

Marjorie Sachs and family on the passing of **Dr. Murray Sachs** on February 13.

Roger Zimmerman (Jane Liebschutz) on the passing of Roger's father **Herbert Zimmerman** on February 13.

The family and friends of Arlyn Gilboa, who left us on February 25.

Seth & Carolyn Glick and family on the passing of Seth's grandmother **Ellen (Falk) Hirsch** on February 23.

The family and friends of Sherry Helfant Malone, who passed away on February 24.

Elisheva (Emanuel) Schreiber, on the passing of her father **George William Reynolds II** on March 2.

Milestones – Mazal Tov!

February 1 — March 31, 2020

Debby & Nate Firestone, on the birth on January 16 of grandson **Abraham Etan (Abe)**, son of Julia and Jay Firestone, in Berkeley, California. Abe is named for his maternal great-grandfather Arthur Zoloth and paternal great-grandmother Bella Yetta Firestone.

Arthur & Janis Davidson on the engagement of their son Adam to Rebecca Stang of Chicago.

Toby & Joseph Trompeter, on the birth on February 4 of granddaughter **Mia Alexandra Taub**, at 5 lb., 13 oz., 19 inches.

Benji Himmel, who has been elected to the Israel Affairs International General Board of the 2020 USY International.

Bitá Azhdam & Adam Perer, on the birth of their son **Joshua Isaac Perer**, on February 11. Mazal tov also to big brother Noah!

Ellen & Bob Garvin on the engagement of their son Michael to Leslie Klein of Albany, New York. Michael is the grandson of members **Ralph & Audrey Silverman** and the late **Norman & Ruth Garvin**.

Dr. Larry & Sharon Dobkin on the engagement of their daughter Rachel Dobkin to Benjamin Eisenstein of Skokie, Illinois.

Bruce & Bev Klein on the birth of grandson Ethan Daniel in Chicago on February 28.

Grandparents **Lorraine & Rabbi Aaron Mackler** on the birth of a baby girl to Hannah Mackler & Michael Feurstein of Raleigh, NC, on Wednesday, March 4.

Lena Horwitz & Mark Edelman on the birth of a son, **Yuri Philip Edelman** on January 16.

Jimmy & Rochelle Wagner on the birth of their first grandson on March 11 to parents David & Rebecca Wagner in Seattle.

Matt & Sharon Feinman on their daughter **Lily** becoming a Bat Mitzvah.

Nathan & Janice Bahary on the wedding of their daughter **Ayelet** to **Harry Esses** on Sunday, March 22.

Thanks to Se'udah Shelishit Contributors

February 1 — March 31, 2020

February 1, 2020

sponsored by **Martha Safyan and the Safyan Holber Family** in loving memory of **Joseph H. Safyan**, beloved husband, father and grandfather.

February 8, 2020

sponsored by Anonymous, in honor of **Rabbi Adelson**

February 15, 2020

sponsored in part by **Erica Fox Zabusky** in memory of her father, **Norman Zabusky**

February 22, 2020

sponsored by **David & Teddi, Bruce & Deborah, and Mark & Rhonda Horvitz** in loving memory of their father, **Robert Horvitz**

February 29, 2020

sponsored by **Helen & Rich Feder**, in memory of their beloved parents, **Gina & Juda Bickel and Mildred & Milton Feder**

March 7, 2020

sponsored by **Anne Jackson** in loving memory of her mother **Shirley Cochran**

March 14, 2020

sponsored by **the Rothstein Family** in fond memory of **Dr. Fred Rothstein**

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Let Your Voice Be Heard!

May 26, 2020, 7:30 P.M. onward

via online video and audio tools; details to be provided

- Agenda includes:
Election of members to the Board of Trustees
- Vote on a preliminary budget for FY20
- Review and vote on a new Constitution for the synagogue

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.

412.421.2288 x113
catering1@bethshalompgh.org

Shavu'ot Service Schedule 5780/2020

At the time of publication the Shavu'ot services below are planned to be streamed virtually. Please continue to check the Beth Shalom and Federation websites for more information.

Tikkun Leil Shavu'ot

This year the community Tikkun Leil Shavuot will take place the evening before Shavu'ot, on Wednesday, May 27th, with one-hour sessions running from 9:00 p.m. to midnight.

Wednesday Evening **May 27** Community Leil Shavu'ot

First Day Shavu'ot

Thursday Evening **May 28** *Minha/Ma'ariv*, 6:00 p.m.
Candle Lighting 8:23 p.m., *berakhot* below

Friday Morning **May 29** Morning Service, 9:15 a.m.

Second Day Shavu'ot

Friday Evening **May 29** *Minha/Ma'ariv*, 6:00 p.m.
Candle Lighting 8:24 p.m., *berakhot* below

Saturday Morning **May 30** Morning Service, 9:00 a.m.
Yizkor, after 10:30 a.m.

Saturday Evening **May 30** *Minhah*, 8:35 p.m. | *Ma'ariv*, 8:55 p.m.
Havdalah, 9:25 p.m.

BLESSING FOR KINDLING FESTIVAL LIGHTS FOR BOTH YOM TOV EVENINGS

#1 - Yom Tov Candle Lighting Blessing (1st nights)

ברוך אתה ה' א-להינו מלך העולם, אשר קדשנו במצותיו, וצונו להדליק נר של יום טוב.
Barukh atah Adonai, Eloheni melekh ha'olam, asher kiddeshanu bemitzvotav, vetsivanu lehadlik ner shel Yom Tov.

#2 - Shehehyanu Blessing (1st night only)

ברוך אתה ה' א-להינו מלך העולם, ששהחיינו וקיימנו והגיענו לזמן הזה.
Barukh atah Adonai, Eloheni melekh ha'olam, shehehyanu, vekiymanu, vehigi'anu lazeman hazeh.

#3 - Shabbat and Yom Tov Candle Lighting (2nd night)

ברוך אתה ה' א-להינו מלך העולם, אשר קדשנו במצותיו, וצונו להדליק נר של שבת ושל יום טוב.
Barukh atah Adonai, Eloheni melekh ha'olam, asher kiddeshanu bemitzvotav, vetsivanu lehadlik ner shel Shabbat veshel Yom Tov.

Parents of a new baby? New grandchildren in town for Yom Tov?

Join us at 8:30 a.m. on Sunday, May 31, the day after Shavu'ot, for our annual Baby Bikkurim celebration! We invite all families who have had babies in the past year to gather together for a brief blessing and a song, and to show off your baby on Zoom. The ceremony will take place at the end of that day's Beth Shalom morning service (which begins at 8:00)

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

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HOW WILL YOU ASSURE JEWISH TOMORROWS?

Whatever you cherish most about Jewish life...learning, community, worship, caring for those in need or social justice, by leaving a legacy you ensure that the things you value are sustained for future generations.

We at Beth Shalom are here for you when considering your legacy. Should you like to consider Beth Shalom in your estate planning, we will be able to walk you through the necessary steps with thoughtful care.

TO DISCUSS
CREATING YOUR
JEWISH LEGACY
CONTACT:

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