

# Mishpachtenu

Elul 5780 & Tishrei, Heshvan, and Kislev 5781



Congregation Beth Shalom  
5915 Beacon Street  
Pittsburgh, PA 15217  
412.421.2288

Beth Shalom  
בית שלום

Don't forget to visit  
[www.bethshalompgh.org](http://www.bethshalompgh.org)



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**MY MASK  
PROTECTS YOU,  
YOUR MASK  
PROTECTS ME.**



# Words of Kedushah

Rabbi Seth Adelson, *Senior Rabbi*

## High Holidays, COVID Style

The odyssey of the *Aseret Yemei Teshuvah*, the Ten Days of Repentance that are framed by Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, will unquestionably feel a little different this year, but we will certainly need them no less than as in years past. On the contrary: many of us are probably feeling the need for (a) a sign from God that everything is going to be OK, (b) some ancient wisdom from the Jewish bookshelf that might help us through troubled times, or (c) the kind of human contact that we find in the synagogue. Of course, we cannot help with the third item, but maybe the first two are attainable in our current context.

Please note that, since we cannot invite our members into the building for services this year on the holidays, we will be conducting them electronically, just as we have been doing every day, twice a day since March 15th. We will distribute information on how to access our services when we get closer to Rosh Hashanah. While there are definitely some disadvantages to participating in a service that takes place on your computer screen, there are certain advantages as well: no need to get too dressed up (although it is worth noting that



davening without pants on is forbidden according to halakhah / Jewish law!), and the fridge is not far away if you need sustenance (although it is also worth noting that this will in fact be a disadvantage on Yom Kippur).

Our service leaders will be located in the Faye Rubinstein Weiss Sanctuary, distanced from one another and of course wearing masks, and the service honors will be performed by a few people in the room on behalf of others, and we will announce the names of the honorees who will generally be at home in front of the computer.

Our Religious Services Committee has decided not to drastically alter the services, but we know that they will be somewhat shorter than usual due to time saved through logistics. Nonetheless, I know that sitting for many hours before a computer screen can be tiring, so our High Holiday Guide will include a more detailed estimate of times of certain features of the services, so that you will have more information about when to tune in for your favorite parts.

Since you will really need a High Holiday *mahzor* to participate, we will be lending out copies, which must be returned to Beth Shalom, and we have devised a system for doing that.

Many members of Beth Shalom have already tuned into Zoom services since March, but if

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you have not, here are a few resources that you may find helpful.

Halakhic guidance from the Rabbinical Assembly regarding participation in streaming services: [Streaming on Shabbat and Yom Tov](https://www.rabbinicalassembly.org/sites/default/files/2020-05/Streaming%20on%20Shabbat%20and%20Yom%20Tov%20Heller.pdf) by Rabbi Joshua Heller (<https://www.rabbinicalassembly.org/sites/default/files/2020-05/Streaming%20on%20Shabbat%20and%20Yom%20Tov%20Heller.pdf>)

A video from Rabbi Sam Blustin about how to set up your computer to stream services for Shabbat and Yom Tov in a way that is more appropriate according to halakhah: <https://youtu.be/tqSihsKfAzU>

Understanding that, due to the virus, we cannot meet in person, and yet we still need the High Holiday odyssey to help us heal this year we feel that offering these services in this manner will be the best option that we have right now.

As we chant in every High Holiday Amidah, “*Veye’asu kulam agudah aḥat la’asot retzonekha belevav shalem*” - And all of us will be bound together, carrying out Your will wholeheartedly. We may be physically distant from one another, but the power of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur will bring us together spiritually, so that as a community we can be together at this time.

A final note: our theme for this year, reflecting our current context is, “Back to Basics.” In my series of four sermons, I will be discussing how we as contemporary Jews relate to law, custom, values and story in filling our lives with meaning and seeking the guidance that we

need for difficult times. I look forward to seeing you, praying with you, and being a part of this unified community with you.

*Shanah tovah!* Let's hope that 5781 brings us blessings of health and happiness.



## Friday Night Candle Times

September 4:	7:27 p.m.
September 11:	7:15 p.m.
September 18:	7:03 p.m.
September 25:	6:52 p.m.
October 2:	6:40 p.m.
October 9:	6:29 p.m.
October 16:	6:18 p.m.
October 23:	6:08 p.m.
October 30:	5:59 p.m.
November 6:	4:51 p.m.
November 13:	4:45 p.m.
November 20:	4:40 p.m.
November 27:	4:36 p.m.

# A Message From Our President

Debby Firestone, *President*

There are mornings when I wake up and wonder if I'm living in a frighteningly realistic nightmare. I hope that I can shut my eyes, wake up again and be back to normal.



Unfortunately, we know that this is the new normal – at least for many more months – if not longer. We're entering the twentieth week of the pandemic and it's hard to see the end. This is year four of my term as president and what I hoped would be an uneventful last year for myself and the Congregation. But my world and yours have turned upside down – as has Beth Shalom's.

But we are a resilient people and we've managed to adapt to this imperfect reality. Beth Shalom has been an important anchor for stability. Although my level of religious observance is far from intense, and much less than other members of our Shul, I have found that participation in our Zoom services and the very rhythm of the Jewish calendar has helped me navigate our new reality. Knowing that the synagogue is still there, with services continuing each day and week is my foothold for dealing with our current situation. Shabbos has a renewed special meaning, particularly listening to Rabbi Adelson's Havdallah service, which

brings me peace and allows me to reflect on the week ahead. Without Shabbos during this time, the days seem to run together.

It's been quite a while since we have been physically in our building, but it's still a busy place. Dale Caprara, our controller, Ken Turkewitz, our interim executive director, John Williams, our head of maintenance and our Early Learning Center staff are working hard. These people as well as many other staff members have been in the building during this whole time. They are truly the unsung heroes of Beth Shalom, repairing, cleaning, organizing and preparing for the time when we will return to our home.

Although we are not in a time of normalcy, the business of running our institution is still going on with countless Zoom conferences and other ways to connect on-line. No one could have imagined this mode of operation under normal circumstances. It is a tribute to our membership that our essential Shul committees have adapted extremely well to meeting this way. It's been a very productive time.

In this time of stress, the well being of our members and our congregation has been a primary concern. Rabbi Adelson, our Community & Connection Committee and I have been reaching out to many of our Shul friends, and checking in to see how they are doing. In the process, I have had some very



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nice conversations with many of you. Aside from the religious dimension, many of us need our Shabbos experience as an important part of our social life! I miss it and miss seeing all of you!

September brings the High Holy Days and several weeks of personal reflection. Although we may not be together, we are all thinking about the time, hopefully, in the near future when we can be together again – physically and not just virtually! Now is the time to think creatively about how to celebrate with family and friends, while practicing social distancing and staying safe at the same time.

As far as projecting our fall activities in the Shul, at the end of September, we will have several Zoom meetings to discuss our budget for the rest of the year. The scheduled meeting for the Congregational budget vote is September 29. Near the end of October we will celebrate our dedicated volunteers with a virtual Awards Brunch.

This issue of the Mischpactenu includes November, which seems so very far away. In a normal year we would have had our now annual “Come Together Event” but that is not possible this year. I’m looking forward to the near future when we can again share simchas and holidays together. At this time I will borrow a Sisterhood Torah Fund theme, **B’Yachad- We are Together**. Even though this situation has separated us, we continue to find new ways to be together.

Chag Sameach, to all of you with a special wish for continued good health.

*Gemar chatimah tovah,*  
Debby



## 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 by September 7th to our Receptionist, Tika, at x114 or via email at [receptionist@bethshalompgh.org](mailto:receptionist@bethshalompgh.org).

# Directing the Way

Ken Turkewitz, *Interim Executive Director*



It's hard to think about the state of our facility when you're not there using it. But I think about it every day. (And many nights, as well!)

By my count, Congregation Beth Shalom has 12 roofs. Such is the configuration for a facility built like ours. Some of them are obvious – the large one covering the Sanctuary building, the high and low ones on the School building, and the large one covering the Community building in the middle. But there are many more not so obvious, such as the one over the

kitchen, or the one over the staircase leading up from the Palkovitz Lobby to the Sisser Lobby, or the four small ones at the corners of the Sanctuary building.

There's one thing that all

of our roofs have (or had) in common: Up until this summer, none of them was newer than 23 years old. A typical commercial flat roof membrane lasts on average 20-25 years before needing to be replaced. I think you know where I'm going with this.

Our roofs have been showing their ages. Leaks have not been uncommon. John Williams, our Maintenance Supervisor, and the maintenance staff have done a great job patching some of the most serious problems, but many can only be resolved with roof replacements.

On the School building (roofs 1 and 10 in the diagram), roof replacement and solar panel installation are well underway. As I write this,



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near the end of July, the roof replacement portion is all but complete, with just a couple of minor items left. The solar portion, for which we are expecting bids within days, is scheduled to be installed after the High Holidays and hagim in October and November. We thank both Beth Shalom's generous contributors and the Redevelopment Authority of Allegheny County for their grant for funding the lion's share of this important combined project.

The membrane over the lower roof (over the Lehman Center) of the Community building (roof 4), was almost completely detached, and was being held down by brick pavers. On windy days, the membrane would flap. From my office, just beneath this roof, it would sound as though very heavy objects were falling on the roof. A wind strong enough to pull the membrane and pavers up could have flipped some of these over the side, doing who knows what damage to people or property.

Fortunately, we had just enough money in the prior year's roof repair budget to replace this roof, as well. During July, this roof has been replaced.

Our kitchen roof (roof 3) has a pitch problem. (This has nothing to do with baseball, but instead means that it's not slanting down appropriately toward the drains.) The water pools, and eventually leaks through. Possibly, we can mitigate this problem for a little while, but the roof needs to be replaced sometime in the next few years.

And now on to our most complex problem. The Sanctuary roof (roof 12) is both our highest roof and our largest roof. Leaks caused by this roof

have exacerbated deterioration on the front (south side) façade of the building and the cornices around the building. It is necessary to fix the roof before we repair the cornices, the façade, or the patio (over roof 2) in front of the building. This will be an extensive set of projects that is being planned in conjunction with the upcoming refinancing of our building loan.

So the other roofs are okay, right? No, they just haven't made it quite to the top of the priority list, yet. But if we can tackle the ones listed, we will have made it most of the way, and we will be able to breathe a lot easier.

This will take funding, and we haven't yet quite figured out how we're going to completely accomplish that. At some point, we all will be able to get back into the building, and we'd like to have the building be there for us. When somebody comes calling for your support of our building, please heed the call!

### Homestead Hebrew Cemetery Open House

The Homestead committee invites you to the Homestead Hebrew Cemetery (107 Home & Bellewood Run Road, West Mifflin PA 15122) on September 13 from 10:00 a.m. to Noon. If you plan to attend on a different Sunday, we will ensure the cemetery is open to visitors.

Please contact Dick Silk at [dicksilk111@gmail.com](mailto:dicksilk111@gmail.com) if you have any concerns.



# Growing Through the ELC

Hilary Yeckel, *Director of the ELC*



I hope that you all had a safe and healthy summer. I wanted to provide you all with an update on the Early Learning Center, and let you know what we have been up to. As many of you know, our facility closed on March 16 and our educators began serving our families in a digital format. We excitedly and happily re-opened the facility for summer camp on June 16th. Prior to re-opening, the ELC administration worked with higher leadership and the Beth Shalom Coronavirus Taskforce to create policies and procedures that aligned with CDC and Department of Human Services recommendations for childcare facilities. The policies and procedures that we implemented were to ensure the health and safety of staff, children, and families in response to COVID-19 while still providing quality early childhood experiences. Detailed information was presented to families, and each was given the choice to attend for the summer or not. We were happy to welcome back 60 children.

As a director, I have been asked over and over, how I am doing? How are the kids? How are you doing this? Don't they hate the masks? What is going to happen in the future? Truth be

told, I have asked myself some of these questions at times too. However, once I was back with the educators and children it was as if we never left. Are things different? Absolutely, but the children are happy and excited to be here. The educators work hard to create safe, clean, and fun activities for the children. At drop-off they look forward to seeing their friends and teachers every day. They are still learning and having fun, just in a slightly different way. Our students have adapted to the changes just as the educators have.

As our 2020-2021 school year begins, we have kept our policy and procedures in place, and are eager to welcome back our students. We will continue to follow our health and safety policies, and are operating on a reduced schedule of 8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.

The past few months were difficult and trying at times, but our community in the ELC is tremendous. To our families, I would like to thank you all for your continued support, words of encouragement, and gratitude. To our amazing team of educators, thank you for all that you do to keep this place a healthy and

fun environment. As a team, and as a community, Beth Shalom ELC will continue to thrive even in these unprecedented times.



# Learning with J-JEP

Rabbi Larry Freedman, *Director of J-JEP*



### **High Holidays at Home: A spiritual moment for families.**

When have you experienced a true moment of *teshuva*? No, for real. A moment when someone came to you and said, without sarcasm or irony, "I'm sorry. I was wrong. I see it now. I will do better." Take a moment and think about that.

Next question. When have you expressed a true moment of *teshuva*? When did you say to someone, without sarcasm or irony, "I'm sorry. I was wrong. I see it now. I will do better." Take a moment and think about that.

As I write this, we may or may not be easing up on the summer spike of the virus. I can't predict that. I can predict that the High Holidays will be very different this year in large part because we won't have the liturgy there to guide our thoughts. We may not be there to pound our chests saying "*al chet*, for the sins we have sinned." We may not be there to hear the cry of *Shema Koleinu* that demands of God to accept our words of regret for the past and intentions for the future. We will miss the grand sanctuary, the moving voices, the closeness of hundreds in one place with unity of purpose.

However, that's not all there is to these days. They are also awe inspiring for the frank honesty we engage, for the deep soul searching, the uncomfortable apologies. We can still make that

happen. Try this at home to make sure we capture those spiritual, meaningful moments. Don't let the days go by.

Arrange a time with your family to sit together for a *Yamim Noraim* (Days of Awe) check up. Set aside some time. Not whenever you can find it. Not squeezing it in. Make the High Holidays a priority. This is a moment of spiritual and moral growth for you and your children. Give it precedence.

Good. We have the time. Now, sit with your children by a calendar. Find last year's Rosh Hashana and start flipping the weeks. Remember this moment and that moment. Remember the nice vacation, the pleasant dinner, the fun sleepover. And remember the frustrating moments. Remember the drama from school, remember the dust up at work. Remember the arguments you got into. Week after week, review the year. It will remind you of more than just dates and meetings.

Now that you've done that (and you have to do it; the discipline to review is key) think of who you hurt. Think of who hurt you. Talk about it as a family. Everyone gets to share. Everyone has to share.

(Now parents, I know that some things are not, as my Bubbie would say, for the kinder. Not all parental problems should be shared with children. However, I am certain every parent can find some age appropriate moment of falling down.

**(Article continued on pg. 12)**

# Walking the Derekh

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



One of my absolute favorite holidays of the entire year is Sukkot. When I was young, growing up in Portland, our sukkah was very serious.

Wooden beams, lattice walls, plywood, the whole deal. One of the best parts each year was adding something new to the decoration on the wood. One year we added our names, the next year we added drawings, and so on.

It was special to do that together. But Sukkot is more than just that, there is so much to love about it!

First, it is outside. As modern folks, we spend way too much time indoors. Especially as a result of the Coronavirus pandemic, it feels tough to get outside. Sukkot is perfect as encouragement to get out, breathe that fresh Pittsburgh air, and get some outdoor time.

Second, in the Tradition, we call sukkot the *z'man simḥateinu*, the time of our joy. It is all about being happy and satisfied with what we have. Derived from the experience in gathering crops from the fields and God's protection for the people in the desert, we are reminded of all of the good things.

Third, low intensity after an emotional season.

Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur immediately precede Sukkot. They are intense holidays with serious theological pressures. Sukkot, on the other hand, is much lower pressure. Instead, we shake some plants and hang out in the *sukkah*.

Lastly, Sukkot is all about being with others. We invite *ushpizin*, guests, into our sukkah and spend precious time with them. Not just our physical friends and neighbors, but also our spiritual ancestors. This is one of the central qualities of the holiday, the celebrating with those around us. Unlike most other holidays, in which we prefer to be together, it is baked into Sukkot's nature.

And this is where Sukkot will be more challenging this year than ever. We cannot really have *ushpizin* like we have in the past. It isn't safe.

So what do we do, how we do be together on a holiday like this? Not to worry, I have a few ideas for you.

1. While you may have been stuck with your family for a few months in the house, hanging out in the *sukkah* can be made into truly special time. This might be the perfect time to put aside many of your other responsibilities and just spend time together without distractions.
2. In addition, because the holiday is a whole week, you can video chat with your friends, neighbors, and family while in your *sukkah*!

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Along with that, you can decorate your sukkah with photos and drawings of those precious family and friends.

3. One of the best activities is decorating your sukkah, this might be there year to go all out! Paper chains, drawings, fruit, and anything else you can think of is great for a year like this one.
4. You can put your sukkah out in the front of your home, if you can, and open up that door as wide as you can. You and your neighbors can “sit” together out front! Similarly, you can walk around and visit, at a distance, your friends’ sukkot!
5. Jewish holidays are great reminders to take time to be present. Sukkot is no different in that way. This would be a fantastic time to sit quietly, meditating. Investing in yourself right now could be profoundly meaningful.
6. We are proud that Judaism is very much an “at home” tradition, not just communal. This is a great year to learn all about the rituals and try them out in a new way! Maybe you never had a *lulav and etrog* before? Maybe you never put the sukkah up before? What an opportunity to take something on for the first time.



These are just a few ideas on what we can do to make this year during Sukkot more meaningful despite being far away from one another.

Sukkot will still be my favorite holiday and will provide all sorts of new ways to engage that I have never considered before, even with all of this year’s challenges. Hag Sameah!

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### **(Continuation of Rabbi Freedman’s Article)**

Be a role model to your kids. Show them humility and vulnerability. You will be seen as all that much stronger for it.)

The grandeur of the High Holidays may lie with the sights and sounds of our annual grand gathering. The meaning, however, the real self reflection and the very point of the holidays takes place quietly inside our souls. This year, without the grandeur, parents will be called on to focus even more on the meaning of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur in order to pass it on to the children. It will be odd. It will be awkward. And it will be uplifting.



# Beth Shalom Youth Zone

Marissa Tait, *Director of Youth Programming*

What will Congregation Beth Shalom youth programming look like during the 2020-2021 school year? As of now, we are planning different options for virtual or

in-person events. **We hope we will be able to gather together, but if not, we will still provide meaningful and intentional programming.** Our program's goals remain the same; to create a safe space for our youth to flourish, provide opportunities to create connections with each other and the community at large, and help grow their Jewish foundation and identity. We can't wait to see you again!



**Introducing our new Kadima Advisor Harris Jayson**

I will be attending the University of Pittsburgh in the fall. I am from Cherry Hill, New Jersey. I have

been a part of the Camp Ramah in the Poconos family for the last eight years as a camper and counselor. I was also involved in USY, serving as my region's Social Action/Tikun Olam Vice President for two years as well as being an active member in BBYO. I am so excited to live in Pittsburgh, explore the great city, and try (what I've been told is) some of the best food in the country. However, more importantly, I cannot wait to meet everyone at CBS and be a part of the great community!

**From BSUSY Advisor Adi Kadosh**

This has been the year of ingenuity. We have gotten creative with online programming to keep our teens engaged. This fall we

will continue to introduce new and exciting programs. I am looking forward to working with the teens to create an interactive and meaningful experience. Our BSUSY board has great ideas and I'm ready for another year of fun activities!



## Fall Schedule:

**Sept 13-** 1:00 pm BSUSY  
Welcome back

**Sept 13 -** 3:00 pm Kadima  
Meet Harris

**Sept 1 -** 4:45pm Atid and  
Chaverim program

**Sept 30 -** 4:45pm Atid and  
Chaverim Sukkot  
program

**Oct 5 -** 6pm Sukkot  
program

**Oct 6 -** Kadima Sukkot  
program

**Nov 8 -** 1:00 pm BSUSY  
program

**Nov 15-** 1:00pm Kadima  
program

**Nov 20 -** 6pm Teen Led  
Kabbalat Shabbat

## Lounge Nights

**Kadima:** Sept 7, Sept 14,  
Oct 12, Nov 2

**BSUSY:** Sept 21, Oct 19,  
Oct 26, Nov 9, Nov 16





## OUR LEADERSHIP

### Men's Club Moments

Ira Frank

*Men's Club President*



As we enter into the fall of 2020 and the start of 5781, we at Men's Club along with the world are struggling with what to do. How can we plan for activities for a few months from now when we do not know what will happen

over the weekend? We would love to list our events for 5781...but we cannot at this time.

Please rest assured that when we are allowed to have events and activities **we will**. Our sweepstakes is still paying out to weekly winners!

We do not know what the December final event will look like, but it will take place and winners will be drawn. Now is a good time to purchase your tickets.

During these times:

Please keep in touch with each other, with me, and with the synagogue! If you need something done for you, if we can help you please ask! If you are able to help, please donate your time to someone who needs you.

Let's all wish for a happy and healthy 5781! We will see you in person soon.

**Men's Club & Sisterhood wish  
all a good Yontif, a happy and  
healthy new year!**

### Artist's Reflection

Anthony Colaizzi

*Communications & Design Manager*



Life is a beautiful thing. It is also difficult and often not what we plan. All of life follows a cycle, one of death and rebirth. This is seen in nature with the passing of the seasons. It is also observed in the

various New Year celebrations held by countries and faiths around the world. For my last Mishpachtenu painting, *Life is Beauty*, I wanted to show that there is always a tomorrow; there is always a new dawn to bring possibilities. I believe I accomplished this with the simple elegance of chai and the pomegranate flowers, symbols of life and prosperity for all.

I struggled with this painting, thinking my farewell contribution needed to be grand, something to impress. In truth that was my fear. I was afraid to end my journey with Beth Shalom, afraid of moving out to Minnesota without an impact that would be remembered. After hearing the well wishes and heartfelt support from many here, I know that I leave Beth Shalom not just with experience, but also with a fuller heart.

My years here have been a true expression of life: unexpected and challenging but well worth it all. I have grown as an artist and as a person since I walked through those doors in 2016. I look forward to taking the lessons and friendships I have made into my new tomorrow, meeting the challenges of life as they come my way. Thank you all!

# Legacy Circle

## Legacy Circle - By the Numbers

Beth Shalom's Life and Legacy participation is halfway through its first year. Our committee members, Julian Elbling, Debby Firestone, Ira Frank, Elaine Krasik, Rabbi Jeremy Markiz, Bunny Morris, Kate Rothstein and Mindy Shreve, have been learning the process and welcoming participants.

As you may recall from President Debby Firestone's earlier piece, The Grinspoon Foundation's Life and Legacy program is an **intergenerational** four-year program built on **relationships** that will ensure that our important, supportive Jewish institutions, like Beth Shalom, are around for decades to come. We know we have families who have been with us for generations, and we hope to serve those families and new families - even visitors - for generations to come.

Legacy Circle, Beth Shalom's name for our Life and Legacy program, is a **commit now, provide later** planned giving mechanism that gives the donor control over their philanthropy during the course of their life, so that individuals and dependents can decide levels of giving that are appropriate for them.

The Legacy Circle Team wanted to share some numbers from the Grinspoon Foundation so that you can see how successful this type of giving can be. Since its launch in 2010, loyal community donors have committed almost a **billion dollars** in future gifts to participating

organizations. More specifically, 63 communities and 680 organizations have made more than 26,000 legacy commitments to the Jewish future, with more than \$100 million specifically placed in endowments.

The program is a success, and we are realizing that success here. Too, in just six months, we have already had 17 enthusiastic individuals & families commit to donating some portion of their estate to Beth Shalom. We have received these thoughtful commitments in spite of COVID, with minimal promotion and without formally reaching out to leadership. This, however, is in the plan, and we expect to see additional commitments.

Life and Legacy is broken down into phases. The first phase, our current area of focus, includes educating our hevra and encouraging commitments. We have some incentives to motivate us. While we paid to participate in the program, those funds will be returned, along with additional incentive money of over twice our initial investment if we meet certain goals in the first and subsequent years. With our committed 17 families, we are on track to not only have the funds returned, but to receive the incentive money as well.

While our process may be slower due to health restrictions, we continue to move forward. Our goal is to have 25+ families of our 600 member families commit by the end of the year and another 25+ next year. All Legacy Circle donors are philanthropists!

## OUR LEADERSHIP

For now, we know many of our congregants already have Beth Shalom listed as part of their estate planning. We are so grateful for your generous consideration. If you are one of those families and are willing to sign the Legacy Circle form stating your intentions, you can become one of our commitments without any further work on your part.

As we continue to have our families commit to Congregation Beth Shalom's sustainable future, we will update you. We want to thank our earliest commitments from:

Moshe Baran • Milton Eisner (z'l) • Sarita Eisner • Jay Fingeret • Deborah & Nathan Firestone • Eva & Gary Friedman • Shiri & Josh Friedman • Jessica Hammer & Chris Hall • Gerald Kobell • Elaine Krasik • Gina Levine • Jack & Bernice Meyers • Bunny Morris • Paul Munro • Fred & Linda Newman • Jane & Bruce Rollman • Mindy Shreve

Thank you for teaming with the Legacy Circle and helping to ensure that Beth Shalom will be a thriving community for future generations. We would love to see you step inside Congregation Beth Shalom's Legacy Circle.



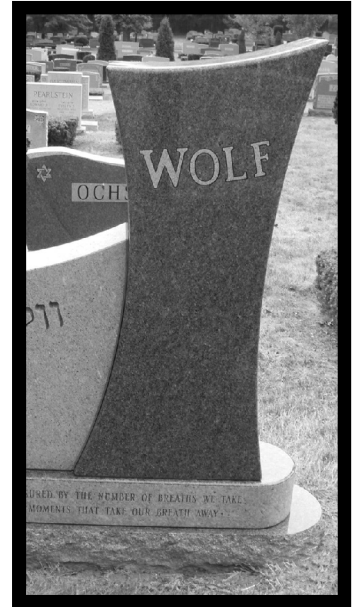
## Plan For Your Future Now

### We Can Help With

- *Pre-need Planning*
- *Plot Selection*
- *Monument Ordering*

### We Offer to You

- *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](mailto:cemetery@bethshalompgh.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!

# Connecting During COVID-19:

## How Beth Shalom's Online Minyan Sparked Our New Friendship

In the wake of the coronavirus pandemic, Beth Shalom has been committed to maintaining our congregation's connections in a variety of ways. Perhaps one of the most poignant ways is through our daily minyan over Zoom, where mourners can come together to pray and say Kaddish. What follows is a lightly-edited conversation between Marlene Behrmann Cohen and Elinor S. Nathanson.



*After connecting through Beth Shalom's online daily minyan, Marlene Behrmann Cohen (center) pays a socially-distanced visit to new friends Elinor Nathanson (right) and Esther Nathanson (left)*

### How Beth Shalom's Online Daily Minyan Sparked Our New Friendship

**ELINOR:** I feel like we should start with you because you lost your dear father more recently, soon after the pandemic started. It's hard for me to imagine how painful it must have been that you couldn't fly to South Africa to attend your father's funeral. Are you comfortable sharing some of your feelings during that time?

**MARLENE:** Sure. My father passed away on March the 22nd. It was just in the very beginning stages of the pandemic here, but things were already

shutting down, and it was not possible for me to travel to South Africa from Pittsburgh. So as a last resort, my sisters and I watched his funeral via Zoom. It was really difficult and surreal. My father had been in declining health for many years, and I'd already gone to South Africa about three times under real emergency situations, and each time, I was preparing myself for the end. But the loss was really unbearable.

**ELINOR:** I didn't remember that your father died on March 22 — my dad passed on November 22nd. Exactly four months to the day . . . and yet, how the world had changed in those four months.

**MARLENE:** Absolutely.

**ELINOR:** So what was it like having to hold your father's shiv'ah online?

**MARLENE:** It was extremely sad not being able to have an in-person shiv'ah. But I was really grateful to be able to hold our shiv'ah online as part of the Beth Shalom minyan on Zoom. We started shiv'ah on the day of the funeral and held it for four or five days. My three sisters live in Canada, Israel and South Africa. And my mother lives in South Africa. The online minyan gave us an opportunity to be together as a family and to bridge the enormous distance between us during the pandemic. Our cousins from all around the world also joined in, as did all our children. It was the closest one could get to an in-person shiv'ah, and it was really comforting.

**ELINOR:** Were you able to share stories about your father during the online shiv'ah?

**MARLENE:** Yes. Beth Shalom arranged for us to stay on the Zoom link for an extra hour after one of the shiv'ah minyans, and a good number of people

## CREATING NEW CONNECTIONS

stayed. I was able to share different facets of my father's life, and I also got to share how my father's tombstone is going to be inscribed with the words, "He was a man of integrity." Being able to explain that to everyone — it felt really really helpful and fulfilling. And just like at the shiv'ah minyan, I felt really enveloped by the minyanaires.

**ELINOR:** That's so beautiful. Has the daily minyan continued to be helpful?

**MARLENE:** It has. I attend the 7 pm evening minyan, so it really anchors the day. People had always told me that there's something very nurturing about being in a minyan to say Kaddish, and I have to say that I totally get it. It's absolutely so. People gather to say Kaddish and to pray, and I actually look forward to seeing them. And then there's a little exchange where we all talk briefly afterwards before we get off Zoom, and it's really really nice. The rabbis who lead minyan have been amazing. And I have to say, I really owe you and your mother a debt of gratitude, because many times I'd be scurrying about, wondering if I'd be able to wrap up my work on time, and then I'd think, "Maybe Elinor and Esther are going to be there." And that would help me get extra-motivated to finish up and get to the minyan on time.

**ELINOR:** Wow. That is so lovely — I'm getting choked up! It's funny, my mother was just saying, "You and Marlene had never even met before the pandemic, so what inspired you to ask if she wanted to talk after minyan?" I told my mom I just felt such empathy for you. I think you were the first congregant to have an online shiv'ah with Beth Shalom, and you had lost your first parent, specifically your father, just like I had. So in some ways I could totally relate to you, and then in other ways, my heart just broke for you because you couldn't attend your father's funeral in person. So I guess I wanted to help comfort you and share

some of the resources, like books, people were kind enough to share with me. And then I discovered that since you and I were both mourning in the midst of a pandemic, you understood me in ways others might not.

**MARLENE:** Right. I remember we talked about that during our first phone call.

**ELINOR:** Right! I was filling you in on how Peter, Benjamin and I moved in with my parents when my father started home hospice. Then when my dad passed away, the three of us just stayed on with my mom, and it was such a blessing. As I told you, I had been so palpably grateful for my mother's good health after my father passed. And then COVID just undid me, because just a few months after my dad died, I suddenly had to worry about my mother becoming deathly ill and whether it was safe for us to continue living together. And you said, "That sounds terrifying." I remember at first wanting to backtrack because the word "terrifying" sounded too strong, like I was overreacting. But then I thought, "Yes! It IS terrifying! Thank you!" Because worrying about one parent potentially dying right after losing your first parent is legitimately terrifying, and you were letting me know that.

**MARLENE:** Absolutely legitimate. So, how was it for you to go from attending an in-person minyan to saying Kaddish for your father online?

**ELINOR:** Well, like you, I found that attending minyan was a real anchor for my day. Growing up Reform, I didn't have many living relatives who attended daily minyan. But when my dad died, I felt completely drawn to saying Kaddish daily. Fortunately my life was flexible enough that I could make that happen. Each day, I'd look at my work and my meetings schedule, and that's how I'd decide which minyan I'd go to. I mostly went to evening minyan at Beth Shalom, but sometimes I attended the morning minyan or minyans at



Temple Sinai, Shaare Torah, and the shul Downtown. I loved being able to go in person and deepen my connections with clergy and congregants from all over our community. Most times, my mom joined me, making it all the more meaningful. We could hear Dad enthusiastically marveling at our devotion: "You're going to say Kaddish *again*? You're kidding!"

**MARLENE:** I imagine that moving to an online minyan was quite a change for you after attending in person.

**ELINOR:** It was! I mean, the first time online it was kind of fun, like, "Hooray! Here we all are . . . looking like the Brady Bunch!" But after the initial novelty wore off, it really took a while for me to get used to the minyan online. Early on, a lot of people kept their video cameras off, but then the Rabbinical Assembly issued guidelines saying we needed to be able to see each other's faces to count as a minyan. The first time I saw Ira Frank's punim on screen for the evening minyan, I burst into tears. (And those were tears of JOY, Ira!) Ira and the other minyan regulars had all been so kind and welcoming to my mother and me, and I just missed being in the same space with everyone.

**MARLENE:** So how long did it take you to get more used to being online?

**ELINOR:** The first two months of the pandemic were really hard for me, and it was very difficult for me to focus on the prayers. That said, the minyan still added a very important structure to my days. While I wasn't necessarily "feeling" the prayers, I was still showing up with my mother, and that felt very valuable to me. Then over time, the online minyan became really beautiful in its own way. I just feel so grateful that we have this way to continue gathering and praying together. And that's the thing about Judaism: Life keeps going, and by observing different Jewish traditions — whether it's

daily minyan or Shabbat or the Passover Seder — Judaism helps provide a grounding sense of consistency, even when you're going through things you never could have imagined.

**MARLENE:** It's true. So when I came to the minyan and I saw you, you were kind of a role model for me, because you were on the same journey as I, but ahead of me. So it has given me a kind of map to follow, seeing people at different stages. And your suggestion of that book [Grief in Our Seasons: A Mourner's Kaddish Companion by Rabbi Kerry M. Olitzky] was super helpful.

**ELINOR:** That book was recommended to me by Debbie Altman-Diamant! It has a long history of heartfelt recommendations. So do you have any advice you'd like to share with people going through difficult life transitions or life cycle milestones during COVID?

**MARLENE:** Yes. If people are having a difficult time during the pandemic — whether they are in mourning or not — I'd advise them to join a minyan. The minyan offers the perfect environment to follow the command in Pirkei Avot 1:6, "Find yourself a teacher; acquire a friend; and judge every person favorably." Many excellent teachers lead services (Rabbis Seth Adelson, Amy Bardack and Marc Goodman); it is possible to acquire a friend (as I have done with you and your mother) — and when people come together to share grief and prayer, it feels natural to judge every person favorably.

**ELINOR:** Again, that's so beautiful. Very well said. Last question: Do you feel like we've kinda been internet dating and then we met each other in person?

**MARLENE:** (laughs) Yes, but it's even better than that! Sometimes you can be disappointed in a dating scenario.

**ELINOR:** (laughs) Indeed!

# Humans of Beth Shalom Project

## The Humans of Beth Shalom Committee



**Dan Leger, Daniel  
Chaim ben  
Avraham Nachman  
v' Sarah Miriam**

Born in Homewood and he has lived in Pittsburgh all his life.

Dan has been a

member at Beth Shalom since January 2019, he is also a member at Congregation Dor Hadash.

### ***When do you feel most Jewish and Why?***

Dan begins each day by reciting "Modeh ani." There is not a moment when he feels more Jewish than another moment. From a young age, he learned to understand the importance of prayer from his father who began each meal with a blessing and taught by example how to live a just life and honor all people.

### ***What activities or hobbies enhance your life?***

Music plays an integral part of his life. He began singing and playing clarinet in 1st grade and then learned to play the cello a few years later. Although he has enjoyed playing in community orchestras for years, the experience of playing in a quartet is very unique and special to him. Similar to prayer, it can bring a sense of deep nourishment.

### ***How and why did you chose to be a member of Beth Shalom?***

Dan is active in various aspects of the Jewish community and chose to become a member of Beth Shalom in part because he is appreciative of the welcoming rabbinic leadership and finds it to be an environment that is inclusive to all.

He participates regularly in the morning minyan and values the special unity that is made up of people from many synagogues in the area.



**Michael Coblenz  
(שלום בן רפאל ודבורה)  
Lauren Coblenz  
(פרומה לאה ת אליעזר  
חיים)**

Michael was born in Northern Virginia. Lauren was born in Burlington,

Massachusetts. We both went to college in Pittsburgh at CMU, and then lived in Silicon Valley for six years where we had our first daughter, Rebecca. We moved back here for Michael's Ph.D., and our second daughter Hannah was born here. Rebecca is 7 now, and Hannah is 3.

We've been members for almost a year.

### ***Something I feel passionate about (Michael):***

I'm finishing up my Ph.D.; I work on methods of designing programming languages to make software engineers more effective. I worked as a software engineer at Apple for a long time

before that, and wanted to learn how to build better tools so we can all have better software.

**Something I feel passionate about (Lauren):** My hobby is fiber arts. I started with knitting and crocheting when I was a kid, and picked up spinning (my main hobby now!) and weaving in the last 3-5 years. I enjoy fiber arts as a way to use my brain completely differently from my day job as a robotics engineer. Intersecting with Judaism, I have goals to weave a tallit and spin yarn for tzitzit for it.

**Why Beth Shalom (Michael):** Lots of Shabbat activities that all four of us can participate in. Also, opportunities for in-depth learning with other interested Jews.

**Early memory as it pertains to Israel: (Lauren)** Shortly after we met in college, we went on the Birthright Israel trip together, and returned to Israel a year later on a follow-up trip with a pluralism theme, with students from across the spectrum of Jewish practice. It was amazing to be in places that we'd only read about, particularly places mentioned in the Torah! I was often surprised at the scale of a place -- how small the Kotel actually is, for example. The reality of having visited Israel gives a lot more immediacy to the texts I read.

## **USY Board Members, Local & Regional**

**Ori Cohen (Ori Bella Bat Elizah Chava V' Dov Moshe H'Cohen)**

**Eric Valinsky (Yitzchak Menachem Ben Aharon V'Nechama)**

**Benji Himmel (Binyamin Ben Davida V'Avraham)**

**Elana Kolko (Elana Margalit Bat Adam H'Levi V'Edit)**

**\*Dalia Kolko (Dalia Shiri Bat Adam H'Levi V' Edit)**



**Ori Cohen (pictured left), USY Beth Shalom President**

***When do you feel most Jewish and why?***

During BSUSY and CRUSY events I feel

the most connected to Judaism! I love connecting with my kehila (community) and my peers! Getting together with them during BSUSY events reminds me why I love being Jewish! It's because I am part of a great community that loves and accepts me!

## **Tell Us YOUR Story!**

E-mail Elinor Nathanson at [esnathanson@verizon.net](mailto:esnathanson@verizon.net) to be a part of the growing Humans of Beth Shalom project!

**Please put "Humans of Beth Shalom" in email subject heading.**

# HUMANS OF BETH SHALOM



**Far left Eric Valinsky, Far right Benji Himmel, Middle with thumbs up, Elana Kolko, Dalia Kolko not pictured.**

**Eric Valinsky, USY Regional Board**

**Membership Kadima Vice President**

***When do you feel most Jewish and why?***

I feel most connected to Judaism when I am in Israel. I feel a much deeper connection than I would anywhere else.

***If you could be a fly on the wall in Jewish history, what would you like to see?***

I would love to have seen Moses split the Red Sea because that would be awesome!

***How has your involvement in USY helped you in your Jewish identity?***

USY has shown me many other people's Jewish identities and given me greater perspective on my own.

**Benji Himmel, USY Regional Board President**

***When do you feel most Jewish and why?***

I feel most connected to being Jewish when I am at USY conventions and celebrate with all of my closest friends in ways that I can celebrate in USY.

***If you could be a fly on the wall in Jewish history, what would you like to see?***

I wish I could be a fly on the wall for the reunification of Jerusalem after the six-day war. I believe that is when the return of the Jewish people to the land of Israel was completed

and our prayers of "next year in Jerusalem" were answered.

***How has your involvement in USY helped you in your Jewish identity?***

My involvement in USY has helped form my Jewish identity by bringing me a new appreciation for Judaism. The atmosphere at conventions, created by all the people who attend is a feeling that cannot be found anywhere else.

**Elana Kolko, USY Regional Board Religion and Education Vice President**

***When do you feel most Jewish and why?***

I feel the most connected to Judaism while I'm at camp during Kabbalat Shabbat. The whole camp comes together and welcomes in shabbat while looking at the waterfront. It's so special because my usual everyday worries and stressors don't exist while I'm at camp and I'm surrounded by my best friends.

***Are there any traditions that you keep or that you would like to keep that we're passed down in your family?***

Every Friday night my family sings Zemirot together until our voices are gone. The harmonies and beautiful melodies are what makes shabbat so special for me.

***How has your involvement in USY helped you in your Jewish identity?***

In USY I built a special connection to Judaism away from people who told me what and how to be Jewish. I was able to have my own experiences and find what truly means to be Jewish.

*\*Dalia Kolko was not available for interview.*

# GET READY TO VOTE IN 2020



## Vote by Mail-in Ballot

If you are a registered voter in Pennsylvania, you have a **new option to vote by mail-in ballot**. This is a great option for voters who prefer the convenience of voting at home. You do not have to provide a reason for requesting a mail-in ballot.

If you decide to vote by mail-in ballot, keep in mind:



You must apply for a ballot by **5:00 p.m. on the Tuesday before the election**.



You can apply using an **online application** at [votesPA.com/ApplyMailBallot](https://votesPA.com/ApplyMailBallot), by mailing in a paper application, or by submitting a paper application in person at the county election office.



When you apply in person, you can ask for your ballot **immediately**. If the ballot is available, you can complete it in the office and return it to the county election staff.



You can return your completed ballot **by mail or in person** at your county election office.



The county must receive your completed ballot by **8:00 pm on election day** in order to count it.

It's important to know **your vote is final** once your county receives your voted mail-in ballot, and you are not allowed to go to the polling place to change your vote on election day. If you do not return your voted ballot to your county election office by 8:00 p.m. on election day, you can vote by provisional ballot at your polling place.

## More Time to Register



You now have more time to register to vote. The deadline to register for the November general election is **October 19, 2020**. Keep in mind that you must submit a voter registration application to update your address, change your party affiliation, or change your name.

Check your voter registration status at [VotesPA.com/Status](https://VotesPA.com/Status). Register or update your information at [VotesPA.com/Register](https://VotesPA.com/Register).



## New Voting Systems

If you vote in person on election day, you may use **new voting equipment for the first time**. These new systems provide a paper record to ensure accuracy, and you will have the opportunity to **confirm your choices on a paper record** before casting your vote. Plus, the new systems are easy to use and have accessible features to make voting easy and convenient for voters with disabilities.

Go to [VotesPA.com/ReadyToVote](https://VotesPA.com/ReadyToVote) to explore your county's voting system. Do your part by being a prepared voter before you head to your polling place. This will help things run smoothly on election day.

## Annual Mail-in Request List



When you apply for a mail-in ballot, you can ask to have the **ballots for every election that year mailed to you**. Simply check the box for "annual mail-in request."

Learn more about mail-in voting at [VotesPA.com/MailBallot](https://VotesPA.com/MailBallot).



## No Straight-Party Voting

You no longer have the option to check just one box to vote for all the candidates of one political party. You can **still select all candidates from one party**, but you must select them individually in each contest.

# VotesPA.com





## BENEI MITZVAH

**Talia Dubowitz** is the daughter of Jay Aronson and Tamara Dubowitz, and granddaughter of Leslie and Jean Dubowitz and Karen and Richard Heilman. She is going into seventh grade at Colfax K-8 where she runs cross country. Outside of school, she plays soccer for Arsenal FC. Talia is a passionate advocate for social change. She wants to help create a world free of racism, sexism, anti-Semitism, and discrimination. She loves to travel and enjoys spending time with her friends. She has a younger sister, Maayan, an older brother, Ezra, and two dogs, Thabo and Khaya.



**Bat Mitzvah: 10/17/2020**

**Zoe Blum**, daughter of Elliott Blum and Michele Scott-Blum, will celebrate her Bat Mitzvah on Saturday, October 24, 2020, at Beth Shalom. She is the younger sister of Dylan Blum, granddaughter of Eric and Sheila Scott and the late Jeffrey and Margie Blum.



Zoe is an eighth-grade student at CAPA where she is a vocal major. She has been a dancer for nine years. She also enjoys crafting, making tick-tocks and hanging out with her friends. Her Bat Mitzvah project is also part of her silver award for Girl Scouts where she is making toys and collecting donations for animal shelters.

**Bat Mitzvah: 10/24/2020**

**Benjamin Kogan** is the son of Elinor Nathanson and Peter Kogan, and grandson of Esther and Harvey (z"l) Nathanson, and Galina and Boris Kogan.



A seventh grader at Community Day School, Benjamin has played baseball with 14th Ward since kindergarten. He loves acting, singing, performing in musicals, and playing with his dog-like cat, Jazz. Benjamin will celebrate becoming a bar mitzvah at — or near! — Congregation Beth Shalom on October 31, 2020.

**Bar Mitzvah: 10/31/2020**

**Madeleine Bettina Zabusky-Stockton** is the daughter of Erica Fox Zabusky and Mitchell Stockton (Lawrence, KS). She is the granddaughter of the late Norman J. Zabusky and the late Charlotte Fox Zabusky, and the



late Mary Ellen & Earl Stockton. Maddy is a 7<sup>th</sup> grader at Colfax School. She moved to Pittsburgh from Lawrence, KS, in the summer before 6<sup>th</sup> grade and quickly made friends while getting involved in many activities. An avid musical theatre lover, she has been taking dance classes since pre-school and especially enjoys tap and contemporary dance. Maddy takes voice, acting and tap classes at the CLO Academy. An active Girl Scout member with her Troop in Lawrence, she joined a Pittsburgh

Troop and has enjoyed their varied activities and service projects. She has attended EKC for several years, and hopes to meet up with her camp friends next summer. Maddy enjoys baking and cooking, and has been known to prepare surprise breakfasts and other goodies. She is also teaching herself to play the ukulele and the piano. She loves reading, cooking, and spending time with the family cats.

Madeleine will become a Bat Mitzvah at Congregation Beth Shalom on November 14, 2020.

**Bat Mitzvah: 11/14/2020**

**Eli Benzion Kranjec** is the son of Alex and Danielle Kranjec, brother of Margalit Kranjec, and grandson of Sharon Kranjec and the late Richard Kranjec.



He has been a student at Community Day School since kindergarten, and plays soccer with Arsenal FC of Pittsburgh. He enjoys computer programming, learning Gemara, and has been a vegetarian since the age of 6. Eli became bar mitzvah on June 9th, 2020 in a private ceremony.

**Bar Mitzvah: 06/09/2020 (Previously held)**

## Budget Open House and Vote

At the May Annual Congregational Meeting, we reviewed and voted on a budget for the first quarter (July-September 2020) of the new fiscal year. We were unable to prepare a full year's budget at that time due to the uncertainties caused by the pandemic. We do, however, need to complete the process of having an approved budget for the entire year.

A budget for the year is being prepared, and will incorporate the already-approved first quarter in to the full year budget.

### Budget Virtual Open House

On Sunday, September 13, 4:00-5:00 p.m., the Budget Committee will hold a virtual open house, over Zoom, to discuss the full year FY20 budget and answer any questions. The meeting will be held at Zoom link <https://zoom.us/j/96686188558>, and is open to members only.

### Congregational Meeting September 29

On Tuesday, September 29, at 7:40 p.m., there will be a Congregational Meeting to approve the draft budget. Whether or not there are additional agenda items, as well as the details of accessing the meeting will be included in the call to the meeting, to be mailed in early September. This meeting will also be open to congregational members only.

## OUR CONGREGATIONAL FAMILY

# Your Contributions

June 1—July 31, 2020

### CEMETERY DONATIONS

#### (NON-APPEAL)

#### *In Honor Of:*

**Lonnie & Natalie Wolf**

Michelle Vines

#### *In Memory Of:*

**Milton Eisner**

Tibey Falk

**Dr. Ronald Fibus**

Joel & Peggy Kundin

Todd & Sally Levenson

### DEREKH — DONATIONS

#### *In Memory Of:*

**Milton Eisner**

Jonathan Weinkle & Vita Nemirovsky

**Betty Wagman**

Steve & Vicky Hoffman

### FERN MOSCOV EARLY CHILDHOOD

#### SCHOLARSHIP FUND

#### *In Memory Of:*

**Milton Eisner**

Earl & Barbara Kaiserman

### GENERAL FUND

#### *Celebrating:*

**Harry and Sharon**

Martin & Michelle Lubetsky

#### *In Appreciation Of:*

**Seth & Judith Adelson**

Yan & Lilia Dolgosheev

#### *In Honor Of:*

**Lonnie & Natalie Wolf**

Debby & Nate Firestone

**Steve & Sharon Schwartz**

Debby & Nate Firestone

#### *In Memory Of:*

**Milt Eisner**

Dan & Ronna Askin

Bunny Morris

Susan Young

Edwin & Susan Balis

Danny & Neila Bendas

Richard & Natalie Berger

Steven Berger

Peter Rosenfeld & Sabina Bilder

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Dan Amodeo & Ilana Jolson

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Samuel & Judith Kayam

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Nancy Merenstein

Sara Mineo

Abby Morrison

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Thomas Holber & Linda Safyan

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Harry & Patty Schneider

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Michelle Vines

Yvonne Voiner

Robert & M. Walters

Lonnie & Natalie Wolf

Sanford & Elinor Zaremborg

Nancy Zionts

**Dr. Ronald Fibus**

Alan & Tsiona Blitstein

# OUR CONGREGATIONAL FAMILY

Sharon Block  
Alan & Lynne Colker  
Debby & Nate Firestone  
Ellen Fremed  
Alan & Ruth Garfinkel  
Larry & Toby Holtzman  
David & Teddi Horvitz  
Richard & Rhoda Judd  
Harvey & Marcy Kronzek  
Hayden & Bernice Lipp  
Bunny Morris

Todd Reidbord

Paul & Jean Reznick

Mindy Shreve

Alan & Fern Steckel

Jerry & Paula Sokolow

Eugene & Nancy Uhl

Howard & Nicole Valinsky

Michael & Carol Beth Yoffee

Linda Zwang

## **Ed Frim**

Nancy Zions

## **Rose Geller**

Samuel & Judith Kayam

## **Shlomo Kravitz**

Lee & Reva Neiman

## **Marvin Lieber**

Debby & Nate Firestone

Bunny Morris

David Sufrin & Diane Samuels

Mindy Shreve

Lonnie & Natalie Wolf

## **Bernard Miller**

Debby & Nate Firestone

## **Dr. David Moses**

Matt Conlon & Rachel Kolko

## **Rita Seltman**

Jeffrey & Lynn Rosenthal

## **Doris Shaiman**

Dan & Ronna Askin

## **Dorothy Schorin**

Martin & Judith Lebson

Gail Neft

Jeffrey & Ronna Robinson

Steven & Sharon Schwartz

Morris & Claire Weinbaum

## **Betty Wagman**

David Plaut

& Marlene Behrmann Cohen

Nancy Zions

## **Ruth Weiss**

Debby & Nate Firestone

### **HHC DONATIONS 2020**

#### ***In Memory Of:***

##### **Milt Eisner**

Michael & Ellen Siegel

### **J. LEONARD FRANK EARLY**

#### **MINYAN ENDOWMENT**

#### ***In Memory Of:***

##### **Dr. Ronald Fibus**

Ira Frank

##### **Marvin Lieber**

Ira Frank

##### **Milt Eisner**

Gil Schneider & Stefi L. Kirschner

Ira Frank

Judith Kline

Paula Eger

### **LYNN ROBINS MEMORIAL**

#### **SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

#### ***In Memory Of:***

##### **Bernard Miller**

Harvey & Beverly Robins

##### **Marvin Lieber**

Harvey & Beverly Robins

##### **Milt Eisner**

Harvey & Beverly Robins

### **MILDRED & ISADORE BERKOWITZ**

#### **MEMORIAL FUND**

#### ***Celebrating:***

##### **Lonnie and Natalie Wolf**

Elaine Berkowitz

#### ***In Memory Of:***

##### **Milt Eisner**

Elaine Berkowitz

##### **Dr. Ronald Fibus**

Elaine Berkowitz

##### **Rose Geller**

Elaine Berkowitz

##### **Susan Kantrowitz**

Elaine Berkowitz

##### **Florence Pace**

Elaine Berkowitz

### **PHILANTROPIC FUND**

#### ***In Memory Of:***

##### **Milt Eisner**

Paul & Jean Reznick

##### **Ed Frim**

Paul & Jean Reznick

##### **Aryln Gilboa**

Paul & Jean Reznick

##### **Molly Kramer Gordon**

Paul & Jean Reznick

### **PS DONATIONS 2020/2021**

#### ***In Memory Of:***

##### **Milt Eisner**

Cookie Elbling

#### ***Speedy Recovery To:***

##### **Ann Albert**

Cookie Elbling

### **RABBI ADELSON DISC FUND**

#### ***In Appreciation To:***

##### **Rabbi Adelson**

Yan & Lilia Dolgosheev

Ben & Shayna Yogman

#### ***In Memory Of:***

##### **Milt Eisner**

Leonard & Patricia Adelson

Helen Eaton

Cathy Frank

Steven & Michelle Mayer

Fred & Linda Newman

Robert & Julie Silverman

## OUR CONGREGATIONAL FAMILY

Rick & Shari Sweet

Harry & Laurie Zionts

### SAMUEL & MOLLIE ZYTNICK ENDOWMENT FUND

**In Memory Of:**

**Milt Eisner**

Howard & Nicole Valinsky

### SISTERHOOD

**In Memory Of:**

**Betty Wagman**

Reid Simmons & Davida Fromm

**Speedy Recovery To:**

**Ian Pollack**

Debby & Nate Firestone

### YOUTH DONATIONS- GENERAL GIFT

**Celebrating:**

**The Berman Family**

Danny Kass & Debby Gillman

**In Memory Of:**

**Bernard Miller**

Steven & Lynn Hecht

**Milt Eisner**

Laurie Kamras

Merle & Mitzi Levine

Steve & Vicky Hoffman

### YOUTH FUND

**In Memory Of:**

**Dr. Ronald Fibus**

Lisa Osachy

**Milt Eisner**

Milton & Shirley Estner

## NIHUM A VELIM

**(Comforting Mourners)**

June 1—July 31, 2020

**Joan Wagman (Saul Shiffman) and family**, on the passing of Joan's mother Betty Wagman.

**Sarita Eisner and family**, on the passing of **Milt Eisner**.

**Rabbi Danielle Leshaw and family**, on the passing of her mother, Paula Leshaw.

**Ravenna Miller**, on the passing of her husband Bernard Miller on June 28.

**Penina Lieber and family**, on the passing of her husband, **Marvin Lieber**.

**Harriet Fibus and family**, on the passing of her husband, **Ronald Fibus**, on July 20th.

**Sheila Chamovitz**, on the passing of her sister, **Evelyn Leff Greenwald**, on June 2nd.

**Bob (Lesley) Ginsburg** on the passing of his sister Shirley Ann Stein on July 25th.

## MAZAL TOV!

June 1—July 31, 2020

**Lonnie & Natalie Wolf** on their 60th anniversary!

**Natalie & Benjamin Berman** on the birth of a boy, Ethan!

**Gwyndolyn Riddle** on her conversion to Judaism on July 14 and on (re) wedding **Matthew Riddle** in a ceremony at Beth Shalom on July 16.

**Barbara & Yale Rosenstein**, happily announcing the birth of their great-grandson, Joshua (Shua) Rosenstein in Baltimore. He is also the grandson of Rabbi & Mrs. Yaakov (Jim) Rosenstein and son of Shlomo & Sarah Leah Rosenstein.

## 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



# STAFF DIRECTORY

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

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

**\* Staff schedules vary**

During COVID-19 please allow extra time to hear back from our staff. For best results, please email.

## Our Leadership



**Debby Firestone**  
*President*  
412.401.8464  
debbyfire@gmail.com



**Ken Turkewitz**  
*Interim Executive Director*  
412.421.2288 x226  
kturkewitz@bethshalompgh.org

## Religious Services



**Rabbi Seth Adelson**  
*Senior Rabbi*  
412.421.2288 x115  
rav@bethshalompgh.org



**Audrey Glickman**  
*Rabbi's Assistant*  
412.421.2288 x112  
rabbiasst@bethshalompgh.org



**Rabbi Jeremy Markiz**  
*Director of Derekh & Youth Tefillah*  
412.421.2288 x111  
jmarkiz@bethshalompgh.org

## Youth Resources



**Marissa Tait**  
*Director of Youth Programming*  
412.421.2288 x463  
mtait@bethshalompgh.org



**Rabbi Larry Freedman**  
*Director of J-JEP*  
412.621.6566 x116  
rabbiLF@jjep.org



**Kate Kim**  
*Assistant Director of J-JEP*  
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**Hilary Yeckel**  
*Director of the ELC*  
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**Pamela Stasolla**  
*Assistant Director of the ELC*  
412-421-8857 x390  
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**Rosie Valdez**  
*ELC Operations*  
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preschl@bethshalompgh.org

## Administrative Services



**Dale Caprara**  
*Controller*  
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controller@bethshalompgh.org



**Amira Walker**  
*Bookkeeper*  
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awalker@bethshalompgh.org



**Michelle Vines**  
*Events Coordinator*  
412.421.2288 x113  
catering1@bethshalompgh.org



**Lonnie Wolf**  
*Cemetery Director*  
412.421.2288 x293  
cemetery@bethshalompgh.org



**Anthony Colaizzi**  
*Communications & Design Manager*  
412.421.2288 x108  
communications@bethshalompgh.org



**Tika Bonner**  
*Receptionist*  
412.421.2288 x114  
receptionist@bethshalompgh.org



**John Williams**  
*Maintenance Supervisor*  
412-973-9964  
maintenance@bethshalompgh.org



## Congregation Beth Shalom Lulav & Etrog Sale



*By bringing together the Arba'at HaMinim—the four species of Sukkot—we cultivate a sense of gratitude in this festive season.*

Please place and pay for your order  
**by 12:00 p.m. Friday, September 11, 2020.**

**\$50.00 per set**

<https://tinyurl.com/LulavEtrog5781>

Please plan to **pick up** your *Lulav and Etrog sets* at Beth Shalom either  
**Tuesday, September 29, between 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm** or  
**Wednesday, September 30, from 9:30 am – 11:30 am**  
**Sets will be pre-packaged by someone wearing clean gloves – there will be  
no sorting through the *etrogim* and *lulavim*.**

Questions? Contact Audrey 412-421-2288 ext. 112 or [rabbiasst@bethshalompg.org](mailto:rabbiasst@bethshalompg.org)

**Please note: Orders must be made and paid in full by noon on Sept. 11, no exceptions.**

All orders are subject to availability – if the supplier ultimately has difficulty procuring or shipping due to COVID-19 (although no such difficulty is currently anticipated), monies will be refunded.

*Please fill out the form below and submit it with your payment to  
Congregation Beth Shalom, 5915 Beacon Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15217*

### Lulav and Etrog Order 2020

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Lulav & Etrog Set: \$50.00 X \_\_\_\_\_ Set(s) = \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

*Orders which are not picked up are not the responsibility of Congregation Beth Shalom.*

# Selihot



Our Conservative Movement comes together to learn, sing, and connect as a community. Over 60 rabbis and cantors will present, and a variety of Selihot services will be offered throughout the evening. We will usher in the High Holiday season focusing on Teshuva (Repentance: If I Am Only For Myself, Who Is For Me?), Tefilah (Prayer: And If I Am Only For Myself, What Am I?), and Tzedakah (Righteous Acts: And If Not Now, When?), along with the plea of Shema Koleinu (Hear our Voice, Accept our Prayer). This event is sponsored by our Conservative Movement High Holiday Task Force, a partnership between the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism, Rabbinical Assembly, Cantors Assembly, the North American Association of Synagogue Executives, and the Jewish Educators Assembly.

Free and open to all. Registration begins Monday, August 10th. Full schedules and Zoom links provided to all who register.

If you have any questions, please contact Ilana Garber at [igarber@rabbinicalassembly.org](mailto:igarber@rabbinicalassembly.org).

# HH Services 5781

## EREV ROSH HASHANAH

**Friday, September 18, 2020**

6:00 p.m. .... Minhah/Ma'ariv  
7:03 p.m. .... Candle Lighting

## SHABBAT / ROSH HASHANAH DAY 1

**Saturday, September 19, 2020**

9:00 a.m. .... Morning Service  
7:00 p.m. .... Minhah/Ma'ariv  
8:02 p.m. .... Candle Lighting  
from an existing flame

## ROSH HASHANAH DAY 2

**Sunday, September 20, 2020**

9:00 a.m. .... Morning Service  
5:00 p.m. .... Meet Rabbi Adelson in front of Beth Shalom to walk together to Chatham Pond  
5:30 p.m. .... Tashlikh: Casting away our sins at Chatham Pond. Rain or shine; BYOBread.  
6:00 p.m. .... Walk back to Beth Shalom  
7:00 p.m. .... Minhah/Ma'ariv  
8:00 p.m. .... Havdalah

## EREV YOM KIPPUR, KOL NIDREI

**Sunday, September 27, 2020**

5:45 p.m. .... Minhah  
6:00 p.m. .... Kol Nidrei Service  
6:48 p.m. .... Candle Lighting

## YOM KIPPUR

**Monday, September 28, 2020**

9:00 a.m. .... Morning Service  
11:00 a.m. .... Yizkor Service  
2:00 p.m. .... Yom Kippur Learning  
5:13 p.m. .... Minhah  
6:28 p.m. .... Ne'ilah  
7:28 p.m. .... Ma'ariv  
7:40 p.m. .... Conclusion  
7:45 p.m. .... Shofar blowing  
7:48 p.m. .... Havdalah



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