Mishpachtenu

Adar, Nisan, Iyyar & Sivan 5781
March, April & May 2021
Volume 23 Issue 3

Beth Shalom
בית שלום

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CONGREGATION BETH SHALOM
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Leshanah Haba'ah Biyrushalayim
Next Year in Jerusalem

Rabbi Seth Adelson
Senior Rabbi
rav@bethshalompgh.org

As I write this at the end of January, our horizon is both bleak and hopeful. At least 100 million people worldwide have had a coronavirus infection, and more than two million have succumbed. The emotional and economic devastation wrought by the virus is incalculable; we will be feeling its effects long after we have won the battle. And yet, hope is in the air: as of right now, about 4% of Americans have received the vaccine. By the time you read this, I anticipate that figure will be much higher, thank God.

We have now completed a full cycle of Jewish holidays in full COVID mode: mostly by Zoom, mostly distant from one another, wearing masks and anxious about, well, everything. Some of you may recall that Purim 5780 was one of the last times that we gathered in our Sanctuary before shutting down, and now Pesah is around the corner.

Our Pesah sedarim, like last year, will for many of us still be virtual. But I am certain that we will all be looking forward from here, to 5782 and beyond, filled with excitement about a return to what most of us have considered normal.

Every year we conclude the seder with a desire to celebrate in Jerusalem in the coming year, either the earthly Jerusalem or the heavenly one. Leshanah haba'ah biyrushalayim, we sing. Next year in Jerusalem, the holy city. This year, we should aspire to merit a world that reflects redemption from the primary exile of our current moment: the plague of the coronavirus. Although we are nearing that redemption, we still have a ways to go before reaching the full physical and spiritual freedoms that are invoked in the first and fourth cups of wine. As such, on this Pesah we look longingly toward Yerushalayim shel ma'alah, the mystical Jerusalem on high, wherein we might soon find the redemption we so desperately need right now.

The Exodus story, which we recount at each seder, is the template for our redemption, for our freedom. As we sing and discuss and chant and of course dine, we should remember that as the Kadosh Barukh Hu has redeemed us in the past, so too will we be redeemed again. And, at least in the case of this particular exile, brought on by the chaotic force unleashed by a tiny strand of RNA wrapped up in a spherical protein shell, we may greet Yerushalayim shel ma'alah very soon indeed. When that redemption comes, I will be singing Adir Hu loudly and proudly while marching down Murray Avenue, and I hope you will join me.

Rabbi Adelson

A Message from Our President

Debby Firestone
President
debbyfire@gmail.com

As I enter the last three months of my presidency, I reflect on the experience of having served as president of Congregation Beth Shalom over these four years. First, the experience did answer a question - what was I going to do in my retirement from teaching. I had no time to think but only to react to events - especially over the last two years. This has been a very challenging and rewarding experience, especially in the era of COVID. It's also been extremely humbling. When I was first approached about the presidency, I was very tentative in my acceptance because I frankly doubted I had the ability to do the job. Even though I had been an executive officer, I still worried about my lack of experience at the top level. Fortunately, I was blessed with many mentors who helped me enormously. Without their advice and guidance, I couldn't have done the job. The list of those who have helped is a big one and a simple thank you will never be enough to show my appreciation for these beacons who continue to show me the way.

We have been through a great deal together. Reflecting on our synagogue's 100-year celebration in 2017, little did we realize what was to come. The two most critical events looming over us are our collective experience of October 27, 2018, and the change in our lives because of COVID-19. Nothing we had previously experienced could have prepared us for either, let alone both of these challenges.

The Tree of Life murders elevated security to the first rank of our concerns. In addition to the emotional costs, the need for much greater safety brought about serious financial challenges to our synagogue and its members who are asked to share the burden of this expense.

And, of course, COVID-19 is an abiding presence that has changed the way we relate to the shul. The physical shutting down of Beth Shalom over the past year has exacted enormous social and financial costs on our Congregation. But it's important to note that our Early Leaning Center has remained open since June. I think we have been able to manage and survive with the vaccine as our ultimate hope. Weather permitting, plans are underway to again begin outdoor services.

The work that was begun before COVID-19 has continued through the last year. Many very dedicated members have created and projected the future of Beth Shalom with the development of our Strategic Plan. It is guiding us right now. An implementation committee is in place to make sure the we follow our goals. Our lay leadership is stronger because we have made sure the shul's committee work and responsibilities are delegated to a larger circle of dedicated volunteers. We have a new Constitution/By-laws and Rules which reflect our changing/updated synagogue. We continue to have tenants who help fill up the unused spaces in our building which bring in much needed income. Our Legacy Circle team has reached this year's goal for identifying members who want to ensure the future of Beth Shalom and the work is continuing. The New Light Congregation, displaced during the October 27 event at their previous location, has made Beth Shalom their permanent home. The finishing touches on the Solar Roof project are happening in the next few weeks. This has been an exciting and intensive venture since its inception. We are now working on a plan to repair the areas of our physical structure that have been deferred over the years.

This experience have taught me a lot. I'd like to share some things I've learned: first, know what your limitations are and when to ask for help, trust the experts; second, learn that things move ever so slowly in the synagogue world; next, have respect and a special appreciation for members and volunteers' time, delegate, return calls and emails as quickly as possible, mistakes happen, have good common sense and the most important thing - realize in a synagogue there are many opinions about things and trying to choose the right decision is likely to make someone unhappy.

(Article continued on pg. 20)

Directing the Way

Kenneth A. Turkewitz
Interim Executive Director
ExecDir@bethshalompgh.org

When I worked in high tech, for a long time I was a Program Manager (before ascending to Director of Program Management), attending to the execution of contracts, services, and programs for some of my company's more significant clients. Frequently I would hear from upper management (sometimes in response to a problem going on) that so-and-so was critically important and was my (and my department's) number one priority. That sounds like good direction to get from management. The only problem was, these declarations of number one priority often overlapped one another, and it became a running joke. There can only be one number one priority, right?

So what is my number one priority here at Congregation Beth Shalom, as I write this in late December?

Our solar initiative has been vitally important to us, and has crept forward with to the need for consistent attention – to proposal requests, negotiations, implementation steps, coordination with the county, reimbursement requests, and a variety of other minutia. Without paying attention to these items, it stops dead. By the time this issue of the *Mishpachtenu* is published, the installation work should be complete, and we should be ready for a ribbon-cutting. Clearly, this needed to be the number one priority.

At the same time, one of our other major building projects, fixing our crumbling façade (and its associated projects), must continue to be planned. This area comprises five projects – replacement of the roof, fixing or replacing the cornices around the building, repairing the southern façade itself, replacing the plaza and the floor/roof beneath it (ruined by the falling chunks of façade), and repointing the bricks around the building (through which water seeps in). The combination of these projects is a big undertaking, the bulk of which will be done after I depart, but which needs planning to be happening now. This must be a priority.

Despite these big priorities, the day-to-day building upkeep is a priority, as well. When the heating system has a problem, when the alarm communications breaks, when one of our roofs leaks, when an area of the building floods, when the security camera system is not operating – all of these are critical to the functioning of the building, and each must be immediately addressed as the number one priority.

With the COVID-19 pandemic continuing to rage, safety is a primary concern, and we need to be adjusting and tweaking our protocols on an ongoing basis, with the help of our COVID-19 taskforce. No priority is more important than our safety and it requires this to be my number one priority.

Nothing is more important than addressing membership concerns. It's critical to work with members on financial arrangements. Our continued growth requires ongoing conversations and communication with prospective members. Issues and concerns of every size and shape must be addressed. And promptness is important. Add it to the list of number one priorities.

The myriad tasks I describe, and many others, is certainly not done by me alone. There's an entire staff performing work to keep the operations of the synagogue flowing smoothly, to ensure that we have a rich array of programming serving the needs of the various facets of our community, and that ensures that we are ever improving in service to the congregation. It's a critical priority for me to empower and support our staff to help ensure that they are effective.

Supporting the Early Learning Center, an important engine in our synagogue, is vitally important and it's critical to be available to address concerns as they come up, and to help the school plan. This is definitely my number one priority.

(Article continued on pg. 21)

Walking the Derekh

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

What is Derekh?
Derekh is Congregation Beth Shalom's adult programming department. We employ the ideas of targeted programming and engaging learning with the ultimate goal to foster fantastic experiences. We see ourselves as an engine for innovation, experimenting with new programs and ideas, striving for creativity.

Do you want to build your Jewish engagement in relation to your curiosity about the world while growing closer to the Beth Shalom community?

Third Annual Derekh Speaker Series
Uncovering Hidden Stories

This series is sponsored by:

www.bethshalompgh.org/speakerseries

Ariel Sabar
Veritas: A Harvard Professor, a Con Man and the Gospel of Jesus's Wife
March 3, 2021 at 7:30 p.m.

Veritas is a tale of fierce intellectual rivalries at the highest levels of academia, a piercing psychological portrait of a disillusioned college dropout whose life had reached a breaking point, and a tragedy about a brilliant scholar handed an ancient papyrus that appealed to her greatest hopes for Christianity–but forced a reckoning with fundamental questions about the nature of truth and the line between faith and reason.

With our co-sponsors: Rauh Jewish History Program and Archives of the Heinz History Center

Janice Kaplan
The Genius of Women: From Overlooked to Changing the World
March 17, 2021 at 7:30 p.m.

Janice Kaplan, the New York Times bestselling author of The Gratitude Diaries, set out to determine why the extraordinary work of so many women has been brushed aside. Using her unique mix of memoir, narrative, and inspiration, she makes surprising discoveries about women geniuses now and throughout history, in fields from music to robotics. Through interviews with neuroscientists, psychologists, and dozens of women geniuses at work in the world today—including Nobel Prize winner Frances Arnold and AI expert Fei-Fei Li—she proves that genius isn't just about talent. It's about having that talent recognized, nurtured, and celebrated.

With our co-sponsors: NCJW Pittsburgh

Talia Carner
The Third Daughter: A Novel
April 7, 2021 at 7:30 p.m.

From the author of Jerusalem Maiden comes a remarkable story, inspired by little-known true events, about the thousands of young Jewish women who were trafficked into prostitution at the turn of the 20th century, and whose subjugation helped build Buenos Aires. A powerful story of finding courage in the face of danger, and hope in the face of despair.

With our co-sponsors: Eden's Farm

Regular Programs:

Online Parashah Study Group - Sunday at 8:30PM
Dig into the language of the weekly parasha and unpack a difficult section of Torah in this lay led, discussion based class.

Morning Talmud Study - Monday at 9:15AM
Rabbi Jeremy Markiz leads a group of learners from Pittsburgh and Israel in learning *Masechet Rosh Hashanah*, a tractate of the Talmud about the many new years that comprise the Jewish calendar.

Life and Text - Wednesday at 12:15PM
Bring the *parashah* alive and make it personally relevant and meaningful through a discussion led by Rabbi Mark Goodman.

Growing Through the ELC

Hilary Yeckel
Director of the ELC
hyeckel@bethshalompgh.org

Hello Congregants-

I hope you all had a safe, healthy holiday season, as well as a Happy New Year!

As we enter into 2021 as a school and a community, I think it is important to look back on 2020 and take time to acknowledge the accomplishments and victories we had. It was a challenging year. A year that had sad times, a year spent socially distanced, but through those hard moments there were joys and smiles (even if they were behind masks). When our facility reopened to students in June of 2020 we were unsure if we could teach, make connections, and foster learning in our "new normal." We wondered, would our little learners be scared of us? Would we be able to keep them safe? Would our classroom activities be successful? Would it feel the same to teach with these new rules? Even with all the unknowns and worries, Beth Shalom ELC marched forward, made the changes, the adaptations, and did so with great success. We as a community will continue to work together to create a safe, healthy, happy, and nurturing learning environment to the best of our ability.

Traditionally we end the first part of our academic year with a school-wide performance in the ballroom to celebrate Hanukkah with our families, grandparents, and friends. This year, each of our classrooms celebrated Hanukkah on the same day but apart. It was a day full of Hanukkah games, craft, books, music, and dancing!

Looking ahead in 2021 we have several holidays and activities planned including Passover, Purim, and Grandparents/Special Friends Day! Our Teachers will be working creatively to make each of these special events safe yet memorable. The administration will begin working on re-enrollment for the 2021-2022 school year. Our center continues to have success and growth in 2021, as we receive inquiries and requests for enrollment. We look forward to the future and the opportunity to welcome returning and new families back in the upcoming school year.

I look forward to when I can welcome visitors back into the halls of the ELC. Until then, I invite anyone with questions, or inquiries on how you can support the ELC, to reach out to the office via phone or email. I look forward to hearing from you.

Wishing you a healthy and safe start to 2021,

Hilary Yeckel
Director

ELC Calendar
March - May 2021

Monday, March 29 - Friday, April 2
ELC Closed- Passover Break

Monday, April 5
ELC Resumes

Friday, May 14
Grandparents/ Special Friends Day

Monday, May 31
ELC Closed- Memorial Day

Learning with J-JEP

Rabbi Larry Freedman
Director of J-JEP
RabbiLF@jjep.org

We are heading towards the end of my second year with J-JEP and it has been a doozy. My first year was all about learning the culture, getting to know the people. The second year should have been beginning to implement some new ideas, tighten up ongoing activities, bring in more experiential education, and in all ways get creative. Well, that didn't quite work out as planned. For sure, we got some of that list accomplished. Our teachers have been amazing as they grew comfortable with the Zoom format and then excelled with it. That being said, we are thinking big for next year. Making Hebrew instruction better is a big goal, including rethinking the 7th grade experience. Once we are back in the classroom, we'll be able to have more movement in our instruction beyond staring at a screen.

Another giant goal is to explain better why we do what we do. Why, besides familial expectation, are kids going to a Sunday School? What is it about J-JEP that brings value to their lives? The answer, in part, is this: knowledge of our heritage makes the students more connected to our tribe. More knowledge and Jewish living offer a sense of spirituality: the students feel connected to something larger than themselves. Heritage, history, values, rituals, these make for a more well-rounded, more connected child who gains a further sense of purpose in this world. Everything we teach is the Jewish frame, students can use as they grow and make the world a better place, themselves better people.

Now we're looking forward to helping our J-JEP parents become our partners in sharing this vital message. Those Jewish families not connected might appreciate what we offer if they knew better what we are doing. And there is no better ambassador for the value of J-JEP than our own parents.

As this is the season of Pesah, let's turn to the Four Children of the Hagadah. Some of those disconnected families are like the child who asks, "What do all these rituals and Jewish learning mean for you?" For you and not for them, the rabbis point out. They feel on the outside. Slowly, gently, we need to get the word out to those families. This is what Jewish heritage has done for our children, all of our children. This is where we find meaning and you will, too.

Next year, as we are once again able to meet and share and spend time together in person, getting that word out will be among our top goals. Better Hebrew, more varied instruction, sharing our pride with others. We'll be on it just as soon as that vaccine kicks in.

Rabbi Larry Freedman

Joint Jewish Education Program of Pittsburgh

J-JEP Calendar
March - May 2021

Sunday, March 21
Information Session for
New & Prospective Families

Sunday, March 28 - Sunday, April 4
Closed

Wednesday, April 21
Last day of Wednesday Hebrew classes

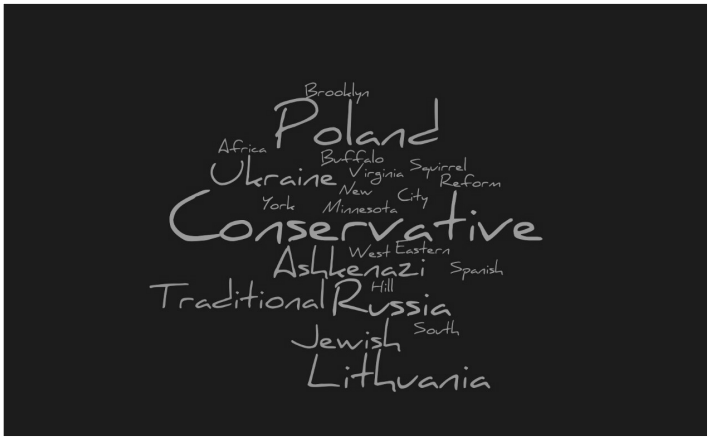
Thursday, April 22
Last day of Tuesday/Thursday Hebrew classes

Sunday, April 25
Celebration of Learning

Beth Shalom Youth Zone

Marissa Tait
Director of Youth Programs
mtait@bethshalompgh.org

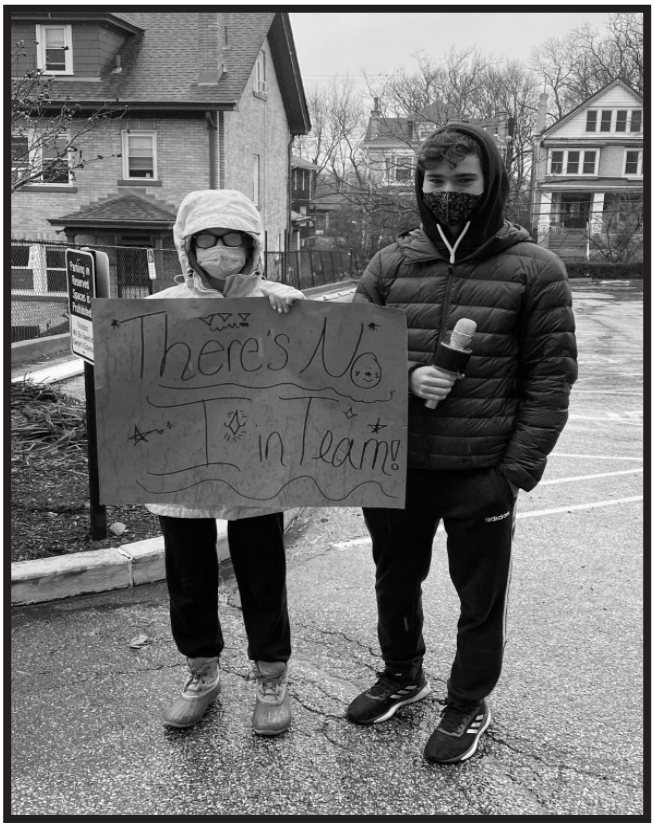
The Youth Department has had a spectacular few months with new and fan favorite events! We introduced new programs such as Minecraft Camp, partnered with Rodef Shalom for Purim Spirit Week, hosted the Pittsburgh Teen Community Memorial Havdalah, and ran a delicious Hanukkah Program. Our Beth Shalom teens cheered on schlepers in the rain AND helped raise $20,000 as the co-sponsors for the Come Together Schlep-A-Thon!! The annual Jews For Justice program was held virtually. This year's discussion was focused on ashkenormativity. Beth Shalom's teens facilitated discussions in zoom rooms for a multi-generational dynamic conversation. It was a great achievement and an excellent example of hard work.



During the Jews for Justice program, teens asked their participants "how do you identify as a Jew?"

Our teen leaders gathered to lead the Jews for Justice program.

Kadima and BSUSY continue to meet for Zoom game nights. Lounge nights are held for Kadima on the second and fourth Monday and BSUSY meets the first and third Monday of each month. We hope to see you there! Passover is right around the corner and we have great programs planned. We are hosting our first ever Lag BaOmer bonfire, more information to come!



Dalia Kolko and Jonah Rosenberg are reminding our schleppers that there is no "I" in team!
At the Come Together Schlep-A-Thon.

Beth Shalom PGH BSUSY

Beth Shalom PGH YOUTH

Countdown to *Pesah* 5781/2021

MA'OT HITTIN - PASSOVER TZEDAKAH FUND

From the beginning of the month of Nissan, we are especially sensitive to the needs of fellow Jews who may need our special help and support toward fulfilling all the mitzvot of the Pesah season. A form for donating to our Ma'ot Hittin fund is available on page 15.

FAST OF THE FIRST BORN & SIYYUM BEKHORIM: THURSDAY, MARCH 25

All first-borns should fast on this day, usually the day before Pesah but earlier this year due to Shabbat, in commemoration of the deliverance from Egypt of the Israelite firstborn. The Rabbi offers a siyyum (public completion of study) which is followed by a festive meal at which all present may eat, and once having eaten, a first born need not fast that day. The siyyum and the se'udat mitzvah will be held this year on Thursday morning over Zoom at 8:15 a.m., following the 7:30 a.m. morning minyan. This virtual Siyyum Breakfast is sponsored by Stanley & Cherie Maharam in loving memory of beloved parents and grandparents Bess & Aaron Maharam.

BEDIKAT HAMETZ: THURSDAY NIGHT, MARCH 25

The traditional search for hametz on the night before Pesah falls this year on Thursday night immediately after sunset. The blessings for bedikat hametz, found at the beginning of most Haggadot, are recited and the kol hamira formula nullifying unseen hametz may be recited. Hold any found hametz for ritual burning the following morning, March 26. If you need help finding these prayers, please contact Rabbi Adelson.

SALE OF HAMETZ: FRIDAY MORNING, MARCH 26, before 11:00 A.M.

One of the central commandments of Pesah is that we rid ourselves of all forbidden hametz in our possession. Individuals who fully observe Pesah do their best to eliminate hametz as far as possible and then traditionally resort to the procedure of "selling" any hametz which may have been packed away or missed. All hametz must be removed or sold by 11:00 a.m. A form for selling your hametz is available on page 15. Please return it to our office by March 26 first thing in the morning.

BI'UR HAMETZ - FRIDAY MORNING, MARCH 26

The ritual burning of the hametz found during Thursday night's search should be completed by 11:00 a.m. The stove should be fully kashered and all cooking proceeds in Pesah pots with Pesah utensils only. Traditionally no hametz or matzah is eaten after this time until the seder.

Candle Lighting Blessing

BLESSINGS FOR KINDLING FESTIVAL LIGHTS FOR YOM TOV EVENINGS

#1 - Yom Tov Candle Lighting Blessing (1st, 2nd, 7th, and 8th nights when not also Shabbat)

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה ה׳ אֱ–לֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצִוָּנוּ לְהַדְלִיק נֵר שֶׁל יוֹם טוֹב.

Barukh atah Adonai, Elohenu melekh ha'olam, asher kiddeshanu bemitzvotav, vetsivanu **lehadlik ner shel Yom Tov**.

#2 - Shehe<u>h</u>eyanu Blessing (1st night only)

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה ה׳ אֱ–לֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, שֶׁהֶחֱיָנוּ וְקִיְּמָנוּ וְהִגִּיעָנוּ לַזְּמַן הַזֶּה.

Barukh atah Adonai, Elohenu melekh ha'olam, **shehe<u>h</u>eyanu, vekiyyemanu, vehigi'anu lazeman hazeh**.

#3 - Shabbat and Yom Tov Candle Lighting (instead of #1 when on Shabbat)

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה ה׳ אֱ–לֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצִוָּנוּ לְהַדְלִיק נֵר שֶׁל שַׁבָּת וְשֶׁל יוֹם טוֹב.

Barukh atah Adonai, Elohenu melekh ha'olam, asher kiddeshanu bemitzvotav, vetsivanu **lehadlik ner shel Shabbat veshel Yom Tov**.

2021 FESTIVAL OF PESAH 5781

Pre-Pesah Preparations

Thursday, March 25	Siyyum Bekhorim	8:15 a.m.	Fast of First-Born – after Talmud study session at morning minyan, and special prayers, first-borns are exempt from the fast.
	Home Search for Hametz		At home
Friday, March 26	Bi'ur Hametz - All remaining hametz must be burned or sold by 11:00 a.m.		
Saturday, March 27	Shabbat Hagadol Morning Service	9:00 a.m.	Zoom from the Faye Rubenstein Weiss Sanctuary

First Day of Pesah

Saturday, March 27	First Seder	No evening service at Beth Shalom	
Sunday, March 28	Pesah Morning Service	9:00 a.m.	Zoom from the Faye Rubenstein Weiss Sanctuary
	Youth *Tefillah*/Manny's Service	11:00 a.m.	Zoom

Candle lighting after Havdallah from existing flame 8:21 p.m. – Blessings #1 and #2 on page 10

Second Day of Pesah

Sunday, March 28	Second Seder	6:00 p.m	Communal Second Seder over Zoom No evening service at Beth Shalom
Monday, March 29	Pesah Morning Service	9:15 a.m.	Zoom from the Faye Rubenstein Weiss Sanctuary
	Youth *Tefillah*/Manny's Service	11:00 a.m.	Zoom

Candle lighting after 8:22 p.m. from existing flame – Blessings #1 and #2 on page 10

Hol Hamoed – Intermediate Days

Mon. 3/29 – Thu. 4/1	Evening Minyan	7:00 p.m.	Zoom
Tues. 3/30 – Fri. 4/2	Morning Minyan	7:30 a.m.	Zoom

Shabbat/Seventh Day of Pesah

Friday, April 2	Shabbat/Pesah Evening Service	6:00 p.m.	Zoom from the Faye Rubenstein Weiss Sanctuary

Pesah/Shabbat candle lighting at 7:27 p.m. - Blessing #3 on page 10

Saturday, April 3	Shabbat/Pesah Service	9:00 a.m.	Zoom from the Faye Rubenstein Weiss Sanctuary
	Youth *Tefillah*/Manny's	11:00 a.m.	Zoom
	Minhah, Discussion, *Ma'ariv*	7:40 p.m.	Zoom

Candle lighting at 8:29 p.m. from existing flame - Blessing #1 on page 10

Eighth Day of Pesah

Sunday, April 4	Morning Service, ***with Yizkor***	9:00 a.m.	Zoom from the Faye Rubenstein Weiss Sanctuary (*Yizkor* at approximately 10:30 a.m.)
	Youth *Tefillah*/Manny's Service	11:00 a.m.	Zoom
	Evening Service	7:00 p.m.	Zoom
	Havdalah	8:30 p.m.	

Shavu'ot Service Schedule 5781/2021

Saturday Evening	May 15	Tikkun Leil Shavu'ot, 10:00 p.m.-1:00 a.m.

First Day Shavu'ot

Sunday Evening	May 16	*Minhah/Ma'ariv*, 6:00 p.m., Candle Lighting 8:12 p.m., *berakhot* below
Monday Morning	May 17	Morning Service, 9:15 a.m. Youth *Tefillah*, 11:00 a.m.

Second Day Shavu'ot

Monday Evening	May 17	*Minhah/Ma'ariv*, 8:30 p.m., Candle Lighting from an existing flame, 8:13 p.m., *berakhot* below
Tuesday Morning	May 18	Morning Service, 9:00 a.m., Zoom from Faye Rubenstein Weiss Sanctuary *Yizkor*, about 10:30 a.m., Zoom from Faye Rubenstein Weiss Sanctuary Featuring Baby Bikkurim with participation by all of our children Youth *Tefillah/*Manny's Service, 11:00 a.m.
Tuesday Evening	May 18	*Minhah/Ma'ariv*, 8:30 p.m., Zoom from Faye Rubenstein Weiss Sanctuary *Havdalah*, 9:14 p.m.

BLESSING FOR KINDLING FESTIVAL LIGHTS FOR BOTH YOM TOV EVENINGS

#1 - Yom Tov Candle Lighting Blessing (1st & 2nd nights)

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה ה׳ אֱ–לֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצִוָּנוּ לְהַדְלִיק נֵר שֶׁל יוֹם טוֹב.

Barukh atah Adonai, Elohenu melekh ha'olam, asher kiddeshanu bemitzvotav, vetsivanu **lehadlik ner shel Yom Tov**.

#2 - Shehe<u>h</u>eyanu Blessing (1st night only)

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה ה׳ אֱ–לֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, שֶׁהֶחֱיָנוּ וְקִיְּמָנוּ וְהִגִּיעָנוּ לַזְּמַן הַזֶּה.

Barukh atah Adonai, Elohenu melekh ha'olam, **shehe<u>h</u>eyanu, vekiyyemanu, vehigi'anu lazeman hazeh**.

#3 - Shabbat and Yom Tov Candle Lighting (not used this year)

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה ה׳ אֱ–לֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצִוָּנוּ לְהַדְלִיק נֵר שֶׁל שַׁבָּת וְשֶׁל יוֹם טוֹב.

Barukh atah Adonai, Elohenu melekh ha'olam, asher kiddeshanu bemitzvotav, vetsivanu **lehadlik ner shel Shabbat veshel Yom Tov**.

Congregation Beth Shalom

SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Tuesday, March 30, 2021
at 7:45 p.m.

During this meeting, the new Executive Director will be approved and we will have a COVID-19 Town Hall.

Join Via Zoom

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Tuesday, May 25, 2021
at 7:45 p.m.

Topics covered will include Annual Budget, approval of new officers and Board of Trustees members, and annual Reports.

Join Via Zoom

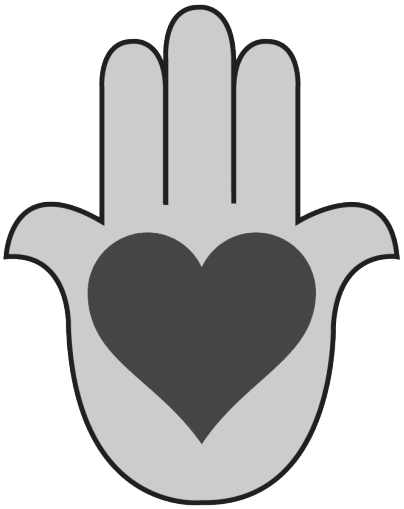
Beth Shalom
בית שלום

Pesah and Shavu'ot Yizkor Appeal 5781

Each year, during the holidays of Pesah, Shavu'ot, Yom Kippur, and Shemini Atzeret, a special Memorial Service is held. It is a time when we honor the memory of our beloved departed family members. Yizkor Services are held on these four holidays and, in the tradition of the mitzvah of giving, an appeal is made for funds during the *Yizkor* Service.

Our Passover *Yizkor* **Service will take place on Sunday morning, April 4, at approximately 10:30 am. Our Shavu'ot** *Yizkor* **Service will take place on Tuesday morning, May 18, at approximately 10:30 am.** It is appropriate to make a contribution in order to link the memory of dear ones to an act of loving kindness. If you wish, please fill out the form below with the name of the loved ones you wish to honor so that their names can be printed in *Mishpachtenu*.

If you would like additional information regarding the *Yizkor* Appeal, please call the office at 412-421-2288. With grateful thanks for your continued support of our synagogue, and with all good wishes for the coming Festival.



Please tear off and mail to:
Congregation Beth Shalom
5915 Beacon Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15217

I/We wish to contribute to the Passover & Shavu'ot *Yizkor* Appeal
Online form available at www.bethshalompgh.org/Passover-Yizkor-Appeal-5781

In memory of: _____

_____
(Please Print)

Enclosed please find my check in the amount of: $_____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone #: _____

Email: _____

Ma'ot Hittin - Passover Tzedakah Fund

With the approach of spring and Passover, it has always been the tradition of our congregation to establish a Ma'ot Hittin fund which will be used to help the impoverished Jews of our city and others in need to prepare for the great festival of liberation. It is our communal responsibility to provide the necessary food for a Passover Seder and for the observance of the holiday in general.

Please send us your contribution (checks should be made payable to Beth Shalom Ma'ot Hittin Fund) so that we have adequate funds to help the many Jews who will be turning to us prior to Passover. Your generosity will help make other Jewish families happy as they celebrate this holiday of freedom. Thank you.

MA'OT HITTIN - PASSOVER TZEDAKAH FUND
Online form available at www.bethshalompgh.org/maot-hittin-5781

Enclosed is my contribution in the amount of $_____ for the Ma'ot Hittin Fund. Please make check payable to Congregation Beth Shalom Ma'ot Hittin Fund. Thank you.

Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone #: _____
Email: _____

PLEASE CUT AND RETURN EACH FORM SEPARATELY

SELLING OF HAMETZ - מכירת חמץ

Hametz, not explicitly defined in the Torah, is described in rabbinic literature as being these five species of grain: wheat, spelt, oats, barley, and rye. Although matzah must be made from one of these, we are forbidden by halakhah (Jewish law) to eat, own, see, or benefit from any other form of these grains on Pesah. (Please note: rice, legumes, quinoa, corn, etc. are not hametz. See pg. 16 for more details.)

Please take the opportunity to fill out the form below and return it to the synagogue by **11:00 a.m. on Friday, March 26** in order to have your *hametz* included in the sale.

It is customary to include a donation to support the vulnerable in our community. These funds will be contributed to Rabbi Adelson's Discretionary Fund which is used to provide scholarships, offer assistance to those in need and to promote Jewish cultural, educational and religious activities.

*Hag kasher vesameah (*A Happy and Kosher *Pesah*)!
Rabbi Seth Adelson

CONTRACT FOR THE SELLING OF HAMETZ 2021/5781

Online form available at www.bethshalompgh.org/selling-hametz-5781

I (We) _____ hereby fully empower and authorize Rabbi Seth Adelson to dispose of all *hametz* that may be in my (our) possession – wherever it may be: at home, place of business or elsewhere (knowingly or unknowingly). Rabbi Adelson has the full right to sell, dispose of and conduct all transactions in accordance with the detailed terms explained in theHebrew contracts. The above power hereby given is meant to conform with all Torah and Rabbinic regulations to meet the requirements of Jewish law.

Name(s): _____
Location of Hametz: _____
_____
Amount donated: _____
Sign Here: _____

A Brief Pesah Kashrut Guide

A full description of kashering processes and listing of permitted foods can be found at: www.rabbinicalassembly.org/pesah-guide

The process of kashering utensils depends on how the utensils are used. According to *halakhah*, leaven can be purged from a utensil by the same process in which it was absorbed in the utensil (*kevolo kakh polto*). Therefore, utensils used in cooking are kashered by boiling, those used in broiling are kashered by fire and heat, and those used for only cold food are kashered by rinsing in cold water.

A. Earthenware (china, pottery, etc.) may not be kashered. However, fine translucent chinaware which has not been used for over one year may be used if scoured and cleaned in hot water.

B. Metal utensils (wholly made of metal) used in fire (spit or broiler) must first be scrubbed and cleansed and then made as hot as possible. Those used for cooking or eating (silverware, pots) must be thoroughly cleaned and completely immersed in boiling water. Pots should have water boiled in them which will overflow the rim. The utensils should not be used for a period of at least 24 hours between the cleaning and immersion in boiling water. Metal baking utensils cannot be kashered.

C. Oven and Ranges - Every part that comes in contact with food must be thoroughly scrubbed and cleaned. Then, the oven and range should be heated as hot as possible for a half hour. If there is a broil setting, use it. Self-cleaning ovens should be scrubbed and cleaned and then put through the self-cleaning cycle. Continuous-cleaning ovens must be kashered in the same manner as regular ovens. A microwave oven, which does not cook the food by means of heat, should be cleaned and then a cup of water should be placed in it. Then the oven should be turned on until the water "boils." A microwave oven that has a browning element cannot be kashered for Pesah.

D. Glassware - Authorities disagree as to the method of kashering drinking utensils. One opinion requires soaking in water for 3 days, changing the water every 24 hours. The other opinion requires only a thorough scrubbing before Pesach, or putting it through the dishwasher.

E. Dishwasher - After not using the dishwasher for a period of 24 hours, a full cycle with detergent should be run. It may then be used for Pesah.

F. Electrical Appliances - If the parts that come in contact with hametz are removable, they can be kashered in the appropriate way (if metal, follow the rules for metal utensils). If the parts are not removable, the appliance cannot be kashered. (All exposed parts should be thoroughly cleaned).

G. Tables, closets and counters - If used for chametz, they should be thoroughly cleaned and covered and then they may be used.

H. Kitchen Sink - A metal sink can be kashered by a thorough cleaning and by pouring boiling water over it. A porcelain sink should be cleaned and a sink rack used. If, however, dishes are to be soaked in a porcelain sink, a dish basin must be used.

I. Hametz and non-Passover utensils - Non-Passover dishes, pots and hametz, whose ownership has been transferred, should be separated, locked up or covered, and marked so as to prevent accidental use.

Permitted Foods

A. The following foods require no *kasher lePesah* label when purchased before or during Pesah: fresh fruits and vegetables that have not been coated, eggs, unflavored tea bags, unflavored regular coffee, 100% Extra Virgin Olive Oil, whole or raw tree nuts, whole (unground) spices, fresh fish from a kosher source and fresh kosher meat or frozen, raw hekhshered meat (other than ground products as ground products with prohibited materials could be made on the same equipment).

B. The following products require reliable *kasher lePesah* certification (regular kosher supervision not being sufficient) whether bought before or during Pesach: all baked goods (farfel, matzah, any product containing matzah, matzah flour, matzah meal, Pesach cakes), all frozen processed foods, candy, canned tuna, cheeses, chocolate milk, decaf coffee, decaf tea, dried fruits, herbal tea, ice cream, liquor, non Grade A butter, oils, soda, vinegar, wine, yogurt.

C. The following foods require no *kasher lePesah* label but do require kashrut supervision if purchased new and unopened before Pesach: all pure fruit juices in plastic or glass bottles, filleted fish, frozen fruit (no additives), non-iodized salt, pure white sugar (no additives), unsalted Grade A butter, white milk

D. Any processed food bought during Pesah must have a *kasher lePesah* label.

E. Any detergent, because it is not a food and it is not eaten, may be used for Pesah as long as it has valid kosher supervision.

Medicines: Since hametz binders are used in many pills, the following guidelines should be followed: If the medicine is required for life sustaining therapy, it may be used on Pesah. If it is not for life sustaining therapy, authorities differ in their approaches. Please consult with your rabbi. Capsules, because they do not need binders, are preferable to pills.

In December 2015, the Committee on Jewish Laws and Standards ruled kitniyot, or non-hametz grains and legumes such as rice, millet, chickpeas, fenugreek, etc., are acceptable for Ashkenazim to consume during Pesah provided the kitniyot have been checked 3 times before Pesah and were not stored with hametz.

The Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh presents

TIKKUN LEIL ONLINE

Saturday night after Shabbat, May 15, 2021

Online learning honoring Shavuot the night before the holiday so all can participate. Sessions taught by well-known local rabbis and thinkers.

10pm – 11pm
11pm – 12pm
12pm – 1am

Jewish Community Foundation OF GREATER PITTSBURGH

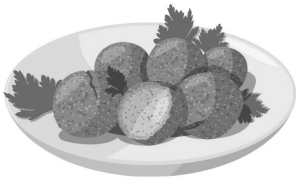
Virtual Shabbat Kiddush Sponsorship

We are seeking sponsors for the 2021 Virtual Shabbat Kiddush.

You can fully sponsor the meal for $400 or co-sponsor the meal with another member for $200 each.

Money raised can be designated for the following:

- General Fund
- Youth
- Preschool



If you are able to sponsor a Virtual Kiddush, please contact Ira Frank at **412-849-2937** or **natfabira@juno.com.**

Beth Shalom בית שלום

DEREKH FIND YOUR WAY

PESAḤ UNIVERSITY

BRING SOMETHING NEW TO YOUR SEDER.

March 15 at 7:30 p.m

Leshanah Haba-ah Biyrushalayim / Next Year in Jerusalem

We say this at the end of every seder. But what does it mean, exactly? And does the yearning for Jerusalem appear in other places in the haggadah? In this second year of pandemic Passover observance, how might we think about "Next Year in Jerusalem" as a rallying cry for the battle against the coronavirus?

Jacob Aryeh Fischbach is the son of Yael Silk and Jordan Fischbach, older brother of Natanel Fischbach, grandson of Janice Davidson and John Thomas, Lee and Marnin Fischbach, Carol and Jerry Hait, and Mark Silk. After years of trying he finally convinced his parents to get a puppy, and Ella joined the family in October 2020.

Jacob is an instrumental major in the seventh grade at CAPA and plays the trumpet. He enjoys learning jazz, cooking, and playing Dungeons & Dragons. He has been an enthusiastic camper at Camp Young Judaea in Wisconsin since the fourth grade. In December, Jacob completed a year of Repair the World's Peer Corps program. Jacob will become a Bar Mitzvah at Congregation Beth Shalom on Saturday, March 13th.

Bar Mitzvah: 3/13/2021

Brayden Lewinter, son of Daniel and Julie Lewinter, grandson of Dorothy and Samuel Greenfield, Janice and Mitchell Hoffman, and Neil and Evelyn Lewinter, will become a bar mitzvah on Thursday, March 18.

Brayden, a 7th grader, plays ice hockey for the Pittsburgh Predators AA 2008 birthyear team. When he's not on the ice, he likes to participate in outdoor activities such as soccer, fishing, camping, and bike riding. Brayden also enjoys visual arts and likes to illustrate with colored pencil, as well as game online with friends. In school he excels at academics and has taken a liking to science and history.

Bar Mitzvah: 3/18/2021

Sylvia Svoboda is the daughter of Mara and Paul Svoboda, sister of Sasha and Simona, granddaughter of Marlene and Kevin Snell and Cyril and Judy Svoboda. A seventh grader at Community Day School, she enjoys reading, riding her bike, ice skating, spending time with friends and family and exploring new places, especially ones with a connection to history. She will celebrate becoming a Bat Mitzvah on April 17, 2021.

Bat Mitzvah: 4/17/2021

Virtual Third Meal

Relax between *Minhah* and *Ma'ariv* each week as Rabbi Adelson leads us in study. Since we cannot meet and eat in person right now, we are asking for volunteers to sponsor the "meal" for $100 per week, to provide for ritual necessities such as Torah repair.

If you are able to sponsor a virtual third meal, please contact Ira Frank at **412-849-2937** or **natfabira@juno.com.**

Josephine Jean and Raleigh Helen Morgenstern are the daughters of Donielle and Aaron Morgenstern, the sisters of Davis, and the paternal granddaughters of Devra Davis and Richard Morgenstern. Their grandmother was confirmed at Congregation Beth Shalom and great grandparents Jean Langer Davis and Harry B. Davis were married there in 1943 and remained lifelong members. Their great aunts Marian Ungar Davis and Sara Davis Buss and great uncles Stanford Davis and Jay Buss are current synagogue members.

Josephine is an eighth grade student at Wasatch Academy in Utah. Her passions include creative writing, journalism, and social justice. She is the Vice President of Wasatch Academy's 8th and 9th grade.

Raleigh is a 7th grade student at Winchester Thurston School. Her passions include architecture, art, entrepreneurship, and freestyle and big mountain skiing. She currently is on the Evolution Ski Team in Teton Village, Wyoming.

When they are not skiing or schooling in mountain time zone, Josephine and Raleigh can be found walking their dog Bennington around their beautiful neighborhood of Squirrel Hill.

Benot Mitzvah: 5/8/2021

Benei Mitzvah Planning

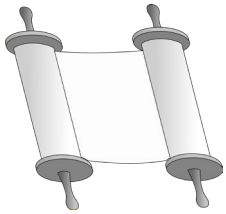
We begin working with families of students in fourth grade, toward their becoming benei mitzvah.

Whether or not the celebration will take place here at Beth Shalom, member families should be getting to know one another, and the students should feel a part of the community.

Each year there are mandatory Benei Mitzvah Family Workshop sessions in which the student and at least one parent must be present. The remaining sessions this year will be held on the following dates:

Sunday, March 7, 2021, at 12:30 p.m.
Sunday, May 2, 2021, at 12:30 p.m.

The sessions will be held by Zoom from 12:30 – 2:00 p.m. We will discuss essential topics about what it means to become bar/bat mitzvah, share stories, and create a sense of togetherness in this odyssey.



There is an Orientation for parents of fourth graders on **April 11, 2021, 11:00 a.m.**

Please mark your calendars if your students are in those age groups.

Please remember that all information related to bat/bar mitzvah and so much more about the process can be found online in the Beth Shalom Benei Mitzvah Handbook, which you can download as a PDF at ***BethShalomPgh.org/lifelong-learning/benei-mitzvah.***

Please be in contact with Audrey Glickman, Rabbi's Assistant, at ***RabbiAsst@BethShalomPgh.org.***

Men's Club Moments

Ira Frank
Men's Club President
natfabira@juno.com

Calendar of Events

Men's Club Sweepstakes
First Weekly Drawing begins the evening of April 2 and continues every Friday through November
Please support us by purchasing a ticket. Each ticket costs $50.

Evening of April 7, Yom HaShoah
Please remember to light the yellow candle delivered with the Purim bags.

Men's Club Shabbat, April 24
Contact Sandy Zaremberg at 412-421-7007 if you want to participate. Watch for a special speaker.

Sunday, May 23 at 9:30 a.m.
Flag Planting
Please join us at Beth Shalom's Cemetery to commemorate Memorial Day by placing flags on all of the veterans' graves. Adults & children are welcome – a meaningful and nice socially distanced outdoor activity!

Wine on the Vine
FJMC and Beth Shalom Men's Club invite you to Plant a Vine. This is the perfect gift. For just $18, you can plant a vine in Israel and dedicate it to someone you love. Mark on your order "Tri State and Beth Shalom" so we receive our rebate.
For more details, go to:
fjmc.wineonthevine.org

Ira Frank

Tri-State fjmc
Beth Shalom Men's Club

(Continuation from page 4 of our President's article)

Beth Shalom has adapted as well as can be expected to the changing environment because of COVID. Many more members have been attending our minyan, Shabbat, on-line programming and holiday services. Our Rabbi and lay leadership continue to try very hard to listen to the membership and what is needed to have continued success under very unusual circumstances that COVID has forced upon us.

In my last *Mishpactenu* article, I mentioned how many people volunteer behind the scenes, and how it takes a village. Beth Shalom's "Come Together" event and our *Mishloah Manot* project are the latest examples of the commitment of our volunteers. Thank you all. The business of the synagogue continues with the hiring of a Development Director and Executive Director and the nominating committee's task of replacing officers and Board of Trustee members.

I want to thank all who have Beth Shalom high on their lists of priorities for its future success. Listening to our county's health reports and our own COVID Taskforce will guide our decisions as we hope that soon will be able to welcome our members back to our main sanctuary, ballroom—our spiritual home. The synagogue is ready for us when we are physically able to pray in person and be together for the many programs, simchas and kiddushim we all enjoy.

Debby Firestone

HAS YOUR EVENT BEEN IMPACTED BY COVID-19?

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

412.421.2288 x113 or catering1@bethshalompgh.org

The Sisterhood Says

Judy Kornblith Kobell
Sisterhood President
jayeko@msn.com

Spring is on its way and we in Sisterhood look forward to an end to this pandemic and time to spend in person with our friends at Beth Shalom.

Nonetheless, Sisterhood has been busy in the background and on Zoom. In February, we celebrated Sisterhood Shabbat. Despite not being able to share a Kiddush luncheon, several of our members were able to participate in the service and many more Zoomed in to join and observe Shabbat together. We were so honored to have Avi Baran Munro as our featured speaker. As most know, Avi Munro is the CDS Head of School and an educator par excellence. We thank her for her words of wisdom.

In other events, Sisterhood was delighted to be a supporter of the Beth Shalom Schlep-A-Thon co-sponsoring, with Men's Club, the hot chocolate and refreshments. Another opportunity for Sisterhood was to wish Beth Shalom members a happy Purim through the *Mishloah Manot* program.

As the weather turns warm, we look forward to again planning programs and celebrating together.

All good wishes for a sweet Pesah and a better 2021!

B'vrachot,

Judy Kornblith Kobell

President, Beth Shalom Sisterhood

Sisterhood Officers 2020 - 2021

President	Judy Kornblith Kobell
Treasurer	Helen Feder
Asst. Treasurer	Shelli Glanz
Fin. Secretary	Natalie Rosenbloom
Rec. Secretary	Yvonne Stein
Email	Beth Jacobs
Book Club	Sandy Hirsch
Flower Fund	Elinor Young Elinor Zaremberg
Judaica Shop	Barbara Kaiserman
Correspondence.	Marian Hershman

Sisterhood Judaica Shop

All in stock tallitot and Kippot on sale

30% OFF

Offer valid through May 31, 2021.

Open by appointment.
Barbara Kaiserman 412.422.5677

(Continuation from page 5 of our Interim Executive Director's article)

And the critical priority list goes on and on: Addressing staff issues, ensuring that functions go smoothly, supporting (and in some cases leading) hiring of much of our personnel, working with our tenants, ensuring communications are timely, consistent, and accurate, supporting the application for grants, and providing fiscal responsibility are all candidates for my number one priority.

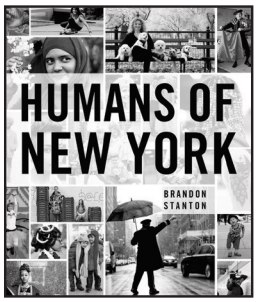
So by now you've realized that I'm incapable of naming a single number one priority. It shifts multiple times throughout my day and week, and, like everyone else, I've learned to juggle. The key, I think, is in just learning how to keep perspective.

Ken Turkewitz
Interim Executive Director

Humans of Beth Shalom (HOBS)

As a means of introducing members of our congregation to each other, we provide this section of Mishpachtenu, entitled Humans of Beth Shalom (inspired by the famous Humans of New York, or HONY, series). Here, we highlight two 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.

Elinor Nathanson



Name in English and in Hebrew (phonetic).

Micah (מיכה), Beth (בתשבע), Arielle (אריאל), and Eitan (איתן).

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

Micah - I was born and raised in Cleveland, OH. I received my undergraduate in Boston, Medical School in Toledo, OH, completed my Residency and Fellowship in Cleveland and in Pittsburgh since 2008.

Beth - I was born and raised in Cleveland, OH, I received my undergraduate in Athens, OH, Back to Cleveland for several years and Pittsburgh since 2008. Arielle and Eitan have lived in Pittsburgh their entire lives.

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

Since 2008 when we arrived in Pittsburgh.

What are some ways you and your family are maintaining a sense of community during COVID-19?

We are mostly spending good, quality family time going on hikes. In order to not be so isolated, we have the occasional Zoom chat with friends and family and also try to call people on the phone. Before the case counts were high, we attended socially distanced gatherings and got together with single families at a time. Arielle and Eitan have participated in a few online clubs.

Where were your grandparents born and how have those cultures influenced your traditions?

Micah -Three out of four of my grandparents came from Germany and the fourth was born in NYC. One grandparent on each side left Germany shortly after Kristanacht at the end of 1938. Both had to deal with the police and have some papers reissued. One grandmother spent about three years in Cuba prior to coming to the US and was on the last boat prior to the St. Louis (voyage of the damned).

If you could be a fly on the wall in Jewish history where would you want to land and why?

It's been awhile since I studied this, but I have always found the Spanish Inquisition fascinating. While it is tragic that many Jews were forced to become Conversos, many of their traditions remained with them and their descendants.

What's something that you feel passionate about? A hobby, a belief, your work, family, etc.

Micah - I work as an Infectious Disease Physician and this year of COVID-19 has put my specialty in the middle of the pandemic. I feel strongly that getting accurate information to people about this pandemic and how to deal with it is vital to getting to a post-COVID world. Everyone needs to remember that COVID does not care if your politics are red/blue/purple/green or what country is listed on your passport. Please listen to public health experts on how to best battle this virus and PLEASE take the vaccine when it is offered to you and remember to mask and distance and even when you have a vaccine do not let your guard down.

Beth - My life's ambition has been to share my love for music with the world through teaching and performing. My training was as a music teacher with a vocal emphasis and I taught music to elementary school students while in Cleveland. I have loved singing ever since I was little. Cantor Kathryn Sebo (affectionately, Cantor Kathy) at Congregation Bethaynu in Cleveland, Ohio, fostered my love for singing since I was eligible to join the choir in third grade. I wholeheartedly believe that music is necessary in this world and is applicable to every aspect of life. It can be a destressor, used as a device to facilitate learning in school, and there are multiple ways to interact with music through playing instruments at various levels of complexity, analyzing music, composing, and both active and passive listening. My hope is that there is some type of music that speaks to each person and is thrilled if she plays some part in spreading joy through singing in Bach Choir of Pittsburgh, leading services, and other musical endeavors.

Name in English and in Hebrew (phonetic).
Ira Michael Frank, Yitchak Ben Joseph
The reason I use the "Michael" is because when I was in third or fourth grade and wrote letters to the Mayor, they came back addressed to "Miss Ira Frank." If your first name ends in an "a" it tends to be a woman's name, and the name"Ira" was less well-known back then. So at that point I started using my full name — Ira Michael Frank — so that people knew that I wasn't a "Miss."

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

I was born right here in Squirrel Hill. Other than eight years I spent in Michigan going to college and for my first job, I've always lived in Pittsburgh.

How long have you been a member of Congregation Beth Shalom?
My family belonged before I was born, and I have been a member of Beth Shalom my entire life. Even when I was out of town, I always came home for the High Holidays. Beth Shalom has always been home.

What are some ways you are maintaining a sense of community during COVID-19?
I used to always say I wanted the world to stop so I could catch up with it. The world stopped and then it just went on without me — and I'm further behind now than I was before! But Zoom has saved me. I have been going to the synagogue downtown every Sunday through Friday morning, and we — the rabbi, myself, and up to five or six other people — have been part of the Beth Shalom morning minyan live over Zoom from the synagogue downtown. In the evening, I'm home and I join the Beth Shalom minyan over Zoom. I've attended many many Zoom committee meetings for Beth Shalom and for other organizations. I was one of the lucky ones who was able to be in the sanctuary for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, and I've attended most of the parking lot services.

What food connects you to feeling Jewish? Where is that memory from?
Probably baked spaghetti and chocolate cake, and stuffed cabbage and shishkes, which are like Italian gnocchi but pan-fried with breadcrumbs. My sister and I used to have to walk from Minadeo to Hebrew School at Beth Shalom on Mondays through Thursdays, and my grandmother lived on Hobart around the corner from Beth Shalom. So we would stop there before or after Hebrew School, and my grandmother would make us dinner. She would make one of those two meals at least once a week, so those are the meals I associate with being Jewish and going to Hebrew school. Of course baked spaghetti and chocolate are not at all Jewish — but they're still really good, and I still make them to this day.

Growing up at Beth Shalom, was there someone at shul who brought candy for the children and inspired you to bring candy today?
No, there was not. You wanna know the history of the candy? I will tell you the history of the candy. One of my father's sisters — the one who was never healthy and always needed assistance — she ended up living at Charles Morris the last few years of her life. She turned out to be the healthiest person in there, and all they had to do was help her out of bed in the morning and help her into bed at night. But she had a television in her room when other people didn't have a TV, and she always had snacks that she'd share with the help. So my father and I would always go out and buy Hershey's kisses for her room, and after every holiday we'd go out and buy candy in bulk. She died in January, around 1993-94, right after I had cornered the market on the Hershey's kisses from Christmas. Then I was stuck with all this candy and, as much as I love sweets, I'm not a big candy eater. That's how I started taking the candy to shul on Saturday morning. At that point, the Bnei Mitzvahs were huge, and the candy went just to the Bar Mitzvah kids to get them to behave during services. So that's how the candy started. I don't know how or why I got into the lollipops but that just evolved.

Do you have a favorite candy?
I'd rather have a good cookie or a piece of cake. I like candy, but I don't need it in my house. I've never had a Hershey's Kiss in my house. I'm afraid if I eat them, I'll keep eating them. As far as cookies go, I'd say almost any cookie is my favorite — but I'll say chocolate chip.

What's something that you feel passionate about?
I'm passionate about making synagogue comfortable for kids. If the kids are comfortable, they bring the parents. The parents don't bring the kids; the kids bring the parents. I was kicked out of Beth Shalom preschool as a kid, so you'd think I wouldn't be involved in synagogue life. But it's important that people feel comfortable and want to come, in whatever form they want to come. Some want to come for just the Purim Carnival, others want to come for daily services, and others want to come for a Lunch and Learn. And however they want to come, that's how their connection is.

Legacy Circle

Why We Joined the Legacy Circle

by Bernice & Jack Meyers

We have been members of Beth Shalom for over 50 years and Jack's family were also long-time members. Our children attended Beth Shalom's excellent pre-school and religious school. As our children grew and with the loss of our parents, we became more and more aware of the significance of Beth Shalom in our lives. We recognize the great importance of having a quality Conservative synagogue in our community. We hope that Jewish life and Congregation Beth Shalom enjoy continued success in the future. We chose to make a Legacy gift to Beth Shalom to insure its continuing success.

Why I Joined the Legacy Circle

by Gerald Kobell

I have been involved in synagogue life since I finished school and began my working life. I started attending Congregation Beth Shalom when I moved with my family to Pittsburgh in 1983. Beth Shalom was the most traditional conservative congregation and I agreed with its approach to Judaism and community.

Given my previous synagogue experience and my connections with the Jewish Theological Seminary and many rabbis, in or about 1986 or 1987, I was asked to chair the study sessions and discussions about transforming the synagogue to an egalitarian institution. The transition was successfully achieved. Thereafter, I chaired the Religious Services Committee for several years and became an officer.

There are many instances of my realizing that Beth Shalom changed our lives. My three daughters all attended the Hebrew School, became Bat Mitzvah, attended the School of Advanced Jewish Studies, and they all spent either a year or a semester studying at the Hebrew University in Israel. My young son had his Bar Mitzvah in Israel and studied Hebrew in college and worked as an adult at Camp Ramah. All four of the children belong to synagogues, including Aliza in Jerusalem.

I believe that Judaism is the necessary and appropriate methodology to inculcate values and beliefs that are necessary for a just and peaceful world, and the survival of the Jewish people. Congregation Beth Shalom, through its clergy and staff are intensely invested in achieving those goals through religious services, education, programming and observance of the holidays.

Although there is a growing trend that spiritual and social support can be sustained by lectures, virtual study sessions, reading, and engaging with friends and family outside of the synagogue framework, synagogue membership is important to sustain all generations (both young and elderly), their families and the community. A legacy gift is my contribution to help to ensure the survival of Congregation Beth Shalom for future generations after my life and work end.

Beth Shalom
LEGACY
CIRCLE

Please consider joining Beth Shalom's Legacy Circle by including Beth Shalom in your estate plans as part of the Life & Legacy program.

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November 1, 2020 — January 31, 2021

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Dr. Marvin & Kathleen Zelkowitz
Edwin & Mildred Zinman
Mrs. Saul Zisman
Marion Zlotnik
Dr. Zweig

Nihum Avelim

(Comforting Mourners)

November 1, 2020 — January 31, 2021

Elaine & Sheldon Catz and family on the passing of Elaine's father, Noah Hershkowitz, early on November 13th.

Helena Taubé and family on the passing of Cantor Moshe Taubé on November 11th.

The family of Marian Huttner on her passing on November 16th.

Bunny Morris on the passing of her sister-in-law Claire Hope Itzkovitz Reingold on November 30th. Claire and her husband Vernon were long-time members of Beth Shalom.

Harry Drucker, Jean (Paul) Reznick, and Sara (Jason) Berliner, on the passing of Esther Drucker on Sunday, November 29th.

Barbara and Peter Oleinick on the sudden passing of their son-in-law Steven Crane, husband of Rachel Oleinick, on December 5th.

Bob & C.J. Liss and their daughter and son-in-law Laura & Toby Gershon and family on the passing of Bob's father, Gilbert Liss, on Friday, December 18th.

Ben & Shayna Yogman and family on the passing of Ben's father Mark on Sunday, December 27th.

Dorita Krifcher and family on the passing of her husband Manny, on Monday, December 28th.

Debbie Hartzell and family on the passing of her husband Ron Cohen on Wednesday, December 30th.

Jennifer & Ilia Murtazashvili and family on the passing of her father Stanley Mark Cutler, on Sunday, January 10th.

Stanley Kirshenbaum and Diane Silberg on the passing of Stan's sister Phyllis Kirshenbaum, on Tuesday, January 26th.

Gail Neft on the passing of Richard Callet, on Sunday, January 31st.

Milestones – *Mazal Tov*!

November 1, 2020 — January 31, 2021

Erica Fox Zabusky and Mitchell Stockton, on daughter Madeleine Zabusky-Stockton being called to the Torah as a bat mitzvah!

Emily & Aaron Weiss on the birth on November 6, at 4:08 p.m., and berit milah on November 13 of their son Carson (Yaakov Yisrael).

Maddie Herrup on being elected Vice President of the Brandeis Chapter of Alpha Pi Phi.

Lester Shapiro & Leslie Itskowitz on their engagement and marriage.

Eric B. Yoffee and Abigail Blatt on their wedding on November 8th. Mazal tov also to members **Carol Beth and Michael Yoffee**, parents of the groom.

Davis Morgenstern on his spectacular performance in his Solo Recital on November 22nd at the Interlochen Arts Academy. He was chosen to play a 50-minute piano recital (virtually attended, of course), and he performed J.S. Bach's English Suite in A Minor (BWV 807); Chopin's Etude in A-flat Minor (posthumous) and Etude in E Major (Op. 10, No. 3); Moritz Moszkowski's Etude for the Left Hand in E Minor (Op. 92, No. 4); Beethoven's 32 Variations in C Minor (WoO 80); and Nikolai Medtner's Canzona Serenata (Op. 38, No. 6).

Janie Yahr, honored December 3rd by Chabad with their Community Lamplighter Award.

Sara & Michael Safyan on the birth on November 26th at 7:30 a.m., weighing 8 lbs., 9 oz., and 21" long, and the naming on December 3rd of daughter Nora Adelyn Safyan, Hebrew name Leora Adira.

Milestones – *Mazal Tov*!

November 1, 2020 — January 31, 2021
(continued)

Barbara Burstin, on being honored November 18th by the Squirrel Hill Urban Coalition as one of the 2020 Squirrel Hill Treasures.

Anna Binstock & Alex Preus on the birth of Max Isaac Preus, born December 7th.

Those members of Beth Shalom who were honored by and in the Pittsburgh Jewish Chronicle as Volunteers of the Year:

Jonathan Weinkle, with Congregation Beth Shalom

Micah Jacobs, with Community Day School

Marlene Behrmann Cohen, with Friendship Circle

Meira Russ, with Hebrew Free Loan

Skip Grinberg, with the Jewish Assistance Fund

Greg Engel, with the Jewish Cemetery and Burial Greater Pittsburgh

Jimmy Wagner, with the Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh

Elaine Krasik (z"l), with the Jewish Healthcare Foundation

Steven Schwartz, with the Jewish National Fund

Teddi Horvitz, with the National Council of Jewish Women

Moshe Baran, celebrating his 100th birthday on Kislev 29 (December 15) and also celebrating on December 10, which was the Gregorian date in 1920. Happy Birthday, Moshe!

Gwyn & Matt Riddle, on the birth of their twins, Oliver Madison Riddle and Benjamin Madison Riddle, and on entering into berit milah. Mazal tov also to grandmother Sheryl Riddle.

Skip Grinberg, honored with the Life Achievement Award from Marquis Who's Who. Grinberg was recognized for his career longevity, philathropic endeavors, and lasting contributions to society. *(Text pulled from the December 18, 2020 issue of the Pittsburgh Jewish Chronicle.)*

Ted & Anita Heyman on the birth of grandson Avraham Yitzchak Baylis, son of Elyse & Yakov Baylis, born January 7, in Highland Park, Illinois.

Adrienne & Larry Savitz on the birth of a grandson (first grandchild!) on January 19, 2021, to daughter and son-in-law Pam & Andy Parker in Portland, Oregon. Mazal tov also to aunt Jessica Savitz, and to great-aunt and great-uncle Natalie & Lonnie Wolf.

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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 am - 3:00 pm***

*** Staff schedules vary**

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MEN'S CLUB SWEEPSTAKES HANUKKAH 2020 WINNERS

Congratulations to the Hanukkah Sweepstakes Winners!

Mid-day Winners:

12/11/2020: Debby Firestone

12/13/2020: Duke Ukani

12/14/2020: Robert J. Garvin

12/15/2020: Steven Goldberg

12/17/2020: Richard & Helen Feder

12/18/2020: Kate Rothstein

Evening Winners:

12/10/2020: Stanley Weiner

12/11/2020: Earl Kaiserman

12/12/2020: Lois & Alan Kopolow

12/13/2020: Stanley Weiner

12/14/2020: Carl Metosky

12/15/2020: Sharon & Steven Schwartz

12/16/2020: Barbara Kaiserman

12/17/2020: Debby Firestone

COME TOGETHER SCHLEP-A-THON PRIZE WINNERS

FOR THE FUNDRAISER WITH MOST DOLLAR$

1ST PLACE:
Jordan Fischbach & Yael Silk win the "B'Tayavon Gourmet Catered Shabbat"

2ND PLACE:
The Rothstein family wins the "Wine & Booze Basket"

3RD PLACE:
Elisa Recht Marlin wins the "Soothing Self-Care Basket"

FOR THE FUNDRAISER WITH MOST DONORS

1ST PLACE:
Marissa Tait wins the "Neighborhood Love Gift Card Assortment"

2ND PLACE:
Helen and Rich Feder win the "Mega Movie & Pizza Night"

3RD PLACE:
Shiri and Josh Friedman win the "Family Fun Game" Basket

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

We reached 100% of our goal. You have 100% of our gratitude.

Our first peer-to-peer fundraiser was a SUCCESS!

- **$20,000 raised by 193 donors.**
- **$9,768.30 raised by 26 donors.**
- **51 participants signed up with nearly all showing up despite the rain.**
- **33% non-Beth Shalom members donated 31% of total.**

A hearty "TODAH RABAH" to the following who did their part and participated their way:

Mindy Shreve: All around Rock Star. You make the magic happen!

Sisterhood and Men's Club: Your sponsorship of the Beth Shalom facemasks and Gourmet Hot Chocolate stand made this a sweet and safe event.

Boaz Frankel: Your promotional talents helped spread the good news.

Board of Trustees: 100% participation – YAY!

Staff who went above and beyond: Tika Bonner, Keith Stewart, Marissa Tait, Michelle Vines, John Williams, Kristin Zappone

OUR FUNDRAISERS

- Judy & Seth Adelson
- Natasha & Ben Berman
- Frayda Cohen
- Helen & Rich Feder
- Sharon & Matt Feinman
- Debby Firestone
- Jordan Fischbach & Yael Silk
- Shiri & Josh Friedman
- Debbie Graver
- Tammy Hepps
- Joe Jolson
- Irene Kaplow & David Held
- Kate & Jia Kim
- Rabbi Jeremy Markiz
- Elisa Recht Martin
- Kate & Ira Rothstein
- Mindy Shreve
- Mara & Paul Svoboda
- Marissa Tait
- Ken Turkewitz
- Liebschutz-Zimmerman Family

OUR BETH SHALOM USY TEAM

- Hannah Adelson
- Ori Cohen
- Shuli Dernis
- Lily Feinman
- Benji Himmel
- Adi Kadosh
- Dalia Kolko
- Elana Kolko
- Jonah Rosenberg
- Abi Zimmerman
- Maya Zimmerman

AND SPECIAL MENTION TO

- Judy Adelson
- Richard Callet
- Dale Caprara
- Ari Chester & Family
- Elegant Edge Catering
- Ira Frank
- Alex Kiderman
- Kate Kim
- Judy Kobell
- Rabbi Jeremy Markiz
- Gail Neft
- Jackie Savage (Pylot Promotions)
- Larry Savitz (Four Seasons Dry Cleaners)
- Pam Stasolla
- Ken Turkewitz
- Amira Walker
- Hilary Yeckel

Your Legacy Gifts...

Legacy Circle Members as of Jan. 2021

Moshe Baran

Dr. Elaine H. Berkowitz

Jack & Bernice Meyers

Ari & May Chester

Bunny Morris

Julian A. Elbling

Jay L. Fingeret

Sharon & Steven Schwartz

Mindy Shreve

Joel Smalley

Sarita & Milt (z"l) Eisner

Gloria Elbling-Gottlieb

Nancy & Gary Tuckfelt

Paul Munro

Nathan & Deborah Firestone

Carl Krasik
Elaine Krasik (z"l)

Barbara & Yale Rosenstein

Gerald Kobell

Bruce & Jane Rollman

Fred & Linda Newman

Ira Frank

Gina Levine

Paul M. Teplitz

David S. Horvitz

Jessica Hammer & Chris Hall

Eva & Gary Friedman

Harvey & Beverly Robins

Shiri & Josh Friedman

Beth Shalom LEGACY CIRCLE

... assure their Jewish tomorrows.

Some of Our Newest Members

Ronan

Nora

Yuri

Gavriel

Asher

Carson

Oliver

Benjamin

Max

Ari

David

Benjamin & Big Sister

Born between 1/2020 & 1/2021

Ethan

Joshua

Kobi