

# Mishpachtenu

**Sivan, Tamuz, Av & Elul 5781**

**June, July & August 2021**

**Volume 23 Issue 4**



Congregation Beth Shalom  
5915 Beacon Street  
Pittsburgh, PA 15217  
412.421.2288  
[www.bethshalompgh.org](http://www.bethshalompgh.org)





## CONGREGATION BETH SHALOM

5915 Beacon Street • Pittsburgh, PA 15217

[www.bethshalompgh.org](http://www.bethshalompgh.org)

412.421.2288

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Robert Gleiberman ..... Executive Director  
Rabbi Jeremy Markiz ..... Director of Derekh & Youth Tefillah  
Rabbi Andy Shugerman ..... Development Director  
Hilary Yeckel ..... Director of the ELC  
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## A Time of Change

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



Our tradition understands that life is transient, that as individuals, our brief span of existence is marked by pleasure and pain, grief and enjoyment, often in close proximity. But in our literature, God is referred to as a “tzur,” a rock, unchanging and unmoveable throughout the ages as humanity is in constant flux. Tzur Yisrael, we chant every morning, kumah be’ezrat Yisrael. Rock of Israel, arise to the aid of your people. For many of us, Beth Shalom possesses a modicum of that Divine stability about it; our stone edifice at the top of Squirrel Hill has survived many decades. Nonetheless, the people within the building change, and so too the character of the congregation. We are currently in a period of great change.

As I write this in mid-April, the United States has just crossed a remarkable threshold: at least 50% of us have received one vaccine dose. I am hopeful that by the time you read this, a significant majority of us will be fully vaccinated, and our gradual re-emergence from more than a year of isolation is gaining momentum.

We are now heading toward 5782, and at least from this vantage point I am confident that this is going to be a better year. You should know that I am already working on my High Holiday sermon series, the theme of which this year will be, “Make it Meaningful!” Please know also that our Coronavirus Task Force is working hard at finding ways for us to gather safely for the High Holidays, and that while we expect that Beth Shalom’s services will continue to be streamed moving forward, we also hope to have appropriate in-person services as well.

Aside from gathering once again after far too many months of separation, there is an air of excitement around the offices of Beth Shalom. Our new

Development Director, Rabbi Andy Shugerman has arrived and is already in place, and our new Executive Director, Robert Gleiberman, is taking the hand-off from Ken Turkewitz just as you receive this issue of Mishpachtenu. We are grateful to Ken for serving twice as long as an interim than we all expected, and for so gracefully handling the chaos of the past year.

And there is also bittersweet news: Rabbi Jeremy Markiz, who has been our Director of Youth Tefillah for five years and Director of Derekh for four, is about to step down from those positions to open a new chapter of his own life. We are thankful for what he has created in his time at Beth Shalom, and of course sad to see him go.

Taken together, that is quite a bit of change, and as I look back over my own six years here at Beth Shalom, I am grateful for all those with whom I have worked and from whom I have learned. I am also looking forward to new relationships, new learning, and new engagement as we all move forward together, seeking meaning and thoughtfully gathering together. May we all go from strength to strength.



## OUR LEADERSHIP

### A Message from Our President

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



Some of you may recall that I had written in the last edition of Mishpachtenu that that article would be my last as Beth Shalom president. Please do not view the following few paragraphs as contradicting the truth of that statement. The fact is that I am honored to have the opportunity to usurp some of our new president's space by writing these words of introduction to the Kopolow presidency.

The Shul has been my number one priority for many years and I'm delighted that our Nominating Committee has recommended that Alan Kopolow be the next president of Congregation Beth Shalom. I have known Alan and his wife, Lois, for many years as friends and have been impressed by their intelligence, personability and sensitivity to the issues confronting Beth Shalom, as well as their commitment to the strength of our Shul. Over the last several years we have served the Shul as officers and have worked very well together. We share the same goals for the future of Congregation Beth Shalom. Alan has been in leadership roles, not only here at Beth Shalom but also in his previous Shul in the Baltimore area. In addition to our appreciation of Alan's intelligence and commitment to the Shul, all of us on the Executive Committee and Board of Trustees have great respect for the financial expertise that Alan brings. In that sense, Beth Shalom continues to have as president someone whose work experience is invaluable to the discharge of his Beth Shalom duties. David Horvitz is a very good lawyer, and I have taught elementary school students, perhaps the most relevant experience of all in dealing with Shul politics. It is my hope that this transition will be as seamless as the transition from David Horvitz to me. I promise that I will try to be as available to you as David was to me. I know that all the members of

the Executive Committee and of the whole Shul join me in expressing their confidence in you and wishing you the best in your new position.

**Debby**

**Alan Kopolow**  
*Incoming President*  
alankopolow@gmail.com



I am both humbled and honored to be able to serve as the new President of Congregation Beth Shalom. Before I begin this first message to the Congregation, I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to Debby, and David Horvitz for their extended terms of service to all of us through very challenging times. Their contributions have been huge. Thank you. Thank you. Several other thanks need to go out as well. First to Kate Rothstein, our most recent past Executive Vice President, for her contributions in successfully finding us our new Executive Director, Robert Gleiberman and Development Director, Rabbi Andy Shugerman. I look forward to working with both of them to move our Congregation forward toward our Strategic Plan goals. One incredibly important thank you goes out to our Interim Executive Director, Ken Turkewitz. Ken stayed with us for two years, something that is rare for an Interim ED. Ken has kept the Shul running, handled operations under the unforeseen pandemic as well as moved our agenda forward and provided great suggestions and guidance. I will miss Ken as a colleague and friend.

My focus will be to move the execution of the Strategic Plan forward, especially the tenet of building financial stability in addition to instilling a renewed culture of welcoming, volunteerism and giving. I believe the new slate of officers and Board members is poised to do great things for CBS and I look forward to leading this very talented group. I, like many of you, am anxious to get back into the building, seeing each other in person and reestablishing our new normal. May we go from strength to strength.

**Alan**



## A Message from our Executive Director

**Robert Gleiberman**  
Executive Director  
ExecDir@bethshalompgh.org



Dear Congregation Beth Shalom,

Thank you for the confidence you have shown by offering me the position as your Executive Director. I am truly honored to follow Ken Turkewitz, and his great work as your Interim Director.

My recent trip, with my wife Lynn, to your wonderful community confirmed the decision to accept the position. From the beginning of the application process all the way through to my acceptance I was in awe of the professionalism, communication skills, and care of your search committee led by Kate Rothstein. Kate was amazing in making sure every detail was taken care of with my interactions with the leadership, staff, and members.

During my two day visit I got the opportunity, while safely socially distancing, to meet individually with amazing lay leaders, congregational members, and professional staff, namely:

Rabbi Seth Adelson, Senior Rabbi; Kate Rothstein, Search Committee Chair; Debby Firestone, President; Adam Kolko, VP Youth; Alan Kopolow, VP Finance; Mindy Shreve, VP Member Engagement; Paul Teplitz, Secretary; Joe Jolson, VP Operations; Fred Newman, Treasurer; Jordan Fischbach, VP Synagogue Life; Ken Turkewitz, Interim ED; Hilary Yeckel, Director of the Early Learning Center; Kristin Zappone, Communication & Marketing Specialist; Marissa Tait, Director of Youth Programming; John Williams, Maintenance Supervisor; Keith Stewart, Security; Michelle Vines, Catering/Events Coordinator; Rabbi Larry Freedman, Director of the Joint Jewish Education Program; Rabbi Jeremy Markiz, Director of Derekh & Youth Tefillah; and Dale Caprara, Controller.

I/we were also treated to a tour of your magnificent facility, led by Steve Hecht, Bunny Morris, and Ken Turkewitz and a tour of Pittsburgh, led by Debby and Nate Firestone. Thank you for the wonderful dinners Saturday and Sunday night as well as great lunches Sunday and Monday. We especially enjoyed our Saturday night dinner as we virtually dined with members Yale & Barbara Rosenstein, Michael & Carol Beth Yoffee, and Fred & Linda Newman. Your hospitality was amazing! I am looking forward to meeting the rest of the lay leadership, staff and members after my May 1 arrival.

Most of 2020 as well as 2021 has been very difficult for us all. It looks like there is some light at the end of the tunnel - hopefully before the end of 2021. I am confident that the leadership of CBS, in conjunction with health experts, will make the decision, as soon as safely possible, for us to start gathering in person. I know we all look so forward to that time. I know I can't wait!

Lynn and I want to express our gratitude and many thanks to everyone for so warmly welcoming us to your wonderful Pittsburgh community. I am so looking forward to getting to know everyone real soon.

All the best,

**Robert Gleiberman**

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### A Fond Farewell

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



On June 14, 2019, the North American Association of Synagogue Executives (NAASE) advertised a need for an Interim Executive Director for Congregation Beth Shalom. Within a few days I applied for the position, and by mid-July I was employed at Beth Shalom as your Interim Executive Director for “six to nine months; maybe a year.”

Needless to say, it stretched longer than a year, and I’m delighted that it did. I have been proud to be part of this wonderful community, and grateful to the leadership for giving me the opportunity to do so.

Working for a synagogue has never been just about a paycheck for me. It’s about improving the lives and experiences of others and about helping to advance the organization. If I’m not providing some improvements, I’m not doing my job.

This congregation has been the most complex one I have worked for so far. With an 88,000 sq. foot building, an aging infrastructure (though truly they all seem to have that), an Early Childhood Center, five tenants, two cemeteries, a healthy staff, an engaged lay leadership, and a host of budget challenges, I certainly wasn’t bored! Throw in a pandemic, a solar panel project, and helping to hire our first ever Development Director and my own successor, and I think the only things I was lacking were my family and sleep.

But with all of this, it is really this community that’s kept me engaged. I am proud and thrilled to have been with Beth Shalom for almost two years. This was always to be only a temporary position for me, but if Carol and I were open to moving, it would likely be a whole different path we would have taken together as I neared the end of that first year. I’m delighted we have found Robert, and that I could help Beth Shalom move to a more permanent arrangement, but my departure is still bittersweet for me.

I have so many people to thank for my time here, from the hiring committee who took a quick chance on me, to the wonderful staff who I worked alongside, to the lay leadership who have partnered with me on so many aspects of running this synagogue, to all of the congregants who welcomed me so warmly. I’d love to call out your names individually to thank each of you, but I know in doing so I’ll end out making this column way too long, and I’ll still give some important people short shrift. Nonetheless, I would like to especially thank two of my partners.

Synagogue President Debby Firestone never intended to serve as long as she has. A four year stretch is a long time when you throw yourself into the job the way Debby has. I kept encouraging her to delegate and make more use of her leadership team and her committees. Among other things, I was afraid that she was setting a standard for operating that would make it too daunting for anyone to want to follow her. But Debby’s tenacity to get everything just right kept her working hard at her position. She got involved with everything and has been a true partner for me in our operations. Debby and I didn’t always agree on everything, but I was never afraid to give my suggestions or air my opinion on a topic, and she was always willing to listen. I’m very thankful for her leadership, partnership, and friendship.

Rabbi Seth Adelson is somehow still upbeat and full of energy even after being the only clergy for a 600-member synagogue. How he can get everything done he needs to is beyond me. When we can squeeze in time to meet together or work through an issue together it’s very valuable time. One of the few advantages of the pandemic is that I have the opportunity on Shabbat to talk with him for a few minutes before and after services (okay, sometimes during services, but I try not to do that too much) in a dedicated manner. Sometimes our conversations are business-oriented, sometimes they’re light-hearted, and sometimes I’m actually asking questions of a religious nature. The time is precious.

And my time overall with Beth Shalom has been precious, as well. It’s only mid-April as I write this, but by the time this issue of Mishpachtenu comes out, I’ll be gone. I hope to have the opportunities to see many of you again. No matter what, though, I take a part of Beth Shalom with me.

**Ken**

## A Message from our Development Director

**Rabbi Andy Shugerman**  
*Development Director*  
 RabbiAndy@bethshalompg.org



I am grateful for this opportunity to introduce myself in writing to the Beth Shalom community. By the time this piece gets published in

*Mishpachtenu*, perhaps some of you will have heard me share in person (and not just over Zoom!) a few of the ideas I will articulate below.

One of the Torah's central stories, that of building the Mishkan (wilderness tabernacle), encompasses so much of how I understand development work as a sacred endeavor for me as a rabbi, educator and fundraising professional. It both illustrates the transformation of our biblical ancestors into a holy nation and serves as a metaphor for how I aspire to accompany learners and donors of all ages as they grow themselves. In the book of Exodus, right after we read about Moses ascending Mount Sinai for forty days and nights, God says, "Make me a sanctuary/holy place (Mikdash) and I will dwell amongst/within them." (Exodus 25:8)

This might seem like a strange command coming from God, who had miraculously split the Reed Sea and uttered the Ten Commandments through a cloud with dramatic sights and sounds. If God wanted a holy place built, why did God not just use these same supernatural powers to build it for them? The Israelites were clearly having a hard enough time surviving in the desert – they are already complaining in Exodus 17 of not having any water to drink! – so why would God command them to get involved in such a complicated building project, especially one with explicitly spiritual and not material ends?

From my perspective, this strange biblical episode strikes me as a brilliant example of divine pedagogy. The Israelites in this story had passively witnessed the miracles of the Exodus and Mount Sinai and are still internalizing these life-altering moments during their first few months as recently freed slaves. What could they do to assimilate these experiences, to take a more active role in

their own development as a people and to start partnering with one another and, moreover, with God?

Perhaps God understood that the people needed to work together on a common goal in order to build relationships with each other and with God. The Mishkan required contributions from every individual member of the Israelite community "whose heart so moves them (Exodus 25:2)." Two medieval Spanish biblical commentators, Ramban and Rabbeinu Bachya, understood this emotional term - what in Yiddish we might call "in di kishkes" - to internalize viscerally what was experienced at Mount Sinai. Each person felt deeply touched, and that is why they contributed materials and effort toward some aspect of this collaborative new project. Collectively their shared commitments encouraged active participation rather than passive acceptance.

This is exactly the kind of transformational culture of giving that I would work to foster at Beth Shalom. As the new school year begins and the New Year of 5782 approaches, I look forward to seeing how our efforts can move each other to build and deepen relationships of lifelong learning and philanthropic commitment. I am excited to hear your stories about how the Beth Shalom community has touched you and your family as we compose together this next chapter in the Book of Life.

**Rabbi Andy Shugerman**

### 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!



## OUR LEADERSHIP

### Thank You, Beth Shalom

**Rabbi Jeremy Markiz**

*Director of Derekh*

*& Youth Tefillah*

jmarkiz@bethshalompgh.org



I'd like to share some reflections from my past five years at Beth Shalom. It's here where I truly became a rabbi. Not just a rabbinic intern, not just receiving the ordination, but the trust and responsibility of being a rabbi.

I remember the first time I sat in the youth lounge on a Shabbat morning waiting for the kids to run up the stairs. I didn't know what I'd find. I discovered, along with some snark, wonderful humans who loved their synagogue. They felt safe and comfortable in its many twisting hallways, the building's always surprising gym on the fourth floor, and mostly, being with each other.

I'm thankful that you trusted me with your children and their Judaism. I've watched them grow in the past five years and they're glorious. I've sang with them, prayed with them, and heard them share gratitude for their friends, their families, and for the community. I've been there when you've named them and when they've stood before the Torah. I've listened to them wrestle over the question of what it means to be Jewish and been awed by their answers.

The investment in me to build Derekh was a chance to live out my core values of access and literacy and it changed my life. All I wanted was to help you find your way into the Tradition. You like learning? Great. Music? Great. Israeli culture? Great. Whatever it was, I wanted you to have it. We held 700+ Derekh programs in the past four years to collectively make your vision for Beth Shalom a reality.

I am thankful to see your passion, energy, and drive. Derekh is a reflection of you. You all made Derekh possible and have made it what it is today.

Together we created concerts, lectures, film showings, speakers, trivia nights, and study sessions. We learned in small groups and we filled the ballroom with learners. We traveled together and built connections across oceans. We have laughed together and we have cried together.

I will never forget holding all of you in my heart after the Shooting, how we cried with joy and sorrow together. Even before we returned to Pittsburgh after we got married, Elana and I sat in the airport outlining all of the ways that we knew we wanted to be there for you. Flying back late Tuesday night and being in minyan on Wednesday morning.

On that first Shabbat, I felt the world on my shoulders. Our leadership had gone to Israel and we were hosting three synagogues, four services, and Shababababa and Shabbat Haverim. I remember standing in the lobby welcoming hundreds as they entered our congregational home.

On that Saturday, I found myself standing on the bimah looking out at you, feeling overwhelmed. I remember looking out at you and telling you that our roots were strong, that our connectedness would make the difference.

But what I remember most from that weekend is what came after services. Some folks had come together to throw us a sheva berakhah in the midst of everything that was happening. Truly our "mourning was turned to dancing" our "sackcloth was turned to joy" like in the Psalms. We did dance, cry, and laugh together that day and I will never forget that.

Beth Shalom community, thank you for the opportunity to grow into a better person, a better rabbi, and a better Pittsburgher (am I allowed to say that yet?).

Your friend and your rabbi,

**Jeremy**



## Growing Through the ELC

**Hilary Yeckel**

*Director of the ELC*

hyeckel@bethshalompgh.org

*Hello Congregants-*



It is hard to believe that our 2020-2021 school year is nearing the end, and soon we will be in the midst of summer camp at Beth Shalom. As I do at the end of every school year, I take time to reflect on the accomplishments, highlights, and lessons that I as the Director experienced throughout the year, and we as a school shared together. This year in particular provided me with many memories and emotions. Upon reflection, I am struck with an overwhelming sense of accomplishment and gratitude. I am proud of our students, parents, educators, and colleagues. I am proud of what we were able to accomplish and do as a community during a pandemic. I am proud that our students walked into our center each day excited and happy to be with us. I am thankful that our educators came to work day in and day out to teach and play with their students. I am thankful that parents trusted us each day during times where trusting each other seemed to feel impossible. Ultimately, I am incredibly proud and happy that we were able to provide the learning environment that the Early Learning Center has been known for over 30 years during a time when childcare was so uncertain.

As always, the spring months in the ELC were filled with time spent outside and fun learning experiences inside. Classrooms celebrated Purim, Israel's Birthday, and many more themes. We were also very excited to welcome Morah Debbey back into our classrooms as we transitioned from virtual music to live in person! We will wrap our academic year by graduating another class of ELC graduates on June 8 and June 10.

We are looking forward to a fun summer with our students and are busy preparing for the 2021-2022 school year.

**Hilary Yeckel**

**Director**

## ELC Calendar

### June - August 2021

**Tuesday, June 8**

Prekindergarten Graduation Part 1 - 6:30 p.m.

**Thursday, June 10**

Last Day of Academic Year

Prekindergarten Graduation Part 2 - 6:30 p.m.

**Friday, June 11**

ELC Closed

**Monday, June 14**

Teacher In-Service Day

**Tuesday, June 15**

Camp Gan Shalom Begins

**Monday, July 12**

Camp Gan Shalom Session 2 Begins

**Monday, August 6**

Camp Gan Shalom Ends

**Monday, August 9 - Friday, August 13**

Teacher In-Service Week

**Monday, August 16**

First Day of 2021-2022 School Year



## OUR LEADERSHIP

### Learning with J-JEP

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



That was quite a year, wasn't it? Having gone online, we found new ways to teach the classics and new things we never would have thought of in a normal year. But now we begin to look forward. I have been participating in the Covid-19 response committees at both synagogues and what I have learned is to plan, be flexible, be ready for changes and always follow the science.

Right now, as adults are becoming vaccinated at an increasing rate and we are growing increasingly confident that vaccinated adults do not transmit to children and children themselves are poor transmitters to other children (data taken from the CDC website page entitled, "Science Brief: Transmission of SARS-CoV-2 in K-12 schools") we look forward to returning J-JEP to in-person learning.

Here are just a few details: Masks still required. We are working on the number of students in a classroom. We are waiting for more data to determine if our Sunday bagels can make a return (right now, best guess, don't get your hopes up). We will have a plan for *tefillah* gathering. Over the summer, we will have a number of opportunities to update parents and all interested adults sharing details. In the meantime, let me know what you feel you need to help you gain confidence in a return to the building.

All this is to say we are so excited to return to the buildings to bring back all the things that help build community and connections. More creativity, more experiential learning, more professional development for the teachers and interesting and

important opportunities for parents to enjoy some of J-JEP as well. The teachers accomplished so much given the restrictions we had. Just wait until you can see when we are in person.

Please keep an eye out in the weekly Beth Shalom emails and JJEP.org for registration information.

J-JEP is there for you offering formal Jewish education in support of Jewish life at home. We are there to help your children gain strength and meaning and guidance from our heritage so that they can make the world a better place and themselves better people. Can't wait to get back after the summer.

**Rabbi Larry Freedman**



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



### Visit Our Cemetery

Cemetery gates open at 8:00 am and 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



## Beth Shalom Youth Zone

### Marissa Tait

Director of Youth Programs  
mtait@bethshalompgh.org



Whether we were outside or virtual, BSUSY safely gathered throughout the 2020-2021 school year as we reimagined yearly programs. New friendships were fostered and old friends grew closer! Mark your calendars for our Welcome Back Extravaganza, August 29, 2021! We can't wait to be together in person more next year!

Adi Kadosh, USY Advisor, after two years of dedication, will be moving to Maryland. I have been consistently impressed with Adi's positive attitude and strong work ethic. She took every opportunity to deeply connect with our teens. Aside from fulfilling her professional responsibilities as youth group advisor and care team patient advocate supervisor, Adi maintained her volunteerism. She has the incredible ability to balance her responsibilities, giving 100% at all times. Simply put, she goes above and beyond. She is diligent, committed, and enthusiastic in all her endeavors, and will make a great contribution to the University of Maryland School of Medicine. Although we do not want to lose her, we cannot think of anyone more deserving and wholeheartedly support her next chapter. We cannot wait until we can call her Doctor.

## Mazal tov Marissa Tait!

Beth Shalom's Youth Department is happy to announce that our Youth Programming Director, Marissa Tait, has received a grant from the Ruth Ganz Education Fund. The fund will be used for youth programming, regional conventions and events for our own USY, Kadima, Atid and Chaverim to enhance and coordinate activities with other Pittsburgh Jewish youth.

This grant was made possible by the generosity of Ruth Ganz Fargotstein, who was a long-standing member and "Honorary President" of Congregation Beth Shalom. As a volunteer, she managed the Book of Remembrance for 28 years, was an amazing proofreader and enjoyed the many educational opportunities provided by our congregation. Ruth regularly attended Shabbat services when she was physically able. She was very devoted and cared deeply for our Shul. Our Beth Shalom youth department is extremely fortunate to be the recipient of Ruth's legacy and love.



*Presenting the 2021-2022*

## BSUSY BOARD

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Beth Shalom USY won four Awards in 2021 for the CRUSY Region

**Best Overall Social Media**  
**Best Overall Increase in Membership**  
**Best Shabbat Experience**  
**Program of the Year**

## BENEI MITZVAH

**Sivon Feinberg** is the daughter of Ayelet and Adam Feinberg, sister of Idan Feinberg and granddaughter of Dorit and Gilad Tal and Ed and Linda Feinberg.



Sivon is in the 7th grade and attends Community Day School. She loves to swim on the Sailfish swim team and to dance. She also enjoys hiking, running, riding on road and mountain bikes, playing piano, and enjoys reading, cooking and baking. She enjoys spending time with friends and also participates in a program, "No Place For Hate", at her school. Sivon will celebrate becoming a bat mitzvah on June 5, 2021.

**Bat Mitzvah: 6/5/2021**

**Niv Zelig Friedman** is the son of Shiri and Josh Friedman, brother to Lital and Arbel, grandson of Rabbi Stephen and Lisa Steindel of Pittsburgh and Michael and Vita Friedman of Surfside Beach, SC.



In eighth grade at Community Day School, Niv loves to make diving plays on the baseball field, find the back of the net in soccer games, block shots on the basketball court and read dystopian novels. He spends his summers at Camp Ramah and will become a bar mitzvah on Aug 28, 2021.

**Bar Mitzvah: 8/28/2021**

## Benei Mitzvah Planning

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

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](https://BethShalomPgh.org/lifelong-learning/benei-mitzvah)**.



Please be in contact with Audrey Glickman, Rabbi's Assistant, at **[RabbiAsst@BethShalomPgh.org](mailto:RabbiAsst@BethShalomPgh.org)**.

## Report from the Religious Services Committee

Since the beginning of the pandemic in March 2020, the Religious Services Committee has continued to meet (over Zoom) and discuss ways in which the Congregation can continue to offer services in these challenging times. Last summer, we held several Shabbat morning services outside, when the weather permitted and the doctors on the COVID-19 Taskforce were confident that conditions were favorable. We continued to offer these services in the early fall through Simhat Torah in October. Recently, we have begun the plan to move to those outdoor services again, though rising infection numbers caused the doctors to advise against outdoor services for Pesah. By the time this notice goes to print, we hope to be back in the parking lot offering services for up to 50 congregants. In addition, the committee recommended the purchase of a tent that would allow the services to take place even in a light rain and would also provide protection from the sun heating up the parking lot. This was a major unbudgeted expense (that was approved by the Board), so donations to pay for the tent are definitely welcome and encouraged. We look forward to seeing everyone in person soon.

**Sheldon Catz,**  
**Chair, Religious Services Committee**



## The Sisterhood Says

**Judy Kornblith Kobell**  
Sisterhood President  
jayeko@msn.com



The sun is shining. The weather is warming up and we at Sisterhood are ready for a new beginning. Although we haven't been able to arrange for in-person meetings, Sisterhood is hoping and planning for the next year. As we get vaccinated and get back to normal, Sisterhood will start to schedule new get-togethers with renewed hope and energy. In the meantime, I miss all of you and look forward to being back together in the near future.

B'vrachot,

**Judy Kornblith Kobell**  
President, Beth Shalom Sisterhood

## The Men's Club

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



The Men's Club would like to welcome both Rabbi Andy Shugerman, the Development Director, and Robert Gleiberman, the incoming Executive Director to Congregation Beth Shalom.



**Ira Frank**

## Men's Club 2021 Sweepstakes

Ticket are available now, at \$50 each!

Weekly Drawings run through November 26, 2021.

Schedule includes Hanukkah 2021 dates.

**16 winners over the 8 days of Hanukkah!**

Help the Men's Club help and support  
Beth Shalom.

Must be paid to win  
Call Ira Frank or Dale Caprara to pay for a ticket.

Contact Ira Frank with questions,  
412-849-2937 or natfabira@juno.com

## 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

## Sisterhood Judaica Shop

### SUMMER SALE!

## All Wedding Gifts 30% OFF

Offer valid June 1 to August 31, 2021.

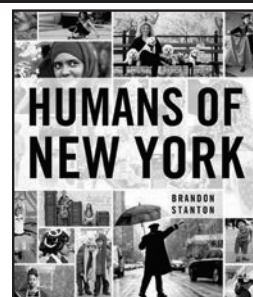
Open by appointment.  
Barbara Kaiserman 412.422.5677



## 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*



## The Fischbach Silks



***Fischbach Silk Family  
at a cabin in the Laurel  
Highlands during  
hol hamo'ed  
(intermediate days of)  
Pesah***

**Name in English and in Hebrew (phonetic).**

**Yael Silk (Yael)**

**Jordan Fischbach (Yarden)**

**Jacob Fischbach (Yaakov)**

**Natanel Fischbach (Natanel)**

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

Ten years! We joined Beth Shalom when we first moved our family to Pittsburgh in 2011.

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

**Yael:** I was born in Pittsfield, MA, and moved three times by the time I was three (Albany, NY to Wooster, MA and then St. Petersburg, FL). After years in West Orange, NJ, I moved to New York City for college where I met Jordan.

**Jordan:** I was born and raised in Denver, CO. Since high school I've lived all across the country: New York City, Boston, a brief stint in Helena, Montana, and 7 years in Los Angeles before moving to Pittsburgh in 2011.

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

We've appreciated regularly participating in and leading Zoom and outdoor services. Jordan continues to volunteer for Beth Shalom and Yael volunteers with Bend the Arc Jewish Action: Pittsburgh. We hosted a Zoom mitzvah for Jacob in March 2021. Finding safe ways to see friends outdoors is always a highlight. Since getting Ella (our COVID puppy) we've met more of our neighbors on the many, many walks we've been taking.

***Continued on page 15***



*Continued from Page 14*

## How and why did you choose Beth Shalom as your Congregational community?

We are deeply committed to egalitarian Jewish practice. Before we moved to Pittsburgh, we attended the Library Minyan in Los Angeles at Temple Beth Am. We appreciated the atmosphere of a warm and engaging lay led service and were looking for something similar here in Pittsburgh. We are very grateful for the number of lay service leaders and leyners [Torah and Haftorah readers] at Beth Shalom and enjoy attending regularly on Shabbatot and haggim [Jewish Holidays].

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

We both choose the period of the Second Temple, but for completely different reasons.

**Yael:** I just have so many questions about the end of the Second Temple period and the development of our oral tradition. How did they think it was going to work out if the temple continued to exist? What was their vision for Judaism and for Jews? What did the rabbis think they were doing? Did they imagine their teachings would be written down? What was motivating their project?

**Jordan:** I would start in the years before 70 CE, to see the Second Temple in its full majesty and to learn more about the religious and political ferment, fractures, and eventual revolt that took place. I would want to see the temple in action, of course, but would also want to experience the everyday lives of Jews in Israel and across the Roman world. Then I would also join Yael at Yavneh. This was such an inflection point for our people and tradition, and I'm always drawn back to the politics, the people, and art and architecture from this relatively short span of years.

## When do you feel the most Jewish? And why?

**Yael:** I feel the most Jewish preparing for and celebrating the chaggim. I appreciate the different

songs we sing, foods we eat, and communal gatherings. Hallel [the Jewish prayer in which Psalms 113 to 118 are recited] is a favorite of mine (especially on Sukkot), though it can be a challenge to get to shul in time for it.

**Jordan:** I feel most Jewish when my voice joins with others in song and prayer. Music is what most fills my heart and singing together makes me feel so deeply connected to our community. I yearn for the time when we can all safely regather and I can once again harmonize on favorite tunes or at the end of Torah Service! Also: matzoh ball soup is a close second.

## What do you like most about being Jewish? (boys)

**Jacob (age 13):** I like getting to be with other people and meet people on Shabbat.

**Natanel (age 9):** Celebrating the haggim!



*Yael and Jordan in Tel Aviv in June 2019.*

## Tell Us YOUR Story!

Contact Elinor Nathanson at  
esnathanson@verizon.net  
to be a part of the growing  
Humans of Beth Shalom project!

# The Smuckler Chows



*Rare photo showing all six members of the Smuckler Family.*

**Name in English and in Hebrew (phonetic).**

**Liz Chow (Ella Sheva Ruth)**  
**Aaron Smuckler (Mayor Shalom)**  
**Benji (formal name: Benjiro) (Binyamin Yehuda)**  
**Kimi (formal name: Kimiko) (Kelilah Emunah)**  
**Sammy (formal name: Samuru) (Shmuel Paz)**  
**Tommy (formal name: Tomio) (Tomer Eliyahu)**

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

**Aaron:** I was born in Albany, NY, and have lived in Syracuse, Rochester, and Pittsburgh.

**Liz:** I was technically born in Seattle, I grew up in Hawaii, and I've lived in Baltimore, Rochester, Seattle, and Pittsburgh.

**Tommy (age 4, who sat in on interview):** I was not born anywhere.

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

We joined in 2007.

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

We have spent more time together as a family during COVID, and we have dinner together which often times we weren't able to do as much before. We're able to have Shabbat dinner together which is nice. We also have been having socially-distanced visits with friends.

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

**Aaron:** All of my grandparents were born in the U.S. — three in Albany, NY, and one in New York City. Their families came over from Eastern Europe in the late 1800s and early 1900s. My grandparents passed down their Ashkenazi traditions through prayer and food. And they passed down some Yiddish words here and there.

*Continued on page 17*



## *Continued from Page 16*

**Liz:** My paternal grandmother was born in New York. My paternal grandfather was born in Hong Kong. He was part of a martial arts Chinese opera troupe, and he actually trained Bruce Lee. He came to New York to perform and ended up becoming a U.S. citizen. He then joined and served in the U.S. Army, met my grandmother, and they got married. On my maternal side, my grandparents were both first generation Japanese Americans born in the U.S. They were born in Hawaii where their families had come to work in the sugar cane fields.

My grandparents' cultures influenced me because I'm a mix of many different cultures — Japanese, Chinese, and Hawaiian. One of the things that's hard for subsequent generations of people who have mixed ethnicities is that you have to kind of forge your own way. Infusing an Asian American cultural identity into our family practice — rather than just Chinese, Japanese or Hawaiian — is really important to me. The foods we eat, holidays we celebrate, words we use, and trips we take all become significant. It is also very important to Aaron and me that our children understand that they are multicultural Jews and Jews are a multicultural, multiracial people.

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

**Aaron:** I would love to see what the first temple looked like in Jerusalem and how it was made.

**Liz:** I'd want to land on the shoulders of Josephus [the first-century Romano-Jewish historian]. He was a Jewish guy who was clearly Hellenistically-leaning, and I'm so fascinated by all of the history he wrote.

**Aaron:** This is a fascinating look at our respective personalities. I'm into architecture and asking, "How did they do that?" And Liz is like, "I like books and reading and reading and books!"

**Liz:** Aaron has never read a book.

**Aaron:** I mean, I've seen a book before. I know what they look like.

### **What food connects you to feeling Jewish?**

**Aaron:** Matzoh ball soup, kugel and bagel/lox/cream cheese.

**Liz:** Brisket and lox. Brisket is actually a big part of Chinese cuisine too, and Hong-Kong style brisket is one of my favorite foods. One of the characteristics of Chinese/Cantonese-style brisket is its grittiness — with Chinese dishes, a lot of thought is given to texture. So I like my brisket really chewy, whereas the quintessential brisket for Aaron is if it's falling apart. And things like gefilte fish aren't unusual to me because it's very normal to me to eat fish cakes. Aaron's family is very much in the Ashkenazi food tradition, and one of my goals is to create an Asian Jewish cuisine where dishes compliment each other — like serving brisket with fried rice.

### **What's one of your favorite things about being Jewish? (kids)**

**Benji, age 12:** One of my favorite things is how Judaism brings people together. I meet a lot of people that I probably wouldn't have met if I wasn't Jewish.

**Kimi, age 9:** My favorite thing about being Jewish is that I get to celebrate different holidays and get to learn about different things on those holidays.

**Sammy, age 7:** Getting to celebrate different holidays with my family.

**Tommy, age 4:** I like singing the songs — like "Let My People Go" at the seder. I got to be Moses this year and sing that part!

## LEGACY CIRCLE

### Legacy Circle

#### Why I made a Legacy Gift to Congregation Beth Shalom



**by Bunny Morris**  
**Legacy Circle Member**

I have been a member of Congregation Beth Shalom for my entire life. I am part of a four-generation family that has been involved in the Synagogue since 1935.

Throughout my life, Beth Shalom was often a second home to me. I became a Bat Mitzvah and was confirmed here. I belonged to Youth groups, was part of the first campers at Camp Ramah as well as taught Sunday school for ten years.

My husband and I joined in the activities of the Shul as soon as we got married. It was here that many life-long friendships were made that still exist today. Throughout these years, I served on numerous committees and activities that resulted in my becoming a Lifetime Board Member.

My two children participated in all of the synagogue's activities with the same love and compassion that my family always had. The Shul was always our social and spiritual organization.

Beth Shalom has produced many outstanding individuals in roles of leadership in both the Jewish and public sector. It is important that Beth Shalom continue on the road that we are now taking.

My hope and prayer are that this beautiful structure on Beacon Street continue to stand as a beacon to Conservative Judaism and the Jewish Community in Pittsburgh.



**Jonah and Olivia Albert**



*Please consider joining Beth Shalom's Legacy Circle by including Beth Shalom in your estate plans as part of the Life & Legacy program. Contact Rabbi Andy Shugerman at [RabbiAndy@BethShalomPgh.org](mailto:RabbiAndy@BethShalomPgh.org) for more information.*

## Reflections on the Beth Shalom Solar Initiative

**Bruce Rollman**

*Co-Chair, Beth Shalom Solar Initiative*

*"Pittsburgh stands with the world and will follow the Paris Agreement."*

-Mayor Bill Peduto



When President Trump pulled the United States out of the Paris Climate Agreement in May 2017, he proclaimed he was elected to represent "the citizens of Pittsburgh, not Paris." That comment received immediate criticism from leaders worldwide, including Mayor Bill Peduto, who defiantly said Pittsburgh would continue to follow the accord.

That same month, I listened to a report on Beth Shalom's finances as a member of our Congregation's Board of Trustees. Beth Shalom was still running an operating deficit despite growth in our membership since Rabbi Adelson's arrival the previous year. Even after cutting expenses to the bone, we still had several large expenses. They included the need to replace the leaking roof atop our Early Learning Center (ELC) (est. >\$100,000), and a \$70,000 annual electric bill. I wondered how could we close our deficit without making painful cuts to services and staff, borrow money, or raise dues.

Sitting in that meeting, I thought about the President's recent remarks and the "assets" Beth Shalom did possess. That was when the solar roof idea first entered my thoughts. If we could install solar panels over our large, flat, sun-drenched ELC roof, it would not only cut our electric bill, but might also motivate environmentally-minded congregants to contribute the funds needed to replace the ELC roof. Moreover, we could leverage these contributions and apply to government programs that address climate change for "matching funds."

I shared the idea with then-executive director Rob Menes, Congregation President Debby Firestone, Rabbi Adelson, Rich Feder, and other members of the Board to get their feedback. Based on initial cost estimates to replace the ELC roof and install

solar, we needed to raise approximately \$250,000. Still, if we could accomplish this "moonshot" then it would signal to our congregants and to the Pittsburgh Jewish community that Beth Shalom remains a vibrant shul that sets and accomplishes ambitious goals.

Over a 10-month period from May 2018 to February 2019, we raised \$102K from our membership and then applied to the Allegheny County Economic Development Office for matching funds. In August 2019 we were awarded a \$125K grant and then began the next phase of the Initiative. Despite the COVID pandemic, we held open bidding events to select our roof and solar contractors and were able to replace the ELC roof last Summer, and install a 56kW solar array this past March. That 140 panel solar array will provide Beth Shalom with clean renewable electricity and decrease our operating expenses by thousands of dollars annually for the estimated 25-year life of the roof. It will also reduce our carbon dioxide emissions by 36 tons annually and help keep tons of smog-creating nitrogen oxides, acid rain generating sulfur-dioxide, and asthma-causing particulates out of our atmosphere.

But wait, there's more!

***Continued on page 20***





## OUR LEADERSHIP

### *Continued from page 19*

The four-year Beth Shalom Solar Initiative has also directly or indirectly led to:

- Replacement of ~1,000 incandescent bulbs with LED lights throughout our building complex;
- Joining the City of Pittsburgh's bulk energy purchasing consortium that lowered the Congregation's cost to purchase electricity;
- Plans to invest income earned through the sale of the Solar Renewable Energy Credits (SREC) generated by our solar array towards new initiatives that will further reduce Beth Shalom's carbon footprint (~63 SRECs; >\$2,000 annually to Beth Shalom at current SREC prices);
- Formation of a "green committee" to promote other environmentally-friendly practices (e.g., recycling, reduction of paper and plastic waste);
- Plans to share with area schools the website that will display real-time data from our solar array on electricity production, greenhouse gases offset, etc. to incorporate into their science curricula; and
- Increased pride in belonging to the Beth Shalom *kehillah* (community) among our members, staff, supporters, and community partners. Indeed, our solar roof is a visible symbol of Beth Shalom's commitment to the environment and positions our Congregation as a regional role model and leader in climate change mitigation.

I would like to thank and acknowledge Rabbi Adelson, Debby Firestone, and Rob Menes for their early and strong support of our Solar Initiative; Allegheny County Executive Rich Fitzgerald who recommended that we apply to the County for matching funds; and Ken Turkewitz for moving the project forward after Rob's departure.

I would also like to thank and acknowledge the other members of our Beth Shalom Solar Initiative Committee for the countless hours and dedication they devoted volunteering their skills and expertise in roofing, construction, engineering, legal contracts, and more that were critical to bring this project to completion: Rich Feder (co-chair), Steve Albert, Mitch Dernis, Micah Jacobs, Joe Jolson, Marc Schwartz, and Howard Wein. In closing, our Beth Shalom Solar Initiative has been a wonderful example of Margaret Mead's quote that "never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed individuals can change the world. In fact, it's the only thing that ever has."

**As of May 7, 2021**

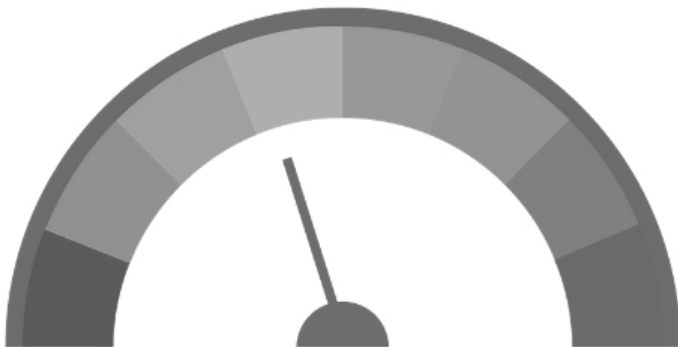
### Environmental Benefits



CO2 Emission Saved  
**6,841.2 lb**



Equivalent Trees Planted  
**51.69**



## Solar Panel Monitoring

To view the dashboard with daily solar updates and more solar initiative project information, go to:  
**[bethshalompgh.org/solar-roof-initiative](http://bethshalompgh.org/solar-roof-initiative)**

# Your Contributions

February 1, 2021 — April 30, 2021

## Beth Shalom Judaica Museum

### *In Memory Of:*

**Dr. Ronald Fibus**

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## Derekh Donations

### *In Memory Of:*

**Dr. Emanuel Krifcher**

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Dorita Krifcher

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Mindy Shreve

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# Your Contributions

February 1, 2021 — April 30, 2021

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### Lois Weisberg

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Carol Lederer  
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Barbara Mandel

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### J. Leonard Frank Early Minyan

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#### *In Memory Of:*

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Ira Frank

#### **Daniel Plaut**

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#### **Pearl Zimmerman**

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Ira Frank

### Franklin Toker

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### Sidney Eichner

Judith Kline  
Samuel Kline

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#### *In Memory Of:*

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Danny Kass & Debby Gillman

### Kiddush Fund

#### *In Memory Of:*

#### **Daniel Plaut**

Frayda Cohen & Arthur Cohen  
Evan & Adrienne Indianer

#### **Marion Kessler**

Frayda Cohen & Arthur Cohen

#### **Dr. Howard Lederer**

Bunny Morris  
Lee & Reva Neiman

#### **James Leib**

Bunny Morris

#### **Leonard Felman**

Lee & Reva Neiman

#### **Richard Dorfzaun**

Lee & Reva Neiman

### Kiddush - Virtual (TENT)

#### *In Memory Of:*

#### **Grace Lyon lenk**

#### **Norman Sindler**

Bunny Morris

### Men's Club

#### *In Memory Of:*

#### **Daniel Plaut**

Alexander & Helen Kiderman

#### **Richard Callet**

Leonor Szlepek & Raquel Szlepek



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**Your Contributions**  
February 1, 2021 — April 30, 2021

**Mildred & Isadore Berkowitz  
Memorial Fund**

***In Appreciation:***

**Dr. Elaine Berkowitz**  
Richard & Rhoda Judd

***In Memory Of:***

**Dr. Howard Lederer**  
Elaine Berkowitz  
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Elaine Berkowitz

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Paul & Jean Reznick  
**David Rascoe**  
Paul & Jean Reznick  
**Grace Lyon Lenk**  
Paul & Jean Reznick  
**Norman Sindler**  
Paul & Jean Reznick

**Preschool Donations 21/22**

***In Honor Of:***

**Brayden Lewinter**  
Cookie Elbling

***Speedy Recovery:***

**Marce Schwartz**  
Cookie Elbling

***In Memory Of:***

**Steve Straus**  
Cookie Elbling  
**Richard Callet**  
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Yvonne & Barry Stein  
**Dr. Howard Lederer**  
Yvonne & Barry Stein  
**Franklin Toker**  
Yvonne & Barry Stein  
**Daniel Plaut**  
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**Preschool Donations 21/22**

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**Micah Jacobs**  
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**Daniel Plaut**  
Christopher Hall & Jessica Hammer  
Samuel & Judith Kayam  
Ernest & Denise Smily  
**Pearl Zimmerman**  
Danny Kass & Debby Gillman  
**Saralee Stein**  
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Jonathan Weinkle & Vita Nemirovsky  
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**Stephen Indianer**  
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Howard & Nicole Valinsky  
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Steven & Cathy Frank  
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**Youth Fund**

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David Plaut & Marlene Behrmann Cohen  
**Grace Lyon Lenk**  
Danny & Neila Bendas  
**Norman Sindler**  
Evan & Adrienne Indianer  
**Richard Callet**  
Alexander & Helen Kiderman  
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Lee & Reva Neiman  
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**Robbie Lazear**  
Ruth Weiss  
**Daniel Plaut**  
Michael & Carol Beth Yoffee  
**Speedy Recovery:**  
**Pearl Zimmerman**  
Evan & Adrienne Indianer

## OUR CONGREGATIONAL FAMILY

# Yahrzeit Donations

*February 1, 2021 — April 30, 2021*

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OUR CONGREGATIONAL FAMILY

# Yahrzeit Donations

*February 1, 2021 — April 30, 2021*

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## OUR CONGREGATIONAL FAMILY

# Yahrzeit Donations

*February 1, 2021 — April 30, 2021*

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Rita Ziman  
Mrs. Saul Zisman  
Rita Zukerman  
Michael & Paula Zunder  
Allan & Ruth Zytnick

## Virtual Kiddush Sponsors

*February 1, 2021 — April 30, 2021*

### February 5, 2021

sponsored by the **Beth Shalom Men's Club** in honor of our youth leading services, and the World Wide Wrap on Sunday.

### February 12, 2021

sponsored by the **Beth Shalom Sisterhood** in honor of **Avi Baran Munro**.

### February 19, 2021

sponsored by **David & Melissa Seldin** in honor of their son **Gabe Seldin** becoming a bar mitzvah.

### February 26, 2021

in honor of **Michelle Vines'** birthday.

### March 5, 2021

sponsored by Anonymous in gratitude to the staff and volunteers who have kept Beth Shalom active during the pandemic over the past year.

### March 12, 2021

sponsored in part by **Yael Silk & Jordan Fischbach** in honor of their son **Jacob Fischbach** becoming a bar mitzvah, and in part by **Marlene Behrmann Cohen & David Plaut** in memory of Marlene's father, **Max Cohen** (Mordechai Chaikel Hakohen ben Shmuel Boruch), whose first yahrzeit is 26 Adar.

### March 26, 2021

sponsored by **Dr. & Mrs. James Tauberg**.

### April 2, 2021

sponsored by **Eva and Gary Friedman** and **Neila and Danny Bendas** in honor of **our children and grandchildren**.

### April 9, 2021

sponsored by **Marlene & Art Silverman** in memory of their mothers, **Kathryn Feinstein** and **Rebecca Glick** and grandmother, **Lillian Alexander**.

### April 23, 2021

sponsored by the **Beth Shalom Men's Club** and the **Congregation**, in honor of **Ken Turkewitz** for his tireless efforts and dedication as our Interim Executive Director.

### April 30, 2021

sponsored by **Zarky Rudavsky**, in memory of his late wife **Laurel Tobias Rudavsky**.

## *Nihum Avelim*

(Comforting Mourners)

*February 1, 2021 — April 30, 2021*

**Anita Smolover** on the passing of her daughter, **Jody Lynn Bach (Lopatin)** on January 30th.

**Rabbi Howie Stein** on the passing of his mother on Monday, February 1st.

**Evan & Adrienne Indianer** on the passing of Evan's brother **Steve Indianer**, on February 1, 2021.

**Clarice Katz** on the passing of her husband **Robert Katz** on Tuesday, February 2nd. Also condolences to daughter **Ann (Michael) McDonough**.

**Anna Adler and family** on the passing of sister-in-law **Pearle Stark**, on February 2, 2021.

**Rocky Schoen & Nancy Bernstein and family** on the passing of Rocky's father **Rabbi Dr. Herman Chaim Schoen**, on Tuesday, February 23, in Los Angeles.

**Marlene Behrmann Cohen & David Plaut and family** on the passing of their son **Daniel Plaut**, on Thursday, February 25.

**Brian Burke** on the passing of his bubbe, **Marion Kessler**, on March 10th.

**Carol Lederer** on the sudden passing of her son **Dr. Howard Lederer** on Thursday, March 11th. Condolences also to aunt and uncle **Jeffrey & Ilene Winn Lederer**.

**Sis Cable** on the passing of her brother, **John Kuhn**, on March 12th.

**Scott Leib & Cindy Goodman-Leib and Elena and Joshua**, on the passing of Scott's father **James Leib** on March 16th.

**Roger & Jane Zimmerman**, on the passing of Roger's mother **Pearl Zimmerman**, on March 18th.

**Friends & Family of Ruben Goldberg**, who passed away on the morning of March 18th.

**Todd & Batia Rascoe and family** on the passing of Todd's brother **David Rascoe** on April 8th.

**Ellen Toker and family** on the passing of her husband **Franklin Toker** on April 19th.

## OUR CONGREGATIONAL FAMILY

### Milestones – *Mazal Tov!*

*February 1, 2021 — April 30, 2021*

**Casey Weiss** on being honored as an alumna community leader by Community Day School at their event on January 30th. Also honored were Bari Weiss, Molly Richter, and Suzy Weiss. Proud parents are **Lou & Amy Weiss**.

**The youth** who are leading the Shabbat morning service on February 6—may they lead many more!

**The members of the Beth Shalom Sisterhood** on another priceless Sisterhood Shabbat.

**Melissa & David Seldin**, on son **Gabriel Seldin** being called to the Torah as a bar mitzvah!

**Yael Silk & Jordan Fischbach**, on son **Jacob Fischbach** being called to the Torah as a bar mitzvah!

**Fern & Alan Steckel** on the engagement of their son **Adam to Lee Ohayon**. Lee's parents are Galit & Morris Ohayon from Haifa, Israel.

**Steve Hecht**, awarded "life membership, for active leadership in recognition of exceptional service" by the North American Association of Synagogue Executives (NAASE).

**Daniel & Julie Lewinter**, on son **Brayden Lewinter** being called to the Torah as a bar mitzvah on Thursday, March 18, 2021, at Morning Minyan.

**Lauren & Aaron Ruben**, on the birth of a daughter, **Elinor Rae Ruben**, on March 20, 2021, at 9:37 p.m., weighing 6 lbs., 8 oz.

**Jordan Fischbach** on his new position with The Water Institute of the Gulf, as Director of Planning and Policy Research.

**Mara & Paul Svoboda**, on daughter **Sylvia Svoboda** being called to the Torah as a bat mitzvah!

**Cheryl Blumenfeld, Harold Blumenfeld and Sheryl Riddle**, on the engagement of their son **Brandon Michael Blumenfeld** to **Cassandra Maria Malis**, to be wed in late October. Brandon is the owner and founder of The Little Tailor, LLC, which manufactures and distributes krepalach.

### Virtual Third Meal Sponsors

*February 1, 2021 — April 30, 2021*

#### February 5, 2021

sponsored by **Huvvy & Meyer Simon**, "in memory of loved ones."

#### February 12, 2021

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

#### February 19, 2021

sponsored by **Rhoda & Richard Judd** in memory of beloved parents: **Sarah and Jacob Marks** and **Lillian Judd Grobstein** and **Sidney Judd**.

#### February 26, 2021

sponsored by **Diane Silberg**, in loving memory of her sister, **Gail Silberg**, and also in loving memory of sister, aunt and daughter **Phyllis Kirshenbaum**.

#### March 5, 2021

sponsored by **Ken Turkewitz**, celebrating his birthday, 22 Adar. Happy Birthday Ken!

#### March 12, 2021

sponsored by **David & Teddi Horvitz, Bruce & Deborah Horvitz, and Mark & Rhonda Horvitz**, in memory of their mother, **Esther Horvitz**.

#### March 19, 2021

sponsored by **Susan & David Topolsky** in memory of their parents, **Yetta & Morris Topolsky** and also **Edith & Ted Helfand**, and our brothers, **Boris Tarpell & Jeffrey Helfand**.

#### April 2, 2021

sponsored by **Gil Schneider** in memory of Gil's grandparents **Isadore (Ezriel ben Feival) & Rose (Risa bat Yaakov Zvi) Schneider**.

#### April 9, 2021

sponsored by **Rick & Shari Sweet** in memory of their parents, **Melvin & Shirley Sweet** and **Harry & Rose Nathenson**.

#### April 16, 2021

sponsored by **Simone & Dan Rubin and children** in memory of our fathers/grandfathers, **Michel Sidorow** and **Abraham Rubin**.

#### April 23, 2021

sponsored by **Simone & Dan Rubin and children**, in memory of their fathers/grandfathers, **Abraham Rubin** and **Michel Sidorow**.

#### April 30, 2021

sponsored by **Yale & Barbara Rosenstein** in memory of their parents **Thomas & Anna Rosenstein** and **Adolph & Adele Freed**.



## 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.

**Youth Member of the Year Award** recognizes a youth who epitomizes volunteerism and leadership within Beth Shalom and the larger Jewish community.

**Staff Member of the Year Award** honors a staff member who demonstrates leadership, agility and willingness to go above and beyond for Congregation Beth Shalom and the Greater Pittsburgh community.

Please submit nominations to our Receptionist, Tika at x114 or via email at [receptionist@bethshalompgh.org](mailto:receptionist@bethshalompgh.org).

## Yellow Candle Sponsors

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Elinor & Nathan Young  
Boris Yurovsk  
Robert Zaremborg  
Elinor & Sanford Zaremborg  
Allan Zytnick

## SAVE THE DATE!

### Volunteer Awards Brunch

Sunday, October 10, 2021

Don't forget to submit  
your nominations.

# STAFF DIRECTORY

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

## Our Leadership



**Alan Kopolow**  
*President*  
614-738-0329  
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**Robert Gleiberman**  
*Executive Director*  
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**Development**  
**Rabbi Andy Shugerman**  
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*Senior Rabbi*  
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**Audrey Glickman**  
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**Derekh**  
**Rabbi Jeremy Markiz**  
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**Youth Resources**  
**Marissa Tait**  
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**Rabbi Larry Freedman**  
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**Kate Kim**  
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**Hilary Yeckel**  
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**Pamela Stasolla**  
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## Administrative Services

**Dale Caprara**  
*Controller*  
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**Amira Walker**  
*Bookkeeper*  
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**Michelle Vines**  
*Events Coordinator*  
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**Lonnie Wolf**  
*Cemetery Director*  
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**Kristin Zappone**  
*Marketing & Communications Specialist*  
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**Tika Bonner**  
*Receptionist*  
412.421.2288 x114  
receptionist@bethshalompgh.org



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

**SAVE THE DATE!**

*Ice Cream Social*



**Saturday, August 22**

**2 pm - 4 pm**

**Congregation Beth Shalom**

**Rear Parking Lot**

**Registration Required.**



# **Solar Roof Initiative**

## **Thank you to all of our donors.**



**For more information and the list of donors, go to:  
[www.bethshalompgh.org/solar-roof-initiative](http://www.bethshalompgh.org/solar-roof-initiative)**