



Congregation Beth Shalom's

*Annual Volunteer
Awards Brunch*

Sunday, March 26, 2023

Honoring

Robert Garvin

Joseph Jolson

Dalia Kolko

Adam Resnick

Gerri Sperling

Maya Zimmerman

and

Introducing the

Daniel M. Plaut Youth Service Award





Todah Rabbah to Our Honorees

A simple thank you does not begin to express our deep appreciation for your many years of service and the countless hours spent dedicated to Congregation Beth Shalom and the greater Pittsburgh Jewish community.

Our congregational family salutes you all for your dedication, leadership, and commitment. You promote the values of Judaism and *tikkun olam* in our daily lives. We are fortunate to have members such as you, who are the pillars of our congregation, and who set an example for future leaders. You are truly cherished here.

May you continue to go from strength to strength as you join an esteemed circle of past honorees recorded in our Synagogue's history.

Kol Hakavod and Mazal Tov from the Executive Committee!

Alan Kopolow, *President*

Paul Teplitz, *Executive Vice President*

Roger Zimmerman, *Vice President of Finance*

Joseph Jolson, *Vice President of Operations*

Mindy Shreve, *Vice President of Member Engagement*

Jordan Fischbach, *Vice President of Synagogue Life*

Adam Kolko, *Vice President of Youth*

Fred Newman, *Treasurer*

Alan Himmel, *Secretary*

Debby Firestone, *Immediate Past President*





From our Event Co-Chairs Linda Safyan Holber & Mindy Shreve

We wish to congratulate and thank this year's honorees for their good work, good service and dedication to our synagogue and to our community. Thank you for all you give and for allowing us to come together today and recognize your commitment and your contribution.

On behalf of the entire congregation, clergy and staff, we extend the deepest of sympathies to the Plaut Family. Daniel is missed beyond words and there are no words to convey the depth of our sorrow. Our hearts, thoughts and prayers are with dear Daniel's family here and his extended family everywhere. We are grateful that you have allowed us to honor his memory with the youth service award, capture his kindness, his care and his thoughtfulness and promote the good for which he will always stand.

To our sponsors, we extend a heartfelt thank you for your generosity and commitment and for making this event possible. And we thank everyone here with us today; we are so happy to be back in person! May we always be together for happy occasions!

Thank you to our hard-working Beth Shalom Executive Director and staff who helped with this brunch. We want to give a special shout-out to our very talented Communications Director Kristin Zappone for her incredible work on the invitation and event materials and for her patience, expertise and devotion to beautiful graphic design. Thank you Tika Bonner for creating the lovely event signage and cheerfully folding and stuffing lots of invitations!

Special thanks to Lendable Linens for their generosity and to our beloved Michelle Vines for her continued event guidance and support.

We wish everyone a peaceful, joyous Pesah and we thank you for being here to support today's honorees and our Annual Volunteer Awards.





Thank You to Our Sponsors

Celebration Sponsor

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Double Hai

Gilda Arroyo
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Jewish Cemetery & Burial Association
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Judy & Gerald Kobell
Rachel Krasnow
Sarah Liebschutz & Marshall Lesser

Elisa Recht Marlin
Gail Neft
Robin & Ron Reinfeld
Audrey Silverman
Nathan Young

Donations

Helen Eaton

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Program

Welcome

Sandy Zarembeg

Anthems

Lisa Steindel

D'var Torah

Rabbi Seth Adelson

Executive Committee Message

Paul Teplitz

Hamotzi

Elana Kolko & Abigail Zimmerman

Buffet

Presentations

Pittsburgh Jewish Chronicle Volunteer of the Year Award

Presented to: Joseph Jolson

Introduced by: Sabina Robinson

Ethel & Bernard Halpern Young Leadership Award

Presented to: Adam Resnick

Introduced by: Rebecca Elhassid

Nathan E. Snader Distinguished Service Award

Presented to: Gerri Sperling

Introduced by: Debby Firestone

Lester A. Hamburg Member of the Year Award

Presented to: Robert Garvin

Introduced by: Robbie Zarembeg

Introduction of the Daniel M. Plaut Youth Service Award

Linda Safyan Holber

Presented to: Maya Zimmerman

Introduced by: Marissa Tait

Presented to: Dalia Kolko

Introduced by: Ira Rothstein

Closing Remarks

Sandy Zarembeg

Birkat Hamazon

Dalia Kolko & Maya Zimmerman



Hatikvah

כל עוד בלבב פנימה
נפש יהודי הומיה,
ולפאתי מזרח, קדימה,
עין לציון צופיה,
עוד לא אבדה תקותנו,
התקוה בת שנות אלפים,
להיות עם חפשי בארצנו,
ארץ ציון וירושלים.

*Kol od balevav penimah
Nefesh Yehudi homiyah
Ulfa'atey mizrah kadimah
Ayin leTzion tzofiyah.*

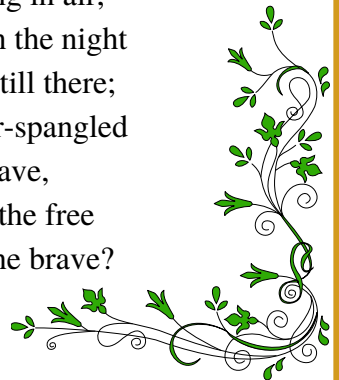
*Od lo avdah tikvatenu
Hatikvah bat shenot alpayim:
Lihyot am hofshi be'artzenu
Eretz Tziyon viYerushalayim.*

As long as the Jewish spirit is yearning deep in the heart,
With eyes turned toward the East, looking toward Zion,
Then our hope will not be lost — the two-thousand-year-old hope —
To be a free people in our land,
The land of Zion and Jerusalem.

Star Spangled Banner

O say can you see
by the dawn's early light,
What so proudly we hailed
at the twilight's last gleaming,
Whose broad stripes and bright stars
through the perilous fight,
O'er the ramparts we watched,
were so gallantly streaming?

And the rockets' red glare,
the bombs bursting in air,
Gave proof through the night
that our flag was still there;
O say does that star-spangled
banner yet wave,
O'er the land of the free
and the home of the brave?





Lester A. Hamburg Member of the Year Award

Honors a member who embodies volunteerism, leadership and a long history of participation within the congregation. The candidate must be a member of Congregation Beth Shalom in good standing.

Nathan E. Snader Distinguished Service Award

Rewards a member who has demonstrated exemplary service and dedication to Congregation Beth Shalom and the larger Jewish community.

Ethel & Bernard Halpern Young Leadership Award


Recognizes a young leader in our congregational family who has set an example of volunteerism and decision-making.

Pittsburgh Jewish Chronicle Volunteers of the Year Award

Celebrates a member of whose devotion and involvement has positively impacted Congregation Beth Shalom and Pittsburgh's Jewish community.

Daniel M. Plaut Youth Service Award

Recognizes a youth who epitomizes volunteerism and leadership within Congregation Beth Shalom and the larger Jewish community.





Introducing

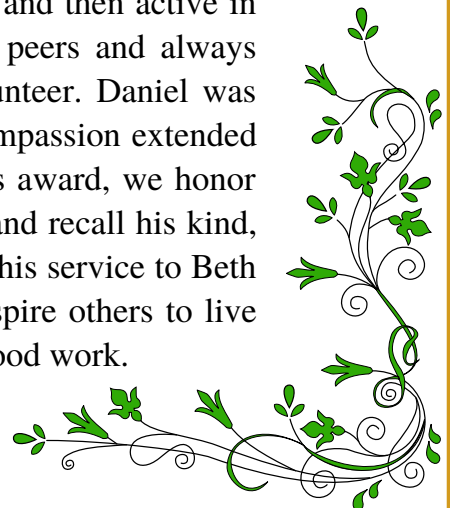
Daniel M. Plaut

Youth Service Award



We Remember Daniel (z"l)

Our congregation remembers Daniel, beloved son of Marlene Behrmann Cohen and David Plaut and Benjamin's dear brother, from the youngest age, so sweet and polite. We watched Daniel grow to be a gifted and learned Bar Mitzvah and then active in our Youth Department, a role model to his peers and always eager to lend a hand, help a friend and volunteer. Daniel was committed to repairing the world, and his compassion extended to the planet and all its inhabitants. With this award, we honor Daniel's loving spirit, the good he stood for and recall his kind, caring heart, his gentle, thoughtful ways, and his service to Beth Shalom and the world. We hope this will inspire others to live the values Daniel stood for and carry on his good work.





From the Family of Daniel M. Plaut (z"l)

To everyone at Beth Shalom,

We are profoundly grateful to you for naming the Beth Shalom Youth Service Award the “Daniel M. Plaut Youth Service Award” in memory of our deeply beloved son, Daniel Matthew Plaut. Daniel grew up at Beth Shalom and our family attended very regularly on Shabbat and all the chagim. Daniel played in the child care rooms, and then attended kiddie minyan held in the Library. He went on to the youth service, had a bar mitzvah at the shul and davened and layned beautifully. Daniel was a member of Beth Shalom USY, was in charge of a table of games at Purim over multiple years, participated in numerous events, and attended kinnus both locally and in other cities. Daniel felt totally at home in the shul and knew the nooks and crannies. He was a sensitive and compassionate individual with a special kindness for those who needed a little extra care. Our loss is immeasurable but knowing that his memory will live on through this service award and that the recipients may come to know his story and his commitment to Beth Shalom and Judaism offer us a measure of comfort. Thank you. We are very grateful.

Marlene, David and Benjamin





Lester A. Hamburg Member of the Year Award

Robert J. Garvin

Robert J. Garvin has been a member of Beth Shalom since his parents joined the Congregation in 1968. From there, Bob attended Hebrew and Sunday School along with Saturday morning Jr. Congregation services. He celebrated his Bar Mitzvah and Confirmation at the shul.

He is a proud member of the prestigious Allderdice class of 1976 and a graduate of the University of Pittsburgh and Duquesne University School of Law. Over the course of the last 30 years, he has been a member of the Beth Shalom Board of Trustees and has served on the Constitutional and Bylaws Committee. He has been a member or the chair of the Nominating Committee on three occasions. He also chaired a Committee that was responsible for negotiating Rabbi Adelson's second contract with the Congregation. In addition, he represented the Congregation in 2015 when the ownership and maintenance of the Homestead Hebrew Cemetery was transferred to Beth Shalom.



Bob and his wife Ellen were married at Beth Shalom by Rabbis Goldblum and Steindel. Their children Michael and Gayle Garvin celebrated their bar and bat mitzvahs here. Since 2008, Bob has been a proud participant in the 6:30 A.M. early Saturday morning Shabbat service where he observes Shabbat with those regulars who attend.

Outside of Beth Shalom, Bob is legal counsel to the Jewish Cemetery and Burial Association of Greater Pittsburgh which is an organization that he was introduced to by David Rosenbloom (z"l) and Jonathan Schachter (z"l), both of whom were regular participants in minyans and the early Saturday morning service.

Bob is the co-managing partner of the Pittsburgh law firm of Goldberg, Kamin & Garvin LLP. Bob is the Solicitor of South Fayette Township and the Boroughs of Ingram and Braddock Hills. He has served numerous other communities as their Solicitor or special counsel during his legal career. He is the husband of Ellen Silverman Garvin and the very proud parent of Michael Garvin (spouse Leslie) and Gayle Garvin. Bob is honored to be the recipient of the Lester A. Hamburg Member of the Year Award.





Lester A. Hamburg Member of the Year Award

Past Honorees

Micah Jacobs	2021	Yale Rosenstein*	2002
Steven M. Albert	2021	Arnold H. Lazarus*	2001
Daniel Kass	2021	David Graff*	2000
Jane Liebschutz	2021	Ethel Helfant Feldman*	1999
Jonathan Weinkle	2021	Milton Eisner* & Harriet Kruman	1998
Helen and Richard Feder	2020		
Bruce Rollman	2019		
Lisa Steindel	2018		
Mindy J. Shreve	2017		
Ronna and Dan Askin	2016		
Nancy Zionts	2015		
Stephen Neustein	2014		
Dorita Krifcher	2013		
Judy Kornblith Kobell	2012		
Julian Elbling	2011		
Marlene Behrmann Cohen	2010		
Paul Shapiro and Michael Samuels	2009		
Natalie Rosenbloom*	2008		
Gerald Kobell	2007		
Harvey Robins	2006		
Sanford Zaremberg	2005		
Shirley Zionts*	2004		
Norma Kirkell Sobel*	2003		

*Of Blessed Memory





Nathan E. Snader Distinguished Service Award

Gerri Sperling

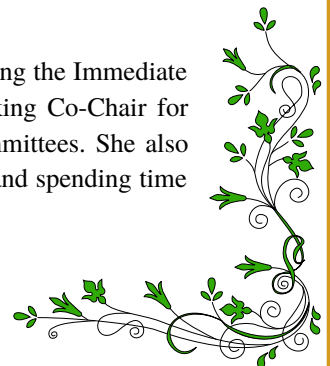
Gerri L. Sperling serves as Counsel at the law firm of Strassburger McKenna Gutnick and Gefsky. She has over thirty years of experience in her diverse practice areas, including health law, employer-employee relations and adoptions, guardianship and surrogacy.

Gerri's vast background in health law includes assisting health insurers, hospitals, and other healthcare providers in drafting and reviewing employment, service and vendor contracts, advising on regulatory matters, and litigating provider and coverage disputes in federal and state courts.

Her employment law experience includes drafting and implementing personnel policies; drafting and reviewing restrictive covenant and other employment agreements; reviewing severance packages and executive compensation packages for employees; preparing severance agreements on behalf of employers; representing employers in defending discrimination claims and wage and hour claims, and most importantly, advising clients how to avoid those claims in the first instance.

Gerri gains her greatest fulfillment helping individuals become families through her work in adoption, guardianship and surrogacy. She has handled over 900 adoption cases, including domestic, international, and stepparent adoptions. Her experience as an adoptive parent informs her adoption practice; knowing what her clients are experiencing gives her invaluable insight into the process.

Outside of work, Gerri volunteers her time in the Jewish community including being the Immediate Past President of The Branch, formerly JRS, serves as a Trustee and Grantmaking Co-Chair for Jewish Women's Foundation, and on Beth Shalom and NCJW's Personnel Committees. She also enjoys reading, cooking, yoga, studying French, following the Pittsburgh Pirates and spending time with her husband (David), daughter (Elana) and Havanese dog.





Nathan E. Snader

Distinguished Service Award

Past Honorees

Elisa Recht Marlin	2021	Irving Elbling*	1997
Todd Rascoe*	2020	Ruth Ganz Fargotstein*	1996
Ira Frank	2019	Sarita Eisner	1995
Judith Kadosh	2018	Bernice Elinoff*	1994
Lidush Goldschmidt	2017	Ruth Foreman*	1993
Dee Selekmán	2016	Jules Kruman*	1992
Sheldon Catz	2015	Chelle Rosenfeld*	1991
Gerald Kobell	2014	Ida Rubenstein*	1990
Moshe Baran	2013	Milton Weiss*	1989
Ann Gould*.....	2012	Sidney Blitz*	1988
Helen Feder	2011	Ruth Zarembeg*	1987
Sondra Izenson Glasser	2010	Isadore Berkowitz*	1986
Jan Levinson.....	2009	Ernest Nachman*	1985
Ruth Fauman-Fichman	2008	David Lichter*	1984
Dorothy Greenfield	2007		
Bernice Meyers	2006		
Ellen Gordon Spatt*	2005		
Stanley Maharam	2004		
Marlene Silverman	2003		
Gloria Elbling Gottlieb	2002		
Alex Kiderman	2001		
Bunny Morris	2000		
Ida Bluestone*	1999		
Sophie Goldman*	1998		

*Of Blessed Memory





Ethel & Bernard Halpern Young Leadership Award

Adam Resnick

Adam and his family Michelle, Asher and Judah have lived in Squirrel Hill for the past 9 ½ years.

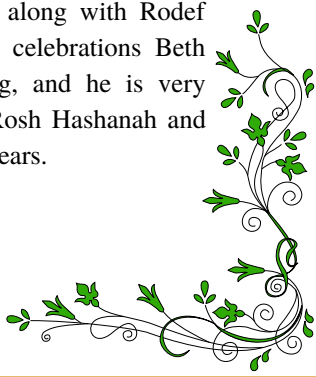
Adam has served on the board of trustees for the last two years, and has agreed to be on the slate to join the board again for another two-year term. Adam has been active on the Finance Committee, J-JEP Committee, and ELC Committee.

Adam works professionally as a researcher at the RAND Corporation, where he leads projects about national security, infrastructure resilience, and disaster recovery. Adam also enjoys teaching. This spring he is teaching management science to masters degree students at CMU.



Adam enjoyed very much having opportunities to participate in Jewish activities in Madison, Wisconsin where he grew up. Adam and his family were members of the conservative synagogue in Madison, Beth Israel Center. Adam attended Jewish summer camps at Olin-Sang-Ruby in Oconomowoc, Wisconsin, and Camp Ramah in Conover, Wisconsin. Adam was president of his USY chapter, which is awesomely named MOUSY, Madison's Only USY.

Adam is grateful for the fantastic J-JEP program that Beth Shalom runs along with Rodef Shalom. Adam is grateful for Shababababa, and all the amazing festival celebrations Beth Shalom offers for kids. The Purim and Hanukkah carnivals are amazing, and he is very appreciative of the Beth Shalom USY kids who lead youth programs on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. Watch out USY kids, Asher and Judah are coming in a couple years.





Ethel & Bernard Halpern Young Leadership Award

Past Honorees

Ilanit Helfand.....	2021	Robert Rubinoff	1999
Jessica Hammer	2020	Barbara Oleinick	1998
Shoshanna Barnett	2019	Lois Kopolow	1997
Kate Rothstein.....	2018	Stanley Maharam	1996
Chris Hall	2017	Ira Frank	1995
Jennifer Murtazashvili	2016	Neila Bendas	1994
Debby Gillman	2015	Ann Davis	1993
Aviva Lubowsky	2014	Shelly Sher	1992
Dana Himmel	2013	Sanford Zaremborg	1991
Steve P. Albert	2012	Steven and Lynn Hecht	1990
Joel Greenhouse	2011	Steven Cohen	1989
Jonathan Weinkle	2010	Elinor Zaremborg	1988
Judith Kadosh	2009	Carol Lederer	1987
Nancy Zionts	2008	Natalie Rosenbloom*	1986
Lisa Schlar	2007	Reva Neiman	1985
Steven Berger	2006	Leslie Itskowitz	1984
Carol Beth Yoffee	2005	David Rosenbloom*	1983
Anna Wecht	2004	Iris and Edwin Smith	1982
Sharon Dobkin	2003	Robert Morrow	1981
Louis Plung	2002	Nadine Sales	1980
Peggy Kundin	2001	Judy Palkovitz.....	1979
Sally Levenson	2001	Arthur Sales	1978
Elaine Beck	2000	Lonnie Wolf	1977

*Of Blessed Memory





Pittsburgh Jewish Chronicle Volunteer of the Year Award

Joseph Jolson

Joseph Jolson moved to Pittsburgh in 1992, with his wife, (Sabina), son, (Michael), and daughter, (Ilana). Michael lives in Squirrel Hill with his wife, (Shoshanna), and their children (Ariel, Meital, and Gavriel). They are regular attendees at CBS. Ilana lives in Rockville with her husband (Daniel), and their children (Jordan and Reyna). They are regular attendees at B'nai Israel. Recently, Barbara and Philip Barnett, Shoshanna's parents, moved to Pittsburgh and quickly integrated into CBS's family and the local Jewish community.

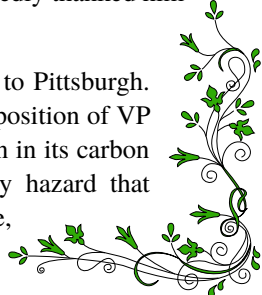
After receiving his Ph.D. in Analytical Chemistry, Joe led teams for the Mine Safety Appliances Company (MSA) in Baltimore that developed implantable batteries and gas detection equipment. One morning, he was surprised to find that a pacemaker with a battery designed by one of his teams was implanted in his mother-in-law's chest.



For eight years, after MSA's Baltimore unit was merged into the Instrument Division, he commuted from Squirrel Hill to Cranberry Township. In 2000, he became technical director of the CSE Corporation in Monroeville. The rescue of nine coal miners trapped underground at the Quecreek cave was accelerated after gas detection equipment designed by another team he led indicated that the air in the shaft they were trapped in was breathable. In 2005, Joe started Custom Client Solutions. In this capacity, he helped plaintiffs injured by defective products. He enjoys saying that he started the great resignation by retiring in March of 2019.

For years, Joe was active in the American Chemical Society (ACS), the ACS - Pittsburgh Section, and the Society for Analytical Chemists of Pittsburgh. He was a member of the ACS's board of directors, an officer of the ACS - Pittsburgh Section, an ACS career counselor, and the coordinator of the Job Searching Workshop for Chemical Professionals. At professional society meetings, chemists repeatedly thanked him for providing information that helped them land their dream job.

Joe has attended CBS's Saturday morning services and annual meetings since moving to Pittsburgh. He has been a continuous member of CBS's board of trustees since 2013 and holds the position of VP of Operations. In this role, he is responsible for upgrades to CBS's facility and reduction in its carbon footprint. He spearheaded the cornice replacement project that eliminated the safety hazard that surrounded the sanctuary building. He serves on the finance committee, house committee, budget subcommittee, and investment subcommittee. He was the driving force behind CBS's Journey of the Spirit trip to Israel.





Pittsburgh Jewish Chronicle Volunteer of the Year Award

Past Honorees

David Horvitz	2021	Lynne Robins*	1999
Jonathan Weinkle	2020	George Stern*	1998
Adam Kolko	2019	Ruth Foreman*	1997
Tammy A. Hepps	2018	Arnold Huttner*	1996
Steven M. Albert	2017	Ruth Ganz Fargotstein*	1995
Joel Smalley	2016	Judy Palkovitz	1994
Danny Rosen	2015		
Bruce Rollman	2014		
Ronna Harris Askin	2013		
Robert Katz*	2012		
Elinor Young	2011		
Cindy Goodman-Leib	2010		
Lea E. Davidson*	2009		
Sharon Schwartz	2008		
Stephen Moritz	2007		
Howard Valinsky	2006		
Gary Goldberg	2005		
Alan Kopolow	2004		
Stephen Neustein	2003		
Sandy Oker	2002		
Jean Reznick	2001		
Alex Kiderman	2000		

*Of Blessed Memory





Daniel M. Plaut Youth Service Award

Maya Zimmerman

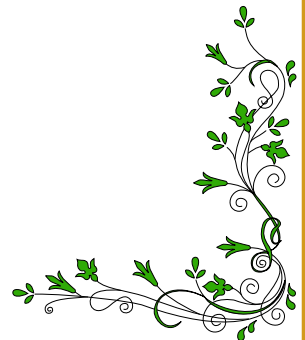
Maya Zimmerman moved to Pittsburgh from Boston in 2017. She attended Community Day School for seventh and eighth grade and is currently a senior at Pittsburgh Allderdice High School. She is involved in her school's debate team, an active member of the Friendship Circle, and leads the Jewish Student Union at Allderdice.

After she and her family joined Congregation Beth Shalom, she quickly became involved in USY and has served on the board since freshman year. Her first year she served as the communications director, then she oversaw social action initiatives and programming, and junior year she was able to

lead the chapter as President. Having gained so much fulfillment from her local USY board, she ran for regional board and is now approaching the end of her term as CRUSY's Social Action and Tikkun Olam Vice President.

In her free time, Maya enjoys cooking vegan food and baked-goods, listening to podcasts, reading, and walking her dog.

She is grateful to be one of the first recipients of the Daniel M. Plaut Youth Service Award and to honor Daniel's (z"l) legacy.





Daniel M. Plaut Youth Service Award

Dalia Kolko

Dalia Kolko is a 12th grader at Pittsburgh Allderdice High School and has been a member of Congregation Beth Shalom her whole life. She had her baby naming and her Bat Mitzvah there. She now serves as the president of Beth Shalom United Synagogue Youth (BSUSY). At first, she served as the Communications Vice President for two consecutive years and then was the Membership and outreach coordinator. Dalia is also an active member of Friendship Circle and a co-president of the Jewish Student Union at her school.



Past Honorees

- Ori Cohen 2021
- Benji Himmel 2020
- Elana Kolko 2020





Beth Shalom Volunteer Awards Brunch

*Thank you
for celebrating
with us!*

Rabbi Seth Adelson
Senior Rabbi

Robert Gleiberman
Executive Director

Congregation Beth Shalom
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