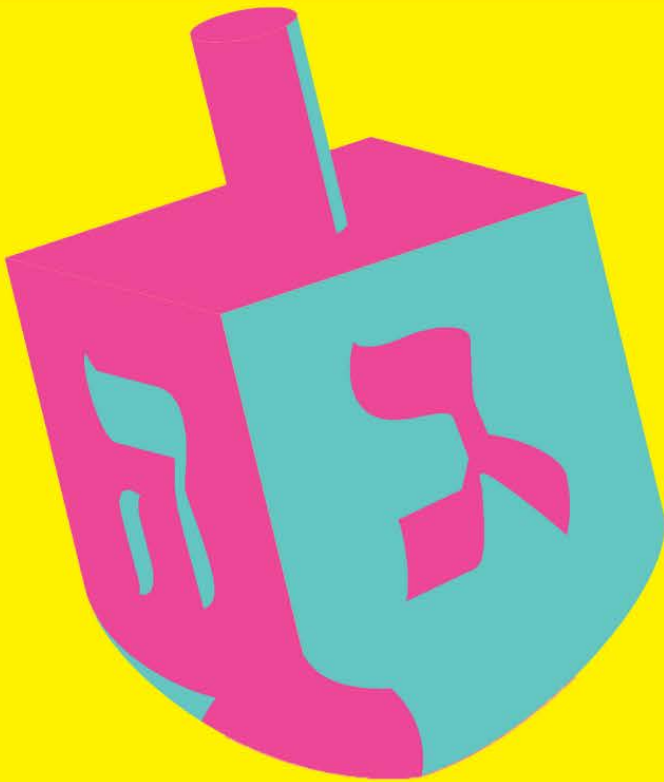
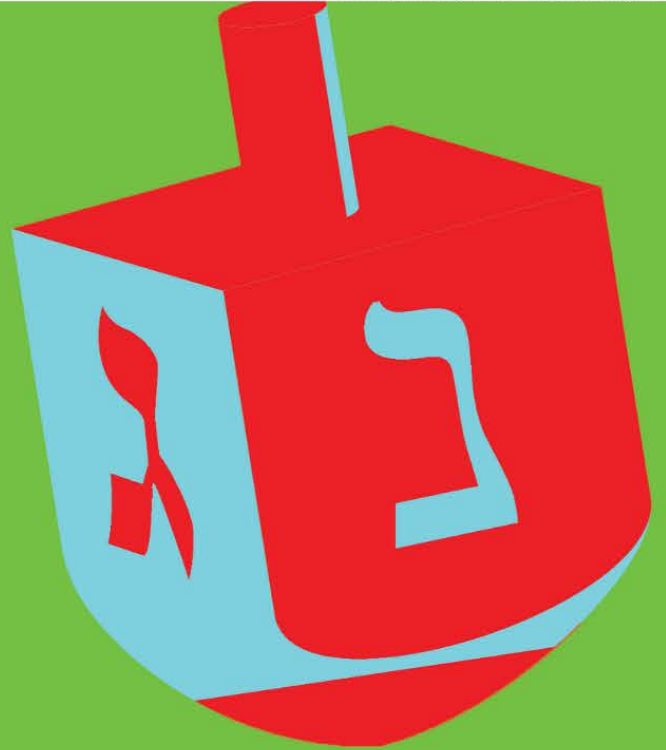


Mishpachtenu

Kislev, Tevet, Shevat, & Adar 5785
December 2024, January & February 2025
Volume 27 Issue 2



Congregation Beth Shalom
5915 Beacon Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15217
412-421-2288
www.bethshalompgh.org

IN THE KNOW



CONGREGATION BETH SHALOM

5915 Beacon Street • Pittsburgh, PA 15217
www.bethshalompgh.org
 412.421.2288

Clergy

Rabbi Seth Adelson Senior Rabbi
 Rabbi Mark Asher Goodman Associate Rabbi

Lead Staff

Robert Gleiberman Executive Director
 Dale Caprara Controller
 Rabbi Andy Shugerman Development Director
 Rabbi Larry Freedman J-JEP Director
 Hilary Yeckel Director of the ELC
 Marissa Tait Director of Youth Programs
 Michael Smrek Cemetery Director
 Shari Rapowitz Woldenberg Derekh Coordinator

Board of Trustees

Executive Committee

Paul Teplitz President
 Alex Kiderman Executive Vice President
 Roger Zimmerman Vice President of Finance
 Joseph Jolson Vice President of Operations
 Mindy Shreve Vice President of Member Engagement
 Chris Hall Vice President of Synagogue Life
 Carolyn Slaton Vice President of Youth
 Jean Reznick Treasurer
 Alan Himmel Secretary
 Alan Kopolow Immediate Past President

Trustees & Auxilliary Presidents

Shoshana Barnett	Mark Sindler
Rachel Fauber	Ken Steinberg
Arthur Goldberg	Lisa Steindel
Linda Safyan Holber	Pat Weiss
Scott Lieb	Erica Fox Zabusky
Elisa Marlin	Judy Kornblith Kobell, Sisterhood President
Colleen Pollack	Ira Frank, Men's Club President
Adam Resnick	Daphne Macedonia, USY President

Past Presidents from 1980-2023

Harriet N. Kruman	Judy Kornblith Kobell
Alan Greenwald (z"l)	Jay L. Fingeret
Marianne Silberman (z"l)	Steven H. Schwartz
Milton Eisner (z"l)	Ira M. Frank
Arnold H. Lazarus (z"l)	Connie Pollack
Yale Rosenstein (z"l)	Stefi L. Kirschner
Dr. David Rosenbloom (z"l)	Howard Valinsky
Harvey Robins	David Horvitz
Julian Elbling	Debby Firestone
Barry J. Palkovitz	Alan Kopolow

Emeriti and Scholars

Rabbi Mark N. Staitman Rabbinic Scholar
 Stephen E. Steindel, D.D. Rabbi Emeritus
 Moshe Taubé (z"l) Cantor Emeritus
 Amir Pilch F.S.A. Executive Director Emeritus
 Fern S. Moscov Preschool Director Emeritus

Message from Our Senior Rabbi 3
The Root of Hanukkah

Message from Our President 4

Message from Our Executive Director 5

Message from Our Associate Rabbi 6

Message from Our Development Director 7

Message from Our ELC Director 8
Growing with the ELC

Message from Our J-JEP Director 9
Learning with J-JEP

Message from Our Derekh Coordinator 10

Beth Shalom Youth Zone 11

Benei Mitzvah 12

The Sisterhood Says 14

The Men's Club 15

Humans of Beth Shalom 16

Membership 18

Our Congregational Family 19

Staff Directory 27

Help Your Shul...

by wishing our friends a Happy Birthday!

As part of the birthday greetings program, you can now write one larger check and draw down on your deposit as you send greetings during the year.

PLEASE download the birthday form from our weekly emails or get the form from our office. Thank you!

The Root of Hanukkah

Rabbi Seth Adelson
Senior Rabbi
rav@bethshalompg.org



Hanukkah is unique among Jewish holidays for multiple reasons: it is the only holiday which does not appear in the Tanakh at all; it is the only

holiday which celebrates a military victory (the Jews rising up against their would-be Persian oppressors in the Book of Esther does not really count); from a ritual perspective, it has the lowest bar of entry. But it is this last item which is especially important, and makes Hanukkah outweigh its second-tier status in the cycle of the Jewish year.

It is not insignificant that the Hebrew word הַנִּקָּה (*hanukkah*), meaning “dedication,” is a form of the root ח-נ-כ, which also refers to educating a child. הִנּוּךְ (*hinnukh*) means education, a מְחַנֵּךְ (*mehanekeh*) is an educator, and if as a child you attended a Jewish summer camp where Hebrew was spoken, you were a חַנִּיקָה (*hanikh*). As we all know, the name of the holiday refers to the rededication of the Temple in Jerusalem in the mid-2nd century BCE following the Hasmonean victory over the Seleucid Empire in Israel and the restoration of the Temple service.

When we kindle the Hanukkah lights, we are of course referencing the victory of Judaism over Hellenism. But let’s face it, Hanukkah is also a fun holiday: gelt and gifts, latkes, dreidels, parties, no fasting (well, at least until the 10th of Tevet), a great soundtrack, and of course the candles themselves, which are easy to do at home and always fun to watch during dark winter nights. And hence the connection to *hinnukh* / education.

Teaching our children the words and customs and rituals of Jewish life is a fundamental *mitzvah*. But you cannot simply open a tractate of Talmud and force your kid to learn. Rather, we have to capture

the attention of our children through the exciting and joyful activities in each season: asking questions on Pesah, handing out candy and snacks every Shabbat, dressing up and making lots of noise on Purim, and so on. And Hanukkah is a case study in attention-grabbing holidays. *Hinnukh* flows from Hanukkah freely and naturally. The low bar for entry means that everybody can jump right in and have fun. The dedication required to succeed in Jewish education follows.

So play it up! Make Hanukkah joyful in your house and in the neighborhood, and we will continue to teach our mitzvot and our rituals and thereby secure the Jewish future.

חג אורים שמח!

Hag urim sameah! Make this Festival of Lights special!

Purim Volunteer Opportunity

Looking for a super fun volunteer opportunity which also raises much needed funds for Beth Shalom?

A wonderful mitzvah for the holiday of Purim is “*Mishloah Manot*,” or the sending of gifts of food to friends. We have begun the planning of our fourth *Mishloah Manot* program where our members send gifts of food to other members, staff, ELC families and staff, etc. Last year with the help of many volunteers, we delivered almost 600 bags!

If you are interested in joining the *Mishloah Manot* Committee, please email Ira Frank (natfabira@juno.com) or Mindy Shreve (mindyshreve@gmail.com).

OUR LEADERSHIP

A Message from Our President

Paul Teplitz
President
pteplitz@me.com



To me, the story of Hanukkah highlights the resilience of our people, the importance of our traditions, and the power of light to overcome darkness.

While the victory of the Maccabees over Antiochus IV is a powerful example of right overcoming might, we really remember the oil. There was only enough to burn for one day, but it miraculously lasted for eight. The light from this oil banished the darkness from the Temple and illuminated the faith of the Maccabees.

The challenges and uncertainties that arise in today's world can sometimes feel overwhelming and the shadow of fear creeps in. The story of Hanukah calls to us to recognize our own ability to drive away that fear by kindling lights in our homes and community. Just as the Maccabees were able to defend their beliefs and traditions, we must also find the strength to uphold our values and nurture the bonds that sustain us.

As we head into the season of Hanukkah, how can we not only keep that flame alive but share its warmth with others? This is a perfect time to reflect on how Beth Shalom can nurture and project that light. Beth Shalom wrapped up an incredibly successful Jewish Book Festival that we hope to make an annual event. The shul welcomed a large group of authors to discuss diverse topics, and the entire Jewish community responded favorably. As of this writing we are preparing to spend an evening together in laughter at our annual come together event. These are terrific examples of large events that bring us together as a community. There also the smaller, quieter times when we support fellow congregants in need, engage in meaningful conversations about life's stresses, and share the successes of our journeys.

Have a happy Hanukkah and I hope that we all can bring more light and joy to our friends, loved ones, and the greater community.

Buy Giant Eagle Gift Cards
at Beth Shalom!



Simplify your shopping and buy Giant Eagle Gift Cards from Beth Shalom and take care of all of your **groceries, pharmacy, and gift giving!** With Giant Eagle Gift Cards, buy various gift cards and earn foodperks and fuelperks!

AirBnB
Apple
Best Buy
Dick's Sporting Goods
DSW
Home Depot
Netflix
Nordstrom
Regal Cinemas
Uber
GetGo! Gas Gift Cards

Over 140 popular
stores and restaurants
to choose from!

Purchases benefit Beth
Shalom.

Call Amira Walker at 412.421.2288 x 110 now!

Save The Date

Congregation Beth Shalom's

*Annual Volunteer
Awards Brunch*

Sunday, April 6, 2025

at 10:30 a.m.

Samuel & Minnie Hyman Ballroom

Watch for more details to follow

A Message from our Executive Director

It Truly Takes a Village...

Robert Gleiberman

Executive Director

ExecDir@bethshalompg.org



As Congregation Beth Shalom's Executive Director, I have the privilege of collaborating with many individuals and groups, including lay and professional.

As I say all the time – it takes a village to successfully operate a vibrant synagogue like ours. Beth Shalom has a long successful history of professional staff and volunteers, including the lay leadership, stepping up and working extremely hard to benefit us all. When people step out of their comfort zones and invest their time and energy for the betterment of us, they put themselves at risk of being challenged and criticized. Thank goodness we have volunteers that are willing to take on that risk and get involved.

When you review our website and our weekly emails, you will notice the magnitude of all that we have to offer. All those offerings do not happen in a vacuum – it takes a village to pull it off. In my tradition of singling out special individuals that work extremely hard on our behalf whether volunteer or paid, I want to acknowledge three committed amazing volunteers that are at Beth Shalom almost every single day.

I would first like to recognize our 2016 Nathan Snader award winner Dee Selekmán. Dee is mostly known as our weekday morning minyan breakfast provider. Dee has been organizing and preparing breakfast for our minyan attendees for the past 14 years, only taking a break during Covid. In honor of her dedicated service in making sure that breakfast is provided as well as putting out and cleaning up our seasonal third meals, which take place, between minhah and ma'ariv on Shabbat afternoon and evenings, the Eisner kitchen was rightfully named "Dee's Kitchen." What a beautifully deserved tribute given by her children and grandchildren.

Some of the other volunteer duties that Dee takes on a regular basis are volunteering in the office, making daily phone calls to all members - reminding them of an upcoming yearzeit, when needed greeting our members and guests at the front door for morning Shabbat and holiday services, helping out at specific youth activities, preparing the beautiful array of food for our annual new members brunch and other meal programs, plus many other volunteer requests.

I would like to next recognize Mindy Shreve, our 2017 Lester Hamburg award winner. Mindy is a world class volunteer. She is currently serving on the Board of Trustees as VP of Member Engagement. Her portfolio covers aspects of our synagogue life, including volunteer coordination and the nominating committee, which is the pipeline for future lay leadership.

Mindy also heads up the membership committee which in turn has her coordinate both the annual new member and awards brunch. Mindy also prepares welcome bags and along with other volunteers delivers the bags to our new members' homes. She also works extremely hard on the Mishloah Manot program which delivers approximately 600 Purim bags to our members' homes. Mindy has also served or serves on numerous other committees.

Mindy additionally co-leads our Legacy Circle campaign, attends daily morning and evening minyans as well the early morning, 6:30am, shabbat service and is instrumental in helping with the CDS Day School "Minyan Makers" program, which the CDS students attend and participates in our Wednesday morning minyan prior to the beginning of school.

I would finally like to recognize Ira Frank, the 1995 Halpern Young Leadership award winner, the 2019 Nathan Snader award winner, and past President of Beth Shalom. Ira is also known by all the children and the adults that were previously Beth Shalom children as the "Candy Man." He always makes sure that the children are taken care of so that they have wonderful memories of coming to shul.

Ira is the current Men's Club president and has served in that position for the last 6 years. As president he organizes, coordinates, and funds many yearly holiday and shabbat meals and programs. He co-chairs the Legacy Circle committee, serves on numerous other committees, attends all weekday morning and evening minyans – serving as prayer leader when needed.

Ira also runs the early morning, 6:30am, shabbat service, serves as the floor gabbai and usher at the regular shabbat morning service, is instrumental in helping with the CDS Day School Minyan Makers program, which the CDS students attend and participate in our Wednesday morning minyan prior to the beginning of school, he also co-chairs the Mishloah Manot program which serves our community by having 600 Purim bags distributed to our entire community,

Please join me in thanking Dee, Mindy, and Ira – their dedication and tireless work on behalf of Beth Shalom is deeply appreciated.

OUR LEADERSHIP

A Message from our Associate Rabbi

Talking During Services

Rabbi Mark Asher Goodman
Associate Rabbi
mgoodman@bethshalompgh.org



Some synagogues, particularly in Israel, have an imposing set of words inscribed over the ark: *Da Lifnei Mi Atah Omed* - 'Know Before Whom you Stand'. To me it has always been the 'nuns-ruler-on-the-knuckles' of Jewish intentional directions. Are you chatting in shul? Are you mentally wandering during your Amidah?

<SLAP>

Pay attention!

It is, shall we say, not to my liking.

A few weeks ago at the Religious Services meeting, the committee was reviewing High Holiday services and the question was posed: on a normal shabbat, when the Torah circulates through the room, we sing two songs - Psalm 29, followed, if we need to vamp for another 30 seconds, by 'Romeimu'. But at High Holidays, the room is full of people. The Torah procession takes at least three times as long. And so we run out of songs. What do we do?

The committee considered two options: 1) sing more songs, or 2) let people chatter amongst themselves. Now, the 'let them talk' advocates are clearly in direct contradiction to this idea above of 'know before whom you stand.' Some synagogues prize decorum over all else, and would be horrified to allow idle chatter to interrupt matters.

I like both options. I also like what both options stand for at Beth Shalom: that we are a spiritual community that embraces song as prayer, and that a fundamental aspect of the shul is our communal warmth, which is embodied in our comfort in reaching across a row of seats to see the Schwartzes or the Goldbergs and to say 'how is Michael doing at college?' A shul is not just holy words directed to God; it is also holy words directed towards each other.

[Disclaimer: However, you should still work hard to maintain spiritual focus during prayer. And definitely don't talk during one of Beth Shalom's many brilliant, erudite, and potentially life-changing sermons. Just during a gap in liturgy during the Torah service.]

Da Lifnei Mi Atah Omed - know before whom you stand. I hope God remembers this during the Beth Shalom Torah procession - that God should stand in joy and wonder, as we sing, and as we reconnect with each other. Because those are the ways in which we connect with God.

SAVE THE DATE

Congregation Beth Shalom
presents the 7th annual...

CLUES & SCHMOOZE

(WITH SOME BOOZE)

Saturday
February 8, 2025

Host Your Event at Beth Shalom

Celebrations include:

- Anniversaries
- Baby Namings
- Benei Mitzvah Parties
- Birthday Parties
- Bridal Showers
- Weddings



Contact Shayna Yanoff,
Events and Catering Coordinator,
at 412.385.2332
syanoff@eedgecatering.com

A Message from our Development Director

***Development Isn't Just Fundraising:
Meeting the Needs of our Hebrew Speakers***

Rabbi Andy Shugerman
Development Director
RabbiAndy@bethshalompgh.org



As many of you may have noticed, the title above is a mantra of mine – that the work I do at and for Beth Shalom is not limited to raising funds for our synagogue and its programs but also to identify ways in which we can and need to grow to meet the needs of our community.

In this column, I want to celebrate the November 10th dedication of our new Hebrew Books Lending Library during the opening Sunday of what we hope will have been the first annual Pittsburgh Jewish Book Festival here at Beth Shalom.

In order to tell this story best, I asked those most centrally involved in or personally moved by the dedication ceremony to share their thoughts on the new library with me.

Merav Amos, a teacher in our Joint Jewish Education Program, said she “had the idea of a lending library for many years, but it was difficult to find a location for it. We are incredibly grateful to Beth Shalom for enabling us to place the library in the synagogue. I decided to donate the library in memory of my dear late uncle Stefan Pajonk, a Holocaust survivor and a great lover of Jewish culture and Hebrew. The library is meant for the Hebrew-speaking population of Pittsburgh and will enable us to share books and create a Hebrew book culture. I would like to especially thank Rebecca Elhassid and Shari Woldenberg for all their help and hope that the library serves the community well.”

Our member Rebecca Elhassid told me that “shared literature is a big part of our culture. The Israelis

who live in Pittsburgh often get books sent to them or brought to them from Israel but had no gathering place to share them with others or get new books. Giving these books a home is also making room for our cherished Israeli community. For non-Israelis who speak Hebrew, it gives them access to favorite Hebrew language children’s books which they may have never been exposed to but can now introduce to their kids. And for the synagogue, this is an opportunity to bring in a new cohort [for membership.]”

Rachel Fauber, one of our new board members whose husband Joe Brophy only speaks in Hebrew to their daughter Leora, said they “are thrilled about this library. We use a ‘one parent, one language’ model in the house, but while the outside world supports our kid’s English language learning, we acutely feel the lack of Hebrew resources! So having a library with new books and a space where we can connect with other families who are raising kids in Hebrew is just very special. And just another thing we didn’t know we would love about Pittsburgh - there is SUCH a strong community of Hebrew speakers and Israeli families here.”

Speaking of Israelis who are not (or not yet!) Beth Shalom members, my former neighbor Dorit Sasson explained that the new library “brings Israelis who would otherwise be isolated, like myself, together with a common denominator: literacy. Raising our Diasporic children with more Hebrew knowledge awareness and identity is crucial as a minority in a minority culture. This past Sunday one community member read a book out loud and it brought back memories. It’s a very meaningful way to talk about classics with others and watch the new generation absorb what we grew up on.”

May we continue to find ways to grow our synagogue community and to meet the needs of our neighbors so they see Beth Shalom as the pillar of Jewish Pittsburgh that it is!

OUR LEADERSHIP

Growing Through the ELC

Hilary Yeckel

Director of the ELC

hyeckel@bethshalompgh.org

Hello congregants!



The 2024-2025 school year is off to a fantastic start! Our students have settled into their new classrooms and had a busy fall exploring the high holidays. Students were invited to join morning minyan to hear the sounds of the shofar, and to shake the lulav. Our preschool and Prekindergarten students built amazing sukkahs in their classrooms, and our littles visited the big one in the parking lot for music and snacks! We also all gathered in the ballroom to watch as our science educator, Morah Elaine, inflated a life-size baby blue whale. This is always an exciting and special activity for our students.



ELC students welcome a lifesize baby whale

We are excited to announce that our dedicated educators at Beth Shalom Early Learning Center are participating in ElevatEd, a national initiative designed to elevate and enhance early childhood Jewish education. This innovative program supports teacher recruitment, professional development, mentorship, and credentialing opportunities, equipping our staff to continue providing the highest quality care and learning environment for your children. ElevatEd is a partnership between the JCC Association of North America, Jewish Federations of North America, and the Union for Reform Judaism, with funding from national foundations, including Jim Joseph Foundation, Crown Family Philanthropies, and Samuels Family Foundation. Locally, it is supported by the Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh.

ElevatEd is being piloted in twelve communities across the U.S. this year. Through this initiative, our educators are not only advancing their skills but also contributing to the broader effort to enrich early childhood education here in Pittsburgh and beyond. We are so proud of their dedication and commitment to

creating an exceptional experience for every child in our care! Currently we have two educators, Jasmine Adams and Elana Raz, participating as emerging educator and mentor. I, Hilary, am also participating in the director courses and learning. Together, we're investing in a brighter future for our children and our community.

Additionally, this fall, we learned that Beth Shalom Early Learning Center won a \$7,000 grant made available through the Keystone STARS Continuous Quality Improvement Award. We are excited to use this funding to support our program and educators!

The Keystone STARS (Standards, Training/Professional Development, Assistance, Resources, and Supports) is Pennsylvania's quality rating designation for early learning centers. Beth Shalom Early Learning Center works very hard to maintain its status as a 4-star center--the top designation awarded. The award of \$7,000 will allow us to continue to ensure that our students learn, play, and thrive in a safe and respectful environment. We are thrilled that Keystone STARS recognized and rewarded the high-quality childcare environment we work so hard to provide for your children.

We are excited to begin our Hanukkah and winter explorations. We look forward to the joyful music in our classrooms, and the smell of latkes filling our halls! If you ever have a question or would like to inquire about how you can support the ELC, please feel free to contact the office at 412-421-8857. I look forward to hearing from you.

ELC Calendar Dec. 2024 - Feb. 2025

Thursday, December 19

Hanukkah Celebration

Tue., December 24 - Wed., January 1

Winter Recess - ELC Closed

Thursday, January 2

Teacher In-Service Day - ELC Closed

Monday, January 20

Martin Luther King Jr. Day - ELC Closed

Monday, February 17

President's Day - ELC Closed

Learning with J-JEP

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

“What do we hire a holiday to do for us?”

-Rabbi Irwin Kula



It’s a simple question that upends everything you thought you knew about holidays. Here’s a classic scenario. A holiday arrives, we pull out some decorations, maybe, cook some holiday foods, possibly, and then maybe learn a little bit about the meaning. Or maybe not. It’s a holiday. A break from the routine, a different look in the home, something tasty. Maybe something on TV that references it. That should do it. That’s enough, right?

I have been saying, wherever I can, that default is dead. The idea that we live out Jewish behaviors because that is just what is expected of Jews is an idea that is dead and probably has been dead for decades. The last of the great Eastern European Jewish migration was in 1924. Those Jews brought in a sense of default. A Jew lived the way a Jew lives. Their children didn’t really have a choice. Their grandchildren definitely pushed back but still maintained all sorts of Jewish conventions to some extent. Their great-grandchildren, the young parents of today, have in broad strokes no connection to that old country sense of default and plenty of options as to how a Jew lives. And that’s with an example of someone arriving in 1924. Many of you reading this will not have great-grandparents from the old country but great-great-grandparents or even a great-great-great-adding on before you can reach the ancestors that came over. And the many of you who have joined the Jewish people as adults, you come to this same problem in your own unique way.

If you feel in your soul an understanding of why you do the Jewish that you do, count yourself among the lucky. Many Jews today struggle with understanding.

And I can promise you that all the children I work with struggle.

So I return to Rabbi Kula. “What do we hire a holiday to do for us?” We, those of us alive today with an interest in the next generation, need to see holidays not as a passive experience but something we “hire” to do something for our family. If you spend any time, money, or energy getting ready to celebrate a holiday then you have paid for it. And if you have paid the holiday, don’t you want it to earn its pay? Default is dead so we have to direct the holiday. We have to be intentional and talk with our children about the values we take from it. We have to be intentional in making our homes look different and smell different for every holiday so that the holiday can do its job. Holidays are always fun. They should also be meaningful. They should also be inspiring. That’s what we hire them for. And no more is there a matriarch or patriarch from the old country we can rely on to do this work. You reading this, you are the matriarch, the patriarch, the wizened leader of your family. Help the holiday do its job. And after the holiday is over (for this year), you will be very satisfied of a job well done.



J-JEP Calender

Dec. 2024 - Feb. 2025

Sunday, December 15, 2024
 Latkepalooza

Sunday, December 22, 2024 to
Wednesday, January 1, 2025
 J-JEP Winter Recess - No J-JEP Classes

Sunday, February 9, 2025
 World Wide Wrap

OUR LEADERSHIP

A Message from our Derekh Coordinator

Shari Rapowitz Woldenberg

Derekh Coordinator

swoldenberg@bethshalompgh.org



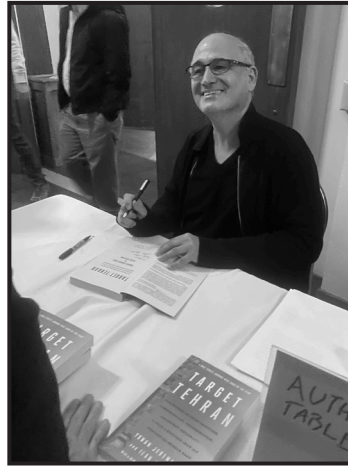
This new year feels different, with a polarized world both at home and abroad. We are still traumatized from October 7 and pray for the hostages to be returned home. At the same time, I fear for the future with rising casualties in the Middle East and the threat of direct conflict with Iran. This past year has been one of increased antisemitism and campus protests, which have left many Jewish students fearful. In addition, I am writing this entry 2 days before a critical election here at home.



I believe the best path forward is through civil discourse, and for this reason, my passion this year has been creating Beth Shalom's first community-wide Pittsburgh Jewish Book Festival. Along with a diverse group of Community Partners, we have created a platform to learn about our complex world and celebrate Jewish culture.

This Festival has taken on deeper significance as this past year saw a group created on social media to blacklist and review bomb Jewish authors deemed to be "Zionists." More recently, thousands of authors signed a letter calling for a boycott of Israel cultural institutions, including publishers, literary agents, and literary festivals.

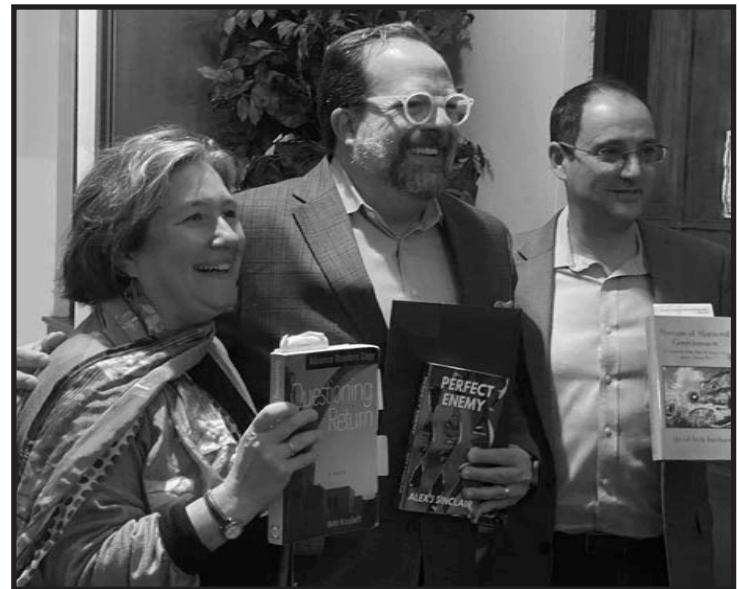
Freedom of the Press is a bedrock of our democracy, and book bans can only create more divisiveness and further hatred. Book festivals can bring people together, transcend boundaries, broaden awareness and open dialogue, regardless of one's views on the current conflict. Supporting Jewish authors is critical for both Beth Shalom and the entire Pittsburgh Jewish community. We hope to make this Pittsburgh Jewish Book Festival an annual event, and planning for this and other 2025 events is underway. Please feel free to write to me at swoldenberg@bethshalompgh.org with any thoughts or suggestions.



Ilan Eyvater signing his book after his talk during the Pittsburgh Jewish Book Festival on November 10.



Rabbi Seth Adelson introducing Rabbi Elliott Cosgrove during the second day of the Jewish Book Festival on November 11.



Visions of Israel Panel Discussion with authors Beth Kissileff, David-Seth Kirshner and Alex Sinclair (left to right) during the Jewish Book Festival on November 12.



Jim Busis, Pittsburgh Jewish Chronicle CEO & Publisher, with cookbook author Diana Goldman during the fourth day of the Jewish Book Festival on November 13.

Beth Shalom Youth Zone

Marissa Tait

Director of Youth Programs

mtait@bethshalompgh.org



As winter approaches, we're excited to bring warmth and connection through an engaging lineup of programs in December, January, and February. From celebrating the light and joy of Hanukkah to exploring our core values through social justice, these months are filled with opportunities to gather, learn, and grow. Here's a glimpse of what we have planned, and we can't wait to see you there!

Please keep an eye out for the official dates and times. Here's what's coming up:

Hanukkah Celebrations

Several events are planned to celebrate Hanukkah, including family-focused candle-lighting events and a festive Hanukkah party. Each program offers a chance to come together, light candles, enjoy treats, and celebrate the season.

Jews for Justice Annual Program

In January, our Jews for Justice program returns. This event features teen-led discussions focused on a social justice topic, providing a space for meaningful multi-generational conversations about making a difference in our community and beyond.

Open Gym Play

Throughout the winter, we will host open gym hours, offering a great opportunity to connect and catch up with friends. Please note that an RSVP is required.

Family Connections

Our Family Connections Program is for families with young children. Each session includes a private lunch, interactive learning, and special supervised playtime for your child.

And Much Much More... We look forward to sharing these programs with you and creating meaningful experiences.

We're grateful for the chance to gather with our youth this winter for celebration, learning, and community-building. Each of these programs reflects our community's spirit and values, and your child(ren)'s participation truly brings them to life. Whether they are regular attendees or joining us for the first time, we invite them to be a part of these moments of connection and joy!



Photos taken during a BSUSY outing to Puttshack, an upscale indoor mini-golf course in the Strip district.



BENEI MITZVAH

Natanel Alon Fischbach is the son of Yael Silk and Jordan Fischbach, younger brother of Jacob Fischbach, grandson of Janice Davidson and John Thomas, Lee and Marnin Fischbach, Carol and Jerry Hait, and Mark Silk.

Natanel is in the seventh grade at Community Day School. He loves solving problems in Odyssey of the Mind and performing in musicals at the JCC. He also enjoys piano and playing Dungeons & Dragons and board games with friends and family; the more complex, the better. In the summer, he attends Camp Young Judaea in Wisconsin with his Pittsburgh friends.

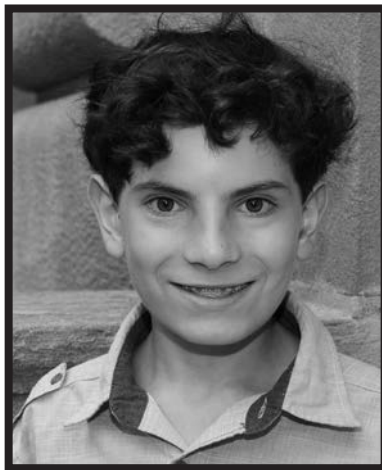


Bar Mitzvah: 12/7/2024

Adi Raphael Weinkle son of Jonathan Weinkle and Vita Nemirovsky and the brother of Eitan and Akiva Weinkle will be called to the Torah as a bar mitzvah on January 11, 2025.

Proud grandparents are Joe and Phyllis Weinkle and Natan and Lia Nemirovsky.

Adi attends Community Day School and is a lifer at Camp Young Judaea-Midwest. Adi enjoys hanging out with friends, reading, cooking, singing, and spending time with family.



Bat Mitzvah: 1/11/2025

Zoe Murtazashvili is the daughter of Ilia and Jennifer Murtazashvili, little sister of Leo and big sister of Eve and Max Murtazashvili. She is the granddaughter of Geraldine and the late Stanley Cutler of Wilmington, NC and Milan Sasic and the late Milena Sasic of Milwaukee, WI.

An eighth grader at Community Day School, Zoe enjoys playing soccer, basketball, and volleyball and cheering on her friends and siblings.



Bat Mitzvah: 12/14/2024

Adele Schwartz
Bat Mitzvah: 2/1/2025



Benei Mitzvah Planning

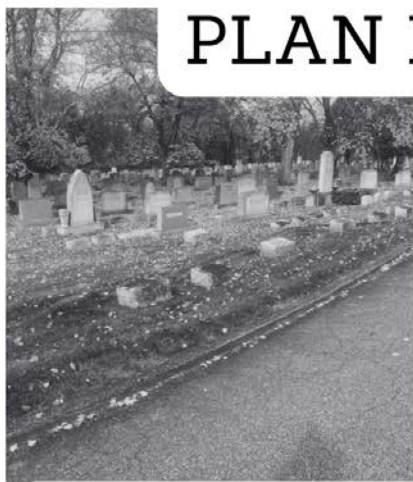
We begin working with families of students in fourth grade, toward their becoming benei mitzvah.

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.



Please be in contact with Ashley Burse, Rabbi's Assistant, at ABurse@BethShalomPgh.org.

PLAN FOR YOUR FUTURE NOW



We are presently offering the following pre-need discounts until December 31, 2024.

- 10% off all grave plots
- 10% off pre-need interment services
- 15% off crypt spaces
- 15% off grave plot and pre-need interment services when purchased together
- 20% off crypt spaces and pre-need interment services when purchased together



What We Do For You

We can help with:

Pre-need planning
Plot Selections
Monument Offerings

We offer to you:

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

Visit Our Cemetery

Cemetery opens at 8:00 a.m. and closes at sunset. The cemetery is also closed at sundown on Friday through the Sabbath and all Jewish holidays.

For more information, contact Michael Smrek, Cemetery Director, at 412.421.2288 x293 (office) or mismrek@bethshalompgh.org

J-JEP

MEET UP

at Congregation Beth Shalom

Synagogue is more fun when your friends are there.

J-JEP families can meet up with each other one Shabbat a month.

Parents can enjoy Shabbat morning together while their children take advantage of youth programming.

December 7, 2024, Jan 4, Feb 1, March 8, April 5, and May 10, 2025
10:00 AM with kiddush following

J-JEP | Joint Jewish Education Program of Pittsburgh

Beth Shalom בית שלום

Latkepalooza

Sunday, December 15
10:00 AM - Noon

Congregation Beth Shalom

Games, crafts, prizes, donuts and latkes!

Everyone is welcome to join us for J-JEP Religious School's annual community Hanukkah celebration at Congregation Beth Shalom.

\$5 per person or \$20 per family.
Cash only at the door.

OUR LEADERSHIP

The Sisterhood Says

Judy Kornblith Kobell
Sisterhood President
jayeko@msn.com



The leaves have fallen and winter is on its way. Nonetheless, Sisterhood had a wonderful opening meeting and continues with upcoming activities.

In September, we joined together at my house for our annual Potluck Supper, with an occasion to enjoy delicious food and good company. It was an opportunity to meet, greet and discuss the coming year for Sisterhood.

Our next event will be our (early) Hanukkah Brunch on Sunday, December 8. Our chairs are Judith Kline along with Lidush Goldschmidt and Cheryl Blumenfeld. Be sure to put the date on your calendar for a fun, social and tasty time. Other continuing activities include weekly Latin Cardio classes with Connie Pollack and monthly Sisterhood Book Club. All are welcome to attend.

Sisterhood continues to present beautiful merchandise in our well stocked, competitively priced Judaica Shop. Our volunteers, Ronna Askin, Lynn Gleiberman, Barbara Kaiserman and I are happy to make appointments and assist shoppers. Prior to Hanukkah, we will be open on special days and have a December sale on many items.

As in the past, Sisterhood coordinates with Men's Club to support Congregation and Youth activities throughout the year. Some of these include Book Festival, Latkapalooza, Purim Carnival, Come Together, Mishloach Manot and Friday night dinners.

Also, consider supporting Sisterhood Flower Fund in honor or in memory of loved ones. Flower Fund provides arrangements on the Bima and for clergy for Spring and Fall holidays. A special thank you goes to Rhoda Judd for chairing this effort.

Finally, I welcome all suggestions, ideas and participation to strengthen and improve our Sisterhood. All my good wishes for a happy, healthy 5785 and 2025.

Judy Kornblith Kobell
Sisterhood President

SISTERHOOD JUDAICA SHOP



DECEMBER SALE
30 % OFF
ALL MERCHANDISE
ON DISPLAY

BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

TO SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT, CALL
JUDY KOBELL AT 412-725-5566



OFFER VALID DECEMBER 1 TO 31, 2024.

The Men's Club

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



As I sit in my office mid November with the front door open it is hard to think about Winter!

But we at Men's Club as with all areas of our shul continually work and plan for months in advance.

Yes we can sit and just relax knowing what a great Fall we had with so many activities. But no... we plan ahead.

We are working on many shul wide events that we sponsor and co-sponsor including but not limited to Shabbat Meals and fundraising events.

We are working to have a Chinese meal on December 24! This is the night before the first candle of Hanukkah! This should be a FUN evening for the entire family.

On the first night of Hanukkah we will have our first winner in our annual Sweepstakes fundraiser, Otherwise known as Hanukah Gelt. 250 tickets are available for purchase and over the eight days of Hanukkah there are two winning tickets per day. Please purchase a ticket or more!!! This fundraiser allows you to help Men's Club raise the money to support the Congregation.

WE are working already planning our annual events:

World Wide Wrap

Sports Luncheon

Men's Club Shabbat

Packing and delivery of Yellow Candles along with Purim bags

Pizza before Passover

Placing Flags to honor our Vets



If there is something that you want from Men's Club, please let us know. Get involved. Have fun with us.

We work to keep Beth Shalom strong with both Fun Raising and Fundraising.

Stay safe.

SAVE THE DATE

**Beth Shalom Men's Club
Annual Sports Luncheon
Sunday, February 16, 2025 at 12 p.m.
Samuel & Minnie Hyman Ballroom**



Special needs youth and adults from 10 organizations in the Pittsburgh area look forward to our Sports Luncheon. Please consider sponsoring a table. To sponsor, contact Ira Frank at natfabira@juno.com.

Sponsor a Se'udah Shelishit (Third Meal)

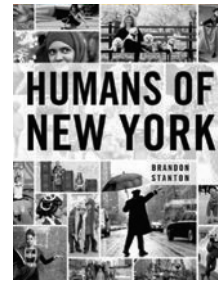
We are seeking sponsors for the meal. The cost to sponsor is \$180. The sponsored third meal covers the cost of the meal.



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

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 one or 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.



Carol Beth & Michael Yoffee

Name in English and in Hebrew (phonetic).

Michael Yoffee (Mordechai Yaacov)

Carol Beth Yoffee (Chaya Bayla)

We have three adult children:

Eric, his wife Abigail and a grandson, Joshua Yoffee (Levi Yitzchak, Avigail, and Yonah Solomon)

Max Zack Yoffee (Menachem Zachariah)

Alana Yoffee (Shoshana Rachel)

How long have you been members of Congregation Beth Shalom?

We've been members since 1996.

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

Carol Beth: I was born in Detroit, Michigan, and grew up there. I went to the University of Michigan, and then I took a job in Michigan when I graduated.

Michael: I was born in Maryland and also attended the University of Michigan. After college, I worked in Massachusetts and Maryland before settling in Pittsburgh with Carol Beth in 1989.

Carol Beth: We met just before college graduation and continued dating long-distance afterwards. It was easier for me to change jobs than it was for Michael — so to confirm that we wanted to be together the rest of our lives, I got a job in Maryland where Michael was working, and moved there. A year and a half later we got engaged.

Michael: Six months before we got married, I started a new job at the United Steelworkers Union headquarters in Pittsburgh.

Carol Beth: And that's how we ended up in Pittsburgh, and we've been here since.

How did you choose Beth Shalom as your congregational community?

Carol Beth: When we moved to Pittsburgh we didn't have kids at first, but we still wanted to belong somewhere. I have a Conservative background and Michael had more of a Reform background.

Michael: Growing up, my family didn't belong to a traditional synagogue. My father studied to be a rabbi at Hebrew Union College (Reform seminary, Cincinnati, Ohio), but ultimately he decided it was not what he wanted to do. Instead, he went to law school and became a career



attorney for the Social Security Administration. He and my mom got very involved in an organization that still exists today called the Non-Affiliated School for Family Jewish Education. Instead of being based in a synagogue, they have a portable Torah and aron kodesh (ark) and crates of siddurim (prayer books) that move as needed for different events.

I vividly remember, when I was about 7 years old, going with my parents to meet the sofer/scribe in New York City's Lower East Side to pick up the specially restored Torah for the school. During this time, my father led all the services entirely as a volunteer. He conducted probably 150 benei mitzvot, including mine and my sister's, before finding others to take over. My mom taught kindergarten for the school, and I even tutored students while I was in high school. That's how I grew up.

Carol Beth: As you can see, for Michael to belong to a traditional synagogue was a new experience. We tried Reform services a couple of times, but that didn't work for me. Then we briefly belonged to some other Conservative shuls in Pittsburgh, but we hadn't yet found our synagogue home.

Michael: Then in 1994, we had our first son, Eric.

Carol Beth: At that time, Beth Shalom sponsored a Mommy and Me program, so I joined and met an amazing group of moms. After our children aged out, our cohort decided to start our own playgroup and continued to meet weekly at each other's homes. When Eric turned two, we joined Beth Shalom. All three of our children went to Beth Shalom's Early Learning Center and had wonderful experiences. Today, all our closest friends are people we met through Mommy and Me when Eric was a baby.

After joining Beth Shalom, did you become involved in the greater synagogue community?

Carol Beth: Yes, Michael and I became very active. As a preschool parent, I put together two cookbooks with recipes of all of the preschoolers' favorite foods, and we sold them to raise money for the preschool graduation. I also taught Hebrew school here; was the

Continued on page 17

Kadima advisor; and worked in the gift shop. In 2005, I received Beth Shalom's Halpern Young Leadership Award, which I'm really proud of.

Michael: I previously served a term on the Board of Trustees and presently serve on the Personnel Committee. I was one of the first students to attend Rabbi Adelson's Judaism 101 class, which I enjoyed. I'm happy I got to know Rabbi Adelson just after he arrived in Pittsburgh.

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

Carol Beth: I grew up with my grandparents living close by in Michigan. On my father's side, my Zady was born in Russia and immigrated to America in 1907. My Bubby was born in America — or at least that's what she originally thought. Later in her life, my Bubby learned that she wasn't a U.S. citizen. It turns out that she was born in Poland and came over in 1886 when she was just three months old. She always considered herself American-born and raised. My Zady actually lived briefly in Pittsburgh's Hill District in the early 1920s. Then he moved to Detroit where he met and married my Bubby. They were very observant.

My mother's father and mother were born in Russia and Romania, respectively. My Zady came to America with his brothers and his mother in 1922. In 1923, my Bubby left her whole family in Europe to join him. Her entire family — parents, siblings, everyone left behind — perished during the Holocaust. Being here in the U.S., my mother's parents always believed in the importance of being part of their Jewish community. That's how I feel too. I'm always looking for connection with Jewish groups and culture.

Michael: I was very close with all my grandparents. My mother's parents were born and raised in Brooklyn, New York, close to where our daughter Alana lives today. Their parents (my great grandparents) were born in Europe in Lithuania and Galicia (now Poland) and immigrated to the U.S. in the early 1900s. The families worked in the garment industry and were involved in The Workmen's Circle, which promoted social and economic justice in the Jewish community. My grandmother lost most of her vision after working in a women's hat factory. My mother's parents were not particularly observant, but they passed down values to my mom that I try to live by, and we have passed these values on to our kids.

My father's parents lived in Harrisburg, PA, which is where my grandfather was born. My father's mother emigrated from Vilna (Poland, now Belarus) when she was an infant. In Harrisburg, my grandparents ran a corner store and luncheonette in a working-class neighborhood. My grandfather passed away relatively young, and my grandmother continued to run that place into her late 70s. My father's family was active in Harrisburg's old-

est congregation, Temple Ohav Shalom, an Orthodox shul that became Reform after a dispute in 1867 over women's rights, especially whether to allow men and women to sit together at services. The synagogue still exists, and it's where my father developed his unique Jewish identity growing up.

What are some things you feel passionate about? (Hobbies, work, etc.)

Michael: I continue to be very involved in my work at the United Steelworkers Union where we represent working people and retirees in every sector of the economy. I've been advocating for working people, and economic and social justice for almost 40 years. Carol Beth and I also volunteer with 412 Food Rescue. Their wonderful phone app lets us know where we can pick up perfectly good surplus food — at grocery stores, schools, restaurants, and so forth — that would otherwise get thrown away. Then we deliver that food to those who need it. After my dad passed away in 2018, I've also assumed primary responsibility for maintaining and building our extended online family tree. I've met many new cousins that way, and it helps me continue to feel connected with my parents, grandparents, and other family who have passed.

Carol Beth: I taught Hebrew school for over 40 years — starting when I was in college — and I absolutely loved it. In Pittsburgh, I've taught Hebrew school at several shuls, including Beth Shalom. In 2010, I received an AJL Unsung Hero Award given to an educator chosen from the various Jewish groups in the community. When the pandemic began, I stopped teaching Hebrew school in person because I had health concerns about exposure to COVID. People began to ask if I'd tutor online, so I started tutoring students over Zoom, helping them prepare for their b'nei mitzvot. I absolutely love the one-on-one individualized attention I can give each student, and I love teaching Jewish skills that students can hold onto for life. I also teach adults. I can start from the very beginning with the aleph bet. If somebody wants to dive in, I'm there!

I'm also passionate about creating art. My background is in interior and graphic design, and my current artwork includes sketching, drawing, and painting. I've taught jewelry-making at Chabad and led a class for Beth Shalom's Sisterhood on how to make mezuzot. I've created ketubot (wedding contracts) for family and friends, and made the ketubah for our children, Eric and Abigail, when they wed in 2020.

For both Michael and me, it's really important to do unto others. That's the Jewish value we live by. It's simple: If we do for others, it makes them happy, and in turn brings us joy!

MEMBERSHIP

Beth Shalom Welcomes Its Newest Members*

Marnin & Lee Fischbach
Avishai & Maya Geller
Danny & Sharon Greenfield
Yun William Yi & Daphne Ippolito
Matthew Joffe
Patricia Florida Jimenez
Michael Landau & Quyen Nguyen
Rory McCarthy & Lauren Herckis
Nancy Merenstein

Julianna Mestre
Lourdes Mestre
Elan & Vanessa Mizrahi
Scott & Josephine J.S. Nelson
Jennifer Primack
Jeffrey Kobi & Rabbi Kara Tav
Adele Taxon
Dan Zandberg & Marjorie Manne

We look forward to being part of your memories!

**As of October 2024*



New Member
Ceremony & Brunch
November 3, 2024

Your Contributions

August 1, 2024 — October 31, 2024

Book Festival

In Appreciation Of:

Rabbi Seth Adelson

Howard & Nicole Valinsky

Bulding Fund 2024

In Memory Of:

Sara Zalkin

Paula Eger

Cemetery Endowment 2024

In Memory Of:

Samuel Barfield

Paul & Karen Shapiro

David Bruce Schoenfeld

Paul & Karen Shapiro

General Fund

In Appreciation of:

Rabbi Seth Adelson

Michelle Vines

Adriane and Morris Horvitz

Lori Abrams

In Honor of:

Gerry Kobell

Robert & Lynn Gleiberman

Sally Greenwald

Rabbi Mark Asher Goodman

Stefi Kirschner & Gilbert Schneider

Rose Marcus' Bat Mitzvah

Daniel & Susan Zeidner

Rabbi Seth Adelson

Stephen & Marilyn Hoffman

Birth of our great-granddaughter,

Maya Brynn Viter

Richard & Sondra Glasser

Rabbi Seth Adelson being honored

by Israel Bonds

Richard & Sondra Glasser

Erin & Max Sussman Baby

Mindy Shreve

**Keren Gilboa & Jeremy Holzer
baby**

Mindy Shreve

**Brooke Barker & Boaz Frankel
baby**

Mindy Shreve

Brooke Barker & Boaz Frankel

Peter Kogan & Elinor Nathanson

**Jonathan Weinkle's promotion
to Medical Director of the**

Squirrel Hill Health Center

Richard & Shari Sweet

Speedy Recovery:

Kenny Steinberg

Mindy Shreve

Mazal Tov:

Robert & Ellen Garvin

Mindy Shreve

Irene Kaplow & David Held

Jane Liebschutz & Roger

Zimmerman

Mindy Shreve

Gerry Kobell

Robin Sneider

Valinsky Family

Mindy Shreve

Edward Raskin

Bunny Morris

In Memory Of:

Betty Berg Miller

Jacqueline Orlansky

Mindy Shreve

Dorothy Kurland

Debby & Nate Firestone

Paul & Jean Reznick

Mindy Shreve

Kenneth & Terry Steinberg

Roger Zimmerman & Jane

Liebschutz

Nancy Zionts & Family

Irwin Schafer

Sean Martin

Lillian Schreiber

Paul & Jean Reznick

Bernie Halpern

Bunny Morris

Louise Cohen

Richard & Helen Feder

Debby & Nate Firestone

Richard Judd

Alan Ackerman

Anna Adler

Richard & Helen Feder

Audrey Glickman

Samuel & Dorothy Greenfield

Steven & Lynn Hecht

Clarice Katz

Gail Neft

Missy Rabinowitz

Mindy Shreve

Jeff & Laura Young

Rita Kleinman

Martie Adelman & Marc Schneider

Ruth Mackler

Debby & Nate Firestone

Margaret & Gary Fischer

Peter Kogan & Elinor Nathanson

Paul & Jean Reznick

Zarky Rudavsky & Merrienne Leff

Mindy Shreve

Kenneth & Terry Steinberg

Harry & Laurie Zionts

Sara Zalkin

Robert & Lynn Gleiberman

Steven Simon

Lynn Farber

David & Teddi Horvitz

Metz Lewis Brodman Must O'Keefe

Robin Reinfeld

James & Rochelle Wagner

OUR CONGREGATIONAL FAMILY

Your Contributions

August 1, 2024 — October 31, 2024

**J. Leonard Frank Early Minyan
Endowment Fund**

In Memory Of:

Richard Judd
Judith Kline

**Lynda Herer Goldsmith
Camp Ramah Fund**

In Memory Of:

Grigory Bayda
Robin Halpern
Richard Judd
Robin Halpern

**Mildred & Isadore Berkowitz
Memorial Fund**

In Honor of:

Rabbi Shmuli Rothstein
Elaine Berkowitz

Speedy Recovery:

Robbie Zarembeg
Elaine Berkowitz

In Memory of:

Claire Calig's son Gregory
Elaine Berkowitz

Richard Judd

Elaine Berkowitz
Caroline McCabe
Elaine Berkowitz

Morning Minyan Fund

In Memory of:

Steven Simon
David & Pamela Haber

Moscov Scholarship Fund

In Memory Of:

Richard Judd
Earl & Barbara Kaiserman

Philanthropic Fund

In Memory Of:

Richard Judd
Susan Young

Preschool Donations 24/25

In Memory Of:

Donald Farkas
Richard & Sondra Glasser
Richard Judd
Cookie Elbling

Rabbi Adelson Disc Fund

In Memory Of:

Louise Cohen
Nancy Zions and Family
Donald Farkas
Harold & Connie Smolar
Richard Judd
Barry & Yvonne Stein

**Samuel and Mollie Zytznick
Endowment Fund**

In Memory Of:

Steven Simon
Howard & Nicole Valinsky

Sisterhood Donations

In Memory Of:

Donald Farkas
Carol Lederer
Richard Judd
Daniel & Neila Bendas
Carol Lederer
Carol Pearlman

Sisterhood Flower Fund

In Memory Of:

Richard Judd
Debby & Nate Firestone
Steven Simon
Debby & Nate Firestone

Solar Fund 2.0 2023

In Memory Of:

Ruth Mackler
Bruce & Jane Rollman

Youth Fund

In Memory Of:

Ruth Mackler
Larry & Sharon Dobkin
Steven Simon
Lenny Silberman

ELEGANT
— EDGE

CATERING
CO.

**Unforgettable Flavors
for an
Unforgettable Event**

**Check out our website for up to date info and menus:
eedg catering.com/menu**

**Office Phone: 412-385-2332
Email: info@eedg catering.com**



OUR CONGREGATIONAL FAMILY

Yahrzeit Donations

August 1, 2024 — October 31, 2024

Susan Abrams	Alex & Rachel Friedman	Daniel Kass & Deborah Gillman
Cynthia & Richard Abrams	Paula Garret & James Ferrise	Naum & Marina Kats
Renee Abrams	Marlene Gelman	Clarice Katz
Jack & Gail Abrams	Semyon & Svetlana Geshiktor	Carole Kaufman
Sharon Abrams	Rosemary Geyer	Mindy Keane & Marlene Salus
Alan Ackerman	Elayne Gilbert	Jack & Ellen Kessler
Carl & Honey Adelsheim	Lawrence & Rochelle Glanz	Anatoly & Anna Kharitonov
Anna Adler	Sheila Glasser	Alexander & Helen Kiderman
Robert & Ann Albert	Richard & Sondra Glasser	Stanley Kirshenbaum & Diane Silberg
Amma Alper	Gerald S. Goldberg	Alexander & Natalie Kisler
Howard Alter	Sandra Golding	Edward & Jill Klein
Mayer & Joyce Arnowitz	Lee & Hersha Goldman	Bruce & Bev Klein
Marylyn Baker	Morton & Racelle Goldstein	Gerald Kobell & Judy Kornblith Kobell
Regina Bardin	Murray & Donna Gordon	Bobbee Kramer
Daniel & Neila Bendas	Amy Gorin	Carl Krasik
Steven Berger	Meryl Gotlieb	James & Sheri Krell
Richard & Natalie Berger	Howard Granowitz	Dorita Krifcher
Elaine Berkowitz	Richard & Dana Green	Michael & Susan Kweller
Shirley & Stanley Bernstein	Richard Greenberg	Robert Lang
Ilya & Faina Bershadsky	Terri Greenberg	Sally Lapiduss
Gloria Blackburn	Andrew & Sherry Greenberger	Racille Lazar
Leonard & Barbara Bloom	Samuel & Dorothy Greenfield	Bruce Lazarus
Sheila Brody	Joel & Pamela Greenhouse	Paul Lebovitz & Mark Caldone
Nancy Bromberg	Murray & Barbara Gross	Carol Lederer c/o Pamela Helman
Marion Brooks	Robert & Judith Grumet	Jocelyn Lehman
Lewis & Jo Anne Cagen	Michael & Bonnie Guggenheim	Adele & Murray Leibowitz
Martin Childs	Ann Haalman	Jay Leipzig
Dorene Coffey	Robin Halpern	Terry & Cindy Lerman
Polly Craighill	William Halpern	Mitchell & Rhonda Letwin
Lois Crone	Arlene Mann Handmaker	Ellen Letwin Schulz
Jennifer Darling	Matthew Harinstein & Jennifer Berliner	Beth Lev
Michelle Denomme	Glenn Harlow & E.B. Pepper	Elaine Levenson
Neil Diamant & Debby Altman-Diamant	Steven & Lynn Hecht	Lawrence Levine
Bernard Dickter	Melvin & Reva Heimowitz	Richard & Joan Levine
Larry & Sharon Dobkin	Marshall & Eleanor Hershberg	Merle & Myriam Levine
Adrienne & Dennis Drapkin	William Hershman	Murray Levith
Rochelle Dueser	Sandra Hirsch	Donald & Lois Lewis
Aaron & Ellen Edelstein	Alan & Laurie Hirschman	James Liberman
Irwin & Linda Ehrenreich	Jill Hoffman	Arthur & Dorothy Lippmann
Sarita Eisner	Steve & Vicky Hoffman	Susan Lipsitz
Howard Elbling	Laverne Hoffman	Sanford Lipsitz
Judy & Louis Epstein	Marsha & Thomas Holcomb	Nathan Lovit
Joseph Epstein	Richard Horowitz	Susan Mahfood
Milton & Shirley Estner	John & Jessie Horton	Philip Marcus
Rose Kay Faust & Bernard Browning	David & Teddi Horvitz	Carol & Richard Margolis
Evelyn Favish	Jeff Izenson	Elisa Marlin
Richard & Helen Feder	Anne Jackson	Cynthia Melamed
Harriet Fibus	Edward Jacobson	Nancy Merenstein
Carolyn Flamm	Jack & Shelley Jaffe	Joshua & Linda Metlay
Michael & Ginger Foreman	Norman & Alice Jaffe	David Meyers
Honey Forman	Earl & Barbara Kaiserman	Jack & Bernice Meyers
Michael & Gerry Fox	Michael & Janet Kamon	Ravenna Miller
Phillip Frandler	Falk & Judy Kantor	Howard & Abby Milstein
Debra & Michael Freiser	Simone Karp & Marc Winepol	Marsha Mintz

OUR CONGREGATIONAL FAMILY

Yahrzeit Donations

August 1, 2024 — October 31, 2024

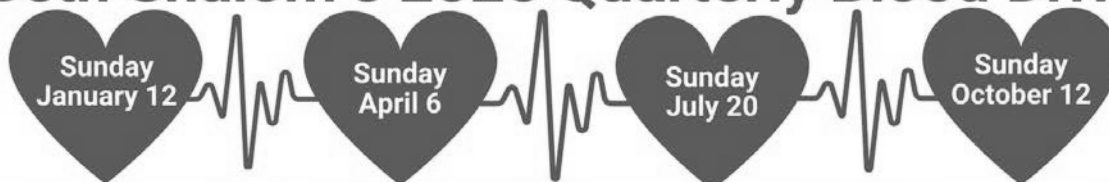
Abby Morrison
Herbert & Arlene Moses
Harriet Moses
Raisa Mudrenko
Gail Neft
Lee & Reva Neiman
Ronald & Toby Neufeld
Josef & Susan Norflus
Janice Ortenberg
Eva Ostrakovna
Lester & Barbara Parker
Carol Pearlman
Alex Pechersky
Rose Perer
Mark Perlin & Ria David
Bernard Pollack
Martha Printz Safyan
Yakov Prizant & Luba Dolinsky
Lisa & Jacky Prucz
Ruchlya Rabinovich
William & Nancy Rackoff
Aviva Radbord
Marc Reisman
David & Sharon Reiss
Esther Resnick
Paul & Jean Reznick
Alan & Marion Reznik
Cynthia Rider
Sarah Robbins
Arnold Robbins
Harvey & Beverly Robins
Harry Robins & Robyn Palmer
Ferne Rogow
Ed & Lynn Rose
Richard & Ellaine Rosen
Peter Rosenfeld & Sabina Bilder
Todd Rosenfeld
Jeffrey & Lynn Rosenthal
Alvin Ross & Christine Powers
Ira & Kate Rothstein
Joel Rubin
Robert & Wendy Russman-Halperin
Sally Samuels
Steven Santman
Larry & Adrienne Savitz

Albert & Karen Sawdai
Peter & Adrienne Scarano
Harry & Patty Schneider
Robert & Carol Schutte
James & Judith Schwartz
Steven & Sharon Schwartz
Eric & Sheila Scott
Elkie & Howard Secher
Irving Segal
Adam Selker
Howard & Roni Semins
Bud & Ilene Shapiro
Paul & Karen Shapiro
Herbert & Barbara Shear
Adam & Shoshanna Shear
Neal & Maria Shenderovich
Rosalyn Sherman
Lois Sherry
Bernard Shire
Alexander Shklyar
Mindy Shreve
Michael & Galina Shurin
H. Michael & Ellen Siegel
Joseph & Sandra Siegel
Lenny Silberman
Richard & Mary Silk
Arnold & Susan Silverman
Audrey Silverman
Cynthia & Grant Simon
Joyce & Howard Simons
Murray Sittsamer
Sheila Slewett
Elaine Small
Donald & Roslyn Small
Edwin & Iris Smith
Harold & Connie Smolar
Susan Snider
Ian & Victoria Speck
Shirley Sperling
James & Theresa Spevock
Rachael Spokane
Alan & Fern Steckel
Steve & Lanoma Stein
Bernard Stein
Barry & Yvonne Stein

Jeffrey Stein
Eileen Stein
John & Lynn Stein
Karen Stein
Ted & Stacy Stein
David & Carole Steinbach
Ann & Steven Stoller
Richard & Sharon Sweet
Boris Tatarintsev & Bronislava
Miloslavskaya
Michael Tenebaum
Richard Tenebaum
Tamara Tregubenko
Gary & Nancy Tuckfelt
Steven & Susan Uretsky
Shirley Veldenzer
Sandi Verbin
Jane Walmsley
Fay Wanetick
Judy & Richard Wein
Robert & Judy Wein
David & Joan Weinbaum
Helene & Stanley Weiner
Joseph & Phyllis Weinkle
Judith & Brian Weinstein
Ron & Debra Weinstock
Jim & Barbara Weiser
Patricia Weiss
Ronnie & Roger Wilk
Elizabeth Witschard
Barry Wolk
Charles & Jane Yahr
Michael & Carol Yahr
Judy Light & Bruce Yaillen
Carol Yaster & William Levant
Nathan Young
Susan Young
Fred & Judith Young
Garik & Sofia Yudkovicz
Yevgeniy & Julia Yuger
Boris Yurovsky
Polina Zakin
Arkadiy Zaydenberg

SAVE THE DATE

Beth Shalom's 2025 Quarterly Blood Drives



OUR CONGREGATIONAL FAMILY

Kiddush Sponsors

August 1, 2024 — October 31, 2024

August 3, 2024

sponsored by **The Sussman family** in honor of the naming of their first daughter Bendaline Ellyn Sussman.

August 17, 2024

sponsored by **Helen and Rich Feder** for in honor of Helen and Richard's special birthdays.

August 24, 2024

sponsored by **The Beth Shalom bridge group, Rich Feder, Joe Jolson, Alan Kopolow, Fred Newman, Paul Teplitz and Roger Zimmerman.**

August 31, 2024

sponsored by **Howard and Marcia Siegel** in honor of their grandson Theo becoming a bar mitzvah.

September 14, 2024

sponsored by **Jon and Lisa Marcus** in honor of Rosie becoming a bat mitzvah.

September 21, 2024

sponsored by **Congregations Beth Shalom and New Light** in honor of NA'AMAT Shabbat.

October 17, 2024

sponsored by **Bernice & Jack Meyers** the Sukkot Day 1 kiddush in honor of their grandson Lewis Benjamin Meyers bar mitzvah, held on September 28, 2024 at The Conservative Synagogue in Westport, Connecticut.

October 19, 2024

sponsored by **Judy & Gerry Kobell** to celebrate the 70th anniversary of Gerry's bar mitzvah.

Nihum Avelim (Comforting Mourners)

August 1, 2024 — October 31, 2024

Brian Cohen (Ilyssa Manspeizer) and Jacob (Emily), Tal, Gili, and Ori Cohen, and Sonny

Cohen, on the passing of their mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother, Louise Cohen, on Saturday, August 24, 2024.

Rhoda, Jordan, and Emma Judd on the passing of their husband, father and grandfather, Richard H. "Dick" Judd, on Sunday, August 25, 2024.

Brenda Kurland (Mitch Dernis), Zelig (Rachel Markowitz), and Avishai, Shuli, Ruth, & Zev on the passing of their mother and grandmother, Dorothy Kurland, on Tuesday, September 3, 2024.

Rabbi Aaron Mackler (Lorraine) on the passing of his mother, Ruth Mackler on Friday, September 6.

Nicholas Petesch (Dr. Rebecca Mancoll) on the passing of his father, Donald A. Petesch, on Thursday, September 19, 2024.

Evelyn "Huvvy" Simon, Freada Jaffe (David), Emily, Jennifer, and Alexandra on the passing of son, brother, and uncle, Steven Simon, on Sunday, September 22, 2024.

Milestones – Mazal Tov!

August 1, 2024 — October 31, 2024

Erin and Max Sussman on the birth of their daughter, Bendaline Ellyn Sussman, who was born on Friday, July 19, 2024.

Dr. Rebecca Jacobson who is a panelist at "An Evening with the Bamileke Community" sponsored by the Holocaust Center of Pittsburgh on Monday, August 5 at Chatman University's Eddy Theatre.

Brooke Barker and Boaz Frankel on the birth of their son, Aviv Yitzchak Barker, who was born on Wednesday, July 31, 2024.

Fern & Alan Steckel on the birth of their new granddaughter, Miller Isabelle, born in Atlanta, GA, on Sunday, August 25.

OUR CONGREGATIONAL FAMILY

Nicole & Howard Valinsky on the birth of their new grandchild, Milo Elias, who was born on Friday, August 30, 2024. The parents are Danni and Andrew Valinsky.

Bryna Siegel Finer & David Finer on their son, Theo Finer, becoming a bar mitzvah on Saturday, August 31, 2024.

Patty & Alan Barnett on the birth of their granddaughter, Sophia Ann, born in August, daughter of Dr. Rebecca Barnett and Dr. Stephen Klepner. Big brothers are Samuel Joseph and Jacob Charles of New Jersey. Also, mazal tov to grandparents Rob and Iris Klepner.

Lidush Goldschmidt on her grandson, Reuben Yadin Goldschmidt, becoming a bar mitzvah on Saturday, September 7 at Beth El Congregation of the South Hills.

The Marcus family in honor of Rosie becoming a bat mitzvah.

Eytan Hirsch and Lindsay Katz in honor of their aufruf. Also, mazal tov to Sandra Hirsch, mother of the groom.

Lou Plung who was recognized as the Volunteer of the Year by the Jewish Association on Aging on Thursday, September 19, 2024.

The **Beth Shalom Early Learning Center** for receiving a \$7,000 grant made available through the Keystone STARS Continuous Quality Improvement Award.

Elisa Recht Marlin on the birth of her grandson, Caleb Ethan Marlin, son of Daniel Marlin and Anna Edelstein and brother of Simon.

Isaac Munro and Jonah Taylor in honor of their aufruf.

Emily Silverman and Boaz Munro and older sister Flory in honor of the naming of their new baby, Jane Raphaela Munro.

Beth Shalom Early Learning Center's dedicated educators who are participating in ElevatEd, a national initiative designed to elevate and enhance early childhood Jewish education.

Virtual/Actual Third Meal Sponsors

August 1, 2024 — October 31, 2024

August 10, 2024

sponsored by **Stan and BJ Friedman** in honor of their 47th wedding anniversary.

September 7, 2024

sponsored by **Gil Schneider** in memory of his mother Gloria Meltzer Schneider.

September 21, 2024

sponsored by **Brenda Kurland** in memory of her grandmother Mildred Kurland.

October 26, 2024

sponsored by **Stanley Kirshenbaum** in commemoration of his father, Sam Kirshenbaum's, yahrzeit.

Shabbat Kiddush Sponsorship

We are seeking sponsors for our Shabbat Kiddushes. All monies raised will be used to cover the cost of the food.



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

OUR CONGREGATIONAL FAMILY

**Check out the full list of Congregation Beth Shalom endowment and funds.
You can donate to any one of these funds.
Donate online at bethshalompgh.org/general-donations**

Operations Endowment

Providing long-term support for synagogue operations

Rabbi Adelson Discretionary Fund

Supporting Rabbi Adelson's Philanthropic Ideals

Rabbi Goodman Discretionary Fund

Supporting Rabbi Adelson's Philanthropic Ideals

Mildred & Isadore Berkowitz Memorial Fund

Supporting synagogue operations

Beth Shalom Judaic Museum Fund

Providing funds for Judaic Museum purchases

Bregman Minyan Endowment

Supporting morning minyan social activities

Cemetery Endowment

Providing cemetery maintenance

Etz Chaim Chumashim Fund

Purchasing of Chumashim

Andrew & Minnie Cohen Operations Fund

Supporting synagogue operations

Reuben A. & Selma W. Cohen Youth Endowment

Supporting music activities

Harry & Jean Davis Operations Endowment

Supporting synagogue operations

Max Elinoff Youth Scholarship Fund

Supporting Beth Shalom youth welfare

J. Leonard Frank Early Minyan Endowment

Supporting Shabbat and Yom Tov services

Goldberg Endowment Fund

Financing Shabbat & family programs for Religious School (J-JEP)

Lynda Herer Goldsmith Camp Ramah Fund

Funding scholarships for youth members in need

Lillian & Leo Gross Sisterhood Keshet Fund

Underwriting Keshet annual cost

Bernard & Ethel Halpern Young Leadership Award

Paying the expenses associated with the Halpern Young Leadership award.

Lillian Halpern JTS Weekend Lectureship Endowment

Bringing Seminary students to Beth Shalom for shabbat weekend

Morris Henderson Yahrzeit Fund

Supporting synagogue operations

Hoffman Library Fund

Establishing and maintaining the Hoffman Library

Israel Experience Scholarship Fund

Funding scholarships for dependent children of Congregants to offset costs for trip to Israel

Allan & Betsy Kanarek Shabbat Alive Endowment

Offering programming for Shabbat Alive events

Joan & Larry Lasday Memorial Education Fund

Assisting deserving youth of Synagogue members

Mark Lasser Memorial Scholarship Fund

Providing an annual scholarship to enable an Israel experience for a member in need

Darrell H. Lazarus Hear O Israel Fund

Providing hearing devices for those who are hearing impaired

Arnold H. Lazarus & Belle G. Lazarus Endowment

Supporting synagogue operations

Arnold H. Lazarus & Belle G. Lazarus Annual Remembrance Fund

Providing funding for annual kiddush honoring Belle and Arnold Lazarus

Bessie & Aaron Maharam Education Endowment

Providing books and other educational materials for preschool

OUR CONGREGATIONAL FAMILY

Ma'ot Hitin Donation Fund

Supporting people in need during passover

Max Elinoff Fund

Hebrew School Technology Fund

Mazerov Scholarship Endowment

Providing scholarship support for children of Beth Shalom members

Moscov Scholarship Fund

Providing scholarship support for Preschool students

Preschool Enrichment Fund

Supporting preschool programming

Philanthropic Fund

Supporting charitable causes as defined by the Philanthropic Committee

Prayer Book Fund

Providing funds to purchase New Prayer Books

Preschool Scholarship Fund

Providing scholarship support for Preschool students

Lynne Robins Memorial Scholarship Endowment

Providing First-time Israel travel support for young female members

Rose K. & Harry Rosen Confirmation Class Endowment

Financing education programs and activities

Thomas Mordechai and Simcha Rosenstein Memorial Fund

Supporting synagogue operations

Dolores Rubin Prayerbook Fund

Providing funds to purchase New Prayer Books

Schiffman Music Fund

Supporting music programming

Arlene Shapiro Memorial Fund

Supporting synagogue operations

Samuel T. & Jeannette B. Shear Youth Lounge Endowment

Establishing and maintaining youth lounge

Sisterhood Flower Fund

Providing flowers for the Bima & our Rabbis for the High Holidays

Sisterhood Torah Cover Endowment

Purchasing of Torah Cover in honor of every Congregation President

Sigel-Mandel-Cohen Scholar in Residence Shulabration Endowment

Supporting Scholar-in-Residence Program

Albert & Anita Smolover Scholarship Fund

Supporting Preschool operations

Pearl & William Stark Humanities Library Fund

Establishing and maintaining the Starks Humanities Library

Harry Steck Primary Enrichment Endowment Fund

Providing books and other educational materials for Religious School Enrichment

Taubé Endowment Fund

Supporting synagogue operations

Early Childhood TEACH Fund

Supporting Professional Development of our Preschool Staff

Wagner-Klein Preschool Playground Fund

Maintaining and replacing Preschool playground equipment

Alvin and Shirley Weinberg Preschool Scholarship Fund

Providing scholarship support for Preschool students

Youth Fund

Supporting youth programming

Zukerman Sukkot Endowment

Providing Sukkot decorations and kiddushes and Sukkah construction/repair

Zweig Library Fund

Establishing and maintaining the Zweig Library

Samuel & Mollie Zytznick Endowment

Supports synagogue operations

STAFF DIRECTORY

Please reference this directory for professional 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

Clergy & Program Staff



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



Rabbi Mark Asher Goodman
Associate Rabbi
412.421.2288 x111
mgoodman@bethshalompgh.org



Ashley Burse
Rabbi's Assistant
412.421.2288 x112
rabbiasst@bethshalompgh.org



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



Stephanie Wolfe
Assistant Director of J-JEP
412.621.6566 x111
jjepad@rodefshalom.org



Hilary Yeckel
Director of the ELC
412.421.2288 x290
Hyeckel@bethshalompgh.org



Norah Cauley
Assistant Director of the ELC
412.421.8857 x390
ncauley@bethshalompgh.org



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



Shari Rapowitz Woldenberg
Derekh Coordinator
412.421.2288 x321
swoldenberg@bethshalompgh.org

Administrative Staff



Robert Gleiberman
Executive Director
412.421.2288 x226
ExecDir@bethshalompgh.org



Dale Caprara
Controller
412.421.2288 x109
controller@bethshalompgh.org



Rabbi Andy Shugerman
Development Director
412.421.2288 x 317
rabbiandy@bethshalompgh.org



Michael Smrek
Cemetery Director
412.421.2288 x293
cemetery@bethshalompgh.org



Kristin Zappone
Marketing & Communications Specialist
412.421.2288 x108
communications@bethshalompgh.org



Tika Bonner
Administrative Assistant
412.421.2288 x114
receptionist@bethshalompgh.org



Amira Walker
Bookkeeper
412.421.2288 x110
accounting@bethshalompgh.org



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



Shayna Yanoff
Events and Catering Coordinator
412.385.2332
syanoff@eedgecatering.com

Come Together 2024 **COMEDY NIGHT** Photo Collage

