



CONGREGATION BETH ISRAEL

5600 North Braeswood Boulevard
Houston, Texas 77096
main 713-771-6221
fax 713-771-5705
www.beth-israel.org

SAVE THE DATES

Professor Deborah Lipstadt

Monday, January 13th

MLK Shir Shabbat

Friday, January 17th

Mah Jongg Mania!

Tuesday, February 4th

New Member Shabbat

Friday, February 7th

Rabbi Ofek Meir, Scholar-in-Residence

February 14-16th

Broadway Sensation Tovah Feldshuh

in *Tovah: Out of Her Mind!*
Saturday, February 22nd

Rock & Roll Bingo

Sunday, March 8th

Lyon Cohen Symposium

Thursday, April 2nd

Shir Shabbat

Friday, April 3rd

Second Night Seder

April 9th

JANUARY 2020 BULLETIN

Mental Health: First Aid for the Soul



Congregation Beth Israel has been a partner with the Jewish Family Service for nearly five years specifically with regard to the areas of inclusion and mental health. As a congregation, we have studied and focused our attention on supporting these efforts toward our physical campus and our educational programming. We have made great strides in this important work. As part of our continued dedication in the area of mental health and overall well-being, this past fall Beth Israel hosted the Mental Health First Aid comprehensive training program. Over the course of eight hours, members of our congregation and larger community became certified in Mental Health First Aid.

Awareness is the first step toward understanding both the intricacies and challenges associated with mental health. Thankfully in the twenty-first century, we are now able to name many health-related challenges. Not only can we identify them, but we are working hard to raise awareness on the difficulties that many have suffered in silence for far too long.

Being certified in Mental Health First Aid means establishing a sense of comfort with the language and terminology associated with mental health challenges. An individual is thought to seek professional help if his or her ability to “live, laugh and love” is affected. These are serious parameters and ones that deserve attention.

Through our mindfulness training, we learned important tools for being able to respond in a timely and effective manner. In our hours together, we came together as a group focusing on breaking down the unnecessary stigma that has long been associated with mental health challenges specifically within the Jewish community. By actively listening to the needs of another individual, we demonstrate empathy.

In truth, being responsive to others’ mental health needs is very much a part of our tradition. We are each endowed with a divine spark. That spark takes on many different forms. Sometimes it is simply hidden and deserves the proper care and attention. By being in the moment with every person with whom we interact, we create a holy encounter, worthy of God’s presence.

As a new secular year begins, let us each strive to be present for those closest to us. In Pirkei Avot, Ethics of our Fathers, we are taught, “in a place where there is no humanity, we must strive to be human.” To be human means to be present for those who need us the most. We can share our concerns with our loved ones. As a congregation, we are committed to helping all those in need. Whether we can see a challenge or whether one remains hidden, each of us can strive to be the most sacred version of ourselves. God created us in the Divine image. Through our brokenness we can become whole once again.

Let us not pass judgement on those who struggle for health and well-being. Rather, we must support one another as a community by making solid and lasting connections. We are a community of friends. We are family. May we always feel empowered to find the path to peace we all deserve.

Adrienne P. Scott

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Rabbi Lyon on the Radio

Rabbi David Lyon can be heard on Sunday mornings at 6:45 a.m. on KODA, Sunny 99.1 FM radio. See page 11 to listen as a podcast.

Congregation Beth Israel Bulletin (USPS 128640) is published in August, January, March, and June by Congregation Beth Israel, 5600 North Braeswood Blvd., Houston, Texas 77096. **POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Congregation Beth Israel, 5600 North Braeswood Blvd., Houston, Texas 77096.**



Under Construction

Please pardon our construction as we make improvements to our Sanctuary entrance. We anticipate having our beautiful new canopy covering our entrance completed in the coming months. Thank you for your patience and please be careful while driving in our parking lot.



CONGREGATION
BETH ISRAEL



2020 Calendar

Sunday, January 12, 2020 – 9:30 a.m.

Registration begins at 9:00 a.m.

Kids' Meals 5k – Wolff-Toomim Hall

Wednesday, January 22nd

Wednesday, February 26th

Wednesday, March 25th

Wednesday, April 22nd

Wednesday, May 27th

Wednesday, June 24th

9:30 a.m. – Margolis Gallery or Wolff-Toomim Hall

Questions? Contact Marsha Gilbert

mgilbert@beth-israel.org (713) 771-6221, ext. 336



Retired but Not Forgotten

Mike Reeves, a self-employed graphic designer for the last 45 years who's been doing the *Bulletin* for the last 45 years, is stepping down. A graduate from the University of Houston in 1972, he later became the art director for a printing company, where he learned what happened to any graphics he did and how best to do the artwork for printing. Reeves then became the art director for a typesetting company where he learned the type business. Both of those led to opening the Mike Reeves Design Studio in 1974. Reeves has also been happily married for 50 years and has one son and two grandchildren. Reeves said he is honored to have designed the *Bulletin* for so long and will continue to assist Rene Schwartz as she carries on.

Rabbi Joshua Weinberg Kicks Off World Zionist Congress Election

On November 8-9th, Congregation Beth Israel welcomed Rabbi Joshua Weinberg as a Scholar-In-Residence. Rabbi Weinberg serves as the Vice President of the URJ for Israel and Reform Zionism and is the Executive Director of ARZA, the Association of Reform Zionists of America. He was ordained from the HUC-JIR Israeli Rabbinic Program in Jerusalem and joined us from New York. He spoke on Friday night during services and at dinner about the challenges of Reform Judaism in Israel and how the Reform Movement works to help Israel maintain its democratic and Jewish character.

He focused on how the American Jewish community and the Israeli Jewish community both need each other in order to create a vibrant, global Jewish community. Rabbi Weinberg discussed this message throughout the weekend including during Torah Study on Saturday morning and at a Havdalah reception on Saturday night co-sponsored by AIPAC; he shared with everyone information about the upcoming World Zionist Congress (WZC) election.

The WZC is the Parliament of the Jewish People worldwide, and it comprises 500 delegates who meet in Jerusalem every five years. The 38th WZC is scheduled to meet in Jerusalem in 2020, and its delegates will have the opportunity to exert ideological influence on both Israeli society and Jews throughout the world.

WZC allocates financial and other resources to many organizations in Israel, including the Reform Movement, and there are \$3.5 billion at stake. A strong election turnout among North America's Reform Jews will ensure that these funds will continue to flow to Reform congregations and institutions in Israel and to help fill leadership positions in some of Israel's national institutions including the Jewish Agency for Israel, the Jewish National Fund (JNF), and the World Zionist Organization. The upcoming election will take place online from January 21



to March 11, 2020, and anyone who is Jewish and over the age of 18 may participate in the election for a nominal fee. Similar to electing representatives to represent us on the national board of the URJ or other Jewish organizations, this is not an endorsement of a political candidate or party but simply supporting the Reform Movement and working to send rabbis to represent Reform values in Israel. We encourage everyone in the congregation to participate in the election by going to www.arza.org.

A poster for the World Zionist Congress Election. The top half has a blue background with the text "WORLD ZIONIST CONGRESS ELECTION" in white, followed by "WHY VOTE?" in large white letters. Below this is a black and white photograph of a crowd of people, many with their arms raised. The bottom section has a blue background with white text: "Your vote is the only democratic opportunity you have to influence Israeli society as we continue our efforts towards equality, pluralism and tolerance." Below that, it says "Vote January 21 through March 11, 2020." and "Learn more about why voting in this election matters on arza.org." At the bottom are the #VoteReformWZC hashtag, the election dates, and the URJ logo.A poster for the World Zionist Congress Election. The top left features the URJ logo. The main text reads: "DO YOU WANT YOUR GRANDCHILD TO HAVE A PLACE IN ISRAEL?" in large blue letters. Below this, it says "Vote for pluralism and equality. Vote for the future we want for the State of Israel." Further down, it says "Learn about the importance of the World Zionist Elections for the Reform Movement on arza.org." At the bottom is the #VoteReformWZC hashtag, the election dates, and the URJ logo. The right side of the poster is a collage of three images: a child writing, a group of children sitting on the grass, and a child holding a toy car.

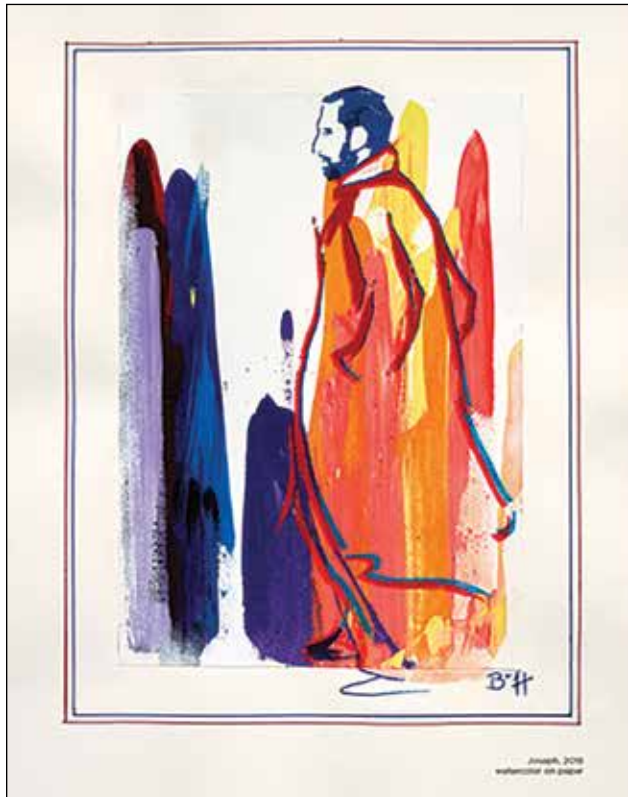
Our Israel Advocacy Committee will be helping promote our congregation's participation during programming and services throughout the election period. Laptops will be available after services and during events including Sunday morning MBJLC programming to allow members to register and participate in the election.

Our goal is to have at least 50% of the congregation participate in the election, and we need your help! If you have any questions about the WZC Election, please contact Stanley Horn, Israel Advocacy Committee Co-Chair and WZC Election Captain, at (713) 201-5252 or by email at stanleyhorn51@gmail.com.



THE MARGOLIS GALLERY

of Congregation Beth Israel



Please Join Us For
Barbara Hines'

SPOTLIGHT ON **JOSEPH**

January 9th - February 28th

Opening Reception
Thursday, January 9th
6:30-8:30 p.m.

The Margolis Gallery
Congregation Beth Israel
5600 N. Braeswood Blvd.
Houston, Texas 77096

RSVP to Rene Schwartz,
rschwartz@beth-israel.org or call (713) 771-6221, ext. 630

**All proceeds from art sales will be donated
to the Margolis Gallery**

BARBARAHINESART.COM



Top left, Fascinated art fans listen to Rabbi Eleanor Steinman as she introduces The Margolis Gallery's The Guiding Hand art exhibit opening November 7, 2019. Top right, Shirley Lavine shares a little of the history of the yads at The Guiding Hand art exhibit opening. Bottom right, an intrigued guest gazes upon a case full of beautiful yads at The Guiding Hand art exhibit opening.



Update From ABIDE

ABIDE (Advocacy at Beth Israel for Diversity through Education) continues to focus on two main efforts:

- Congregational Conversations to learn more about members' concerns about social justice issues.
- Our Muslim Jewish Gun Safety Campaign.

Thank you to all those who've already participated in a Congregational Conversation! These are for small groups, for a 30-60 minute structured conversation, at Beth Israel or in a member's home. We ask everyone to consider what "keeps them up at night" (besides their partner's snoring) or what worries them about the state of our society. Responses will be used to guide our social justice work in the coming years.

Many thanks to all the ABIDE members who are leading the

Congregational Conversations!

The Muslim Jewish Gun Safety Campaign is in the final planning stage; we hope to announce a press conference date soon. With the help of a grant from Islamic Relief USA and a Muslim Jewish Leadership Team, we will use billboards and other ads to inform the public how each of us can reduce gun violence through common sense efforts. We continue to work with Houston's Police Chief and our region's ATF (Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms) staff to prepare critical materials to guide citizens in saving lives by eliminating gun theft and gun accidents.

Please email ABIDE co-chair **Lisa Stone**, lestone@aya.yale.edu, if you would like to participate in and/or host a Congregational Conversation, or be active in the Gun Safety Campaign.





CONGREGATION
BETH ISRAEL

invites you to our annual

New Member Shabbat

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2020
6:30PM | SANCTUARY

Give Congregation Beth Israel's newest members a warm welcome
at a special Shabbat service in their honor!

We invite our entire congregational family to share the precious moment
when our new members are blessed on the bimah by our Clergy

The celebration continues with a sweet Oneg Shabbat of heavy hors d'oeuvres,
delicious desserts, and more!



SISTERHOOD
of Congregation Beth Israel

ANNUAL MAH JONGG MANIA 2020!

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2020

6:00 PM - 10:00 PM

CONGREGATION BETH ISRAEL

WOLFF-TOOMIM HALL

5600 N BRAESWOOD BLVD

\$40 with RSVP / \$50 AT THE DOOR

COME SPEND TIME WITH YOUR SISTERS!

ENJOY A GAME OF MAH JONGG,

A CHANCE TO WIN FABULOUS RAFFLE ITEMS,

LIGHT BITES AND WINE!

QUESTIONS? CALL OR EMAIL US 713-777-4315 OR SISTERHOOD@BETH-ISRAEL.ORG

I WANT TO BE AN **UNDERWRITER** IN THE AMOUNT OF (\$100+ RECEIVE RECOGNITION AT THE EVENT): _____

I WISH TO PURCHASE _____ TICKET(S) AT THE PRICE OF **\$40 PER TICKET**

PLEASE LIST THE NAME AND PHONE NUMBER FOR EACH PLAYER SEATED AT YOUR TABLE

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

CREATE A NAME FOR YOUR TABLE: _____

****PLEASE BRING YOUR 2019 MAH JONGG CARD & A MAH JONGG SET PER TABLE****

THIS REGISTRATION FORM REQUIRED FOR ENTRY - ADDITIONAL FORMS IN THE GIFT SHOP

RSVP BY JANUARY 31, 2020

MAIL FORM AND PAYMENT TO:

SISTERHOOD, c/o ANITA SELINE

5600 N BRAESWOOD BLVD, HOUSTON, TX, 77096

SELECT FORM OF PAYMENT:

- ☐ CHECK ENCLOSED PAYABLE TO BETH ISRAEL SISTERHOOD
- ☐ CREDIT CARD (PROVIDE ALL INFO BELOW)

CIRCLE ONE: VISA MC DISCOVER AMEX

NAME (AS ON CARD): _____

CARD #: _____ EXP DATE: _____ SEC. CODE: _____

BILLING ADDRESS: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____

PLEASE CHARGE MY CREDIT CARD FOR THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF: _____

THE SISTERHOOD OF CONGREGATION BETH ISRAEL THANKS YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!



CONGREGATION BETH ISRAEL SISTERHOOD

MAH JONGG MANIA!

COME SPEND TIME WITH YOUR SISTERS!
ENJOY A GAME OF MAH JONGG,
A CHANCE TO WIN FABULOUS
RAFFLE ITEMS, FOOD & WINE!

REGISTRATION FORMS ARE IN THE GIFT SHOP
OR

[WWW.BETH-ISRAEL.ORG/
SISTERHOODFORMS](http://WWW.BETH-ISRAEL.ORG/SISTERHOODFORMS)

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED

TICKETS

\$40
with RSVP

\$50
at the door

Tuesday
February 4th

6:00 - 10:00pm

Congregation
Beth Israel

Wolff-Toomim Hall
5600 N. Braeswood

Questions?

Contact Us

713-777-4315

sisterhood@beth-israel.org

2019-2020 Consecration Class



Congregation Beth Israel and The Shlenker School held its 2019 consecration on October 20th. Front: James Tenenbaum, Hannah Buxbaum, Daisy Lavin, Eleanor Gerber, Benny Radom, Eden McIngvale, Oliver Golenternek and Katelyn Stein. Second row: Connor Anderson, Hadley Goodman, Davis Roseman, Reese Sandler, Riley Theriot, Lian Zalewski, Matthew Abramson, Charlotte Ford, Eliana Little, and Deborah Edwardson. Third row: Blake Wise, Ryan Burke, Mía Yakubov, Emma Zalewski, David Racusin, Samantha Turner, Libby Hoelscher and Max Bluestone. Fourth row: Caleb Pressly, Eli Sherman, Turner Spindler, Rowan Brokaw, Noah Danziger, Eliana Haseltine, Ivy Morris, Gabriela Jerade, Drew Sorkin and Anne Diskin. Fifth row: Grant Feldman, Grace Kopel, William Frankel, Aviva Mason, Taylor Asmus, Yali Cohen, Noam Doskalovich, Mackenzie Turner and Pam Seitz. Sixth row: Harrison Rochat and Magnus Mensik. Back: David Scott, Dorit Crane, Rabbi Eleanor Steinman, Cantor Star Trompeter, Rabbi David Lyon, Rabbi Adrienne Scott, Dr. Michelle Barton, Samara Schwartz and Merle Bloch.



**Congregation Beth Israel
invites you to volunteer to
prepare 5,000 meals for
Houston's hungriest pre-schoolers
in record-breaking time.**



TIME: 9:30am on January 12, 2020
Registration begins at 9am
LOCATION: Beth Israel Sanctuary
5600 N. Braeswood Blvd.

RSVP and register online at
www.beth-israel.org/kids-meals-5k
PARKING: Park and enter by the
Sanctuary entrance



MIRIAM BROWNING

JEWISH LEARNING CENTER

of Congregation Beth Israel

Miriam Browning Jewish Learning Center

It's been a wonderful fall at the MBJLC. We have held a beautiful consecration with the Shlenker school, made Torah covers with Kindergarten families, Shabbat boxes with 1st grade families, made friends with the building in 2nd grade, and got our 6th grade families excited and prepared for B'nei Mitzvah. Our family Shabbat in Sukkot and family camp-out Shabbat were huge successes, and our youth group has had some amazing outings. Here's what's coming up - come and join us!

Hebrew classes resume on **January 8th** and Sunday classes on **January 12th**. After a long break, we will be glad to come and learn together again. **January 12th** is also the Kids Meals 5K that we hope all of our families will participate in. Beginning with a mitzvah is a wonderful way to kick off our learning in 2020.

February 9th is our 4th grade Family Education day, which centers around the idea of leadership.

February 16th is Yom Limmud, where educators from several area synagogues join together to learn about teaching. Classes are cancelled for the children, as their teachers are becoming learners for the day. Congregation Beth Israel is proud to be this year's host synagogue.

On **February 23rd**, 3rd grade will have their Family Education day, in which their increased focus on Hebrew learning will be celebrated.

Get excited for Purim, which will be celebrated at the MBJLC on **March 8th**. Our carnival is always a great time, and an opportunity to perform all four mitzvot of Purim - hearing the story, having a feast, sharing with each other, and giving to those less fortunate.

Scholarships are available for Jewish sleepaway camps. For more information, contact Samara Schwartz at sschwartz@beth-israel.org.

MONTHLY MIDRASH

Facilitated by David Scott, RJE dscott@beth-israel.org

JANUARY 9TH

A Discussion On Ongoing Revelation

FEBRUARY 6TH

Jewish Memory and Amalek

MARCH 12TH

Jewish Memory and The Spanish Inquisition

APRIL 2ND

The Holocaust and Jewish Memory

MAY 7TH

Returning to Our Homeland

Lunch Is Included.

Contact Liza Abrams, Adult Education Coordinator,
for RSVPs, at (713) 771-6221, ext. 301
or labrams@beth-israel.org.

Welcome New Members!

From July to November, we welcome the following new members below.

Rachel & Steven Abbott
Katie Arnoldy
Angie & David Aron
Andria & Jeffrey Berman
Doris & Lawrence Bernard
Laurence Bernell
Marcie & David Bluestone
Marlene Bruten
& David Chezes
Erma Cohen
Rachel Collett
Harriett & Calvin Cooper
Carolyn Cowl-Witherspoon
& David Witherspoon
Brittany
& Bradley Dinerstein
Barbara Glass
& Hillel Weinbaum
Alexa Gould
& Gary Yevelev
Daphna Guttin
& Daniel Beaser
Laina & Reed Hammond
Staci & Michael Howard
Laura Jeffery
Carmen Jimenez

Haley & Adam Karren
Lev Kats
Dorothy & Albert Krafcheck
Shirley & Sonny Landsberg
Alec Lapin
Nikki Lapine
& Jonathan Carrico
Jack Levine
Carole Marmell
Jozsef Molnar
Elizabeth & Ryan Nussbaum
Laura & Paul Provada
Jennifer Quick
Lisa & Richard Robbins
Jennifer & Michael Roth
Cathie Rubin
Randi & Greg Sandler
Valerie & Blake Schanzer
Rene Schwartz & Joey Hurst
Sam Sheff
Zinaida & Yakov Shiforenko
Jed Silverman
Rabbi Eleanor Steinman
& Rabbi Denise Eger
Jennifer & Ashley Wermuth
Emily Winakur

Join us for Houston's largest day of Jewish learning!

YOM LIMMUD 2020

Sunday, February 16, 2020 | 9 am-3 pm
Congregation Beth Israel

SPONSORED BY

chair king
BACKYARD STORE
and
THE BARISH FAMILY

houstonjewish.org/yomlimmud



BROTHERHOOD

of Congregation Beth Israel

The Brotherhood of Congregation Beth Israel has been busy this year. We started off our programming year with a Congregational Conversation with Rabbi Lyon and we were then treated to a Wine Tasting event at the home of Ed Wolff. The High Holy Days saw our Brotherhood lead the Ushering team for all services and with the help of Jay Freedman expand and construct our Texas sized Sukkah.

We had a little fun at our first "annual" Texas Hold'em Tournament and learned a little bit about Jews in the Military from guest speaker/author Mark Leibman.

The programming won't be slowing down anytime soon! As we move forward into 2020, the Brotherhood will be implementing a flat membership fee of \$36.00. These dues will be used to sponsor the Boy Scout Troop 806, Cub Scout Pack 806, our sukkah, Kiddush Cups for B'nei Mitzvah, Confirmant Awards, and hosting exciting events throughout the year.

If you or your company would like to sponsor any of our events, please let us know, as we have many opportunities for company sponsorship. Membership dues can be paid online by visiting www.beth-israel.org and clicking on Member Login or by completing this form <https://www.beth-israel.org/membership-community/get-connected/brotherhood> and returning it to Beth Israel by mail or in person. If you have any questions about the Brotherhood, membership or sponsorship please contact Marcus Litofsky, Brotherhood President - mlitofsky@gmail.com or (832) 368-0977.

הִנֵּה מַה טוֹב וְמָה-נְעִים.
שֶׁבֶת אֲחִים יָסֵד.

Hinei ma tov u'ma-nayim Shevet ach-im gam ya-chad
"Behold how good and how pleasing it is when
brothers sit together in unity."

WINTER/SPRING EVENTS:

Whiskey & Steak Night Wednesday, January 29th at 7:00 p.m.

Brought back by popular demand! Once again, Jay Freedman will be opening up his home, grill, and most importantly his bourbon vault to our Brotherhood. At this event, not only will Jay dazzle us with his cooking skills but he will share his extensive knowledge of bourbon as he allows us to sample his personal collection. Space is limited to 20 people so don't wait to RSVP! Cost for the event is \$18.00 for Brotherhood members and \$25 for non-members. RSVP via Eventbrite at <https://tinyurl.com/whiskeysteak> or contact Marcus Litofsky at mlitofsky@gmail.com.

The 9th Annual Houston Kosher Chili Cook-off, Sunday March 1st from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Save the date! We will be looking for some root'en-toot'en chili cook'en volunteers to cook and serve our chili and help bring home the Kosher Chili Cook-off Championship. This year's event will once again take place in the Congregation

Beth Yeshurun parking lot. Please contact Michael Braun at mbraun234@hotmail.com.

Inter-Synagogue Softball League March 2020

Another season of the men's inter-synagogue softball league is right around the corner. Representatives from the area synagogues have started the planning stage and hope to start play in early March. Cost of the league is still being worked out, but prices will vary for members and non-members of the Brotherhood. If you are interested in being on the team please contact Marcus Litofsky at mlitofsky@gmail.com

Lyon Cohen Symposium April 2, 2020

For the first time we are creating a Host Committee (lead by Daniel Gerber) for this event. The theme for this year will be the "Jewish Ethics of Citizenship," and the panel for the event includes former Texas Speaker of the House Joe Straus, former County Judge Ed Emmett, former Mayor Pro Tem Ellen Cohen, and Rabbi David Lyon. We are very excited about this event, and we anticipate a record number of attendees for it. To join the Brotherhood's Host Committee or for more information please contact Daniel Gerber at dagerber.tx@gmail.com.

Friday Night Ushering - Ongoing

If you have the time please consider volunteering to greet your fellow congregants as they enter the Temple for Friday night services. No need to RSVP, just show up 30 minutes prior to the start of services. No special skills required - just a friendly smile. Please contact Marcus Litofsky at mlitofsky@gmail.com for more information.





SISTERHOOD

of Congregation Beth Israel

A Note From the Sisterhood President:

Fall has been a very busy time for the Sisterhood at Congregation Beth Israel. We started with our annual membership drive and were successful in recruiting many new members. You are still welcome to join if you have not already, [LINK HERE](#).

In October, we were lucky enough to hear from **Wendy Bernstein** and hear her very courageous story of triumph. Her talented doctor spoke to us on the latest treatments for breast cancer, as well as some of the small victories that have been made.

Our Sisterhood helped the Brotherhood make the Temple Sukkah a beautiful place by donating decorations for the entire community to enjoy. In November, we honored our veterans by having **Captain Mark Liebman** give a riveting discussion on famous Jews in the United States Military. We were very happy to have hosted this event with Brotherhood and to have seen so many of our veterans in the community come to the event.

I encourage you to visit our gift shop. **Anita Seline**, our store manager, and her amazing team of volunteers can help you choose that special gift. They are always working tirelessly to select beautiful items that will enhance your home. From ornate Shabbat candle sticks, challah covers, and hostess gifts to all your Bar and Bat Mitzvah and wedding needs. Let our shop be your go-to destination for gifts.

Looking ahead to February, we are very excited to be hosting our 7th Mahj Mania event, headed up by **Michelle Greenberg** and her committee. It is sure to be the Mahj event of the season. Back by popular demand, we will be having a wine pull and exciting new raffle items. We hope to see you and your Mahj friends on **February 4th**. Registration forms can be found on the next page, or on the Temple website under the Sisterhood tab.

Please follow us on Facebook, and check back to the Temple website, Sisterhood tab to see all the up to date information on upcoming programming. We hope to see you soon!

JUDAICA SHOP

Your source for all things Judaica

Extraordinary gifts for all occasions:

- ◆ Candlesticks
- ◆ Challah Trays
- ◆ Greeting Cards
 - ◆ Jewelry
- ◆ B'nai Mitzvah Gifts
- ◆ Wedding Gifts



Our Beth Israel Sisterhood Judaica Shop is stocked and ready for all of your gift-giving needs!

... AND we gift wrap!

REMEMBER: Supporting the Judaica Shop helps your Sisterhood help Beth Israel.



CONGREGATION
BETH ISRAEL

The Carolyn Fleishman Fund

presents

TOVAH FELDSHUH in *Tovah: Out of Her Mind!*

SATURDAY, FEB. 22, 2020
7 P.M. • SANCTUARY



Tovah Feldshuh is best known for her role as Rebecca's mother in *Crazy Ex-Girlfriend* and her stunning portrayal of Golda Meir in *Golda's Balcony* on Broadway. The Boston Globe selected TOVAH: OUT OF HER MIND! as the best one-person show of 2000 and now she brings her show to Congregation Beth Israel for one night only. There is no cost to attend and the show is open to the entire community!

RECEPTION TO FOLLOW

Please park and enter by the Sanctuary entrance.

Questions? Contact Liza Abrams at labrams@beth-israel.org or call (713) 771-6221 x301

To RSVP, visit TOVAH-FELDSHUH-TICKETS.EVENTBRITE.COM.

This event is underwritten by a generous grant from the Carolyn Fleishman Fund.



CONGREGATION
BETH ISRAEL

The Paula and Alfred Friedlander Forum presents

An Evening With

Professor Deborah Lipstadt



DEBORAH LIPSTADT

JANUARY 13, 2020 • 7 P.M.
IN THE SANCTUARY

Professor Deborah Lipstadt is an American historian, best known as author of the books *Denying the Holocaust* (1993), *History on Trial: My Day in Court with a Holocaust Denier* (2005), *The Eichmann Trial* (2011), and *Antisemitism: Here and Now* (2019).

RECEPTION AND BOOK SIGNING TO FOLLOW

Please park and enter by the Sanctuary entrance.

RSVP to Liza Abrams at (713) 771-6221 x301 or labrams@beth-israel.org.

This program was made possible by a generous grant from the Paula and Alfred Friedlander Fund.

This event was partially sponsored by Dr. Gena and Harold Haber.





GIVE THE GIFT OF A JEWISH DAY SCHOOL EDUCATION

THE SHLENKER SCHOOL | WWW.SHLENKER.ORG



For more information, contact Director of Admissions, Tara Gassett at 713.270.6127 or tgassett@shlenker.org



5600 N. Braeswood Boulevard • Houston, Texas 77096

The Shlenker School is excited to announce the 2020 Shlenker Gala and Spark Award Honoree

It's not the 
DESTINATION
it's the **JOURNEY**

4.4.2020

The Shlenker School Gala 2020

2020 Shlenker Spark Award Honoree



Dana Yudovich Katz

Saturday, April 4, 2020 • Congregation Beth Israel

For tickets and sponsorship opportunities, please visit <https://shlenkergala.givesmart.com> or contact Judy Danziger, Advancement Assistant at 713.270.6127 or jdanziger@shlenker.org.

LIBRARY NEWS

Genealogy Series Continued:

On **November 20th**, the Schachtel Library sponsored "Our Jewish Heritage and Health", a discussion of Jewish genetic diseases. Gary S. Frohlich, Patient Education Liaison for Sanofi Genzyme presented a fascinating discussion of diseases frequently seen in Ashkenazi Jews, and an update on Gaucher disease, which is the most common and treatable.

Stay tuned for the next Genealogy presentation in the Schachtel Library. On **April 26th**, Jacqueline T. Hecht, Ph.D. of the McGovern Medical School UTHealth will discuss "Family History: What it can do for you." Watch for reminders in the enews.



The Readers Group

The Beth Israel Readers Group meets the third Wednesday of the month at 1:30 p.m. in the Lewis President's Room. Congregants and friends are welcome to join this convivial group. Selections include fiction and non-fiction, led by members and guest facilitators. We also enjoy live Skype interviews with authors. Contact Librarian Judy Weidman if

interested in joining the group.

January 20th: *Memento Park* by Mark Sarvas. The author will be joining us in a Skype interview, to discuss his award-winning novel.

February 19th: *Beneath a Scarlet Sky* by Mark Sullivan. Henrietta Bell will be facilitating the discussion.

March 20th: *Inheritance* by Dani Shapiro. Rabbi Ellie Steinman will be joining us to facilitate.

April 22nd (note change of date due to Passover): *Here All Along: Finding Meaning, Spirituality and a Deeper Connection to Life in Judaism* by Sarah Hurwitz. Rabbi Adrienne Scott will join us again to lead our discussion.

May 20th: *Confessions of an Innocent Man* by David Dow. We are fortunate to have this local author and activist join us to discuss his new novel.

June 17th: *We Stand Divided* by Daniel Gordis. David Scott is excited to discuss this timely book about Israel-U.S. relations with us.

Copies of the books we discuss are available in the Schachtel Library. Call to reserve your copy. Houston Public Library also has numerous copies.

LIBRARY HOURS:

Monday-Friday - 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Sunday and **Wednesday** extended hours. **Sunday - 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Wednesday open till 6:00 p.m.**

Remember the **Library Catalog** is available 24-hours a day. Go to www.beth-israel.org and click **Library** on the home page to access. Requests for reserves can be sent to Judy at jweidman@beth-israel.org, or direct phone at (713) 820-6410.

Author Series - Sunday, February 2

10:15 a.m. in Margolis Gallery

Join in for Congregation Beth Israel's Author Series and hear from the authors themselves about their new books!

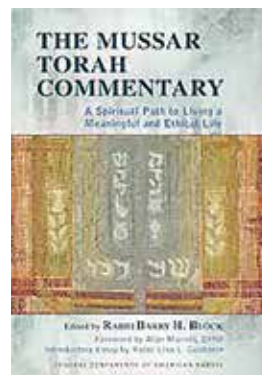
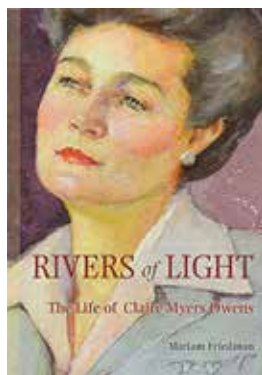
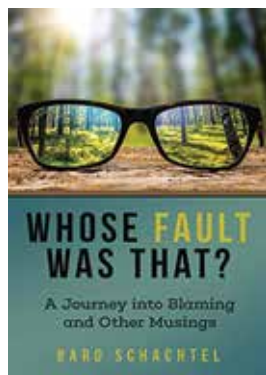
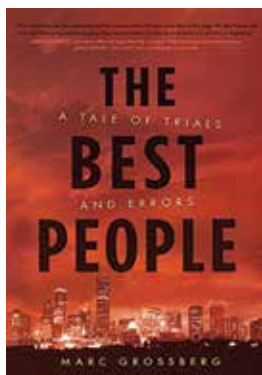
The Best People: A Tale of Trials and Errors by Marc Grossberg

Whose Fault Was That? A Journey into Blaming and Other Musings by Dr. Bard Schachtel

Rivers of Light by Miriam Friedman

The Mussar Torah Commentary by Rabbi Barry H. Block, **Monday, February 3rd**, location TBD

People should RSVP to **Liza Abrams** at labrams@beth-israel.org or call (713) 771-6221, ext. 301.





CONGREGATION
BETH ISRAEL

MLK SHABBAT

We have a dream

JANUARY 17, 2020 • 6:30 P.M. • SANCTUARY

We invite you to a dynamic music service with

**Cantor Star Trompeter
and International Voices Houston**

DIRECTED BY MARK VOGEL

This extraordinary multicultural choir consists of members from over 35 countries. Through beautiful music and inspiring readings and prayers led by our Cantor and Rabbis, we will express the dream that we share with Martin Luther King Jr: to live in a world filled with peace, compassion, and unconditional love.

SPECIAL ONEG TO FOLLOW

Contact Cantor Star Trompeter to join our singers on the bimah - All are welcome!

Email: strompeter@beth-israel.org or call (713) 771-6221 x604

This event is being partially underwritten by Stanley & Diane Novy, Wayne Dorris & Jacqueline Hecht, and Stanley & Marsha Stein.



CONGREGATION
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presents

The Fifth Lyon Cohen Symposium: The Ethics of Citizenship



**Joe Straus, Former
Speaker of the Texas House**



**Ed Emmett, Former
Harris County Judge**



**Ellen Cohen, Former
Houston Mayor Pro Tem**



Senior Rabbi David Lyon

The 2020 Lyon Cohen Symposium will address the Ethics of Citizenship
with a panel of professionals from Houston and across Texas.

Thursday, April 2nd, 2020

Doors open: 6:15pm
Program: 7-8:30pm

This event is open to
the community.
Cost: \$10 per person

Heavy hors d'oeuvres will be served.

For more info, contact Liza Abrams,
Membership and Adult Education
Coordinator, at [labrams@beth-
israel.org](mailto:labrams@beth-israel.org) or call (713) 771-6221 x301.

RSVP today at lyoncohen-symposium.eventbrite.com

This program is made possible by a generous grant from THE LYON COHEN FUND FOR JEWISH BUSINESS ETHICS

Special thanks to the Host Committee: Terry & Freddie Baca, Martha Barvin, Josh Barvin, Diane & Irv Berger, Laurie & Jeffrey Bricker, Phyllis Cohen, Terry & Sandy Cohen, Judge Mike Engelhart, Cindy & Les Fox, Miriam Friedman, Daniel Gerber, Marci & Jeffrey Gilbert, Bob Goldstein, Diane Gordon, Melinda & Steven Gordon, Cindy & Gary Greenberg, David Hassid, Sheila & Stanley Horn, Abbie Kamin & Matt Hansel, Sherrie & Richard Kaplan, Jana & Stuart Kusin, Jean & Ronnie Ladin, Eve & Bobby Lapin, Shirley & Jim Lavine, Barbara & Jacob Leon, Dana & Randy Lepow, Marcus Litofsky, Kenneth Magidson, Dena Marks, Sherry & Gerald Merfish, Pat & Howard Pollicoff, Carolyn Putterman, Heather & Randy Reichstein, Warren Rich, Ben Rose, Lauren & Marc Sancton, Rabbi Adrienne & David Scott, Judi & Paul Scott, Dorothy Seline, Susan & Ed Septimus, Madeleine & Richard Sheehy, Nicole Soussan, Robin Stait, Lisa & Jeffrey Stanton, Tracy & Gary Stein, Lisa Stone & Scott Cantor, Tanya & Mark Strum, Joanie Weiner, FerneTM & Joel Winograd, and Ed Wolff.

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For a full list of our funds, please visit our website: www.beth-israel.org/giving/tribute-donations

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Sally "Granny" Fuchs
 The Relkin Family

THE ONEG UNDERWRITING FUND
 IN MEMORY OF
Sally Fuchs
 Laraine and Stewart Levine

THE PEGGY ANN EFRON HEMATOLOGY RESEARCH FUND
 IN MEMORY OF
Morrie Abramson
 Ricki and Milton Frankfort

THE PRAYER BOOK FUND
 IN MEMORY OF
Corinne Litowitz and Abe Litowich
 Alan Hurwitz and Drew Tucker

THE ROSE BRILLING COMMEMORATIVE FUND
 IN MEMORY OF
Diane Newman
 Janet and Jeff Pozmantier
 Anita Rothschild
Jack Lapin
 Leslie and Hedley Karpas

THE SABINA WEINSTOCK CANCER FUND
 IN HONOR OF
Indomitable Wendy Bernstein
 Judy and Mark Mucasey

THE SAMUEL E KARFF SCHOLARSHIP FUND
 IN HONOR OF
50th Anniversary of Barbara and Richard Josephson
 Sandra Barrash
60th Anniversary of Freda and Paul Lesser
 Karen and Tim Caldwell

IN MEMORY OF
Jim Falick
 Carol Finkelstein
Melvin Totz
Milton Dunn
 Ellie and Jon Totz

Sydney Robert Robinson
 Enid Robinson

THE SUMMER INTERN - DESIGNATED FUND
 IN MEMORY OF
James Falick
 Babs and Mike Eaker

THE TORAH SCROLL FUND
 IN MEMORY OF
All Our Loved Ones
 Janise and Rick Silverman

THE TORAH STUDY FUND
 IN MEMORY OF
Howard Stern
 Martha Barvin
 Luisa Kluger and Arnoldo Efron
 Carole Marmell and Roger Weinzetl
 Harriet Newman

THE YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP FUND
 IN HONOR OF
Samara Schwartz's Talmud Study Class
 Carol Emery
Speedy Recovery of Sherrie Eisenman
 Sheryl Eskowitz

IN MEMORY OF
Amnon "Sandy" Sandler
 Ann Stallings
Herbert Schmerin
 Linda Davis
Howard Stern
 Carol Emery
Sally Politzer Fuchs
 The Bernstein Family
 The Hoffman Family

THE JEAN AND KENNETH CHAPMAN FUND
Jean and Kenneth Chapman

In Memory of
Jack Lapin
Natalie Renee Krasnow Harris
 Jean and Kenneth Chapman

Jay Levy

Husband of Mindy Levy; son of Iris Levy Androphy; father of Jennifer and David Block, and Adam Levy and Keely Tongate; brother of Marc Levy and Paul Levy

Milford Myers

Father of Julie and Scott Miller, Bart and Alla Myers, and Laura Myers; companion of Terry Cweigenberg

Howard Novick

Husband of Jan Novick; father of Deborah Ryan, Robert and Joelle Novick, Joshua Novick, and Jonathan Novick; step-father of Justin Heiman; brother of Michael and Joan Novick, Stuart Novick, Ruth Payne, and Ronnee and Richie Ganeles

Elaine Proler

Mother of Terry Loughran, and Philip Solomon; sister of Irvin "Bubba" Levy

Thomas Roosth

Husband of Shirley Roosth; father of Valerie Wallace, and Michael and Tina Roosth; remembered by Marlene Roosth

Ethel Rosin

Mother of Susan and Bob Hale, Tuyet and Michael Kaplan, Kathy and Charles Rosin, and Susana and Lindsay Rosin

Amnon "Sandy" Sandler

Husband of Linda Sandler; father of Melissa and Kevin Brezner

Herbert Schmerin

Father of Howard and Cindy Schmerin

Louis Silverman

Husband of Bailey Silverman; father of Norman and Daphne Silverman, Jed and Mana Silverman, Sam Silverman, and Jennifer and Jeffrey Ross

Louis M. Soletsky

Father of Beth Soletsky, Marge and George Leventon, Susan Soletsky and Paul DeMarsh, and Philip and Victoria Soletsky

Howard Stern

Husband of Barbara Stern; father of Michael and Ronit Stern; son-in-law of Anita Darryl

Abbey Taylor

Mother of Lori and David Suissa, and Roni Klein

Lawrence Thomas

Husband of Evie Thomas; father of Matthew and Stacey Thomas, and Brian and Shannon Thomas

Tu Hung Vu

Husband of Tinh Pham; father of Nikki and Don Robinowitz, Chi Vu, Tung and Swan Vu, Huy Vu, Linh and Vince Tu, Bobby and Miray Vu, Hung and Terika Vu, and Eric Vu; brother of Vu Thi Huong, Vu Thi Quy, Vu Van Cau, Vu Van Thien, Vu Thi Sy Phu, and Vu Thi Minh Tam

BAR/BAT MITZVAHS

May 31-June 1, 2019

Zachary Rosca-Halmagean

Son of Marcela Halmagean and Alexander Rosca

September 6-7, 2019

Andrew Newman and Matthew Newman

Sons of Joanne and Randall Newman; grandsons of Alan Swartz and the late Rhoda Swartz, and Fran and Charles Newman

Jason Issac Shwartz

Son of Risa and Sherman Shwartz; grandson of Arnold Schimmel and the late Abbe Schimmel, and the late Phyllis and Joseph Shwartz

September 7, 2019 - Havdalah

Juliette Adels Hess

Daughter of Kelly and Clive Hess; granddaughter of Carol and John Hess, Linda and Dan Gregory, and Marlene Roosth; great granddaughter of Mildred Haws, Perry, Iowa

September 13-14, 2019

Molly Dinerstein

Daughter of Liz and Brian Dinerstein; granddaughter of Nancy and Jack Dinerstein; great granddaughter of the late Leba and Bill Dinerstein

Ivy Frankel

Daughter of Kristina and Kevin Frankel

September 21, 2019 - Havdalah

Orie Israel

Daughter of Sarai Sharon-Israel and Joseph Israel; granddaughter of Silvia Miodownik-Sharon and Dan Sharon, and Juliette and the late Yacob Israel; great granddaughter of Fortuna and Avraham Ben Shoshan

Olivia Plantowsky

Daughter of Mary and Todd Plantowsky; granddaughter of Ann and Jerry Plantowsky, and the late Mary and Vincent Flores; great granddaughter of Esther and the late Maurice Levit

October 12, 2019

Eva Humble

Daughter of Laura and John Humble

October 18-19, 2019

Sunny Bell

Daughter of Katie and Dan Lavin; granddaughter of Marilyn and Graham Dindol, Loughton, UK, the late Benjamin Bonart Lavin, Canton Ohio, and the late Martha Klein Lottman and Milton Lottman, Canton, Ohio

October 19, 2019 - Havdalah

Kate Hyman

Daughter of Lindsay and Jonathan Hyman; granddaughter of Dede and David Wadler, and Louis and the late Barbi Hyman, Baltimore, Maryland; great granddaughter of Natalie and the late Norman Keen, Waco, Texas, and the late Ida and Irving Wadler

November 1-2, 2019

Gabriela Bronk

Daughter of Jennifer-Joy Sutton and Robert C. Bronk; granddaughter of Susan and the late Robert F. Bronk, and the late Joan-Joy Sutton McCarthy

November 8-9, 2019

Gabriel José Freedman

Son of Cecilia and Jay Freedman; grandson of Barbara and the late Thomas Freedman, and Susana and Ruben Torres

Ari Levine

Son of Allison and Mark Levine; grandson of Maxine and Herman Lapin

November 15-16, 2019

David Barrash

Son of Heather Linn and Marty Barrash

November 22-23, 2019

Dawson Aaron Tiras

Son of Jennifer and Scott Tiras; grandson of Leonora and Jacques Rodriguez, Chile, and Jeannie and Jerry Tiras

December 6-7, 2019

Elissa Roser

Daughter of Jenny Liang and Norman Roser

December 13-14, 2019

Alison Jacob

Daughter of Leslie and Adam Jacob

January 11, 2020 - Havdalah

Allison Whitman

Daughter of Lindsey and Ben Whitman; granddaughter of Susan Seligmann, David Greenfield, Jr. and Barbara and Bart Whitman, Vonore, Tennessee

January 24-25, 2020

Tyler Ford Combs

Son of Margot Katz and Steve Combs; grandson of Marlene Katz, Stuart, Florida, and Terri and Allan Katz, Boca Raton, Florida

January 31-

February 1, 2020

Dylan Abrams

Daughter of Leah and Seth Abrams

Lily Feather

Daughter of Brooke and Dan Feather; granddaughter of Judy and Marc Herzstein, and Cindy and Dan Feather, Jr., Menard, Texas; great granddaughter of Helen Simkin

February 7-8, 2020

Merrick Beauchamp

Son of Carly and Joseph Beauchamp; grandson of Barbara and Richard Zeeman, Sunny Isles Beach, Florida, and Joyce and Norman Beauchamp, Port Huron, Michigan

(continued next page)

February 21-22, 2020
Peregrine Stamp
Daughter of Irene and Nathanael Greene

February 28-29, 2020
Harry Smith
Son of Limor and Stuart Smith; grandson of Sue Smith and the late Lester Smith, and Barbara and Bill Hazard, and Amalia and Dan Luss

Stuart Smith
Son of Barbara Hazard and the late Lester Smith

March 27-28, 2020
Braden Feuer
Son of Laurie Feuer and Hugh Feuer; grandson of Janet and Jerry Goldman, New York, New York, and the late Glenda and Irving Feuer

April 3-4, 2020
Levi Myers and Noah Myers
Sons of Sara and Adam Myers

April 18, 2020 - Havdalah
Maxwell Swanson
Son of Olga and Todd Swanson

April 24-25, 2020
Avery Josef
Daughter of Ellyn and Adam Josef; granddaughter of Roslyn and Ricky Haikin, and Suzanne and Peter Josef; great granddaughter of Bernard Fuchs and the late Sally Fuchs

Hudson Zach
Son of Jennifer and Ron Zach; grandson of Roslyn and Ricky Haikin and Helena and Ike Zach; great-grandson of Bernard Fuchs and the late Sally Fuchs

May 1-2, 2020
Margot Reese Levy
Daughter of Whitley and Billy Levy; granddaughter of Alene Levy, and Kay and the late Joel Levy, and Ann and Bob Woods, and the late Rich Bolls

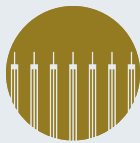
Elizabeth Paull
Daughter of Leslie Margolis and Josh Paull

June 5-6, 2020
Ava Lorber and Lyla Lorber
Daughters of Elizabeth and Kevin Lorber



Volunteers from Beth Israel donated their time on Christmas to the Ronald McDonald House charity.





CONGREGATION BETH ISRAEL

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FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION

ENGAGEMENT

Rene Miriam Schwartz and Joseph Nathaniel Hurst

Rene is the daughter of Sara Salzman and Raymond Jonathan Schwartz, and Joseph is the son of Elizabeth Ann and William Joseph Hurst

BIRTHS

Riley Ann Shipp

Daughter of Brittany Amber Laviage and Bryan Shipp; granddaughter of Dennis Laviage, Cindy Laviage, Earl Shipp and Sue Shipp

Addison Faye Friedlander

Daughter of Emily and Josh Friedlander; granddaughter of Lisa and Tommy Friedlander and Polly and Ralph Robinson; great granddaughter of Paula Friedlander and the late Alfred Friedlander, the late Faye and Leo Kern, Mallory Robinson and the late Samuel Robinson, the late Helene S. Roberts and the late E. Robby Roberts

DEATHS

Edwin (Ed) Bersin

Husband of Sue Ann Bersin; father of Brent and Julie Bersin, and Michael and Erin Bersin

Jacob Cohen

Husband of Maralyn Cohen; father of Gary and Rebecca Cohen, Martin and Sharon Grimm and Marc Cohen and Dennis Watson; step-father of Gregg and Gina Fleishman, Jill Fleishman and Robin Kornblum, and Bruce Fleishman

Miriam Cyprus

Mother of Sharon and Michael Coplon, and David Cyprus; sister of Rebecca Ruskin

Dorothy Davison

Mother of Scott Davison and Laurie Friefeld

John Derbyshire

Husband of Pam Derbyshire; father of Jeffrey Derbyshire, Michael Derbyshire, and Alex Derbyshire; brother of Roy and Val Derbyshire

James Falick

Husband of Janice Falick; father of Michael and Julie Falick, Stephen and Sonia Falick; step-father of Keith Rudy and Katie Caldwell, Kenneth and Sari Rudy, Kirk and Amy Rudy, and Kerry and Marika Rudy

Joel Farb

Brother of Gerilyn and John Gordon

Sally Fuchs

Wife of Bernard Fuchs; mother of Roslyn and Ricky Haikin, Steven Fuchs, and Edward and Terry Fuchs

Morris Glesby

Father of Gary and Nancy Glesby, and Susan Glesby

Joanne Hersh

Mother of John, Richard and Anne; sister of Doris Markoff

Stanley Hite

Husband of Barbara Hite; father of Steven and Andrea Hite, Michele and John Fronzaglia, and Marc Hite; brother of Rochelle Jaye, and Faye Landey; brother-in-law of Judy Crum

Esther Hochstein

Mother of Mark and Bonnie Hochstein, Randy Hochstein, and David and Gemi Hochstein

Ladislau (Larry) Jaeger

Husband of Elsa; father of Michael and Jennifer Jaeger, and Naomi and Mike Levy; brother of Edward and Letty Jaeger, and Abraham and Susan Jaeger

Jack Lapin

Husband of Susan Lapin; father of David and Carol Lapin, Bobby and Eve Lapin, and Richard Lapin and Jim Nelson; brother of Herman and Maxine Lapin

Sylvia Leventhal

Mother of Stephen and Ellen Leventhal, Michael and Rubin Leventhal, and Robert and Barbara Leventhal

Lisa Beth Levine

Wife of Martin Kastenbaum; sister of Mark and Allison Levine

REMINDER

It is essential that you notify the Temple when a loved one is in the hospital if you wish to request a visit from the rabbis, cantor, or members of the Hospital Visitation Committee. Many area hospitals no longer provide notification. Please call Cherrell Woolley at (713) 771-6221, ext. 329.

Senior Rabbi	David A. Lyon, D.D.
Associate Rabbi ...	Adrienne P. Scott, M.A.H.L.
Associate Rabbi ...	Ellie B. Steinman, M.A.H.L.
Senior Cantor	Star Trompeter, M.A.S.M.
Rabbi Emeritus	Samuel E. Karff, D.H.L.
Cantor Emeritus ...	Robert M. Gerber, D.S.M.
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