

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



INSIDE YOU WILL FIND.....

Introducing our Director of Young Family Education & Musical Engagement, Mike Mason

> High Holy Days Service Information

Announcement of 2021-2022 Programs

Annual Commitment Update

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!
Brian & Norelle Becker
Allison Daum
Jonathan Daum
Ryan & Lauren Hunsaker

David & Devorah Krieger Marcia Olmsted Andrew & Gayle Singer Eric & Piper Trestman Jorge & Daphna Zuniga

JUNE 2021 BULLETIN

Open the Gates

We've emerged, not unscathed, but not without optimism for the future, either. Since last year at this time, the future looked bleak; uncertainty and suspicion were as endemic as the coronavirus, itself. Though reports were sometimes unreliable, there was faith that we could accommodate rules to safeguard health and well-being while we worked, studied, and lived our lives. In retrospect, it was a small sacrifice to guarantee the privilege we have now to prepare for a bright summer and a sweet New Year. As Joshua and Caleb reported to the Israelites, when they stood on the threshold of the Promised Land, "Let us surely go up!"

Our first steps will be to re-enter the synagogue with high expectations for beautiful worship, meaningful learning opportunities, and reunions with friends on Shabbat and weekdays. Throughout the summer, we'll gather in the sanctuary or Gordon Chapel for 6:30 pm Friday evening services. Livestream and in-person services, mask-optional for those who are vaccinated, and without plexiglass between us, will create the space we've longed for on Shabbat. Similarly, meetings, appointments, and life-cycle events will be scheduled to meet your needs. Weekly Shabbat morning minyan and Torah study will continue online through the summer.

Rabbi Adrienne Scott, Rabbi Aaron Sataloff, and I will be available to respond to your calls and join you on Shabbat. In addition, we look forward to welcoming visiting cantors, musicians, and artists to engage us in creative music experiences, joyful singing, and soulful moments in sacred songs. Rabbi Adrienne Scott will sing beautifully on many Shabbat weekends and life-cycle events, too; and Cantor Kat Hastings, a familiar friend to us, will return to support our musical program. Cantor Richard Cohn, Head of the Debbie Friedman School of Sacred Music at HUC-JIR, will be our High Holy Day Cantor. His reputation precedes him, and his partnership has already proven to be essential to Beth Israel's commitment to excellent music. In the New Year, we'll also welcome Mike Mason, Director of Young Family Education & Musical Engagement, and remarkable Songleader, to lead us on the bimah, and our children on weekends; plus, musicians-in-residence, and nationally recognized composers and liturgists whose dates with us are currently being confirmed.

Beth Israel welcomes these inspirational moments as we embark on a year of research, listening, and searching for our next senior cantor. You might like to be part of our program to research, listen and search, too. There are songs and musical styles that your children have heard at camp, and that you've heard in various places where you've engaged in worship this past year online and by livestream. Please let us know what your priorities for music are, who you like to hear, and how we can grow musically as a congregational family that loves to sing and be moved by inspiring sacred songs.

Joshua and Caleb returned from their scouting errand and told the people that they will surely endure. Though the future looked uncertain, the people's faith in God and their leaders prompted them to follow. The way wasn't always easy, but it was the Promise of their ancestors that they would thrive in "the good land, flowing with milk and honey." As we emerge from the pandemic and prepare for hurricane season, it seems that the way is never perfectly clear. Nevertheless, let us have faith in God's promise for us and our historical congregation, and let us join our leaders who have vision and reason to say, "Let us surely go up!"

L'Shalom, David Lyon

IN THIS ISSUE

2021-2022 Programs	.8-10
Committee Updates	.13
Donations	24-2
Event Spaces	4
Generation to Generation.	.28
Gift of Life	.17
High Holy Days	14-15
Library	.19-2
MBJLC	11-12
Meet Mike Mason	.6
Rabbi's Message	1
Sisterhood	22

REMINDER

Many area hospitals no longer notify us when a congregant is hospitalized. If you would like our clergy or the Inclusion and Caring Committee members to visit you or a loved one in the hospital, please contact the Temple 713-771-6221

PLEASE NOTE

For all payments, the new return address for Beth Israel is:

Congregation Beth Israel DEPT. P.O. Box 4851 Houston, TX 77210-4851

Rabbi Lyon on the Radio

Rabbi David Lyon can be heard on Sunday mornings at 6:45 am on KODA, Sunny 99.1 FM radio.

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& EngagementDavid M. Scott, R.J.E. Head of The Shlenker	
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& Musical EngagementMike Mason	
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ManagerMarsha Gilbert	
Membership & Executive	
Office ManagerLiza Hirsch	
Marketing & Communications	
ManagerLaura Kaplan	
Facilities ManagerMichael Reddick	
Cemetery DirectorKathy Parven	

SUMMER ONEGS

We are excited to announce that
we will be having several
in-person Onegs after
Shabbat services.
Details to follow on specific dates

To sponsor an Oneg, please email
Marsha Gllbert at
MGilbert@beth-israel.org or
fill out the Oneg form found on
your ShulCloud account.

You may also order a Pull-A-Part cake for your at home celebrations! To order, email MGilbert@beth-israel.org a week before your pick up date.





THANK YOU FOR 30 YEARS JOAN GELFOND!

In 1990, when I was first employed as Computer Specialist at The Shlenker School, "The World Wide Web" was in its youth and the internet at large was just beginning to take off. Imagine this campus without laptop computers, cabled networks, wireless access, mobile phones, email, streaming video, or social media;

just to name a few technologies we find so important in today's world. Innovation in digital technology can be hard to define.

For Congregation Beth Israel and The Shlenker School, technology brought opportunities for growth and development. The year of the Pandemic certainly proved technology's value for us all. What a privilege it's been to call Congregation Beth Israel and The Shlenker School my community for so many years. I have the fondest of memories from teaching both young children and adults to knowing and appreciating technology. So many projects have transpired through the years. I would cite Beth Israel Livestream and The Shlenker BackYard as two of my favorites. Thanks to all students, parents, staff, and members who through these many years provided friendship, encouragement, support, and who helped drive my passion for technology to this very day.



Did you know?

In this issue we will answer questions about annual commitments (formerly "dues") and their importance to the current and future of the Congregation.

What is an annual commitment?

Annual member commitments support our operating budget and ensure that Congregation Beth Israel will be here for you, your family, and future generations. While the ideal giving level is \$3,000 per family or "sustaining contribution," we trust that members will make an annual contribution at a level that is comfortable and meaningful for them. While we understand that everyone is not able to give at the sustaining level, we are so grateful for all our members and to those who give much more. Beth Israel will never turn a family away due to an inability to pay.

How is the \$3000 "sustaining contribution" amount calculated?

"Sustaining" is our total annual operating budget, less other sources of revenue divided by the number of member families.

Are annual commitments tax-deductible?

Annual commitments and all other donations are 100 percent tax-deductible. Please consult your tax professional about your specific circumstances.

What are the annual fees and why are they assessed?

At the beginning of each fiscal year, there are two fees - Facility & Security Support and Cemetery Support - on your July statement. We ask that you help offset the ongoing and increasing costs of operating and securing our Temple facilities. Sadly, our unsettled world forces us to maintain a police presence on our campus when it is open to ensure the safety and security of our members, students, clergy, and staff. Additionally, we ask you to help defray the cost of maintaining our cemeteries where our departed loved ones rest.

Can I create a payment plan for the year?

Yes! You may log into your Shulcloud account and set up ACH or credit card payments that work for you. If you need any help setting it up, just give us a call.

This month you should have received a packet with your 2021-2022 Annual Commmitment information. If you have any questions, please call Liza Hirsch, Membership & Executive Office Manager, at 713-771-6221 x.301. We appreciate everyone's commitment to Congregation Beth Israel.









CONTACT MARSHA GILBERT, SPECIAL EVENTS & CATERING MANAGER MGILBERT@BETH-ISRAEL.ORG II 713-771-6221 EXT. 336

A WELCOMING SPACE FOR YOUR NEXT EVENT

Our doors are open and we welcome you back!

Congregation Beth Israel is here to help you plan your next event. From weddings and b'nei mitzvah celebrations, to all your life celebrations we offer an ideal setting for your event.

Our event and meeting spaces offer a blend of spiritual warmth, sophistication, and a contemporary flair for all of the following event types and more:

Shabbat Dinners
Kiddush Luncheons
Bris/Baby Namings
Special Anniversary Dinners
Weddings and Wedding Receptions
Parties
Meals of Condolence
Meetings
Presentations

Highlights include:

6,000 + sq. foot Wolff-Toomim Social Hall
Ladin Dining Room
Margolis Gallery
Several beautiful outdoor spaces
Natural light-filled Sanctuary and Gordon Chapel
Fully equipped kitchen
Meeting & class rooms

To make your event even easier, we offer:

Ample parking
Fully accessible facility
Free wireless connection
A variety of flexible spaces
Catering/vendor recommendations

To make an appointment to see our event spaces or for more information on hosting an event at Congregation Beth Israel please contact

Marsha Gilbert, Special Events & Catering Manager MGilbert@beth-israel.org



WELCOME MIKE MASON! Director of Young Family Education & Musical Engagement

On August 18, 2021, Mike Mason will be joining Congregation Beth Israel as the Director of Young Family Education & Musical Engagement, after he spends his summer at URJ Greene Family Camp with his wife, Rabbi Erin Ellis Mason, Director of Greene Family Camp. At camp, he will be the head song leader and Assistant Summer Jewish Life Director, leading worship services, teaching campers guitar and music, and working closely with the visiting faculty including our own Rabbi Scott, Rabbi Sataloff, and David Scott.

Mike hails from Buffalo, New York, after California. When he arrived in Houston three years ago, he started doing music at the Shlenker School with Kabbalat Shabbat and the Thursday morning Torah service. During this time, Mike enjoyed meeting the teachers and his three kids are there so it was an "awesome" way to see Shlenker.

His love of music started at the synagogue where his dad was Rabbi, and he began playing guitar in 7th grade. Mike was the song leader for his NFTY region and this was where the formation of his core philosophy of, "music truly brings people together," developed.

After graduate school, Mike moved to the Bay area to work at Congregation Beth Am as the Director of Lifelong Learning. It was through his work at Beth Am that he met Rabbi Lyon and Rabbi Scott, and when he moved to Houston, they asked him to lead the Shlenker services. One day he was leading services at Shlenker and he realized that this is what he should be doing. Mike says that he is so lucky and fortunate to be here at Congregation Beth Israel.

Mike can't wait to meet the Beth Israel community and bring people together musically at Shabbat Services. Another part of his role at Beth Israel is to help our B'nei Mitzvah families learn more about that process, and make it a smooth, seamless, and meaningful experience for them. He will also work directly with David Scott, Rabbi Sataloff, and Kerri Zerlin to lead programs for our young families such as our Shabbat Playdates and Family Shabbats.

We can't wait to welcome Mike to the Beth Israel family, and when you see him in August, please give him a high five or a fist bump, two things that are his specialties.

THE PSALMIST SAID, "SING A SONG UNTO GOD!"

In Reform Judaism, song, music, instruments, and engaging lyrics in English and Hebrew, have inspired us to worship in ways we first learned at Jewish summer camp and then in the sanctuary and Gordon Chapel. Our love of Jewish music continues as we prepare for a year of creative and inspiring music on Shabbat and holidays.

Rabbi Adrienne Scott will join us on many Shabbat weekends and for life-cycle events for congregational families. In addition, we have a full calendar of guests, musical artists, and visiting cantors whose gifts will guide our search for a senior cantor.

Here are a few of our favorite musical guests who you will see in the New Year. Chief among them is Cantor Richard Cohn, Head of the Debbie Friedman School of Sacred Music at HUC-JIR, in New York City.

Cantor Cohn will be our cantor for High Holy Days, and we urge you to welcome him to Congregation Beth Israel when we enter the New Year, together.



CANTOR RICHARD COHN

Cantor Richard Cohn became Director of the Debbie Friedman School of Sacred Music at HUC-JIR/ New York in July of 2015, following 34 years of service to Reform communities. He

was most recently Cantor of Temple Emanu-El in Dallas, Texas, where he was influential in helping to integrate contemporary and traditional aspects of congregational life, while sustaining a diverse and vibrant musical culture. He enjoyed a lengthy tenure at North Shore Congregation Israel in Glencoe, Illinois, where his areas of specialization included programming for teens and for adult learning. He has been vibrantly involved in worship transformation, and he has had an innovative impact on Jewish choral music as a conductor, arranger, and composer.

Cantor Cohn has often been featured as the soloist in Ernest Bloch's Avodath Hakodesh ("Sacred Service"), including performances in Israel with the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra, at Chicago's Grant Park Concerts and at the Berkshire Choral Festival. While living in the Chicago area, he appeared as a soloist with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. He was the founding conductor of Kol Zimrah, the Jewish Community Singers of Greater Chicago, which he led for nine seasons, and he has been a frequent principal conductor at the North American Jewish Choral Festival. He has also conducted HaZamir: The International Jewish High School Choir, in concert at Lincoln Center.



CANTOR KAT HASTINGS

Cantor Kat Hastings is delighted to be on the bimah at Congregation Beth Israel for some services in the coming year. She serves as the High Holy Days cantor for Congregation Jewish Community North in Spring, TX, returning there in

September for her sixth year. She has been leading a monthly Shabbat service at the Village of River Oaks since late 2017. Prior to Houston, she spent nearly five years in metro Detroit, MI, serving as cantor at Temple Kol Ami, Clergy-in-Residence for the Grosse Pointe Jewish Council, and doing hospital chaplaincy work. HUC-JIR/New York is where she earned her cantorial ordination and a Masters in Sacred Music.

Cantor Hastings is a native of Louisville, KY, and has lived in Houston since 2011. She has been the Executive Assistant to the President and CEO at Collaborative for Children for two years after having worked in the same role at The Health Museum. She also served as Director of Member Services at the Evelyn Rubenstein Jewish Community Center and spent nearly five years at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, leaving there as the Lectures and Concerts Coordinator. Her business resume includes positions with Tennis Magazine, The Walt Disney Company, and New York Chapter of Hadassah. Kat has a BFA from Stephens College in Columbia, MO. She has proudly sung with Mark Vogel and International Voices Houston since 2016 and loves the Houston Astros.



CHAVA MIREL August 27-29

Everyone is invited back for our first in-person event of our 2021-2022 calendar year! Jewish musical sensation, Chava Mirel, will delight us with new melodies, beautiful stories, and a chance to join together as a community in song and worship. Friday night's service at 6:30 pm will feature our clergy team joined by Chava Mirel as we sing familiar prayers together and also learn new ones. A special oneg Shabbat in her honor will be enjoyed by everyone in attendance following services. Chava will be part of our congregation throughout the weekend as she leads a creative and musical Torah experience on Saturday morning at 9:45 A.M., an acoustic, unplugged concert on Saturday evening at 8:00 P.M., followed by our Selichot service at 9:30 P.M. as we enter into the formal beginning of our High Holy Days. On Sunday morning, Chava Mirel, will kick off our year at the Miriam Browning Jewish Learning Center religious school with an Opening Day Concert at 9:30 A.M.!

(MBJLC Meet the Faculty begins at 9:30 A.M. - see MBJLC section)



NOAM KATZ November 12-14

Jewish singer and songwriter, Noam Katz, will be joining us for Shabbat worship and singing the weekend of November 12-14th. He will lead Friday night services beginning at 6:30 pm with our clergy team followed by a special oneg in his honor. He will also guide us through a Torah experience on Saturday morning at 9:45 A.M., followed by a special Havdalah ceremony on Saturday night (details to follow).



CANDLELIGHT by Secrets Houston December 4

On Saturday evening, December 4th, we will welcome members of the Houston Symphony for a Chanukah event like no other. Join us in person for a classical music evening as we celebrate the Chanukah and the Festival of Lights. Over 1,500 candles will be lit as we enjoy an evening of classical music. Registration details to follow!

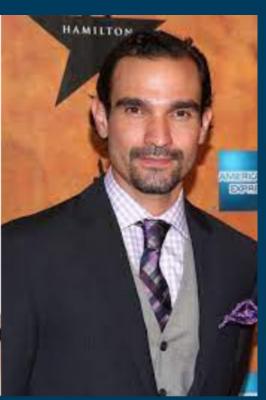


Todd Herzog March 25-27

Don't miss a special musical weekend featuring Jewish singer and songwriter Todd Herzog on March 25-27, 2022 at Congregation Beth Israel. Details to follow!







2022 Fleishman Family Event "Telling Our Stories: Where Tradition and Broadway Intersect". LIVE! Featuring Cantor Daniel Mutlu with Special Guests Phillipa Soo and Javier Munoz from Broadway's Hamilton! January 29, 2022, 7:00 P.M.

Congregation Beth Israel is so excited to welcome back Cantor Daniel Mutlu, Senior Cantor at Central Synagogue in New York City, to our bimah on Saturday evening, January 29th at 7 pm. Joining him as special guests will be two incredible performers of Hamilton: An American Musical, Phillipa Soo, who originated the role of Eliza Hamilton in the Original Broadway Cast production and is featured in the movie released this past year, and Javier Munoz, who played Alexander Hamilton in the Broadway cast production following show creator and lead actor, Lin Manuel-Miranda. Cantor Mutlu, Ms. Soo, and Mr. Munoz will delight us with selections of different Broadway and other musical numbers, including selections from Hamilton, as they share intimate details about their lives and their family's experiences leading them to New York City. This event is underwritten and made possible by a generous grant from the Fleishman Family Fund.

There is no cost to attend, and the entire community is invited.

Paula and Alfred Friedlander Forum Featuring Author Sarah Hurwitz October 8-9, 2021



We are so pleased to welcome Senior Speech Writer for Michelle Obama and celebrated author, Sarah Hurwitz, to next year's Paula and Alfred Friedlander Forum. During Shabbat services on Friday night, October 8th, she will discuss her own Jewish journey as reflected in her memoir, Here All Along: Finding Meaning, Spirituality, and a Deeper Connection to Life in Judaism.

Following services, come meet Sarah Hurwitz during her book signing and special oneg Shabbat in honor of Paula Friedlander and her family. This event is underwritten by a generous grant from the Paula and Alfred Friedlander Forum Fund.

Saturday morning, October 9th at 9:45 am. All are welcome for breakfast and Torah Study featuring Sarah Hurwitz in the Finger Board Room. This session will be available by Zoom and will be recorded.

Wolff-Toomim Distinguished Lecture Series Featuring Author Marra B. Gad January 11, 2022



Author of her memoir, The Color of Love: A Story of a Mixed-Race Jewish Girl, Marra B. Gad will be our guest for next year's Wolff-Toomim Distinguished Lecture Series. We are excited to bring Ms. Gad to the congregation and our community to discuss the issues of inclusion, Jews of Color, and the themes of racial justice. Gad's biological mother was white and Jewish, and her biological father was black. She writes about growing up with her adoptive Ashkenazi, white Jewish family in Chicago. The book also details her struggles with coming to terms with a racist great aunt living with Alzheimer's.

Tuesday night, January 11, 2022, at 7 pm. All are welcome to be part of this important conversation. No cost to attend and special reception and book signing to follow in Wolff-Toomim Hall.

This event is underwritten by a generous grant from the Wolff-Toomim Education Fund.



ADULT LEARNING

Monthly Midrash with Rabbi Lyon Thursdays at 12 pm

Rabbi Lyon will be leading a Monthly Midrash series focused on midrashic literature. Our Midrash is a collection of stories that were handed down orally thousands of years ago. While ancient, these modern stories tell us a great deal about ourselves and our relationship with others. If you've never studied these stories before, you're in for a treat! Sessions will take place over lunch in person and also online starting in October.

Weekly Torah Study Saturdays at 9:45 am

Led by our Clergy Team, all are welcome to our weekly discussion of the Torah Portion of the week. No prior experience needed, and everyone is welcome.

Talmud Study with David Scott Wednesdays at 2 pm

Even if you've never looked at a page of the Talmud, studying these words gives us a window into the lives of Jews who lived thousands of years ago.

Stimulating conversation and debate fills our time every week from 2-3 pm on Wednesdays. No prior experience is needed and all are welcome.

Basic Judaism

Sessions led by our Clergy Team and begin on August 24th at 6:30 pm. Sessions will take place both in person and online next year. For details and to register, contact Stephanie Robertson. Cost is \$54 per person for materials.

Adult Hebrew

Intro level and Intermediate level classes available to learn to read and speak Hebrew. For details and to register for our Tuesday night sessions, contact Stephanie Robertson. Cost is \$250 for members and \$300 for non-members.

VISITING GUESTS AND EVENTS

Rabbi Rachel Mikva-Rosenberg November 2 at 7 pm

Rabbi Rosenberg is the author of Dangerous Religious Ideas, and will be our guest online as we join together in the Finger Board Room for a special program and discussion. All are welcome.

Presented by the Adult Education Committee.





Rabbi Dvora
Weisberg
April 1-2, 2022
Noted Professor of
Jewish Text, Rabbi
Dvorah Weisberg, will
be our scholar-inresidence on
April 1-2, 2022. We
will learn, pray, and
explore Jewish texts
in intimate and
meaningful ways.
Details to follow



MBJLC VISITING GUESTS AND EVENTS

Family Shabbat with Mike Mason Friday, August 20 at 6:00 pm

We're excited to kick off the new year with Mike Mason. He brings with him the joy and excitement of new music and "ruacah" Jewish spirit energy to our community.

Madrichim Orientation and Party Saturday, August 21

All 8th-12th graders are invited to learn more about Madrichim, meet our new team (including Mike Mason, our new Director of Young Family Programming & Musical Engagement), and get excited about the year ahead. For further details, contact Kerri Zerlin, Youth Programs & Education Coordinator at KZerlin@beth-israel.org.

MBJLC Opening Day Sunday, August 29

Meet your new Faculty and Staff of the MBJLC for 2021-2022! We will all return to our Sanctuary on the morning of August 29. Park and enter by the Sanctuary entrance to meet your friends and new faculty and staff starting at 9:30 am. We will gather at 10:30 am in the Sanctuary for a special program and concert featuring guest musician Chava Mirel! Special door prizes and other gifts await you – don't miss this day! If you have not yet registered your child (kindergarten to 12th grade) for MBJLC, do so now!! Register via your ShulCloud account.

Consecration

Sunday, September 26

All Kindergarteners and anyone who was not consecrated last year is invited to participate in our Consecration ceremony at 11:00 am on September 26. A rehearsal and family education program will take place on September 19 at 9:30 am. For details and questions, contact the MBJLC at mbjlc@beth-israel.org

Kehillah High Kickoff Wednesday, October, 6 at 7:30 pm

We are excited to kick off the seventh year of Kehillah High! This year will be filled with new, exciting classes and teachers, as well as returning favorites. We are planning a dual-track or hybrid model. It will include both in-person weekly and monthly meetings, as well as online opportunities. All the students will sign up for their first trimester classes and receive a new Kehillah High t-shirt at the Kickoff. The first trimester will start on Wednesday, October 13 at Beth Israel. For more information, visit KehillahHouston.org or contact Danielle Alexander, Kehillah High Director, at 713-771-6221 ext. 334.





KUDOS AND A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL OUR COMMITTEE CHAIRS, CO-CHAIRS, BOARD, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, AND STAFF LIAISONS



for their contributions in keeping our newly reorganized committee structure going during a difficult year! Although some of our committees were limited due to pandemic restrictions, we look forward to revitalizing them during the 21-22 fiscal year. Most of our committees persevered, showed creativity and determination, were able to

continue committee involvement, and achieved new goals during the past year. We are now collecting information from Committee Chairs and will begin planning for the new fiscal year.

Thankfully, the skills we learned this past year will enhance our ability to interact with our congregants moving forward. If there is a committee you would like to join or would like to discuss opportunities, please do not hesitate to contact Marsha Stein, Marsha@sugarstein.com or Liza Hirsch

LHirsch@beth-israel.org
Please look for summaries of
committee activities with your
Annual Meeting materials.



Your Social Justice Committee is almost ready to launch several projects to connect us with members of other Houston communities, doing work to improve daily lives in our city.

Thanks to Linda Davis for coordinating with Temenos (which means "safe place" in Greek) to support their residents, who were formerly homeless Houstonians. We will be partnering with Temenos staff to offer workshops for residents and to provide skill-building and socialization.

Please let us know if you have a few hours to share a talent or interest, like gardening, story-telling, art, music, stress reduction, cooking, etc.

Thanks to Jessica Chasin for continuing to meet with a 5th Ward committee to create a mentoring program for Phillis Wheatley High School students. Let us know if you'd like to be part of this work in the fall.

Beth Schneider and others have been representing us with RAC-TX, which has sponsored meetings with state elected officials and many phone calls to urge protection of voting rights for all Texans. We don't yet know the outcome, but however bad it may be, it would have been worse without RAC-TX and many other organizations' efforts.

We're re-starting our Muslim-Jewish Gun Safety Campaign. We're asking for the support of Houston's new Police Chief Finner and Moms Demand Action.

Please let us know how you want to join us, for a few hours or more, in working with others to make positive changes. Contact co-chairs: Lisa Stone lestone@aya.yale.edu or Dena Marks denasokolow@gmail.com

WE ARE EXCITED TO ANNOUNCE IN-PERSON HIGH HOLY DAY SERVICES 2021/5782

Erev Rosh Hashanah Monday, September 6, 2021

Rosh Hashanah Tuesday, September 7, 2021

Cemetery Memorial Services
Sunday, September 12, 2021

Erev Yom Kippur/Kol Nidre Wednesday, September 15, 2021

Yom Kippur Thursday, September 16, 2021

Times and Service Details To Come Livestream will be available for all services

High Holy Days 5782

Congregation Beth Israel will be open for High Holy Days. As in previous years, entries will be mailed in August to all members in good-standing.

If you would like the names of your loved ones included in the 2021 Book of Remembrance, please return the Book of Remembrance form with payment by Monday, August 16, 2021. If you would like to review a listing of the names you've submitted in the past, you may contact Theresa Havelka at the Temple.

To have a Yahrzeit Plaque installed in the Sanctuary by Rosh Hashanah, please return the Yahrzeit Plaque form by Monday, June 21, 2021.

Look for detailed High Holy Days service information and schedule in July, and reach out if you have any questions.

Please come to our Welcome Back Brunch on Sunday, August 22, 2021, from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm.

If you don't plan on attending High Holy Days services in-person, you may also pick up prayer books at our drive-through pick up.

We look forward to seeing you in person soon!



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."

Thank you to Marcus Litofsky for his leadership as the Brotherhood President for the last 3 years. We appreciate everything that you have done.

If you are interested in Brotherhood or would like to have a leadership role, please contact Liza Hirsch at LHirsch@beth-israel.org







For many years Congregation Beth Israel has supported Kids' Meals as one of our annual Mitzvah Day projects. We are beginning our fifth year of partnering with Kids' Meals as a monthly mitzvah project.

Kids' Meals provides a healthy lunch to many of Houston's hungriest preschool aged children. During the summer months lunches are provided to elementary aged children as well.

We invite you to participate in making sandwiches and assembling sack lunches for this meaningful program.

Our next gatherings will be on June 16 and July 21.

Please join us to help end childhood hunger in the City of Houston.

To sign up, please email Marsha Gilbert at MGilbert@beth-israel.org











2:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M.
Location To Be Announced

RSVP at beth-israel.shulcloud.com/calendar

THE GIFT

OF LIFE

In the summer of 2014. Liza Hirsch, Beth Israel's Membership & Executive Office Manager, was 21 years old and in Washington, D.C. participating in Machon Kaplan. During one of her summer evening classes at the RAC, an organization named Gift of Life came to speak with her group. The Gift of Life Marrow Registry cures blood cancer through cellular therapy. Currently, they have 381,089 registered donors, have made 19.924 matches, and have facilitated 3,887 transplants. Only 1 out of every 430 registry members (.23%) are asked to donate. They encouraged Liza and her group to swab and save a life.

Three years later, on December 6, 2017, Liza received a phone call. A woman introduced herself and let her know that she was calling from Gift of Life because Liza was a match for a patient in need! On December 8. Gift of Life scheduled Liza for an appointment in the Medical Center so that she could give her first blood sample to be tested. About two weeks later, on December 21, she had her Gift of Life screening over the phone. On January 21, Gift of Life flew Liza and her boyfriend at the time (husband now). Garrick, out to D.C. to prepare for her bone marrow donation that would take place the very next morning at George Washington University Hospital. The procedure took a little more than an hour, and she stayed in the hospital overnight. Other than having a sore back for the next several days, she felt totally

For a year, Liza and her recipient were pen pals and she tried to figure out where he lived based on subtle clues that he would give in his letters. In one letter, he

mentioned that he had challah and jam for breakfast, and she thought to herself, "Aha! I knew he was Jewish!" And of course, he most definitely is. On January 29, 2019, Liza received a phone call and she answered it. After saying hello, she heard, "Hi! This is Jack Heims, and I am your bone marrow recipient!" Jack was 67 years old when she donated to him, he is now 71 years old. and this past January, he hit his three-year post-transplant mark. In the days to come, Jack and Liza added each other on Facebook and when she told her mom to look him up on Facebook, her mom exclaimed, Oh My! We have a mutual friend in common, Carolyn. Come to find out, Carolyn is Jack's niece! Liza's mother was in Israel 40 years prior with the niece of who would become her bone marrow recipient four decades later!

On March 15, Garrick, Liza's mom. and Liza flew to



Portland, Oregon, to meet Jack, his wife Phyllis, and his daughter Cydney for the first time. They hugged, cried, and ended up meeting more than 100 of Jack's friends that he had invited to a party in Liza's honor. It didn't take long for Liza to see that Jack is a community builder, a leader, a weaver of relationships, and subtly the life of any party. A year later, Jack attended Garrick and Liza's wedding and they look forward to seeing him again this coming August!



On April 19th, Congregation Beth Israel hosted their 2021 Golf Tournament at the Westwood Golf Club. The golf tournament was open to members and friends, and 28 teams competed, including a team from The Emery/Weiner School Golf Club.

The day began with coffee and boxed lunches sponsored by Roslyn and Ricky Haikin. After a blessing made by Rabbi Adrienne Scott, the 112 players raced off in their carts, sponsored by Helfman Auto, and the beverage cart sponsored by Beth Wolff Realtors followed them out for a picture-perfect day of golf.

On the course, players stopped at the snack table provided by RBC Weather Management Attune Financial Advisors and competed in the Longest Drive and Closest to the Pin competitions sponsored by Schaffer Mechanical, Inc.

As players finished their game, they arrived at the cocktail hour sponsored by Walker & Dunlop, and winners were announced.

Thanks to the leadership of Jeffrey Gilbert, Doug Aron, and the committee, the tournament raised \$90,000 for the Synagogue. Special thanks to the Title Sponsor, NRL Mortgage.

We are excited to announce that the 2022 Golf Tournament will be on April 25, 2022 at Westwood Golf Club. For questions or to secure your spot for next year's tournamaent, please contact Laura Kaplan, Marketing & Communications Manager, at LKaplan@beth-israel.org or 713-771-6221 ext. 630.











New Librarian

On June 8, the Temple welcomed Susan Whitman, our new librarian, who will be replacing Judy Weidman after 14 years. A lovely goodbye and hello reception was held with the delicious Marsha goodies on display. Susan is a trained librarian, with experience in a variety of libraries, including volunteering in a congregational library. She will be a great asset to the library, which is open during the summer. Watch the E-news for summer hours. Come by to browse and say hello. Just enter at the front of the temple, and proceed to the library.

Readers Group

Our lively group has continued via Zoom access on the third Wednesday of the month at 1:30 pm through May and will enjoy our first in-person meeting on June 16. David Scott joined us via Zoom because he was at camp, to lead our discussion of "The Last Kings of Shanghai: The Rival Jewish Dynasties That Helped Create Modern China". After our traditional summer break, we are meeting again in-person starting in September. All congregants and friends are welcome to join our meetings. We choose a variety of Jewish-themed and popular titles, led by our members, clergy, and occasionally authors via Zoom or Skype. Watch the E-news for information, and RSVP to our new Librarian, Susan Whitman, at SWhitman@beth-israel.org.

Future Events!

June 16: The Last Kings of Shanghai: The Rival Jewish Dynasties That Helped Create Modern China by Jonathan Kaufman. David Scott will be joining our group again. Meeting will be held in-person at Beth Israel in the Wolff-Toomim Hall. Beth Israel Library has 1 copy but Houston Public Library owns several.

September 22: *Unkosher Death* by Judith Finkel. The local author will be joining our group

October 20: The Third Daughter by Talia Carner. Barbara Hordern will lead the discussion.

November 17: TBA

December 15: The Imperfects: A Novel by Amy Meyerson. Author will be joining via Zoom: "A captivating novel about a priceless inheritance that leads one family on a life-altering pursuit of the truth". Copies available at our library plus Houston Public Library.

A NOTE FROM JUDY WEIDMAN,

Thank you to all the clergy, congregants, staff, and visitors who have made my time at Beth Israel such a pleasure! Thank you also to Janet Frost, Chair of the Library Committee for her continued support, and Sarah Frazer archivist extrodinaire!

LIBRARY NEWS

THANK YOU FOR 14 YEARS JUDY WEIDMAN



If you have walked into the Schachtel Library or the Richard and Cynthia Loewenstern Children's Library anytime over the last fourteen years, then you know Judy Weidman. Even if she was not present on that day, her touch and special attention is on display in every space in our beautiful library. She was hired to be our Temple Librarian by Kathy Knott in 2007, and

over the next 14 years she brought our library into a modern and award-winning Jewish library that is celebrated and recognized both in Houston and well beyond our community's borders. In fact, our Schachtel Library has been recognized with an Advanced Accreditation by the Association of Jewish Libraries (AJL). This achievement is awarded to Jewish libraries that have the highest standards in collection development, technology, community outreach, and educational initiatives. In 2013, Judy chaired the AJL conference with the help of numerous local volunteers and speakers, and her prior experience serving the Houston Public Library, a school library in Canada, and her career as a Sales Representative for El Al Airlines led her to Congregation Beth Israel. During her tenure, Judy oversaw the adult collection of books, selecting and recommending books by Jewish authors or content. One of her lasting legacies began in 2008 with a monthly Readers Group, which still continues to this day. Two of Judy's personal favorites included the Readers Group presentation of a version of the play "Hamilton," and Faith Marshall z"l of blessed memory, recounting her experiences teaching in a Japanese internment camp while leading a discussion of a novel on that subject.

The support of the Loewenstern Family for the Schachtel Library was always appreciated. This funding has enabled the archives to develop a sizable digital record of the earliest records of the Temple, an oral history collection, and the full photo collection of Confirmation photos, among other historical collections.

Mazel Tov Judy on your retirement, and we wish you all the best!

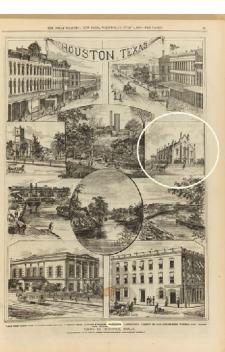
BETH ISRAEL'S FIRST TEMPLE: REVEALED!

The curious undated and uncredited newspaper clipping posted on the Beth Israel history wall always puzzled Judy Weidman, Temple Librarian. Clearly referring to the newly built temple on Crawford and Franklin, completed in 1874, the description did not fit with the modest building commonly

recognized as the first Temple. In fact, the history wall displayed a June 1870 Houston Daily Telegraph article describing the fanfare of the laying of the cornerstone for the new building.



The reporter, on viewing the unfinished building, describes the style as "too heavy, "ungainly" and "embodies too much of the idea of barbarian ages" but does suggest future tourists may want to visit this significant landmark.



On September 2016, Judy attended a presentation by Stephen Fox, Rice University Architectural Historian, about the history of the architecture of Houston Jewish buildings. He presented a slide of a July 7, 1880 newspaper clipping from the New York Daily Graphic entitled "Houston, Texas" showing various buildings of that era. A stately

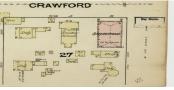
building labelled "Synagogue" in the key is included.

Since Beth Israel was the only synagogue in Houston at that time, the photo was a huge revelation. It was found by a student of Mr. Fox, on perusing old newspapers at the Briscoe Center for American History in Austin. Judy contacted Mr. Fox and he agreed this was a real find, which inspired Judy to pursue more information. Here is a close-up of the building.



She was led to the 1885 Sanborn map of the city block where the temple stood. In the corner of Crawford and Franklin is the outline of the Synagogue, printed in pink designating a brick construction, and next to it is the "Sunday school", in yellow, designating wood construction. Perhaps this could have been the previously recognized building as the actual temple?





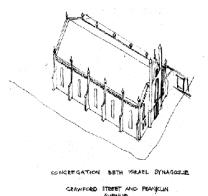
Original located at the Dolph Briscoe Center for American History, University of Texas at Austi

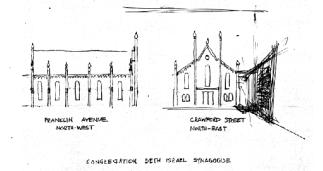
Further research over the years turned up more interesting finds. A panoramic map from 1873 of Houston shows a clear image of the temple and schoolhouse on the corner of Franklin and Crawford, #12 in the key.



Another map from 1891 also shows two buldings (both maps are in the Beth Israel archives).

Digging through the mountains of unindexed materials in the Beth Israel Archives, Judy and Sarah Frazer, congregant and trained port of the Sermon of Rabbi J. L. Archivist, discovered two drawings that added to the mystery. Dated 1978, when the Temple was probably torn down, architect Howard Barnstone drew two "Conjectural Elevations" of this building on Crawford and Franklin. Mr. Barnstone was no longer alive to interview, and inquiries to his partners had no recollection of these drawings. The drawings are without a doubt the impressive edifice now being revealed. To date, Judy has been unable to track the final date of the temple.





More research produced a lengthy article in the Houston Daily Mercury, November 4, 1873, entitled "BETH ISRAEL; an evening at the Synagogue." The reporter describes the building "imposing", and "one among the best edifices of our city, but slightly ornate in style." It continues with a description of the Rabbi Dr. J.L. Meyer, the choir, and the sermon printed in full.

The building outgrew its purpose, and the congregation moved to its new temple in 1908. Sadly, the Houston Daily Post of October 18, 1908, reported the last chapter of the Franklin building. Entitled "The Abandoned Churches of Houston" Beth Israel is described as having "fallen into the hands of commercialism" - a clothing factory - "with scores of sewing machines humming in the place where the organ once thrilled." An ignominious end to such a stately edifice!

On Friday evening this reporter visited the Jewish Synagogue, at the corner of Franklin and Crawford streets, to witness the services of the evening.

THE SYNAGOGUE

is an imposing structure, and one among THE SYNAGOGUEthe best edifices of our city, but slightly ornate in style and very substantially erected. It has a fine open lot about it, The Services on Friday Evening-Resurrounded with neat white palings. It was built during the latter part of 1871, being finished and delivered to the congregation early in 1872. The Superintendent of the work was Max Kosse, and the result of his labors is as much a monument to his skill and genius as St. Paul's, in London, is to that of Sir Christopher Wren. The building cost, completed, about \$30,000, a sum which speaks volumes in praise of the enterprise and liberality of the congregation which numbers something near seventy-five members.

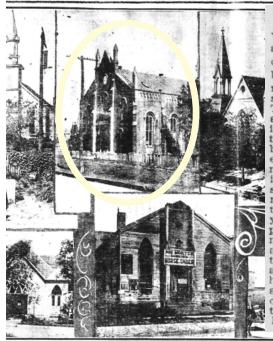
THE INTERIOR

s plain, but in its very simplicity beautiful. There are four rows of pews, three entrances from the vestibule and a large. airy, well appointed chair gallery at the front end of the building. At the farther end is the pulpit, handsomely finished and richly decorated. It is upon a raised platform and furnished with chairs and a closed case in its rear, surmounted with "tables of the law" graved with letters of gold. The windows are set with colored glass, stained

HOUSTON DAILY POST: SUNDAY MORNING, OCTO The Abandoned Churches of Houston

Meyer - Some Interest.

ing Facts.



The Jewish congregation Beth vacated its old temple eeveral months ago, worshiping in the Scottish cathedral during the months intervening between that time and the opening of the magnificent new temple on Crawford street and Lamar avenue in September. The old temple, because of its location at Franklin avenue and Crawford street in the business and industrial section, fell to commercial uses and now it's a factory building. The interior has been remodeled, partitions have been put in where needed, machinery has been installed, and it has been made a clothes factory where scores of workers are employed every day making trousers and overalls. In its exmaking trousers and overalls. In its ex-terior the temple looks just as it did two years ago when it was a worshiping place of ancient Israel. Those distinctive marks of its architecture that proclaim it religious meeting house, marks that those who know would recognize at once as distinguishing a Hebrew meeting house, remain outside on the building just as they were. But inside everything is changed. It is an overall factory, and the clatter of many sewing machines is heard all through each working day.





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

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Joan Levine Triestman Stewart & Laraine Levine Marvin Kaplan

Walter & Punkin Hecht

Cheryl Zane

THE GOOD WORKS FUND

IN HONOR OF

Complete and speedy recovery of Jack Selber

Rozanne Rubin

70th Birthday of Chip Rothschild

Jeff & Janet Pozmantier

Bat Mitzvah of Bonnie Herst Mindy Wertheimer

IN MEMORY OF

Lenora Ladin Joe Chesnick, Sr Dede Weil

Hilford Joseph Chesnick Sr

Lee Ladin

Joy and Brent Ford

Hilford J. Chesnick, Sr

Paula Green

Robert Smith

Pam Derbyshire

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Lee Ladin

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Janis Oxer

Joe Chesnick

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Marvin Speer Lee Ladin

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IN HONOR OF

Bat Mitzvah of Beryt Scott

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Helen Heller Jodi Braham

Jeffrey & Margaret Tucker

Lee Ladin

Lori Cook & Steve Epstein

Michael Nathanson

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Lee Ladin

Joseph Chesnick, Sr

Marjorie Rosenthal

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IN MEMORY OF

Sheryl K. Rose Jules F. Rose and Kenneth Krandel

Janise and Rick Silverman

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IN HONOR OF

Our appreciation of Marcia Nichol's leading us in Mussar Studies

Leslie & Douglas Gilstrap

IN MEMORY OF

Lee Ladin

Marc Grossberg

THE MIRIAM BROWNING SCHOLARSHIP FUND

IN HONOR OF

Bar Mitzvah of Dom Berta

Mike & Patti Morgan

IN MEMORY OF

Lenora Ladin

Steve Kline

Joseph Chesnick, Sr

Carol L Desemberg

THE PAULA & ALFRED FRIEDLANDER FORUM FUND

IN HONOR OF

Paula Friedlander

Susan Lapin

IN MEMORY OF

Jennifer Lee Zuber

Sheila Camberg

THE SAMUEL E KARFF SCHOLARSHIP FUND

IN MEMORY OF

Marvin Kaplan

Jon & Eleanor Totz



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DATED MATERIAL

relevant. modern. joyful.

FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION

DEATHS

Lawrence Bernard Husband of Doris Bernard; father of David Bernard &

Charles D. Urstadt, and Jeffrey Bernard & Julie Chisholm; brother of Amber & Byron P. York, Jr., and brother-in-law of Howard Katz

Marie Caplan

Mother of Rachel & John Erickson, Seth & Nicole Caplan, Grace Caplan & James Luce, Ben & Asya Caplan, Rose Caplan & Mark MacKercher, and Sam Caplan & fiancée Madeline Bordeon; sister of Beth Wolff, and David & Jeanette Greenfield. Jr.

Hilford Joseph Chesnick, Sr. Husband of Joyce

Chesnick; fathér of Joan & Stevan Dinerstein, Karen & Joseph Chesnick, Jr., and Yvonne & Robert Chesnick

Filmore C. Cohen

Father of Nancy & David Cohen, Marci & Mark Kellner, and Debbie & Rick Levinton; brother of Gilbert Cohen

Jacqueline Cole

Mother of Thomas Cole & Thelma Jean Goodrich, Patricia & Ken Gregory, and Paul Cole & Judith Nast

Eunice Edelstein

Wife of Arthur Edelstein

David Epstein

Father of Kayla Epstein; son of Neil & Karen Epstein; brother of Sarah & Aldo Zamora

Lucille Gidseg

Mother of Ronnie & Al Harrison, Shana Gregory & Stephen Gross, and Glenn & Pink Gidseg; sister of Rita Foreman

Aron Govshteyn

Husband of Bela Govshteyn; brother of Maya Smirnova

James Hughes

Father of Babette & Jose Payares

Marlene Kaplan

Mother of Linda & Steve Albert, Bernard & Lee Kaplan, and Brian & Dede Kaplan; sister of Harriet & Taghi Hajizade, and Robert & Terri Bayer

Marvin Kaplan

Husband of Joan Kaplan; father of Rick & Debbie Kaplan, Karen & Roy Brooks, and Susan Bruch; brother of Jerry Kaplan; brother-in-law of Judy & Rodney Margolis, and Phyllis (Cissy) & George Asch

Lenora "Lee" Ladin

Mother of Lynn & Jerry Yellen, Phillip & Lara Ladin, Ronald & Jean Ladin, and Robin & Forest Dorn

Bennett Malin

Husband of Diane Malin; father of Seth & Julie Malin, and Brad & Sara Malin; brother of Phyllis & Andrew Levitas

Michael Nathanson

Wife of Gary Nathanson; mother of Coby & Frank McElroy, and Zach Nathanson

Jonathan Nowak

Husband of Sue Nowak; father of James Nowak, Derick Nowak, and Hunter Nowak; step-father of Jessie Figueiredo, and Tyler Figueiredo; son of Joyce & Elliott Nowak; brother of Rachel & Eric Bishop, and Genette & Neil Merin

Linda Sancton

Mother of Marc & Lauren Sancton, and Scott Sancton; sister of Bill Warwick, and Terry & Russ Plotkin

Robyn Shkolnick

Wife of Jeff Shkolnick; mother of Leah Shkolnick and Lauren Shkolnick: daughter of Milton & Patricia Faigen

Robert Smith

Father of Randy Smith & Judy Jue, and Suzy & Johnny Landa

Marvin Speer

Father of Sara Speer Selber, and Stuart & Lori Speer

Jennifer Zuber

Daughter of Alan Zuber, and Cindy & Bruce Matejcik; sister of Jason Zuber, and Andrew Matejcik

MAZEL TOV

Engagements

Melissa Mendell & Tyler Hosea

Parents: Joan & Robert Mendell, Houston and Dana & Shane Hosea, Bryan.

MAZEL TOV

Baby Namings

Noa Miley Mendell Child of Chelby & Jarrod Mendell Grandchild of Joan & Robert Mendell, and Denise & Bob Greenberger, Atlanta

Alex Bernard Weiner

Child of Madeline Kaye & Eric Weiner Grandson of Joanie & Chuck Weiner, Emily & David Kaye of Buffalo, NY. Great-grandson of Frances and Alex Wolff, Jr (both of blessed memory)

B'NEI MITZVAH

AUGUST 14, 2021 Havdalah Maxwell Swanson

Son of Olga & Todd Swanson

AUGUST 20-21, 2021 Jonah Lerner **Sebby Lerner**

Sons of Jennifer & Michael Lerner; grandsons of Faye & Michael Copland, Cheryl & Gary Lerner, Omaha, NE, Doreen Lerner^{z"}; great-grandsons of Ethel & Jerry^z", Lerner, St. Louis, MO, Ruth z"l & David z"l Hoff, Annez & Lester Copland, Pearl z" & Hermanz" Figler

Please Note:

The abbreviation, z"l, stands for the Hebrew words, zichrono/a livracha, may his or her memory be for a blessing.

