

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

INSIDE YOU WILL FIND.....

Introducing Dr. Thomas Cole

You are Invited to
Our Fall In-person Programs
and Events!

Dedication of The Alexander Canopy

Sisterhood Mahjong Forms

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Eric & Shanelle Bershad
Edward & Glori Chaika
Sam Cooper
Justin & Jamie Cooper
Harold Eisen
Yoshua Esquenazi & Daniela Ovadia
Oren & Emily Feinstein
Doron Chosnek and Barbara Fogiel
Todd & Yvonne Friedman
Eli Getson & Kyree Gore
Emily Goldstein & Carmen Armendariz
Edward Hersh
Alan & Amy Ideris

Alan & Amy Ideris
Mike & Jennifer Larsen
Evan & Lisa Lee
Travis & Stacey Lenig
Philip & Melissa Lepow
Jed & Erika Mandel
Jason & Rachael Mann
William McGrath
Jarrod & Chelby Mendell
Corey & Ellen Menscher
Scott & Barbra Novak
Seth Riklin
t Robertson & Charisse M

Kent Robertson & Charisse Mayer Lance & Valerie Rosmarin Jesus & Alexandria Zertuche

Know someone interested in becoming a part of our community? New to town or looking to find a way to connect with Beth Israel? Contact Liza Hirsch at LHirsch@beth-israel.org or 713-771-6221

SEPTEMBER 2021 BULLETIN

Spiritual Direction

In the New Year, our Jewish journey continues with new goals and expectations. To succeed means making new choices and committing ourselves to them. By enlarging our resources, we can aim for even greater success by engaging more partners. At Congregation Beth Israel, there are many partners to support us, including rabbis, educators, and now a Center for Healing, Hope, and the Human Spirit.

Beth Israel's Center for Healing, Hope, and the Human Spirit will be led by Dr. Tom Cole, a trained and vested Spiritual Director. Dr. Tom Cole, a long-time congregant, is a widely respected author and experienced medical humanist and ethicist, and Professor of Medical Humanities at UT's McGovern Medical School in Houston. Working closely with our rabbis, Dr. Cole will help identify support groups, discussion topics, and avenues to accomplish the mission of the Center for Healing, Hope, and the Human Spirit, which is to support those who are suffering, grieving, or addressing life's transitional moments; and to inspire and encourage those seeking guidance on their spiritual journies. Dr. Cole's empathetic ear and kind demeanor make him a true asset to all those who are looking to find their way, especially in challenging moments of transition.

Working with individuals and groups Dr. Cole will offer workshops, presentations, guided meditations, and study. In addition, he will provide a variety of disciplined practices to open individuals to develop their own spiritual connections and find deeper meaning in their own lives.

At Congregation Beth Israel, the New Year should be filled with every opportunity to become the persons we are intended to be. We invite each of you to find the meaningful spiritual direction you seek through our Center for Healing, Hope, and the Human Spirit. Please read inside this Bulletin for more information and look forward to participating in new and inspired ways in your congregation.

L'Shalom,

David A. Lyon Senior Rabbi Adrienne P. Scott Associate Rabbi Aaron K. Sataloff Assistant Rabbi

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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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& Musical Engagement.

& Catering.

Director of Special Events

Membership & Executive

Director of Communications &

Office Manager

Program Manager..

Cemetery Director..

Director of Facilities.....



MEET BILL SPINDLER

Bill joined Beth Israel after his son lan, who was 16 at the time, asked to go to a synagogue.
Neither Bill nor Chris, his wife, knew anything

about Judaism and they were hesitant. A friend, who was a member of the Beth Israel Choir, encouraged them to attend Beth Israel. They came, Ian announced that he was Jewish, and they proceeded through the conversion process with Rabbi Scott. About four years ago, Ian became Bar Mitzvah.

Bill and Ian attended the Minyan at Beth Israel when Ira Black z" led Beth Israel's Shabbat Morning Minyan. This minyan is a lay-led service that was established several decades ago and has been continuously led by Bill and other lay leaders. Seven years ago, Ira asked Bill if he would take over leadership, and since then, he has been instrumental in maintaining this special service. We are always welcoming new members and guests to our Saturday Morning Minyan Service at 8:30 A.M. every week. For more information, please contact the Temple Office.

When COVID-19 hit Bill brought them together online using Zoom, he does work in IT, after all. For some, it is coming together in a service that brings them into the divine light. For others, it is reading the words on the page, or the script in Torah, that takes them into that timeless place. For Bill, it is song, and singing, that moves him from the earth to the ethereal. Ages ago, in a Minyan led by Ira Black^{z"I}, as they finished a particular blessing, everyone was looking at Bill, his passion had carried him away, apparently. "What's gotten into you?" Ira asked, bemused. Bill shrugged and replied, "Holy spirit?"

PLEASE JOIN US TO HELP END CHILDHOOD HUNGER IN THE CITY OF HOUSTON.

...Mike Mason

..Liza Hirsch

..Laura Kaplan

..Kathy Parven

..Michael Reddick

..Marsha Gilbert

Over the summer, Congregation Beth Israel collected juice boxes to benefit our Kids' Meals monthly mitzvah project. Many thanks to those of you who contributed. Kids' Meals provides a healthy lunch to many of Houston's pre-school aged children. We invite you to participate in making sandwiches and assembling sack lunches for this meaningful program.

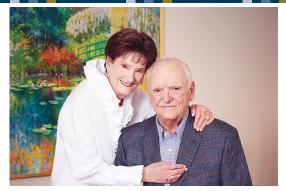
Our next opportunities to volunteer for Kids' Meals are Wednesday, October 20 and Wednesday, November 17 at 9:30am in Wolff-Toomim Hall.

For any questions, contact Marsha Gilbert at MGilbert@beth-israel.org.



The Congregation is Invited to join
Rabbi David & Lisa Lyon
at Shabbat Services on the occasion of the betrothal blessing of
their daughter and future son-in-law
Abigail Sydney Lyon & Randall Zachary Olmsted
October 15, 2021, 6:30pm, in the Sanctuary

An Oneg Shabbat in their honor will follow in Wolff-Toomim Hall Hosted by Congregation Beth Israel's Board of Trustees



HOLOCAUST MUSEUM HOUSTON (HMH) IS SET TO HONOR PUNKIN AND WALTER HECHT, LONGTIME PATRONS AND ONE OF THE MUSEUM'S FOUNDING SUPPORTERS, WITH THE 2021 GUARDIAN OF THE HUMAN SPIRIT AWARD FOR THEIR COMMITMENT TO SERVICE AND BUILDING AN OPEN-MINDED SOCIETY.

Established in 1997, the Guardian of the Human Spirit Award is a platform for acknowledging dedicated individuals and institutions who have worked to enhance the lives of others and to better humankind.

As a couple and independently, Punkin and Walter Hecht have championed many community causes. Walter served as Holocaust Museum Houston board chair from 2007-2009, and Punkin has served on the board of trustees and is a current member of HMH's board of advisors.

Beyond HMH, the Hechts' service extends to the broader community, where both have served on the board of trustees at Seven Acres and as board members; executive officers or volunteers for a variety of organizations, including Congregation Beth Israel, the Evelyn Rubenstein Jewish Community Center, Jewish Family Service, Jewish Federation of Greater Houston, Jewish Institute of Medical Research, the National Council of Jewish Women and Women's American ORT.

** Taken from the August 5 Jewish Herald-Voice (JHV) edition.



MEET LOIS FRANKEL, ONE OF OUR LONGEST MEMBERS AT BETH ISRAEL!

In 1948 Lois Frankel joined Congregation Beth Israel with her husband, Harding z". Lois and Harding were not originally from Houston however, they made many life long friends when they joined Beth Israel.

From the beginning at the Temple on Holman Street, Lois has been very involved. She was a member of the Art Committee in its early years and raised three sons (Richard, Jim, and Douglas) at Beth Israel. All three sons had their Bar Mitzvahs and were Confirmed at Beth Israel. Her son, Jim, and his wife, Carol, have four children, and Lois has 10 great-grandchildren who are all members at Beth Israel. Beth Israel continues to be a family place for Lois.

In earlier years, Lois was active in the Jewish community. She was on the national board of the Women's Division of the United Jewish Appeal, Vice President of the Jewish Community Center of Houston, and she was the head of fundraising for the JCC when it moved from Hermann Dr. to its location today on South Braeswood.

Lois' most special memory of Beth Israel was watching two of her great-granddaughters become B'not Mitzvah.

ALEXANDER ENTRANCE כי ביתי בית-תפילה יקרא לכל העמים מי ביתי בית-תפילה יקרא לכל העמים MY HOUSE SHALL BE CALLED A HOUSE OF PRAYER FOR ALL PEOPLE. ISAIAH 56:7 Dedicated by Joan and Stanford Alexander 25 April 2021 13 lyar 5781

THANK YOU TO JOAN AND STANFORD ALEXANDER!

"Helping the congregation we love create an inclusive doorway to welcome all our community was an opportunity that was simply beshert — meant to be — for Stanford and me."

In 2018 Congregation Beth Israel received a generous donation from long-time Beth Israel members, and philanthropic Houstonians, Stanford and Joan Alexander, to support the "Our Home, Our Future" Capital Campaign, and specifically to create the new Sanctuary canopy and accessible bathrooms that will provide easy for all visitors, members, and staff.

Three years later on April 25, 2021, we were honored to dedicate the Alexander Entrance, a prominent and inclusive thruway to doors that welcome everyone without barriers to worship, education and community.

We give our deepest and sincerest thanks to Joan and Stanford Alexander for their foresight and compassion. The Alexander Entrance will always represent the Jewish values of our inclusive congregation, for we have learned, "My house shall be called a house of prayer for all people" Isaiah 56:7.





2021-2022 Annual Commitment

Thank you for your commitment!

At this time of year, we want to thank our members for the many ways you provide financial support to further the goals of the Temple. Most significant is your Annual Commitment, which sustains the congregation on a daily basis. Regardless of giving level, your donations enable us to be here to meet the many needs of our members and community.

This year we asked you to renew your membership and select the contribution level that was most comfortable for you. Gratefully, many increased their annual commitment which allows us to provide even more opportunites for worship, exciting programming, education, and meaningful lifecycle events, while always remaining relevant, modern, and joyful. We truly appreciate your devotion to our beloved Temple and to our cherished Jewish values.

May it be a sweet New Year for each of you, and your families.





presents

Rabbi Rachel Mikva Rosenberg, Professor of Jewish Studies

Tuesday, November 2, 7:00 P.M. Facilitated by David Scott, RJE

The Adult Education Committee invites you to a discussion featuring Rabbi Rachel Mikva Rosenberg on her new book "Dangerous Religious Ideas: Deep Roots of Self-Critical Faith in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam." We will welcome Rabbi Rosenberg online in the Finger Board Room at 7 pm as we join together for her presentation and discussion.

Questions and RSVP, contact Stephanie Robertson, SRobertson@beth-israel.org



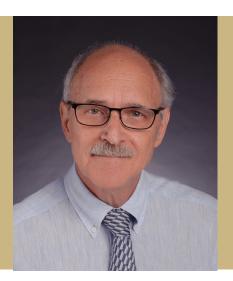
RABBI NOAM KATZ November 12-14

Jewish singer and songwriter,
Rabbi Noam Katz, will be joining us for
Shabbat worship and singing the
weekend of November 12-14th. He will
lead our Friday night, Shir Shabbat,
service beginning at 6:30P.M. 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 9:45A.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 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!



WELCOME DR. THOMAS COLE!

Congregation Beth Israel's CENTER FOR HEALING, HOPE, AND THE HUMAN SPIRIT

"We are all spiritual. The deepest expression of that spirituality is participation in one's own religion."

Rabbi Samuel. E. Karff z"l

A new initiative at Congregation Beth Israel is our **Center for Healing, Hope, and the Human Spirit.** Unique to any synagogue in Texas, this Center will be part of a new and exciting dimension of American Jewish life known as Spiritual Direction, which aims to help us heal, grow, and experience ourselves in relationship to God or a transcendent reality.

Beth Israel's Center for Healing, Hope, and the Human Spirit will be led by Dr. Thomas Cole, a vested Jewish Spiritual Director, author, film maker, and Professor of Medical Humanities at UT's McGovern Medical School in Houston. Rabbi David Lyon and Rabbi Adrienne Scott will work closely with Tom, to help identify support groups, discussion topics, and avenues to accomplish the mission of the Center for Healing, Hope, and the Human Spirit.

The Center has two main goals: (1) to support those who are suffering, grieving, or addressing life's transitional moments; and (2) to inspire and encourage those seeking guidance on their own spiritual journeys. We will accomplish these goals through congregational talks, confidential individual meetings, group sessions, and workshops.

Jewish Spiritual Direction is a form of helping individuals find their own way in the search for God or ultimate meaning, not so that we can believe in someone else's version of God, but so that we can experience-however fleetingly, a taste of heaven, a feeling of warmth and light, and a reminder that we are loved as well as commanded.

Whether the search begins from pain or in a vague sense that something is missing in one's life, it requires gentle direction through the landscape of the everyday to the elusive experience of the sacred. Beth Israel's **Center for Healing, Hope, and the Human Spirit** will offer this direction and guidance.

Dr. Cole is available for confidential individual meetings. You may contact him at TCole@beth-israel.org. For more information, please watch for emails, invitations, and Bulletins on upcoming talks and workshops. Dr. Cole is a vested Jewish Spiritual Director. He is Professor of Medical Humanities at the McGovern Medical School in Houston, with expertise in ethics, compassionate care, and sacred aging. Tom is also a film maker and author, whose book *The Journey of Life: A Cultural History of Aging in America*, was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize. His most recent book is Old Man Country: My Search for Meaning Among the Elders, has a chapter devoted to his conversations with our beloved Rabbi Samuel E. Karff^{2"l}.

Dr. Cole is a long-time member of our Congregation. His children became B'nei Mitzvah and were confirmed at Beth Israel. He is honored and delighted to become the first Director of Beth Israel's Center for Healing, Hope, and the Human Spirit.

The Center for Healing, Hope, and the Human Spirit is underwritten by a grant from the Shirley and David Toomim Family Foundation.



Meet and Greet with Dr. Thomas Cole

Wednesday, October 6, 7:00-8:00 P.M. (in-person at Beth Israel)
Join Rabbi Adrienne Scott and Dr. Thomas Cole, Director of the Center for
Healing, Hope, and the Human Spirit. Come hear his vision and plan for the new
Center For Healing, Hope, and the Human Spirit.

The first 20 attendees will receive an autographed copy of Dr. Cole's latest book, Old Man Country: My Search for Meaning Among the Elders.

To RSVP please visit beth-israel.shulcloud.com/calendar

Spiritual Counseling Sessions

Beginning October 14 through December 16, on Tuesdays and Thursdays, Dr. Cole will offer 45 minute private sessions in-person at the Temple and on Zoom. For more information or to reserve an appointment, please contact Dr. Cole at TCole@beth-israel.org

Grief Group

Tuesdays, beginning October 19 through November 16, 12:00-1:30 P.M. After a funeral and shiva, many of us feel lost as we navigate the waters of grief. This group will involve voluntary, confidential, personal sharing and support to its members. A Jewish framework will guide us in our path to acceptance and remembrance.

Workshop: "Sacred Aging"

Thursdays, beginning October 14 through November 11, 12:00-1:30 P.M.

This workshop will help us as Jews, to experience our own aging as a sacred search for meaning. Through writing, reading, meditation, prayer, and sharing of personal loss and opportunity, we will develop habits that help us flourish "like a cedar in Lebanon."



The Paula and Alfred Friedlander Forum and the Adult Education Committee
of Congregation Beth Israel present
AUTHOR, SARAH HURWITZ

RESCHEDULED TO SPRING 2022 DETAILS TO COME



We are so pleased to welcome Sarah Hurwitz, Senior Speech Writer for Michelle Obama and celebrated author, to this year's Paula and Alfred Friedlander Forum.

During Shabbat services on Friday night, October 8th,

Ms. Hurwitz will speak about 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, we will join in Wolff-Toomim Hall for a special Oneg Shabbat in her honor, and to enjoy a moderated conversation featuring

Sarah Hurwitz and Rabbi Adrienne Scott.

Copies of Ms. Hurwitz's book will also be available.

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

This special weekend's events are underwritten from a generous grant from the Paula and Alfred Friedlander Forum Fund.

Rabbi Aaron Sataloff began 5782 with an incredible Second Day Sangria Soiree with our 20's and 30's.

This tasty get together was a hit! Thank you to all who attended and ate their weight in cheese. Our 20's & 30's group will be getting together again for a private reception before the October 8, 2021 Evening featuring Author, Sarah Hurwitz. Details to come.

To join the group or to learn more, please contact Rabbi Sataloff at ASataloff@beth-israel.org



The Social Action Committee's theme is: You shall remain committed!

Write postcards to promote voting. The message is strictly non-partisan; it gives the election date and a website for polling information. We'll meet online and socially distanced at Beth Israel on Sept 29 at 6:00P.M for friendly competitions to make writing postcards even more rewarding! FYI, these postcards are proven to increase voter turnout, which in turn promotes our democracy.

Support new immigrants to Houston, who are refugees from Afghanistan.

Interfaith Ministries of Greater Houston coordinates this critical work. Meet people at the airport, help settle them in the apartments provided, mentor them in their first months on how to get around/how to access services. We will also be collecting donations for refugee families. For details and to get involved, contact Rabbi Sataloff at ASataloff@beth-israel.org

Mentoring students at Phillis Wheatley High School in 5th Ward. We have two options, depending on your preferences: 1) Center for Urban Transformation provides training and supervision to be a consistent positive presence in the life of an at-risk teen. Informational Zoom calls will be scheduled in a few weeks. 2) Big Brothers Big Sisters also provides training and supervision to support students needing academic support. Their registration is at www. be.a.big.com Be prepared to change a life with a few hours a month online, through either of these programs.

Providing workshops at Temenos ("sacred place") for previously homeless Houstonians.

One hour sessions will be presented by two

volunteers. A Temenos staff person will always be present; about 10 residents will participate. They want just about anything, from stress management ideas to cooking, gardening, art, music, bike maintenance—you get the idea. Again, be prepared to make a difference in the daily lives of others.

Muslim/Jewish Gun Safety Campaign

We're working with Houston Police Chief Finner's office to schedule a public information meeting. We will promote safe gun storage education and share information about signage for private property to prohibit "permitless carry" that went into effect 9.1.21. Our goal is to reduce gun deaths and injuries from accidents, domestic violence, suicides and gun thefts.

To register for any event or to get involved, please email Lisa Stone lestone@aya.yale.edu or Dena Marks denasokolow@gmail.com, co-chairs of our Social Justice Committee



After a brief summer break, we are in the process of getting committee activity up and running for the 21-22 fiscal year. In spite of COVID still interfering with our ability to plan the in-person events we hope to see this year, we are grateful that during the past year, many committees have gained expertise in conducting Zoom meetings and programming and some have even started planning small in person but distanced events. Please visit our Beth Israel website and be sure to subscribe to the weekly emails that highlight upcoming events.



MIRIAM BROWNING JEWISH LEARNING CENTER FACULTY BACK TO WORK



On Sunday morning, August 22nd, Congregation Beth Israel's Miriam Browning Jewish Learning Center (MBJLC) Faculty met for the first time in person in over a year. Led by David Scott, R.J.E, Director of Lifelong Learning & Engagement, he welcomed several new teachers who joined the faculty this year. Gathered in the Finger Board Room, he discussed more about the curriculum, planning, and upcoming events at the MBJLC. Rabbi Lyon joined the faculty members, as he expressed his passion for Jewish education and the importance of including all children in the learning process. New to the MBJLC faculty this year is Mike Mason, Director of Young Family Education and Music Engagement, who introduced himself to the faculty and led everyone in song. Kerri Zerlin, Youth Programming and Education Coordinator, discussed the plans for implementing both Judaic and Hebrew curricula, and Stephanie Robertson, MBJLC Administrative Coordinator, helped orient everyone with logistics and administrative details in preparation for the first day of MBJLC on August 29th.

For more information about enrolling your children or grand-children in the MBJLC and about upcoming events, please contact David Scott at DScott@beth-israel.org.

We offer three Adult Hebrew classes throughout

the year, they are taught on Tuesday and Wednesday nights from 6:30 to 8:30 P.M. and Sunday from 10:00 to 11:30 A.M. The First Sunday class is for beginners and focuses on learning to read Hebrew words and prayers from our worship services. Our second class is a continuation of the Beginners Hebrew class that focuses on reading prayers from our worship services. The third class is for intermediate and advanced students, and it focuses on modern Hebrew vocabulary, basic grammar, and conversational Hebrew. If you are planning on joining us on our next journey to Israel on May 8-18, 2022, then the third class is a great way to learn modern Hebrew phrases. For questions, contact Stephanie Robertson at srobertson@ beth-israel.org. To register visit beth-israel.shulcloud. com/form/adult-hebrew-registration.html

The Adult B'nei Mitzvah Program, a two-year program offered on Sunday mornings beginning at 10:00 A.M., teaches Beginner's Hebrew through prayer in the first year. The second year focuses on reading and culminates with our Adult B'nei Mitzvah ceremony. For those who choose to become B'nei Mitzvah, a date will be selected for the graduating class for the ceremony. The cost for this two-year program is \$250 and is required upon registration. Membership is required to enroll. For questions, contact Stephanie Robertson at SRobertson@beth-israel.org. To register, visit https://beth-israel.shulcloud.com/form/adult-bnei-mitzvah.html

Monthly Midrash 2021-2022 Dates Details to Come.

October 7, 2021 at 12:00 P.M. Featuring Rabbi Lyon November 11, 2021 at 12:00 P.M. Details to follow December 9, 2021 at 12:00 P.M. Featuring Rabbi Lyon January 13, 2022 at 12:00 P.M. Details to follow



BETH ISRAEL TEENS ENJOY MEETING IN PERSON

Every year Congregation Beth Israel's 8th-12th graders enrolled in the Miriam Browning Jewish Learning Center (MBJLC) religious school program meet prior to the start of the year to learn about the MBJLC and all that it includes for our Beth Israel teens.

On Saturday night, August 21st, dozens of teens gathered at Palace Social to meet each other, socialize, and learn more about how this year will be structured given the current pandemic. Led by David Scott, Director of Lifelong Learning & Engagement, and Kerri Zerlin, Youth Programming and Education Coordinator, the teens met and got busy planning and discussing ways to engage the younger learners on Sunday mornings. Also included in the program was Rabbi Aaron Sataloff, who teaches the 7th grade MBJLC students, and Danielle Alexander, Director of Kehillah High, our community-wide Jewish educational program for all 8th-12th graders in Houston.

Ms. Alexander shared the COVID-19 protocols and upcoming special events for Kehillah High including the upcoming kick-off on October 6th hosted by Congregation Beth Israel. In addition, grade-level experiences are being planned for later this Fall that include, among other things, trips to New Orleans, Galveston, and Austin. All of the Kehillah High programming that occurs on Wednesday nights and Sunday afternoons, as well as all the grade-level experiences, are available to the teens as part of their registration in MBJLC. The Madrichim program, which focuses on teen leadership, social justice opportunities, and educational training, allows older teens to assist MBJLC Faculty members on Sunday mornings with the younger children. Teens receive community service hours or a financial stipend for their participation, which offsets the cost of tuition in Kehillah High.

For questions and more information about how to register and participate in MBJLC programming at Congregation Beth Israel, please contact **Stephanie Robertson**, MBJLC Administrative Coordinator, at SRobertson@beth-israel.org.







JEWISH SENSATION CHAVA MIREL WOWS BETH ISRAEL MEMBERS AND MBJLC FAMILIES

Throughout the weekend of August 27th-29th, celebrated and award-winning Jewish singer-songwriter, **Chava Mirel**, inspired with congregants, guests, and MBJLC families at Congregation Beth Israel.

On Friday night for Shabbat services, Chava Mirel joined Cantor Richard Cohn, Director of the Debbie Friedman School of Sacred Music at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in New York City. The harmonies and beautiful voices they shared together in prayer were felt throughout the Sanctuary on Friday night.

On Shabbat morning, Chava
Mirel led an experiential Torah
Study filled with music and prayer.
Even though everyone in attendance appeared through Zoom,
Chava was able to connect to each individual member and guest.
One member wrote that she "was transported to another world this morning! So many of the prayers we sang...showed me again how music can soothe the soul."

This musical Shabbat experience was followed on Saturday night by an acoustic performance in the Gordon Chapel. Sharing her own melodies and liturgical compositions, Chava Mirel helped everyone feel prepared for the High Holy Days. They were then joined on the bimah by Rabbi

David Lyon, Rabbi Adrienne Scott, and Rabbi Aaron Sataloff, who all led a moving Selichot Service accompanied on piano by Music Director, Mark Vogel.

Sunday morning was the

Opening Day of the Miriam Browning Jewish Learning Center (MBJLC). Hundreds of children, parents, faculty, clergy, and staff celebrated together, fully masked and appropriately distanced, throughout the entire campus. Special thanks to Roslyn Fuchs Haikin, Temple President, who spoke with the parents and welcomed them back to the Temple. The children were able to meet their new MBJLC Faculty members, as well 45 Madrichim Teen Leaders'. After the children became more familiar with the Temple, having been away for over a year, everyone joined together in the Sanctuary for a final concert with Chava Mirel. Everyone was on their feet and dancing. The entire MBJLC Opening Day was a huge success.

For anyone who did not experience Chava Mirel's presence either online or in person throughout the weekend, the services and sessions were recorded and are available through Beth Israel's website at beth-israel.org and YouTube channel at youtube.com/user/BethlsraelHouston.



For more information about upcoming temple programming and events or questions about registering for the Miriam Browning Jewish Learning Center, please contact **David Scott**, **R.J.E.**, at DScott@beth-israel.org or call Temple offices at (713) 771-6221.





KEHILLAH



"This trip really helped my relationship with Israel grow.

I feel much more connected to and knowledgeable of
the country. Visiting and learning about all the historical sites allowed me to enjoy the beauty of Israel on a
much deeper level." Bar Yaari



Vaccinations have made our world safer. One of the many perks of that safer world is the ability to travel again. For a group of our teens, that meant the realization of a dream a long time coming: to travel to our homeland of Israel.

Kehillah High is our multi-denominational post-B'nei Mitzvah educational program throughout the Houston Jewish Community. Congregation Beth Israel is one of the three founding congregations, along with Beth Yeshurun and Brith Shalom, Kehillah High is the opportunity for 8th-12th graders to come together weekly to explore their burgeoning Jewish identities. Every grade has a special trip or experience. Last year was going to be an especially exciting year: the inaugural Israel trip for the rising 11th & 12th grades. But COVID put a swift end to that. So many teens looking forward to experiencing the beauty of Israel were deeply disappointed. Then, with the blessing of extensive vaccination and testing in Israel and here, and through the hard work and dedication of the Kehillah High leadership, our teens were told that their trip would finally happen, twelve months later! The excitement was palpable. It wouldn't be easy—there would be testing, quarantine, more testing. But our teens and dedicated staff were willing to put in the effort if it meant that their dream of exploring Israel together could happen.

Our Beth Israel teens and the rest of their Kehillah High cohort landed in Israel on June 14. Soon after they were out of quarantine and off to explore our holy land for three amazing weeks! They went to the Kotel on Shabbat and had dinner on Ben Yehuda; hiked Masada and swam in the Dead Sea. Most importantly, they experienced Israel with other 10th-12th graders and made memories and connections with each other and the land of Israel that will last a lifetime.

Five Beth Israel teens participated: Zachary Johnson, Maya Ollagnon, Sarah Powers, Liv Rubenstein, and Bar Yaari. The trip was led by Danielle Alexander, Founding Director of Kehillah High. Many thanks to the Jewish Federation of Greater Houston, RootOne, and some very generous Beth Israel and other community members for their assistance and funding in making this trip possible. Kehillah High was one of the 20 RootOne organizations that traveled with more than 4,000 teens to Israel this summer; the first in-person teen trip to go to Israel since the pandemic began! For more information about RootOne go to RootOne.org.

Kehillah High is excited to kick off its seventh year on Wednesday, October 6 at Congregation Beth Israel. The Kehillah High leadership is hard at work planning for both in-person and online opportunities. For more information and to register visit KehillahHouston.org. If you have any questions, feel free to be in touch with Danielle Alexander at DAlexander@KehillahHouston.org or 713-771-6221 ext. 334.







HOUSTON SYNAGOGUES & JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS SPONSOR SINGLES INITIATIVE FOR 50S AND 60S

Better Together – a community-wide Jewish singles' initiative for those in their 50s and 60s hosted its official launch party at Pinstripes on Thursday, August 12, with nearly 100 attendees. The group enjoyed socializing, food, drinks and bocce ball.

In addition to fun and socializing, Better Together will host a community service project, to be held Sunday, October 3, beginning at 10:30 A.M. Congregation Beth Israel, 5600 N. Braeswood Blvd., will host the program, which will benefit Kids' Meals.

Kids' Meals is a local nonprofit organization with a mission to end childhood hunger by delivering free, healthy meals to Houston's hungriest preschool-aged children and, through collaboration, provide their families with resources to end the cycle of poverty. For the community service project, all volunteers, regardless of their vaccination status, must wear face masks, as they will be handling food while packing lunches for Kids' Meals. Gloves will be provided. The morning will begin with a light breakfast.

A third event, a bus tour with stops at different breweries throughout the Houston area, will take place on Sunday, December 10. More details to come.

The following are sponsoring Better Together: Congregations Beth Israel, Beth Shalom of The Woodlands, Beth Yeshurun, Brith Shalom, Emanu El, Shma Koleinu, Houston Congregation for Reform Judaism, Temple Sinai; Evelyn Rubenstein Jewish Community Center; and Jewish Federation of Greater Houston.

To receive information on future programs or make suggestions for Better Together, email bettertogether@beth-israel.org.



LIBRARY NEWS

THE SCHACHTEL LIBRARY IS OPEN!

The Schachtel library has continued to be a resource for remote learning throughout the pandemic, but we are happy to open our doors to visitors again. Please remember that masks are required in the Schachtel Library. The library is open when the building is open. It is staffed by our new Temple Librarian, Susan Whitman, Monday through Thursday from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Electronic access to the catalog is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Feel free to browse our shelves and fill out a card to take a book home. Alternatively, you can browse our catalog online. Go to www.beth-israel.org, hover over the Miriam Browning JLC tab at the top and click on the library homepage. You can request a book for checkout or research on a topic by e-mailing Susan Whitman at SWhitman@beth-israel.org or calling the library at (713) 820-6410.

SEE WHAT WE HAVE FOR YOU

The Schachtel Library collects and provides the works of Jewish scholars and writers, past and present, as a resource of continued learning to serve the Jewish community. We provide resources to serve a broad range of ages and educational and cultural backgrounds. The library is a beautiful and inviting space that we share with The Shlenker School. If you come into the library, you will see a wonderful children's collection that is managed by The Shlenker School. On the other side, you will see our Temple collection which is geared toward an adult population.

BROWSE AND DISCOVER

For those of you who are unfamiliar with our collection, the Schachtel Library contains a wide variety of content to serve a broad range of needs of our Beth Israel community:

- Books on Jewish history and contemporary Jewish living
- Sacred Jewish texts and Judaic scholarship
- Texts on modern Israel, covering political and cultural affairs
- A broad selection of contemporary fiction addressing Jewish subjects
- Journals and newspapers from the local and national community

Children's books from the collection of The Shlenker School are also available for checkout. For both the adult and children's collection, if a librarian is not available, simply fill in the library card and leave it in the box on the desk.

WELCOME BACK, BETH ISRAEL COMMUNITY

We would like to introduce our new Temple librarian for the Hyman Judah Schachtel Library at Congregation Beth Israel, **Susan Whitman**. She began working at Beth Israel this summer continuing the work of former librarian, Judy Weidman.

She is a native Houstonian, and lives in Bellaire with her husband and two teenagers. They have raised their children in Jewish schools, and she is happy to serve in a place that is dedicated to Jewish learning in school and beyond formal education. She belives that, "the library is a place of learning and enjoyment through literature." She is looking forward to meeting all our members and helping them to find the information and leisure reading that they are looking for.

2021 SCHEDULE FOR READER'S GROUP

- September 22: An Unkosher Death, by Judith Finkel. The author, who is a member of our reading group, will speak with us about her novel.
- October 26: The Color of Love, by Marra Gad. Rabbi David Lyon will speak with us about this important memoir in preparation for the author's appearance at Beth Israel as part of the Wolff-Toomim Distinguished Lecture Series on January 11, 2022.
- November 17: Rhapsody, by Mitchell James Kaplan. Rhapsody will be the subject of the ERJCC Book Club Community Read on November 9. The Beth Israel Readers Group invites you to discuss this book with us.
- December 15: The Imperfects: A Novel, by Amy Meyerson. The author will join us to discuss her novel.
- January 12, 2022: Third Daughter, by Talia Carner

All meetings until further notice will be available in person and on Zoom at 1:30 pm. RSVP to Susan Whitman at SWhitman@beth-israel.org to obtain Zoom links and updated meeting locations.



\$5,000 LYON COHEN MERIT SCHOLARSHIP



ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR 2022 AWARD

Applications now available online at www.beth-israel.org/lifelong-learning/Lyon-Cohen

The Lyon Cohen Merit Scholarship is awarded annually to graduate students and undergraduates going into their junior and senior years. The scholarship is available to members and family members of Congregation Beth Israel and is presented on a merit basis to an individual who exemplifies Lyon Cohen's optimism and devotion to Jewish ethics.

The Award will be presented at our next Lyon Cohen Symposium to be held on Thursday, April **7**, **2022**



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Join Sandra Chaskin at Congregation Beth Israel November 4 & 5 for a Trunk Show featuring a fabulous collection of wonderful jewelry and accessories. Perfect for gift giving or treating yourself with awesome baubles.



Join Eric Reiter at Congregation Beth Israel November 4 & 5 for a Trunk Show featuring gorgeous Riedel glassware and decanters. Along with Nachtmann vases, there will be Peugeot mills, decanters, and many more wonderful gift items!



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Brother of Michael & Honi Abbott, Judy Blake, and Rhonda Abbott

Jay Edward Abramson

Father of Marc & Nancy Abramson, Kathy & Joe Landwerlin, Amy & Mike Gray, and Alvssa Abramson

William Marvin Ainsworth

Barbara Astrich

Husband of Susan Rabinowitz; father of John & Susie Ainsworth, William & Suzanne Ainsworth, Lauren Ainsworth, and Christopher Ainsworth & Gareth Morgans

Mother of Craig & Laura Astrich, and Fonda & Wayne Arzt; sister of Teri Paris, and Eileen & Alan Manack

Gabriela Lynn Bronk

Daughter of Jennifer-Joy Sutton, and Robert Bronk; sister of Anna Bronk

Seema Kahn Davis
Mother of Paula & Happy Katz, and Gary
& Amy Davis

Joyce Dunn Mother of Kerry & Millie Dunn, and Jeff

& Lea Dunn

Bernice "Bernie" Feld

Mother of Jack & Susan Lee, Janet &

Rick Cohen, and Judy & Jeff Lyman; sister of MM & Carole Feld, Jr. **Bernice Friedlander**

Mother of Nancy & Russell Ducoff, and Susan Brochstein

Michelle Glauben

Wife of Barry Glauben; mother of Hayley Glauben & fiancé Mitchell Robbins, and Blake Glauben; daughter of Evelyn Roth; sister of Rodney & Robin Roth, and Jason & Lynnie Roth

Margaret Parker Golden
Mather of Michelle & Joe K

Mother of Michelle & Joe Kelly, and Danielle Kelly

Hannah Adele Harris

Mother of Robert & Dianna Harris, Richard & Susan Harris, and Jonathan & Susan Harris; sister of Audrey Gronginski Johnson

Martin Harris

Husband of Judy Harris; father of Ellen & Michael Newman, and Jonathan Harris; brother of Henrietta & Marc Katzen; brother-in-law of Dixie Harris

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DATED MATERIAL

Joyce Horn

Mother of Sherry & Stuart Keller, Dennis & Diane Horn, Linda & Stuart Schatz, and Amy Horn

Malvina Keselman

Wife of Alexander Keselman; mother of Diana & Michael Racusin, and Maggie & Travis Wilkes

Allen Kline

Husband of Maude Rose Kline; father of Allen & Babs Kline, Jr., and Glenn & Lisa Kline; brother of Dodie Gaber, and Steve Kline

Stephen Lasher

Husband of Janiece Longoria Lasher; father of Andrew & Melissa Lasher, and Kit & Matt Ballenger; brother of Alfred W. Lasher III

Beatrice "Beadie" Lewis

Mother of Michael & Valerie Lewis

Isaak Rubinstein

Father of Leon Rubinstein & Allie Fallender, Alexander & Vera Rubinstein **Philip Sacks**

Husband of Sandra Sacks; father of David Sacks, Shelia & Michael Christiansen, Debra & Lee Miller, and Ralph & Lisa Sacks; step-father of Donald & Susan Celestin, Brian & Carla Celestin, Dana & Eric Varnadore, and Barry & Tangia Celestin

Sharon Schwartz

Wife of Steven Schwartz; mother of Todd Schwartz, and Adam Schwartz & Jesica Berger; sister of Terry & Susie Wizig, Gwenda & John Kurtzig, and David & Debbie Wizig

Jack Selber

Husband of Phyllis Selber; father of Sandy & Tim Sturm, and Jill & Jason Handaly; brother of Kay Zeidman

Roy Tashnek

Father of Julianne Bartlein & Sanford Elstein, Nanette Tashnek, and Warren Tashnek

Alice Carol Wariner

Mother of Margaret Cotlar, Barbara & David Draving, and Andrew Wariner

Irwin Yonks

Father of Elizabeth & Murray Novy, and Marjorie & Scott Saikin

MAZEL TOV Weddings

David Smith and Marcia Simovich Wedding date: July 25, 2021

Ashley Marcks and Steven Lazar

Wedding date: August 15, 2021

MAZEL TOV Baby Namings

Chase Alexander Kaplan

Parents Steven & Erin Kaplan

relevant. modern. joyful.

Jolee Brene Lidell Parents Jarrett & April Lidell

Jack Taylor and Isla Blake Lehmann Parents: Drew & Michael Lehmann

Noa Miley Mendell Parents Chelby and Jarrod Mendell

Emily Marie Diamond

Parents Scott & Patrizia Diamond

Zoey Stella Schneider

Parents Rachel & Zachary Schneider Granddaughter of Lu Ann & Morton Katz and Beth & Michael Schneider Greatgranddaughter of Rose and Abe Katz"l

B'NEI MITZVAH

SEPTEMBER 17-18, 2021 Benjamin Shoss

Son of Liz & Rob Shoss; grandson of Barbara & Marshall Bendalin, Karen & Sam Shoss

SEPTEMBER 24-25, 2021 Teddy Deutser

Son of Sarah & Steven Deutser; grandson of Fredell & Robert Deutser, Lynn & Frank Kirk

OCTOBER 9, 2021 - Havdalah Cookie Isgur

Daughter of Amy & Aaron Isgur; granddaughter of Sherry "Cookie" Senior, David & Cindy Senior, Jake & Janis Isgur, Jane Lozano, Galveston

OCTOBER 23, 2021 Emma Jacobson

Daughter of Julie & Robert Jacobson; granddaughter of Shelly & Bruce Jacobson, Corpus Christi, Stephanie & Larry Samuels, St. Louis, MO

NOVEMBER 5-6, 2021 Allison Pacholder Shannon Pacholder

Daughters of Debbie & Thomas Pacholder; granddaughters of Lois & Max^{z"l} Simon, Sylvia Pacholder^{z"l}, Al Pacholder

NOVEMBER 6, 2021 – Havdalah CharlieDiamond Harper Diamond

Children of Laura & Dan Diamond; grandchildren of Penny & Ivan^{z"l}Diamond, Sue & Roger Carter, St. Louis, MO

NOVEMBER 12-13, 2021 Leah Dinerstein

Daughter of Shoshana & Jeff Dinerstein; granddaughter of Harriet & Michael Katzeff, Joan & Stevan Dinerstein; great-granddaughter of Esther Louis Hothkop, Ruth Albands Jacobz Katzeff, Joyce & Joseph Chesnick, Sr. Lebaz & Bill Louis Dinerstein

DECEMBER 10-11, 2021 Hannala Wittlin

Daughter of Naomi & Brian Wittlin; granddaughter of Debbie & Marc Shabot, Galveston, Sue Wittlin, Harrisburg, PA

DECEMBER 17-18, 2021 Sierra Little

Daughter of Jenelle & Neil Little; granddaughter of Ilona Hirsch and Tom Hirsch, Phoenix, AZ, Linda & Thomas Little
