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

WHAT YOU WILL FIND INSIDE

Share The Load Update The Margolis Gallery Is Open 2022 Upcoming Events BINGE Groups Lyon Cohen Scholarship Annual Mahj Mania

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS! Adam Black & Pamela Chee Pablo Giorgi & Ana Paula Luna de Giorgi Brian & Robyn Goldstein Jeff & Laura Goldware Shawn & Lisa Rosenzweig Gregory & Lauren Saikin Neil Soskin & Gayle Brickman

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 Pamela Kutner at PKutner@beth-israel.org or 713-771-6221

DECEMBER 2021 BULLETIN

From Strength to Strength with Rabbi Adrienne Scott

Seventeen years ago, Beth Israel needed a new assistant rabbi. Though I interviewed new ordinees from HUC-JIR, it became clear to me that our best candidate was already in Houston, and already spending time at Beth Israel. Rabbi Adrienne Scott and I began with a casual conversation in the Gordon Chapel that led to formal discussions about joining the congregation's rabbinic team. Today, it's obvious that from young beginnings, Rabbi Scott has become a mature, wise, and dear rabbi. She's always ready to serve, respond, teach, and guide. And if that weren't enough, Rabbi Scott shares her gift of music with us on Shabbat and at life-cycle events.

In honor of Rabbi Scott's remarkable service over 17 years to Beth Israel and our community, and her deep dedication to our future, the Executive Committee, Board of Trustees, and I are very pleased to announce that Rabbi Scott will be, from this time forward, Congregation Beth Israel's Senior Associate Rabbi. When I asked Rabbi Scott what this means to her, she explained:

"To me, becoming the Senior Associate solidifies my longstanding relationship with Congregation Beth Israel. The longevity of serving on the clergy team of this congregation has fulfilled me both professionally and personally. The years that I have shared at Beth Israel have gone by quickly. There have been incredible moments and those that have encouraged me to grow into the rabbi I am today. I value especially my relationship with my friend and teacher, Senior Rabbi David Lyon. I was honored to join the team in 2005 and I have been grateful every day since. I continue to learn and grow. I am especially indebted to each of you, my friends, and congregants, who have trusted me to be with you in your most sacred and challenging moments. Balancing everything has not always been easy, and I must acknowledge my life partner, David, who has supported me from the beginning of my desire to become a rabbi. Our children, who are growing up very quickly, have literally taken their first steps in our sacred hallways. We have truly made Beth Israel an extension of our home and what a blessing it has been. May we only grow together in Torah, in prayer, and in acts of loving-kindness."

Please join me in congratulating Rabbi Scott on becoming Senior Associate Rabbi, and congratulating her family, her husband, David, and her children, Beryt and Ezra. To Rabbi Scott, Senior Associate Rabbi, we say, "עלי והצלח"..Ali V'hatz-lechi," May you ascend to your new position among us and find success and fulfillment. On behalf of the congregation, thank you for the blessing of your rabbinate. Mazel Tov!

L'Shalom, David A. Lyon Senior 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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Senior Associate
RabbiAdrienne P. Scott, M.A.H.L
Assistant RabbiAaron K. Sataloff, M.A.H.L.
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& Musical EngagementMike Mason
Director of Special Events
& CateringMarsha Gilbert
Director of Communications &
Program ManagerLaura Kaplan
Director of FacilitiesMichael Reddick

Cemetery Director.....Kathy Parven

SAVE THE DATE! SATURDAY, JANUARY 22, 2022

Congregation Beth Israel's Jr. Youth Group Back to School Bash!

Details to come! For more information on any of our Youth or Family Engagement programming, please contact Youth Programming & Education Coordinator Kerri Zerlin at KZerlin@beth-israel.org or 713-771-6221 ext. 312

P B №





Pictured are members of the Dinerstein Family-Brittany, Cole, Brad, Presley, Jack, Nancy, Billy, Liz, Molly & Brian.

NOW WITH THE NEW RENOVATIONS COMPLETED, CONGREGATION BETH ISRAEL PROUDLY PRESENTS THE DINERSTEIN FAMILY COURTYARD

The Dinerstein Family Courtyard came to vision by Nancy and Jack Dinerstein. The newly designed courtyard, just across the hall from The Margolis Gallery has a permanent sukkah and is beautifully landscaped with field turf and several planting areas. The overhead string lights create a stunning illumination of the space. The Dinerstein Family Courtyard was dedicated by Rabbi David Lyon along with members of the Dinerstein Family on Sunday, November 14.

THIRD ANNUAL KIDS' MEALS 5K

(NOT AN ACTUAL RACE, BUT A RACE TO END CHILDHOOD HUNGER)





Congregation Beth Israel, in partnership with Kids' Meals, Inc., invites you to volunteer to prepare 5,000 meals for Houston's hungriest preschoolers in record-breaking time!

Date: Sunday, January, 23, 2021, 9:30 A.M. Place: Wolff-Toomim Hall at Congregation Beth Israel RSVP: beth-israel.shulcloud.com/calendar

SHARE THE LOAD 2021-2022

Congregation Beth Israel Program Support Opportunities

To make a donation, please visit our website at www.beth-israel.org

Adult Programming

Includes: Scholar-in-Residence & Guest Lecturers, Holiday programs, BINGE Groups, Young Professional Outreach

Cemetery Includes: Grounds and landscaping, Cleaning headstones, walkways, and pavers Membership Scholarship Help a family be a part of our congregation

MBJLC Scholarship Includes: Tuition assistance, special learning materials and special guests and programs

Ritual and Music Includes: Oneg Shabbat Underwriting, Shabbat Music Ensemble, Second Night Seder, Live Stream, Special Shabbat Music programs, Prayerbooks

Youth, Teens, & Young Adults Programming Includes: Shabbat Playdate, Family Shabbat, Purim Program, Jeremy Tucker Fund for Jewish Special Education, College Committee, Junior Youth Group, Teens Programs

Thank you to generous donors to our 2021-2022 Share the Load*

Joan & Stanford Alexander Leslie Alter Madeline Amsterdam Douglas & Joanie Aron Marty & Heather Linn Barrash Marshall & Barbara Bendalin Scott Cantor & Lisa Stone Janice Caplan Edward & Glori Chaika Gilbert Cohen Michael & Faye Copland Jan Drutz **Michael Durham** Les & Cindy Fox Nori Gabert **Charlotte Gaman** Jeffrey & Marci Gilbert Sylvia Goldstein Lynn Goodman Andy & Michelle Greenberg Jon & Leah Gross Sam Haber & Sue Ann Bersin Roslyn & Ricky Haikin Walter & Punkin Hecht **Bonnie Herst**

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*to date



COSMIC MICROSCAPES

Seeing into Rocks from Space

THE MARGOLIS GALLERY OPEN NOW THROUGH JANUARY 2022

A stunning exhibition by photographer, Neil H. Buckland, that marries art and science to reveal the inner beauty of meteorites

COSMIC MICROSCAPES

The Margolis Gallery is officially back open at Congregation Beth Israel! After a hiatus due to COVID-19, The Margolis Gallery now features the stunning exhibition by photographer Neil H. Buckland, "Cosmic Microscapes; Seeing into Rocks from Space."

The exhibit opened on October 28th with a reception in the The Margolis Gallery attended by nearly 100 members and friends. Mr. Buckland presented his work and answered questions regarding the process that he undertakes to obtain these "out-of-this-world" images. Art Committee Co-chairs Shirley Lavine and Tanya Strum were delighted to see so many friends back together celebrating unique art.

The exhibit will be on display through January 2022 and the public is invited to visit Monday-Friday, 9:00 A.M.-4:00 P.M. Please register online at www.beth-israel.org

If you would like more information on the gallery or how to become a Friend of The Margolis Gallery, please contact Laura Kaplan at LKaplan@beth-israel.org

Wolff-Toomim Distinguished Lecture Series Presented by the Adult Education Committee Featuring Author Marra B. Gad January 11, 2022, 7:00 P.M.

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 Congregation Beth Israel 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 African-American. 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.

S

All are welcome to be part of this important conversation moderated by Rabbi David Lyon. No cost to attend and special reception and book signing to follow in Wolff-Toomim Hall.

Paula and Alfred Friedlander Forum co-sponsored by the Adult Education Committee Featuring Author Sarah Hurwitz April 22-23 2022

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, April 22nd, 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 Senior Associate Rabbi Adrienne Scott. Copies of Ms. Hurwitz's book will also be available. Saturday morning, April 23rd at 9:45 am. All are welcome for a special Torah Study featuring Sarah Hurwitz in the Finger Board Room or on Zoom and will be recorded.

generous grant from the Wolff-Toomim Education Fund.

HERE ALL

B.GAD

FINDING MEANING. SPIRITUALITY, AND A REEPER CONNECTION TO LIFE - IN JUDAISM (After Faulty Charles to Card Theor) Sarah Hurwitz

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

To register for either event, please visit beth-israel.shulcloud.com/calendar





BETH ISRAEL

2022 FLEISHMAN FAMILY EVENT TELLING OUR STORIES: WHERE TRADITION & BROADWAY INTERSECT

CANTOR DANIEL MUTLU SENIOR CANTOR, CENTRAL SYNAGOGUE IN NEW YORK CITY JAVIER MUNOZ BROADWAY ACTOR IN HAMILTON EMMY RAVER-LAMPMAN ORIGINAL BROADWAY CAST, HAMILTON RABBI ADRIENNE SCOTT SENIOR ASSOCIATE RABBI

al

JANUARY 29, 2022, 7:00 P.M. CONGREGATION BETH ISRAEL, SANCTUARY 5600 NORTH BRAESWOOD BLVD.

RESERVED SEATING FOR BETH ISRAEL MEMBERS RSVP AT WWW.BETH-ISRAEL.ORG



AN EXCITING WEEKEND WITH RABBI NOAM KATZ

On November 12-14, Congregation Beth Israel's Adult Education and MBJLC Committees welcomed Rabbi Noam Katz for a special weekend of music, learning, and community-building. Rabbi Katz is one of the most exciting and influential voices in contemporary Jewish music, and he brought his high-flying energy and soulful melodies to our worship services throughout the weekend. On Friday afternoon, Rabbi Katz helped welcome Shabbat with The Shlenker School students for their Kabbalat Shabbat service. On Friday night, he joined with our rabbis and clergy team in the Sanctuary as he led our Shabbat music and delivered a powerful Shabbat message based on his experience with the Jewish community of Uganda. Feet were stomping and hands were clapping as we enjoyed this powerful experience. On Shabbat morning, Rabbi Katz led a musical Torah Study experience online based on the Torah portion of the week. He beautifully interwove melodies and liturgical pieces throughout the session, while also teaching a great deal about the biblical story of Jacob and Esau.

A longtime songleader and educator at Union for Reform Judaism (URJ) summer camps, Rabbi Katz and Mike Mason, our Director of Youth Education and Musical Engagement, performed a Sunday morning Family Concert for our entire MBJLC religious school community. The children were led in new and familiar melodies as they learned more about Rabbi Katz and his musical talents and gifts. Songs that helped teach Hebrew words and other songs that included movement and hand gestures were particularly enjoyed by the children and MBJLC faculty and staff. At the end of the concert, all the rabbis, Mike Mason, and David Scott, joined Rabbi Katz for a final song as we looked ahead to our Thanksgiving break.

Rabbi Katz currently serves as the Rabbi and Dean of Jewish Living at The Leo Baeck Day School in Toronto, Ontario. In addition to his multiple recordings, which are available through his website at www.noamkatz.com, Rabbi Katz embarked on the most exciting journey of his life nearly 20 years ago. He volunteered with the

Abayudaya Jews of Uganda. Throughout the weekend, Rabbi Katz shared their powerful story and music, incorporating the message of Jewish unity and tikkun olam. For more information about upcoming musical events and programs, please visit our website.



Shabbat Lights & Small Bites for Congregation Beth Israel's 20's and 30's

A BIG thank you to Beth Israel's 20s & 30s for attending Shabbat Lights & Small Bites. Joining together in the The Margolis Gallery to view Neil H. Buckland's exhibit "Cosmic Microscapes" was excellent! The mixture of friends, food, and

beautiful photography helped welcome an exceptional Shabbat evening. We can't wait to see everyone again soon!





Andrew Rochman, Daniel Kasoff, Samuel Walton, Rabbi Aaron Sataloff, David Robertson, Stephanie Robertson, Jessica Chasin, Lauren Schwartz, Kerri Zerlin, Rachel Walton, Wendi Reichstein

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

The Social Justice Committee hopes you'll join our 40 member-strong group of determined social justice warriors!

The committee has been busy this past month sending out 1500 postcards to encourage Americans to exercise their right to vote and starting monthly workshops at Temenos (a residence for previously homeless Houstonians), to visit with residents and share our stories and skills. Special thanks to Beth Schneider for coordinating this project and to Dena Marks for providing the first session, for chair exercise!

The members also participated in URJ's Religious Action Center's November call-in days to urge federal voting protections. RAC-TX made more calls than any other state, except NY and California!

Rabbi Lyon and Warren Rich spoke as part of TMO's recent public meeting with Houston Police Chief Finner, discussing how to make policing more effective.

The committee is finalizing plans to mentor students at a 5th Ward high school, to support their efforts to beat the odds lined up against their success.



The committee is currently collaborting with Interfaith Ministries for Greater Houston, to support their efforts to settle Afghan refugees. If you have time to meet people at the airport, or help prepare their apartments, or help them get around Houston, contact Rabbi Sataloff at ASataloff@beth-israel.org

We will be re-starting our Muslim-Jewish Gun Safety Campaign, to promote safe gun storage and share updates about signage re: "permitless carry". Our goal is to reduce gun deaths and injuries from accidents, domestic violence, suicides and gun thefts.

You are invited to the annual Muslim Jewish Christmas Eve day event, called "Creating Sacred Allyship". It will be hosted at several congregations on Friday, December 24, starting at 5:00 P.M. and followed by shabbat services. An invitation will be in the weekly e-news.

To get more information and get involved, contact Lisa Stone at lestone@aya.yale.edu or Dena Marks at denasokolow@gmail.com, co-chairs.



Linda Caplan, Sherry Keller, Scott Cantor, Stanley Rosenblatt, Joanne Brodsky, Stuart Keller, Margie Cohen, Michael Braun

BINGE GROUPS GROWING AT BETH ISRAEL

Late last spring Congregation Beth Israel's Membership Committee launched our new small groups initiative known as "BINGE," which stands for Beth Israel New Group Engagements. Focused on affinity groups based on age, interest, and location, our BINGE Groups have continued to grow with a lot of interest and fresh ideas. Nearly 200 members are now involved in our BINGE Groups with even more expressing interest every week. Special thanks to Scott Cantor, our new Chair of the Membership Committee, there are even more BINGE groups from which to choose.

We encourage all Temple members to join at least one BINGE Group, and we have now added new ones like Pickleball, which meets on Sunday mornings in Levit Hall, Sports and Sorts, which will be gathering groups to attend local sporting events, and Golden Agers Day Travels, which is coordinating day trips around town and beyond for seniors.

On December 5th, our Matinees and Martinis BINGE Group met at the Museum of Fine Arts to tour the current exhibition and meet for dinner. Our Cocktails and Conversations BINGE Group also met this fall for a happy hour at the Eighteen36 Bar an Grill for new empty-nesters. Our What Are You Watching BINGE Group meets monthly to learn more about TV shows and other movies to watch online. Our ongoing weekly BINGE groups include Torah 101, which meets on Fridays at 12 pm for Torah beginners and Jewish Meditation, which meets on Saturday afternoons at 1:30 pm. Our Torah Study Book Club BINGE Group meets monthly at noon on the first Thursday of each month, and a new book is being discussed starting on January 6th. Mahjong is also returning in January with ongoing sessions on Wednesday afternoons.

Beth Israel Around the World Cocktails and Conversations Cooking Creations Golden Agers Day Travels Jewish Meditation Mahjong

BINGE AT BETH ISRAEL

Matinees and Martinis Pickleball Sports on the Sidelines: We've Got Game! Torah 101 Torah Study Book Club Walk, Meditate, and View Art What Are You Watching?

To learn more about our BINGE Groups or to suggest new ones, please reach Scott Cantor or David Scott, Director of Engagement at DScott@beth-israel.org



Cocktails & Conversations BINGE Group Inaugural Evening

On October 21st, thirty-five Beth Israel members enjoyed great drinks & eats at Eighteen36 Bar & Restaurant for the inaugural evening of Cocktails & Conversations. Now that the kids have flown the coop, Beth Israel members caught up with old friends and made new ones!

Cocktails & Conversations is a new BINGE group (Beth Israel New Group Engagements) whose sole purpose is to bring members together for fun evenings out. For more information, please contact chairs Cindy Greenberg & Michele Olifant or to view a full listing of our BINGE groups, please visit beth-israel.shulcloud.com/binge-groups.html or contact David Scott, DScott@beth-israel.org



MAHJONG

Starting January 5, 2022 from 1:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M.

Let's play mah at Congregation Beth Israel! This is a great way to make new friends and reconnect with old friends. As women and men play, they share life events-marriage and divorce, the birth of children and grandchildren, and our Temple community.

We play for a maximum of \$5.00 for each person and payouts will be per the card. All American Mah rules will be followed. If you have questions or to sign up, please contact Margie Cohen at marge.cohen@gmail.com or 713-480-0481



OLDER & ACTIVE BETH ISRAEL DAY TRIPS

Join host Margie Cohen and enjoy tailormade bus trips to explore Houston or its surrounding cities. Specially designed for synagogue members who are 60+ and want to be a tourist in your own city. Guest must be able to get on and off the bus easily and be able to walk at least one mile. Prices will vary depending on each trip.

Mark your calendar for our first adventure on February 24, 2022. More details to come



MBJLC LAUNCHES NEW FAMILY EDUCATION INITIATIVE

This Fall our Congregation's Miriam **Browning Jewish** Learning Center (MBJLC) launched its new family education initiative called Morim Mishpacha, a learning and teaching program for religious school families. The goal of the program is to bring families together in a Jewish setting and to elevate their Jewish



experience as a family by meaningful learning with parents, educators, and including the rabbis. Developed by the MBJLC Department, which includes David Scott. RJE. Mike Mason, Kerri Zerlin, Youth Programming and Education / Coordinator, and Stephanie

partnership with PJ Library. Our first-grade children and parents

gathered on October 3rd, in Levit Hall to explore Shabbat and discover how to create meaningful Shabbat moments at home. The children practiced how to braid challah with

ready-made dough from the New York Bagel Shop, and they focused on the Shabbat blessings. Rabbi Scott reviewed and shared the meaning behind each of the blessings for the candles, wine, challah, and especially the blessing of our children on Friday nights. On October 17th, our second graders enjoyed exploring Havdalah, the conclusion of Shabbat, with a special family program that was led by Mike Mason. Rabbi Lyon also shared with the families the blessings for concluding Shabbat, and the children spent time creating a

spice box, kiddush cup, and Havdalah candle for them to use at home. The program was elevated to include conversations about what it means to

be separated, which is what Havdalah means, and how we can come together

as families and as members of the community.

On November 7th, our 3rd grade families participated in a Naming Ceremony by learning about their Hebrew names. Focused on Jewish identity, our children and parents began exploring the meaning behind their Hebrew names. The children were taught about some of our biblical characters whose names were changed, and the meanings behind their names too. Families created "Jewish superheroes" that expressed Jewish values that were incorporated by each of the children's Hebrew names, and the children participated in a special Naming Ceremony led by Rabbi Scott and Mike Mason. Each child received a beautiful Certificate of Naming designed by Debbie Wizig. During the Tefillah service in the Gordon Chapel, Rabbi Scott offered a blessing to all the third-grade children as they formally received their Hebrew names.

As noted by David Scott, "Providing family education has always been a hallmark of the MBJLC, but after experiencing last year's online MBJLC Mishpacha model of family learning, it was clear that families wanted more." Future programs include learning about the Tallit and Yad from the Torah scroll, and a special ritual for our 6th graders as families embark on their B'nei Mitzvah year. For more information about the MBJLC and upcoming events and programs, contact David Scott, RJE at dscott@beth-israel.org.





Robertson, MBJLC Administrative Coordinator, each grade level program is scaffolded to create moments of connection and a collection of resources for each child as they progress and ultimately reach B'nei Mitzvah.

The initial program began with our first-grade children and parents in

> MBJLC First Grade children, Madrichim, and parents with Rabbi Scott and Hilary Kamin



KEHILLAH



KEHILLAH HIGH LAUNCHES BIGGEST YEAR EVER!

There has been tremendous growth in our post B'nei Mitzvah program as Beth Israel's 8th to 12th graders have joined Kehillah High in our highest enrollment ever! Kehillah High has now grown to over 150 teens from across the community, 49 of whom are from Congregation Beth Israel.

Every Wednesday night our teens gather to engage in conversation with clergy and respected Jewish educators in informal classroom settings. Abby Seigle, daughter of Clay and Amy Seigle, is a 12th grader and member of Kehillah High's Teen Leadership Team stated that she has *"learned* so



much about my Jewish heritage through Kehillah High. Through text studies, cultural learning, and community celebrations, Kehillah High has deepened my understanding of and connection to Judaism. My participation in the program has inspired me to continue learning about and practicing Judaism."

With respect to its new growth, David Scott shared that "Kehillah High will build upon its early foundation and create even more opportunities and partnerships in the Houston Jewish community and beyond. The strength of Kehillah High is its teen community who are seeking multiple engagements and various access points, both online and in person. Meeting this critical need and providing learning opportunities will enhance Kehillah High and sustain our Jewish future for decades to come."

For more information about Kehillah High or to financially support this incredible program, visit Kehillahhouston.org or contact Danielle Alexander, Founding Director of Kehillah High at Dalexander@kehillahhouston.org or 713-771-6221 ext. 334. Danielle's office is located at Congregation Beth Israel, and she works within the Miriam Browning Jewish Learning Center.









BETTER TOGETHER



HOUSTON SYNAGOGUES & JEWISH SINGLES INITIATIVE FOR 50S AND 60S PLUS KIDS' MEALS

Better Together - a community-wide Jewish singles' initiative for those in their 50s and 60s hosted 'Better Together' Social Action Project: Kid's Meals on October 3 at Congregation Beth Israel.

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. The morning began with light breakfast and bubbly drinks, and the group put together 500 bags!

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.

SAVE THE DATE FEBRUARY 6, 2022, 10:00 A.M. "EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT MEDICARE BUT DIDN'T KNOW TO ASK" WITH DAVID CHOTINER, SENIOR BENEFITS CONSULTANT

This informative breakfast and presentation is a must for anyone planning to enroll in Medicare. Let us help you navigate the confusion and answer all of your Medicare questions. Although Medicare has been around since 1965, few people would call themselves experts on it. It's a huge program with a variety of rules and options, and it can get confusing. As such, there are probably a few things about Medicare that you didn't expect.

RSVP at beth-israel.shulcloud.com/calendar





MEET, SOCIALIZE AND NETWORK WITH OTHER JEWISH SINGLES IN THE HOUSTON COMMUNITY

Featuring Aaron Howard

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 19 7:30 P.M.-9:30 P.M. CONGREGATION BETH ISRAEL 5600 NORTH BRAESWOOD BLVD.

Cocktails & Food From the 60's Dancing RSVP at: beth-israel.shulcloud.com/calendar



LIBRARY NEWS

THE SCHACHTEL LIBRARY IS OPEN!

The Hyman Judah Schachtel library is open to browse and check out books Monday-Friday 9:00 A.M.-5:00 P.M.. Our online catalog is available 24 hours a day. Books from the Shlenker School library are also available to browse online and checkout our archive chronicles the history of Beth Israel from its beginnings in the nineteenth century and contains many Houston treasures.

NEW TO THE LIBRARY

We have obtained a variety of works of fiction that relates to current and historical Jewish themes, as well as nonfiction on topics such as:

Biblical commentary:

Books of the People, edited by Dr. Stuart W. Halpern
Covenant & Conversation: A Weekly reading of the Jewish Bible, by Rabbi Jonathan Sacks (Complete series for Five Books of Moses)

Sephardic stories and traditions:

- Forging Ties, Forging Passports, by Devi Mays
- Asylum, α memoir of family secrets, by Judy Fasman-Bolton
- The New Book of Middle Eastern Food, by Claudia Roden
- The Schocken Book of Modern Sephardic Literature

Israel affairs

• Under Jerusalem: the buried history of the world's most contested city, by Andrew Lawler

• 1949: The first Israelis, by Tom Segev

Holocaust

The Last Mona Lisa, by Jonathan Santlofer (fiction)
Don't ask my name: a hidden child's tale of survival, by Erika Hecht

Women in Judaism

• Ruth: from Alienation to Monarchy, by Yael Ziegler

• Esther: Power, fragility, and fate in exile, by Erica Brown

• Esther in America, edited by Dr. Stuart W. Halpern Plus, cookbooks from around the Jewish world and beyond.

ACCESS FROM HOME

Go to www.beth-israel.org. Hover over Miriam Browning JLC at the top of the page. Click on Hyman Judah Schachtel Library on the left. Click on the link to the catalog, then click on Schachtel Library.

The library is staffed by a librarian from 9:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M. on Monday to Thursday, and on Sunday mornings. However, it is open 24 hours a day for browsing and self-checkout. Simply fill out the card in the back of the book and leave it in the box on the desk.

E-mail the librarian for assistance in finding a resource or researching a topic. Susan Whitman can be reached at SWhitman@beth-israel.org or (713) 820-6410..

BETH ISRAEL SCHACHTEL LIBRARY BOOK CLUB

The Beth Israel Book Club meets once a month to discuss Jewish literature. This year since returning from the summer, to date the club has had three wonderful meetings. In September, we heard from a local author and book club member, Judith Groudine Finkel, where she discussed her latest novel, An Unkosher Death. In October, Rabbi David Lyon led the discussion of Marra Gad's The Color of Love. Marra Gad will visit Beth Israel on January 11, 2022. In November, we joined the greater Houston Jewish community in the JCC Community Read with Rhapsody, by Mitchell James Kaplan.

The Beth Israel Book Club welcomes new members! Please join us on December 15 for our next meeting as we hear author Amy Meyerson discuss The Imperfects. The Beth Israel Book Club meets usually on the first Wednesday of the month in the Finger Board Room of Congregation Beth Israel. Meetings are in person and on Zoom. Contact the librarian, Susan Whitman, for further information. swhitman@beth-israel.org or (832) 820-6410.

SAVE THE DATE JANUARY 20, 2022

Center For Healing, Hope,

and the Human Spirit

of Congregation Beth Israel

Spiritual Autobiography is a form of personal writing that explores one's own spiritual and religious journey. It involves delving into personal memories and uncovering new insights, questions, uncertainties, and inspiration. This evening session will provide an overview of Jewish Spiritual Autobiography and will ask participants to write a short personal reflection. The session will serve as an introduction and invitation to a Spiritual Autobiography group that will meet regularly throughout February and March.

Registration details to follow.

For more details on the Center or to contact Dr. Thomas Cole, please visit www.beth-israel.org/centerforhealing

ADULT EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Online Journey to Israel Returns!

Presented by the Israel Advocacy Committee After last spring's successful online Journey to Israel, our guide, Lyana Rotstein, is welcoming you back! Join us as our Israel Advocacy Committee presents our second Online Journey to Israel. We will meet in the Finger Board Room or online on Sunday mornings, January 30th and February 13th for two 90 minute tours through the Land of Israel. If you are

planning to join us on our next Journey to Israel on May 8-18, 2022, then this is a great way to meet our guide and prepare for your own journey. This event is underwritten by a generous grant from the Joan and Stanford Alexander Israel Programming Fund.

Basic Judaism classes begin on February 1st at 6:30 pm. Sessions will be held online. Adult Hebrew classes continue to meet. Contact Stephanie Robertson if interested in either class at SRobertson@beth-israel.org

BETH ISRAEL

Yom Limmud featuring Daniel Pomerantz

CEO of HonestReporting.com February 18-20

Special Weekend presented by the Israel Advocacy Committee with Daniel Pomerantz, CEO of HonestReporting.com will be joining us from Israel. This is in co-sponsorship with the Israel Advocacy Committee. It's covered by a special grant from the Joan and Stanford Alexander Israel Programming Fund. He will also participate as a speaker at the annual Yom Limmud event sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Greater Houston. This will be held on Sunday, February 20th at

Congregation Beth Yeshurun this year.

HonestReporting ~

Professor Yardena Samuels, Weizmann Institute of Science, Department of Molecular Cell Biology, Incumbent of the Knell Family Professorial Chair.

Nadav Kidron, Chief Executive Officer, President & Director of OraMed Pharmaceuticals and its subsidiary, OraVax



Professor Eran Segal, Weizmann Institute of Science, Rehovot, Israel, Department of Computer Science & Applied Mathematics

RSVP AND RECEIVE ZOOM LINK AT

The 2022 Monthly Midrash Sessions on Thurdays at Noon

January 13 – Southern Jewish History February 10 – Introduction to Mussar To register for these sessions, please visit beth-israel.shulcloud.com/calendar

2022 Rabbi David Lyon Spring Classes

March 10, April 14th, and May 5th

To register for these sessions, please visit our calendar at beth-israel.shulcloud.com/calendar

February 2022

Look for more information coming soon, Rabbi Adrienne Scott's two part series on "Songs and Prayers for Peace"

CONGREGATION BETH ISRAEL

ISRAELI INNOVATIONS & RESPONSES TO COVID-I9

Presented by the Israel Advocacy Committee

Pre-recorded discussion, moderated by Ruth Sherman, Ph.D. Co-Chair of Congregation Beth Israel's Israel Advocacy Committee

JANUARY 9 10:00 A.M.

In-Person in the Finger Board Room for Nosh and Discussion

\$5,000 LYON COHEN MERIT SCHOLARSHIP

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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.

Application Deadline is February 1, 2021

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

Ignite the spark that will last a lifetime



ENKER



Contact Tara Gassett, Director of Admissions and Development, at tgassett@shlenker.org or 713.270.6127 for more information.





The Shlenker School | 5600 N. Braeswood Blvd. Houston, TX 77096 713.270.6127 | www.shlenker.org



The registration pool is now OPEN for the 2022-2023!



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

Unveiling the Sisterhood Bridal Suite

Congregation Beth Israel's Sisterhood has given the gift of a newly renovated and beautifully furnished bridal suite. This private bridal changing room is part of our wedding facility rental package. With assistance from Bradley Chesnick and Ethan Allen Furniture the room is decorated in soft hues of peach and slate blue.

If you would like to view the suite please contact Marsha Gilbert at MGilbert@beth-israel.org.

Calling All Beth Israel Brides

Our newly refurbished Bridal Suite will showcase a "Bridal Wall of Fame". If you have been married in our Sanctuary or Gordon Chapel or even at the Beth Israel on Holman Street, please send us a picture of your wedding and we will be delighted to include it on our special wall. Please send your pictures to Marsha Gilbert, 5600 North Bareswood Blvd. or MGilbert@beth-israel.org.





Extraordinary gifts for all occasions





Baby Bar/Bat Mitzvah Jewelry Mezuzah's Passover Shabbat Wedding

Monday-Friday 10AM until 4PM

To contact the Sisterhood Shop, please call Anita Seline at 713-777-4315









ANNUAL MAHJ MANIA 2022!

SUNDAY, JANUARY 30, 2022 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM CONGREGATION BETH ISRAEL WOLFF-TOOMIM HALL 5600 N BRAESWOOD BLVD

\$40 with RSVP / \$50 AT THE DOOR SPEND TIME WITH YOUR SISTERS! ENJOY A COVID SAFE GAME OF MAHJ, A CHANCE TO WIN FABULOUS RAFFLE **ITEMS, LIGHT BITES & WINE!**

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

I WANT TO BE AN UNDERWRITER:

I WISH TO PURCHASE ____ TICKET(S) x \$40 ea.

(\$100+ underwriter recognition) \$_____

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

1	
2.	
3.	
4.	

CREATE A NAME FOR YOUR TABLE:

PLEASE BRING YOUR CURRENT MAH JONGG CARD & A MAH JONGG SET PER TABLE THIS REGISTRATION FORM REQUIRED FOR ENTRY - ADDITIONAL FORMS IN THE GIFT SHOP

> RSVP BY JANUARY 28, 2022 MAIL FORM AND PAYMENT TO: SISTERHOOD, c/o ANITA SELINE 5600 N BRAESWOOD BLVD, HOUSTON, TX, 77096

SELECT FORM OF PAYMENT:

() ENCLOSED CHECK PAYABLE TO BETH ISRAEL SISTERHOOD

CREDIT CARD (provide all info below) CIRCLE ONE: VISA MC DISCOVER AMEX

NAME (AS ON CARD): _____

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

BILLING ADDRESS:

PHONE NUMBER:

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

The Sisterhood of Congregation Beth Israel thanks you for your support!

The Congregation gratefully acknowledges the following contributions through November 16 , 2021:

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

RABBI LYON'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

IN HONOR OF Marriage of Abigail Lyon and Randall Olmsted Richard & Eileen Barrett Robert & Charlotte Pollock Robert & Heather Westendarp Seth & Margot Stander Janet & Mickey Frost Our daughter Leia Key-Cohen's Bat mitzvah Ido Cohen & Robin Key

IN MEMORY OF Myron B. Marks Stuart & Candy Marks Maralyn Cohen Richard Lachmann Sarah Lee Marks Iris Lehrman Edith Kligman Alan Zane Jack Selber Lori Lazard

RABBI SCOTT'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

IN HONOR OF **B'not Mitzvah of Allison** and Shannon Thomas & Debora Pacholder **Bat Mitzvah of Emma** Jacobson Robert & Julie Jacobson **Rabbi Adrienne Scott** Robert Radoff & Allison Drell Special Birthday for Mila Milo **Robert & Charlotte** Pollock Our daughter, Leia Key-Cohen's Bat Mitzvah Ido Cohen & Robin Key Emily's baby naming Robert & Joyce Diamond **Rabbi Adrienne Scott** officiating the service in memory of Melinda Skoller Irene Skoller Friedman

B'nei Mitzvah of Sebby and Jonah Lerner Michael & Faye Copland and Jennifer & Mike Lerner and Families 20th Anniversary of Rabbi Adrienne and David Scott Brian & Naomi Wittlin Sandi Seltzer Bryant Marsha Gilbert Mark Vogel's special birthday Robert & Charlotte Pollock

IN MEMORY OF Daniel Kirshbaum Richard & Eileen Barrett Myron B. Marks Stuart & Candy Marks Anne Harris Valerie Baron

RABBI SATALOFF'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

IN HONOR OF B'not Mitzvah of Allison and Shannon Thomas & Debora Pacholder **Emily Jack Kushner's** baby naming Brittany Sakowitz Kushner Our daughter Leia Key-Cohen's Bat Mitzvah Ido Cohen & Robin Key B'nei Mitzvah of Sebby and Jonah Lerner Michael & Faye Copland and Jennifer & Mike Lerner and Families Marriage of Alyssa Morgan Aboloff and Joseph David Silver Shelley & Jeff Aboloff Rabbi Aaron Sataloff Bernie Silver Rabbi Aaron Sataloff services to dedicate Yarhtzeit Plaque

Alla & Bart Myers

DAVID SCOTT'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

IN HONOR OF

Stuart and Sherry Keller's new grandbaby Richard & Eileen Barrett

IN MEMORY OF Joseph Altman Ross Altman

KIDS' MEALS DONATIONS

IN HONOR OF A speedy recovery to Judy Abrams Brena B Moglovkin Birthday of Phyllis Selber Judith Osborn Bar Mitzvah of Matthew Weinstein Jack Nodler Irvin & Diane Berger

IN MEMORY OF Michael O'Connor Robert & Nancy Levinthal CeCe Burgower James & Barbara

Hordern Gloria Richard Lachmann Marjorie Rosenthal

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IN HONOR OF 35th Wedding Anniversary of Jana and Stuart Kusin Alan & Laurie Selzer 90th Birthday of Minnette Robinson Lois Frankel Birthday of Cyvia Wolff **Birthday of Shirley** Toomim Lila Rauch 90th Birthday of Minnette Robinson Sarah Lee Marks 35th Wedding Anniversary of Candy and David Weinstein Alan & Laurie Selzer Bar Mitzvah of Teddy Deutser Rochelle Skibell Cantor Richard Cohn Arnoldo Efron & Luisa Kluger 45th anniversary of Mike and Marcia Nichols Brian & Naomi Wittlin 70th Birthday of Roslyn Haikin 95th Birthday of Bernie Fuchs Speedy Recovery of Don Aron Marvin & Susan Krasner Rabbi Scott for Ben Shoss' Bar Mitzvah Rabbi Sataloff for Ben Shoss' Bar Mitzvah CBI Staff for Ben Shoss' Bar Mitzvah Robert & Elizabeth Shoss **Debbie Wizig for Sebby** and Jonah's B'nei Mitzvah Marsha Gilbert for the B'nei Mitzvah of Sebby and Jonah Lerner Michael & Faye Copland and Jennifer & Mike Lerner and Families 70th Birthday of Roslyn Haikin 95th Birthday of **Bernard Fuchs** Louis & Gail Adler

Executive Director, Pamela Kutner Irene Heifetz

IN MEMORY OF Michael Katzeff Suzy Handler Alison Little Myron Marks Scott Wizig Phyllis Turkel Jon & Eleanor Totz **Evelyn** Wisenberg Kenneth B Hankinson Stephen & Janis Block Amy Sachs Keller Anne Diskin Neal Strauss Jon & Leni Stern Jacob Fleitman Nora Laufman Edith Kligman Iris Seldin Lehrman Shirley Fenton Sophie Rocklin Cheryl Zane Joseph Chesnick, Sr Alan & Laurie Selzer Jack Selber DeDe and David Wadler Barry & Ellen Hyman Sara Jean Robins John & Edna Robins **Richard Lachmann** Rolaine Abramson Dorothy Harris Kenneth B Hankinson David Feldman and **Betty Surasky** Robert G. Feldman Rabbi Samuel E. Karff Am Shalom Jack Selber Herschel & Mary Richard

BURKE TECHNOLOGY

Cantor Kat Hastings Stephen Friedman

IN MEMORY OF Myron Marks Edith Pravda Kligman Richard Lachmann Barbara Harberg

THE CARROLYN FLEISHMAN FUND Joel Hoffman

IN HONOR OF **The Fleishman Family** Joel Winograd

IN MEMORY OF Danny Kirshbaum Janet & Mickey Frost Richard Lachmann Carrolyn Fleishman Jack Selber Alan & Laurie Selzer Joyce Horn Ellen Leventhal

THE CEMETERY FUND Michael & Betty Tapick

50th Anniversary of Ronald and Jean Ladin Jack & Nancy Dinerstein 65th Birthday of Carolyn Kaplan 90th Birthday of Minnette Robinson Suzanne Miller 50th Anniversary of Ronnie and Jean Ladin Michael & Betty Tapick 50th Wedding Anniversary of Ronnie and Jean Ladin John & Simone Irwin

IN MEMORY OF Myron Marks Richard Lachmann Paula Friedlander

THE CENTER FOR HEALING, HOPE AND THE HUMAN SPIRIT

IN MEMORY OF Myron Marks Shana Wolf Gerald & Susan Anhalt

THE SAMUEL E. KARFF ENDOWMENT FUND

IN HONOR OF Wedding of Abigail Lyon and Randall Olmsted Scott Cantor & Lisa Stone 95th Birthday of Bernard Fuchs Rodney & Judy Margolis 62nd Wedding Anniversary of Paul and Fredda Lesser Karen Caldwell

IN MEMORY OF Melvin Totz Jon & Eleanor Totz

THE GOOD WORKS FUND

Robert & Sheri Fleishman Mark & Jacquelynn Herzfeld Alan Hurwitz & Drew Tucker Bill & Pam Boyar

IN HONOR OF Wedding of Abigail Lyon and Randall Olmsted

Robert & Heather Westendarp Marsha Gilbert 55th Anniversary of Mel and Roberta Kleiman Edward & Susan

Septimus Rabbi David Lyon Leonard Zwelling Rabbi Lyon, Rabbi Scott, Rabbi Sataloff, Cantor Cohn, and David Scott

Bob & Susie Hale

IN MEMORY OF Jo Anita Burgower James & Barbara Hordern Henry and Marion Ehrenkranz Robert & Heather Westendarp Jack Selber Eric & Jani Lestin

THE HYMAN SCHACHTEL LIBRARY FUND

IN HONOR OF 80th Birthday of Janet Frost

Daniel Morrison & Riki Weinstein Susan Whitman Janet & Mickey Frost

THE JEREMY TUCKER FUND FOR JEWISH SPECIAL EDUCATION

IN MEMORY OF **Ken Krausr** Jeffrey & Margaret Tucker

CYVIA & MELVYN WOLFF EDUCATION FUND

IN HONOR OF Joel Winograd Andrew & Jodi Schuleman

THE PAULA & ALFRED FRIEDLANDER FORUM FUND

IN HONOR OF Speedy Recovery of Phil Cohen John & Julie Gilbert

THE SAMUEL E KARFF SCHOLARSHIP FUND

IN MEMORY OF

Myron Marks Jon & Eleanor Totz

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

FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION

DEATHS

Jay Cohen

Father of Gary & Lisa Cohen, and Cindy & Matt Taylor; brother of Richard & Patti Cohen

Amiram Fishman Husband of Nancy Irvine Fishman; father of Keith & Kara Irvine

Jerome Fram Brother of Tobye & Mortimer Joachim, and Betty Weiner; brother-in-law of Marilyn Fram

Sadie Greenman

Sister of Harry Greenman; sister-in-law of Sarah Lee Marks

Michael Katzeff

Husband of Harriet Katzeff; father of Howard Katzeff, and Shoshana & Jeff Dinerstein **Amy Sachs Keller** Sister of Michael & Lisa Sachs

Daniel Kirshbaum Husband of Glenda Kirshbaum; father of Geoffrey & Christi Kirshbaum, David Kirshbaum, and Lauren & Ben Kass; brother of Ralph & Antoinette Kirshbaum, Shirley Kirshbaum & Nunzio Gubitosa, and Howard & Priscilla Kirshbaum; brother-in-law of Rona & Rich

Richard Lachmann Husband of Arlyn Miller-Lachmann; son-in-law of Suzanne Miller; brother-in-law of Arnie & Jan Miller

Larry F. Levine Father of Daniel & Eliana Levine, and Jonathan Levine; brother of Stewart & Laraine Levine

Myron Marks Father of Stuart & Candace Marks, Mile Marks, and Adam Marks; brother-in-law of Kayla Marks

Irwin Theodore (Ted) Powers Father of Marcy & Stuart Federow, Steve & Jackie Powers, Bonnie & Jeffrey Levin, and Amy & Jason Powers

Sherwin Rosenberg Husband of Jane Rosenberg; father of Stephen Rosenberg; brother of Trudi & Max Esses, and Marlene Wolfson Melinda Skoller Wife of Michael Skoller; mother of Mallory & Alex Carlson, Madison Skoller, and Mackenzie Skoller; sister of James & Nancy Smiley; daughter of Pearl Smiley Neil Strauss

Neil Strauss

Father of Lauren Strauss, and Adam & Leslie Strauss

MAZEL TOV

Weddings

Tracy Eisenman & Eyal Gagin October 16, 2021

Christine Haskell & Alec Lapin October 30, 2021

Allison Drell & Robert Radoff November 6, 2021

MAZEL TOV **Baby Namings**

Katelyn Clare Gorog Parents Julia and Elliott Gorog

Emily Jack Kushner Parents Brittany Sakowitz Kushner and Kevin Kushner

Noam Moris Esquenazi Parents Daniela Ovadia and Yoshua Esquenazi

B'NEI MITZVAH

JANUARY 14-15, 2022 **Ryan Wexler**

Son of Robin & Adam Wexler; grandson of Rhonda & Randy Gachman, Sandy & Michael Wexler, Melinda & Alan Howard, Dallas

JANUARY 21-22, 2022 Alana Barrios

Daughter of Renee Wizig-Barrios & Alvaro Barrios, granddaughter of Phyllis & Herbert Wizig, Elena Barrios de Gutierrez^{zⁿl} & Carlos Alberto Barrios^{z"l}

FEBRUARY 4-5, 2022 Sawyer Cohen

Son of Katalina & Michael Cohen

FEBRUARY 11-12, 2022 Jake Provada

Son of Laura & Paul Provada; grandson of Dafran & Fred Provada, Pauline & John^{z"(} Olsovsky

FEBRUARY 18-19, 2022 Mila Robinowitz

Daughter of Nikki Vu & Donald Robinowitz, granddaughter of Chana &

Ralph Robinowitz, Dallas; Tinh Thi Pham, Austin, Tu Hung Vu

FEBRUARY 25-26, 2022 Benjamin Goodman

Son of Denise & Craig Goodman; grandson of Joni & Jeff Goodman, Boynton Beach, FL, Robbi & John Garri, Ocala, FL

MARCH 4-5, 2022 Aidan Glasser

Son of Dina & Jonathan Glasser; grandson of Marcie & Sidney Ginsberg, Juliette & Jeffrey Glasser, Miami, FL

MARCH 11-12, 2022

Benjamin Umansky Son of Angela & David Umansky



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CONGREGATION

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