



CONGREGATION BETH ISRAEL

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www.beth-israel.org

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The Women of Beth Israel

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!

**Victoriya Spiegel &
Yakov Gizersky**
**Danielle Stillman &
Lincoln Hamilton**
Stephanie & Michael Hirschfeld
Rachel Kades
Dana Karni-Ilouz
Mitra & Michael Margolis
Sherrie & Edward Massin
Cathi & Craig Miller
Nicki & Jeffrey Nachenberg
Rosalyn Robinson
Lacey & Todd Wallerstein
Carol Wise

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 Stephanie Shargal at
sshargal@beth-israel.org

SEPTEMBER 2023

Jewish Hope

In "An Essay on Man," Alexander Pope (1733-1734) wrote, "Hope springs eternal." Though not a Jewish source, Pope's memorable verse describes what remains after angst, suffering, and loss. Hope springs eternal because it's the sliver of opportunity that enables us to reach out, to get up, and to "Choose Life," as Torah requires us to do.

In the New Year 5784, we anticipate a sweet year after ten days of repentance and introspection. This scared endeavor begins and ends with expectations for forgiveness and renewal. No one should fear retribution or condemnation even if one's guilt or transgressions are great. The opportunity for forgiveness, symbolized by the Gates of Repentance, is always open to us. Even one good deed, in the name of repentance, tips the proverbial scale of justice and mercy in our favor. Therefore, hope springs eternal, because it's consistent with our faith that the gift of life is not for naught. During the course of our life we have time to sort out our goals, to repair our faults, and to serve well.

For those who despair, hope remains after everything else is gone. A synagogue member who had been both broke and poor told me that there's a difference between them. Being poor, he said, is a state of mind and circumstances that can be difficult to overcome; but being broke is an episode in one's life that can be overcome with tenacity, resilience, and hope. Even those who are poor are not without hope that comes from a generous community and helping hands. In the hospital where the sickest patients wait for relief, I have told family members that there's always hope. Even when death is near and we have to prepare ourselves, hope remains until life is no more. As long as we live, therefore, we "Choose life."

The Jewish New Year is our sacred season to renew our commitment to Judaism's highest values for integrity, justice, and equity. When we succeed in this regard, we can know that we met the high standards of our tradition. And when we stumble or fail, we can try again with lessons learned and undiminished hope. That's life. There's no giving up; there's only the cycle of human attempts to learn from wells of truth and wisdom, and to do the best that we can.

In Judaism, we raise a cup of wine, a symbol of joy and sweetness, to proclaim "L'chayyim!" To life! We don't proclaim suffering or despair. There is no virtue in suffering or poverty; we can learn from it, but we don't aim for it. To be blessed is to know prosperity and to be generous to the synagogue and community. In the New Year, hope springs eternal because it's inextricably linked to our Jewish outlook on life. With hopefulness, we strive for a good life, well-lived, according to Torah, truth, and mitzvot.

From my family to yours, may the New Year 5784 be a year of prosperity, good health, hope, and peace.

L'Shanah Tovah,

Rabbi David Lyon

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CLERGY

Senior Rabbi.....	David A. Lyon, D.D.
Senior Associate Rabbi.....	Adrienne P. Scott, M.A.H.L
Cantor.....	Kenneth J. Feibush

STAFF

Executive Director.....	Pamela E. Kutner
Director of Lifelong Learning & Engagement....	David M. Scott, R.J.E.
Head of The Shlenker School.....	Dr. Michelle Barton
Controller.....	Wendy Airlie
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Cemetery Director.....	Kathy Parven
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Director of Facilities and Security.....	Michael Reddick
Director of Young Jewish Life.....	Mike Mason
Director of Communications & Program Manager.....	Laura Kaplan
Director of Center for Spiritual Direction.....	Tom Cole
Director of Production.....	Mark Eggleston
Assistant Director of MBJLC.....	Kerri Zerlin
Membership & Engagement Manager.....	Stephanie Shargal
Librarian.....	Susan Whitman

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Vice Presidents.....	Susan Feigin Harris
	Marsha Stein
	Philip Wise
	Neil Wizel
Immediate Past President.....	Roslyn Fuchs Haikin
Treasurer.....	Doug Aron
Secretary.....	Ed Wolff



SPONSOR AN ONEG SHABBAT!

Oneg Shabbats at Congregation Beth Israel provide our community with an opportunity to have a social connection on Shabbat - a chance to renew friendships, welcome newcomers, and make new friends. Sponsoring an Oneg is a wonderful way to honor, remember, or celebrate a loved one, event, or milestone. Or, simply just because.

To learn more, contact
Marsha Gilbert at mgilbert@beth-israel.org.

LIVESTREAM

Watch Shabbat Services Live:
www.beth-israel.org

Watch Shabbat Services Later:
www.youtube.com/BethIsraelHouston

PAYMENTS & DONATIONS

Please send payments and donations to:
Congregation Beth Israel
DEPT.
P.O. Box 4851
Houston, TX 77210-4851

RABBI DAVID A. LYON ON THE RADIO

Rabbi Lyon can be heard on Sunday mornings, 6:45 a.m., on KODA, Sunny 99.1 FM radio. Each segment will be available as a podcast, "Heart to Heart with Rabbi David Lyon." Go to www.beth-israel.org/radiorabbi, www.sunny99.com ("Blogs & Podcasts"), or download the iHeartRadio app.



@bethisraelhouston



@bethisraelhouston



THE MARGOLIS GALLERY

of Congregation Beth Israel



HOLY SPARKS

Celebrating Fifty Years of Women in the Rabbinate



Opening Reception

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2023
5:30 P.M.

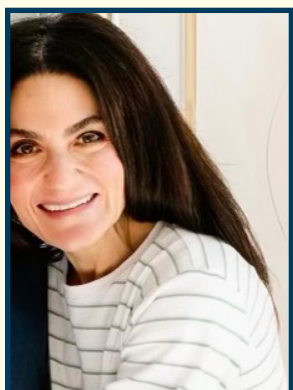
Celebrate
Rabbi Adrienne Scott
and view the collection
at The Margolis Gallery

REGISTER AT
[BETH-ISRAEL.SHULCLOUD.COM/CALENDAR](https://beth-israel.shulcloud.com/calendar)

The Holy Sparks art exhibition illuminates the creativity, commitment, and vision of 24 women who were “firsts” in their time. Their challenges and contributions, struggles and successes, represent the achievements of all the 839 women rabbinical graduates of HUC-JIR in North America and Israel to date – and the nearly 1,500 women rabbis of all movements who have transformed Jewish tradition, worship, spirituality, scholarship, education, and pastoral care. Evoking their stories are the works of 24 leading contemporary Jewish women artists, who immersed themselves in their respective rabbi’s recorded interviews, produced by The Braid’s Story Archive of Women Rabbis and preserved at the Jewish Women’s Archive. The artists’ insights, empathy, and broad array of aesthetic approaches capture the essence of these trailblazers’ identities and consecrated paths.

Announcing the 2023/5784 High Holy Days Symposium Speakers

Without interruption since 1975, the Yom Kippur Symposium for 2023/5784 continues with personal insights into Judaism's role in each speaker's life. Each message will express how life, while sometimes hard, is also blessed with courage, resilience, and hope. Please welcome the Yom Kippur Symposium speakers for 2023/5784, Jordon Folloder, Laura Hall, Jonathan Rauch, and Rachel Weissenstein. The Yom Kippur Symposium will take place in the sanctuary on Yom Kippur afternoon, September 25th, at 2:00pm, in-person and via livestream.



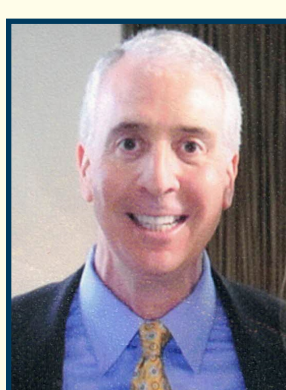
Jordan Folloder is physically a tiny person who has always fought well above her weight. She is “a force of nature.” Many talents notwithstanding, her primary goal in life has been to have a family, to be a mother, to be a fantastic mother. She has overcome huge hurdles and adversity to achieve that goal. She has willed it.

Jordan, her incredible husband, Harry Folloder and their four amazing children, Noah, Sammy, Sadie and Annie have recently relocated to Fulshear, Texas and Jordan has renamed herself the “farmer wife.” As always, she is pressing on, refusing to acknowledge the words, “can’t,” “won’t” and “no.”



Laura Hall, a native Texan, found her true calling as an Early Childhood teacher at The Shlenker School. Laura teaches PreK-3 as well as a science specialty for PreK-3 and PreK-4 children. This school year is Laura's 29th at The Shlenker School. Laura also spends her Sundays helping children with special needs in the Aliyah program at the Miriam Brown Jewish Learning Center at Congregation Beth Israel.

Laura enjoys spending time with her husband Bill, her son Will, and her daughter, Madison.



Jonathan Rauch, a native Houstonian, is a lifelong member of Congregation Beth Israel.

He graduated with a BA from the University of Texas and with MBA and JD Degrees from the University of Houston

He owns and operates a family oilfield drilling equipment business and is a proud father of his two daughters, Evan and Meredith.



Rachel Karff Weissenstein is currently the Chair of the English Dept., and a teacher of Upper School English, at the St. John's School in Houston, Texas. This is her 21st year teaching high school English.

She is the adoring mother of three adult children: Josh, Ben and Emily Weissenstein who are living interesting, productive lives around the globe with their lovely wives/significant others

She is the very proud daughter of the late Rabbi Samuel E. Karff^{z"l} and Joan Mag Karff^{z"l}.

A Mussar Pathway of Forgiveness and Renewal

The month of Elul is a time of reflection and preparation for the Jewish New Year and Days of Awe. We are tasked with doing the spiritual work of getting ready to face God with an open heart. But how are we supposed to work through such a large concept?



Imagine that your soul is like a tapestry, full of intricacies and colors. Imagine a tear in it, caused by something you did that you continue to feel bad about. How big is the tear? What damage has that tear done to the tapestry? As you ask for forgiveness from others and grant forgiveness to yourself, imagine that this tear is repairing itself slowly, little by little, and your tapestry (your soul) is whole again. What does it look like now? How do you feel now?

Please join us in person for an evening session on **Wednesday, September 13 at 7:00 P.M.**, where we'll discuss the Mussar process of cheshbon hanefesh (soul accounting). Together we will think about the times we may have missed the mark or been less than the person we most wish to be. Elul is an opportunity for transformation and renewal, of love and caring. We will guide you in gently looking at yourself with compassion and forgiveness while creating a pathway back to your higher self.

Heather and Naomi are trained Mussar facilitators who have been studying Mussar with members of our congregation for 6 years.

To register for the class, please visit beth-israel.shulcloud.com/calendar

The Women of Beth Israel

Save the date for October 24, 2023

Join The Women of Beth Israel for an educational forum focused on Breast & Ovarian Cancer Genetic Screening & Prevention. The panel of experts will provide information on latest developments for both cancers. Details to come and register at beth-israel.shulcloud.com/calendar

Interested in joining The Women of Beth Israel? Contact Debra Baverman, President, at dbaverman@netscape.et

Spotlight on the Gift Shop

Anita Seline, manager of the Gift Shop, brings her elegant style to the Gift Shop. The Shop features a wonderful selection of artisan Judaica along with whimsical gifts and jewelry items perfect for life-cycle events and traditions in a Jewish home. In addition to readily available items, Anita and the Women of Beth Israel volunteers are available to hand select items and welcome shoppers.

**Tuesday - Friday
10:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.**

Contact Anita at 713-777-4315 for special orders.

MEMORIAL TREES AT BETH ISRAEL MEMORIAL GARDEN ON ANTOINE



Congregation Beth Israel is pleased to announce the installation of two Memorial Tree art sculptures by Bob Dyer in the Donor Plaza at Beth Israel Memorial Garden on Antoine. These trees, constructed of iron, stand 12 feet tall, 12 feet wide, and are designed to survive any inclement weather. The trees will hold 700 custom metal leaves that are intended to be engraved in the memory of loved ones.

The trees serve as a beautiful way to visit and remember loved ones, especially those who are resting elsewhere. Leaves may be purchased using the form found online.

Orders for leaves will be filled twice each year, during High Holy Day season (they will not be ready in time for the High Holy Days 2023/5784) and in the Spring for Tu Bishvat, or Jewish Arbor Day.

Each leaf can be inscribed on the front side or both the front and back side. The front side will have the loved one's name/birthdate/death date. The back side may either have the same information as the front side, or alternatively may be inscribed with the name(s) of those remembering the loved one.

Memorial Tree Leaf Pricing:

1-sided inscription = \$180.00

2-sided inscription = \$225.00

If you have any questions, please contact our Cemetery Director, Kathy Parven at KParven@beth-israel.org or 713-771-6221.



CEMETERY COMMITTEE ANNOUNCES ACTIVATION OF CEMETERY GPS SYSTEM

After months of diligent preparation, we are thrilled to announce the launch of our brand-new online plot search engine for the Antoine cemetery. Our dedicated team has successfully migrated our cemetery records to a secure cloud-based program, ensuring the preservation of valuable data for generations to come.

This cutting-edge program not only simplifies record-keeping but also streamlines daily tasks for our committed staff and vendors, making their work at the cemetery more efficient and effective. Furthermore, we are excited to introduce an interactive map, now accessible to all visitors. With just a click on the link provided on the Temple website, you can access the map and obtain walking directions to locate burial spaces.

To access the link, visit www.beth-israel.org, hover your mouse on the Worship & Lifecycle tab, and select CEMETERIES from the drop-down menu. There, you will find the link to our search engine. The website also features available burial spaces and benches for purchase.

For direct access to the search engine without navigating through the Temple website, visit burialsearch.com/ecims#/s/872/Beth_Israel_Memorial_Garden

We understand that you may have questions or require assistance while using the site. For any inquiries, please don't hesitate to contact our Cemetery Director, Kathy Parven, at KParven@beth-israel.org or call 713.771.6221 ext. 310.

Thank you for your support, and we look forward to serving you with this enhanced online experience for Antoine cemetery.

Search cemetery records on your phone.

Beth Israel Memorial Garden

1. Open your smartphone camera.
2. Scan this QR code/take picture of code to the right of this description.
3. Browse cemetery records.



SCAN ME

4. You can also access this cemetery's records through:
https://burialsearch.com/ecims#/s/872/Beth_Israel_Memorial_Garden

Need help finding a burial? GPS walk to grave directions are available.

BETH ISRAEL'S CONGREGATIONAL ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE BEGINS ANEW



Are you ready to embark on a journey of service, participation, and growth within our community? Join us in the Congregational Engagement (formerly Membership Engagement) Committee as we work to create a vibrant, inclusive, and diverse community for all.

At the heart of our vision is a commitment to engagement and to form a sacred “*kehillah*,” a sacred community. By coming together as a congregation, we can better serve each other and our community.

Our goal is simple - to create a committee that truly serves the needs of all our congregants. We want to provide opportunities for everyone, both youth and adults, to participate and contribute their unique perspectives and talents. Whether you're a seasoned member or new to our congregation, your ideas and contributions are invaluable. By embracing diversity and inclusiveness, we can ensure that every member feels valued and heard. We want to build strong foundations for tomorrow by engaging with new ideas, organizing meaningful activities, and servicing the needs of everyone.

The best part is that this committee is within your reach! We all face different daily challenges and situations so at the Congregational Engagement Committee, you can participate in person, remotely, or even out of state! Through our collective efforts, we can organize meaningful activities that cater to the interests of our congregation.

Whether it's co-sponsoring with other committees to participate in social or community service programs, or hosting Go To Shabbat events, there are endless

opportunities to serve the needs of our congregation. We will work with members of the various BINGE groups as well as participants of other committees to connect the voices of our Congregational Engagement Committee to the entire Congregation.

Let's come together as a sacred “*kehillah*,” united by our shared values and aspirations. Join us on this exciting journey as we enter the New Year and breathe new life into our Congregational Engagement Committee. Attend our monthly meetings or reach out to us directly to learn more about how you can participate. For questions about our upcoming meeting schedule, contact Sonya Mendez Richmond, Congregational Engagement Chair, at sonya@honosgroupinc.com.

PERFORM A
MITZVAH!



Help us end childhood hunger in Houston!
Volunteer to prepare and pack 1,000 lunches

Wednesdays, 9:30 A.M.
Wolff-Toomim Hall

Wednesday, October 18
Wednesday, November 15
Wednesday, December 20

Questions or more information, contact
Marsha Gilbert at mgilbert@beth-israel.org

SOCIAL JUSTICE MAKES A DIFFERENCE

Your Social Justice Committee makes a difference in our own and others' communities! We choose not to look away from others' needs. Join us, it can take as little as a few hours a month!

Current Opportunities include:

Temenos: Visit every second Wednesday from 2:00-3:00 P.M a residence for formerly homeless Houstonians. Thank you for Beth Schneider's leadership.

Food and Faith Collaborative: Members of five congregations work with Second Servings and Houston Coalition for the Homeless to organize and staff Pop Up Grocery Store events at low-income adult living facilities. Thank you to Linda Davis for coordinating.

Please contact the Social Justice Committee co-chairs for more information about these projects. Dena Marks at denasokolow@gmail.com and Lisa Stone at lestone@aya.yale.edu



The Social Justice Committee welcomed Jael Casiano, Community Coordinator for the Harris County Elections Administration, to Beth Israel on August 22, to train congregants and community members to be Volunteer Deputy Voter Registrars (VDVRs). Dena Marks, Committee Co-Chair, and 16 others are now qualified to register Harris County residents to become voters.

We included our (League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) partners in this training, so we can support each others' communities in promoting active and informed voting.

Please let us know if you'd like us to provide voter registration for a community event!

lestone@aya.yale.edu and denasokolow@gmail.com

Save the Date for October 14, 2023

Meet with our partners from League of Latin American Citizens (LULAC) to continue building relationships. Thank you to Leslie Contreras Schwartz's leadership!



DONATION DRIVE

Presented by the
Social Justice Committee

Cleaning products,
personal hygiene products,
feminine hygiene products (pads only),
infant/toddler supplies,
car/booster seats, diapers, and
other household items



Through the
month of
September 2023



Donation boxes
at Congregation
Beth Israel



HOUSTON MAYORAL CANDIDATE FORUM

LISTEN ★ LEARN



DECIDE ★ VOTE



OCTOBER 12, 2023
7:00 P.M.-9:00 P.M.
CONGREGATION BETH ISRAEL



Register at beth-israel.shulcloud.com/calendar



BETTER TOGETHER

Jewish Singles Over 50

Better Together Fall Delight at New York

Eatery in Bellaire was the highly anticipated kick off to the new year with Better Together. More than 60 Jewish Singles over 50 gathered for a delightful meal and cocktails. In the spirit of Rosh Hashanah and Tikun Olam participants shopped at the Jewish Family Services Alexander Institute Celebration Company pop-up table where many holiday items and honey-less Honey cakes mixes were sold. Look for upcoming events this fall including Shabbat B 'Yachad dinner at Houston Congregation for Reform Judaism on Friday, September 1st and a Sukkah event to be announced shortly. We look forward to a fun and full fall season

Questions or Interested in joining?
Contact BetterTogether@beth-israel.org



CONGREGATION
BETH ISRAEL

TOT SHABBAT

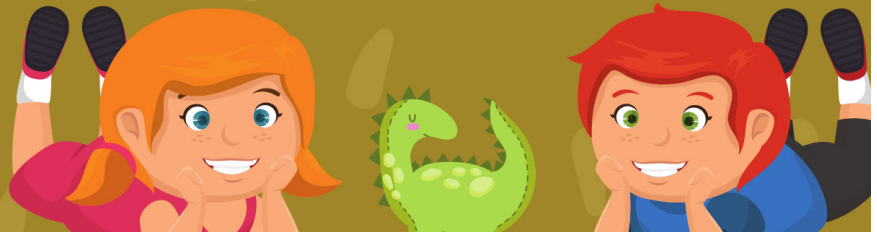
with Mike Mason

Join us with your family on Shabbat. Share a story, prayers, songs, and a family blessing. Families with young children are invited to sing, laugh, embrace and play. All events start at 10 am and are open to families with children under 6!

September 30
October 28
November 18
December 9

January 27
February 24
March 30
May 18

Questions? Contact Kerri Zerlin,
Assistant Director of the MBJLC,
at kzerlin@beth-israel.org



CURRENT BINGE GROUPS

Cocktails & Conversations led by Cindy Greenberg

Jewish Meditation BINGE Group led by Jay Tarnow

Matinees & Martinis led by Elene Glassman & Marilyn Sonnenberg

Mussar Learning led by Naomi Wittlin & Heather Westendarp

Pickleball Binge Group led by Linda Caplan & Stanley Rosenblatt

Swimming in the Sea of Talmud Binge Group led by David Scott

Torah 101 Binge Group led by David Scott

Torah Study Book Club led by David Scott

Tribe, Young Professionals BINGE Group led by Cantor Kenneth Feibush and Stephanie Shargal

What are you Watching? led by Sheila Horn

Writer's Circle led by Miriam Friedman & Susan Whitman

NEW YEAR, NEW BINGE GROUPS

Want to create and lead a
BINGE group at Beth Israel?
CONTACT STEPHANIE SHARGAL
SShargal@beth-israel.org

Learn more and sign up for groups at
beth-israel.shulcloud.com/binge-amdgroups.html

MIRIAM BROWNING JEWISH LEARNING CENTER

SAVE THE DATE!

CONSECRATION FOR ALL
KINDERGARTEN-AGED CHILDREN
WILL BE ON SUNDAY MORNING,
OCTOBER 8 AT 11:00 A.M.

Our 2023-24 Miriam Browning Jewish Learning Center held its Opening Day on Sunday morning, August 27th. Hundreds of children, parents, and Teen Madrichim joined our Clergy, MBJLC Faculty and Staff for a wonderful morning as they met their new educators, learned more about our upcoming year, and celebrated in a concert featuring Jay Rapoport, Director of the URJ 6 Points Creative Arts Academy.

While the children were getting to know their new faculty and Teen Madrichim in various areas all around the Temple, our clergy, staff, and MBJLC Committee members met with all the parents. New initiatives were discussed, including an expansion of last year's successful Tiyulim program, which included taking children on field trips to various locations all over the city on Sunday mornings. These programs have been made possible by a generous grant from the MBJLC Community Engagement Fund of Congregation Beth Israel. In addition to family education initiatives for every grade level where parents and children come together for meaningful sessions, we will now be adding more grade levels so more children can attend our Tiyulim field trips. In addition, we will also be expanding our programming to include Mitzvah Mavens, a Mitzvah-based curriculum that will enable all MBJLC children to engage in mitzvah projects offsite during the year.

It was also an exciting opportunity to share our new vision for Kehillah 7, a community-

wide program open only to 7th graders. Three times during the year, all 7th graders in Houston will meet together at Congregation Beth Israel, Congregation Beth Yeshurun, and at Congregation Brith Shalom for programming. These opportunities will allow all the 7th graders to socialize and learn together, as they prepare to join Kehillah High starting in 8th grade.

Hebrew learning is still our focus, especially on Wednesday and Thursday afternoons, as 3rd-6th graders learn Hebrew together, focusing mainly on our liturgical prayers, as they prepare to become B'nei Mitzvah. Wednesday sessions are held in person at Temple, and Thursday sessions will continue to be held online via Zoom.

For more information about our curriculum, learning sessions, and other Judaic and Hebrew learning opportunities for your children, contact us at mbjlc@beth-israel.org.



KEHILLAH

High

Congregation Beth Israel, Congregation Beth Yeshurun, and Congregation Brith Shalom are engaged throughout the year as we develop the next generation of Jewish leaders in our community. Kehillah High has successfully grown to serve close to 160 Jewish teens each year from a diverse set of private and public schools and across a wide geography of 26 zip codes. Kehillah High leverages a proven model of inclusive Jewish learning, community-based service projects, and immersive Jewish travel experiences, including grade-level trips and a biennial Israel trip. This past summer the Jewish Federation of Greater Houston created a new staff position, Director of Teen Education and Engagement, which now bring Kehillah High under the Federation's umbrella of programming and is led by Danielle Alexander, Founding Director, to this groundbreaking position. Danielle will continue as Director

Kehillah High registration is now open for our 9th year. Kehillah High is our post-B'nei Mitzvah program that was founded in 2015. Teens from

of the program and will lead the Federation in the teen space in partnership with our MBJLC staff.

Rabbi David Lyon, along with Rabbi Brian Strauss of Beth Yeshurun and Rabbi Ranon Teller of Brith Shalom celebrate this transition with Danielle, Kehillah High's leadership council and all educators and supporters. Regarding Kehillah High, he commented that "all the students know their own rabbis, but now they know rabbis, cantors, educators and Jewish professionals across the Houston Jewish community. By becoming an integral and noted educational arm of the Houston Jewish Federation, it shows us Kehillah High is here to stay, here to grow, and here to assure Jewish students and their parents that Houston's Jewish community has means of Jewish identification for everyone."

Kehillah High registration is open for the 2023-2024 school year for all Temple families with teens in 8th-12th. Join teens from the Greater Houston area every Wednesday night from 7-9 p.m. for dinner and content-rich Jewish learning in an informal setting. Our kickoff program, planned by our Kehillah High Teen Leaders, will be on October 4 at 7:00 P.M. To register, contact Stephanie Shargal at sshargal@beth-israel.org. For more information, visit the Kehillah High website www.kehillahhouston.org.



CONGREGATION
BETH ISRAEL

FAMILY SHABBAT

Bring your family for Shabbat!

All families with children and teens are invited to celebrate Shabbat! We'll share familiar prayers, blessings for our children, and joyful music as we embrace our families and engage in meaningful moments. All events start at 6 pm.

September 8
October 6
November 10
January 12

February 9
March 8
April 12
May 17

Questions? Contact Kerri Zerlin,
Assistant Director of the MBJLC,
at kzerlin@beth-israel.org.



Scan for our
new
2023-2024
Digital
Program

Fall 2023 Temp

Friday, September
8-10, 2023



**Adult Education
Shabbaton featuring
Rabbi Shefa Gold**

Just as we can't begin a workout or a race without a warm-up, our High Holy Days require a warm-up, too. The Adult Education Committee is excited to present the music and spiritual practice of Rabbi Shefa Gold, who will guide us throughout the weekend before Rosh Hashanah with new insights, meaningful experiences, and beautiful music as we become spiritually prepared for the High Holy Days. Generously supported by Jay & Laura Tarnow

Tuesday, October
3, 2023



**Sacred Aging:
A Celebration of Life**

Presented by the Adult Education Committee, A Moderated discussion led by Dr. Edward Septimus between Senior Associate Rabbi Adrienne Scott, Director of Spiritual Center, Dr. Thomas Cole, Amir Halevy MD, JD and Michael Wollner, M.D.

Thursday, October
5, 2023



**Holy Sparks Art Opening
in The Margolis Gallery**

The Holy Sparks art exhibition illuminates the creativity, commitment, and vision of 24 women who were "firsts" in their time. Evoking their stories are the works of 24 leading contemporary Jewish women artists, who immersed themselves in their respective rabbi's recorded interviews, produced by The Braid's Story Archive of Women Rabbis and preserved at the Jewish Women's Archive.

Sample Programs



Scan to
register
for events
on our
website

Tuesday, October
10, 2023



Wolff-Toomim
Distinguished
Lecture Series

Featuring Jon Meacham, Presidential Historian, Pulitzer Prize-winning biographer, and #1 New York Times bestselling author. Join the Host Committee for special access to our VIP Reception prior to the program.

Thursday
November 9, 2023



Kristallnacht
85th Anniversary

To commemorate the 85th Anniversary of Kristallnacht, which took place in Germany on November 8-9, 1938, we will welcome Rabbi Jack Romberg, author of *A Doorway to Heroism*, a true story about Rabbi Romberg's great uncle, a decorated German-Jewish soldier who became an American hero.

Thursday,
November 30, 2023



Stories from the Fringe

As part of this year's first exhibit in The Margolis Gallery focusing on the 50 years of women in the rabbinate, our Art Committee and Adult Education Committees are excited to present a Beth Israel Movie Night featuring a documentary entitled "Holy Sparks." The film will discuss the biographies and celebrate many of the female rabbis included in the art exhibit.

WELCOME TO THE SCHACHTEL LIBRARY AND ARCHIVE

VISIT OUR COLLECTION

Congregation Beth Israel's Schachtel Library is your resource for Jewish books in Houston. We collect sacred texts, nonfiction on a variety of religious and political Jewish subjects, and contemporary fiction. This summer we have been busy obtaining new books, and we have a lineup of events for you. Browse online and come in and see what we have in store for you!

We are open Monday through Friday, 9-5, with a librarian present Monday through Thursday, 9-2, and Wednesday evenings and Sunday mornings when religious school is in session.

You also can visit us online at www.beth-israel.org/lifelong-learning/library

NEW BOOKS

Horse, by Geraldine Brooks

And there was light: Abraham Lincoln and the American struggle, by John Meacham

Librarian of Burned Books, by Brianna Labuskes

A Doorway to Heroism, by W. Jack Romberg

Kantika, by Elizabeth Graver

The Postcard, by Ann Berest

Once We Were Home, by Jennifer Rosner

The Jews of Summer: Summer Camp and Jewish Culture in Postwar America, by Sandra Fox

Judaism in a Digital Age, by Danny Schiff

These books and many more are available to check out with a library registration. Come in and see our collection, or look at our catalog online at www.beth-israel.org/lifelong-learning/library/. Books checked out by phone or by email can be picked up from the front desk at the Braeswood entrance.



SCHACHTEL WRITER'S GROUP

The Schachtel Library Writers' Circle is a BINGE group led by Miriam Friedman. They meet twice a month on Thursdays at 1:00 PM in the Schachtel Library to discuss a writing submitted by a member of the group. We invite fiction, nonfiction, short stories and long chapters. Writers with all levels of experience are welcome! There is no pressure to present, but members are happy to read and give constructive criticism. This is a very welcoming group. The first meeting for the fall will be on September 7, 2023.

Contact Susan Whitman at swhitman@beth-israel.org or (713) 820-6410 to register for the BINGE group and receive notifications for either of these groups.

SCHACHTEL LIBRARY READERS' GROUP

The Schachtel Library Readers' Group finished the year with Etgar Keret's memoir, *The Seven Good Years*. The Group returns in September after a break, and we have an exciting lineup for the fall. All meetings are live in the Finger Board Room at Beth Israel, and on Zoom.

Fall 2023 Readers' Group Schedule

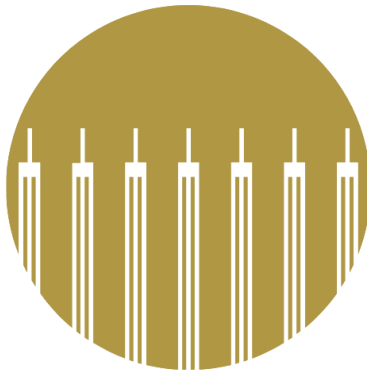
September 13, 2023: *Horse*, by Geraldine Brooks

October 11, 2023: *And There Was Light: Abraham Lincoln and the American struggle*, by Jon Meacham with guest speaker David Scott, RJE.

November 15, 2023: *Librarian of Burned Books*, by Brianna Labuskes

December 13, 2023: *Dinners with Ruth: A Memoir On The Power of Friendships*, by Nina Totenberg

The library is available online 24 hours a day and open for browsing Monday - Friday from 9 A.M. - 5 P.M. A librarian is present Monday - Thursday from 9 A.M. - 2 P.M. For information on any of the items listed, please contact Susan Whitman, librarian, at 713-820-6410 or swhitman@beth-israel.org



Center for Spiritual Direction

of Congregation Beth Israel

The Still, Small Voice is a quarterly column that will appear in each issue of the Temple Bulletin. Written by Dr. Tom Cole, Director of the Center for Spiritual Direction it will address specific issues embedded in the spiritual life of Reform Judaism and of Congregation Beth Israel.

“SILENCE IS PRAISE TO YOU, O GOD” - PSALM 65:2

Why is it so hard to be quiet today?

For one thing, we are drowning in noise--the sounds of traffic; 24-hour news cycles and advertisements on screens everywhere we look; innumerable phone calls and conversations that command our attention at work and at home; addictive cell phones, ipads and the ever-present internet which never shuts down.

For another thing, we are afraid of silence, which might confront us with our anxiety or our emptiness. And then there are always those internal voices telling us that we haven't done enough, or we aren't good enough, or that we need to work harder, get stronger, look more attractive.

Often, we lack the ability to be silent. We don't meditate. We don't have the tools or habits to dip into the deep well of silence where we might hear the whisper of God's love, or feel our aloneness, or truly listen to another, or perhaps travel to the mystical depth of pure awareness.

And yet moments of silence are all around us. We might be “struck speechless” by a moment of beauty; or “tongue-tied”; we might say that “words cannot express” our gratitude; a piece of music might “take our breath away” or contain silent spaces between notes that invite deeper listening. We are asked to “take a moment of silence”

in a Sabbath service. We may feel swept up by a “whirlwind”, overwhelmed by a religious experience we cannot give words to. We may “have no words” looking at a newborn child or looking at the body of a person who has died.

One way to become more familiar with silence is to practice paying attention. Listen for silence. Listen to silence. Listen in silence. Internal or external. Alone or in a group. Consider joining Beth Israel's Saturday morning meditation group led by Dr. Jay Tarnow and David Scott.

Spirituality dwells in silence. Silence is an accomplishment. We must listen silently with intention and awareness. When we listen in silence, we may hear the song of a sparrow, or the rustle of the wind, the voice of a relative who is not present, someone who has passed over into the next world. We may hear a “still, small, voice,” the voice of God. After all, the watchword of our faith requires us to listen: “Hear O Israel, the Lord is Our God, the Lord is One.” “still, small, voice,” the voice of God.



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The Shlenker School wishes you and your family a healthy and sweet new year!



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

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Mother of Sarah Cordovi & Bryon Cipriani, and Rebecca & David Means; sister of Patty & Michael Volk

Sandra Earnest

Mother of Marlene & David Spolane, Deborah & Mark Velko, and Jeremy Earnest; sister of Gary Allen

Sandra Jean Friedman

Wife of Richard Friedman; mother of Richard & Susan Klein, Wendy & Steven Cohen, and David Friedman

Eleanor Sonia Gerber

Mother of Robert & Graciela Gerber, and Alan Gerber & Shelly Block

Harold M. Hyman

Father of Lee & Gary Rosenthal, Ann & Jim Root, and Bill & Sherry Hyman

Joan Kaplan

Mother of Karen & Roy Brooks, Susan Bruch, and Rick & Debbie Kaplan; sister of Judy & Rodney Margolis, Phyllis & George Asch

Lev Kats

Father of Svetlana & Sergey Shylo, and Larysa Kats

Maxine Levy

Mother of Mark Levy, and Marilyn Levy Zigmond; sister of Joe & Shirley Nussbaum

Monique Margolis

Mother of Michael & Mitra Margolis, and Gregory & Lori Margolis

Steven Mayer

Husband of Barbara Mayer; father of J. Charisse Mayer, Brittany Schaefer, and Hillary & Craig Mueller; brother of Lawrence Mayer

Gerald "Jerry" Miller

Father of Scott & Julie Miller, and Geoffrey & Kathy Miller; brother of Sue & Jerry Deutser

Ada Perwien

Mother of Mark Perwien & Laurie Goodman, Diane Perwien Gale & Greg Thelen, Richard & Martha "Tica" Perwien, and Ellie & Phil Berman

Maxine Reingold

Mother of Sharon & Bradley Rauch, Steven & Claudia Reingold, and Beth Reingold & Tom Willett; sister of Rikki & Bo Rubenstein

Laurence Stanley Rodenstein

Partner of Elizabeth Boyer; father of Betsy & Joe Reznikoff, Shanna Brown, and David Rodenstein & Mecale McAtee; brother of Alan Rodenstein & LouAnn Flanz, Morris & Judy Rodenstein, and Andrea & Danny Spandau

Haskell Rosenthal

Husband of Judy Saks Rosenthal; father of Brian & Eugenie Rosenthal

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Julian "Jack" Schwab

Husband of Natalie Schwarz; father of Julie & Richard Schwartz, and Dan & Pam Schwab

Larry Steinberger

Husband of Marilyn Steinberger; father of Matt & Shiloh Steinberger, Jody & Matthew McCrary, and Stacy & Matty Chiasson; brother of Barbara Pactor, and Gary & Jacque Steinberger

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Betty Weiner

Mother of Julia & James Long, and Larry Weiner; sister of Tobye and Mort Joachim

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Husband of Carol Wise; father of Steven & Cecille Wise, Melanie Wise, and Cynthia & Edward Wagner

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Ethan Harrison Rauch

Son of Brittany and Daniel Rauch

Sophie Diane Leiber

Daughter of Sarah and Jeffrey Leiber

Brynn Avery Berroteran

Daughter of Sydney and William Berroteran

Andrew Joshua Wizig

Son of Elizabeth and Neal Wizig

Hannah Rose Roberts

Daughter of Megan and Jeremy Roberts

Henry Simon Novick

Son of Kathryn and Karl Novick

WEDDINGS

June 7, 2023

Mackenzie Skoller and Shaked Gofin

June 10, 2023

Alyssa Cohen and Alexander Hamilton

June 24, 2023

Meagan Friedman and David Holtgrave

B'NEI MITZVAH

OCTOBER 6-7, 2023

Charlie Lerner

Son of Jennifer & Michael Lerner; grandson of Faye & Michael Copland, Doreen Lerner^{z"l}, and Cheryl & Gary Lerner, Omaha, NE; great-grandson of Ethel & Jerry^{z"l} Lerner, Ruth^{z"l} & Dave^{z"l} Hoff, and Ann^{z"l} & Lester^{z"l} Copland

OCTOBER 13-14, 2023

Lily Jeanne Black

Daughter of Pamela Chee & Adam Black; granddaughter of Ira J. Black^{z"l}, Jeanne & Maurice La Montagne, and Lily & Daniel Chee; great-granddaughter of Ray^{z"l} & Emanuel^{z"l} Black, Kim^{z"l} & Herbert Chee, Beatrice & William^{z"l} Fagan, and Anna^{z"l} & William^{z"l} Yeung

OCTOBER 20-21, 2023

Sloane Abrams

Daughter of Leah & Seth Abrams; granddaughter of Linda & Shelton Abrams, Pat Mintz, and Peggy & Robert Portnoy

OCTOBER 27-28, 2023

Jordan Sorkin

Son of Lauren & Elliot Sorkin; grandson of Teri & Lee Straus and Sandi & Howard^{z"l} Sorkin, Skokie, IL

B'NEI MITZVAH

NOVEMBER 3-4, 2023

Daniel Burdine

Son of Stephanie & William Burdine; grandson of Rhona & Howard Sandy, Toronto, and Ann & John^{z"l} Burdine

NOVEMBER 10-11, 2023

Avery Groban

Daughter of Shanna & Ben Groban; granddaughter of Renee & Ira Groban, Rockville, MD, and Shari^{z"l} & Alan Tokarski, Rockland County, NY

NOVEMBER 17-18, 2023

Raya Astrich

Daughter of Laura & Craig Astrich; granddaughter of Joan & Marshall^{z"l} Cantor, Barbara^{z"l} & Robert^{z"l} Astrich, and Loretta & Doug Oakes; great-granddaughter of Janice^{z"l} & Eddie^{z"l} Astrich, Sr. and Sylvia^{z"l} & Issie^{z"l} Provada

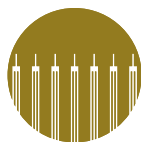
DECEMBER 1-2, 2023

James Eoff

Lillian Eoff

Children of Andrea Eoff and Brian Eoff

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



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