

170

CONGREGATION
BETH ISRAEL

— 1854-2024 —

MARCH 2025 BULLETIN

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The Gilbert Family and friends packing lunches at our Kids' Meals 10,000 event on Sunday, February 9. Read more on page 13.

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CLERGY

Senior Rabbi.....	David A. Lyon, D.D.
Senior Associate Rabbi.....	Adrienne P. Scott, M.A.H.L.
Assistant Rabbi.....	Samuel I. Rheins
Cantor.....	Kenneth J. Feibush, M.S.M.

STAFF

Executive Director.....	Casey Cole
Director of Lifelong Learning & Engagement...	David M. Scott, RJE
Head of The Shlenker School.....	Dr. Michelle Barton
Director of Campus Operations.....	Mike Mason
Controller.....	Wendy Airlie
Director of Center for Spiritual Direction.....	Dr. Tom Cole
Director of Special Events & Catering.....	Marsha Gilbert
Cemetery Director.....	Michael Kirstein
Director of Facilities & Security.....	Michael Reddick
Director of Marketing & Communications.....	Hannah Schiff
Membership & Engagement Manager.....	Stephanie Shargal
Librarian.....	Susan Whitman
Assistant Director of the MBJLC.....	Kerri Zerlin

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President.....	Susan Feigin Harris
Vice Presidents.....	Doug Aron
	Leslie Margolis
	Caren Sweetland
	Ed Wolff
Treasurer.....	Tom Fish
Secretary.....	Jeffrey Gilbert
Immediate Past President.....	Richard Kaplan

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!

Laurie & Jeff Bricker
Heather Fleschler
Richard Friedman
Erika & Yoav Kaufman
Gregory Kushner
Vanisha Nori-Cook & Jeremy Cook
Alexandra Roberts & Howard Greenblatt
Natalio Schwartz & Luz Perez-Schwartz
Gabriela Shaftel & Adam Roberts
Paul Wallace
Benjamin Webb
Deborah Ziegler

Do you know someone interested in becoming part of our community? Are you new to town or looking for Jewish engagement? Contact Stephanie Shargal, Membership & Engagement Manager, at sshargal@beth-israel.org to learn how!

LIVESTREAM

Watch Shabbat Services live
at beth-israel.org

Watch Shabbat Services later at
[YouTube.com/BethIsraelHouston](https://www.youtube.com/BethIsraelHouston)

TEMPLE TEXTS

Text "Yes" to 87569 to receive text message updates about news and events at Congregation Beth Israel.

PAYMENTS & DONATIONS

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

Redemption in Our Hands



We are currently between Purim and Passover. Both holidays celebrate the Jewish people's redemption from a foe who wished to destroy us. When we look at each of these holidays separately, we see that redemption came about in different ways.

Purim commemorates how Esther and Mordechai bravely saved the Jews from annihilation in Shushan Persia. What is curious is that God is never explicitly mentioned in Megillat Esther, the Scroll of Esther. Rather, God gave Esther and Mordechai the ability and the opportunity to save the Jews, which they successfully did.

Passover commemorates how God brought the Israelites out of Egypt. We might assume that Moses would play a starring role in the Pesach narrative, yet the traditional Haggadah hardly mentions him. Rather, the focus is on how God performed miracles and wonders to bring about the Israelites' redemption.

Purim and Passover demonstrate that redemption can come in different forms. As I am writing this, Israel is still at war with Hamas. Redemption is still a dream for many hostages. Yet day after day, we see their families, friends, and complete strangers in Israel and worldwide praying, advocating, and fighting for their release.

Redemption is not a passive process. Rather, it is an active one. Built into the observance of Purim and Passover are mitzvot that help us bring about redemption. On Purim, we are commanded to give gifts to the poor, invite strangers to our meals, and give tzedakah to those in need. On the nights of Passover seder, we traditionally open our doors, symbolically and literally, to the most vulnerable among us.

Earlier this month, H-Town Jews, Congregation Beth Israel's new young Jewish professionals group, organized a community-wide Purim party with Houston Hillel's Jewston and Moishe House. While it was a social and celebratory affair, we took time to donate to Houstonians in need. We stressed how every mitzvah, every bit of tzedakah, has an immeasurable and potentially life-changing impact on our world.

Although we can't always assess how our gestures of kindness impact others, what matters is that we engage in such actions. We read in the Talmud, "Kol Yisrael arevim zeh bazeh," all of Israel is responsible for one another. Through our acts of kindness at this time and throughout the year, may we continue to do all we can to help bring about redemption, *Bim'hay'rah V'ya'meinu*, speedily in our day.

L'Shalom,

Rabbi Samuel Rheins

Rabbi Samuel Rheins
Assistant Rabbi



CONGREGATION BETH ISRAEL'S 2025 RICKY HAIKIN GOLF CLASSIC

Legend of Westwood

RICKY HAIKIN



Monday, April 7, 2025

10:30 AM Registration opens

12:30 PM Tournament begins



Westwood Golf Club

*8888 Country Creek Street
Houston, TX 77036*



Register and/or Underwrite

*Contact info@beth-israel.org
or 713-771-6221*

HONORABLE CHAIRS

Philip Wise · Jeffrey Wise

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Sam Boyar
Roslyn Fuchs Haikin
Ellyn & Adam Josef
Christian Losche
Leslie Margolis
Rosalyn & Barry Margolis
Brian Schmulen
Carl Schmulen
Mark Schmulen
Rob Sweetland
Jennifer & Ron Zach



You're invited to Congregation Beth Israel's

SECOND NIGHT SEDER

Join Rabbi Adrienne Scott, Rabbi Samuel Rheins, and Cantor Kenneth Feibush as they lead us through the Passover Haggadah to tell the story of our people's redemption with familiar melodies, delicious food, and new and familiar friends.

SUNDAY, APRIL 13 • 6-8:30 PM
WOLFF-TOOMIM HALL

TICKETS

Adult Member: \$54
Adult Non-Member: \$72
Child (Ages 4-12): \$18
Child (Ages 3 and under): Free

REGISTER

beth-israel.shulcloud.com/calendar

QUESTIONS

Contact Marsha Gilbert,
Director of Special Events &
Catering, at 713-771-6221 or
mgilbert@beth-israel.org



PASSOVER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Passover Festival Service
Sunday, April 13 • 10:30 AM-12 PM
Gordon Chapel & Livestream

Passover Yizkor Service
Saturday, April 19 • 10:30 AM-12 PM
Gordon Chapel & Livestream

THE MARGOLIS GALLERY FOR ALL TIMES

Congregation Beth Israel's Margolis Gallery is a jewel in the crown of art galleries in Houston. More than a museum, it's a living art gallery that showcases all art forms that are exceptional reflections of Jewish life and living. Jewish artists and art that expresses Jewish themes are featured on a rotating basis. Currently, *October Seventh*, the exhibit from ANU - Museum of the Jewish People in Tel Aviv, Israel, is on display through May 2025.

The *October Seventh* exhibit opened recently with featured speakers, including Aviv and Asaf, who are living in Houston, serving as a *shaliach* (emissary/ambassador), and a graduate business student, respectively. Their experiences in the IDF, in Gaza, and afterwards, were told in their own words. With the stunning exhibit and video in the background, their voices invited us into that time and place with empathy and hope.

The Margolis Gallery Endowment, established by Rosalyn and Barry Margolis, Judy E. and Rodney Margolis, and Judy O. and Kenneth Margolis, is the supporter of the Gallery's impact on Jewish experience through art and art forms. Notably, the Endowment enabled Congregation Beth Israel's Art Committee, co-chaired by Shirley Lavine, Karen Bookstaff, and Jennifer Greenberg, to purchase the *October Seventh* exhibit. We own it and can make it available to other galleries, displays, and featured spaces to teach and recount the events of October 7, 2023, and the more than 500 days that have passed since hostages have been held in Gaza by terrorists. "Never Again!" has been reprised, shockingly; and our duty as a congregation is to teach others. The Margolis Gallery Endowment enables us to teach through art.

The vision, shared by the Margolis Family, is for this Endowment to support new and expanded efforts to bring noteworthy artwork showcasing Jewish values and history, welcome prominent speakers, and sponsor dynamic, interactive programming that connects the present to our cultural Jewish past.

THE MARGOLIS GALLERY



Rosalyn and Barry Margolis · Photo by Jordan Scheiner

Additionally, there are plans to elevate the member experience of the Gallery's support entity, Friends of Margolis Gallery, with unique art excursions, exclusive tours of private home art collections, and priority registration for special events.

To be a supporter of The Margolis Gallery Endowment, consider a gift to art that makes a difference in the hearts and minds of all ages who enter The Margolis Gallery. And begin with a personal or group visit to the ANU exhibit, *October Seventh*, which is open daily, Tuesday through Friday, and before and after Shabbat services on Friday evening. For more information, visit beth-israel.org.

EVENT SPOTLIGHT

NEW OCTOBER SEVENTH EXHIBIT REFLECTS HEARTBREAK, HOPE, AND UNWAVERING RESILIENCE OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE

Excerpts from the Jewish Herald-Voice by Elliott Lapin

After seeing the exhibit at the ANU – Museum of the Jewish People in Tel Aviv during a Jewish Federation of Greater Houston trip to Israel last February, Congregation Beth Israel Senior Rabbi David Lyon asked the museum director if the exhibit could be brought to Houston and Beth Israel.

October Seventh: Visual Stories of Heartbreak & Hope opened at Beth Israel's Margolis Gallery on January 30.

"I felt the exhibit was beautiful but limited, and it needed exposure," Rabbi Lyon told the JHV. "My feeling as a rabbi, as an educator, is that many people need to see it, and I thought we have a perfect setting and, really, a perfect city."

More than 100 people attended the reception and exhibit opening, a capacity crowd that was reached so quickly that Beth Israel [held] a second, identical event on Thursday, February 13.

The January 30 event included a question-and-answer session between Rabbi Lyon and two Israelis who experienced October 7 firsthand and now live in Houston.

"I hope for people to connect to the emotion that you can feel from the exhibit," said Asaf, one of the Israeli guests. "To feel the emotions that come from those artists that all experienced October 7; also to feel the hope inside the heart. It's part of the healing process. It fills me with hope, and I want other people to feel it as well."

Aviv, the other Israeli [guest], immediately accepted the invitation to speak after being invited by Margolis Gallery co-chair Karen Bookstaff. "All the time on the battlefield, I thought about my dream of ... [sharing] stories about our fighting and our resilience," he said.

Resilience is a common theme in the exhibit. One of the pieces that stood out for Rabbi Lyon was a painting with a hole in it—damaged when a bullet came through the wall of the artist's studio on October 7.

"There are many pieces of art that were created by Israelis who were just living their lives in the places that came to be attacked," he said. "What we see on the walls are the lives, the inspirations, the creativity, and talent of the people who were just doing what they do each day."

Another piece was a group of paintings of birds and trees by a man who was killed at one of the kibbutzim that was attacked on October 7.

"I hope people that come will be moved. I hope they'll feel the sadness and tragedy that Israel has faced," Rabbi Lyon said. "That they also find Israel's strength and hope **because to understand Israelis better, to understand Jews better, might help us find greater peace in the long run.**"

"We strive to present exhibitions and external programming with a Jewish thread, intended to stimulate, to excite, to awaken, and to inspire us all," said Jennifer Greenberg, one of The Margolis Gallery co-chairs, in her welcoming remarks. "We think you'll agree that we nailed it with this exhibit."

October Seventh: Visual Stories of Heartbreak & Hope is generously underwritten by The Margolis Gallery Endowment Fund. The exhibit is on view in The Margolis Gallery through May 2025. Please reach out to the Temple in advance at 713-771-6221 or info@beth-israel.org to plan your visit.



Rabbi David Lyon (right) with special guests Aviv (left) and Asaf (center) who experienced October 7, 2023 firsthand.



Moderated by Rabbi Lyon, Asaf and Aviv engage in a conversation about their time in Israel on, and after, October 7, and what they're doing now as current residents of Houston.



**The Israel Advocacy & Adult
Education Committees Present**

Dr. Ruth Calderon



**Friday, April 4 &
Saturday, April 5**

*Shabbat Evening
Service & Torah Study*



**Congregation
Beth Israel**

*5600 North
Braeswood Blvd.*



**Congregation Beth Israel is honored to welcome
Israeli academic, politician, and women's rights
activist Dr. Ruth Calderon, Scholar-in-Residence,
for Shabbat Evening Service and Torah Study on
April 4 and 5.**

A Tel Aviv native, Dr. Calderon holds a Master of Arts
and PhD in Talmud from The Hebrew University of
Jerusalem. She was elected to the Knesset in 2013,
where she quickly rose to celebrity status for her
passion to bring Talmud and Jewish texts to all Jews
regardless of religious observance or affiliation.
Dr. Calderon is the founder of two institutions devoted
to the study of sacred texts: Alma, Home for Hebrew
Culture in Tel Aviv; and Elul Beit Midrash, the first
academy where secular and religious men and
women are taught together.

**Learn more & register at
beth-israel.shulcloud.com/calendar**

*Underwritten by a generous grant from the
Alexander Family Israel Programming Fund.*

WORLD ZIONIST CONGRESS ELECTION

March 10-May 4, 2025

The World Zionist Congress is the
democratically elected international
body that convenes every five years.
This election is a powerful way for
Reform voices and Reform values to
have a real and impactful say in how
Israel spends its money and treats its
people. It's a way for Diaspora Jews
like us to have a voice in Israel; to
stand up for pluralism, equality,
security, and a path to peace.

We urge you to cast your ballots for
Vote Reform. Together, let's work for
a safe, secure, and democratic future
for Israel in 2025.

VOTE AT WWW.VOTE4REFORM.ORG

*Voting opens Monday, March 10
and closes Sunday, May 4.*



Congregation Beth Israel's

A NIGHT TO *celebrate*

*Please join us for a very special
Shabbat service & Oneg Shabbat to honor*

**RABBI DAVID A. LYON, PRESIDENT
CENTRAL CONFERENCE OF AMERICAN RABBIS**

with esteemed guest

**RABBI HARA PERSON
CCAR CHIEF EXECUTIVE**



May 9, 2025

**6:30-8:30 PM
CONGREGATION
BETH ISRAEL**

**5600 NORTH
BRAESWOOD BLVD
HOUSTON, TX**

*A celebratory Oneg Shabbat will follow the service in
Wolff-Toomim Hall, underwritten by Michele & Sandy Aron.*

RSVP by April 30 at beth-israel.shulcloud.com/calendar.

EVENT SPOTLIGHT

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF WOMEN IN THE CANTORATE WITH HEBREW UNION COLLEGE - JEWISH INSTITUTE OF RELIGION



Left to right: Ed Septimus, Rabbi Adrienne Scott, Cantor Jill Abramson, Cantor Barbara Ostfeld, Rabbi David Lyon



Cantor Barbara Ostfeld, Cantor Jill Abramson, and Cantor Kenneth Feibush during Shabbat Evening Service

“Just 50 years ago in 1975, Cantor Barbara Ostfeld became the first ever woman in almost 6,000 years of Jewish history to be ordained as a cantor,” wrote Steve Wisch for the JHV. “That signal achievement has inspired hundreds of Jewish women who have served, and continue to serve, as cantors in the United States and throughout the world.”

On Friday, February 7, and Saturday, February 8, Congregation Beth Israel hosted, with honor and gratitude, Cantor Barbara Ostfeld, as well as Cantor Jill Abramson, Director of the Debbie Friedman School of Sacred Music at Hebrew Union College - Jewish Institute of Religion. Their presence was the highlight of the weekend’s “Celebration of 50 Years of Women in the Cantorate” in partnership with HUC-JIR. **Together with Congregation Beth Israel’s clergy team, an expanded band led by Music Director Mark Vogel, and Beth Israel’s two volunteer choirs, CORE and Junior Cantors, Cantor Barbara Ostfeld and Cantor Jill Abramson led a musical and spiritual Shabbat Evening Service that moved the congregation.**

The service included the Song of the Sea, also known as Miriam’s Song, which, in the Book of Exodus, Miriam led in celebration of their freedom from Egypt. Cantor Ostfeld, during Torah Study the following morning, described feeling a kinship to Miriam. As the first woman cantor in Jewish history, she’s had the unique privilege of empowering other women to sing, as Miriam did. Cantor Abramson emphasized that she, like so many others in the cantorate, would not be in her role today without Cantor Ostfeld laying the groundwork. This prompted several Congregation Beth Israel members who were present to share their stories about breaking the proverbial glass ceiling in their own professions.

On behalf of Congregation Beth Israel, we thank HUC-JIR for engaging us in this uplifting Shir Shabbat, commemorating women’s progress in Jewish history, both in the cantorate and beyond.

EVENT SPOTLIGHT

ANNUAL LUNCH PACKING EVENT HITS RECORD-BREAKING NUMBER OF 10,000 MEALS FOR HOUSTON'S UNDERSERVED CHILDREN



Left to right: Lucas Leventhal, Robert Jacobson, Daniel Leventhal



Ronna Silver, Eliana Beer, Ellie Israel

Congregation Beth Israel's partnership with Kids' Meals, Inc., an organization that delivers free, healthy meals directly to the homes of Houston's hungriest preschool-aged children, grows stronger each year. Our members never waver when it comes to working with Kids' Meals, Inc. to end childhood hunger in our community, showing up consistently for the Temple's monthly lunch packing program, and, this year, breaking records at the Kids' Meals 10,000 event on Super Bowl Sunday.

On the morning of February 9, **volunteers of all ages came together to pack 10,000 sack meals—the Temple's largest lunch packing event to date.** Wolff-Toomim Hall was filled, not only with members and their friends, but also with children from the Miriam Browning Jewish Learning Center and their families. With instruction from Cantor Kenneth Feibush, Marsha Gilbert, Director of Special Events & Catering, and Kerri Zerlin, Assistant Director of the MBJLC, each volunteer joined one of 12 assembly lines and, like a well-oiled machine, packed 10,000 lunches and loaded them onto Kids' Meals, Inc.'s refrigerated trucks in just under two hours.

On behalf of Congregation Beth Israel, we thank everyone who dedicated their weekend morning to making this mitzvah a reality. **Your participation helped feed thousands of children in Harris County** who are at a critical developmental stage (under five years old) but don't have access to school-based free meal programs. **Kids' Meals, Inc. is the only program of its kind in the nation, and their impact, along with your support, is life-changing for Houston's youth.**

If you would like to learn more about Congregation Beth Israel's monthly lunch packing program, contact Marsha Gilbert at mgilbert@beth-israel.org or 713-771-6221.



Share the Load

Alone, I can do little. Together, we can do anything.

Simply select a Congregation Beth Israel service that is most important to you.



Rabbi David Lyon with Reverend Harvey Clemons, Jr.,
of Pleasant Hill Baptist Church of Houston



Ori Dagan (left) and Maya Dagan (right) learning
about the lulav and etrog in our Beth Israel Sukkah!

Since 1854, Congregation Beth Israel has been a sacred community in the lives of its congregants. Each year, in order to provide for the special services, programs, and events, the Temple relies on the financial support of its member families.

Your family's annual commitment provides 80% of the Temple's operating budget.

Additional funding is needed to offset expenses. For the 2024-2025 fiscal year, the Temple's total operating expenses are \$5.2 million.

We need your help!

The Share the Load program helps underwrite the remaining expenses. Every family is asked to choose the Temple program or operational service that feels important to them. Your gift will help close the gap in the Beth Israel budget.

Please do your part in Sharing the Beth Israel Load. Your generous gift will ensure the continuity of Beth Israel's quality of service to our community.

Julie Gilbert | Development Committee Chair

Casey Cole | Executive Director

Congregation Beth Israel

Support Opportunities

OPERATIONAL

Campus Security

Safety and security first.

Help support \$225,000 annual cost

Live-streaming

Making the at-home experience as joyful as the in-person experience, on Shabbat and beyond.

Help support \$100,000 annual cost

Campus Beautification

Maintain landscaping, exterior building, parking lots, and exterior lighting.

Help support \$40,000 annual cost

Cemetery Upkeep & Beautification

Respect and maintain our departed loved ones' resting place.

Help support \$200,000 annual cost

Critical Infrastructure

Electricity, HVAC, cybersecurity, and communications systems.

Help support \$400,000 annual cost

Temple Unrestricted

Funds for the organization to use at its discretion, typically to support general operations, cover day-to-day expenses, invest in new initiatives, or address unforeseen needs.

HOLIDAY PROGRAMS

High Holy Days (services, programs, music); Chanukah Service; Purim programming; Sukkot programming; Second Night Seder; and more

Help support \$55,000 annual cost

MEMBER & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

BINGE Group Programming

BINGE Groups (Beth Israel New Group Engagements) are fun affinity groups that promote new friendships and engaging discussions between Beth Israel members with similar interests.

Help support \$5,000 annual cost

Kids' Meals Programming

Pack over 15,000 brown bag lunches per year for children facing food insecurity, in partnership with Kids' Meals, Inc.

Help support \$25,000 annual cost

Oneg Shabbat

Help support \$25,000 annual cost

YOUTH/TEENS/YOUNG ADULTS

Family & Tot Shabbat

Shabbat fun and food for the whole family.

Help support \$10,000 annual cost

Jeremy Tucker Fund for Jewish Special Education

Our unique Aliyah program allows children with special needs to stay connected and involved with Jewish education, and ultimately, become Bar, Bat, or B'rit Mitzvah themselves.

Help support \$8,500 annual cost

MBJLC Scholarships

Provide a Jewish education for children without the barrier of tuition.

Help support \$1,000 annual cost per child

MBJLC Unrestricted

Funds for the MBJLC to use at its discretion.

DONATE

No donation amount is too little.
All giving levels are welcome.

All checks should be mailed to:

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

To donate online, visit:
tinyurl.com/share-the-load



2025 JOURNEY TO ISRAEL

JUNE 8-18, 2025

led by Rabbi David Lyon
& Cantor Kenneth Feibush

REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

View the itinerary & reserve your spot
by scanning the QR code below, or at
<https://forms.frosch.com/cbi>.



CHOIR OPPORTUNITIES AT CONGREGATION BETH ISRAEL

JUNIOR CANTORS

On Sundays at 12:15 PM, after MBJLC, all children and teens are welcome to participate in Junior Cantors. Led by Cantor Kenneth Feibush, students in Junior Cantors learn about Jewish music, participate in special Shabbat services, and sing at community-wide functions. Recently, Junior Cantors partnered with CORE to perform at a service celebrating 50 years of women in the cantorate.

CORE

Congregation Beth Israel's volunteer adult choir, CORE, meets weekly on Tuesdays at 6 PM. In addition to preparing for special Shabbat services, members of CORE, under the direction of Cantor Kenneth Feibush and Music Director Mark Vogel, learn about the history of Jewish music and the meaning of the words and prayers. New members are always welcome; there are no auditions or requirements to read music or Hebrew!

For more information about Junior Cantors or CORE, contact Cantor Feibush at kfeibush@beth-israel.org or 713-771-6221.

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 Shabbat 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.





\$5,000 LYON COHEN MERIT SCHOLARSHIP

Apply by Wednesday, April 30

*This year's award will be presented at
Congregation Beth Israel's Annual Meeting
on Tuesday, May 27, 2025.*

**Questions? Contact David Scott, RJE,
Director of Lifelong Learning & Engagement,
at dscott@beth-israel.org or 713-771-6221.**

The Lyon Cohen Merit Scholarship is awarded annually to a college undergraduate or graduate student. 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.

To fill out the application, scan the QR code or visit tinyurl.com/LCMscholarship.



SAVE THE DATE Congregation Beth Israel's ANNUAL MEETING



**Tuesday, May 27
6:00 PM**



**RSVP at
beth-israel.org
More details to come**

SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

Organizes volunteer projects, food and clothing drives, and educational programs to give back to the community



Co-chairs Dena Marks (left) and Lisa Stone (right) with Rabbi David Lyon



Lisa Stone (second from right) with Senator Molly Cook and Houston Faith Votes volunteers

Throughout the month of January, the Social Justice Committee, in collaboration with The Women of Beth Israel, **collected personal and home hygiene products to support Interfaith Ministries of Greater Houston and Undies for Everyone**, two organizations that serve children, adults, and families in need throughout Houston and beyond. We are grateful to everyone who contributed to this campaign! The committee also recently received a plaque from The Minaret Foundation for participating in their “Competing in Goodness” Food Drive this past fall.

Committee members **continued to volunteer at Temenos’ monthly residential events for formerly homeless Houstonians**, where participants explore creativity and community bonding in a stress-free environment.

We are also **continuing to work with Houston Faith Votes to share political resources and represent the Jewish community in meetings with our elected officials**. Recently, Social Justice Committee co-chair Lisa Stone met with Texas State Senator Molly Cook to discuss religious freedom issues, including the need to fight antisemitism in schools. Separately, the committee is in the planning phase of offering more programs that address antisemitism in our schools, workplaces, and public spaces.

Additionally, the committee is a **longstanding partner of the Houston Gun Safety Campaign, which aims to decrease gun deaths, violence, and accidents by increasing public awareness and education**. We are planning a “Be SMART” training for this summer, which will provide a framework for city and faith leaders to help keep their communities safe and informed. For more information on the Houston Gun Safety Campaign, visit houstongunsafety.org.

The Social Justice Committee offers humanitarian, thought-provoking, and relevant projects and programs throughout the year. To get involved with upcoming programs and volunteer work, contact the committee’s co-chairs, Lisa Stone and Dena Marks, at lestone@aya.yale.edu and denasokolow@gmail.com.

WOMEN OF BETH ISRAEL

A group of women who want to strengthen their own Judaism, support the congregation and Houston community, and offer opportunities for socialization



Left to right: Jill Josephson, Caren Sweetland, Lindsay Schmulen, Jonathan Sweetland, Danielle Schmulen



Penney Warren (left) and Debra Butler (right) baking hamantaschen

It was a busy winter for The Women of Beth Israel! On Sunday, February 2, over 150 Congregation Beth Israel members and friends attended the inaugural Lyn Fleishman Schmulen Mahj-a-Thon. The day began with an intimate Friends of Lyn Champagne Brunch in The Margolis Gallery to **honor Lyn's memory, celebrate her love of mahjong, and show gratitude for her years of service to The Women of Beth Israel as a Past President and active member.** Following brunch, the official Mahj-a-Thon commenced in Wolff-Toomim Hall! Participants enjoyed a fun afternoon of mahjong and other games, snacks and sweet treats, and opportunities to win raffle items, all in celebration of the beloved Lyn Fleishman Schmulen.

The success of this event would not have been possible without the dedication and love of Caren Sweetland, Danielle Schmulen, Lindsay Schmulen, Susan Bass, and our team of volunteers.

And of course, it wouldn't be winter without The Women of Beth Israel baking hamantaschen for Purim! **Our team of ladies met over the course of several weeks to test new flavors and handcraft the hamantaschen from scratch.** Special thanks to Deb Baverman, Marsha Stein, Debra Butler, Rachel Toole, Bonnie Herst, Susan Bass, and our other guest bakers for their continued engagement.

While our Gift Shop is currently closed, it will be open on Sunday, March 30 from 10 AM-12 PM with items available for Passover! Judaica and other gifts are also available for purchase by appointment. Please contact the Temple's main number at 713-771-6221 to learn more about our inventory and schedule a time to shop.

“DECADES OF CONFIRMATION” REUNION



As part of our 170th anniversary celebration, Congregation Beth Israel hosted a “Decades of Confirmation” reunion on Friday, February 21 for the Confirmation Classes of 1968-1989—the first classes that were confirmed at our North Braeswood campus.

While many Confirmands still reside in Houston, others traveled from near and far—Dallas, Austin, Arkansas, and Boston—to be a part of this special occasion.

The reunion included a special blessing on the bimah by Rabbi David Lyon during Shabbat Evening Service and a concluding benediction by Rabbi Barry Block, Confirmation Class of 1979. Following the service, the Confirmands and their guests enjoyed a delicious Shabbat dinner in Wolff-Toomim Hall. The air was buzzing with excitement to reconnect with each other, laughter as stories were told from year’s past, and gratitude for being together after all this time. As a keepsake (besides the miniature pull-a-part cakes that everyone took home to snack on), the members of each class got together for a group photo holding their framed Confirmation portrait.

Thank you to everyone who participated in making this evening memorable for our Confirmands!





\$2.5 MILLION

Working Together to Secure Our Community

Help us close the gap!

Since October 7, 2023 and the subsequent rise in antisemitism across the United States, Congregation Beth Israel's lay leaders, clergy team, staff, and HPD officers have worked tirelessly to prioritize the safety and security of our campus community.

Over the last year, you may have witnessed our campus transform physically, with the construction of our new perimeter fence, and technologically, with upgrades to our surveillance, access control system, and lighting. These critical upgrades were made possible thanks to the generous contributions—totaling \$2.2 million to date—of so many members, family, and friends.

However, additional work is required to ensure our campus remains protected for generations to come. We are at a pivotal point, with \$300,000 needed to close our fundraising gap.

Your engagement as a Congregation Beth Israel member is, and has always been, instrumental to our Temple's success and survival. We ask you to consider making a contribution to this important campaign. Together, we can provide peace-of-mind to the members, students, clergy, staff, and guests that make this community so special.

—\$2.2 MILLION

—\$2 MILLION

—\$1.5 MILLION

TO DONATE

Visit beth-israel.shulcloud.com/payment.php

Contact Casey Cole, Executive Director
ccole@beth-israel.org · 713-771-6221



H-TOWN JEWS

Let's do Jewish together.



Unkosher Comedy Show with The Bible Players



Celebrating Tu B'Shevat at Prime Grill & Bar

In the fall of 2024, Congregation Beth Israel formed a new young Jewish professionals group called H-Town Jews, led by Rabbi Samuel Rheins, Assistant Rabbi. The group is open to Jewish professionals between the ages of 22-35 who are interested in networking, socializing, and building community across Houston.

We are pleased to share that H-Town Jews is gaining momentum, with fantastic attendance at each event so far and successful collaborations with the other young Jewish professionals groups throughout our great city. Highlights include drinks at Cafe Leonelli and a tour of the Albert and Ethel Herzstein Gallery for Judaica at The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, a Chanukah-themed comedy show featuring The Bible Players, Shabbat dinner with Jewston following Congregation Beth Israel's MLK-inspired Shabbat Evening Service, tasting delicious food and drink at Prime Grill & Bar, a new Kosher Mediterranean restaurant on Beechnut Street, and most recently, our rodeo-themed Purim Party with Moishe House and Jewston!

Spread the word to your networks, and stay tuned for more details about upcoming events and activities! You do not need to be a member of Congregation Beth Israel to participate. If you are interested in joining H-Town Jews, contact Rabbi Samuel Rheins at srheins@beth-israel.org or 713-771-6221.

IT'S ALL IN THE DETAILS

Do we have your most up-to-date information in our system? Let's make sure! Log in to your ShulCloud account at beth-israel.shulcloud.com, click on the Welcome tab at the top right corner, and select My Account to verify and/or update your account details. For assistance, contact Stephanie Shargal at sshargal@beth-israel.org or 713-771-6221.

RABBI DAVID A. LYON ON THE RADIO

Rabbi Lyon can be heard on Sunday mornings at 6:45 AM 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](https://www.facebook.com/bethisraelhouston)  [@bethisraelhouston](https://www.instagram.com/bethisraelhouston)

MIRIAM BROWNING JEWISH LEARNING CENTER

Providing fun, stimulating learning and social activities for children & families



Fun in the classroom!



Fifth graders holding their personalized Yadayim

The Miriam Browning Jewish Learning Center started the new semester with their fifth grade Morim Mishpacha (Family Ed) Yad program, led by Rabbi Adrienne Scott, Senior Associate Rabbi, David Scott, RJE, Director of Lifelong Learning & Engagement, and Kerri Zerlin, Assistant Director of the MBJLC. In preparation for their B'nei Mitzvah, the fifth graders learned the history of the Torah Yad (pointer), made their own Yadayim, and got an up close and personal look at Rabbi Scott reading Torah.

The fourth grade class attended their tiyyul (field trip) to Celebration Company, an organization that empowers adults with disabilities to create high-quality products and art that celebrate the joy of life. Led by David Scott and Mike Mason, Director of Young Jewish Life, the children learned about the organization's scope of services and had the opportunity to make Shabbat and Chanukah candles with the volunteers.

We are grateful to the MBJLC Community Engagement Fund, which made these programs possible. For a closer look at our MBJLC programs and classes, check out our Facebook (www.facebook.com/MBJLCCBI) and Instagram (@mbjlc) accounts!

FAMILY SHABBAT
FOR FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN & TEENS!



Friday, April 25 at 6 PM

**TOT SHABBAT
& HAVDALAH**



Saturday, May 10 at 5 PM

Celebrate Shabbat with us at Congregation Beth Israel! We'll share familiar prayers, blessings for our children, and joyful music.

BINGE WITH BETH ISRAEL THIS SPRING!

Beth Israel New Group Engagements



Sunday Pickleball BINGE group



Monthly Mussar Learning BINGE group

Our BINGE groups (Beth Israel New Group Engagements) are fun affinity groups that promote new friendships and engaging discussions between Beth Israel members with similar interests. We encourage you to get involved with one of our thriving BINGE groups, or reach out to us with an idea for a new group. No prior experience is necessary to participate!

WEEKLY BINGE GROUPS

TORAH 101

Fridays · 11:30 AM

Led by David Scott, RJE

SHARING SUPPORT IN TROUBLED TIMES

Thursdays · 7 PM

Led by Drs. Tom Cole & Sharon Romm

WRITERS' CIRCLE

First & Third Thursdays · 1 PM

Led by Miriam Kalman Friedman

PICKLEBALL

Sundays · 9 AM

Led by Gregory Kushner

SWIMMING IN THE SEA OF TALMUD

Wednesdays · 2 PM

Led by David Scott, RJE

JEWISH MINDFULNESS & MEDITATION

Tuesdays · 7:30 PM

Led by Jay Tarnow & David Scott, RJE

MONTHLY BINGE GROUPS

WHAT ARE YOU WATCHING?

First Monday of each month · 7 PM

Led by Sheila Horn

MUSSAR LEARNING

One Sunday each month · 10 AM

Led by Heather Westendarp
& Naomi Wittlin

WHAT'S HAPPENING NOW?

One Sunday each month · 10 AM

Organized by Steve & Laurie Tamber

Visit our website for updates, as our BINGE groups are constantly adding fun, innovative programs to the calendar. If you have questions related to our BINGE groups, contact Stephanie Shargal, Membership & Engagement Manager, at sshargal@beth-israel.org or 713-771-6221.

THE SCHACHTEL LIBRARY & ARCHIVE

Your resource for Jewish literature & history in Houston

VISIT OUR COLLECTION & ARCHIVE

The Schachtel Library continues to add new books on Jewish thought and experiences to its collection. We carry a broad selection of biographies, novels, and sacred texts. We have literature that focuses on the diversity in our community, as well as social and political texts on modern Israel.

To view our full catalog, visit beth-israel.org/lifelong-learning/library. Our librarian, Susan Whitman, is available Mondays-Thursdays from 9 AM-2 PM.

SCHACHTEL LIBRARY READERS' GROUP

The Readers' Group meets on one Wednesday each month at 1 PM to discuss books on a variety of Jewish topics. All are welcome to participate! Contact Susan Whitman at 713-820-6410 or swhitman@beth-israel.org for more information.

READERS' GROUP SPRING SCHEDULE

February 12: *Old Man Country* by Dr. Tom Cole

March 19: *Goddess of Warsaw* by Lisa Barr

April 16: *Kantika* by Elizabeth Graver; discussion led by Rabbi Adrienne Scott

May 14: *The Little Liar* by Mitch Albom

BINGE WITH THE WRITERS' CIRCLE!

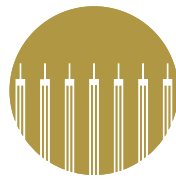
The Writers' Circle is a BINGE group led by Congregation Beth Israel member and author, Miriam Friedman. The group meets twice a month on Thursdays at 1 PM to discuss creative writing and share personal work. Writers of all levels, published or not, are welcome. To join, contact Stephanie Shargal, Membership & Engagement Manager, at sshargal@beth-israel.org or 713-771-6221.

VOICES OF BETH ISRAEL: PRESERVING OUR STORIES WITH STJA

The Schachtel Library is partnering with the Joan and Stanford Alexander South Texas Jewish Archives (STJA) to collect oral histories from Congregation Beth Israel members of their experiences over the years. To date, two rounds of interviews have been conducted, and we are continuing to schedule more.

Whether your family has been a part of Congregation Beth Israel for generations, or you've recently joined, we'd love to hear your story! Contact STJA curator Melissa Cohen-Nickels at mc220@rice.edu or Susan Whitman at swhitman@beth-israel.org to sign up.

Photo by Anthony Rathbun



Center for
Spiritual Direction
of Congregation Beth Israel

“MYSTICISM AND MINDFULNESS: WHY NOW?”

by Dr. Tom Cole, Director of Center for Spiritual Direction

During the last half-century, established religion in the U.S. and Western Europe has been seriously weakened. Overall, religious affiliation dropped from roughly 70% to under 50%. Meanwhile, Jewish synagogue membership fell from roughly 60% to less than 40%. (Thankfully, Beth Israel's membership has held steady or is even growing, due to our amazing clergy, staff, lay leadership, and The Shlenker School). Meanwhile, a significant and growing proportion of Americans consider themselves “Spiritual But Not Religious”—they are disillusioned with institutional forms of religion and are seeking deeper spiritual experiences. One interesting aspect of this trend is a growing interest both in Jewish mysticism and in mindfulness. The current interest in Jewish mysticism transcends religious boundaries and stems from a yearning for personal growth, self-knowledge, and feelings of connection with the cosmos. Likewise, mindfulness involves meditation practices that cultivate a calm, nonjudgmental awareness, whose health benefits are well documented. At Beth Israel, Dr. Jay Tarnow and David Scott currently lead an online mindfulness and meditation group that meets weekly on Tuesday nights. Houston Jewish psychiatrist Dr. Mirza-Gruber offers mindfulness skills training to her patients. She presented an introductory program at Beth Israel on March 11. I recently finished teaching a well-attended, introductory Beth Israel course in Jewish Mysticism, where I learned as much as I taught.

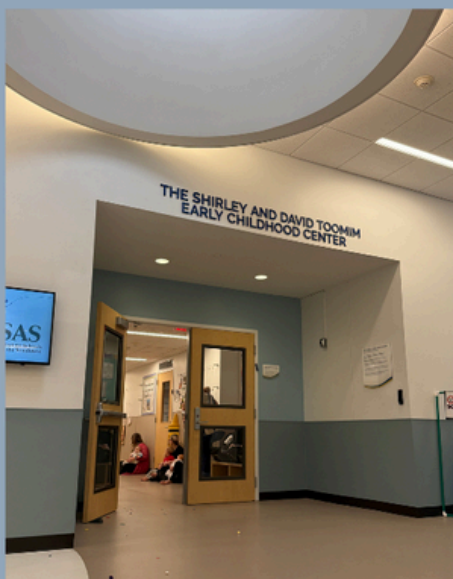
As Reform Jews begin to search for spiritual renewal in a chaotic and frightening world, more of us are turning to Jewish mysticism. In Jewish mysticism, or *Kabbalah*, we find wholistic maps of ultimate reality, along with spiritual practices designed to help us align ourselves with that reality and live our own authentic lives. Contemporary teachers of Jewish mysticism offer online programs and practices that combine mysticism and mindfulness, break down kabbalistic wisdom into manageable bites, offer daily meditations, and offer courses adapted to contemporary audiences that do not read Hebrew.

Despite instantaneous access in the digital age, there is no quick route to emotional and spiritual wholeness. The fruits of mysticism and mindfulness only appear with disciplined effort, and without certainty of reward (as it is said, we must study and study until we know that we will never know).

I sympathize with those who consider themselves “Spiritual But Not Religious.” Yet in my view, American Judaism cannot afford just a pick-and-choose, individualistic spiritual searching that is prominent today. I prefer an ideal we might call “Spiritual AND Religious,” in which congregations embody spiritual depth and individuals manifest communal commitment. In this way, we at Beth Israel will continue to grow as we guide and channel the (often unrecognized) yearning of Jewish spiritual seekers in an uncertain era that desperately needs to recover genuine pathways to the sacred.

BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE

A Transformative Journey at The Shlenker School



The Shirley and David Toomim
Early Childhood Center



The Ellen and Steve Robinson
Family Commons



The Friedlander Family
Play Space

The Shlenker School is proud to celebrate an exciting milestone in our **Building for the Future** campaign—the successful completion of **Phase I**. Thanks to the generosity of our donors, we have transformed key areas of our campus, including:

- The Ellen and Steve Robinson Family Commons
- The Shirley and David Toomim Early Childhood Center
- The Berta “Babka” Roth Community Lounge
- The Friedlander Family Play Space

These enhancements have created a warm, modern, and engaging environment for students, families, and community members.

Now, we eagerly look ahead to Phase II, which is set to begin soon. This next phase will bring even more exciting updates to our campus, including:

- A state-of-the-art Student Services Suite to support individualized learning and student success
- A refreshed All-Purpose Room, enhancing its functionality for gatherings, performances, and events

- An enhanced **Hub** that will serve as a welcoming and dynamic space for the entire school community
- **Repurposed hallways** designed for both collaborative and independent learning experiences
- **Modernized Elementary, PreK-4, and Specialist classrooms**, creating updated and engaging spaces that support innovative teaching and learning

We are incredibly grateful to those who have already committed to this transformational project. We encourage you to stop by and see these beautiful new spaces for yourself!

To learn more and view the donor list, please visit <https://www.theshlenkerschool.org/building-for-the-future> or scan the QR code.

Together, we are ensuring that The Shlenker School remains a vibrant and dynamic place for learning, growth, and Jewish values.



CONTRIBUTIONS

The Congregation gratefully acknowledges the following contributions from November 8, 2024-February 12, 2025.

Please note: This list does not include contributions made to our 2024-2025 Share the Load and Securing Our Community campaigns, as we will be acknowledging these gifts separately in the coming months.

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

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Mrs. & Mr. Bradley Chesnick**
Cyvia Wolff
**The Quinquennial Blessing for
Mrs. & Mr. Steven Deutser**
Cyvia Wolff
**The Quinquennial Blessing for
Mrs. & Mr. Sid Weiss**
Cyvia Wolff
Rosalyn & Barry Margolis
Barbara & Mark Paull
Lee & Gary Rosenthal

IN MEMORY OF
Arnold Altsuler
Rosalyn & Barry Margolis
Susan Lapin
Rosalyn & Barry Margolis
Cyvia Wolff
Barbara Black Levine
Sue Sue & Don Aron
Steve Marks
Linda Ellen & Ron Sklar
Shirley Toomim
Rosalyn & Barry Margolis

MBJLC DONATIONS

IN HONOR OF
**The Bat Mitzvah of Harper
Miriam Zach**
Joe & Marsha Cohen

IN MEMORY OF
Arnold Altsuler
Jeri & Marc Shapiro
Susan Lapin
Jeri & Marc Shapiro

ONEG UNDERWRITING

IN HONOR OF
**The 75th Anniversary of Gloria
& Bobby Reader**
Helaine & Steven Brochstein
Nancy & Larry Reader
**The 1st Birthday of Chava
Sawicki**
Emily & Nick Sawicki

IN MEMORY OF
Justina & Sheldon Goldstein
Mila Goldstein-Milo &
Michael Milo
Lily & Irving Weinstein
Riki Weinstein & Daniel
Morrison
Jimmy Wisch
Fern Bryan & Steven Wisch

SAMUEL E. KARFF ENDOWMENT FUND

IN MEMORY OF
Norman Schneidler
Sue Sue & Don Aron
Shirley Toomim
Sue Sue & Don Aron
Joan & Stevan Dinerstein
Beth & Craig Lieberman
Doris Markoff

SECURITY FUND

Karen & Neal Epstein
Allison Falender & Leon
Rubinstein
T. Griffin
Michele & David Olifant

IN HONOR OF
**The 50th Anniversary of
Rochelle & Alan Jacobson**
Sherrie & Richard Kaplan
**The 45th Anniversary of
Joanne & Bruce Levy**
Cindy & Leslie Fox
Lisa K. & Thomas
Friedlander
**The 75th Anniversary of Gloria
& Bobby Reader**
Harriet Choice
**The 65th Birthday of Lisa
Friedlander**
Julie & John Gilbert
Ronnie Lepow
Susan & Jack Lee

IN MEMORY OF
Arnold Altsuler
Allison Allen

Norman Schneider
Nancy & Irving Stern
Shirley Toomim
Susan & Jack Lee
Laurie & Alan Selzer
Bruce Wynn
Sherrie & Richard Kaplan

SISTERHOOD - BERNE BLACK BIMAH FLOWER FUND

IN HONOR OF
**The Anniversary of Stephanie
& Bubba Simon**
Carol Desenberg
The Birthday of Dolph Simon
The Sibling Squad
Anita Seline
Carol Desenberg
Lisa Friedlander

IN MEMORY OF
Charles Ziegler
Debbie, Melanie, and Jeffrey
Ziegler

SISTERHOOD - ROSE BRILLING FUND

IN MEMORY OF
Lyn Schmulen
Irene Wolchansky

WHEREVER MOST NEEDED

Harvey L. Gordon

IN HONOR OF
**The 45th Anniversary of
Joanne & Bruce Levy**
Susan & Maury Brochstein
**The 75th Anniversary of Gloria
& Bobby Reader**
Leslie & Mark Kaufman
**The Birth of Cooper Harrison
Kaplan**
Esther Polland
Anita Seline
Lu Ann & Morton Katz

IN MEMORY OF
Arnold Altsuler
Steve Patrick Harding
Ruth Herman
Rosanne Kaufmann
Max Levit
Jill & Brad Deutser
Susan Lapin
Janet & Jeff Pozmantier
Laurel Noell & Levi Soto
Elisha Selzer
Patricia Nelkin
Natalie Goodman-Fowler
Norman Schneider
Erla & Harry Zuber

FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION

BABY NAMINGS

Cillian Gael Gormley
Son of Julie & Colin Gormley
Morrison
Conrad James Holtgrave
Son of Megan & David
Holtgrave
Owen Sidney Karren
Son of Haley & Adam Karren
Elliot Anne Mincberg-Richards
Daughter of Mallory Hannah
Mincberg & Travis Mark
Richards
Annabelle Jane Spiegel
Daughter of Erin Annell
Mincberg & Scott Mitchell
Spiegel

DEATHS

Arnold Altsuler
Father of Adam & Jodi
Altsuler and Kent & Kim
Altsuler; brother of Carol &
Gary Cohen
Izabella Chulichkova
Mother of Sophia & Eugene
Grinblat
Charles "Chuck" Green
Husband of Pat Green;
father of Mindy Green,
Barbra & Scott Novak, and
Josh & Amanda Silberman;
brother of Shelley Green
and Lauren Smith
Patricia Nelkin
Mother of Libby & Andrew
Mintz, Lane Nelkin, and Dora
Hecker
Joyce Fliess
Mother of Stephanie & Paul
Gustafson
Richard Friedman
Father of Leslie Friedman,
Nancy Friedman & Mark
Taub and Linda & Mike Sheff
Jason Goldstein
Husband of Amy Goldstein;
father of Ethan Goldstein
and Zoe Goldstein; son of
Jack & Leslie Goldstein;
brother of Jill Goldstein
Norman A. Glosserman
Husband of Patricia "Pam"
Silverman Glosserman;
father of Brad & Fan Li
Glosserman, Kim
Glosserman, and Lisa
Glosserman; brother-in-law
of Joy Silverman & George
Bermudez

Virginia Gonzalez
Mother of Argelia Gonzalez
and Ross & Mireya Gonzalez
Ruth Herman
Mother of Roberta Herman
Dietrich & Michael Dietrich,
Phyllis Leibowitz, and Ed &
Mary Leibowitz
Dennis M. Horn
Husband of Diane Horn;
father of Jonathan Horn and
David & Adi Horn; brother
of Sherry Horn Keller &
Stuart Keller and Linda
Horn Schatz & Stuart Schatz
Adrienne Jacobson
Mother of Stuart & Sheila
Jacobson, Philip & Elise
Jacobson, Lawrence & Rita
Jacobson, and Cindy
Jacobson
Jalna Kottwitz
Wife of William Kottwitz,
Sr.; mother of William
Kottwitz, Jr. & Katherine
Kottwitz and James &
Leslie Kottwitz; sister of
Michael Byron
Susan Kaufman Lapin
Mother of David & Carol
Lapin, Bobby & Eve Lapin,
Richard Lapin & Jim Nelson;
sister of Stephen & Ann
Kaufman; sister-in-law of
Maxine Lapin
Jonathan Sholom Malev
Husband of Jane Malev;
father of Tanya & Mark
Strum and David & Orit
Malev
Janet Sanders
Mother of Philip Sanders;
sister of David Kushner
Norman Schneider
Husband of Barbara
Schneider; father of Dana &
Randal Lepow and Dawn &
Todd Aaron
Shirley Toomim
Mother of Ellen & Stephen
Robinson; sister-in-law of
Cyvia Wolff
Alice Minovitz Weinstein
Mother of David & Candy
Weinstein, Mike & Bonnie
Weinstein, and Rick & Janet
Weinstein
Bruce Wynn
Husband of Ellen Wynn;
father of Robin & Jonathan
Saikin, Amy Rich, and Scott
Wynn
Raisa Yankelovich
Mother of Julia & Boris
Brasel

B'NEI MITZVAH

APRIL 4-5, 2025
Ana Sophia Richmond-Méndez
Daughter of Sonya Méndez
& Ryan Richmond
APRIL 25-26, 2025
Layla Menscher
Daughter of Ellen & Corey
Menscher; granddaughter
of Diane & Bart Menscher
and Melanie & Marc Cohn,
Brookville, NY
MAY 23-24, 2025
Lily Schwartz
Daughter of Leslie &
Michael Schwartz;
granddaughter of Lucy &
Kenneth Schwartz, St. Louis,
MO, and Amelia & David
Contreras
MAY 30-31, 2025
Jacob Racusin
Son of Diana & Michael
Racusin; grandson of Jill &
Barry Racusin and Malvina^z
& Alex Kesleman

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



CONGREGATION
BETH ISRAEL

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Houston, Texas 77096
713-771-6221

beth-israel.org

relevant. modern. joyful.