



Congregation
Beth Shalom
of the Blue Hills

Spring 2024/ 5784 BULLETIN

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Congregation Beth Shalom of the Blue Hills Board of Directors 2023-2024

OFFICERS

President	Steven Ostrovitz
VP Admin. & Finance	Jay Balaban
VP Spiritual Life & Ritual Practices	Steve Jacobs
VP Youth & Family Education	Michelle Sturdivant
VP Social Action and Community Outreach	Deborah Ala
Treasurer	Seli Kaya
Secretary	Jennifer Zaslow

MAJOR TEAM CHAIRS:

Adult Education	Vacant
Beautification	Lila Rosenbaum/Jo Ann Rothschild
Deeds of Loving-kindness /Chesed	Janet Petkun
Education Team	Michelle Sturdivant
Finance/Sustainability	Jay Balaban
Annual Campaign	Vacant
House	Matthew Zamaloff
Inclusion	Deborah Ala
Library	Pamela Shrago
Membership	Emily Goldman/Karen FriedmanHanna
Program/Breakfast	Vacant
Religious School	Shlomit Gladstone
Ritual and SpiritualLife	Steve Jacobs
Security	David Correia
Social Action/Tikum Olam	Jack Levy

TEMPLE ORGANIZATIONS:

Women's Network Representative	Arlene Klotz
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DIRECTORS

Term through May 2024	Term through May 2025	Term through May 2026
Janet Petkun	David Ehrmann	Lee-Anne Jacobs
Margie Skeer	Lisa Sadler	Stacey Solomon
Jennifer Zaslow	Matthew Zamaloff	Francine Weistrop

2024-5784 Pesach Schedule

Sunday April 21st After Dark– Search for Leaven/Bidikat Chametz in your home

Erev Passover

Monday April 22nd Last Chance to return “Sale of Chametz Form, Burning of Chametz/Bi’ur Chametz (bonfire in synagogue parking lot) 9:30—10:30 AM

Pesach Candle Lighting—First Sedar 7:16 PM

Passover Day 1

Tuesday April 23rd Pesach Services 10:00 AM

Candle Lighting /Second Seder 7:58 PM

Passover Day 2

Wednesday April 24th Morning Services 10:00 AM

Shabbat Candle Lighting (no evening services) 8:22 PM

Passover Day 4

Friday April 26th Shabbat Candle Lighting (no evening services) 7:22 PM

Saturday April 27th Shabbat/Chol Hamoed Pesach Services 9:30 AM

Sunday April 28th **Erev Passover Day 6**
Pesach Festival Candle Lighting (no evening services) 7:22 PM

Monday April 29th **Passover Day 7**
Pesach Festival Services 9:30 AM
Candle Lighting /Erev Passover Day 8 /No Evening Service 8:28 PM

Tuesday April 30th **Passover Day 8**
Morning Services with Yizkor 9:30 AM
Havdallah/Chametz can be eaten 8:29 PM



Message from the Rabbi

Fill in the Blank

For me, Pesach Seder is a/n _____ experience

So many options! Exhausting, Communal, Family, Profound, Meaningful, Nostalgic, Continuity, Values Based, Affirming, Gastronomic, Intergenerational, Spiritual, Tasty and so many more. It's a myriad of experiences, not only from year to year but even from the beginning of a Seder to its conclusion.

In my own life as a Jew, some memories stand out. I vividly recall as a young boy sitting excitedly at my aunt and uncle's Seder table, grabbing some nuts, dried fruit and celery sticks and then ducking down to hide under the table to eat and laugh with my favorite cousin Patsy who knew to meet me there. I recall sitting at my maternal grandparents' Seder in their huge New York City railroad apartment as my grandfather Julius (z'l) would invite those around the table to lead in English or Hebrew. He began every Seder the same way, with a vote. "Who wants the Seder to be long, medium or short?" Then, no matter the tally, he led the Seder the same way. One year after my grandfather asked which grandson would like to say Kiddush, my older, teenage "woman's lib" kippah-wearing cousin Janet (z'l) jumped up and defiantly proclaimed, "Girls can say Kiddush too!" My grandfather, one of the sweetest, most loving, gentle gentlemen you'd ever meet replied, "Okay! Say Kiddush." Shocked that no fight ensued, Janet stood tall and proceeded to chant beautifully and with great pride, the shine of victory on her wide smiling cheeks. Julius was smiling too.

Due to the fact that I have many cousins, finding the afikomen was always a serious competition. Though every participant received a prize, the winner got a bigger prize and consequently non-finders sometimes ended up in tears (me). Then there was the year I went down to the bathroom at the far end of the hall –you know the ones that have small black and white tile, steam radiators and exposed hot pipes. Somehow I locked the thick heavy door in such a way that it wouldn't unlock. Screaming and shouting didn't help. Neither did pounding on the door. No one came. After a while, exhausted and scared, I just sat on the floor and waited. Finally a knock....."Freddy, are you in there?" "Yes, I'm locked in." As instructed, I turned the lock this way and that to no avail, still a prisoner. Eventually, the Super came. He too couldn't unlock the door so he removed the hinges. After a lot of banging I was free, gaining a new perspective on what freedom feels like.





Most of all, Pesach was an exciting, fun, family party. The noise, the tumult, the chaos, the catching up, the laughter, the food, the swarming; we'd stand just outside the kitchen's swinging door and pounce as my grandmother's helpers brought out each new batch of sizzling hot latkes. And of course, I can't leave out the hugs, kisses and love.

I never saw Pesach as a spiritual experience until...One year, as a young rabbi and parent with a child still in a highchair, we hosted a small Seder that included my parents and one other family. My father, who was living a surprising vibrant, post-stroke life, sat at the head of the table with me to his right. At one point during Shulchan Orech –the meal –I glanced over and saw him look intently at the children. It was a look of focus, tranquility and deep contentment. Seeing that face, I was overtaken by a rush of emotion. It hit my chest and face like a wave; a real, physical wave that pushed me back in my chair. An experience I'd never had before and never have since. The wave had a message. It told me what my father was thinking and feeling. "I won't be around much longer but look what I helped make happen. Look at this family. Look at these children. I'm content. I can go knowing the future will be just fine."

Below is a picture from that Seder night.

Chag Kasher v'Same'ach, RabbiB





President's Message

Dear Members of Our Cherished Synagogue Family, As we navigate through these challenging times for

Jews in America and around the world, I am continually reminded of the incredible strength and resilience that reside within each of us and within the bonds that unite us as a congregation.

In the face of rising anti-Semitism, it's natural to feel shaken and disheartened. But over these past few months I have drawn strength from the comforting embrace of our synagogue family. Here at 18 Shoolman Way, within the walls of our sacred space, we find not only sanctuary but also the warmth of community, the solace of tradition, and the support of each other.

I've found the comfort of our community in so many ways; from the seemingly mundane, such as just being in the building for meetings, or in the office to do the temple's workday business, to more profound experiences like our Friday night family-friendly musical Shabbats. Watching a small crowd of toddlers and young children dance in front of the bimah to the upbeat musical prayers led by our Music Director David Wesson is as joyous a way to spend Friday night as I can imagine.

Our Shabbat dinners that precede the service are more than just meals; they are opportunities to break bread together, share stories, and forge deeper connections with one another. These gatherings are not just rituals; they are moments of connection, reflection, and renewal. They've become one of my favorite things we do as a community, and have become my favorite way to start Shabbat.

I get a similar feeling at our Rabbi Jerome Weistrop Religious School-led Shabbat services. These services infuse our traditions with youthful spirit and creativity, reminding us that our future is bright and filled with promise.





Just recently, we came together for the reading of the Megillah for the retelling of the timeless story of Esther, and also to celebrate Purim with a colorful carnival that echoed with laughter, music, and the sounds of shul members of all ages having a festive time together. It was a beautiful reminder of the resilience of our people and the power of unity in the face of adversity.

I extend a heartfelt invitation to each and every one of you to join us at our synagogue for these events and more. Whether you seek solace, connection, or simply the comfort of being surrounded by your synagogue family, know that our doors are always open to you. Together, let us find comfort and strength in our temple community.

Chag Pesach Sameach,

Steve Ostrovitz, President



Book Club

Temple Book Club is open to all and we encourage new members.

Meetings are via Zoom the third Wednesday of the month at 7:00. Our best discussions happen when we disagree.

Reach out to Lil Konowitz for more information.

Happy Reading.



Did you know?

That every 27 seconds someone in the world is diagnosed with blood cancer? Patients of Jewish ethnicity require stem cell donors of the same ethnic origin, but only 30% of all patients can find a compatible donor in their family. That's why it's so important to register to be a bone marrow donor.

Donating blood or bone marrow is not only permissible under Jewish Law, but it's also considered one of the most important mitzvot (commandments) as saving a life override nearly all others. Thus, if a blood transfusion or bone marrow donation is medically necessary, it's not only permissible but obligatory.

Consider registering with Ezer Mizion, the largest Jewish Bone Marrow registry in the world. Ezer Mizion has facilitated over 5,053 stem cell transplants and has over 1million registrants. Or check out the Gift of Life Registry in Boca Raton, which has facilitated over 5,005 transplants and has over 400,000 registrants.

Ordering a swab kit takes just 5 minutes and can be delivered straight to your home. By registering, you can help provide hope for the thousands of Jews diagnosed with cancer. Don't wait, register today!

[Ezer Mizion Swab Kit Order Form](#)

[Gift of Life Swab Kit](#)

SAVE THE DATE!



**Milton Interfaith Clergy Association is sponsoring an
AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE**

Thursday, June 27th

1pm-6pm @

Congregation Beth Shalom of the Blue Hills

18 Shoolman Way

Milton, MA 02186

To schedule* appointment go to <https://>

www.redcross.org/

and

enter sponsor code: MICA or call 1(800)- Red-Cross



American Red Cross

Monthly Mitzvah Program & Family Table Program

This year we've been able to conduct a regular schedule for the Monthly Mitzvah and Family Table programs. In terms of the Monthly Mitzvah, in September we conducted the Yom Kippur Food drive and made a donation to the Milton Food Pantry. In October & November CBSBH collected winter clothing for adults and children and delivered them to Interfaith Social Services. In December and in January we prepared 75 lunch bags for Father Bill's in Quincy. Since I'm out of town (in FL) we were extremely fortunate to have chef Lauren Brennan lead us in the January preparation. On Feb 11 the congregation welcomed the Passport to Israel program for brunch. Natasha Minsky, a Milton resident from Ukraine spoke beautifully and \$145 was raised to support parents who send their teen children to Israel. We plan to conduct our annual challah preparation on Mar 10. We will also conduct our Ramadan food collection in support of the Milton Muslim Association. In April we'll again partner with North Quincy High School on the collection and donation of prom dresses and men's formal wear. In May we'll focus on a summer clothes drive with Interfaith Social Services.

While the Red Cross appreciated and thanked the 22 donors who participated in our fourth blood drive on June 29, the organization felt there were not enough donors to make the event cost effective. As a result, it did not approve our proposal for a 2024 drive. The Rabbi then met with colleagues from the Milton Interfaith Clergy Association, who welcomed his idea to jointly pursue a MICA blood drive to be held at our shul. We're awaiting a decision from the Red Cross.

The Family Table program has been on schedule. This year we returned to the unit-assignment system for coordinating donations. We've continued to have alternative contributions rather than bringing fruit/beans to the synagogue. Members have taken advantage by sending checks, purchasing gift cards, or having food delivered to CBSBH or directly to the JF&CS Family Table offices via the Amazon Wish List. As always, we've achieved our monthly goals (25 beans, 25 fruit) since October, and through the Wish List have provided Family Table with other needed items. Many members have been generous with their donations, but I want to especially recognize Jo Ann Rothschild for her \$200 gift card (which met our Family Table target for two months and allowed us to supplement her gift with other food). Thanks also to Cheryl Hixon for managing the pickup/delivery of our Family Table donations in January and February while I've been in FL. Unfortunately, there is not enough space to mention the names of all those who also made significant donations - but they have our thanks!

In March all of our donations will be online. Family Table will resume a normal routine after I return from FL in April. In summary, despite the turmoil here and abroad we've been able to maintain our commitment to community service - thanks for your generosity!

Jack Levy, Coordinator – Mitzvah and Family Table Programs





Rabbi Jerome Weistrop Religious School

It is hard to believe it's March and there are only 2 months left of Religious School! Back in July, I rewrote our Religious School Curriculum, incorporating the many wonderful suggestions and fruitful discussions our team engaged in. Todah Rabbah to Rabbi Benjamin, Shlomit Hanz, & Michelle Sturdivant for their input. What a big, worthwhile project! Having a fresh approach for the whole school, individual

grades, art projects and prayers has benefited not only the students, by allowing them to dive deeper into their exploration of our Holydays and traditions, but also helped our educators plan more engaging lessons. We took this opportunity to revise our classroom materials, bringing visuals and books up to date.

As I write, we are preparing for the Purim Carnival and singing: "Mishenichnas Adar, Marbin B'Simchah. When Adar enters, joy increases." - Talmud, Ta'anit 29.

This is certainly true for Jewish educators and students in Religious schools all across North America because Purim celebrations abound! Yet this year has also been a particularly challenging one for Jewish educators, families, clergy, and members of our, and many other, Jewish communities around the world. October 7th was a frightening, devastating event. Discussing the war that followed, and the hostages still in captivity is something the Ed team, President, Rabbi, and I decided was best left to parents to explain to their children. As for the teachers, Rabbi B., and myself, have persisted in providing the students of the Rabbi Jerome Weistrop Religious School with tools to help them grow into compassionate, kind, Mitzvah doing, good people. And we have continued to provide a positive, Jewish learning environment to which nurtures our students-affording them room to question injustice and take pride in our heritage and traditions.

One of the most important reasons we decided to "educate through the back door" was to ensure a safe Jewish space for our students each week. During the early days of the war it was clear that students depended on being together here. You could see their relieved smiles as they greeted one another coming in the door. This was a victory, but we wanted more. From Kindergarten to Pre-B'nei classrooms, we emphasized the Jewish, values-based learning section of our new curriculum.





The overarching goal of our values-based learning was to help our students process what was going on in a brave, safe, Jewish way so they could go out in the world feeling a strong sense of Tikvah/ Hope. If they encountered antisemitism or a bully, we wanted our students to have inner, Torah based resources to keep them safe, connected, and doing the right thing. We studied these values at age-appropriate levels. Some examples: K-2 learned about Rachamim/Compassion and traced their foot to illustrate with a time they chose to “walk in someone else’s shoes” and offer kindness. They also created a rainbow of Jewish value handprints after singing the song, “Building a Better World One Person at a Time.” 3-4 discussed the story of Abraham and Sarah through the lens of Haknasat Orchim/ Welcoming the stranger and then made cakes for the Religious School’s Sukkah celebration. 5-6 created a display about which of the new, Jewish values posters spoke to each of them and why. Pre-B’nei Mitzvah students made 3-D composting and recycling instruction guides for the Shul, debated and role- played safe ways to stand up for themselves and others in the face of Antisemitism, Racism, and Homophobia.

Seeing the students flourish and embrace their Judaism with equal measures of pride and delight is a “reward without measure.” As we inch toward spring, we will celebrate 8 B’nei Mitzvah! May witnessing our students take on leadership roles in the school and Shul give us joy and hope for the future. Wishing everyone a Chag Kasher v’Sameach/Meaningful Passover and may Peace come, speedily, in our days.

Cantor Lisa Kipen-Hershenson, Director of Religious School Education

Please contact Cantor Lisa eddirector@bethshalombluehills.org if you are interested in sharing a talent with the Religious School or volunteering, we welcome your participation or donations.

Thank you for supporting the Rabbi Jerome Weistrop Religious School!



Youth and Education Team

We all have an origin story. I grew up in a very different type of Temple. Every family looked, dressed and spoke the same. My mom and brother always had lots of friends and activities to attend. I reluctantly tagged along, hoping each time that things would end differently. Maybe this time, I'd make a friend or feel accepted. As I grew older, I realized things never quite clicked with that Congregation.

Fast forward to my wife and I building our own family. It never entered my mind that I would find a place where we all belonged. But that did happen, and we have never looked back. Almost nine (9) years later, here we are. My son still volunteers with the religious school and has made what I hope are lifelong friends. At the same time, his sibling still loves to attend the annual Pride service and will never turn down a bagel with a schmear. Finally, I try to help by being a part of the board, while my wife and I have made some great friends.

This all happened naturally, over time. We'd show up a little earlier for Hebrew school or stay a little later to help clean up after a Kiddish luncheon. Then, we'd hear about a new event and the kids would get excited to see their new friends. It was magical to me to have another parent ask for our input for the planning. It didn't take very long to realize that there was a warm feeling whenever I walked through the Temple doors. I felt like we were home.

Luckily, there is a gaggle of upcoming spring activities that will give everyone a chance to make our Temple hum. Coming up, on Saturday, March 16th, there was the final Student led Shabbat. It even included a puppet show and a Kiddish Luncheon followed. The week after was the big Purim Carnival! There were Purim games, prizes, a bouncy house, a costume parade, and a raffle. The best part is that it was open to the whole community! We invited our friends, neighbors, in-laws, Jewish, non-Jewish, all were welcome! It was a big celebration that we wanted to share!

Early in April we had a Passover Family Activity Day and a Temple Open House. This included another puppet show, sing-along crafts, and wilderness Matzah making with Rabbi B! As always, we gave tours of the temple and answered any questions perspective members may have had. Keep in mind, none of this would have been possible without the help of Cantor Lisa, the beloved religious school teachers, our Education Committee, and parent and student volunteers. So, a huge, "Thank you!" to each of them.

So, please continue to come into the Temple when you drop off or pick up the kids. It can be hard to take that time. I really do get it. I remember when I used to let work be the priority or I'd give into that feeling that I was too tired to talk to one more person that day.

Believe me though, it's worth it to push through it and walk in to see a new smiling face. You never know, the smile just may be yours.

Michelle Sturdivant

VP Youth & Family Education

Spiritual Life & Ritual Practices Team

The Spiritual Life & Ritual Practices Team completed the regular review of the High Holiday services of last fall. The feedback from Team members and congregants was extremely positive. There were several recommendations that were provided, a number of which will be implemented. We are working with Rabbi Benjamin on the structure of the services and with Rabbi and Cantor Robbie on the musical content.

We will begin our preparations for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur 5785 in late Spring. The High Holydays arrive late this year.

The Team has coordinated the effort to lead services on those occasions that the Rabbi is unavailable. We welcome all who would like to participate in leading portions of the services, particularly our post B'Nei Mitzvah youth.

Best wishes for the upcoming Pesach holiday! Steve Jacobs, David Ehrmann, Jay Balaban, Harriet Goldstein, George Goldstein, Lee-Anne Jacobs, Pam Shrago, Lila Rosenbaum, Francine Weistrop, Annette Koplovsky, Lil Konowitz, Alan Rosmarin, Rabbi Benjamin

Beautification Team

The Beautification Team has one of the best, rewarding, assignments. While making sure the old stays beautiful, we also create new visual delights that continue to inspire.

Past accomplishments: Collaborating with Inclusion Team with creating bathroom signage. New and beautiful Torah holders built by David Strauss, a gifted wood artist.

Current achievement: The Team is very proud of the new Torah covers, which are both bright and simple. The simplicity of our use of fabric makes it possible to enjoy the magnificent breast plates that are on most of the Torahs. We are grateful to our talented and dedicated creator of the covers, Francine Ravelson, who shared her time and expertise with us.

Future challenges: There is a bubbling of the veneer in one the panels on the Ark. At night, there is a reflection in the windows, We will be making every effort to remediate these

We are hoping to bring more gallery shows for all to enjoy.

The Team, chaired by Jo Anne Rothschild, with Lila Rosenbaum, and team members including David Ehrmann, Ada Rosmarin, Aileen Sovronsky, Francine Weistrop, and Ronit Voigt, is constantly feeling inspired by our tasks.

Women's Network

Women's Network continues to be the "behind the scenes" support for our synagogue.

- Have you wondered who buys books for the library?
- Who maintains the kitchen and makes sure that we have a lovely kiddish every week?
- Who provides gifts to our B'Nai Mitzvah celebrants?
- Who helps pay for this bulletin?
- Who sponsors programs like the Drum Circle?

It is the Women's Network. Our past programs have included speakers from Hadassah and Jewish Climate Action Network and an amazing concert from Dana Sandler for Yom HaShoah.

On April 6, the Women's Network Shabbat will feature a speaker from the National Council of Jewish Women, the largest Jewish women's feminist organization who will speak about reproductive rights.

Membership dues are minimal and we are open to everybody.

Please join us.

Arlene Klotz /Janet Petkun –Co-Presidents

Did you know

April 23rd is World Book Day!

World Book Day is an annual event celebrated to promote the love of books and reading. The day is celebrated to acknowledge the significance of books as a link between the past and future and as a bridge between generations and cultures.

The date of 23 April is significant because it marks the death anniversary of some of the most prominent authors, such as William Shakespeare, Miguel de Cervantes, and Inca Garcilaso de la Vega.

In honor of World Book Day, be sure to check out our temple library on the 2nd floor.

And remember we run on the honor system so when you borrow a book, just sign it out and return when you are finished

Membership Team

The Membership Team has continued to meet with both prospective members and those already a part of our synagogue family during several Open Houses and many wonderful programs and services.

We try to coordinate our Open Houses with Religious School events so those who visit us can feel the wonderful vibrancy of our temple. At the time of this publication, we'll have recently hosted one during the Purim Carnival which is always a fun experience for all who attend. People who have reached out to us for information have told us that they either search online for the synagogues in the area, or they have spoken to friends and neighbors who have shared with them their connection to our synagogue. This word-of-mouth method is a great way to help spread the word about us and expand our community.

Please let us know if you would like us to extend invitations to anyone you know to join us for a special event or scheduled services at any time. We are happy to reach out or to have anyone contact us for information. Also, please reach out to us with ideas you may have on fun ways to engage our current members as well as any prospective ones. So many more people have been joining us in person for the various services, dinners, talks, etc. The monthly Musical Shabbat services have become a wonderful time for our youngest members to become friends and dance around as Rabbi B and David Wesson play the guitar and drum! If you haven't had an opportunity to be part of one of these fabulous, lively services and/or free dairy free dinners beforehand, we highly recommend you join us soon! We find them to be so much fun and all of the services/programs to be incredibly uplifting and thought provoking. In this time of so many challenges and stressors, connecting to our spiritual family is truly restorative and rejuvenating.

Karen Friedman-Hanna and Emily Goldman

Inclusion Team

Hello from the Inclusion Team!

We are pleased to report that the speaker event on Gender Identity and Judaism, which was so long in the making, was a big success! On December 10, Zane Diamond of Keshet spoke to a full house about what it means to be transgender or non-binary, tying this into Judaism as well. With our grant from the Ruderman foundation, which paid for the speaker fees, we were also able to buy some books about trans and nonbinary people, which were introduced to the synagogue library during the event, and which were all checked out that day. I am so grateful to Pam Shrago, Lindsay Rosenfeld, Ronit Voigt, and Michelle Sturdivant for their assistance in planning the event, as well as to everybody who attended, asked questions, and learned something new. And to Candice for the rainbow bagels and rainbow pastries.

With this event behind us, we are looking to determine our next areas of focus. Some that we have discussed are sign-reading devices for the visually impaired or incorporating non-binary Hebrew terms into services. We are early in the process of discussing these ideas, but as always, we'd welcome thoughts or feedback from the congregation.

Lastly, believe it or not, it's almost time for us to start planning our two theme Shabbats, Pride Shabbat and Juneteenth Shabbat May 31st & June 21st. In the past, these events have had themed readings, songs, decorations and food. If you're interested in helping to plan either one, please get in touch.

If you have an inclusion-related issue that you would like to see the congregation address, or you'd like to be a part of this group, please contact me at Deborah Ala 617- 435-0815 or dkohnala@gmail.com.

Thank you all! Deborah Kohn Ala

Latest Additions to the Library

The Orchard by Yochi Brandes

The Secret of Kings by Yochi Brandes

Ethics at the Center by Rabbi Elliot N. Dorff

KosherSoul: The Faith and Food Journey of an African American Jew by Chef Michael W. Twitty

Flower of Vlora: Growing Up Jewish in Communist Albania by Anna Kohen

Through the Door of Life: A Jewish Journey Between Genders by Joy Ladin

Becoming Eve: My Journey from Ultra-Orthodox Rabbi to Transgender Woman by Abby Stein

The World that We Knew by Alice Hoffman

Who By Fire: Leonard Cohen in the Sinai by Matti Friedman



Did you know?

In 1838, Rebecca Gratz established the first Jewish Sunday School in Philadelphia. Gratz, a philanthropist, served as the president until 1864.

The school was modeled after the Christian Sunday School movement, with a goal to educate Jewish youth and women.

The Sunday School was successful from the beginning. The school grew over time and opened branches across Philadelphia. By the end of the nineteenth century, the Hebrew Sunday School had served over 4,000 students.

The Philadelphia school offered a model to women in other cities, and similar schools were created in New York, Augusta, Georgia, Savannah, Richmond, Charleston, Baltimore, and elsewhere

Today, Sunday School education, as introduced in Philadelphia in 1838, continues to provide the basic structure of supplemental Jewish education in the United States.

The BIMAH Team

The BIMAH team (**B'nei Mitzvah All Hands**) is a group of parents who have previously celebrated their child's B'nei mitzvah at Congregation Beth Shalom of the Blue Hills within the last two years. They are here to offer support and practical assistance.

The B'nei mitzvah journey is an auspicious occasion for you and your child. It can, however, be a stressful time. The BIMAH team's mission is to assist in relieving that stress so you may enjoy the beauty and love of the occasion.

The BIMAH Team will host a meeting for all B'nei Mitzvah families with a child who will have their ceremonies that school year. The first meeting will occur in the fall, followed by the second in January. All meetings take place on Sundays during religious school. These gatherings are intended to provide support where people can ask questions, get advice, and get help. The Bimah team has a list of vendors (accommodators, caterers, florists, etc) who have been used and recommended by other families. Examples and templates of invitations and programs are also available. Because Congregation Beth Shalom of the Blue Hills is a diverse community, the resources available can fulfill all your family's needs. Everything you need is at the [BIMAH Team Resource Page](#).

We will assign a "buddy" to each family at the September meeting. Your buddy is there to help you along the way and to be an additional set of hands on the day of the ceremony and in the days leading up to it. A buddy can assist with setup on Friday (the day before the ceremony), whether helping with deliveries and table setting at synagogues or running errands for those last-minute forgotten goods. Your buddy and the other B'nei mitzvah family can assist with ushering on the ceremony day. There are several opportunities for your buddy to assist you, and we hope you will reach out at any time along the journey.

The BIMAH Team's event family has completed their own B'nei Mitzvah journey. Because of the diverse community of Congregation Beth Shalom in the Blue Hills, no B'nei mitzvah is the same, and that variety of experiences will help you with your own.

We look forward to walking beside you on this adventure. Please reach out to the [BIMAH Team](#) with any questions.



MAZEL TOV to Lee-Anne Jacobs on being the recipient of the Thanks for Giving Award and to Rabbi Howard Rosenbaum in honor of the honorary degree bestowed on him from the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College;

BEST WISHES to those celebrating birthdays; Gladys Petkun, George Goldstein, Ruth Gershman, Irene Davis & Paul Cooperstein.

CONGRATULATIONS to Arlene & Mel Klotz on celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary; to Buddy & Lynda Packer on their new grandbaby; to the Rosofsky/Stillman Family on their new grandbaby.

GET WELL WISHES to Mel Klotz, Francine Weistrop, Steve Siegel, Steve Ostrovitz, Sophie Ostrovitz, and Ruth Gershman.

SINCERE CONDOLENCES to Arlene Klotz and the Terry-Klotz family on the passing of their beloved husband, father, father-in-law, and grandfather, Melvin Klotz; To Joyce and Alan Krensky and their families on the passing of their beloved father, grandfather, Joel Krensky; To David Ehrmann and his family on the passing of their beloved mother, mother-in-law, grandmother, Nancy Ehrmann; and to Ronda Gulko and Clifford Wolk and their families, on the passing of their beloved mother and grandmother, Helen Wolk.

May their memories be for a blessing.

Please keep us informed of any event in your lives that we can share with our Temple Family. Call the Temple office at (617)698-3394.

Contributions—General Fund

IN MEMORY

To honor the memory of **Mel Klotz**, beloved husband, father, father-in-law, grandfather

To: Amy Klotz
From: Tamar Schneider
Adrien M. Khelemsky
Robert Garber

In memory of your beloved mother **Marilyn Gluck**

To: Carol Levarek
From: Betty Gluck

In memory of **Ronald Rosenberg**

To: Janice Oven
From: Toby Felton

In memory of **Bebe Rosenstein** never to be forgotten always to be remembered.

To: Shari Holstein & Jordan Hershman
From: Ruth Gershman

In memory of the best nephew in whole wide world

To: Estate of **Joel Goode**
From: Betty Gluck

In memory of **Nancy Ehrmann**

To: David & Barbara Ehrmann
From: George & Harriet Goldstein
Steve Siegel
Ruth Gershman
Lee Anne Jacobs
David & Deborah Dauer
Arlene Klotz
Ellen Berlin
Deborah Felton & Robert Baylor

In memory of **Joel Krensky**, beloved father, father-in-law, grandfather, and great grandfather.

To: Joyce & Alan Krensky
From: Karen, Barry, Eric & Marc Cutler
Paul & Sue Etkind
Francine Weistrop
Ruth Gershman
Paul Cooperstein
Arlene Klotz
Deborah Felton & Robert Baylor
Joyce Nelson
Ellen Keller
Saul & Susan Kaplan

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

To my beautiful friend in honor of her 100th birthday

To: **Bunny Shapero**
From: Betty Gluck

Happy Birthday

To: **Gladys Petkun**
From: George & Harriet Goldstein
Francine Weistrop

Happy Birthday

To: **George Goldstein**
From: Francine Weistrop

Happy Birthday

To: **Paul Cooperstein**
From: Francine Weistrop

In honor of **Paul Cooperstein** entering his 8th decade.

From :David & Barbara Ehrmann

GET WELL

For a successful recovery for **Mel Klotz**, we are cheering him on.

To: Arlene & Mel Klotz
From: Lee Anne Jacobs
Paul Cooperstein

IN HONOR

In honor of your son **Justin's** Marriage

To: Dr. & Mrs. Aaron Siegal
From: Betty Gluck

In honor of being recipient of this year's award at

Thanks for Giving

To: **Lee Anne Jacobs**
From: Pam Shrago
Francine Weistrop

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Happy 50th Anniversary

To: **Mel & Arlene Klotz**
From: Pam Shrago
Karen Friedman- Hanna & Bill Hanna
Francine Weistrop

Contributions: Prayer Books

To honor the memory of **Mel Klotz** beloved husband, father, father-in-law, grandfather

To: Arlene Klotz
From: Paul Cooperstein & Maria Merloni

Contributions: The Chesed/Mitzvah Fund

For speedy recovery

To: **Mel Klotz**
From: Cantor Lisa

To honor the memory of **Mel Klotz** beloved husband, father, father-in-law, grandfather
To: Arlene Klotz

From: Harriet & Steve Pollard
Helen & Steve Jacobs
Ann Mulcahy
Ruth Gershman
Doris Peters
Paul & Sue Etkind
David & Debbie Dauer
Lee-Anne Jacobs
Harriet & George Goldstein
Marilyn & William Monderer
Barbara Adele Fritz- Elliott & Ken O'Brien
Al & Nancy Mollitor
Robert & Denise Lasoff
Deborah Felton & Robert Baylor
Cantor Lisa Kipen- Hershenson
Ellen Berlin
Pam Shrago
Mary Ann Hogan
Lil Konowitz & Jeff Calish
Cynthia Gurwitch
Anne Terry
Janet Petkun

A well-deserved honor Mazel Tov on being the recipient of the Thanks for Giving award

To: **Lee Anne Jacobs**
From: Harriet Pollard & Arlene Klotz

Contributions: Beautification Fund

In memory of **Nancy Ehrmann**
To: David & Barbara Ehrmann
From: Francine Weistrop

In memory of **Bebe Rosenstein**
To: Shari Holstein & Jordan Hershman
From: Francine Weistrop

In great appreciation
To: Alan Teprow
From: Francine Weistrop

Sponsor a Kiddush/Oneg

Kiddush/Oneg sponsored in memory of loved ones by:

Barbara Adele Fritz-Elliott
Andrea Gordon
Janet Petkun
Gladys Petkun
Deborah Felton
Nancy Role Mendell
Ronit Voigt
Adele Katzoff

Kiddush sponsored in honor of Simchas:
Barbara Adele Fritz-Elliott & Kenneth O'Brien
Rabbi Benjamin & Micah Benjamin
Harriet & George Goldstein
Janet Petkun
Paul Cooperstein

Sponsor Shabbat Flowers

Flowers sponsored in memory of loved ones by::

Robert Lassoff
Barbara Adele Fritz-Elliott
Janet Petkun
Gladys Petkun
Francine Weistrop
Lee Anne- Jacobs
Steven Jacobs
Arthur & Paula Weinstein
Ellen Kaner Bresnick
Paul Kaner
Debbie Kaner-Golditch
Micheal Kaner
Ruth Gershman
Sandra Cohen Mazur
Donna Upson-Correia & David Correia
Doris Peters

Flowers sponsored in honor of Simchas:

Jay Balaban
Janet Petkun
Cantor Lisa Kipen- Hershenson
Annette Koplovsky
Steve, Helen, and Lee-Anne Jacobs
Diane Gantman
Arlene & Melvin Klotz
Harriet & George Goldstein

Contributions: Rosenbaum Fund

To honor the memory of **Mel Klotz**, beloved husband, father, father-in-law, grandfather

To: Arlene Klotz
From: Lila Rosenbaum

In memory of your beloved son, **David Brim**

To: Roz Brim & Family
From: Lila Rosenbaum

In memory of **Ronald Rosenberg**

To: Janice Oven
From: Deborah Felton & Robert Baylor

In honor of **Rabbi Howard Rosenbaum** in honor of the honorary degree bestowed on him from the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College.

To: Rabbi Howard Rosenbaum
From: Deborah Felton & Robert Baylor

In honor of **Rabbi Howard Rosenbaum** in honor of the honorary degree bestowed on him from the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College.

To: Lila Rosenbaum
From: Harriet Pollard
Arlene Klotz
Francine Weistrop

In celebration of your granddaughter **Sarah's** marriage.

To: Lila Rosenbaum
From: Francine Weistrop

In memory of **Joel Krensky**, beloved father, father-in-law, grandfather, and great-grandfather.

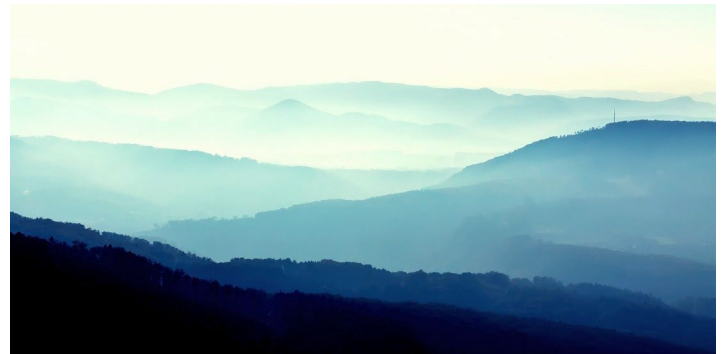
To: Joyce & Alan Krensky
From: Lila Rosenbaum

Contributions: Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Pam Shrago
Judy Locke
Stephen Shrago
Arlene Klotz
Jason Benzaken/Chloe Garcia-Roberts
Rodney & Suzanne Moll

To honor the memory of **Helen Wolk** beloved mother, mother-in-law, grandmother, and great grandmother

To: Ronda Gulko & Cliff Wolk
From: Pam Shrago
Deborah Felton & Robert Baylor
Donna Zambito
Dr. Larry J. Levine
Paul & Sue Etkind
Carol Snell/ Carson Fullmer
Elyse Plotnick
Joanne Beder Sklar
Barbara Synder
Randi Levine
Arlene Klotz



Contributions: For Donations, please consider the following ongoing funds

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND **ETZ HAYIM CHUMASH**
\$75 .00

TZEDAKAH FUND

PLANNED LEGACY
\$118.00 minimum

SIM SHALOM PRAYERBOOKS
\$36.00

EIT RATZON
Transliterated Prayerbooks.
\$36.00

MITZVAH/CHESED FUND
Janet Petkun
617--770-1717

ROSENBAUM FUND
To provide scholarships for Jewish Camps or trips to Israel
Lila Rosenbaum.
617-696-1336

LIBRARY FUND
Books — \$18.00
Minimum Cards — \$5.00
Gladys Petkun
617-479-7465

MAZEL TOV

OUR UPCOMING 2024 B'NEI MITZVAHS

March 30
Yael Goldstein

April 13
Shayna Terry

May 11
Tommy & Teddy Loranger Milt

May 18
Daniel Gladstone

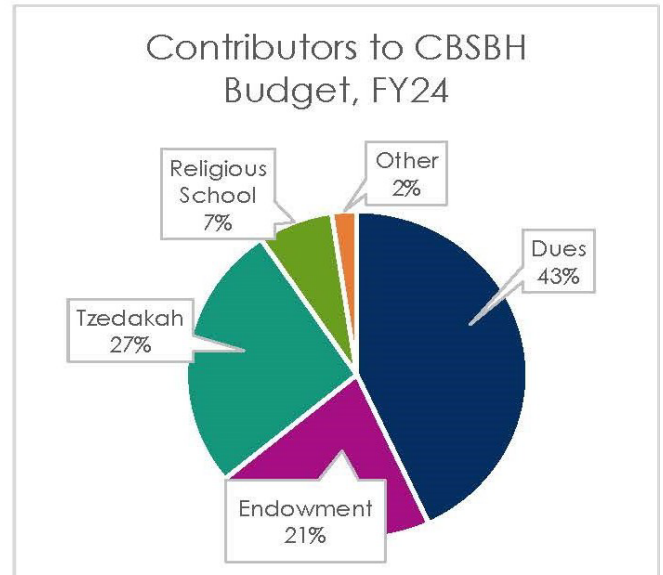
June 8
Issac Sands

June 15
Ariella Corcoran

June 29
Ulysses Benzaken

Did you know that by giving to CBSBH, you...

- Contribute nearly 30% of the shul's annual operating budget
- Subsidize bringing art, musical programming, and learning opportunities to our community
- Keep our building and grounds beautiful and secure
- Equip the Office to run a smooth, professional operation



This fiscal year, the Annual Campaign goal is \$50,000

How will you give to CBSBH this year?

- ✓ **Make an online donation to the Annual Campaign at CBSBH website**
- ✓ Complete the pledge donation form below and return by mail to the Office
- ✓ Matching donation program through employer
- ✓ Schedule automatic payments to give over time
- ✓ Transfer appreciated stock
- ✓ For ages 70.5+, donate from annual required minimum distribution for tax advantages
- ✓ Designate CBSBH as a recipient in my estate plans
- ✓ Buy Scrip gift cards – get full value and the shul gets a percentage as donation!

✂-----

Yes! I will give to Congregation Beth Shalom of the Blue Hills Annual Campaign this year.

Donation amount: \$ _____ **Gift in honor of / memory of:** _____

Format: ___ Check enclosed ___ Online (CBSBH website) ___ Stock transfer ___ Please invoice me

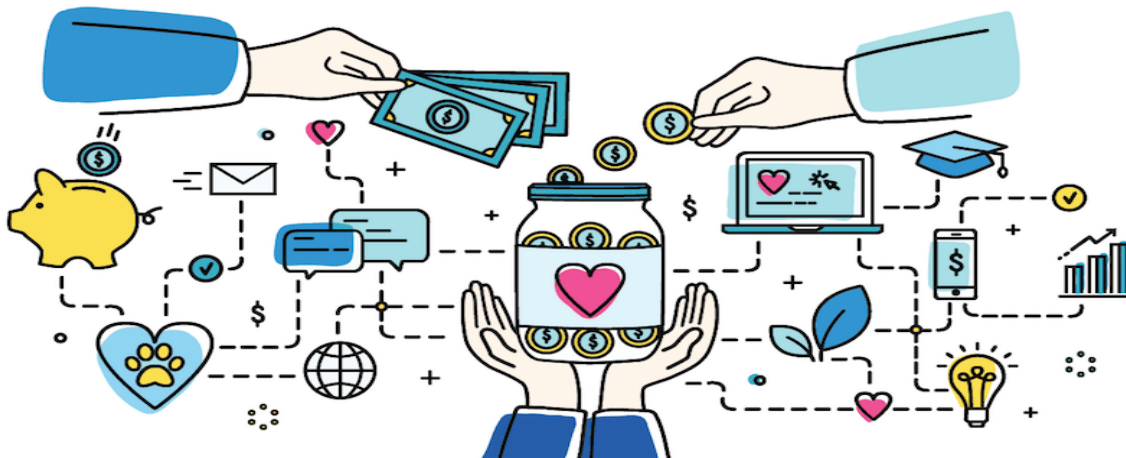
Your Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone Number: _____ Email: _____

Please return form to Congregation Beth Shalom of the Blue Hills at 18 Shoolman Way, Milton, MA 02186. Thanks!

Please support these fundraising opportunities



SCRIP

Our Scrip Fundraising Program is simply buying your gift cards from the synagogue—you get full value of what you order and the synagogue gets a percentage from the vendor.

SIMPLE ISN'T IT?

Please consider buying your gift cards from us. With only a small number of congregants participating, we raise more than \$2,000.00 per year. This is considered a “good fundraiser” but, it be a “GREAT fundraiser” if we had more participation.

We all have to eat (buy Shaw’s, Stop & Shop, or Walmart), we all go to pharmacy (buy Walgreens, CVS), we all need a gift (buy Macy’s, Bed Bath & Beyond, LL Bean) and; we all eat out or take-out (buy Chipotle, Starbucks, Panera, Dunkin’ Donuts, Olive Garden or 99 Restaurant to name a few).few congregants participating, we raise more than \$2,000.00 annually.

We know people like their points on their credit cards and we understand that—but would you or could you give up a few of those points and help us make this Fundraiser GREAT?

Call the office 617-698-3394 for more information about the Scrip program.

THE BUTCHERIE OF BROOKLINE

Shop at the Butcherie of Brookline and SEND YOUR RECEIPTS to the office.

The Butcherie pays the shul 5% on Cash Sales Receipts and 2% on Credit Card Sales Receipts.

SPONSOR FLOWERS FOR SERVICES

We all need a little joy these days. How about sponsoring fresh flowers for Shabbat services?



Congregation Beth Shalom of the Blue Hills

18 Shoolman Way

Milton, MA 02186

Office Telephone # 617-698-3394

office@bethshalombluehills.org

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Ostrovitz, President

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Deborah Ala, VP Social Action & Com. Outreach

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