

AUGUST HIGHLIGHTS

High Holiday Schedule

Rosh Hashanah is on Monday, Sept. 10, and Yom Kippur is on Wednesday, Sept. 19. The schedule of services is on Page 16.



How Good Are Our Tents?

Rabbi Prosnit offers thoughts on the state of the congregation, and on his 29-year tenure, on Page 3.

A New Approach to Giving

Rabbi Schultz outlines a new approach to giving for young families, on Page 5.

Voices of Congregants

At the annual meeting, three congregants spoke about charitable work, Torah study and attending Saturday morning services. Excerpts, Page 4.

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Rabbi Schultz to Succeed Rabbi Prosnit

As a newly minted rabbi, Evan Schultz initially considered 18 synagogues for his first rabbinic post. He and his wife, Jenny Goldstein, visited five of them, and they soon knew what they wanted.

“After we left B’nai Israel,” he recalled, “we said this is a synagogue we would join.”

B’nai Israel was his first choice, he said. (Coincidentally, he was the B’nai Israel search committee’s first choice to replace Rabbi Rachel Gurevitz.)

He liked the sense of community, and he especially liked the idea of having Rabbi James Prosnit as his senior rabbi and his mentor. Besides, he was already friends with two of Rabbi Prosnit’s sons.

But at the time, he had no thought of succeeding Rabbi Prosnit as senior



rabbi. “As a new rabbi,” he said, “that was never in my mind.”

Six years later, however, that is exactly what is happening.

By unanimous votes of both the Rabbinic Planning Committee and the Board of Trustees Rabbi Schultz has been selected as our next senior rabbi.

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Shari Nerreau Takes Office

As with so many leaders of B’nai Israel, Shari Nerreau’s active involvement with the synagogue began with an “ask.”

Even though her children were quite young and she had no idea why, Rabbi Fred Greene, then our assistant rabbi, asked her to serve as advisor to the BIFTY youth group.

“I did it for five years,” she said. “I loved it. I loved hanging out with the teenagers. Then I was asked to join the board.”

Shari is our new president, having taken over in June from Michael Blumenthal. She sees her role as guiding the congregation through a time of transition, as the synagogue prepares

to bid farewell to Rabbi Prosnit and for Rabbi Schultz to succeed him.

Coincidentally, Shari led the search committee that selected Rabbi Schultz six years ago to be our assistant rabbi. (He was far and away the best candidate, she recalled.)

“I’m confident that the congregation will continue to be strong,” she said. “I want to be communicative, to work together to try some new things and to recognize that we have to deal with changing times and changing demographics.”

Shari grew up in Mahopac, N.Y., and attended a conservative synagogue. She moved to Connecticut 24 years

Continued on page 7

Sharing Our Joy

Dan and Debbie Viens, in celebration of the marriage of son, Matthew Viens, to Brooke Scheinberg.

Jim and Lisa Greenberg, in celebration of the engagement of son, Michael Greenberg, to Elizabeth Conte.

Rabbi Jim Prosnit and Wendy Bloch, in celebration of the marriage of son, Jacob Prosnit, to Jenna Weinberg.

Geoff Gladstein and Susan Brody, in celebration of their marriage.

Dr. David Bindelglass, in celebration of being named Bridgeport Hospital's Physician of the Year.

Judy Hochstadt, in celebration of the marriage of daughter, Jessica Hochstadt, to David Litner.

Harvey Levine, in celebration of his 95th birthday.



The Spring Celebration in May was a great success, raising \$56,000 and drawing the enthusiastic participation of 240 congregants, eager to honor four outstanding women. At the event, from left, the honorees are Naomi Schaffer, Janet Jurow, Liz Nigrosh and Barbara Abraham.

Welcome, New Members

A warm welcome to our newest members. We look forward to their participation in our many programs and hope their affiliation will not only enrich their lives, but that of our congregation.

Jonathan and Julie Winn, and Hadley
Orchard Hill Lane, Fairfield

Lorenzo and Rachel Whitmore, and Charlie

Four Seasons Road, Fairfield

Sincere Sympathy

We extend our sympathy to the bereaved families of:

Liza Glucksman, mother of David Glucksman

Stanley Ruben, father of Wendy Ruben, brother of Geraldine Schloss

Marsha Smith, sister-in-law of Bill and Lorraine Smith

Anita Reznikoff, mother of Glen Reznikoff

Barry Rhodes, father of Jill Valinsky

Ronald Petkun, father of Bonnie Appel

Henry Helman, father of Lynette

Helman, grandfather of Michael Helman

BULLETIN BOARD

Blood Drive on Aug. 2

Please sign up to donate blood as we host our next Red Cross blood drive on Aug. 2 from 1 to 6 p.m. at the Temple.

The Red Cross is experiencing a shortage of blood types A, B and O. Please consider donating, particularly if you're one of these types – you will be saving lives.

To schedule an appointment, call 1-800-733-2767 or 1-800-RedCross. To learn more about the blood donation process and to verify your eligibility, go to the American Red Cross website at <https://www.redcrossblood.org/>

Honoring Rabbi Prosnit

A time to reflect....

A time to show gratitude.....

A time to celebrate an amazing Rabbi....

The Tribute Committee (that's our name, get used to hearing it) is getting organized. Soon we will start planning the festivities to honor Rabbi James Prosnit for 29 years of dedicated service to our congregation. As a start, mark your calendars for the weekend of May 30, 2019, as the culmination of what we hope will be a year filled with study, worship, and good deeds in honor of Rabbi Prosnit. There will be many opportunities to participate. Look in the September bulletin for more details and opportunities to join the Team.

*Mindy Siegel
and Luise Mann Burger
Tribute Team Co-Chairs*

**The deadline for the Memorial Book is August 17.
Please send in your completed Memorial Book form right away.**



From the Rabbi's Desk/Rabbi James Prosnit

How Good are Our Tents?

(This an edited version of Rabbi Prosnit's remarks at the June Annual meeting.)

Mah Tovv ohalecha Yaacov.....

We begin most every Shabbat morning service with those words – first found in the Torah portion Balak in the Book of Numbers. According to the story, Balak the Moabite king hires the pagan soothsayer Balaam to curse the neighboring Israelite tribes. However, whenever he opens his mouth rather than a curse -- a blessing comes out.

“How Good are your Tents O Jacob – Your Dwelling Places O Israel,” is perhaps the best known. In Torah study we learn of parallelism and the potential for added meaning when two verses say pretty much the same thing. Your tents / your dwelling places; Jacob/Israel. So the teaching becomes how do you turn curses into blessing? And the answer, by making your tents into sacred dwelling places -- and by helping Mr. Jacob become part of a holy community -- the B'nai Yisrael – the Children of Israel.

For some of the rabbis in days of old, the tents weren't just the things they bought at REI, they were the sanctuaries; and the dwelling places weren't just homes, they were schools. Providing places of prayer, education and communal responsibility became the mission of the buildings that would become the synagogue and the pillars on which sustaining principles stood.

So you can see why it is a blessing not only to be able to say each morning, but at this Annual Meeting -- Mah Tovv, how good is this tent, this dwelling place. And how good it is to end the “programmatic/fiscal” year with really good news. As you heard from Michael Blumenthal

-- a balanced budget! A successful gala honoring four most deserving people! An amazing celebration once again of confirmation! A pre-school bursting at its seams! And, Oh yes, – a thoughtful rabbinic planning process that led to a wise decision and a welcome outcome for everyone in our community.

I'm not certain about this – but in 160 years, I may well be the first rabbi ever to retire from B'nai Israel. My predecessor Rabbi Sher left for a fulltime position at the CCAR; Rabbi Martin, I believe, served as rabbi until his death and the couple of rabbis in between either left of their own accord or were asked to leave! If I remember from some archival investigation a few years back I don't think any of those rabbis from the 19th or early 20th century stuck around long enough to retire.

But despite some of those less than smooth transitions, one of the remarkable things about B'nai Israel is that in the main, over the last 80 years there have three senior rabbis of the congregation.

From time to time I've been asked, “What accounts for this longevity of service?” (And here I might add in 50 years, basically two Cantors and two Directors of Education as well.)

I believe it stems in no small part from a culture that fosters an incredible partnership among lay leadership, clergy and educators. It is the civility of the place, the dedication of the many and the willingness not only to celebrate accomplishments, but to strive each and every day to better the mission that makes this a place where people want to work and volunteer; worship, study and socialize.

It is no secret that in this area synagogues are closing. Ahavas Achim has been torn down and I'm told that the Rodeph Sholom building is up for sale. While both may continue in smaller venues, there is a loss to what were once proud institutions.

I believe our continuity and success also comes from our commitment to the Reform movement. Its encouragement of inclusion and flexible, creative response to modernity, its fostering of quality educational opportunities for children not only in congregations but in summer camps and Israel, its commitment to adults from Biennial gatherings to a vibrant web site of information and ideas all help lay a foundation on which we as a congregation can prosper.

But let's also not forget, too, Reform Judaism's commitment to social justice and pluralism here and in Israel. For me highlights of the past year included our sizable delegation to the URJ Biennial; our welcoming of Anat Hoffman, the outspoken voice and leader of the Israel Religious Action Center; and our endorsement of a Brit Olam, a covenant encouraged by the RAC and signed by us and 187 other congregation committed to work for a world filled with justice compassion and peace.

As we enter a new, historic chapter with Shari Nerreau as our new president and a new Rabbi- Elect, I marvel that we have always managed to find the right leaders for the right time – and once again I am confident in their ability to move us in a direction of goodness and strength.

Mah Tovv ohalecha Yaacov!!

The Annual Meeting: 3 Congregants, 3 Stories of Engagement

The annual meeting in June brought a new slate of officers, led by our president, Shari Nerreau, and an upbeat report on the synagogue's finances, including the news that the annual dues will remain unchanged.

In a farewell address, of sorts, the outgoing president, Michael Blumenthal, offered thanks to his fellow officers, the staff and the volunteers. He concluded, "We have an engaged, caring congregation, and we are well positioned to face the future."

In addition to the official business, three congregants spoke about their personal experiences at B'nai Israel. Susan Roth spoke about doing good deeds, Jeff Warren spoke about Torah study, and David Beier spoke about attending Saturday morning services. Below are excerpts from their talks.

Susan Roth

Maybe many of us "born show-offs" dream of being front and center.

But my more mature self settled into being comfortable in the background. And while settling into that choice, I happened to read Rabbi Harold Kushner's book "Living a Life that Matters."

In his chapter titled "Best Actor in a Supporting Role," he writes about small acts of kindness having a potentially huge impact on another. One doesn't need to be the *star* of someone else's life to make a difference. Maybe it's the small acts of kindness, the encouraging words, the meals made, the open ear, the quick "how's it going" texts, that make a difference. Not the grand gesture, but the constancy of the small gestures.

When you're a supporting actor in someone's life, you may not even know you've made an impact. And I like the not-knowing. It shifts the focus of doing good deeds from potential accolades or

attention, to the importance of showing up, whether we know it matters or not. But then of course it does matter, because we matter, to ourselves, to others, to our B'nai Israel community, and to God.

...

Jeff Warren

Sometime back in 1991, I made, what turned out to be, one of the smartest decisions I've ever made. It has brought me great joy, intellectual satisfaction and a great sense of belonging for many years. The decision was, even though I knew little about Judaism, less about the Torah, didn't believe in God and rarely went to services, to try Torah study. That one session started a relationship that has lasted nearly three decades- a relationship with the text and a relationship with the other Torah study members.

One doesn't need to be the *star* of someone else's life to make a difference.

I've taken advantage of many educational opportunities at B'nai Israel, but I've always considered Torah study as the crown jewel. It was so meaningful to me for three reasons. First, the subject matter is pretty good. It's been around for a long time. It's been a best seller for many years. It's pretty strong.

Second, Rabbi Prosnit has fostered a gentle and nurturing environment where everyone feels free to ask a question or make a comment without feeling stupid or thinking they should have already known the answer.

The third reason is the people, the Torah study community. We've had a number of people who have been attending for many

years, had new members join and others leave. But, no matter the configuration, within that room the people become a true community. We respect each other. We learn from one another. We listen to one another. We disagree, respectfully. And we laugh, a lot, together.

David Beier

As someone who has been attending services on a regular basis for more than 20 years, I've been asked to explain what brings me to services each Shabbat. Why is worship so important to me? And for me, the answer is comprised of three primary reasons.

The first is that precisely because of the ridiculously hectic work week I have, getting up to go to work at 4:45 and often arriving home when it is dark, Shabbat services gives me the time to actually slow down and take a pause...

The second reason is because in this world of interpersonal everything, in which we do everything online, almost as if everyone wants to avoid personal contact, this Temple, and the people who are here, in large part have become my community. The people who attend services I see every Saturday. I know them. They know me. And even if I don't speak to each and every one of them, I've learned something about them. We are all striving, we are all seeking.

And finally, the most important reason I attend services is tied to the first reason, this time where I can disconnect from nonstop phone calls, nonstop drafting and reviewing documents, and take that much needed pause. Because that pause gives me the opportunity to remind myself that it's not only about me. That pause gives me the time to remember that thinking about others and doing for others is what is important.



From the Rabbi's Study/Rabbi Evan Schul tz

Re-Imagining Synagogue Giving for the Next Generation

What keeps me up at night? (Well, a lot of things, including my 2-year old.) One of the questions that keeps me up is, "How will we as a synagogue re-imagine ourselves in order to draw in the next generation of Jewish individuals, families, and couples?"

Certainly I am not alone in carrying this question. Many synagogues, JCC's, Federations, and Jewish startups are thinking deeply and intentionally about how we pass along our tradition in a relevant, creative, and dynamic way.

One of the ways I sought to answer this question was to sit down with the young 20s and 30s in our community and ask them about their feelings about Jewish life, identity, and synagogues. A series of candid and honest conversations led to the sobering reality that the synagogue, as it is currently structured, in many ways does not speak to our younger population.

They care about Judaism and having a strong Jewish identity. They believe in Jewish community and want the synagogue to be a place where they can develop their Judaism in a real and meaningful way. At the same time these young Jews want to have an impact both on the world and on their local community.

They want to give to the synagogue and at the same time they want to have some say in how and who their money impacts. In a powerful and impactful way, they want to reshape what it means to be part of a synagogue community.

Based on those conversations, we are excited to launch a new model of synagogue giving for adults under 40 years old, called "impact giving." Here's a little about how it works (this is

how it will be worded in the prospective member packet):

We have created a new and dynamic membership model which shifts from a traditional "dues" model to something we're calling "impact giving." We want to create an environment where your contribution directly impacts our temple community in a meaningful and powerful way. We have thus identified 10 areas within the synagogue for you to allocate your impact funds.



Your impact gift to the synagogue may help to purchase new STEAM materials for our Bonim preschool or fund a BIFTY teen youth group program. You can choose to support B'nai Israel's Tikkun Olam projects or help fund the professional development of our Religious School teachers. We want to build a community where members feel deeply connected to one another, where your financial support will foster and deepen Jewish lives in a real and impactful way.

At the same time we recognize the important role that annual contributions play in maintaining quality clergy, teachers and staff, as

well as ensuring the lights stay on in our sacred space!

There are two components to this membership:

Annual Impact Giving Commitment

Through age 35 (oldest member of couple)

\$250 per person --- annual impact contribution

Ages 36-39 (oldest member of couple)

\$350 per person --- annual impact contribution

See attached list for impact giving opportunities

Monthly sustaining contribution

Through age 35 (oldest member of couple)

\$36 per person --- monthly sustaining contribution plus

Ages 36-39 (oldest member of couple)

\$54 per person --- monthly sustaining contribution plus

B'nai Israel welcomes all individuals and couples through the age of 39 to participate in this membership plan, which includes children. High Holy Day tickets are included when you join B'nai Israel.

Our hope is that this new "impact giving" model changes the way that the next generation thinks about synagogue life. This is an opportunity to re-think what it means to be a part of community and have a direct impact on the lives of fellow congregants. We are so excited about the possibilities of this new model! To learn more, please speak with Jill Elbaum, our Membership chair, jelbaum@cbibpt.org.



Bonim Buzz/Alexa Cohen, Early Childhood Director Fun for Children and Dads

Children in the Bonim Preschool worked in our new garden, helped spread sand delivered for the sandbox and dined with their dads at the Father's Day Breakfast.





From the Education Center/Ira J. Wise
10Q! (You're welcome!)

Many of us are aware of the significance of the *Yamim Nora'im* – the Days of Awe. They include not only the time we spend together on the beach, in the sanctuary or in the tent worshipping on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, but all of the time in between. Our tradition tells us that this is a time for introspection, for examining our souls and our behavior for the past year in order to learn how to make things right and do the work of *t'shuvah* – repentance.

We want to invite you to try a new approach with us. You don't have to come to temple any more than you have planned. There are no fees. And there is no need to dress to impress. You can participate in your pajamas or even your slouchy clothes that you only wear when no one outside your family can see them (even though *they* wish you would get rid of them).

Yes, this is an online exercise. It is personal and private. No one will ask you to share what you write, although we might ask you about the process. How does it work?

10 Days. 10 Questions.

Each day, beginning September 9th, a 10Q question will land in your inbox along with a link. When you click on the link, you will be taken to a private and personal space where you can answer the question. Your answer will be stored. The next day, you will receive another

question and a link.

And so on, for 10 days.

Answer one question per day in your own secret online 10Q space. Make your answers serious. Silly. Salacious. However you like. It's your 10Q. When you're finished, hit the magic button and your answers get sent to the secure online 10Q vault for safekeeping. One year later, the vault will open and your answers will land back in your email inbox for private reflection. Want to keep them secret? Perfect. Want to share them, either anonymously or with attribution, with the wider 10Q community? You can do that too.

“There are no fees. And there is no need to dress to impress. You can participate in your pajamas or even your slouchy clothes.”

Next year, on the eve of Rosh Hashanah, your answers will magically appear in your inbox, full of revelations. And the year after that, and the year after that. Do you 10Q? You should.

This will be my fifth year answering questions like “Describe a significant experience that has happened in the past year. How did it affect you? Are



you grateful? Relieved? Resentful? Inspired?” Last year I answered this one at length. Another I answered with three two-word sentences. I skipped number nine completely. The first year I think I answered three. Time is tight! But I am glad I did.

So go to <http://bit.ly/10QBnaiIsrael>. Fill out a very short, basic form. And when the e-mails start to come on September 9, try and find a quiet few minutes with the device of your choice and write a few words – to yourself. I believe that even answering one question – even if you just do it in your head without typing – will help you make the *Yamim Nora'im* more awesome for you.

And, as an added bonus, our Yom Kippur adult study session (and yes, high school students are adults from this perspective) will be built around the ideas of gratitude, introspection and T'shuvah. Join us on Yom Kippur afternoon, Wednesday, Sept. 19 at 1 p.m. for **10 Days. 10 Questions.** No reservations, just drop into the library.

L'shalom,

Ira J. Wise, D.J.R.E.
Temple Educator

Shari nearreau From Page 1

ago, initially working in sales for a trade show company. She now sells real estate. She and her husband, Brian, a financial advisor with Morgan Stanley, have three children – Brad, 25, Jason, 22, and

Meredith, 21. They joined B'nai Israel 20 years ago.

“I do hope to continue the work of engaging more people in the life of the

synagogue,” she said, “and to look for ways to bring even more meaning to those in our temple community.”

Adult Jewish Learning at Congregation B'nai Israel

Maimonides - Book of Teshuvah (Repentance)

Two opportunities to study!

Mondays, Noon-1pm, Aug. 6, 13, 20, 27

Mondays, 7-8pm, Aug. 13, 20, 27

Join us as we study one of the great books of Jewish practice, Maimonides' Mishneh Torah. In preparation for the High Holy Days, we will study his book of Teshuva (Repentance). The course will be taught



by Rabbi Prosnit and Rabbi Schultz. All are welcome to join!

Note - The evening class will be an abbreviated version of the daytime class.

10 Days. 10 Questions

Yom Kippur afternoon, Wednesday, Sept. 19 at 1 p.m.

Join Ira Wise for our annual Yom Kippur afternoon learning session. Each year a large group gathers in the library in between the morning and afternoon services to wrestle with a few texts and some ideas that are part of the High Holy

Day experience. This year, we will focus on gratitude, introspection and *T'shuvah* (repentance). Some of us may choose to participate in the 10Q project (see article on page 7). Others will not. Our conversation will be designed to help us think about what we each need to do to make the Holy Days personally fulfilling and prepare us for a fresh start in 5779. No reservations required, just drop into the library.

JULY/AUGUST DONATIONS

(Please note that only contributions of \$10.00 or more will be acknowledged with a card and *Bulletin* listing.)

Rabbi Prosnit Discretionary Fund

David Abbey and Deborah Goodman, in memory of David Goodman.

Barbara Abraham, in honor of Rabbi Prosnit, for who he is and all that he does.

Mark Abrams, a donation.

Susan Bauchner, in appreciation of Rabbi Prosnit; in honor of Barbara, Janet, Liz and Naomi being honored at the Spring Celebration; in memory of father, Arnold Kaplan.

Marilyn Bissell, in memory of husband, George Bissell.

Wendy and Jeffrey Bender, in memory of Ruth Bender and her family.

Hermine Blumenfeld, in appreciation of Rabbi Prosnit.

Bonim Families, with thanks to Rabbi Prosnit for all that you do for preschool, it was a great year.

Eloise Epstein, in memory of husband, Dr. Gerald Epstein.

Andrea and Dennis Feinberg, with thanks to Rabbi Prosnit for officiating at the naming ceremony of granddaughter, Jordyn Leni.

Noel and Danielle Forma, in honor of Ellie Forma's Bat Mitzvah; with thanks to Rabbi Prosnit.

Ellen and Art Gang & Family, in honor of Rabbi Jim Prosnit and Wendy Bloch, on the marriage of son, Jacob Prosnit, to Jenna Weinberg.

Sandy and Jack Germain, in memory of Betty Liebenson, mother of Joan Frankel; in memory of Liz Hoskins.

Jay Gordon, in memory of Harold and Rosalind Gordon.

Jeffrey and Carrie Gray, in honor of Finley becoming a Bat Mitzvah, and in appreciation of Rabbi Prosnit.

Helaine and Jonathan Greenbaum, in appreciation of Rabbi Prosnit's special prayer blessing before Talia's Birthright trip.

Maxine and Stewart Gross & Jenna Gross, in memory of Louis Schafrank.

Ruth and Eric Gross, in honor of Rabbi Prosnit receiving the Operation Hope Community Hero Award.

Alice and George Kelly, in memory of father, Sol Zimroth; in memory of father, Thomas Kelly.

Shirley Jacob Lantz, in loving memory of George Bissell, beloved husband of Marilyn Bissell.

Shirley Jacob Lantz & Family, in loving memory of Sherman Greenwald.

Farhana and Michael Leisawitz, in honor of Sara Leisawitz becoming a Bat Mitzvah.

Alice Madwed, in memory of George Bissell, husband of Marilyn Bissell.

Karin Newman, in loving memory of husband, Jack Newman.

Ellen Hyde Phillips, in memory of uncle, George Bissell, husband of Marilyn Bissell.

Bernice Resnick, in memory of George Bissell, husband of Marilyn Bissell.

Glen and Kelly Reznikoff, in appreciation of Rabbi Prosnit for the shiva service for mother, Anita Reznikoff.

Julie and Howard Rosenbaum, in honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Jonah Rosenbaum; in appreciation of Rabbi Prosnit.

Gerri and Stuart Schloss, in memory of uncle, Francis "Nonnie" Ruben; in

appreciation of Rabbi Prosnit.

Norman Solomon, in memory of Lilly Solomon.

Cleo and Jonathan Sonneborn, in memory of Elaine Phillip, mother of Suzanne Phillip.

Harvey Sussman and Dorothy Goldstein, in memory of Howard Richelsoph.

The Yaffie Family, in loving memory of mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, Ida G. Yaffie.

Fredric Zinn, in memory of mother, Ruth Zinn.

Rabbi Schultz Discretionary Fund

David Abbey and Deborah Goodman, in memory of Harriet Abbey.

Barbara Abraham, with appreciation of Rabbi Schultz's talents and gifts on the occasion of this year's Congregational Celebration.

Bonim Families, with thanks to Rabbi Schultz for all that you do for preschool, it was a great year.

Lauren and Steve Field, in honor of Aaron's Bar Mitzvah, and in appreciation of Rabbi Schultz.

The Greenbaum Family, in honor of Shari Nerreau, wishing you success in your new role as president of the congregation.

Jim and Lisa Greenberg, Mazel Tov to Rabbi Schultz.

Hospice at Home/Trumbull Hospice Team, in appreciation to Rabbi Schultz and Congregation B'nai Israel.

Lauren, Jason & Joel Kalish, in honor of Joel's naming ceremony, and in appreciation of Rabbi Schultz.

JULY/AUGUST DONATIONS From Page 8

Farhana and Michael Leisawitz, in honor of Sara Leisawitz becoming a Bat Mitzvah.

Julie and Howard Rosenbaum, in honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Jonah Rosenbaum; in appreciation of Rabbi Schultz.

Ellen and Robert Sheiman, in honor of Beth Lazar, and best wishes for continuing good health.

Serena and Arnie Sher, in honor of Debbie and Dan Viens, on the marriage of Matthew Viens, to Brooke Scheinberg.

Cleo and Jonathan Sonneborn, with thanks to Michael Blumenthal for so ably and kindly serving as out president for two years.

Debbie and Dan Viens, with much gratitude and appreciation to Rabbi Schultz for officiating at Matt and Brooke's wedding, it was a beautiful and heartfelt service;

Debbie, Dan, Matthew, Jaime and Brooke Viens, Mazel tov to Rabbi Schultz on being named our new Senior Rabbi.

Music Fund

Barbara Abraham, with gratefulness and thanks to Cantor Sheri Blum, Milt Jacoby, Adam Rosen and Kristen Carley, for lending their musical talents to our celebration, making it so beautiful.

Bonim Families, with thanks to Cantor Blum for all that you do for preschool, it was a great year.

Michael and Linda Epstein, in memory of Liza and Bernard Glucksman, parents of David (Susan) Glucksman.

Lauren and Steve Field, in honor of Aaron's Bar Mitzvah, and in appreciation of Cantor Blum.

Noel and Danielle Forma, in honor of Ellie Forma's Bat Mitzvah; with thanks to Cantor Blum.

Carrie and Jeff Gray, in honor of Finley's Bat Mitzvah, and in appreciation of Cantor Blum.

Farhana and Michael Leisawitz, in honor of Sara Leisawitz becoming a Bat Mitzvah.

Karin Newman, in loving memory of mother-in-law, Pauline Newman.

Liz and Mark Nigrosh, in honor of Kristen Carley, Milt Jacoby and Adam Rosen for making beautiful music and memories at the Spring Celebration.

Laurie Perlstein, in honor of Naomi Schaffer being named Person of the Year.

Julie and Howard Rosenbaum, in honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Jonah Rosenbaum; in appreciation of Cantor Blum.

Nancy and Jonathan Rosenthal, in memory of Anita Reznikoff, mother of Glen Reznikoff.

Sheryl and George Santiago, in memory of Anita Reznikoff, mother of Glen Reznikoff.

Stuart and Geraldine Schloss, in memory of Francis Ruben, husband of Renee Ruben.

William and Lorraine Smith, in memory of Marsha Smith.

Carolyn and Perry Wasserlauf, in memory of Ronald Petkun, father of Bonnie Appel.

Enhancement Fund

Barbara Abraham, with appreciation and gratitude to Anne Kirsch, Judy Blumenthal and Andi Kern, and all of those who helped make our Congregational Celebration so special; in appreciation of Caren & Bill Schwartz and Jack Kadden for their work on the Ad Journal.

Luise Mann Burger, in memory of Nora Mayerson; congratulations to Jeff Warren and Sandi Michaelson, on the marriage of son, Kyle, to Anne, and on the birth of grandson, Eli, son of Eric and Andrea Warren; congratulations to Marc and Joan Levy, on the birth of granddaughter, Layla Rose.

Mark and Barbara Edinberg, in memory of Anita Reznikoff, mother of Glen Reznikoff.

Michael Greenspan, in memory of mother, Sylvia Greenspan.

Niema Hirsch, a donation.

Michael Jacobson, in memory of Florence Jacobson.

Albert Kleban, in memory of mother, Beatrice Kleban.

Ted and Sue Levy, in memory of Naomi Gill, wife of Alan Gill.

Jeff, Jackie, Josh and Rachel Madwed, in memory of Anita Reznikoff, mother of Glen Reznikoff.

Alan and Harriet Nelson, in honor of Janet Jurow.

Liz and Mark Nigrosh, in honor of Michael Blumenthal, for his caring leadership as B'nai Israel's president; in honor of Judy Blumenthal, Anne Kirsch and Andi Kern, for putting together a wonderful Spring Celebration; in honor of Lynn Lynch for helping with all aspects of the Spring Celebration; in honor of Caren and Bill Schwartz and Jack Kadden, for our Spring Celebration Tribute Journal; in honor of Karen Blau, Serena Sher and Ruth

Gross, for their artistic talents and personal touches at our Spring Celebration; in honor of Scott Smith and Shari Nerreau for their words and photos.

Sheryl and George Santiago, in memory of Elaine Phillip, mother of Suzanne Phillip.

Twody and Bob Schless, in memory of father, Bernie Schless; in memory of Francis "Nonnie" Ruben, husband of Renee Ruben.

Julie and Steve Pressman, in memory of Anita Reznikoff, mother of Glen Reznikoff.

Sam and Este Sylvetsky, in honor of Larry Levine's birthday.

United Way of Coastal Fairfield County, in appreciation.

Debbie, Dan, Matthew and Jaime Viens, in memory of Anita Reznikoff, mother of Glen Reznikoff.

Michael Wittman, in memory of father, Herbert Wittman.

Sylvia Prosnit Adult Education Fund

David and Judi Beier, in loving memory of father, Joel Beier.

Emily Lehrman, in honor of Anat Shiloach and adult Hebrew classes.

Harvey Levine's Classmates, Happy 95th Birthday to Harvey Levine from his classmates.

Jonathan and Cleo Sonneborn, in memory of grandfather, Henry Hofheimer.

Nursery School Scholarship Fund

Jeff, Amy and Sydney Alterman, in appreciation.

Alexa and David Cohen, in honor of Debbie and Dan Viens, on the marriage of Matthew Viens, to Brooke Scheinberg; in honor of Lynne and Brian Marks, on the marriage of Madeline and Desi.

Cynthia Goldstein, in honor of Gloria Katz, on the birth of great-granddaughter, Riley Rose Rothman.

Amy and Jeff Pressman, in honor of Jenna Lopes' Confirmation.

Serena and Arnie Sher, in memory of Anita Reznikoff, mother of Glen Reznikoff.

Gail and Peter Weinstein, Mazel tov to Sherry and Fred Weiner on their special anniversary; Mazel tov to Dick and Donna Goldblatt on their special anniversary; Mazel tov to Nancy Jo and Alan Feinberg on their special anniversary; in memory of Paul Korman's mother, Mildred; Mazel tov on Clara and Larry Kahn's special anniversary; Mazel tov to Ellen and Steve

Continued on the next page

JULY/AUGUST DONATIONS From Page 9

Saxe on Evan's upcoming marriage, and in memory of your dad; Mazel tov to Carol and Steve Wolfson on their special anniversary; in memory of Sue Goodman, wife of Bob Goodman; in memory of Jeffrey Alpert, brother of Jay Alpert. **The Wolfeiler Family**, congratulations to Justin Pressman on his graduation.

Prayer Book Fund

Gloria Katz, wishing Beth Lazar a speedy recovery.

Joan and Alan Newman, in memory of Vivian Kolter.

Mazon

Andrea and Dennis Feinberg, in memory of Joseph Sacks, father of Bill Sacks.

Myrna Kaufman, in memory of so very missed husband, father and grandfather, Leonard Kaufman.

Religious School Scholarship Fund

Cleo Sonneborn, in loving memory of mother, Peggy Rawdon.

Sue, Bob and Carleigh Sussman, in

memory of grandmother, Adele Mathog Bibro.

Religious School Enrichment Fund

Joan and Alan Newman, in honor of Jakob Newman's Confirmation; in honor of Ella Adwin's Preschool Graduation.

Suzanne Shane, in memory of George Bissell, husband of Marilyn Bissell.

Rabbi Arnold Sher Social Action Fund

Andrea and Dennis Feinberg, in memory of Harold Levy, father of Marc and Jay Levy.

Ilse Levi, in loving memory of father, Hermann Strauss.

Janet and Dennis Magid, in honor of Samuel Miller, on the Bat Mitzvah's of granddaughters, Zoey Hanrahan and Sarina Miller.

George and Chris Markley, in memory of Janet Guttman.

Julie and Howard Rosenbaum, in honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Jonah Rosenbaum.

Serena and Arnie Sher, in honor of Samuel Miller, on the B'not Mitzvah of granddaughters, Zoey Hanrahan and Sarina Miller.

Jonathan and Cleo Sonneborn, in memory of father, Walter Sonneborn.

Vision Loan Reduction Fund

Liz and Mark Nigrosh, in honor of Rabbi Prosnit, Rabbi Schultz and Cantor Blum, for their meaningful contributions to our B'nai Israel Spring Celebration; in honor of the many volunteers who helped make the Spring Celebration a success and a night to remember; in honor of all of those who contributed to the Spring Celebration Tribute Journal.

Patti and Samuel Rosenberg, in memory of Robert Wilson, father of Patti Rosenberg.

Jim Abraham Education Fund for Jewish Leadership

Samuel Miller & Family, in memory of father and grandfather, Harry Miller.

Serena and Arnie Sher, in loving memory of Jim Abraham, husband of Barbara Abraham.

Lee & David Lester Keshet Fund

Caren Schwartz, in memory of Steven Alan Starr and Rudolph Starr.

Daniel Smith Cemetery Fund

Samuel Miller & Family, in memory of Joseph Kot.

Gillette Judaic Enrichment Fund

Riverfield Elementary School, in honor of Jan Jacob's retirement.

Arnold & Doris Tower Fund

Sue, Bob and Carleigh Sussman, in memory of grandmother, Gussie Sussman.

Holly and Jerry Swirsky, in honor of Nancy Needle's special birthday.

Ellen and Steve Tower, in memory of Paul Dober; in memory of Anita Reznikoff, mother of Glen Reznikoff; in memory of Bobbi Tower.

Yozma Fund

Federation for Jewish Philanthropy of Upper Fairfield County, in honor of the Renzulli, Markus and Berry families for hosting Israeli Emissary Yuval Hazan; in honor of the Greenberg and Silberman/Weisman families for hosting Israeli Emissary Ofek Moscovich.



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Congregation B'nai Israel, founded in 1858, seeks to be a vibrant Reform synagogue dedicated to the perpetuation of Jewish life and values within the framework of contemporary American Judaism. We are a gateway to Judaism for all. The Congregation B'nai Israel Bulletin publishes monthly 11 times a year (except July). To submit an article, announcement or ad to the Bulletin, please contact Editor contact Editor Jack Kadden at jkadden@cbibpt.org. Submissions are due by the first day of the month preceding the publication month. We reserve the right to edit all submissions for length or style.

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Shabbat Service Schedule

(Fridays at 6:00 p.m. where indicated, preceded by an Oneg Shabbat at 5:30 p.m.)

Friday, August 3

6:00 p.m. Service
Torah Portion – Eikev,
Deut. 7:12-11:25
Haftarah – Isaiah
49:14-51:3

Friday, August 17

6:00 p.m. Service
Torah Portion – Shoftim,
Deut. 16:18-21:9
Haftarah – Isaiah 51:12-
52:12

9:00 a.m. Brotherhood Breakfast
9:30 a.m. Torah Study
11:00 a.m. Bar Mitzvah of Domenic
Cammarota, son of
Antonio and Lisa
Cammarota

Saturday, August 4

8:00 a.m. Service
9:00 a.m. Brotherhood Breakfast
9:30 a.m. Torah Study

Saturday, August 18

8:00 a.m. Service
9:00 a.m. Brotherhood Breakfast
9:30 a.m. Torah Study
9:30 a.m. Young Families Havurah
11:00 a.m. Bat Mitzvah of Reilly
Nathanson, daughter
of Jonathan and Jodi
Nathanson

Friday, August 31

6:00 p.m. Service
Torah Portion – Ki Tavo,
Deut. 26:1-29:8
Haftarah – Isaiah 60:1-22

Friday, August 10

6:00 p.m. Service at Lake Mohegan
(no service at temple)
Torah Portion – Reeh,
Deut. 11:26-16:17
Haftarah – Isaiah
54:11-55:5

Friday, August 24

6:00 p.m. Service
Torah Portion – Ki Tetze,
Deut. 21:10-25:19
Haftarah – Isaiah 54:1-10

Saturday, September 1

8:00 a.m. Service
9:00 a.m. Brotherhood Breakfast
9:30 a.m. Torah Study
11:00 a.m. Bar Mitzvah of Darren
Ruskin, son of Daniel
Ruskin and Angela
Capinera

Saturday, August 11

8:00 a.m. Service
9:00 a.m. Brotherhood Breakfast
9:30 a.m. Torah Study

Saturday, August 25

8:00 a.m. Service

SCHULTZ FROM PAGE 1

He will succeed Rabbi Prosnit in June 2019, when Rabbi Prosnit retires after almost 30 years at B'nai Israel (see his column on Page 3).

The Rabbinic Planning Committee, led by Amy Rich and George Markley, held 17 conversation groups, attracting 150 members, and received 60 emails from congregants. It also interviewed Rabbi Schultz twice.

“In the end the consensus that was reached was a reflection of the tremendous support which Rabbi Schultz enjoys among the members of the Congregation, from the youngest members to many of our most senior members,” the committee said in announcing its recommendation.

It added that, after interviewing him, “the committee was deeply impressed by the great thoughtfulness of Rabbi

Schultz’s responses, and by the fact that he demonstrated a vision for the future of Congregation B’nai Israel that excited all of the members.”

Rabbi Schultz, 38, came to B’nai Israel in 2012. A native of Queens, he grew up in New Jersey, Philadelphia and Boston.

He graduated from Brandeis University in 2001 and was ordained in 2012 from Hebrew Union College – Jewish Institute of Religion.

He and his wife live in Fairfield, and they have three sons: Koby, 7; Elie, 4; and Roie, 2. His wife works in Stamford for Americares.

Rabbi Schultz said he was impressed by the process followed by the Rabbinic Planning Committee. “It was excellent. George and Amy were so on top of everything.”

As for what comes next, he said, he and Rabbi Prosnit are “still figuring out how the next year will work.” But he

added, “My priority is to have Rabbi Prosnit shine and create this space” for his contributions to the synagogue to be recognized and honored.

He said he has had an extraordinarily close working relationship with Rabbi Prosnit. “He brings me in on everything. I feel like I’ve gotten a great sense of what it means to be a senior rabbi.”

His goals for the congregation are evolving but one involves creating more opportunities for small groups of congregants “to meet each other and engage Jewishly.”

For example, he formed a small study group of Tot Shabbat parents. They met for six sessions, and the members have become very close, he said.

“There are so many things we do great,” he said. “I would love to think more about the smaller spaces and together reimagine worship and education.”



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High Holy Day Schedule 5779/2018

Selichot

Saturday, September 1

At Beth El, Fairfield

8:00 p.m. Refreshments and Havdalah
8:15 p.m. Selichot Speaker
9:45 p.m. Service

Rosh Hashanah Eve

Sunday, September 9

6:00 p.m. Service at Jennings Beach
(weather permitting: check website or call Temple that afternoon if uncertain)
7:30 p.m. Service at Temple

Rosh Hashanah

Monday, September 10

10:00 a.m. Morning Service (Sanctuary)
10:00 a.m. Morning Service (Tent)
10:00 a.m. Youth Program (Grades Pre-K-3)
3:30 p.m. Family Services (Pre-school & Elementary School Age)

Rosh Hashanah, 2nd Day

Tuesday, September 11

10:00 a.m. Service
12:30 p.m. Tashlich (on Brooklawn

Pkwy)

Cemetery Memorial Service

Sunday, September 16

1:00 p.m. in Fairfield
2:00 p.m. in Monroe

Kol Nidre

Tuesday, September 18

6:30 p.m. Early Service
8:45 p.m. Late Service

Yom Kippur

Wednesday, September 19

9:00 a.m. Family Service (Pre-schoolers) (Chapel)
10:00 a.m. Morning Service (Sanctuary)
10:00 a.m. Morning Service (Tent)
10:00 a.m. Youth Program (Grades Pre-K-3)
1:00 p.m. Adult Learning
1:30 p.m. Family Service (Grades K-6) (Sanctuary)
2:45 p.m. Afternoon Service
4:45 p.m. Yizkor Service (approximate time)
5:45 p.m. Neilah (Concluding) Service

Erev Sukkot

Sunday, September 23

5:00 p.m. Sukkah Decorating
5:30 p.m. Potluck Picnic
6:00 p.m. Service
7:15 p.m. Adult Sukkot Study

Monday, September 24

10:00 a.m. Sukkot Service
10:00 a.m. Young Children's Sukkot Program and Service

Erev Simchat Torah

Sunday, September 30

5:00 p.m. Flag-making
6:00 p.m. Family Services

Monday, October 1

10:00 a.m. Yizkor Service