

FEBRUARY HIGHLIGHTS

About the Calendar

It's a leap year, and Rabbi Prosnit explains what that means in the Jewish calendar and how it all came about. Page 3.

Thinking About Love

As we approach Valentine's Day, Rabbi Schultz explores the concept of love in Judaism. It's more than chocolates and roses. Page 5.

Scenes From School

Ira Wise offers a slide show, in words, of scenes from the religious school, including surprise Israeli dance lessons and our students getting to know students in Israel. Page 7.

Reaching a Milestone

The Rabbi James Prosnit Legacy Fund has raised more than \$1 million. Page 4.

Honoring Rabbi Prosnit

Please clip out the updated schedule of events planned to honor Rabbi Prosnit on his retirement. Page 16.

Also Inside

Sharing Our Joy	P. 2
Bonim.....	P. 6
BIFTY.....	P. 6
Adult Learning.....	P. 8
Donations.....	P. 9
Shabbat Services.....	P. 15

SEEKING A NEW ASSISTANT RABBI

The first months of 2019 promise to be busy ones for Nina Silberman.

As chair of the search committee for a new Associate Rabbi to succeed Rabbi Schultz, Nina has already begun reviewing the resumes of some 20 potential candidates for the job.

"The month of February is going to be very exciting," she said.

Following a process, and a timetable, dictated by the Central Conference of American Rabbis, Nina and Rabbi Schultz will conduct interviews via Skype with the candidates, most of whom are soon to graduate from the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion.

Then, in February, they will invite the top four or five to Bridgeport to be interviewed by the search committee, to tour the synagogue and to interact with members of the congregation.



Nina Silberman, right, with Ruth Gross at a recent Mitzvah Morning, wrapping donated toys for Al's Angels

The process must be completed by March 5, when the synagogue will make an offer to the committee's first choice.

In seeking candidates, the synagogue had to fill out an application of its own. Rabbi Schultz said it spelled out three qualities the congregation is seeking:

Continued on page 5

"ASK THE RABBI" SHABBAT DINNER

- How do you think B'nai Israel might change ten years from now?
- Where were you and when at the moment you decided you wanted to be a rabbi?
- In 2019, what's the reason modern Jews are still asked by rabbis to consider participating in ancient ceremonies like bris or mikvah visits?
- What's been your most embarrassing moment as a rabbi?

Questions like these could possibly be included in the uninhibited dialogue

planned for Friday evening March 1 when three beloved Congregation B'nai Israel rabbis will sit on a panel and take questions from the audience after a Shabbat dinner with congregants.

The panel discussion, to be moderated by B'nai Israel congregant Jeff Ackerman, is planned as the kickoff to a series of activities unfolding in Spring 2019 that collectively will serve as a tribute to Rabbi James Prosnit who will retire at the end of June after 29 years.

Participating on the panel will be Rabbi Arnold Sher, B'nai Israel's rabbi from 1968 to 1990, Rabbi Prosnit and Rabbi

Continued on page 3

SHARING OUR JOY

Irving and Nancy Silverman, in celebration of receiving the John & Phyllis Neary Award for their public service in Easton.

Fred and Ronni Zinn, in celebration of the birth of granddaughter, Viviana Zinn, daughter of Jordan and Emily Zinn.

Marcia and Stephen Falk, in celebration of the 1st birthday of grandson, Jovi Mountain Falk, son of Ben and Erica Falk.

Bob and Ellen Sheiman, in celebration of the birth of grandson, Yakov Kern, son of David and Rebecca Kern.

SINCERE SYMPATHY

We extend our sympathy to the bereaved families of:

Joel Zinn, brother of Fred Zinn

Joshua Spector, son of Mark and Deena Spector

Sylvia Edelson

Cecil Widdows, father of Karen Widdows

Kenneth Epstein, son of Eloise Epstein

Moshe Arens, cousin of Joseph Bobrow

PAVE THE WAY

In October, the congregation held a dedication ceremony for Phase One of our Pave the Way Campaign, which has raised needed funds and enabled us to beautify the front of the synagogue.



BULLETIN BOARD

What's Your Story?

Let's welcome Shabbat. Let's break bread together. And instead of moving to the chapel for an informative talk, let's sit with one another. Let's meet new people and relax with old friends. Friday, February 1. Kabbalat Shabbat at 6 p.m.; dinner at 7:15. Dinner is \$20.00 per person. Contact Chris@cbibpt.org or (203) 336-1858 for reservations.

Taste of Torah

Join us for a night of communal Jewish learning on February 2 from 7 to 9 p.m. at Congregation Beth El, Fairfield Woods Road, Fairfield. The keynote speaker will be Tal Keinan, author of "God Is in the Crowd: Twenty-First Century Judaism"

Torah Yoga

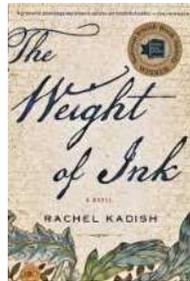
Consider a new experience for your Shabbat morning. "The Jew is in the Lotus:" Hatha Yoga & Jewish Meditation for Beginners will be offered on Saturdays at 10:30. For this class, we will focus on specific Hebrew words and symbols from Jewish Meditations and Kabbalah. The instructor, Alan Dressler, began practicing Hatha Yoga and Meditation in 1994 after a traumatic car accident. He has taught Yoga at the Jewish Community Center in Bridgeport and the Jewish Home of Fairfield County.

Meet the Author

Rachel Kadish, the author of "The

Weight of Ink," which won the 2017 National Jewish Book Award, will speak on February 25 at 7:30 p.m.

at the Conservative Synagogue of Westport, 30 Hillspoint Road. Please reserve a spot by going to the website of The Federation for Jewish Philanthropy in Bridgeport.



Bite-Size Torah!

Join Rabbi Schultz for six mini sessions of Torah (Really!) Sunday mornings, 9:35-9:55 a.m. in the library. February 10 – Jewish Mourning Customs; February 24 – What is Zionism? March 3 – A Quick Look at God; March 31 – A Primer on Jewish Texts; April 28 – The Basics of Jewish Prayer

Save the Dates

Mitzvah Morning. February 24. Details to follow. The committee would welcome ideas for future Mitzvah Mornings. Contact Nina Silberman at ninahv@aol.com and Danielle Forma at diforma@aol.com

The Religious School Purim Carnival is Sunday, March 17th and our Purim Service is Wednesday, March 20th

Sisters's Schmooze, March 6. Details to follow.

But there's still time to buy a commemorative brick. More bricks will be added soon. If you're interested, please contact Lynn Lynch at the office or by e-mail at llynch@cbibpt.org

More than 150 congregants have bought bricks, which were installed before the High Holidays.

Kristen Carley came up with the idea and led the initial campaign. Mark Schnitzler coordinated much of the work with our brick vendor and contractor.

Other volunteers who assisted include Bernie Jacobs, Amy Rich, Ellen Hyde Phillips and Bonnie Appel.



FROM THE RABBI'S DESK/RABBI JAMES PROSNIT

HAPPY LEAP YEAR!

It's a leap year! No not an extra day at the end of February. We'll save that for 2020. But in the Jewish calendar a leap year is actually a leap month and occurs seven times every 19 years. Over the years I've enjoyed teaching about the intricacies of the Jewish calendar, so I thought I'd review and marvel at its sophistication one last time.

While the naming of the extra month is not all that creative, (Adar 1 and Adar 2), the concept attests to the wisdom of the ancients. The Romans used a 10-month calendar beginning at the spring equinox in March, but for many years did not have any months for the time between the end of December and the new year in March. (By the way – that's why many of our Gregorian calendar months have prefixes that don't make sense. Why is September

the 9th month and October the 10th, etc.? Answer --at some later date January and February were added, making 12 months but not changing any names.)

The Jews, however, based their calendar on 12 lunar cycles, roughly 29.5 days. The problem was a strictly lunar year was 354 days long. A solar year was 11 days longer. If you're familiar with the Islamic calendar you'll be aware that that is a strictly lunar calendar, which is

keep in line with the seasons. But biblical historians suggest it must have been connected to the reign of King Josiah in the second half of the seventh century BCE. Josiah not only centralized worship in Jerusalem, but likely set the current calendar system in motion.¹

It is almost certain this is how they adjusted for seasonal creep: At the end of the 12th lunar month, priests in Jerusalem determined spring had arrived. If

This also explains the answer to the perennial question, Are Holidays early or late this year?

why a festival period like Ramadan floats through the entire year, moving up 11 days each year.

spring was indeed deemed to have arrived, great: the new moon was a sign that not only the first month had begun but also a new year, and messengers were sent out to announce that Passover was two weeks away.

But, since many Jewish holidays were connected to the agricultural seasons of a solar year, a strict adherence to a lunar calendar would mean that the holidays would eventually take place at the wrong season. It wouldn't take too long before the springtime festival of Passover or the harvest festival of Sukkot would be celebrated in a different season. According to the Biblical text, the people of Israel were required to bring agricultural produce to Jerusalem for the festivals, so if there had been "seasonal creep," in at least some years, there would have been no produce to bring as sacrificial tithes.

But if the priests decided that it was still winter, an additional "leap month," or "embolismic month" as it's called, was added, and messengers would only be sent out a month later.

This also explains the answer to the perennial question, Are Holidays early or late this year? It all depends on whether the year is a leap year or not. And if you're planning ahead, since it is a leap year – Passover is not till April 19th and Rosh Hashanah – not till September 30th!

The Bible doesn't tell us how the lunar calendar was periodically adjusted to

¹ <https://www.haaretz.com/jewish/premium-the-secrets-of-the-hebrew-calendar-1.5304911>



ASK THE RABBI FROM PAGE 1

Evan Schultz who becomes spiritual leader of the congregation July 1, 2019. The Shabbat dinner will follow the conclusion of 6 p.m. services. The cost is \$20 per person and reservations should be made with the temple office. The panel discussion part of the evening is scheduled to start at 8:15 p.m.

The "Ask the Rabbi" evening is being organized by Mindy Siegel and Luise Mann Burger, co-chairpersons for the overall tribute program.

"The panel represents three generations of rabbis at B'nai Israel, each with his own point of view, and it promises to be

a thought provoking discussion," said Ms. Siegel.

"We're hoping congregants see an evening of prayer, discussion and community as a wonderful way to honor Rabbi Prosnit," said Ms. Burger

A MILLION-DOLLAR MILESTONE

The effort to increase our endowment has reached a remarkable milestone: Donations and pledges to the Rabbi James Prosnit Legacy Fund have surpassed \$1 million.

“I’m quite pleased,” Rabbi Prosnit said. “We’re closing in on almost doubling the current endowment and approaching the goal of increasing the endowment to \$3 million.”

Before the campaign began, the endowment was \$1.2 million. Now, it exceeds \$2.2 million. A bigger endowment will help insure the synagogue’s future, with income generated by investments helping to support the annual budget.

It is estimated that the endowment will provide \$100,000 a year in income.

“That will have a major impact,” Sam Rosenberg, a former president of the congregation, said. “It will make the budget committee’s life significantly easier. Each year, it’s a struggle to meet the budget”

“People feel great about this place,” he added, “and they haven’t been given the chance to make donations like this.”

Many of the larger donations have been made in the form of appreciated stocks and I.R.A. distributions, both of which offer significant tax benefits to the donor.

Many of the donations have been pledged over several years.

The campaign is ongoing, and Sam is happy to discuss the details of such gifts and arrange help with bequests. He can be reached at srosenberg@cbibpt.org

Rabbi Prosnit said he has been delighted by congregants’ generosity, singling out one young donor in particular.

“I was touched,” he said, “that one donation came from a boy who recently had his Bar Mitzvah.”



Honoring Rabbi James Prosnit Twenty-Nine Years

We greatly appreciate the generosity of the following congregants who honor Rabbi Prosnit by helping establish the Rabbi James Prosnit Legacy Fund.

Simcha Circle

Andy and Carol Lubin
Peter and Karen Montagna

Mazel Tov Circle

Jack Kadden

Blessings Circle

Andrea Goodman and Jeff Ackerman
William Greenspan
Larry Levine and Alison Bonds
Alan and Sylvia Neigher
Lawrence and Marcy Shinbaum
The Phillip-Soberman Family

Ner Tamid Circle

David Abbey and Deborah Goodman
Janice and Marc Katz
The Michel Family
Elizabeth and Mark Nigrosh
Linda Liefeland and Jon Orleans

Shalom Circle

Stacey and Duane Berlin
Douglas and Kathryn Brown
Joanne and Tim Derwallis
Bari Dworken
Linda and Michael Epstein
Sidney Fialk
Marvin and Joann Gelfand
Joni and Michael Greenspan
Deborah and Kenneth Hochhauser
Judith Hochstadt
Molli and Stephen Hourihan
Janice and Bernie Jacobs
Nancy Kern
Gail Nickowitz and Family
Nancy and Jeff Oberman
Carol and Rick Offenbach
The Posner Family
Randy and Beth Reich
Becky and Rich Rosen

Paul Rosenblatt
and Jessica Sage-Rosenblatt
Lis and George Ruderman
Harriet Schorr
Caren and Bill Schwartz
Martin and Elaine Schwartz
Jeffrey Schwartz
Kathy and Norman Solomon
Edward and Meryl Staub
Francine Stein
Stephen and Ellen Tower
Marilyn Weinstein
Ken and Cindy West
Judy and Bob Zeisler
Adele and Larry Zuckerman
Howard and Ondy Zuckerman

Tribute Circle

Carol and Nate Barsky
Susan Kaplan Bauchner
Marilyn Bissell
Louise and Joseph Bobrow
Bill Bower and Ronnie Lovich
Linda and Barry Diamond
Marjorie and Danny Freeman
Jerry and Selma Gold
Alfred Goldreyer
Julia Hanan and Max Shapiro
Lynette Helman
Michael and Judith Katz
Gloria Katz
Rozanne Lancia
Stanley and Judith Lessler
Alan and Joan Newman
Abigail Schine
Nancy and Irv Silverman
Rhea Spiegel
Janet Skane Stern
Matthew and Lesley Vainder
Lois Wallman
Artie and Suzie Weissman
Sharon and Frederic West

(Donations since the last Bulletin.)



WHAT'S LOVE GOT TO DO WITH IT?

Enter any drug store or supermarket during the month of February and you'll see aisles filled with the colors pink and red, signifying that Valentine's love is in the air. While I am not generally one to buy too many chocolate hearts and roses, I did think this would be a good opportunity to talk about the concept of love in Judaism.

When asked if love is a central theme in Judaism, I would imagine most would answer with a resounding "no." We focus more on notions of gratitude, performing mitzvot, and offering praise, right? Yet open up both the Torah and our siddur (prayer book) and you'll find that love is, in fact, a central motif in our liturgy and our sacred texts.

Consider first for a moment these two commandments from the book of Leviticus:

Leviticus 19:17-18

(17) You shall not hate your kinsfolk (brother) in your heart; Reprove your kinsman but incur no guilt because of him. (18) You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against your countrymen (the children of thy people). Love your fellow (neighbor) yourself: as I am the LORD. (JPS with sefaria)

Two prayers of love precede and follow our most sacred words of the Sh'ma. What a powerful statement about the place of love within our tradition.

Leviticus 19:33-34

(33) When a stranger resides with you in your land, you shall not wrong him. (34) The stranger who resides with you shall be to you as one of your citizens; you shall love him as yourself, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt: I am the LORD your God. (JPS)

What do these two texts signify? According to Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks, the Torah commands us to both love our neighbor and the stranger so that we will love people who are both like ourselves and people who are not like ourselves. Leviticus does not command us to tolerate our neighbor and the stranger, not to like them, but to love the stranger and the neighbor in our midst.

While Leviticus prompts us to show love to other human beings, it is our liturgy that speaks of the deep love between the divine and the Jewish people. Consider for a moment the two prayers that bookend the Sh'ma prayer. Before the Sh'ma is Ahavat Olam, and directly following is the V'avavta.

Ahavat Olam speaks of God's love for the Jewish people: Ahavat olam beit Yisrael (You love your people Israel for all eternity). The V'avavta prayer, on the other hand, instructs us to love God: V'avavta et Adonai Elohecha (You shall love the Lord your God).

How do we manifest this love? Not with chocolate hearts, but rather through mitzvot, the study of Torah, and performing acts of kindness towards others. Two prayers of love precede and follow our most sacred words of the Sh'ma. What a powerful statement about the place of love within our tradition.

So this Valentine's Day, in addition to the greeting cards and chocolate hearts, just remember there's nothing more romantic than our very own sacred Jewish texts ;-)
May we all love both your neighbor and the stranger!

NEW ASSISTANT RABBI FROM PAGE 1

1. The candidate must have a passion and joy for Judaism.
2. He or she must be a team player.
3. She or he must be kind and caring and act with integrity.

Rabbi Schultz said he's also hoping the committee will find someone who will learn and grow in the job and who will bring "a critical eye to our practices and synagogue life in a constructive way."

In addition to heading the search, Nina is a member of the synagogue board and, along with Danielle Forma, organizes the monthly Mitzvah Mornings. She is a psychologist practicing in Fairfield, and her family joined the synagogue about 11 years ago when her sons started preschool. She can be reached at nsilberman@cbibpt.org

The other search committee members are Judy Blumenthal, David Herbst, Bob Herzlinger, Mark Hotchkiss, Bruce Kahn, Gloria Katz, Mark Kirsch, Farhana Leisawitz, Hannah Mallon, and Marci Pearlberg. Rabbi Schultz and Shari Nerreau serve as ex-officio.



BONIM BUZZ/ALEXA COHEN, EARLY CHILDHOOD DIRECTOR
LOOKING FORWARD

While the winter is far from behind us, we look forward to an exciting spring at Bonim Preschool.

While the 3, 4 and 5 year olds have been enjoying the STREAM Lab since October, the Infants, 1 and 2 year olds will join them with their own special “lessons” with Mrs. Josovitz in the STREAM Lab by March.

We look forward to a few new adult events this spring as well. We are so excited to announce that this year’s Bonim Spring Celebration will be a CASINO



NIGHT on April 6th. The Casino Night Committee has been meeting regularly and they have a fun night planned for all the parents.

Our next adult’s only event hopes to get the entire congregation involved. We are proud to announce that Lauren Weisberger, author of “The Devil Wears Prada” and “When Life Gives You Lululemons,” will be joining us for a special Shabbat Book Luncheon on May 10th. More details about these two exciting events will be available soon.



BIFTY

It’s never too late to join BIFTY! We meet on Thursdays from 7:15-8:45 in the BIFTY Lounge!

Our February events are:

February 21: Test your physical capabilities at our Survivor program!

February 28: Join the Israel Emissaries, Rotem and Yuval, for a fun night!

There is no BIFTY on February 14.

Questions? Email advisor Marisa Underberger munderberger@cbibpt.org
 Like our Facebook Page “BIFTY” and follow us on Instagram at “cbi.bifty”



BIFTY had fun taking over Hebrew School and welcoming the 8th grade!





FROM THE EDUCATION CENTER/IRA J. WISE
A DAY IN THE LIFE

Someone once said, “Choose a job you love and you will never work a day in your life.” There is some debate about the source of that quote, but in my experience whoever said it was right. I spend my working hours working with amazing people (our teachers and Hadrakhah Team, our clergy and Bonim director, our support and custodial staff and our lay leaders) to create learning experiences for our children of all ages. Sometimes you hear about them when your kids get in the car (and sometimes they answer “nothing” when you ask what happened today).

When we are in session, I get to watch the magic happen. And quite often, it is magic. Let me share a few slides...I will set up the (word) projector...

{click} This happened just yesterday! Kitah Hey (5th Grade) has been spending

a lot of their time learning about Israel, the land and its people. We have had an ongoing relationship with the Kitah Hey students at the Nitzanim School in Rishon L'tziyon, Israel. Our students have created and exchanged artifacts and videos – telling one another about our lives. Yesterday, we gathered in front of the smart board and had a live video conference with the Nitzanim kids! They asked one another questions and shared things about their lives. Then one of the Israeli kids asked, “Do any of you play Fortnite?”

For those of you who are not into video games or who don't have children who are, Fortnite is a very popular multi-player video game. I am not endorsing or judging. But we are exchanging user names and some of our kids may be playing the game with their new Israeli friends in the coming weeks – if they can solve the time difference and get permission for the screen time!

{click} In the chapel one day last month. Mr. Cahr (our music teacher) was unable to teach that week. He sent in his daughter Alex, a college student who has substituted in our school. She was teaching Israeli dance to our Kitah Bet students when I looked in. The students were holding hands and moving in a circle with the music. Alex was describing how dance was a great way to get to know people and it was and is very popular in Israel. And you don't need Wi-Fi! All of our Gan – Kitah Gimel (K – 3rd) teachers have been asking when we can bring her back, since the students had so much fun!

{click} This one came as an e-mail rather than from looking in a room. Laurie Renzulli's son Alex in Kitah Vav

A slide show, of sorts, of scenes from our religious school.

(6th) with Mr. Flatto: “Happy new year! Wanted to share Alex came home very positive about Sunday school today – He enjoyed Keif (*Kvitzvat Keif is our social engagement period led by Marisa Underberger and Jessica Becker*) early in the day and thought the activity was very fun! He also shared with Scott and I some of the material he learned in Mr. Flatto's class about the Holocaust and Spanish Inquisition. Thank you!”

{click} This one... wait a minute. I am starting to sound like my grandfather when he would show slides from the trips abroad he took with my grandmother. He was excited about the things he saw and the people they had met. I wasn't because I hadn't been on the trip.

So instead of me going on, why don't you ask the students in your house to describe something that happened in their class? Please don't ask them what they did today. The answer “nothing” is genetically encoded in all of us.

Ask them to share something they, the teacher or one of the other students said or did. Ask them to teach you about something they heard or saw, or how to play the game or sing the song they had experienced. And please, make sure they show up for class! They can't describe experiences they did not have. And there is a lot for them to experience!

L'shalom,
Ira J. Wise, D.J.R.E.
Director of Education



ADULT JEWISH LEARNING AT CONGREGATION B'NAI ISRAEL



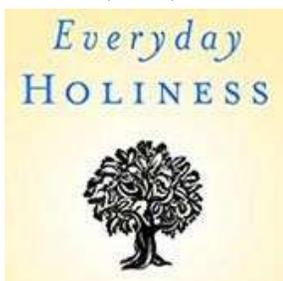
Adult Round Table Thursday February 7 and March 7 at Noon

Gloria Katz facilitates a discussion about current events for anyone who wants to go beyond the headlines. Join us the first Thursday of every month, and bring a sandwich, your opinion and an open mind.



Seeking Everyday Holiness: A Community Mussar Program Mondays, 12:00 - 1:30 p.m.

10 Sessions: 1/28, 2/11 & 25, 3/11 & 25,
4/8 & 29, 5/13, 6/3 & 17



Join with Rabbi Schultz for this ten-part course on the teachings of Mussar. Mussar is a treasury of techniques,

teachings, and contemplative practices that offers immensely valuable guidance for the journey of our lives. The learnings and practices help individual souls pinpoint and then to break through the barriers that surround and obstruct the flow of inner light in their lives. The goal of Mussar practice is to release the light of holiness that lives within the soul.

Cost: \$95 (Covers cost of book and donation to the Mussar Institute.) Learn more about this course here: <https://mussarinstitute.org/courses/seeking-everyday-holiness/>

Practical Kabbalah: Elevating Consciousness

Mondays at 7:00 p.m., January 28, February 4, 11 and 25



Kabbalah offers a uniquely integrated, holistic pathway to spiritual growth — from practical change to deep wisdom and healing. For centuries, these ancient Jewish mysteries

were withheld from even observant and committed Jews, and only recently made available outside these circles. We're now fortunate to be able to understand, practice and apply this powerful path in a modern context. Kabbalah teaches you to relate to the world from a stance of wholeness and balance. From this stance, we can understand, grow, transform, and repair internally and externally. Justin C. Beck returns as our teacher of Kabbalah.

It is recommended to attend each session as we build on our accumulated knowledge and experience. However, if a session is missed there will be a brief review of the previous session each week. Sessions will alternate between B'nai Israel and Congregation Beth El, 1200 Fairfield Woods Road: January 28 and February 11 at B'nai Israel and February 4 and 25 at Beth El.

Celebrating 160 years of B'nai Israel - the ever changing landscape of Reform Judaism

Fridays at Noon, February 1, 8, 15 and 22

In honor of our 160th anniversary as a congregation, Rabbi Schultz will take participants through the ever-changing Jewish experience as manifested through our community. Specifically, we

will look at Reform practice, theology, sacred space, music, and more. If you are curious how Reform Judaism has shifted over the past 160 years, this class is for you!

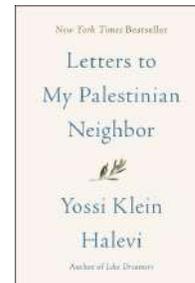


One Temple One Book: Letters to My Palestinian Neighbor

Monday March 4 at 7:00 p.m.

Join Rabbi Prosnit in a discussion on author Yossi Klein Halevi's latest book –

An honest and forthright attempt to reach across the divide to Palestinians who share his homeland. Klein Halevi argues



that the road to peace is understanding the two conflicting narratives and eventually splitting the land into two states for two peoples. However, he is sober and fearful and confesses "I

remain in limbo, affirming a two-state solution while clinging to the status quo. And yet I cannot accept our current state of seemingly endless conflict as the definitive verdict on our relationship." Read it! You'll be glad you did.

FEBRUARY DONATIONS

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

Rabbi Prosnit Discretionary Fund

Brian and Linda Barlaam, in memory of Frank Resnik.

Jodi and David Berman, in honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Ethan Joseph Berman.

Bonim Parent Committee, Happy Chanukah, and with thanks for all you do.

Father William Bulkley, a donation.

Dale and Jerry Demner, with thanks to Rabbi Prosnit for making our 50th Wedding Anniversary so special.

Michael and Diane Farber, a donation.

Kim and Mike Feinstein, in honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Ben Feinstein.

Stacy and Rob Giglietti, in memory of Michael Giglietti, father of Rob Giglietti.

Wendy and Don Hyman, in honor of Rabbi Prosnit and Wendy Bloch, on the birth of granddaughter, Zoe May Prosnit; in memory of Jon-Alec Chervin, son of Brad and Lori Chervin.

Alice and George Kelly, in memory of Jon-Alec Chervin, son of Brad and Lori Chervin.

Joel and Lucinda Kramer, in memory of Irving Kern, husband of Andrea Kern.

Rozanne and Anthony Lancia, in memory of Martha Cohen, mother of Rozanne Lancia.

Aleksey and Raisa Ledvich, in memory of grandmother, Feiga Vengerovskaya; in memory of aunt, Shelya Sotnik.

Joan and Marc Levy, in honor of Layla Ofir's baby naming.

Shelley Levy, in honor of Layla Ofir's baby naming, and in appreciation of Rabbi Prosnit.

Ivan Maisel and Meg Murray, in appreciation of Rabbi Prosnit.

Beth and Randy Reich, in memory of Joel Zinn, brother of Fred Zinn.

Andrew Rothbaum, in appreciation of Rabbi Prosnit.

Nina Silberman and Howard

Weisman, in memory of Ernest Michel, father of Ralph Michel.

Rabbi James Prosnit Legacy Fund

Donations made in memory of Sylvia Edelson were made by:

William Berkowitz

Lawrence A. Sax

Marcie Seigel & Mike Rodericks

Doreen Testa

Chris and George Markley, in honor of Cleo and Jon Sonneborn's 50th Wedding Anniversary.

Judy Weinstein and Mia Jacobson, in memory of Joshua Spector, son of Mark and Deena Spector.

Rabbi Schultz Discretionary Fund

Jodi and David Berman, in honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Ethan Joseph Berman.

Bonim Parent Committee, Happy Chanukah, and with thanks for all you do.

Dale and Jerry Demner, with thanks to Rabbi Schultz for making our 50th Wedding Anniversary so special.

Vernon and Meredith Dommu, in honor of B'nai Israel, and with congratulations to Rabbi Schultz.

Phyllis Freed, in memory of Joshua Spector, son of Mark and Deena Spector.

Stacy and Rob Giglietti, in honor of Jerry Pressman's 80th birthday.

Ruth and Eric Gross, in honor of Marcia Cohen and her Gift of Light Crew.

Joan and Marc Levy, in honor of Layla Ofir's baby naming.

Shelley Levy, in honor of Layla Ofir's baby naming, and with thanks to Rabbi Shultz for the beautiful music.

Beth and Randy Reich, in honor of Fred and Ronni Zinn, on the birth of granddaughter, Viviana Mojica Zinn.

Ellie Taylor and Family, in honor of Irving and Nancy Silverman, on receiving the John & Phyllis Neary Award for their public service in Easton.

Music Fund

David Abbey and Debbie Goodman, in honor of Mark Edinberg's musical contributions and recent Chanukah Klezmer concert.

Jodi and David Berman, in honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Ethan Joseph

Berman.

Bonim Parent Committee, Happy Chanukah, and with thanks for all you do.

Kim and Mike Feinstein, in honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Ben Feinstein.

Phyllis Freed, in memory of Joshua Spector, son of Mark and Deena Spector.

Enhancement Fund

Henry and Marilyn Banach, in memory of Jacob Banach.

Barbara Berkowitz, in memory of sister, Carole Toss.

Barbara Bresler, in loving memory of mother, Rena Milgram Pious

Alan and Betty Feldman, in memory of Elsbeth Zabin, mother of Josh Zabin.

Ken and Elizabeth Flatto, a donation.

Steven and Lauren Field, a donation.

Michael Jacobson, in memory of Nathan Jacobson.

Gloria Katz, in honor of Jerry and Dale Demner, on their 50th Wedding Anniversary.

Eli and Katerina Kharaz, a donation.

Carol and Andrew Lubin, a donation.

Alice Madwed, in memory of Steven Madwed, son of Ruth Madwed.

Ruth Madwed, in memory of son, Steven Madwed.

Irving and Wilma Mark, in memory of father, Hyman Mark.

Gloria Sheiman, in memory of father, Louis Krofssik.

Debora and Michael Weisman, in memory of Mary Frauwirth, Max Frauwirth and Nancy Frauwirth.

Sylvia Prosnit Adult Education Fund

Judi and David Beier, in honor of Dale and Jerry Demner's 50th Wedding Anniversary.

Nursery School Scholarship Fund

Serena and Arnie Sher, in memory of Jon-Alec Chervin, son of Brad and Lori Chervin.

Prayer Book Fund

Judi and David Beier, wishing a speedy recovery to Holly Verbil.

FEBRUARY DONATIONS

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

Religious School Scholarship Fund
Marty and Alayne Burger, a donation.
Bob and Helen Natt, a donation.

Rabbi Arnold Sher Social Action Fund

Barbara Abraham, in memory of Sylvia Edelson, mother of Judy Stern and Deborah Goldstein.

Elaine and Juda Chetrit, in honor of Bobby Sussman for being our Mitzvah Hero.

Rev. Msgr. J. James Cuneo, a donation.

Bari Dworken, in memory of Jon-Alec Chervin, son of Brad and Lori Chervin.

Ellen Hyde Phillips, in honor of Bob Sussman.

Jane and Jerry Pressman, in honor of Bob Sussman, Mazel tov on doing such meaningful work.

Serena and Arnie Sher, in honor of Joni and Michael Greenspan, on their 55th Wedding Anniversary.

Barbara and Larry Yurdin, in honor of Jerry Pressman's 80th birthday.

Jim Abraham Education Fund for Jewish Leadership

Serena and Arnie Sher, in loving memory of Irving Kern, husband of Andrea Kern.

Gillette Judaic Enrichment Fund
Sharon and Art Schloss, in honor of Jerry Pressman's birthday.

Yakhani Caring Fund

The Elbaum Family, in memory of Jon-Alec Chervin, son of Brad and Lori Chervin.

Janet Jurow, in honor of Jon and Cleo Sonneborn, on their 50th Wedding Anniversary; in honor of Elaine and Juda Chetrit, on the birth of grandson, William John Laragh, son of Marci & Rob.

Nancy Kern, a donation.

George and Chris Markley, in memory of Jon-Alec Chervin, son of Brad and Lori Chervin.

Liz and Mark Nigrosh, in memory of Bob Appleton, father of Liz Nigrosh; in memory of Anne Nigrosh, mother of Mark Nigrosh.

5779 HIGH HOLY DAY APPEAL

Thank you to everyone. This is a continuation of the list from last month's bulletin.

Pillar of Congregation

Elizabeth and Mark Nigrosh

President's Circle

Judy and Michael Blumenthal

High Holy Day Appeal Contribution

Barbara and Samuel Boyarsky

Noel and Danielle Forma

Steven and Barbara Gersen

Beth and Jordan Posner



(203) 336-1858 • www.cbibpt.org

The Bulletin of Congregation B'nai Israel is published every month except July.

James Prosnit, D.D. Rabbi
 Evan Schultz Rabbi
 Arnold I. Sher, D.D. Rabbi Emeritus
 Sheri E. Blum, D.M. Cantor
 Ramon Gilbert, D.M. Cantor Emeritus
 Ira J. Wise, D.J.R.E. Temple Educator
 Robert H. Gillette, R.J.E. Educator Emeritus
 Alexa Cohen Early Childhood Director

Officers

Shari Nerreau President
 Larry Levine 1st Vice President
 Jill Elbaum Vice President
 Perry Molinoff Vice President
 Susan Walden Vice President
 Jerry Saunders Treasurer
 David Herbst Assistant Treasurer
 Laurie Gaugler Secretary
 Jake Bogner Financial Secretary
 Michael Blumenthal Immediate Past President

Affiliates

Marisa Underberger BIFTY Advisor/Youth Engagement Specialist
 Hannah Mallon and Alex Weisman..... BIFTY Co-Presidents
 Jack Kadden Bulletin Editor
 Scott Smith Deputy Bulletin Editor

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 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.

ANTI-SEMITIC DOG- WHISTLES TODAY

Anti-Semitism now incorporates words and symbols that many of us are unfamiliar with. Aryeh Tuchman, associate director of the Anti-Defamation League's Center on Extremism, will decode and contextualize the new language and imagery of anti-Semitism and white supremacy at a program on Wednesday, Jan. 30 at Temple Israel, 14 Coleytown Road, Westport.



PLEASE SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS

JMGMUSIC.COM 203.564.9335



MUSIC AND ENTERTAINMENT

James M. Goldstein

DJ • PHOTOBOOTHS • LIGHTING

The Westport Inn
SINCE 1960



3,200sq.ft of Creative Ballroom Space
Sunday Brunch
Dedicated Event Coordinator
Attractive Rates for Your Next Event / Room Block!

Call or Email for more details
P: 203.557.8124 | Email: sales@westportinn.com



COHEN and WOLF Not Just a Law Firm.
Your Law Firm.

- Appellate
- Bankruptcy
- Commercial Finance
- Common Interest Communities
- Corporate
- Elder Law & Long Term Care Planning
- Employment & Labor
- Land Use & Zoning
- Litigation
- Matrimonial & Family
- Municipal
- Personal Injury
- Physicians Practices
- Real Estate
- Securities
- Securities Arbitration
- Tax and Trusts & Estates
- Telecommunications & Utilities

BRIDGEPORT 203-368-0211 DANBURY 203-792-2771 WESTPORT 203-222-1034 ORANGE 203-298-4066

www.cohenandwolf.com



Standard Security Systems
Standard Insurance Agency
Standard Oil of Connecticut
Standard Petroleum (Gasoline)

Roy Friedman
Standard Companies President
David Cohen Executive Vice-President

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS

The following members of the legal community join together in their support of the B'nai Israel *Bulletin*:

- Ken Beck
- Eric Broder
- Douglas R. Brown
- Marcia Cohen
- Mark A. Kirsch
- Richard Krantz
- Andrew R. Lubin
- Daniel Schopick

Sam & Sons, LLC
Driving & Delivery



- Personal Driving
- Airport Rides
- Deliveries
- Dump Runs
- And More...

Sam Josovitz

Text/Call: (203) 521-8097
SamandSons02@gmail.com
www.facebook.com/SamandSonsDrivingandDelivery

Your Bar/Bat Mitzvah Begins at the Courtyard Shelter

- ✓ EVENTS UP TO 200 GUESTS
- ✓ CREATIVE CUISINE
- ✓ SPECIAL ROOM RATES

Contact Event Planner Nicole Knapik at nknapik@waterfordhotelgroup.com or by calling (203) 929-1500.



780 Bridgeport Ave., Shelton, CT 06484
sheltoncourtyard.com

Steven M. Soberman, M.D.
Daniel S. Gottschall, M.D.

Certified Mohalim



Obstetrics & Gynecology Board Certified

3180 Main Street
Bridgeport, CT
06606

Phone: (203) 374-0404

Hansen's Flower Shop

Family Owned and Operated Since 1920



Shop 24/7
By Phone or Website
Bar, Bat Mitzvahs and Weddings Our Specialty

(203) 255-0461

www.hansensflowershop.com

1040 Post Road Fairfield

ORTHOPAEDIC SPECIALTY GROUP, PC

EXCEPTIONAL PEOPLE. EXCEPTIONAL CARE.



- Murray A. Morrison, MD
- Herbert I. Hermele, MD
- Robert V. Dawe, MD
- Robert A. Stanton, MD
- David F. Bindelglass, MD
- Dante A. Britts, MD
- Henry A. Backe, Jr., MD
- Rolf H. Langeland, MD
- Patrick W. Kwok, MD
- Michael F. Saffir, MD
- Lawrence P. Kirschenbaum, MD
- Joel W. Malin, MD
- Perry A. Shear, MD
- John A. Awad, MD
- Jerold M. Periman, MD

75 Kings Highway Cutoff
Fairfield, CT 06824

2909 Main Street
Stratford, CT 06614

(203) 337-2600
www.osgpc.com

2 Enterprise Drive
Shelton, CT 06484

ADVANCED IMPLANT & COSMETIC DENTISTRY

Your Home for Beautiful Healthy Smiles

Daniel J. Pallay, DDS, FICOI

440 Brooklawn Avenue • Bridgeport, CT 06604

PHONE 203.576.1918 • FAX 203.696.0326

pallaydental@yahoo.com

www.pallaydental.com



Jane La Motta Photography 203.856.0654

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS

 <p>Laura Sydney-Pulton, Realtor* Relocation Specialist ABR®, ASP</p> <p>William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty 251 Main Street Southport, CT 06890 c 203.610.3949 o 203.255.9900 lsydney@williampitt.com laurasydney.williampitt.com</p> <p style="font-size: small;">Each Office is Independently Owned and Operated.</p>	<p>DANIEL F. SCHOPICK ATTORNEY AT LAW</p> <p>572 WHITE PLAINS ROAD TRUMBULL, CT 06611 (203) 261-6565 FAX (203) 261-8420 DFSLEGAL6565@AOL.COM</p> <p>STEIBER & SCHOPICK</p>	 <p style="text-align: right;">Business 367-8711 Fax 255-7644</p> <p style="text-align: center;">DEITZ INC.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">110 Sigwin Drive Fairfield, Conn. 06824 Landscaping - Excavating - Snowplowing</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">ABRAHAM L. GREEN and SON FUNERAL HOME</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">88 Beach Road Fairfield, CT 06824 (203) 255-8993 (888) 256-8993 FAX: (203)254-3268</p> <p style="text-align: center;">www.greensfuneralhome.com</p>	<p>BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY HomeServices</p>  <p>Alice Dizenzo Realtor Leading Edge Society Top 7%</p> <p>New England Properties 1583 Post Road Fairfield, Ct. 06824 203-952-5423 203-255-1675 adizenzo@bhhsne.com www.alicesales.com</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">A member of the franchise system of BHH Affiliates, LLC</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Andrea Beiser Hagani, M.D. Pediatrics/Pediatric Hematology</p>  <p>Pediatric Healthcare Associates www.pha4kids.com</p> <p style="text-align: right;">4699 Main Street, Suite 215 Bridgeport, CT 06606 Phone: (203) 452-8322 Fax: (203) 371-7198</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">MARTIN H. GREEN MEMORIALS</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Monuments Lettered - Home Appointments</p> <p>6395 Main Street Trumbull, CT 06611 (203) 452-1221</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: x-small;">WILLIAM RAVEIS REAL ESTATE • MORTGAGE • INSURANCE The Largest Family-Owned Real Estate Company in the Northeast An Award-Winning Team</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">SHARI NERREAU <i>Moving You Forward</i></p> <p>203.913.3149 Shari.Nerreau@raveis.com facebook.com/movingyouforward</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">Coll-Edge Partners</p>  <p>GET THE COMPETITIVE EDGE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The right educational fit for your student • The right financial fit for you <p>Call or email for your FREE consultation Sheryl Santiago, Educational Consultant 203-345-1953 sheryl@coll-edgepartners.net</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">visit us at www.coll-edgepartners.net Like us on </p>

The following members of the medical community join together in their support of the B'nai Israel Bulletin:

- | | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| Dr. Andrea Hagani | Dr. Howard B. Twersky | Dr. Geoffrey Gladstein |
| Dr. Robert D. Chessin | Dr. Jeffrey Small | Dr. Rachel E. Sheiman |
| Dr. David F. Bindelglass | Dr. Edward Portnay | Dr. Brian King |
| Dr. Alan M. Nelson | Dr. Michael Connolly | Dr. Abraham Fridman |
| Dr. Glenn M. Rich | Dr. Kenneth Kingsly | Dr. Katherine J. Pesce |
| Dr. Lawrence Dinkes | Dr. Mark J. Hotchkiss | Dr. Nicholas Blondin |
| Dr. Kenneth Rabine | Dr. Andrew Levi | Dr. Aaron Dommu |
| Dr. George P. Kelly | Dr. Jared Selter | Dr. Perry A. Wasserlauf |

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS

BRODER & ORLAND LLC

MATRIMONIAL & FAMILY LAW

55 Greens Farms Road
Westport, CT 06880
(203) 222-4949

www.broderorland.com

Eric J. Broder: ebroder@broderorland.com
Carole Topol Orland: corland@broderorland.com

Celebrate Deliciously



GARELICK & HERBS
THE EXCLUSIVE CATERER FOR

MORA:MORA

THE SPOT FOR PARTIES

The Westport Inn

Contact our Events Specialists at 203.972.4497 • garelickandherbs.com
Westport • Southport • New Canaan • Greenwich



Help is Just a Phone Call Away.



Schoke Jewish Family Service's Home Companion Program offers carefully screened and trained aides for homebound seniors and loved ones recovering from illness.

Contact Isrella Knopf, MSW for more information about our affordable rates at isrellak@ctjfs.org.

Serving Stamford, Westport, Bridgeport, and Upper Fairfield County
4200 Park Avenue, Suite 300, Bridgeport, CT 06604
Phone: 203-921-4161 • www.ctjfs.org

Recipient Agency of the Federation for Jewish Philanthropy of Upper Fairfield County
and the United Jewish Federation of Greater Stamford, New Canaan, and Darien

A NOTE OF GRATITUDE

In December, some 30 people took part in a Mitzvah Morning event to benefit Al's Angels, which assists children and families battling cancer, blood diseases, natural disasters and financial hardship.

Congregants joined together to gift-wrap presents they had purchased, many of them through a special Amazon link.

Al DiGuido, the founder of Al's Angels,



sent the following letter to Rabbis Prosnit and Schultz:

I didn't want to lay my head to sleep tonight before sending a quick note of huge appreciation for the inspiring response from the community of B'nai Israel to our Al's Angels Toy Drive for children in need.

I can't tell you how profound the impact of this effort has been on my organization and my mindset about the ways that all of us who are members of the human family can work together to do God's will.

I really believe that together -- a people united in our mission to do God's will can bring light in the darkness of our work. There is no reason why we shouldn't look for many other ways to bring our groups together to accomplish goals and objectives that benefit mankind and bring

all of us together to change the world.

Without us the world will continue to dwell in darkness. Together, we knock down all the walls and act with a combined force that will be a day of reckoning for all those who doubt the power of a God inspired people.

Many thanks for your support, encouragement and love for children in need. I wish you great joy and happiness throughout the holiday season. May 2019 be our best year ever. Thanks again for your amazing participation.

With great love and admiration.

Al DiGuido
Al's Angels

SHABBAT SERVICE SCHEDULE

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

Friday, February 1

6:00 p.m. Service
Torah Portion –
Mishpatim, Exod.
21:1-24:18
Haftarah – Jeremiah
34:8-22; 33:25-26

Saturday, February 2

8:00 a.m. Service
9:00 a.m. Brotherhood Breakfast
9:30 a.m. Torah Study
9:30 a.m. Havurah for Families
with Young Children
with special guest –
Miss Alexa!
11:00 a.m. Bat Mitzvah of Juliette
Carasso, granddaughter
of David and Colette
Carasso, daughter of
Monique Carasso and
Melissa Kirk.

Friday, February 8

6:00 p.m. Service
Torah Portion –
Terumah, Exod. 25:1-
27:19
Haftarah – 1 Kings
5:26-6:13

Saturday, February 9

8:00 a.m. Service
9:00 a.m. Brotherhood Breakfast
9:30 a.m. Torah Study
9:30 a.m. Havurah for Families
with Young Children
11:00 a.m. Bar Mitzvah of
Benjamin Enos, son of
Frank Enos and Robin
Cautin

Friday, February 15

6:00 p.m. Service
Torah Portion –
Tetzaveh, Exod. 27:20-
30:10

Haftarah – Ezekiel
43:10-27

Saturday, February 16

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

Friday, February 22

6:00 p.m. Service
Torah Portion – Ki
Tissa, Exod. 30:11-
34:35
Haftarah – 1 Kings
18:1-39

Saturday, February 23

8:00 a.m. Service
9:00 a.m. Brotherhood Breakfast
9:30 a.m. Torah Study
9:30 a.m. Havurah for
Families with Young
Children



Non-Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 171
Fairfield, Conn.

Congregation B'nai Israel
2710 Park Avenue
Bridgeport, CT 06604
(203) 336-1858
www.cbibpt.org

HONORING RABBI PROSNIT: PLEASE SAVE THESE DATES

As you all know, Rabbi Prosnit is retiring from Congregation B'nai Israel in June 2019. We are planning to send him off in style with many occasions to honor him, celebrate and learn together. Below is an updated list of the many scheduled events providing opportunities for everyone to participate. Please note them in your calendars and plan to join us!

March 1, 2019 | 6 p.m.

Ask the Rabbi – Do you have questions that you always wanted to ask three “generations” of our rabbis but never had a chance... Then, this event is for you. No censoring of questions – with Rabbis Sher, Prosnit, and Schultz.

March 13-26, 2019

Rabbi Prosnit leads congregational trip to Israel. 60 congregants and members of our community join with Rabbi Prosnit and Wendy Bloch. This trip is sold out.

April 12 and 13, 2019

Shabbat with our associate rabbis – Rabbi Fred Greene and Rabbi Rachel Gurevitz (Shabbat services, dinner/breakfast, learning and discussion).

May 3, 2019

In the morning, Bonim Grandparents

Shabbat. Bonim celebrates grandparents and special guest Grandpa/Rabbi Jim.

May 3, 2019 | 6 p.m.

Rabbi Lawrence Hoffman, a favorite teacher of Rabbis Prosnit and Schultz and one of the foremost thinkers and teachers in Jewish life today, will attend Shabbat services at 6 p.m. and will speak at a dinner afterward.

May 10, 2019

Junior Choir Shabbat honoring Rabbi Prosnit

May 19, 2019 | 12:00 p.m.

Sunday school barbeque honoring Rabbi Prosnit.

May 22, 2019

Julie Salamon, the author of “Rambam’s Ladder,” a 2003 meditation on

philanthropy and giving, will speak at an event to honor Wendy Bloch.

May 31, 2019

Shabbat service featuring Rabbi Rick Jacobs, president of the Union for Reform Judaism and extended Kiddush.

June 1, 2019

Shabbat morning service, breakfast and Torah study honoring Rabbi Prosnit.

June 1, 2019 | 7 p.m.

Gala dinner celebrating Rabbi Prosnit.

June TBD

Sunday in the Park with Jim. The temple goes to Citifield to root for one of his favorite teams.

We hope you can join us at one or more of these events. Let’s send him off in B’nai Israel style. If you have any questions or want to participate on a committee for one of these events, please let Lynn know.

Mindy and Luise