

AUGUST HIGHLIGHTS

A New Role

As he embarks on his new role as our Senior Rabbi, Rabbi Schultz offers thanks to his predecessors and expresses his optimism about the future. Page 3.

An Introduction

In her first column in the Bulletin, our new Assistant Rabbi, Sarah Marion, tells us a bit about herself and her excitement about coming to B'nai Israel. Page 5.

A Life-Changing Experience

Sarah Rocco describes her experience as a student living on Kibbutz Tzuba in Israel as part of NFTY's Heller High. Page 4

Making Science Fun

Alexa Cohen describes the exciting work Adele Josovitz is doing as the STREAM instructor at the Bonim preschool. Page 6.

Dealing With Change

In an excerpt from his annual report to the congregation, Ira Wise discusses efforts to help our education program keep up with a changing world. Page 7.

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A NEW PLACE TO GATHER



A rendering of the new Rabbi James Prosnit Outdoor Prayer and Community Space.

Congregants will soon have a new place to pray, learn and celebrate.

A little-used outdoor space adjoining the Pavilion has been transformed, thanks to a stealth fund-raising drive that raised \$123,000 for new walls, plantings, lighting and a huge retractable awning.

The project, to be known officially as the Rabbi James Prosnit Outdoor Prayer and Community Space, was publicly announced at the Gala in honor of Rabbi Prosnit's retirement.

The idea for the transformation originated with Rabbi Prosnit, who approached Bernie Jacobs about finding a way to make the space more usable.

Bernie asked Amy Rich to assist with the project, and he solicited input from the professional staff to learn what they'd like to see in the space. The goal was to make it both attractive and functional.

Bernie and Amy sought the assistance

of Craig Kopfmann at Green Acres Landscape & Design. The company installed Hannah's Garden and has been doing B'nai Israel's landscape maintenance for the last few years.

They then took the basic ideas to a family that became the major donor, pledging a minimum of \$50,000 and requesting anonymity.

Amy and Bernie solicited additional donations – quietly – from other congregants. About 18 families made contributions averaging \$5,000 each.

“We did not reach out broadly, on purpose,” Amy said, because congregants had already been asked to donate to the Rabbi James Prosnit Legacy Fund to add to the synagogue's endowment, and to the tribute journal for the Gala.

“Once we had decided to name it in honor of Rabbi Prosnit,” Amy said, “We tried to keep it quiet and not involve him in the

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SHARING OUR JOY...

Lis and George Ruderman, in celebration of the birth of great-granddaughter, Cora George Ruderman, daughter of Betsy and Matt Ruderman.

Cleo and Jon Sonneborn, in celebration of the birth of grandson, Kiko Jonathan Maltauro.

Beth Lazar, in celebration of winning a literary competition award for non-fiction writing from the Trumbull Library.

Annette Schwarz Kaye and Rick Kaye, in celebration of the birth of granddaughter, Sophia Judith Kaye, daughter of Adam Schwarz Kaye and Sarah Conway.

Brian and Linda Barlaam, in celebration of the marriage of son, Drew Barlaam, to Jessica Olderman.

Ellen Rosoff and Gary Rosoff, in celebration of the marriage of daughter, Stephanie Rosoff, to Danny Baxter.

Liz and Mark Nigrosh, in celebration of the engagement of son, Seth, to Robin McFadden.

SINCERE SYMPATHY

We extend our sympathy to the bereaved families of:

Andrew Levitt, brother of Nancy Rosenthal

Nancy Zeldes

Bernard Levine, husband of Marion Levine

Robert Zeisler, husband of Judy Zeisler

Sylvia Walter, sister of Lee Lester

Frieda Lopatin, mother of Richard Lopatin

WELCOME! WELCOME!

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.

Jillian Lavoie, Lucie & Cleo
South Street, Fairfield

BULLETIN BOARD

A Bonfire at the Beach!



Let's not let the summer end just yet! Bring your family to the 2nd Annual Religious School Bonfire, to be held at Lake Mohegan in Fairfield on Monday, Aug. 26 at 6 p.m. You don't need a pass or beach sticker to enter, and the pit is easy to spot from the entrance. Bring some logs, some chairs, and some dinner, and we'll provide the s'mores!

Questions can be directed to Annie Ringelheim - annieringelheim@gmail.com

Blood Donors

We, and the Red Cross, wish to thank the following members of Congregation B'nai Israel who generously donated life-saving blood at our recent drive: Michael Blumenthal, Alexa Cohen, Elizabeth Nigrosh, Caren Schwartz, Ira Wise

Our next Red Cross Blood Drive will be Tuesday, Aug. 13. More details will be announced as we get closer to the date. To schedule an appointment, please call 1-800-733-2767 or 1-800-RedCross.

Shabbat at Lake Mohegan

Join us on Aug. 16 at 6 p.m. for Shabbat services at Lake Mohegan in Fairfield. Pack a chair, blanket, and the kids and join us for a beautiful outdoor service. Bring dinner, if you like, to enjoy before or after the service.

A few things to know: You do not have to be a Fairfield resident to park at Lake Mohegan, and the lake is fully accessible -- there is a ramp down to the lake.

Greet Rabbi Marion #1

Join us at the home of Naomi and Carl Erwich on Aug. 11 at 4 p.m. for a meet-and-greet with our new Assistant Rabbi, Sarah Marion. All are invited to join! Please RSVP to Chris Rocha, chris@cbibpt.org, for the Erwich address.

Greet Rabbi Marion #2

If you can't make the first meet-and-greet, there will be a second one on Sept. 15 at 4 p.m. at the home of Nina Silberman and Howard Weisman. Please RSVP to Chris Rocha, chris@cbibpt.org, for the address.



FROM THE RABBI'S DESK/RABBI EVAN SCHULTZ

L'DOR VADOR, FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION

L'dor vador nagid godlecha

L'dor vador... we protect this chain

These words from Josh Nelson's moving melody echo through my very being as I sit down for the first time at the desk in front of me. The desk where Rabbi Sher would compose his masterful sermons on the call to justice from our prophets. The desk where Rabbi Prosnit would craft his moving messages about the sacred intricacies of life.

L'dor vador, from generation to generation, we protect this chain.

It is a humbling experience to have been entrusted with this next link in the chain, indeed standing on the shoulders of B'nai Israel giants - Martin. Sher. Prosnit. How can I fully put into words the immense honor I feel to be writing to each of you as your new senior rabbi, so blessed to lead a community that illuminates and lives out the values that we read in the pages of our sacred texts. When we gather here it is with intention, when we create together, it is with sacred purpose.



The torch is passed. From left, Rabbis Schultz, Sher and Prosnit.

you most.

This year the B'nai Israel chain continues to grow and evolve. I am so thrilled to have Rabbi Sarah Marion join our community. Sarah carries so much wisdom and such a desire to immerse herself in our B'nai Israel community. She is talented, smart, and passionate about this work. I encourage you to attend one of her

our community, from B'nai Mitzvah training to leading our choirs to singing on Shabbat and festivals. We hope that B'nai Israel will be the landing spot for a wonderful new cantor who can build on Cantor Blum's many years of fostering and building music at B'nai Israel.

So as I sit down at my desk to craft this letter to you, know how excited and joyous I am to have been entrusted with this next link of the chain, alongside and in partnership with all of you. My hope is that we together create a sacred space that deeply moves us, energizes us, and impacts us and the world all around us.

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I have spent the past seven years building relationships with so many of you, listening to your stories, learning what makes B'nai Israel unique and the tone we wish to set when we gather together as community. I wish to continue to listen. There will be opportunities in the coming months to gather together with me in open spaces, so that I can continue to hear your stories, learn what matters to

meet and greets in August or September, to introduce yourselves and have an opportunity to meet her in person.

We know this year will bring additional change, as Cantor Blum prepares to retire in June of 2020. I am working closely with her to ensure that the transition is a smooth one, as there is so much that Cantor Blum does to elevate

We have the ability and potential to think about synagogue life in dynamic and creative ways that speaks to each of us in profound ways. I can't wait to be part of the next leg of the B'nai Israel journey with each of you. L'dor vador, we move from generation to generation, hands side by side, upon this sacred link of the chain.

CONNECTING WITH THE LAND OF ISRAEL

Sarah Rocco was one of our Confirmands this past June. We had to photoshop her into the class photo, because she spent the spring semester on Kibbutz Tzuba in Israel as part of NFTY's Heller High. She is the fourth B'nai Israel teen to go there in the last decade. Participants have an immersive experience and delve deeply into the history as well as the day-to-reality of the Jewish state.

After four eventful months spent in this incredible land I now call home, how could one possibly put this experience into words? How can I relay my passion and experiences gained from this spectacular trip?

Honestly, I really can't but what I hope is that you, the reader, will have insight about what I learned and experienced at Heller High School, in Israel.

But before I begin, I would like to recognize that none of this would have been possible without a plethora of help from my beloved Jewish community, my family and friends. I had never been to Israel before, I had no idea what compelled me to hop on a plane with 76 strangers and live in a foreign country for four months. But since that day, I am beyond thankful that I made this bold decision which changed my life, and will continue to forever.

On January 27, I sat on a plane full of people who would soon know all about my life, who I would experience plenty of hardships with, and with whom I would build solid bonds. Israel was just this far off land to me that I learned about in Hebrew school, and every day since I arrived back in the Diaspora I ponder, "How could I possibly have not wondered a single thing about this magnificent place?" or "Did I really not bother to learn a language designed for and by my people?"

I just have so much trouble comprehending that prior to these four months, I was oblivious about the land of the Jewish people and all she had to



Sarah Rocco, third from left, with fellow students during her stay in Israel.

offer. Don't get me wrong, I do know that Israel is not at all perfect and while I was protected, I was not hidden from the challenges people face living there.

While I was there I witnessed and took part in some of the not so enjoyable parts of living in Israel. Rockets fired from Gaza that destroyed my counselors' home on a kibbutz on the border of Gaza. A few friends who were away for the weekend were in an area where air raid sirens went off, they had to go into a bomb shelter until it was safe.

I'm just going to highlight a few events that made this experience for me. I met my best friends and the best kind of people who picked me up when I was down.

Aside from my peers, there were teachers and Madrahim (counselors) who shaped my time in Israel and welcomed me with open arms. Each student is required to take Jewish History and Hebrew. Jewish History was so challenging and a very large chunk of the day (3 hours in the morning) but every morning we were

I am beyond thankful that I made this bold decision which changed my life, and will continue to forever.

This was something that young American teens were not used to, but Israelis face this whenever there is rising conflict. Not only did we experience outward conflict but we saw conflict within the different Jewish sects. We went to the Western Wall and witnessed riots, violence and religious discourse. The reason was because the Women of the Wall were trying to peacefully practice on Rosh Chodesh on their 30th anniversary, but the Chasidim had other ideas.

This was all hard to see, but I'm glad I was exposed to this.

greeted by Talia, my Jewish history teacher's positive aura and bright smile.

Learning from her was such a privilege. She has a connection to the land that was so meaningful. I admired her passion for teaching and wanting to see each of us succeed. We were her first class but she taught as if she had been doing this for years. I remember on the first day, we did a blessing before we opened the Tanakh and Talia gave us honey for the "sweet words of Torah" and a sweet start to the journey we were about to begin.

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FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY/RABBI SARAH R. MARION LET ME INTRODUCE MYSELF

I have a confession to make.

Even before Rabbi Evan Schultz and Search Chair Nina Silberman called me with the exciting offer to become your next Assistant Rabbi, I've been joining B'nai Israel's Shabbat Services via livestream. The sounds of the 8 a.m. Shabbat service have serenaded me on my drive to my own Shabbat morning activities in Baltimore; the Friday evening recordings have made for great listening while washing my Shabbes dishes, after leading services of my own.

As I began imagining the prospect of coming to B'nai Israel, I sought to understand the essence of who you are. And now that I am finally here with you for Shabbat, for holidays, for religious school, for study sessions and social action endeavors and so much more – I know that my appreciation and admiration for the B'nai Israel community will only continue to grow.

But all that I have seen and felt and experienced thus far -- both live stream and in person -- leads me to say, for certainty, that I have joined a community in which ties between members are strong and deep. I have joined a community that is eager to swim in the rejuvenating seas of prayer, social justice, and Jewish learning. I have joined a community unafraid of asking the biggest and most important questions around who we are and who we are meant to be. I am so deeply honored to be joining this sacred and special place.

I am a graduate of Brandeis University,

where I majored in Near Eastern and Judaic Studies and Women's and Gender Studies. During my rabbinic studies at HUC-JIR's New York campus, I earned an M.A. in Religious Education and completed two units of Clinical Pastoral Education at two New York City area hospitals.

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I come to you after serving for three years as Assistant Rabbi and Director of Youth Engagement at Temple Oheb Shalom in Baltimore. As a Westchester and New York City native with close family friends in the Fairfield area, I am thrilled to be "coming home" and I am even more thrilled to be returning to Yankees territory – although I understand that Rabbi Schultz (and perhaps a few more of you) might have a bone to pick with me about my baseball affinities. Aside from baseball, I enjoy yoga, cooking and also eating. Most of all, I love spending time with my husband, Seth, and our two kids, Michaela (3.5 years) and Levi (13 months) who are both new and proud members of our Bonim preschool.

In the personal statement that I submitted to Nina and the Rabbinic Search Committee, I described Moses and Miriam as the paradigms through which I envision my role as your rabbi. Upon crossing the Red Sea, we read that

"Moses sang his song to the Eternal, and the Israelites joined in...and then Miriam picked up a hand drum and all the women went out after her in dance with hand drums" (Exodus 15:1; 15:20-21). Like Moses, I am eager to humbly stand before you in worship, study, and life cycle, bringing Judaism into dialogue with the most sacred moments of our lives. And, like Miriam, I am eager to stand *among* you, reaching out my hand and partnering with you at every opportunity to dream, imagine and create a Judaism that responds to our biggest questions and deepest yearnings.

Over the past month, I have been blessed to meet and connect with so many of you, as we have begun the process of sharing our stories and our hopes and dreams for the future. I am eager to continue to meet and get to know every member of the B'nai Israel community. And I am eager to discover all the best coffee, ice cream and frozen yogurt spots in the area. And so in the coming days and weeks, I would be thrilled for the opportunity to discuss our favorite ice cream flavors and then hear about what brought you to B'nai Israel, and what you hope and imagine for its future.

As we continue to get to know one another and embark on this sacred partnership, I pray that we come to experience a deeper sense of understanding, belonging, connectivity and love for Judaism, for one another, and for this magnificent synagogue community in which we are all so fortunate call our home.

A NEW PLACE FROM PAGE 1

detailed planning, although we continued to consult with Rabbi Schultz and the rest of the staff.”

Amy said she expects the space will be used for outdoor services, parties, Bonim

preschool activities, religious school classes and adult learning.

Previously, the space was rarely used, except as a location for the sukkah. In addition, a big tree in the middle of the

space was dying and had to be removed, Amy said.

Amy said she hopes the new space will get plenty of use.

“The point of it wasn’t just to be pretty,” she said. “We wanted to make it functional.”



BONIM BUZZ/ALEXA COHEN, EARLY CHILDHOOD DIRECTOR
ADELE JOSOVITZ AND STREAM AT BONIM!

The success of the STREAM (Science, Technology, Reading, Engineering, Art and Mathematics) program would not have been possible without Adele Josovitz.

Adele came to Bonim after a 40-year career in the Fairfield Public Schools, where she taught grades 1-12. Eighteen of her 40 years were spent as a Library/Media Specialist.

gardens and pollinator gardens and raises monarch and swallowtail butterflies. It's no wonder Adele likes gardening so much, she grew up on a 55-acre chicken farm in New Jersey where they raised 70,000 chickens.

Adele and her family (husband, Robert; son, Sam; and daughters, Rachel and Doris) are longtime B'nai Israel members. Adele said she and Robert chose B'nai Israel because they wanted

kids and teach 5th grade (a term known as looping in the education world). That is where the science bug "bit" her. When Adele starting teaching science and social studies to her 5th graders, her goal was to make science exciting. So when Adele retired from the public schools, she was looking for a new adventure and she found it in the STREAM program at Bonim.

Now, teaching science to preschoolers and toddlers is a bit different than teaching it to the 5th graders, so Adele did (and continues to do) a great deal of research, combing the internet constantly to make sure the curriculum fits the students at our school. Adele said that before she can teach a new concept she has to first learn it herself. At first, she admits, she tried to pack too much into the short time she had with the kids. However after much communication with the teachers and observation herself, Adele now has the formula down pat.

The goal of the STREAM program is for it to build on itself. Each lesson leads to the next. Adele calls what she does with the kids "scientific magic." The mission statement for the STREAM program is – Building a foundation for each child's future through creativity, problem-solving, resourcefulness, teamwork and curiosity. In short Adele Josovitz is AMAZING and we are all so lucky to have her on our team.

Below are quotes from the Bonim teachers Adele works with each day:

- Her love of teaching children to ask questions, discover, and make mistakes is what makes Adele truly special. She inspires not only the children but also the teachers and parents to get out and get their hands dirty!

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Adele Josovitz, far right, teaching a STREAM class at the Bonim preschool.

Adele holds a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education and three master's degrees in Reading, Library/Media and an eclectic mix of other categories that make her the phenomenal educator she is. In addition to her traditional education, Adele furthers her knowledge by being a world traveler, beekeeper and gardener. She is so excited to visit her 7th continent, Antarctica, in February.

About her beekeeping Adele says she is "saving the world, one bee at a time". As a gardener, Adele enjoys vegetable

a special place to educate their kids and B'nai Israel's mission fit with their family's beliefs. Although their mom is a farmer at heart, Adele's children chose very different careers in fashion design for Doris, social work for Rachel and "Jack of all trades" for Sam.

You may ask, how does this all equate to the STREAM at BONIM? Adele told me that her original love of science began the years she taught 4th grade. Adele loved her class so much she asked the principal of her school if she could keep those



FROM THE EDUCATION CENTER/IRA J. WISE

THE ONLY CONSTANT IS CHANGE

This article is part of a longer report on the current state and future of Jewish learning at B'nai Israel that was presented in writing at the Annual Meeting on June 20. The entire article can be found at <http://bit.ly/EducationCenter>.

As we have all been saying and hearing for much of the past year, B'nai Israel is in a period of transition. At a luncheon with colleagues from other congregations two weeks ago, I was asked how those transitions were going – and they seemed to be looking for me to dish some dirt. “Isn’t it stressful?” “Are people treating you and others poorly?” “Don’t some people act like they are being dragged kicking and screaming into the ‘new era?’”

In a word, no.

Certainly change can be difficult and we all have moments when stress gets the better of us. And there are many things about our congregation that most of us like just the way they have been. One of the reasons I came to B'nai Israel so long ago was because this congregation had already demonstrated that it was a place that embraced growth and valued the people – members and staff – who called it home. As much as we like who we are

as a congregation, change has been in our DNA for 160 years...

Everything we know about the demographics of our community and the demonstrated behaviors (and the research into those behaviors) of Millennials and Generation Z (the group following Millennials) suggests what we have known for a while: the assumptions of the past will not bring the Jewish people into the future. These younger generations – like every younger generation before them – want something different. Many of them are now 4th, 5th or even 6th generation Americans. They are not driven by the same priorities as my generation, and certainly not as the generations of my parents or grandparents.



We as a congregation are in the process of figuring out what that means and how to change to meet the needs of these generations without disenfranchising or

disenchanting those who have been here for decades. A colleague has referred to this idea as changing the tires on a bus while the bus is still moving. We do not have the luxury of simply

The assumptions of the past will not bring the Jewish people into the future.

stopping everything – hold the presses! – and sitting down to flesh out where we are going. There will be Shabbat this weekend. There will be Religious School in the fall. And Bonim continues without more than a week-long break all year.

The Religious School Vision Team has established three working groups that have already begun to meet. They will continue through the summer and into the new school year, but hopefully not beyond the end of the coming year. Their task is to come up with the plan for changing one or more of the tires on the bus of Jewish learning so that it can be implemented.

There is more. Please go to <http://bit.ly/EducationCenter> for the rest!

BONIM FROM PAGE 6

- Adele offers so much enthusiasm that it’s impossible not to fall in love with everything she teaches, and her lessons are incredibly child-friendly! We are so incredibly fortunate to have STREAM at Bonim led by Mrs. Josovitz! The program helps set our preschool apart from the rest, and it takes the children’s “learning through play” to another

level. As both a Bonim teacher and parent, I appreciate the fun and engaging hands-on experiences the students partake in.

- Adele’s energy and enthusiasm is infectious.
- She goes above and beyond to make sure that every child in each age

group has an experience they will remember. It’s obvious that Adele loves teaching our children.

- Our 3-year-olds are excited every Tuesday when we announce its time to see Ms. Josovitz. She is our very own Miss Frizzle!!! Adele is as kind as she is knowledgeable, and the kids and staff absolutely love her. She makes learning fun and enjoyable and truly makes me want to be a better teacher

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 Harriet Abbey.

Marilyn Bissell, in honor of Rabbi Prosnit.

Florence Blum, thank you for all you have done and will continue to do, and wishing you everlasting joy and happiness on the next stage of your journey.

Susie Blumenfeld, in honor of Maddie Friedler's Bat Mitzvah.

The Bonim Parent Committee, a thank you to Rabbi Prosnit for everything you do to make our children love school and feel a sense of Jewish community, we are all so lucky to have you.

Eloise Epstein, a donation.

Terri and Daniel Green, in memory of Joel Rottman.

Roger Jackson, in memory of father, Maurice Jackson.

Alice and George Kelly, in memory of father, Sol Zimroth; in memory of Robert Zeisler, husband of Judy Zeisler.

Alida and Al Kleban, in loving memory of mother, Beatrice Kleban.

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

Joan Levine, in memory of Bernie Levine and Francis Kempner.

Marion Levine, with thanks to Rabbi Prosnit for conducting the service at the celebration of life for Bernie Levine.

Shelley and Howard Levinson, in memory of Stanley Stein, father of Owen Stein.

Shelley Levy and Family, with thanks, and wishing you all the best.

Sonia Portnoy, in thankfulness for the prayers for my recovery.

Norman Solomon, in memory of mother, Lillian Solomon.

Lori Weiss, in memory of Nate Barsky, husband of Carol Barsky.

Suzie and Artie Weissman, in memory of Betty Citrin, mother of Bob Citrin.

Elaine Winter, in appreciation of Rabbi Prosnit.

Noah Wizda, with thanks to Rabbi Prosnit for preparing me for my special day.

Rabbi James Prosnit Legacy Fund

Brian and Linda Barlaam, in appreciation to Rabbi Prosnit for officiating at son Drew's wedding to Jessica Lynn Olderman, and wishing you much luck and love.

Carol Barsky, Sean & Jennifer Barsky, and Sara & Kyle Seaburg, in memory of Nate Barsky; with special thanks to Rabbi Prosnit.

Eddie Baum, in honor of Rabbi Prosnit.

Bobby Bresler, in honor of Rabbi Prosnit.

Carmela Daquila, a donation.

Linda and Barry Diamond, in memory of Betty Citrin, mother of Bob Citrin.

Geoffrey Gladstein and Susan Brody, in memory of Regina Heller.

Barbara Green and Jeffrey Orell, with thanks to Rabbi Prosnit for officiating at Jolie's baby naming.

Carol & Charlie Gursky, in memory of Nate Barsky, husband of Carol Barsky.

Susan and Pete Liebeskind & Family, in honor of Rabbi Jim Prosnit and Wendy Bloch, for their service to the synagogue and community.

Janet and Dennis Magid, in honor of Rabbi Jim Prosnit.

The Markus Family, in honor of Ali Markus' Bat Mitzvah, and in appreciation of Rabbi Prosnit.

Samuel Miller and Family, in memory of Harry Miller.

Roberta Small, in memory of Nate Barsky, husband of Carol Barsky.

Burton and Sheila Yaffie, in loving memory of mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, Ida G. Yaffie.

Rabbi Schultz Discretionary Fund

Barbara Abraham, in honor of Rabbi Schultz as he becomes Senior Rabbi of the congregation.

Mark Abrams, in memory of parents, Albert and Sara Abrams; congratulations to Rabbi Schultz.

Carol Barsky, Sean & Jennifer Barsky, and Sara & Kyle Seaburg, with special thanks and appreciation to Rabbi Schultz.

The Bonim Parent Committee, a thank you to Rabbi Schultz for everything you do to make our children love school and feel a sense of Jewish community, we are all so lucky to have you.

Maxine, Stewart and Jena Gross, in memory of dad/grandpa, Lou Schafrank.

The Markus Family, in honor of Ali Markus' Bat Mitzvah, and in appreciation of Rabbi Schultz.

Cleo Sonneborn, in memory of mother, Edna Jean "Peggy" Rawdon.

Tracie and Paul Wizda, in honor of Noah Wizda's Bar Mitzvah.

Music Fund

Carol Barsky, Sean & Jennifer Barsky, and Sara & Kyle Seaburg, in memory of Nate Barsky, husband of Carol Barsky.

The Bonim Parent Committee, a thank you to Cantor Blum for everything you do to make our children love school and feel a sense of Jewish community, we are all so

lucky to have you.

Fran and Rand Glucroft, in honor of Linda Koski's birthday.

Jeremy Kranowitz and Jennifer Pleasure-Kranowitz, in appreciation to Cantor Blum.

The Markus Family, in honor of Ali Markus' Bat Mitzvah, and in appreciation of Cantor Blum.

Bob and Helen Natt, in honor of the B'not Mitzvah of their granddaughters, Lillian and Sydney, and in recognition of the assistance of Cantor Blum.

Karin Newman, in memory of husband, Jack Newman; in memory of mother-in-law, Pauline Newman.

David and Judy Pressler, in celebration of our dear friend Barbara Edinberg's special birthday.

Barbara and Gil Saltman, in memory of William and Estelle Schleifer, parents of Barbara Saltman; in memory of Nathan Barsky, husband of Carol Barsky.

William and Lorraine Smith, in memory of Nathan Barsky, husband of Carol Barsky.

Paul and Tracie Wizda, in honor of Noah's Bar Mitzvah and in appreciation to Cantor Blum.

Enhancement Fund

Donations made in memory of Dr. Bernie Levine, husband of Marion Levine were made by:

Alice Madwed

Jackie and Jeff Madwed

Ruth Madwed

Donations made in memory of Nathan Barsky, husband of Carol Barsky were made by:

Elizabeth Dillabough

Shoshe Drapin

Linda and Steven Putterman

Anne Z. Lussen

Jeffrey and Wendy Bender, in memory of Ruth Bender and other relatives.

School Volunteer Association of Bridgeport, with thanks to B'nai Israel for hosting our many meetings throughout the year.

Michael and Judy Green Blumenthal, in honor of Luise Mann Burger and Mindy Siegel, with thanks and appreciation for leading the tribute for Rabbi Prosnit.

The Capinera Family, in memory of Evelyn Ruskin.

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AUGUST DONATIONS

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

Jill and Steve Elbaum, in memory of Barbara Lightman, mother of Michael Lightman.
Eloise Epstein, in memory of husband, Gerald Epstein.
Ellen and Art Gang, in honor of Rabbis Prosnit and Schultz – from Strength to Strength.
Michael Greenspan, in memory of mother, Sylvia Greenspan.
Debby and Arthur Hiller, in memory of Alfred Ritter, father of Susan Brody.
Michael Jacobson, in memory of mother, Florence Dorfman Jacobson.
Loryn Lesser, best wishes for the recovery of Bernie Jacobs.
Ilse Levi, in memory of beloved father, Hermann Strauss.
Alice Madwed, in memory of father, Joseph Ente.
Jackie and Jeff Madwed, in memory of Barbara Lightman, mother of Michael Lightman.
Jocelyn and William Powning, in honor of Reid Powning's Bar Mitzvah and Radio Klez.
Twody and Bob Schless, in memory of our dad, Bernie Schless.
Claire and Allan Shumofsky, in memory of Darrell Chivo
Debbie and Dan Viens, in memory of Andrew Levitt, brother of Nancy Rosenthal.
Carole Walden, in honor of Susan Walden's birthday celebration.
Gail and Peter Weinstein, in memory of Edna Feinberg, mother of Alan Feinberg.
Helen Weinstein, in memory of Robert Zeisler, husband of Judy Zeisler.

Sylvia Prosnit Adult Education Fund
The Beier Family, in loving memory of father, Joel Beier.
Shoshe Drapin, a donation.
Diane Fried, a donation.
Jeff and Jackie Madwed, in memory of Andrew Levitt, brother of Nancy Rosenthal.

Nursery School Enrichment Fund
Rabbi James Prosnit and Wendy Bloch, in honor of Alexa Cohen and staff.

Nursery School Scholarship Fund
The Bindelglass Family, in memory of Andrew Levitt, brother of Nancy Rosenthal.
George and Chris Markley, congratulations to all of the Herzlingers on the birth of Maya Sadie Herzlinger.
Jane and Jerry Pressman, in celebration of Gail Weinstein's birthday.
Serena and Arnie Sher, in honor of Linda and Brian Barlaam, on Drew and Jessica's

marriage.
Gail and Peter Weinstein, in memory of William Lucas, father of Bill Lucas.
Frederic West, in honor of grandchildren, Avery and Lia West.

Rabbi Martin Library Fund
Michael and Judy Green Blumenthal, in memory of Nate Barsky, husband of Carol Barsky.
Sheila Kaminsky, in honor of Wendy Bloch.
Gloria Katz, in memory of Robert Zeisler, husband of Judy Zeisler.

Prayer Book Fund
Esther Spiegel, in memory of Nate Barsky, husband of Carol Barsky.

Mazon
Myrna Kaufman, in memory of Nathan Barsky, husband of Carol Barsky; in memory of husband, father and grandfather, Leonard Kaufman.
Laurie and Dan Schopick, in honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Jack Blasbalg, grandson of Ellie and Mark Blasbalg.

Religious School Scholarship Fund
Marty and Alayne Burger, in memory of Bob Zeisler, husband of Judy Zeisler.
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Bob and Helen Natt, in recognition of the help that Ira Wise gave their granddaughters, Lillian and Sydney, to prepare for their Bat Mitzvah.
Cleo and Jon Sonneborn, in honor of the birth of Maya Sadie Herzlinger, granddaughter of Bob and Paula Herzlinger.

Religious School Enrichment Fund
Sue Shane and Jesse Weiss, in honor of Sue Walden's birthday.

Rabbi Arnold Sher Social Action Fund
Donations made in memory of Robert Zeisler, husband of Judy Zeisler were made by:

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

Barbara Abraham, in memory of Nathan Barsky, husband of Carol Barsky; in memory of Betty Citrin, mother of Bob Citrin.
Michael and Judy Green Blumenthal, in memory of Betty Citrin, mother of Bob Citrin; in memory of Andrew Levitt, brother of Nancy Rosenthal.
Elaine and Bob Friedman, congratulations to Lis and George Ruderman, on the birth of great-granddaughter, Cora George Ruderman.
Joni and Michael Greenspan, in memory of Bernie Levine, husband of Marion Levine.
Ruth and Eric Gross, in honor of Laurie Perlstein's birthday; in honor of the birth of Maya Sadie Herzlinger, granddaughter of Bob and Paula Herzlinger.
Ilse Levi, in memory of Nathan Barsky, husband of Carol Barsky.
Joanne and Neil Lippman, in memory of Andrew Levitt, brother of Nancy Rosenthal.
Jan and Denny Magid, in honor of Wendy Bloch.
Samuel Miller & Family, in memory of Joseph Kot.
Laurie and Dan Schopick, in memory of Alfred Ritter, father of Susan Brody.
Serena and Arnie Sher, in memory of Bernard Levine, husband of Marion Levine, father of Marty Levine and Dr. Susan Levine; in honor of the birth of Maya Sadie Herzlinger, granddaughter of Bob and Paula Herzlinger.
Nancy and Irving Silverman, in honor of the birth of Kiko Jonathan Maltauro, grandson of Cleo and Jon Sonneborn.

Vision Loan Reduction Fund
Patti and Samuel Rosenberg, in memory of Robert Wilson, father of Patti Rosenberg.

Jim Abraham Education Fund for Jewish Leadership
Donations made in honor of the birth of Kiko Jonathan Maltauro, grandson of Cleo and Jon Sonneborn, were made by:

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Barbara Abraham, in honor of the birth of Maya Sadie Herzlinger, granddaughter of Bob and Paula Herzlinger.
Mark and Barbara Edinberg, in memory of Nathan Barsky, husband of Carol Barsky.
Andrea Goodman and Jeff Ackerman, in honor of the wonderful jazz concert given by Mark, Daniel and Joel Edinberg.

Continued on page 10

AUGUST DONATIONS

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

Samuel Miller and Family, in honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Meyer Shane, grandson of Barbara Abraham.

Laurie and Dan Schopick, in honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Meyer Shane, grandson of Barbara Abraham.

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

Jonathan and Cleo Sonneborn, in honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Meyer Shane, and the Confirmation of Eden Shane, grandchildren of Barbara Abraham; in loving memory of Jim Abraham, husband of Barbara Abraham.

Lauren, Jon, Rachel and Gabby Tropp, in honor of Rabbi Prosnit's retirement.

Lee & David Lester Keshet Fund

Lee Lester, in memory of sister, Sylvia Walter.

Charles Fried Keshet Fund

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

Gillette Judaic Enrichment Fund

Marsha and Bob Gillette, in memory of Robert Zeisler, husband of Judy Zeisler.

Joan and Alan Newman, in honor of Becca Newman's Confirmation.

Jane and Jerry Pressman, in memory of Robert Zeisler, husband of Judy Zeisler.

Rabbi James Prosnit and Wendy Bloch, in memory of Zelda Wise, mother of Ira Wise.

Carole Rubin, a donation.

Arnold & Doris Tower Fund

Paul, Jessica, Andra and Fred Locke & Families, in memory of Joel Rottman.

Stephen and Ellen Tower, in memory of Bobby Tower.

Yozma Fund

Barbara and Mark Edinberg, in honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Joshua Ben Teller, grandson of Judy and David Pressler.

Yakhani Caring Fund

Barbara Abraham, in honor of Liz and Mark Nigrosh, on the engagement of son, Seth, to Robin McFadden.

Barbara and Mark Edinberg, in honor of Ellen Rosoff and Gary Rosoff, on the marriage of daughter, Stephanie Rosoff to Danny Baxter; in honor of the birth of Maya Sadie Herzlinger, granddaughter of Bob and Paula Herzlinger.

Ruth and Eric Gross, in memory of Melvin Gross.

George and Chris Markley, congratulations to the Sonneborn family, on the birth of Kiko Jonathan Maltauro.

Naomi Schaffer and Roger Jackson, in memory of Nathan Barsky, husband of Carol Barsky.



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

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THE LAND OF ISRAEL FROM PAGE 4

On the last day we learned about modern day, right up to what was in front of our eyes in Israel. Talia's last words were "And that's the end of the course." She said this in a way that was so bittersweet because I would do anything to keep learning from her, but what I did learn will stick with me forever.

I came to Israel knowing pretty much nothing about our vast Jewish history and I left with a connection to my people and the land like never before, thanks to her.

Upon my arrival, I felt that learning the language was so important and I made that a priority. I was so determined to learn it. I hated not being able to read and understand the language I pray in, that is also the language of the Jewish people.

I longed to communicate with the people on the street, understand what they were saying and laugh at the jokes they told in Hebrew. I watched shows in Hebrew, spoke with my counselors, teachers, and bus driver to learn. My bus driver, Omar, spoke no English and I so badly wished to communicate with him, so my only option was to learn the language. Talia taught me that when you are put in a situation where you have no other option but to speak Hebrew, you are bound to learn it.

I was in the land where the language is Hebrew and I took advantage of that. I couldn't even communicate with Omar on the first day and on the last I wrote him a letter in Hebrew thanking him for

speaking with me and all his patience, and of course driving us all around the land from North to South.

Who knew that four months could change my life forever? My teacher taught us a famous quote, "If I forget O Jerusalem, may my right hand wither." This will stick with me forever, because I know I will be back and if I am not, then truly shall my right hand wither.

If you have any questions about the program or my experience feel free to reach out, I would love to hear from you. And if you are considering, or have the opportunity to participate in this program please do and I can help you out by email at srocco410@gmail.com.

SHABBAT SERVICE SCHEDULE

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

Friday, August 2

6:00 p.m. Service
Torah Portion – Matot-Masei, Num. 30:2-36:13
Haftarah – Jeremiah 2:4-28; 3:4

Saturday, August 3

8:00 a.m. Service
9:00 a.m. Brotherhood Breakfast
9:30 a.m. Torah Study
9:30 a.m. Havurah at Owen Fish Park

Friday, August 9

6:00 p.m. Service
Torah Portion – Devarim, Deut. 1:1-3:22
Haftarah – Isaiah 1:1-27

Saturday, August 10

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

Friday, August 16

6:00 p.m. Service at Lake Mohegan – no service at the temple
Torah Portion – Vaetchanan, Deut. 3:23-7:11
Haftarah – Isaiah 40:1-26

Saturday, August 17

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

Friday, August 23

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

Saturday, August 24

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

Friday, August 30

6:00 p.m. Service
Torah Portion – Reeh, Deut. 11:26-16:17
Haftarah – Isaiah 54:11-55:5

Saturday, August 31

8:00 a.m. Service
9:00 a.m. Brotherhood Breakfast
9:30 a.m. Torah Study
11:00 a.m. Bat Mitzvah of Eleanor Gordon, daughter of Seth and Amy Gordon



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Wendy Bloch and Rabbi James Prosnit with Senator Richard Blumenthal at the sold-out Gala dinner in June honoring Rabbi Prosnit on his retirement.