



The **MUSIC** Issue

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF MARK EDINBERG

For more than two decades, Mark Edinberg has played a role in the musical life of Congregation B'nai Israel.

You have probably seen him playing trombone in the original Temple Band, playing keyboard at Friday night services, or with our Klezmer Band, Radio Klez.

But few people know the outsized role he has played in bringing music into our sanctuary. That will change on Shabbat Shirah, the Sabbath of Song, on Friday, February 7, at 6 p.m. when Mark will be honored for his contributions to the synagogue and his music will be performed by Cantor Sheri Blum, the



Adult Choir, Radio Klez and several other temple musicians.

Mark, a retired psychologist, has played music professionally, but wasn't trained as a musician. And yet, he took on the challenge of arranging the music for our Friday night services, tailoring parts for the various instruments played by our talented musicians.

In addition, he has written original compositions, including High Holiday anthems for the adult choir and for the Yizkor service on Yom Kippur.

It began, he said, with a few compositions he wrote for Jon Sonneborn's lyrics. Rabbi Prosnit then commissioned Mark

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SEE SOMETHING...NICE? SAY SOMETHING

Some of the most powerful moments of the Rabbinic conversation groups and Cantor listening sessions were the wonderful instances where congregants related how deeply touched they were by the kindnesses of clergy, staff and other congregants.

The positive impressions were deep and lasting and shaped the impressions of people about Congregation B'nai Israel for years.

B'nai Israel has now taken a step to try to capture those interactions by establishing a new address, input@cbibpt.org, where congregants and staff are asked to share them. Anonymity will be assured to those who seek it when they offer their stories.

We're still working out the details of how best to share these stories. Please direct any suggestions about that process to the new address.

We also know that relationships can be hard sometimes. Issues that can't be worked out between the parties themselves may need some extra, outside attention. In an attempt to help resolve such disputes within the synagogue community, input@cbibpt.org is also an address that can be used to help the process of repairing a relationship – among congregants and staff.

One or both parties are asked to write about the issue at hand. The nature of the problem will be reviewed by a

small group. While clergy may become involved, the initial screening will be conducted by the first vice president of the Board of Trustees, another member of the Board and an at-large congregant.

Where needed, the assistance of human resources professionals or others may be enlisted. Engaged parties may be asked for more information to resolve the issues. Confidentiality will be maintained unless circumstances warrant other actions.

The address input@cbibpt.org is an outgrowth of the Look-to-the-Future Initiative. We're placing the range of B'nai Israel relationships under one umbrella, which we're calling the SCRC

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SHARING OUR JOY...

Joanne and Tim Derwallis, in celebration of daughter Allison's marriage to David Coombes.

Patti and Samuel Rosenberg, in celebration of the engagement of daughter, Hannah Rosenberg, to Bryce Loebel.

Caren and Jeffrey Corbett, in celebration of the marriage of son, James Corbett to Jaclyn.

Brian Barlaam, in celebration of being chosen to receive the Community Mitzvah Hero Award.

Wendy and Ralph Michel, in celebration of the birth of grandson, Vaughn Isaiah Michel, son of Steven and Sara Michel.

Jessica Becker, congratulations on becoming the Social Action Vice President of the National Federation of Temple Youth.

SINCERE SYMPATHY

We extend our sympathy to the bereaved families of:

Allen Ross, father of David Ross

Edith Sheiman, mother of Robert Sheiman

Nancy Green, mother of Daniel Green, grandmother of Anne Green

Cindy West, wife of Kenneth West

Marilyn Sobel Larimore, mother of Karen Sobel

Alfred Dreyfus, stepfather of David Keller

Ruth Schaffer, mother of Laurie Peck

WELCOME! WELCOME!

A warm welcome to our newest members. We look forward to their participation in our

Judith Stern

Eastlawn Street, Fairfield

BULLETIN BOARD

Honoring the Cantor



On Friday June 12th we will be honoring Cantor Sheri Blum for her 26 years of dedicated service to the B'nai Israel community. Please save the date for a special 6:00 p.m. service and dinner following. Look for more details in the months ahead and mark your calendars!

In preparation for this Spring celebration, please forward a photograph of Cantor Blum with any of her past B'nai mitzvah students to lynn@cbibpt.org. Thank you in advance.

Mitzvah Morning

Our January Mitzvah morning brings us all an opportunity to join our wider Bridgeport community by volunteering at area nonprofits. On Monday, January 20th, Martin Luther King Jr. Day, the University of Bridgeport holds its annual Day of Service to honor the former civil rights leader by providing volunteer experiences at area nonprofits for volunteers of all ages.

At this time, we do not have all the details, but in past years, free lunch and transportation to service sites have been provided. Service projects ran from 9:30 to 12:30 p.m. at various locations. In addition, there has been a link to preregister for

the community service project you would like to participate in. As soon as we have more information, we will pass on the details. Please put the date on your calendars and come join us for a meaningful experience working together with others in our community.

Blood Drive

Our thanks to the following members of our community who have made a blood donation to help strangers via the American Red Cross Blood Bank: Alexa Cohen, Anne Kirsch, Jonathan Orleans, Jeff Schwartz and Ira Wise

We also want to thank our staff who facilitate and assist in scheduling and setting up for these drives.

If we seem to ask you for a donation more often, it's because Congregation B'nai Israel has demonstrated its generosity and reliability and we are scheduled bi-monthly for blood drives. Thank you to all of you who donate, and we invite all eligible donors to join us.

The next blood drive will be on February 3 from 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Please register with the Red Cross at either 1-800- 733-2767 or 1-800-RedCross.



FROM THE RABBI'S DESK/RABBI EVAN SCHULTZ

THE MUSIC ISSUE, AND A FRESH CONCEPT FOR THE BULLETIN

It's a new year and we've decided to give the B'nai Israel bulletin a little bit of a makeover. The bulletin has always been a great medium for our community to share what's going on at our synagogue each month, a space to acknowledge and thank our generous donors, and a forum for our senior staff to write articles and thought pieces about our work within the synagogue community.

A bit of background on the bulletin: In order for the bulletin to arrive in your mailbox on time, we need to submit our articles to Jack, our editor, a month ahead of time. This often poses a challenge, at least for me, about what to write on each month. I sit down to write my article and think to myself, "what will be relevant to our community a month from now?" It's difficult to write about any sort of current events issues because by the time you read it, it will be a month old.

So I usually tend to write articles about the Jewish holiday(s) occurring that month or general Judaic topics, such as my book recommendations each summer or ways to bring Judaism into your life, which I hope has been relevant and meaningful for you and your family. I hope similarly that Rabbi Marion, Ira Wise, and Alexa Cohen have offered relevant and interesting articles for you to engage with and think about.

It felt, however, like the bulletin could use a bit of a fresh concept going into 2020. So we collaborated and came up with the idea of doing themed issues



several times a year, in which we all write articles on one particular topic. It's a bit of a throwback to Reform Judaism Magazine, which used to offer wonderful articles and pieces on various topics from Israel to Jews and tattoos!

We hope that offering these themed issues will give you, the reader, the opportunity to delve into a particular topic from a variety of viewpoints: from the rabbinate, the cantorate, our education center, and we hope, in future issues, some of your voices as well.

We thought it would be quite appropriate to make our first themed issue about music, as Cantor Blum will be retiring in June and we will be marking her amazing tenure at B'nai Israel in the coming months. We will also be celebrating Shabbat Shirah, the Sabbath of Song,

highlighting the music of our very talented congregant Mark Edinberg (See the article on the cover of this month's issue).

On a broader scale, music flows so deeply through the soul of Congregation B'nai Israel. I know how many people come on a Friday night or Saturday morning to sing the sweet melodies of our liturgy. We have several house bands at B'nai Israel, our rock band Electric Sanctuary and our klezmer outfit, Radio Klez. B'nai Israel has a spectacular Adult Choir that ushers us into the High Holy Days each year, and a Junior Choir of over 50 students who sing at services and community events throughout the year.

And all of you who know me know how big a part music plays in my Jewish experience and my life. It elevates the universe around us in such a myriad of ways.

It felt like the bulletin could use a fresh concept. So we came up with the idea of doing themed issues.

So we hope you enjoy this first issue on the theme of music. If you have ideas for future issues or topics you'd love to learn more about, please let me know! You can always email me, eschultz@cbibpt.org, or call, 203-336-1858. Happy New Year!

SEE SOMETHING FROM PAGE 1

- the Staff and Congregant Relations Committee. The goal is to have a system in place to capture joyful experiences and help with challenging ones. This

endeavor is a new approach and we, again, ask any interested parties to share their thoughts about how it could work best.

RABBI SCHULTZ'S INSTALLATION

On the weekend of November 15-17, Congregation B'nai Israel formally installed Rabbi Evan Schultz as our new Senior Rabbi.

As congregants entered the festive, family-friendly Shabbat dinner, they could sense the excitement about the weekend events. The elegant but campy decor designed by Andi Kern and the delicious Turkish dinner organized by Annie Ringelheim incorporated elements favored by Rabbi Schultz.

The weekend highlighted many of Rabbi Schultz's favorite things, stated co-chairs Marcy Shinbaum and Jill Elbaum. From music to running and chocolate chip cookies, they wanted the celebration to be a reflection of Rabbi Schultz.

As Shabbat services began, the sanctuary filled with more than 300 people, including congregants, Rabbi Schultz's family and rabbinical colleagues, special guests and local elected officials.

The moving service led by classmates of Rabbi Schultz culminated in a special sermon by Rabbi Larry Hoffman, a teacher and mentor of Rabbi Schultz. The evening ended with an oneg featuring homemade chocolate chip cookies and brownies and an opportunity to socialize.

The weekend was rounded out with a one-mile fun run to celebrate Rabbi



Participating in Rabbi Schultz's installation were, from left Rabbi Sarah Marion, Rabbi Jen Gubitz, Rabbi Schultz, Rabbi Larry Hoffman, Rabbi Sara Luria and Rabbi Jodi Gordon.



Ted Levis, Tara and Brad Kerner, Beth Gardner and Scott Casher and Jaclyn and Asher Epstein, culminated with live music by The Electric Sanctuary Band and sundaes generously donated by 16 Handles.

The weekend was successful due to the support of a tremendous team of volunteers.

It was a very special weekend for the B'nai Israel community and we are thrilled to officially welcome Rabbi Schultz as our senior Rabbi.

Schultz's love of running. More than 80 congregants of all ages dressed for the chilly weather, donned beards and ran through the neighborhood around B'nai Israel.

The event, coordinated by Abby and





FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY/RABBI SARAH R. MARION

MIRIAM'S MUSICAL LEGACY AND THE ROLE OF WOMEN AT THE SEA

When we first meet Miriam, she is all wrapped up in Moses' perilous birth story. As the wise and protective big sister who watches and waits for her brother to float safely down the Nile, it was perhaps Miriam who coined the phrase "behind every great man, there is a great woman."

But the next time Miriam encounters water, she rises as a leader in her own right, taking her place alongside her brothers at the forefront of the Israelite community.

Our tradition suggests a variety of explanations for our ancestors' successful passage from slavery to freedom via the raging Red Sea waters. Miriam, unquestionably, played a tremendous role through it all. While her brothers were relying on God's majesty and God's might to usher the people forward, Miriam discovered music as another way to lead and inspire.

Exodus 15 recounts the "Song of the Sea," the words of thanksgiving that the Israelites chanted after crossing the Red Sea. Though the "Song of the Sea" is often attributed to Moses, other scholars place Miriam and the Israelite women at the center of its creation.

The Women's Torah Commentary, a rich and important compilation of female scholarship, suggests the following:

"Many modern scholars suggest that the 'Song of the Sea' was created and performed by women. Beginning in the mid-20th century, a considerable body of literary, historical, sociological and musicological evidence has been amassed to suggest that the song should be attributed to Miriam. For example, one ancient manuscript tradition even calls it the Song of Miriam."

The image of Miriam and the women leading with song and dance can be read as a paradigm for all the women in ancient Israel who used music to impact and influence their society.

By the song's concluding verses, there is no doubt that Miriam and the women were the principal players during this pivotal moment of our story:

Then Miriam, the Prophet, Aaron's sister, picked up a hand drum and all the women went out after her in dance with hand drums. And Miriam chanted for them: Sing to Adonai, for God has triumphed gloriously; horse and driver God has hurled into the sea. (Exodus 15:20-21)



And not only did Miriam and the women have the foresight to lead and inspire with music, but they had the foresight to pack their hand drums in the first place! Like many of our mothers today, *these* mothers also knew how to prepare for a long journey.

Most often, the ancient Israelites who imagined our Biblical stories drew upon their own lived experiences and realities. And so the image of Miriam and the women leading with song and dance can be read as a paradigm for all the Miriams and all the women in ancient Israel who used music to impact and influence their society. As the Women's Torah

Commentary continues,

"It was apparently customary in ancient Israel for women to welcome victorious armies with victory songs. Accomplished female musicians would have earned the esteem of their community. Also, groups of female performers likely would have met together to practice their instruments and compose songs for specific occasions, which would have provided occasions for female bonding and for women to exert organizational skills and mentor younger performers."

Miriam's legacy continues to relate to our own lives, especially during our own moments of transitions and "sea crossings." As Rabbi Patricia Karlin-Newman so poignantly writes in the Women's Torah Commentary:

"Miriam's strong voice had been heard previously only as a sister and daughter. Yet, at her sea crossing, emerging from the waters, she does not wait for someone else to change the world. She does not demur that she was not bred for greatness. She does not blend into the crowd. Instead, Miriam's voice rings out for all to hear. In the waters of transition, Miriam sparks innovation, creativity and hope, rooted in the past yet focused on the future, just like contemporary women leaders. Today's women face our own sea crossings. We too can choose to enter the water, with quiet certitude, brash impulsiveness, or terror at what lies ahead. Or, we may decide to hang back – looking around for someone else to go in front. Eventually, when we enter, however we enter, we, and our world, are transformed."



BONIM BUZZ/ALEXA COHEN, EARLY CHILDHOOD DIRECTOR

BONIM ROCKS

As you walk through the halls of Bnai Israel, you are bound to hear children singing and dancing. Music plays a big role in the life of our children in Bonim Preschool.

Every Monday the entire school, from our littlest infants to our big five-year-olds, gathers in the chapel with Cantor Blum for All School Music. We always begin with “good Morning Boker Tov” and we always end with a big Friendship Circle (that has grown so much over the past few years that is warps all the way around the room). As we sing “Shalom Chaverim” everyone is holding hands, singing and swaying to the music. It is a very special way to begin our week.

While everyone is walking back to their classrooms, you can hear a useful song “Put your finger on the wall, so then you will not fall” throughout the building as children run their little fingers along the walls of the synagogue. Music is a great teaching tool.

In the classrooms, the children have many opportunities to explore music through singing and playing instruments. Bonim has a large collection of both play and authentic instruments, ranging from African drums to shakers from



South America. We even make our own instruments from recycled materials such as tissue boxes, paper towel rolls and coffee cans.

On Thursdays, Rabbi Evan and Rabbi Sarah visit each classroom to sing and sometimes put on a little puppet show. The children are all fascinated by Rabbi

Evan’s guitar and pretend to play like him all the time. Everyone wants to be a “Rockstar Rabbi” like Evan.

Of course, music is an important piece of our weekly Shabbat celebrations in the sanctuary and the classroom. The children learn from a young age the importance of singing the blessings over the candles, juice and challah.

While music is part of our everyday, we also add music to our big celebrations. Each December the entire preschool gets together for a Chanukah Concert with Cantor Blum. It is by far the most highly attended event in the whole preschool year.

The children take great pride in belting out “This Little Light of Mine” along with the crowd of parents and grandparents. As this is Cantor Blum’s last year at B’nai Israel, it is sure to be bittersweet. We are going to miss her very much next year. She is very special to Bonim Preschool.

The children are all fascinated by Rabbi Evan’s guitar and pretend to play like him all the time.





FROM THE EDUCATION CENTER/IRA J. WISE
SING UNTO GOD

“Remember the good old days?” Not really.

Most of us have cherished memories about times that we remember as wonderful. No doubt amazing things happened to us back then. Transformational things that helped to make us who we are today. Of course we tend to idealize the memories, leaving out the things that were not nearly as sweet. We don’t do it on purpose. I suspect the brain just works that way.

I know that there were some things that happened to me at overnight camp in Wisconsin that were less than perfect. I just don’t remember them too well. I do remember the music though. That music became a part of my core, essential to who I am. And remember, I am not the musician in my family.

I was lucky enough to be a camper at Olin Sang Ruby Union Institute (OSRUI) in Oconomowoc, Wisconsin, in the early 70s. That is when a young woman named Debbie Friedman was a song leader at that same camp. It was when two young men, Danny Frelander and Jeff Klepper, were song leaders at Eisner Camp, OSRUI’s sister Reform Movement camp in Great Barrington, Massachusetts.

They were the first among generations of Jewish musicians who created new, Jewish music that reflected the sound and spirit of American music of the 60s and 70s. It was a little bit folk and little bit rock and roll. And I was blessed to be in the first generation of kids who learned and sang it at a Jewish summer camp, its birthplace.

On the first day of camp that day in June, I met a lot of new people along with a huge bunch of kids from my temple. After lunch, our counselors passed out a thick, spiral bound book to each of us. We were introduced to Birkat Hamazon, the traditional grace after meals. Then Mike Weinberg stepped forward with his 12



Campers at Crane Lake last summer. They really know how to sing!

string guitar and started singing. It must have been something like Hinei Ma Tov or David Melekh Yisrael – something we had all learned in Sunday school, because I remember singing right away. Soon enough he was teaching us songs like Sing Unto God.

Over the next six years, I remember singing after almost every meal at camp. Something fun and goofy in the morning. At lunch and dinner we would learn something new as well as singing songs we already knew. And Shabbat...oh my.

Music can help us connect with God. Music has the power to teach us things we didn’t know.

Every Friday night, after dinner, each of the different units would dance into the rotunda – the dining room for Kallah – the largest unit. Benches were brought in for hundreds of extra students. And all of the song leaders from all of the units brought their guitars and got all of us singing – for what seemed like hours. We stood and danced in place. Sometimes jumping up and slapping the low hanging

eaves of the ceiling.

I realize I could go on for several pages. Join me for a cup of coffee and I will tell you all about being a counselor and jumping out the window during Cherry Bim, or getting to know Debbie and Jeff and Danny. We can talk about how one of my friends found his way out of a really dark place because of singing at camp.

We have an amazing music teacher in Kehilah,¹ Jonathan Cahr. Most years he goes to OSRUI for a week to learn new ways to get our children singing. Cantor Blum gets them singing as our Junior Choir. Rabbi Schultz has been known to drop in and do it with his guitar. Even I – the non-musical member of our family -- get our learners up on their feet and singing the jellyfish song. Music can help us connect with God. Music has the power to teach us things we didn’t know. Things about being Jewish. Things about Israel. And mostly things about ourselves. Lift up your voice and join us!

L’shalom,

Ira J. Wise, D.J.R.E.
 Director of Education

¹ Kehilah means community and it is the new name for what we used to call Religious School.



ADULT JEWISH LEARNING AT CONGREGATION B'NAI ISRAEL



Adult Round Table Thursdays, January 2 and February 6 at 12:30 p.m.

Ilene Goby 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.



Rosh Chodesh Thursday, January 23, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Join with women from across the B'nai Israel community each month for conversation, laughter and learning as we celebrate the start of each new moon and soak in the wisdom of our female ancestors. Women of all ages are welcome. Our gatherings will be held at Congregation B'nai Israel



from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. unless otherwise announced. Questions? Contact Rabbi Sarah Marion at smarion@cbibpt.org. Future meetings will be 2/13, 3/12, 4/16, 5/14 and 6/25.

Torah Study Saturdays at 9:30 a.m. in the Natt Family Library

Rabbi Ben Bag Bag said “Turn it (the Torah) over and over, for everything is in it.” Each time we revisit a portion, we learn something new. Some of us have been learning together for decades. Some of us joined recently. All of us are teaching and learning from one another! Join us!

Fearless Females in the Bible! Twenty Minutes of Torah Sundays, January 5 at 9:35 – 9:55 a.m. in the Natt Family Library

Bite-sized Torah returns this month. Join Rabbi Schultz or Rabbi Marion for a brief but meaty Jewish conversation! This year

we will explore some of the women central to the *TaNaKh* (Hebrew Bible). Drop in! This month Rabbi Marion will help us learn about Miriam, prophet of Israel and sister of Moses and Aaron! Upcoming sessions will be 2/23, 3/8 and 4/5.



The American Jewish Paradox Monday, January 13, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. in the Natt Family Library

What does it mean to be Jewish in 21st century America? Join with Rabbi Schultz for a discussion on the many complexities of American Jewish identity. Who is Jewish? Do you have to believe anything to be Jewish? How do we think about complicated questions such as intermarriage and our relationship to Israel as liberal Jews? We hope you'll join for this important and complex discussion!

BIFTY!

Join BIFTY for our January Programs! We meet in the BIFTY Lounge on Thursdays from 7:15 to 8:45pm. We look forward to seeing you there!

January 9: Social Media Night! Come with your phone charged for an interactive program!

January 16: Come hang out with Dwight, Michael Scott, Jim, and Pam at “The Office” night!

January 23: A fan favorite last year, join us for Shark Tank Part 2!

January 30: Get ready to cook and be judged for taste, creativity, and presentation at Chopped!

Follow us on Instagram at “cbi.bifty”

Questions? Email advisor Marisa Underberger at munderberger@cbibpt.org



BIFTY had a great time at our game night program!

JANUARY DONATIONS

(We greatly appreciate all donations to our special purpose funds.)

Rabbi Schultz Discretionary Fund

Donations made in honor of Rabbi Evan Schultz' Installation were made by:

Carol Barsky

Carson and Robert Berkowitz

The Berson Family

Sandy Madow Friedman and Family

Sheryl and George Santiago

The Viens Family

Sharon and Paul Abrams, Michelle,

Nicky & Josh, in memory of Nancy Green, mother of Dan Green.

Lori Berger, in memory of father, Lester Davis.

Linda and Barry Diamond, in memory of Edith Sheiman, mother of Robert Sheiman.

Meryl Gold, in memory of Annette Green, grandmother of Anne Green.

Dan and Terri Green, in memory of Stephen and Peter Lessler; in memory of Alvin Goldfield; in appreciation of, and with thanks to, Rabbi Schultz and Cantor Blum, for their participation in Nancy Green's memorial.

Gloria Katz, with thanks to Richard and Susan Walden for hosting a wonderful Shabbat dinner.

Beth and Randy Reich, in honor of the Bat Mitzvah of Julia Moss, granddaughter of Marc and Elaine Silverman.

Elaine and Marty Schwartz & Family, with heartfelt appreciation to Rabbi Schultz.

Amy and Jared Selter, in honor of Benjamin Selter becoming a Bar Mitzvah.

Ellen and Robert Sheiman & Family, with thanks to Rabbi Schultz for leading such a dignified and heartfelt funeral service.

Laura Sheiman and Aaron Glick, in memory of Edith Sheiman, mother of Robert Sheiman; in memory of Nancy Green, grandmother of Anne Green.

Cherri Sherman, in honor of the Liotta Family; in appreciation of Rabbi Schultz and Rabbi Marion.

The Silberman/Weisman Family, in memory of Muriel Mann, mother of

Luise Mann.

Elaine and Marc Silverman, congratulations to Beth and Randy Reich on the birth of granddaughter, Zoe Gabrielle.

Jon and Cleo Sonneborn, in memory of Nicole Najmowicz, daughter of Colette Carasso.

The Viens Family, in appreciation for your thoughtfulness, comfort and support during this difficult time.

Rabbi Marion Discretionary Fund

Colette Carasso, in appreciation of Rabbi Sarah Marion.

Terri and Dan Green, in memory of Sylvia Weitzer.

Lisa and Jim Greenberg, in memory of Doba Mazo, mother of Lisa Greenberg.

Maxine, Stewart and Jena Gross, in memory of mom/grandma, Jean Schafrank; in memory of Muriel Mann, mother of Luise Mann.

Jan and Bernie Jacobs, in memory of Muriel Mann, mother of Luise Mann.

Beth Lazar, in loving memory of mother, Shirley Greenberg Lazar.

Naomi Schaffer and Roger Jackson, in memory of Edith Sheiman, mother of Robert Sheiman.

Amy and Jared Selter, in honor of Benjamin Selter becoming a Bar Mitzvah.

Cherri Sherman, in honor of the Liotta Family; in appreciation of Rabbi Schultz and Rabbi Marion.

The Viens Family, in honor of Rabbi Marion becoming our new Assistant Rabbi.

Rabbi James Prosnit Legacy Fund

Anne and Mark Kirsch, in memory of Muriel Mann, mother of Luise Mann.

Elaine and Marc Silverman, in memory of Muriel Mann, mother of Luise Mann.

Rabbi James Prosnit Discretionary Fund

Jeff and Caren Corbett, in honor of the marriage of son, James Corbett to Jaclyn, and with appreciation to Rabbi Prosnit.

Music Fund

Ilse Levi, in memory of beloved mother, Helen Vogel Strauss.

Niema Hirsch, in honor of Cantor Blum.

Amy and Jared Selter, in honor of Benjamin Selter becoming a Bar Mitzvah.

Ellen and Robert Sheiman & Family, with thanks to Cantor Blum for leading such a beautiful and heartfelt funeral service.

Laura Sheiman and Aaron Glick, in honor of Lenny Braman's birthday.

Debbie and Michael Weisman, in memory of Nancy Green, mother of Dan Green.

Enhancement Fund

Bernadette Baldino, in memory of Bob Caston, husband of Miriam Caston.

Barbara Berkowitz, in memory of husband, Barry Berkowitz.

The Fridman Family, in memory of Nancy Green, grandmother of Anne Green.

Michael Jacobson, in memory of Nathan Jacobson.

Kathleen and Craig Kilian, in memory of Muriel Mann, mother of Luise Mann.

Albert and Alida Kleban, in loving memory of father, Irving Kleban.

Jill and Stanton H. Lesser, in memory of Annette Green, mother of Dan Green, grandmother of Anne Green.

Jackie Madwed, in memory of Allen Ross, father of David Ross.

Ruth Madwed, in memory of father, Jacob Dolid; in honor of the Bat Mitzvah of Mia Paige Markley, granddaughter of Chris and George Markley.

Sylvia and Alan Neigher, a donation.
Sandra Rosenberg, in memory of Allan Aaron, husband of Harriet Aaron.

Twody and Bob Schless, in memory of Gunther Stile, father of Twody Schless; in memory of Muriel Mann, mother of Luise Mann.

Caren and Bill Schwartz, in memory of Edith Sheiman, mother of Robert Sheiman.

JANUARY DONATIONS

(We greatly appreciate all donations to our special purpose funds.)

Helen Weinstein, in memory of Albert Weinstein.

Kenneth and Rita Weinstein, in memory of Dr. Albert Weinstein.

Karen and George Wolf, in honor of Anne and Mark Kirsch.

Sylvia Prosnit Adult Education Fund
Steven Borden, in memory of Muriel Mann, mother of Luise Mann.

Elaine and Juda Chetrit, in memory of Nicole Najmowicz, daughter of Colette Carasso.

Beth Lazar, in memory of Edith Sheiman, mother of Robert Sheiman.

George and Chris Markley, in memory of Edith Sheiman, mother of Bob Sheiman.

Nursery School Enrichment Fund

Anne and Mark Kirsch, in memory of Richard Sacks, father of Debbie Viens.

Gail and Peter Weinstein, in memory of Melissa, daughter of Joan and Stanley Carp; in honor of Carol Shapiro's special birthday; in honor of Michele Kabat's special birthday.

Nursery School Scholarship Fund

Cleo and Jon Sonneborn, in memory of Clark Rawdon, father of Cleo Sonneborn.

Rabbi Martin Library Fund

Jerry and Dale Demner, in memory of Lorraine Hirsch, sister of Jerry Demner; in memory of Jessie Demner, mother of Jerry Demner.

Mazon

Beth Lazar, in loving memory of uncle, Fred Greenberg, aunt, Janet Greenberg, and aunt, Roz Greenberg.

Religious School Scholarship Fund

B'nai Israel Brotherhood, a donation.
Fran Glucroft, Mazel Tov on Brayden Begian's Bar Mitzvah.

Rabbi Arnold Sher Social Action Fund

Carson and Robert Berkowitz, in memory of Robert Caston, husband

of Miriam Caston, father of Harry; in memory of Cindy West, wife of Ken West; in memory of Richard Sacks, father of Debbie Viens.

B'nai Israel Sisterhood, a donation.

Joanne and Neil Lippman, in memory of Allen Ross, father of David Ross.

George and Chris Markley, in memory of Muriel Mann, mother of Luise Mann; in memory of Nicole Najmowicz, daughter of Colette Carasso.

Samuel Miller & Family, in memory of Alvin Goldfield.

Serena and Arnie Sher, in memory of Muriel Mann, mother of Luise Mann; in memory of Richard Sacks, father of Debbie Viens; in loving memory of Irving Kern, husband of Andi Kern, father of Nancy and Danielle.

Elaine and Marc Silverman, in memory of Richard Sacks, father of Debbie Viens.

Etz Chaim Living Torah Fund

Brad and Linda Rothbaum, in memory of Cindy West, wife of Ken West.

Vision Loan Reduction Fund

Luise Mann, congratulations to Mindy and Jeff Siegel, on the engagement of Rebecca and Alex.

Patti and Samuel Rosenberg, in memory of Frania Rosenberg.

Jim Abraham Education Fund for Jewish Leadership

George and Chris Markley, in memory of Cindy West, wife of Ken West.

Gillette Judaic Enrichment Fund

George and Chris Markley, in memory of Bob Caston, husband of Miriam Caston; congratulations to Jessica Becker on becoming the Social Action Vice President of the National Federation of Temple Youth.

BIFTY Greenwald Scholarship Fund

Judith and Stanley Lessler, in memory of Sophie Bretholtz, and honoring her love of NFTY.

Judith Brav Sher Family Education Fund

Elaine and Juda Chetrit, in memory of our beautiful sister-in-law, Darlene Teller.

Yakhani Caring Fund

Barbara and Mark Edinberg, in memory of Cindy West, wife of Ken West.

Andrea Goodman and Jeff Ackerman, in honor of Wendy and Ralph Michel, on the birth of grandson, Vaughn Isaiah Michel, son of Steven and Sara Michel.

Paula and Bob Herzlinger, in honor of Wendy and Ralph Michel, on the birth of grandson, Vaughn Isaiah Michel, son of Steven and Sara Michel.

George and Chris Markley, in memory of Richard Sacks, father of Debbie Viens; in memory of Darlene Teller, sister-in-law of Elaine and Juda Chetrit.

Sheryl and George Santiago, in memory of Dr. Allen Ross, father of David Ross.

Naomi Schaffer and Roger Jackson, in memory of Nicole Najmowicz, daughter of Colette Carasso.



Rabbi Schultz and Rabbi Marion get in the Chanukah spirit, urging people to attend the annual Chanukah celebration at the temple.

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MARK EDINBERG FROM PAGE 1

to write “L’chu N’ran’na” for the Cantor’s 20th anniversary. He then did some arrangements for the original Temple Band. When the Friday night service was moved to 6:00 p.m. and Cantor Blum said she wanted musicians to play along with the service, Mark wrote arrangements for the various instruments that accompany the service.

“I took on the task of writing accompanying harmonies for the service,” Mark said, adding, “I never thought I’d be writing religious music. My music of choice is jazz, but with the encouragement of Cantor Blum, I agreed to give it a try.”

Writing music for the synagogue, he said, “is a unique opportunity to express and challenge myself.” But he added that much credit must go to the instrumentalists and vocalists who perform on Friday nights and other occasions, and to the environment that Cantor Blum created. “Hearing everyone play, sing and/or enjoy something I wrote is both rewarding and an honor”.

His other contributions include original music for Rabbi Prosnit’s retirement, wedding music for several congregants, occasionally filling in as cantor, and several liturgical selections, some of which have been performed in the summer.

In honor of Mark’s contributions, Cantor Blum offered this “Ode to Mark Edinberg from a very grateful Cantor”:

Who arranges all the music we use every Friday night for our Friday night instrumentalists in 3 parts for each instrument?

Who writes original music for our Friday night services that we perform regularly?

Who helps out the soloists with the music, sound system, and instruments in July when the Cantor is on vacation and also accompanies the service?

Who helped start our original Temple Band in 2000 and played trombone in the band at our monthly band services for 15 years?

Who wrote the original music for the choirs to honor the Cantor on her 20th anniversary service and for Rabbi Prosnit’s farewell?

Who took our new High Holy Day prayer book and wrote all the musical interludes for oboe and keyboard for our Yizkor service, making it so very moving?

Who wrote anthems and prayers for the Adult Choir to sing each year at the High Holy Days?

Who wrote special music for weddings for our members?

Who was instrumental in the formation of our new Klezmer Band, Radio Klez, wrote and/or arranged some of the music for them, and plays the keyboard in the band?

Who substitutes on Friday nights when our organist Barbara is away?

Who advises the Cantor on every musical matter, including purchases and maintenance of musical equipment?

Who encourages and includes each and every singer, musician and choir member in our temple to love music as they sing to God in our Sanctuary?

Why, it’s MARK EDINBERG, our in-house accompanist, composer, arranger and beloved friend.

Please join us in honoring this wonderful mensch at what will be Cantor Blum’s last Shabbat Shirah with B’nai Israel.

HIGH HOLY DAY APPEAL

We thank the following members of our community for their support of our annual High Holy Day Appeal.

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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, January 3

6:00 p.m. Service
Torah Portion –
Vayigash, Gen. 44:18-
47:27
Haftarah – Ezekiel
37:15-28

Saturday, January 4

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 the Electric
Sanctuary Band

Friday, January 10

6:00 p.m. Service
Torah Portion – Vayhi,
Gen. 47:28-50:26
Haftarah – 1 Kings 2:1-
12

Saturday, January 11

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

Friday, January 17

6:00 p.m. Service
Torah Portion –
Shemot, Exod. 1:1-6:1
Haftarah – Isaiah 27:6-
28:13; 29:22-23

Saturday, January 18

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

Friday, January 24

6:00 p.m. Service
Torah Portion – Vaera,
Exod. 6:2-9:35
Haftarah – Ezekiel

28:25-29:21

Saturday, January 25

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

Friday, January 31

6:00 p.m. Service
Torah Portion – Bo,
Exod. 10:1-13:16
Haftarah – Jeremiah
46:13-28

Saturday, February 1

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
- special guest Alexa
Cohen