

SEPTEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

High Holy Day Schedule

Rosh Hashanah begins on the evening of Sunday, September 29. See the complete schedule of holiday services. Page 16. (the back cover)

Setting Intentions

As the High Holy Days approach, Rabbi Schultz asks: “What is the intention you want to set for yourself. How might you want to bring yourself, your talents, your ideas, your imagination to the B’nai Israel community in this coming year?” Page 3

Acknowledging Our Vulnerability

Rabbi Marion suggests that by acknowledging our own vulnerability, we can deepen our understanding of who we are and “partner together to imbue our community and our lives with more strength, more goodness, more holiness, and more peace.” Page 5.

New Prayer Space

A dedication ceremony for the new Rabbi James Prosnit Outdoor Prayer and Community Space will be held on Sept. 27. Page 2.

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INSTALLATION FOR RABBI MARION



Jeannie Appleman

Rabbi Sarah R. Marion will be formally installed as our new Assistant Rabbi at Friday evening services on Sept. 20.

The guest speaker will be Jeannie Appleman, who has trained seminary students in organizing, congregational development, and leadership.

Her topic will be : “Stories: The Key to Transforming Synagogue Communities, from the Inside Out.”

In the last few years, Ms. Appleman has been Senior Organizer and Trainer at JOIN for Justice, which stands for Jewish Organizing Institute and Network. Its goal is to train Jewish leaders capable of organizing for social justice, both within and beyond Jewish communities and organizations.

“I first worked with Jeannie when I participated in the JOIN seminary leadership class for rabbinic students during my third year of rabbinic school,”

Rabbi Marion said, “and her leadership of that program played a large role in formulating and shaping how I envision my role as a rabbi.”

“Through Jeannie’s training,” Rabbi Marion added, “I came to understand that powerful and effective rabbinic leadership entails meeting congregants and community members ‘where they are,’ placing relationships at the core of all rabbinic work, and using relationships and mutual interests as tools that can help us to build and strengthen our Jewish communities.”

Rabbi Marion partnered with Ms. Appleman in Baltimore, to organize congregational “action teams” around issues of community-wide concern.

The Shabbat service will be at 6 p.m. Participating will be Rabbi Marc Disick, Interim Senior Rabbi at Temple Oheb Shalom in Baltimore, where Rabbi

Continued on page 3

SHARING OUR JOY...

Stew and Dale Barcham, in celebration of the marriage of daughter, Lindsay, to Adam Gottfried.

Jodi and Noel Fogelman in celebration of the birth of son, Tyler Jacob Fogelman, brother of Zachary and Abigail.

SINCERE SYMPATHY

We extend our sympathy to the bereaved families of:

Sidney Fialk

Betty Landes, mother of Linda Barlaam

Elaine Saltman, step-mother-in-law of Gil Saltman

Joseph Weisblatt, father of Adam Weisblatt

David Carasso, husband of Colette Carasso

Gary Rosoff, son of Elaine Rosoff, brother of Renee Noren

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.

Sacia Friedman, and Judah
Sky Line Drive, Easton

Allison & Assaf Ofir, and Layla
Woodside Circle, Fairfield

FACEBOOK WITH THE RABBIS

Join with Rabbi Schultz and Rabbi Marion each week for some Thursday morning fun on Facebook Live, starting September 5. Ask questions. Share what's going on in your lives. We'll let you know what's going on at B'nai Israel each weekend. There may be some surprise special guests! Tune in to find out! by going to the B'nai Israel Facebook page.

BULLETIN BOARD

Dedication of Outdoor Space



Please join us at 5 p.m. on Friday, September 27, for the dedication of the new Rabbi James Prosnit Outdoor Prayer and Community Space. Built at a cost of more than \$120,000, the space, adjoining the Pavilion, will be used for outdoor services, parties, Bonim preschool activities, religious school classes and adult learning. Regular Shabbat services will follow at 6 p.m.

Registering New Voters

Once again, members of B'nai Israel are joining with other volunteers to register new voters in Bridgeport, Fairfield and surrounding areas. Barbara Edinberg has created a voter registration kit and training, which she will offer for new volunteers or as a refresher.

If you would like to attend a training on Wednesday, September 11, at 4:30 p.m. or on Sunday, October 6, at 9:30 a.m., please reply to Barbara at bedinberg@gmail.com Possible registration sites in September and October are: weekends at Food Bazaar and weekdays at Housatonic Community College.

Mitzvah Morning

For our first Mitzvah morning of the 2019-2020 calendar year, we will be headed back to B'nai Israel's Cemetery at 117 Kings Highway East, Fairfield, on Sunday, September 29, from 9:30 a.m. to noon. Over the past several decades, some of the headstones have deteriorated. We have made it our mission to clean, preserve, and restore them. In addition, it will be a nice opportunity to work with others in the Temple community, and it is always a fun and rewarding morning. We'll meet at the cemetery at 9:30 a.m., where we will have bagels and coffee on hand for those there to help out. Children are encouraged to join us. Please contact Nina Silberman ninahv@aol.com or Danielle Forma dlforma@aol.com with questions or to sign up.

AARP Driving Class

Join our congregant, Ernest "Ernie" Malecki, on Monday, September 23 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. for this one-day class designed by AARP for senior drivers. Please pre-register with Ernie directly by calling (203) 922-0048 or emailing him at enmalecki113@gmail.com. The cost is \$15 for AARP members and \$20 for nonmembers (checks payable to AARP).



FROM THE RABBI'S DESK/RABBI EVAN SCHULTZ

SETTING AN INTENTION FOR THE HIGH HOLY DAYS

This summer I had the opportunity and joy to spend a week on the faculty at the URJ Eisner Camp in Great Barrington. I have come to cherish these seven days once a year to relish the unique Judaism that flows through the air at camp, and I especially love the time I have to sit with campers ages 8-16 to study with them and hear what's on their minds.

One afternoon, with a group of teens, we got into a conversation over whether one's attitude matters when giving *tzedakah* to the poor. I shared with them a text from Maimonides who argues that intention, or in Hebrew, *kavanah*, does matter, and that one should give their money with a positive countenance.

This is the same Maimonides who teaches in his compendium of Jewish law, the *Mishneh Torah*, that "One who recites the first verse of *Kri'at Shema* - i.e., *Shema Yisrael*... - without intention, does not fulfill his obligation." In other words, according to Maimonides, intention when performing a Jewish act or ritual really does matter.

In just a few short weeks we will enter into the High Holy Day season, and at B'nai Israel we arrive at these days of awe with a sense of new beginnings and possibilities. *Hayom harat olam*, we recite on Rosh Hashanah, today the world is born anew. This phrase whirls not only through my soul as I prepare for these days, but, I pray, through each of

we approach Rosh Hashanah and think about this notion of intention, *kavanah*.

What is the intention you want to set for yourself as we enter into this High Holy Day season? How might you want to bring yourself, your talents, your ideas, your imagination to the B'nai Israel community in this coming year? Or

The days of awe are, in actuality, days of possibility and birth!

us, as we look out on the world and right here within our synagogue community and the potential for us all as we seek to dream and imagine what synagogue life can be in this new year.

My yoga teacher Ross Rayburn invites us at the beginning of every class to set an intention for that workout. It doesn't have to be complicated or too complex, he often says. It can just be something like, "May I be myself during this class," or "May I strive to be my best." I think we can find some similar inspiration as

even, what is it you hope to get out of being here with the community during the High Holy Days? To connect a little more with yourself? With your family? With members of the community?

The days of awe are, in actuality, days of possibility and birth! *Hayom harat Olam*, today the world is born anew. I am so excited for what this new year may bring for us all. May we each find a meaningful and powerful *kavanah*, intention, to set for ourselves and our community in 5780. Shanah Tovah!

INSTALLATION FROM PAGE 1

Marion was the Assistant Rabbi before joining B'nai Israel in July.

The service will be followed by a dinner at 7:30, and a learning session with Ms. Appleman from 8:30 to 9:30. Dinner is \$25 per person. To reserve a place, please contact Chris at chris@cbibpt.org or go to our website and click Shabbat Registrations.

An installation for Rabbi Evan Schultz as our new Senior Rabbi is planned for later this fall.

RELIGIOUS PRACTICES



The Religious Practices Committee welcomes all congregation members to its meetings, where it discusses with the clergy ways to make our worship services more relevant, as well as planning for specific holidays. The next meeting is September 9 at 7:30 p.m. Future meetings are scheduled for November 4, February 10 and June 8. Linda Koski chairs the committee. Her email is lkoski@cbibpt.org

MEET THE EMISSARIES

We welcome Noya Ben Or, Ella Cohen, Hoshen Peretz and Ido Yaaran to our community this fall as part of the Israeli Emissary program sponsored by the Federation for Jewish Philanthropy of Upper Fairfield County. For 20 years, this program has been building a living bridge between Israel and our community. Noya, Ella, Hoshen and Ido are recent high school graduates who have postponed their army service to share their love of Israel with our preschools and religious schools as well as in our adult education programs, local high schools, day schools and Jewish Senior Services. While all four will work together on community events, they will have primary responsibilities at individual synagogues.

If you are interested in inviting any or all of them to have a meal with your family or would like to explore the possibility of becoming a host family for three months, please call contact Stacy Kamisar at skamisar@jewishphilanthropyct.org or Judy Blumenthal at jblumenthal@jewishphilanthropyct.org

Ella Cohen



Shalom!

My name is Ella and I live in Kibbutz Heftziba - a little beautiful place near the Gilboa mountain with my parents, my two little sisters- Hadas and Shaked (we all have names of plants!) and our two dogs, cat and rabbits.

In my school, I took classes in theater and biology. I volunteer in a dog shelter. I love animals and I really enjoy being there. I also volunteer at Magen David Adom, which is an organization of emergency medical services. I'm glad I have the chance to help people and be there for them at their worst situations. In my free time I like to meet with my friends, travel with my family and see new places. One of my biggest dreams is to fly to Africa and volunteer in an

orphanage there. I feel I can give a lot of myself and the thought of doing this fills me.

Israel is a big part of me and a major part of my life- this is the place where I was born and grew up. In my Shlichut (emissary mission) I also want to "bring" Israel- the special culture and the Israeli Judaism. I have a lot of motivation to be a part of the community's life and learn about Jewish life in different places. I think this mission is very important. I want to contribute, to represent Israel, and show the amazing and special sides of it- to tell my story and the story of Israel.

I'm very excited and can't wait to meet you!

Noya Ben Or



My name is Noya Ben Or. I live in a small place on the Gilboa Mountain called Gan Ner.

I really love to hang out with my friends.

Friends are a big part of my life and my daily routine. My hobbies are painting, baking and listen to music. I volunteered for three years as a guide in a youth movement that called Bnei Hamoshavim. For two years I guided 6th and 7th graders and this year I guide 10th graders who just started to guide at the movement and help them to settle in.

I have two younger siblings. One is 15 and his name is Tzuf and another brother named Yair is 10. Both of my parents are massage therapists. My mom, Efrat, is also a Yoga teacher and my dad, Avraham, is also dealing with Tibetan Bowls, which are really special musical instruments that help people heal. I have two cats and I really love them. Even though I don't have dogs I really love them too.

I first found out about this emissary program from my older cousin, who had done this year of service four years ago in New Jersey. This is when I decided that I want to do it. Throughout the training

this year and all the seminars we been through I understood how much this connection between the Israeli Jewish people and the diaspora Jews is important and how we as young emissaries can help it continue to exist.

Hoshen Peretz



My name is Hoshen Peretz. I am 18 years old. I live in Gideona, a small village in the Jezreel Valley in northern Israel. I have two siblings - my sister

Amy is 20, a soldier in the IDF, and my brother Shai is 16, studying at the military boarding school in Haifa. My father is a jeep tour guide and my mother is engaged in education and works for the Rashi Foundation.

I studied biology, nutrition and human resources management at school - mainly because I'm interested in learning about the person, his body and his soul. In my free time I love to travel in Israel with my family and spend time with friends.

I have been a counselor for 3 years in the "Mashatzim", a youth movement that prepares youth to be youth leaders through the knowledge and love of the land. I am also the chairperson of the Student and Youth Council in the Department of Rural Education in Israel. I am a trainer of Krav Maga and have a black belt in karate. I won the country's female youth karate championship between 2008 and 2016.

I am very excited and happy to begin my year of service as a Jewish Agency emissary in the Jewish community of Fairfield County.

Ido Yaaran



I'm Ido Yaaran, 18 years old, from Herzliya, which is north of Tel Aviv. I have one younger brother, Roe, who is 16. I used to live

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FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY/RABBI SARAH R. MARION
FACING OUR OWN VULNERABILITY

As we approach another High Holiday season, I find myself at the start of another great journey. Becoming your new Assistant Rabbi and embarking with you on this new journey together is thrilling and exciting, but it is also unfamiliar and unknown. It is a journey that, at moments, is laden with feelings of uncertainty and vulnerability. Will I teach, lead, inspire and guide? Will our new partnership be mutually successful and fulfilling...and will it elevate us towards new horizons in our personal and communal lives?

The High Holiday season, at its core, is meant to be a time for us to contemplate our own vulnerabilities. There is, perhaps, no greater image of our own fragility than the notion that over these coming High Holy Days, each of us are individual sheep, passing before God for judgment, one by one. On Rosh Hashanah morning, we will contemplate these haunting words of the *u'netanah tokef* prayer:

As a shepherd searches for his flock and has his sheep pass under His staff, so, too, will God record and recount and review each living being as they pass by, and God will write down their sentence...How many will pass on and how many will be created, who shall live and who shall die.

The 16th century Polish Talmudic commentator, known as the Maharsha, once wondered why we must pass before God one by one, as surely God is capable of judging us all simultaneously. And so there must be a reason, he concluded, that we must each stand before God individually — leaving us vulnerable, and exposed. There must be a reason that we are all forced to look at God face-to-face, “*panim el panim*” (or “*punim to punim*” as our Yiddish grandparents might say).

The High Holiday season, at its core, is meant to be a time for us to contemplate our own vulnerabilities.

My three-and-a-half-year-old daughter is often tickled when I put on sunglasses and she can see herself in their reflection.

Perhaps the Maharsha had a similar experience with his children and his own, 16th century spectacles. Because, ultimately, the Maharsha decided that we stand before God, face-to-face and vulnerable, over the course of these High Holy days, so that we can see ourselves in God’s reflection. And when we see ourselves, reflected off what is most holy and most divine, then, and only then, are we able to see *ourselves*, most clearly.

The same is true, I believe, when we allow ourselves to connect with another

human being, face to face, *panim el panim*, in sacred moments of shared openness and vulnerability. I am a deep believer in the mantras of the author and psychologist Dr. Brené Brown, who writes that, “Staying vulnerable is a risk we have to take if we want to experience true connection.” And, if he were participating in the conversation, the Maharsha might add that our moments of face-to-face vulnerability allow us to learn and discover more about ourselves than we ever knew before.

Over the past weeks and months, it has been so wonderful to meet and connect with so many of you, *panim el panim*, as we have begun the process of sharing our stories, our fears, and our hopes and dreams for the future.

As we continue to get to know each other and embark on this new and sacred journey, I pray that we may continue to find the courage to be deeply and profoundly vulnerable with one another.

And through our shared moments of vulnerability, I pray that we deepen our understanding of who we are and who we are meant to be, as we partner together to imbue our community and our lives with more strength, more goodness, more holiness, and more peace.

With so much sweetness for a happy, healthy, and vulnerable New Year.

**EMISSARIES
 FROM PAGE 4**

in a settlement until I was 12 when my mother decided it’s better for us to move and live close to the big city.

I studied math, physics and engineering science at school, which reflects an adventurous character in me. Challenges, like school, lead me a lot in my life, and

this is one of the reasons why I chose to go on shlichut (emissary mission). But it is also mostly because I want to work on building strong connections between Jews all over the world. I was empowered by my work as JC (junior counselor) for the Diller teen fellows, a leadership program for Jewish teens all over the world.

I’m a hard worker, and I try to fill my

day with building projects, volunteering, Diller programs, and meeting my friends. I will bring all of this to your community. You’ll barely see me resting, but feel free to reach out and join! Exploring is a key word for me, usually comes in my love for traveling and also questioning who I am, my Jewish identity, hobbies and more. I love changes. But mostly, I try leaving a mark.



BONIM BUZZ/ALEXA COHEN, EARLY CHILDHOOD DIRECTOR
SCENES FROM BONIM IN THE SUN SUMMER CAMP





FROM THE EDUCATION CENTER/IRA J. WISE

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Shakespeare told us that the rose smells as sweet no matter the name. Of course, Juliet was saying that to convince Romeo that their family names should not get in the way of their love. She had an ulterior motive.

We are looking to change the name of the Religious School. We know that a name change does little to alter perception unless there is also a change in the content. Last spring, I described how two of our Vision Team Working Groups are focusing on Curriculum (what we teach) and Pedagogy (how we teach it), and that Experiential techniques and Social, Emotional and Spiritual goals will be central to all of that.

The third working group is focused on branding and marketing. They are examining how we can tell the story of the learning center we are becoming. We know that Millennials (born 1981-1996) and members of Generation Z (born 1997-present) are spiritual seekers. It also tells us that many of them - maybe even most of them - are pretty sure they won't find what they are looking for in legacy institutions like synagogues or religious schools. We want those folks – some of you and your friends – to know that we

are rapidly becoming something different than the Religious School experience you may have had and disliked.

As of this writing in early August we have not settled on a final name. We know that calling what we ask kids to do on Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays “school” is not very appealing. And as we change how learning happens, it may not be the most accurate description of what happens here.

We are rapidly becoming something different from the Religious School experience you may have had and disliked.

The conversation is leaning toward words that describe us as a learning community. This is – we believe – a place where we can find friends and possibly faith. It is becoming a place where we can make connections with one another as members of a tribe and with the traditions and stories of our people. A place where we can belong to something amazing that has sustained us for thousands of years,

that is the same as it was in ancient days and yet entirely renewed and reinvented for every generation.

One Hebrew word for community is *Kehillah*. It describes, according one interpretation, a congregation, a group whose members are different from one another and that have a shared purpose, a collective undertaking. We will build it together. So we have a working title and a tagline – one we hope will speak directly to each learner and parent:

Kehillah (Community)

Find. Connect. Belong.

We hope that if this is the final choice, you and your children will talk about getting in the car to go to *Kehillah* and refer to their *Kehillah* friends. This is a work in progress that requires a lot of us to agree. Please call, e-mail or hunt me down at Temple to let me know what you think of *Kehillah*, and if you have any other ideas that you like better

L'shalom,

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

IT IS TIME TO LEARN!!!!

Opening days for Religious School are:

Gan – Kitah Gimel (K-3) begin on Sunday, September 15 at 9:30 a.m.

Kitot Daled – Vav (4-6) begin on Thursday, September 12 at 4:30 p.m.

Kitot Zayin – Chet (7-8) begin on Tuesday, September 10 at 7:00 p.m.

If you have not yet enrolled your child(ren), please call Bethann in the Education Center (203) 336-1858 or email her at Beth@cbibpt.org.

Merkaz, the Community High School for Jewish Studies opens Tuesday, September 10 at 6:50 p.m.

If you have not yet enrolled your child(ren) in Merkaz, please call Margery in the Merkaz office at (203) 450-5303 or email her at margeryv@merkazct.org.

BE A HIGH HOLY DAY USHER!

Ushers play an essential role in enhancing the High Holy Days experience by helping to create a welcoming and secure atmosphere. You are invited to share the honor and responsibilities of ushering at the upcoming High Holy Days services. Please complete the Usher Volunteer form found on our temple website at www.cbibpt.org or call the temple office at 203-336-1858 as soon as possible.



ADULT JEWISH LEARNING AT CONGREGATION B'NAI ISRAEL



Adult Round Table Thursdays, September 5 and October 3 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.

How We Prepare for the High Holy Days (Lifelong Learning) Fridays, September 6, 13, 20 at Noon in the Natt Family Library



Get an inside look at how each of us personally prepares for the upcoming New Year!

- Rabbi Schultz - September 6
- Rabbi Marion - September 13
- Ira Wise - September 20

Slichot 5779 With Special Guest Adam Greenberg Saturday, September 21, 2019 at 8:00 p.m.

At Congregation Rodeph Sholom, Bridgeport

The combined communal beginning to the High Holy Day season kicks off with Havdalah, followed by a guest speaker, Adam Greenberg. Adam was an outfielder for the Chicago Cubs in 2005 and was best known for being hit in the head in his major league debut on the first pitch of his first plate appearance. He has since become a powerful speaker on perseverance and new beginnings.



He has since become a powerful speaker on perseverance and new beginnings.

Followed by refreshments and Slichot Services

Yom Kippur Study Session: May God Bless You and Keep You Wednesday, October 9 at 1:00 p.m. in the Natt Family Library



Each Yom Kippur we gather to pray, repent and check in with one another. Some of us prefer to spend an hour learning together during the Children's Service rather than leaving the temple. This year we will explore some ideas about God and about ourselves. There is no need to specifically believe in God to join our conversation. Believing in yourself is a very good beginning though. Join Ira Wise as we learn together.

The Insecurity of Freedom (Lifelong Learning) Fridays, October 11, 18 and 25 at noon in the Natt Family Library



We live in the land of the free and the home of the brave. That is a big part of way many of our ancestors (or we our-

selves) came here from somewhere else. We celebrate that freedom in many ways – by voting, running for office, speaking out for ideals we believe in and against things we find abhorrent. In 1954 Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel wrote an essay in which he cautioned the Jewish people about freedom. He suggested it was a blade that cuts in more than one direction and that we would have to work hard to maintain our unique identity and connection to our heritage and to God. Join Ira Wise in examining where we are with that. What are the challenges to being Jewish today and what should we do to ensure that we thrive in the future?

URJ Biennial December 11-15 in Chicago, IL



URJ BIENNIAL 2019
DECEMBER 11 - 15
CHICAGO, IL

Join with Rabbi Schultz, Rabbi Marion, and thousands of Reform Jews from across the country for four days in the heart of Chicago! Biennial is a wonderful opportunity to learn, pray, connect, and experience some of the best aspects of our Movement. To learn more, check out <https://urj.org/urj-biennial>

SEPTEMBER DONATIONS

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

Rabbi James Prosnit Legacy Fund

Carol Krim, in loving memory of husband, Michael Krim; wishing much happiness to Rabbi Prosnit and his family.

Alan and Harriet Nelson, in honor of Rabbi Prosnit's retirement.

Sarah Rosenberg, in appreciation of Rabbi Prosnit and his library.

Rabbi Schultz Discretionary Fund

Beck, Annie, Levi and Jules Fineman, in appreciation of Rabbi Schultz.

Ruth and Eric Gross, in honor of Stew and Dale Barcham, on the marriage of daughter, Lindsay, to Adam Gottfried.

Eileen and Howard Tolk, in loving memory of mother, Justine Tolk.

Music Fund

David Abbey and Deborah Goodman, in memory of Betty Landes, mother of Linda Barlaam.

Elaine and Juda Chetrit, in memory of David Carasso, loving husband of Colette Carasso.

Anne and Mark Kirsch, in honor of Liz and Mark Nigrosh, on the engagement of son, Seth, to Robin MacFadden.

The Silberman/Weisman Family, in memory of Joseph Weisblatt, father of Adam Weisblatt, brother-in-law of Bernie Jacobs.

Eileen and Howard Tolk, in loving memory of sister, Helen Cramer.

Enhancement Fund

Lori and Ken Berger, in memory of Betty Landes, mother of Linda Barlaam.

Sandy and Art Cassel, in memory of Elaine Saltman, step-mother-in-law of Gil Saltman.

Eloise Epstein, in memory of Joseph Weisblatt, father of Adam Weisblatt, brother-in-law of Bernie Jacobs.

Alida and Al Kleban, in memory of father, Joseph Shulkin.

Julie and Steve Pressman, in memory of Joseph Weisblatt, father of Adam Weisblatt, brother-in-law of Bernie Jacobs.

The Silberman/Weisman Family, in memory of Joseph Weisblatt, father of Adam Weisblatt, brother-in-law of Bernie Jacobs.

Barbara Solomon, in appreciation of the hard work and kindness of the B'nai Israel Office Staff.

Eileen and Howard Tolk, in loving memory of father, Samuel Tolk.

Sylvia Prosnit Adult Education Fund

Anne and Mark Kirsch, in memory of Betty Landes, mother of Linda Barlaam.

Sheryl and George Santiago, in memory of Betty Landes, mother of Linda Barlaam.

Nursery School Scholarship Fund

Serena and Arnie Sher, in loving memory of Betty Landes, mother of Linda Barlaam.

Frederic West, in memory of Abner West; in memory of Dorothy West.

Rabbi Martin Library Fund

Aleksey and Raisa Ledvich, in memory of aunt, Noemi Dovolskaya.

Mazon

Ruth and Eric Gross, in memory of Ruth Beitman.

Religious School Scholarship Fund

Aleksey and Raisa Ledvich, in memory of father, Peter Ledvich; in memory of Zelda Wise, mother of Ira Wise.

Religious School Enrichment Fund

Larry Levine and Alison Bonds, in honor of Susan Walden's special birthday.

Audrey, Ira, Ethan and Harper Wise, in honor of the birth of Maya Sadie Herzlinger, granddaughter of Bob and Paula Herzlinger; in memory of Betty Landes, mother of Linda Barlaam.

Tracie & Paul Wizda, a donation.

Rabbi Arnold Sher Social Action Fund

Ellen and Larry Dinkes, in honor of Dale and Stew Barcham, on the wedding of daughter, Lindsay, to Adam Gottfried.

Laurie and Daniel Schopick, in honor of the birth of Maya Sadie Herzlinger, granddaughter of Bob and Paula Herzlinger; in honor of Liz and Mark Nigrosh, on the engagement of son, Seth, to Robin MacFadden.

Etz Chaim Living Torah Fund

The Keller Family, in memory of David Carasso, husband of Colette Carasso.

Jim Abraham Education Fund for Jewish Leadership

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

Barbara Solomon, in loving memory of mother, Claire Peggy Irwin.

Daniel Smith Cemetery Fund

Serena and Arnie Sher, in loving memory of husband and friend, Daniel Smith.

Gillette Judaic Enrichment Fund

Susan Yardin, in memory of Zelda Wise, mother of Ira Wise.

Judith Brav Sher Family Education Fund

Alan and Sylvia Neigher, in memory of Robert Zeisler, husband of Judy Zeisler; in memory of Frieda Lopatin, mother of Richard Lopatin.

Yakhani Caring Fund

Ruth and Eric Gross, in memory of grandfather, Julius Gross; in memory of Sidney Fialk.

Allan and Linda Smardin, in memory of Jack Newman, husband of Karin Newman.

Barbara, Kerrith and Daniel Solomon, in memory of Derek Solomon, beloved husband, father and papa.

THE LESSON OF AUSCHWITZ BY BECCA NEWMAN

Becca Newman is a rising junior at Fairfield Warde High School and was a member of last spring's Confirmation class. This essay has been edited and trimmed for space.

This past year in school, I had the opportunity to learn about the Holocaust throughout March. We made sure we understood the significance of it and what really happened. Going to Auschwitz–Birkenau with Crane Lake Camp as part of NFTY in Israel, I felt as prepared as I could be to experience viewing this emotional site.

The night before going to the concentration camps, we went over a few stories of people who were both victims and perpetrators of the Holocaust. It was crazy to see how their lives had been so similar, yet by the time religion and other issues came into play, the gaps grew larger.

At this point, I was dreading to go. The truth is, though, one of my biggest fears was that I wouldn't be able to feel anything. What if I was SO in shock that my brain couldn't comprehend that all this death and torture actually took place there?

The next morning, July 5th, we got on the bus and headed over. When we arrived, all I could think was, "Wow, this is actually real and I am legitimately here right now."

When I saw the entrance of the camp, I didn't even want to go in. I was terrified of what was to come. We walked through the front gates and I felt tears building up inside of me, but nothing would come out.

As we walked around Auschwitz, I couldn't speak. I walked alone and was always towards the back of my group because I wanted to make sure I took it

all in. I somehow couldn't take my eyes away. I never cried, though, because it was almost as if I was feeling too much pain for a tear to even form. If I could somehow make every single person see what I saw that day, I would in an instant.

The Holocaust is always seen as "the killing of the Jews," but it's more than that. These people were put into camps, tortured, and starved for years, yet still fought hard and were determined to come out alive.

There is more of a lesson though than just proving to Holocaust deniers that yes, these millions of deaths are real. It shows how a simple word or action can go much further than intended. It is important to always be kind and stand up for what you believe in, because if those few people had been stopped, then this mass genocide may have never gotten so far.



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

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



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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.

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RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FAMILY APPLE PICKING!

Sunday, September 8 at 9:30 a.m., meet us at Beardsley Cider Mill and Orchard, 278 Leavenworth Road in Shelton. Before the prayers, before the classes and before the first jellyfish (if you are new to our school, you will learn about this!) let's get together and have some fun! We have donuts for all of the kids at 11:30 when we finish! Cost is a \$1.00/bag entrance fee and you pay \$1.85/lb for the apples. Cash or check only please. We go rain or shine! Questions? Beth@cbibpt.org



OPENING DAY FAMILY PICNIC

September 15 at noon!

It has become a tradition to celebrate our first Sunday class with a family picnic. Pick up your children (Gan in their rooms at 11:55 a.m., everyone else in the main lobby at noon), and come out back to the patio and the Pavilion! We will be cooking up a storm as we eat, meet new folks and renew old friendships. Older and younger siblings are definitely welcome! (we will not be picnicking in the rain.)

MEMORIAL BOOK

We are preparing our annual Yizkor Book of Remembrance for the High Holy Days. This booklet is intended to honor loved ones who have passed away, and will be distributed at the Yizkor service on Yom Kippur. Memorial Book forms have been sent out and the deadline to return them is Friday, September 6. Please send in your form visit our website, www.cbibpt.org to complete the form online.

SHABBAT SERVICE SCHEDULE

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

Friday, September 6

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

25:19
Haftarah – Isaiah 54:1-
10

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

Saturday, September 7

8:00 a.m. Service
8:00 a.m. Bar Mitzvah of Judah
Friedman, son of Sacia
Friedman
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 Zuckerman,
son of Louis and
Claudia Zuckerman

Saturday, September 14

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. Bat Mitzvah of Amelia
King, daughter of Nina
King and Brian King

Friday, September 20

6:00 p.m. Service – Installation
of Rabbi Sarah Marion
followed by dinner
and speaker, Jeannie
Appleman (See Page 1
for details)
Torah Portion – Ki
Tavo, Deut. 26:1-29:8
Haftarah – Isaiah 60:1-
22

Friday, September 27

6:00 p.m. Service
Torah Portion –
Nitzavim, Deut. 29:9-
31:20
Haftarah – Isaiah 61:10-
63:9

Friday, September 13

6:00 p.m. Service
Torah Portion – Ki
Tetze, Deut. 21:10-

Saturday, September 21

8:00 a.m. Service

Saturday, September 28

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 Bryce
Yurdin, son of Scott and
Rachel Yurdin



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HIGH HOLY DAY SCHEDULE 5780/2019

Selichot

Saturday, September 21
At Rodeph Sholom

8:00 p.m. Havdalah
8:15 p.m. Selichot Speaker:
Adam Greenberg
9:15 p.m. Refreshments
9:30 p.m. Service

Rosh Hashanah Eve
Sunday, September 29

5:00 p.m. Service at Jennings Beach
(weather permitting: check
website or call Temple that
afternoon if uncertain)
7:30 p.m. Service at Temple

Rosh Hashanah
Monday, September 30

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

Rosh Hashanah, 2nd Day
Tuesday, October 1

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

Cemetery Memorial Service
Sunday, October 6

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

Kol Nidre
Tuesday, October 8

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

Yom Kippur
Wednesday, October 9

9:00 a.m. Family Service (Pre-schoolers)
(Chapel)
10:00 a.m. Morning Service (Sanctuary
& Tent)
10:00 a.m. Youth Program (Grades
Pre-K-3)
1:00 p.m. Adult Study
1:30 p.m. Family Service (Grades K-6)
(Sanctuary)

2:45 p.m. Afternoon Service
4:45 p.m. Yizkor Service (approximate
time)
5:45 p.m. Neilah (Concluding) Service

Erev Sukkot
Sunday, October 13

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

Monday, October 14

8:00 a.m. Sukkot Service
10:00 a.m. Young Children's Sukkot
Program and Service

Erev Simchat Torah
Sunday, October 20

5:00 p.m. Flag Making and Tiny Torah
Making
6:00 p.m. Simchat Torah Service w/Jr.
Choir

Monday, October 21
10:00 a.m. Yizkor Service