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Beth Zion - Beth Israel

Temple Beth Zion-Beth Israel's Weekly E-Newsletter / August 31, 2023

Remember that our office will be closed on Monday, September 4 in observance of Labor Day.

Please join us in welcoming new staff and current staff to new roles!



Religious School Coordinator

Stacey Lasky, who many know as a member of our ECE team, will be adding Religious School Coordinator to her responsibilities at BZBI for the coming year. In this role, Stacey will supervise our teachers, oversee the curriculum, and manage the operations of Neziner Hebrew School. Since graduating from the University of Florida with a Jewish Studies degree and making Aliyah to live in Israel, Stacey has always been a Jewish Educator in some capacity. During the pandemic, she earned a Masters in Education with a concentration in Jewish Instructional Education from Gratz College. As an educator at BZBI over the past five years, she has held positions in the Laurie Wagman Preschool, including Lead Teacher and Jewish Resource Specialist. At Neziner, she has been the Adasha Enrichment Teacher (3rd-6th Grades), Tot Shabbat Leader, Gimmel (3rd Grade) Teacher, and Hebrew Specialist. Stacey is excited to take on this new role and have the opportunity to continue to witness your children's Jewish Education journey. If you haven't yet enrolled your children in Religious School, now is the time. Please reach out to **Stacey** or **go to our website**.



As Shayna Flink leaves us to embark on new endeavors, we are excited to welcome **Marc Hersch** as our Brit Mitzvah coordinator. He will also be responsible for recruiting Torah Readers for Shabbat and holidays. Marc is a third-year rabbinical student at the Jewish Theological Seminary and is currently spending a year of study in Jerusalem. Marc was previously a rabbinic intern at Columbia/Barnard Hillel, gabbai for the JTS daily minyan, division head at Camp Ramah Darom, and rabbinic intern at Anshe Emet Synagogue in Chicago, IL. Marc will serve as our Torah Reading and Brit Mitzvah Coordinator virtually and looks forward to getting to know the BZBI community both from afar and, one day, in-person. He invites all community members to be in touch with him at torah@bzbi.org.



Torah Academy Coordinator

Gedalia Penner-Robinson, who we all know from the High Holy Days, will be returning in a new role this year as Torah Academy Coordinator. Originally from Queens, NY, Gedalia began his musical career as a singer and then musical director of Y-Studs A Cappella, with whom he toured the globe sharing traditional, liturgical, Israeli and pop music, and produced Jewish Holiday parodies and other music videos enjoyed by millions of viewers on YouTube. In 2019, as a resident of the Rising Song Institute, he studied song-leading with renowned song-leader Joey Weisenberg, where his eyes were opened to both the breadth of the spiritual Jewish community and his passion for leading song and prayer within it. He is currently pursuing his cantorate at the H. L. Miller Cantorial School at JTS, and as a studying cantor, strives to build a Jewish world where everyone is heard and everyone knows that their voice matters. Anyone interested in learning Torah with Gedalia should reach out to him at torahacademy@bzbi.org about joining our Torah Academy cohort this year.



Larry Kaplan joined our team last year and we are expanding his role this year as he takes on supervision of all teen programming, joins our Religious School faculty to teach our Hebrew High program and works with Stacey Lasky on High Holy Day and Family Avodah programming. He will continue to serve as a Brit Mitzvah tutor as well. Larry is a lifelong Philadelphian and a graduate of Central High School, Temple University and the University of Pennsylvania. Larry has a Masters of Education and has taught for many years, and has run youth programs at various synagogues for even longer. He loves to travel and explore and has some very interesting stories to share. If you are interested in enrolling your child(ren) in our youth programs or Hebrew High, please [reach out to Larry](#).

Spotlight



Fighting Hate for Good after Pittsburgh & Colleyville: Changemakers in Conversation

TONIGHT, Thursday, August 31 at 7:00 PM on Zoom

BZBI has been accepted as an ADL Kulanu Congregation - part of ADL's national synagogue engagement program. We have an opportunity to join with other ADL Kulanu congregations from across the country for a conversation with Rabbi Charlie Cytron-Walker and Marnie Fienberg, champions of change after the antisemitic attacks that forever changed their lives.

This exclusive webinar is for Kulanu congregations and will be moderated by Tema Smith, ADL's Director of Jewish Outreach and Partnerships. [Click here to register](#).



LAST CHANCE: The Happy Rosh Hashanah Honey Fundraiser

Send some holiday cheer while also supporting BZBI's programming. The BZBI Ritual Committee is once again sponsoring the Rosh Hashanah Honey from the Heart Fundraiser. Each member will receive a jar of Kosher honey along with a card listing all the people who

To send a jar of honey with Rosh Hashanah greetings, refer to the personalized code that was sent to you in a recent email. If you need assistance with finding this code, please contact the office. **Deadline to participate is Friday, September 8th at 12:00 PM.**

Worship

Friday, September 1

7:14 PM Shabbat Candlelighting

Saturday, September 2

9:30 AM Shabbat Morning Services

Kiddush is sponsored by **Valerie Joseph & David Haas** in honor of Valerie's birthday and David's Israel ride.

Parashat Ki Tavo

- **Torah Readers:** Rabbi Ken Stern, Kati Steiner, Jesse Bacon, Tamar Fox, Rabbi Ari Saks and Norman Ellman
- **Haftarah:** Norman Ellman
- **Shabbat Learning:** Rabbi Abe Friedman

The Ritual Committee is looking for people to deliver brief English selections during the three Kahaner services. Chelm player experience is not necessary but it will not be held against you. **Contact Robin Lebow if you are interested!**



HHD 5784 - Ochila

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Terms & Privacy

As the High Holy Days approach, Gedalia Penner-Robinson would like to share some of the songs and melodies you will be hearing in our Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur services.

Click the photo to watch a *new* sneak peak!



BZBI's Torah Academy

Ever thought about empowering yourself with the ability to read Torah? It's not as hard as it looks! And besides, it's not about pitch-perfection as much as participating in a communal act of affirming our spiritual connection to each other and something greater.

To learn more about joining this year's cohort of BZBI Torah Academy students, email Gedalia Penner-Robinson at Torahacademy@bzbi.org. We'd love to have you.



One on One Spiritual Check Ins

During the month of Elul, we have an opportunity to pause and reflect on how we have changed and to lift up our hopes for what we would like to see in the coming year. Our clergy are here to listen, witness and support you wherever you find yourself in this time. [Click here to see the availability of each of the Rabbis.](#)

red will show that the slot has been filled.

Please contact **Julia Pollock** to request an appointment once you have found an available time slot and date that works for you.

Members

We gratefully acknowledge this week's donations:

In Memory Of:

- **Vera M. Bradin** by Bernice Bradin
- **Dr. Isadore Kotzin** by Miriam Kotzin
- **Fannie Pomerantz** by Barbara & Arthur Pomerantz
- **Morris J. Root** by Allen Root
- **Frieda Rosenberg** by Esta Schwartz
- **Gerta Wertheim** by Judith Wertheim

In Appreciation Of:

- **The honor of opening the Ark on Yom Kippur** by Esta Schwartz

Yahrzeits September 2 - 8

Peter Abrams | Lester Baker | Myron Ballen | Harry Bass | Wesley Bramnick | Shirley Cohen | Samuel Diamond | Benjamin Dietz | Abraham Ellis | Regina Sekler Fassler | Harold Jerome Feerman | Alex Field | Claire Forest | Bernard Freilich | Aaron Gelb | Laura Gillis | Adolph Gilmin | Anna Goldstein | Leonard Gottlieb | Herbert L. Hess | Gertrude Lane Hirshorn | Gertrude Horwitz | Lena Jacobs | Eugene Kaplan | Rose Lefcowitz | Blanche Levy | Paul Lipow | Myer Magil | Bernice Meyers | Abraham Miller | Pearl Neff | Fannie Nitzberg | Isadore Ringold | Toba Rubin | Maurice Senn | Joan Shuster | Norton Singman | Diana Specktor | Lewis Weiss



BZBI would like to give a warm welcome to all of our new members.

We are so thrilled to have you!

Jackie Balin
Robert & Debra Ballen
Edward Blumstein

Ellen Goldberg
 Eunice & Emily Miller
 Noah & Colleen Schoenberg
 Elizabeth Grass Weese & Brian Weese



High Holy Days Information Below:

Members who ordered HHD tickets can now pick them up at the Temple Office at BZBI during normal business hours. **Tickets will not be mailed.** If you are unable to pick yours up, [please let Aleksandra know.](#) *There will also be an opportunity to pick your tickets up at will call, however – to avoid a line and long wait, we suggest arranging to pick them up from the office beforehand.*

- [Member Tickets Can Be Requested Here](#) If you prefer a version of the form that you can download and print, [click here](#)
- [Guest Tickets Can Be Requested Here](#) If you prefer a version of the form that you can download and print, [click here](#)
- [Click here to order your Lulav and Etrog Sets](#) If you wish to print the form out and bring it into the office, [click here](#) – **The deadline for all orders is next Wednesday, September 6. Please order your set now if you have not done so already!**

The deadline for High Holy Days Child Care and Youth Programming has already passed. Please call Aleksandra in the office if you still need to register your children. Child Care will only be available for children who are pre-registered.



High Holy Days Food Drive

Friday, September 15 through Sunday, October 8

The continuation of providing food access is critical, and the Mitzvah Food Program invites you to support the pantries in three ways:

- Drop off canned goods and non perishables at BZBI. We are not able to accept glass jars, open packages, or expired items. All food items can be dropped off in the box provided in the **18th Street lobby.**
- Purchase grocery store gift cards which will be distributed directly to clients so that they can choose the items they need from their local grocery store. We recommend gift cards from **ShopRite, Acme and Giant**, as these are the stores that are most easily accessible. Gift card values up to \$50

- Purchase foods through the [Mitzvah Food Program Amazon wish lists](#) so that the products are shipped directly to a pantry.

Events



Sisterhood Updates

Pop Up Movie Night

Monday, September 4 at 7:20 PM at the PFS Bourse, 400 Ranstead Street

Join Sisterhood (all BZBI members are welcome) for a Pop Up Movie Night to see **Golda**. You can purchase your tickets [here](#). Let us know if you will attend by emailing sisterhoodbzbi@gmail.com and we will plan to save seats. Just head into the theater and look for Jill and Sharri (and Mike)!

Sisterhood Monthly Planning Meeting

Tuesday, September 5 in the Chapel & on Zoom at 6:15 PM

September's meeting will be held in person in the Chapel and on Zoom. To see the full schedule of Sisterhood meetings for the coming year, [click here](#).

To join on Zoom, click here.



BZBI Book Club: *I Was Better Last Night* by Harvey Fierstein

Wednesday, September 6 at 7:00 PM in the Chapel and on Zoom

Join the BZBI book club review their next book choice, *I Was Better Last Night* by Harvey Fierstein. Bill Brookover will be leading the discussion. This meeting will take place both in the Chapel and on Zoom.

Let Carmie Levine know you would like to join!



Society Hill Synagogue, 418 Spruce Street

BZBI and partners Society Hill Synagogue and Congregation Leyv Ha-Ir welcome you to join in a spiritually rousing and heart-opening experience of prayer, song and contemplation led by musicians, clergy, and prayer leaders from all three communities. The Selichot service marks the beginning of the High Holy Days season and is the perfect opportunity to get your heart, mind, and soul ready for Rosh Hashanah.



Reverse Tashlich 2023

Sunday, September 10 from 10:30 AM to 12:30 PM at Schuylkill Banks at Lloyd Hall Recreation Center

Temple Beth Zion – Beth Israel and Repair the Sea | Tikkun HaYam invites you to participate in Reverse Tashlich. Join Jewish communities around the world as we reverse the Tashlich tradition and pull our "sins" (debris) from local environments. Contact [Eileen Dwell](#) or [Liat Kovnator](#) with any additional questions, or visit www.repairthesea.org/reverse-tashlich.

Please sign-up for the program [here](#).



Challah Bake

Monday, September 11 and Tuesday, September 12, 7:00 – 9:00 PM on Zoom

Get ready for the Challa-days! Join Eileen Dwell, Gary Bramnick, and Carmie Levine on Zoom for a 2-day class – making, braiding, and baking challah. **Session 1** is about preparing your dough and learning about the history & importance of challah. **Session 2** will focus on braiding your dough (both round and traditional designs).

Sign up for both sessions by [clicking here](#).

Recipes, materials for baking, and a Zoom link will be sent to registered participants. This event is free, but donations to the BZBI Kitchen Fund would be warmly welcomed and can be made on the [BZBI website](#).



Rosh Hashanah Maariv in Fitler Square

Friday, September 15, 6:30 to 7:00 PM

Begin your High Holy Days experience with the distinctive melodies of Rosh Hashanah Maariv, led by the extraordinary Gedalia Penner-Robinson.

This service in Fitler Square (Pine St and 24th St) will be free and open to the public -- invite all of your friends and family!

Bring a lawn chair or picnic blanket.



High Holiday Journaling with our Director of Engagement Liat Kovnator

Wednesday, September 20 at 6:00 PM

Join members of BZBI for a High Holy Day Journaling Program. We will reflect inward on the past year, and set goals for the new year ahead. Notepads and writing utensils will be provided. If you have any questions and/or would like to RSVP ahead of time, [please contact Liat.](#)



Sukkot in the Square

Sunday, October 1st at 7:30 PM in Rittenhouse Square

Join us for the ninth year of music in Rittenhouse Square (**this year as a Sukkot concert**) with an evening of spirited music.

Bring a blanket, lawn chairs and a picnic dinner and listen to wonderful music created by Dan Blackburg + his extremely talented band of musicians.

This event is taking the place of RH² this year and is a major undertaking. Your assistance is essential in enabling the larger community to enjoy the concert. For more information on how to become a sponsor, please contact Executive Director Lynne Balaban, or [click here for the sponsorship form.](#)



Classes with Rabbi Stone for 5784

Who Is Man

Monday evenings, October 2 – November 20 from 6:00 – 7:00 PM in the Chapel

"Who Is Man" was the final book written by the eminent Jewish thinker, Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel. In the fairly brief work he stated the guiding philosophic insights of his life's work. Addressed to a general audience while still drawing deeply on Torah sources, it continues to be a somewhat under appreciated but vital text for our times as well as his. We will review the main points of all six chapters of the book. Rabbi Stone will describe each chapter's main points, but folks who want to avail themselves of the original text are encouraged to purchase and read along. To Sign up, [click here](#).

Exploring the Talmud

Monday mornings, beginning October 9 from 10:00 – 11:30 AM on Zoom

Join Rabbi Stone and his students as they explore the Talmud and probe philosophy through civil and criminal law. To Sign up, [click here](#).

The 12 Minor Prophets

Tuesday mornings, beginning October 10 from 10:00 – 11:30 AM on Zoom

Join Rabbi Stone and his students as they study the 12 minor prophets. To sign up, [click here](#).



On One Foot: Introduction to Judaism

Mondays, October 16, 2023 – April 1, 2024, 7:00 – 9:00 PM in the Klinghoffer Chapel at BZBI

Judaism is a world unto itself, encompassing rituals, ideas, and thousands of years of history. If you've been curious about Jewish learning but didn't know where to start, this is the place for you! Join Rabbis Abe Friedman, Abi Weber, and many other community rabbis for a year-long adventure in Jewish learning. [See here](#) for the full schedule and list of topics. [Register here](#) if you are

Around the Community

Philly Friendship Circle's MVP Program

The Mitzvah Volunteer Program is a service learning program for 6th and 7th graders. Through activities, games, and multimedia presentations, MVPers learn about communication, human development, diagnoses, and much more. The Philly Friendship Circle teaches these subjects through special needs advocacy, Jewish values, and current events. The program is not ONLY for those who have a Bar or Bat Mitzvah coming up; it is for anyone in the 12-14 age range who loves the Philly Friendship Circle mission and wants to learn (and practice) being an inclusive friend amongst like-minded young people. To learn more about the upcoming program or to sign your child up, [click here](#).

HOSTS for HOSPITALS is a nonprofit agency now in its 24th year of providing deeply discounted lodging and caring support for patients and families traveling to Greater Philadelphia for specialized medical care. Do you or someone you know have any type of housing that they would donate to help Patient-families, for any length of time? If so, [click here to support this special effort to help families in need](#).



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