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## Beth Zion - Beth Israel

Temple Beth Zion-Beth Israel's Weekly E-Newsletter / August 24, 2023



Members of BZBI welcomed in the month of Elul with a special minyan in Rittenhouse Square last Friday. Hodesh tov (a good month) to all!

### Spotlight

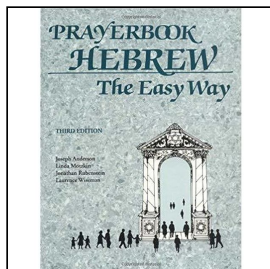


#### **Tot Shabbat Park Playdate**

*THIS Shabbat, August 26, 4:30 - 5:30 PM in Fitler Square*

Families with children 0-5 years old are invited to join us for a summer Shabbat playdate series with Tot Shabbat leader Sarah Fleischman. Older siblings, family, and

For more information about Tot Shabbat and to learn more about all our programs for children in preschool, pre-K, kindergarten, and older – please feel free to contact [Stacey Lasky](#).



## Do You Know What You're Singing When You Pray? Prayerbook Hebrew with Jeff Hurok

Wednesdays, August 30 – September 27, 2023 from 7:30 – 8:30 PM on Zoom

Join Jeff Hurok to work through the book *Prayerbook Hebrew: The Easy Way* and gain a deeper understanding of the *siddur*.

Participants will learn basic vocabulary and grammar, as well as discuss and reflect on content in small groups. Books will be provided to participants. *This class is sponsored by Pardes North America.* [Register here](#) and reach out to [Jeff Hurok](#) with any questions.



## The Happy Rosh Hashanah Honey Fundraiser is back for a few more days!

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 donate in their honor.

**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, August 25

7:25 PM Shabbat Candlelighting



## 9:30 AM Shabbat Morning Services

Flowers are sponsored by **Lynne Ellis** in honor of the 5th yearzeit of her father, Sidney August and the conclusion of Shloshim for her mother, Rosalie August.

## Parashat Ki Tetzei

- **Torah Readers:** Shoshana Bannett, Leah Staub, Sabrina Erdely, Rabbi David Greenstein, Matt Whitehorn and Natalie Oppenheimer
- **Haftarah:** Natalie Oppenheimer
- **Shabbat Learning:** Rabbi Abi Weber

## **High Holy Days in the Goldberg Sanctuary**

The BZBI Ritual Committee is asking for volunteers to serve as Bimah Assistants for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur services in the Goldberg Sanctuary. You will be helping congregants open and close the Ark curtain as needed and help the clergy and gabbis with related activities. Normally, your time on the Bimah will last from 90 to 120 minutes and we will provide the training. If you are interested, please contact Elkan Siegal at 215-913-6227 or [theelkat33@comcast.net](mailto:theelkat33@comcast.net).



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 sneak peak!



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 at [GPennerMusic@gmail.com](mailto:GPennerMusic@gmail.com). We'd love to have you.

## Members

We extend our condolences to the family of **Pearl Plumer**, who passed away this week. May her memory be a blessing.

### We gratefully acknowledge this week's donations:

In Memory Of:

- **Jacob Eisen** by William Eisen

In Appreciation Of:

- **Rabbi Abi Weber** for leading shiva minyan and with thanks to our BZBI clergy and community for their support upon the death of my mother, Rosalie August by Lynne Ellis
- **Rabbi Abe Friedman** officiating our wedding ceremony by Shiri Melumad & Ross Silverman

### Yahrzeits August 26 – 31

Sidney August | Martin Berger | Israel Berman | Vera Bradin | Stanley Cohen | Sarah Cohen | Ester Dessberg | Florence Devor | Irvin Fineman | Morris Fishman | Beverly Fox | Bruce Garstkiewicz Jr | Jacob Goller | Amos Gvili | Marilyn Lashner | Betty Lowenstein | Helen G. Morris | Julius Norton | Harry Plotkin | Ida Ravetz | Edward Robbins | Frieda Rosenberg | Ida Sloane



### Dear members of the BZBI community,

Hi, I'm Noa Friedan. For my Bat Mitzvah project, I'm doing a book drive for the Philly Book Bank benefitting Philadelphia public school teachers and students.

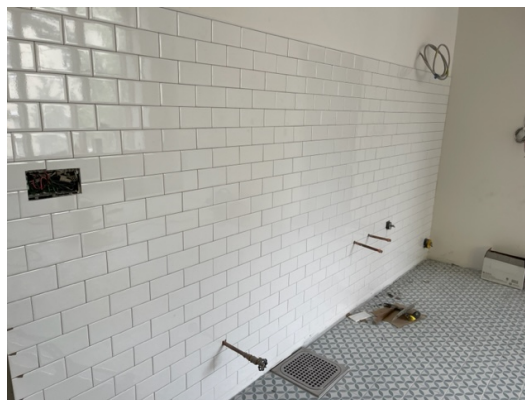




be a bin in the sanctuary for the next few weeks.

Thanks so much!

Noa



## The BZBI Culinary Center is coming along!

Take a look at the photos above, we are making progress and the beautiful tile is already transforming the space.



## High Holy Days Information Below:

Starting **Monday, August 28** members who ordered HHD tickets can pick up 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 High Holy Days Child Care and Youth Programming has 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.**

Jewish Federation of  
Greater Philadelphia

MITZVAH

FOOD  
PROJECT

## High Holy Days Food Drive

*Friday, September 15 through Sunday, October 8*

This has been a challenging year for families facing financial hardship, compounded by SNAP assistance ending this past February. Food insecurity is significantly higher among those at or below poverty thresholds, with 46% of Jewish households that are at or below 200% of the federal poverty index identified as food insecure.

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. Please do not bring 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 to 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 are the most helpful. **Please bring gift cards to Aleksandra in the office.**
- Purchase foods through the **Mitzvah Food Program Amazon wish lists** so that the products are shipped directly to a pantry.

## Events

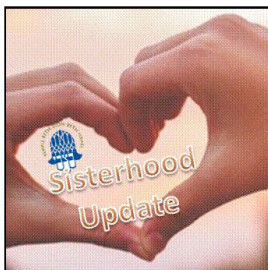


### Fighting Hate for Good after Pittsburgh & Colleyville: Changemakers in Conversation

*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



## Sisterhood Monthly Planning Meeting

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

Join the Sisterhood for their monthly planning meeting! 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!



## Community Selichot Musical Service

*Saturday, September 9, at 8:30 PM*

*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



"sins" (debris) from local environments. Contact [Eileen Dwell](#) or [Liat Kovnator](#) with any additional questions, or visit [www.repairthesea.org/reverse-tashlich](http://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 Holiday 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.*



*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 RH<sup>2</sup> 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.](#)



### **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 interested in conversion to Judaism, or [register here](#) if you are taking the course for general interest.

## *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.](#)

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.](#)

### JTS New Online Hebrew Course for Fall 2023

*Mondays, Tuesdays & Wednesdays 1:00 – 2:40 PM on Zoom*

This 6-credit course covers the 7 Introductory Units and Lessons 1- 8 of Hebrew from Scratch. It takes the student from learning the mechanics of reading and writing unpointed Hebrew to active mastery of 500 words; knowledge of the present tense and infinitive verb forms; reading and enactment of dialogs relating to everyday life; and reading comprehension of short descriptive, narrative and informative texts. [Click here for more information and to register.](#)

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