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## *Beth Zion - Beth Israel*

Temple Beth Zion-Beth Israel's Weekly E-Newsletter / October 19, 2023

God of Life:

You who heals the brokenhearted,

binding up our wounds.

Please hear this prayer of mothers.

You did not create us to kill each other

Nor to live in fear or rage or hatred in your world.

You created us so that we allow each other

to sustain Your Name in this world:

Your name is Life, your name is Peace.

For these I weep, my eye sheds water:

For our children crying in the night,

For parents holding infants, despair and darkness in their hearts.

For a gate that is closing – who will rise to open it before the day is gone?

With my tears and with my constant prayers,

With the tears of all women deeply pained at these harsh times

I raise my hands to you in supplication: Please God have mercy on us.

Hear our voice that we not despair,

That we will witness life with each other,

That we have mercy one for another,

That we share sorrow one with the other,

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Inscribe our lives in the Book of Life

For Your sake, our God of Life Let us choose Life.

For You are Peace,

Your world is Peace

and all that is Yours is Peace,

May this be your will

And let us say Amen.

– “The Prayer of the Mothers,”

co-written by Sheikha Ibtisam Mahameed and Rabba Tamar Elad-Appelbaum,

translated by Rabbi Amichai Lau-Lavie

The last two weeks have been excruciating. As the initial shock of the brutal attacks on Israeli communities throughout southern Israel begins to wear off, in its place sits grief, sadness, fear and anxiety over what comes next. We pray for the hostages to come home soon. We pray that our soldiers will be safe. We pray for a way to move forward, a way to wake up in the morning without unbearable pain.

We pray to understand what is going on.

We pray for Life, for Peace, for a world that isn't scarred by unimaginable violence. We pray for a future in which Israeli mothers and Palestinian mothers alike will send their children out in the morning with whole hearts and welcome them home at evening with open arms.

God who heals the brokenhearted, help us to pray. Help us to believe that things can get better. Help us to build a world that is different, a world in which Your image and likeness is honored in all human beings. May it be Your will and ours.

Shabbat Shalom,

Rabbi Abe Friedman  
Senior Rabbi

Rabbi Abi Weber  
Assistant Rabbi

Rabbi Ira F. Stone  
Rabbi Emeritus

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## #BlueRibbonsforIsrael

A global unity symbol in solidarity with hostages and their families



**#BlueRibbonsforIsrael** is a unity campaign in support of the safe return of the hostages taken by Hamas terrorists in Israel. It symbolizes solidarity with the hostages, their families, and all who care about their safety.

BZBI has ordered enough blue ribbons for the entire congregation. **Pick yours up in the Sanctuary this Shabbat.**

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### How You Can Help Israel:

- **The Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia** has set up an [emergency response fund](#) to aid in relief efforts. Donations will help fund shelter and psychological trauma, basic needs and equipment, and training for additional emergency personnel.
- **Magen David Adom** – [please click here](#). Your donation ensures that 33,000 paramedics, EMTs, first responders, and first-aid providers have the training, equipment, and medical supplies they need.
- Urge your elected officials to speak out and make a clear and unequivocal statement in support for our ally Israel and its right to defend itself. [Fill out this form](#) to get connected with your representative.
- **Israelis and friends that are living abroad:** There are many Israelis that are currently stuck abroad because of the war. If you or anyone you know will generously be willing to host Israeli travelers until they will be able to get back home, [please fill out this form](#).

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### Trusted Sites for News and Resources:

- Comcast (Xfinity) channel 1118 is a 24 hour Israel/Mideast News TV Channel airing breaking news specials, discussions and analyses.
- The Jewish Telegraph Agency is another source to get new and upcoming information, to visit their website – [click here](#).
- USCJ has compiled a vast list of Israel resources for the Jewish Community, [click here to view their page](#).
- Moving Traditions has released a special edition discussion guide for educators, which parents and others with teens in their lives may also find

Israel hosted by the Jewish Federation earlier this week. Community member Jacob Weiner shares his thoughts at **24:18** in the video.

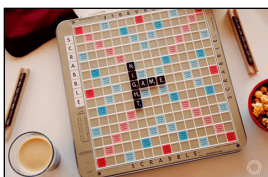
- **The ADL** has developed resources and tools to help guide challenging conversations about the war in Israel and antisemitism in North America. [Click here](#) to visit their page.



**Be sure to stop by the Sisterhood gift shop to purchase our blue and white candles in support of Israel!**

Proceeds from the sale will be donated to organizations that support Israel. Books and coloring books for children are also available. The Sisterhood gift shop is open by appointment only, contact the office to make yours.

## Spotlight



### Board Game Shabbat

*THIS Shabbat, October 21 at 1:00 PM after Kiddush in the Kahaner Auditorium*

Join members of BZBI for Board Game Shabbat after Kiddush! Play some of your favorite games from Mah



## Pink Shabbat

*Shabbat, October 28 at 9:30 AM*

Join BZBI for our Pink Shabbat, a morning service in honor of breast cancer awareness month. We will welcome Emily Schaeffer Bakaj to share her experience.

We are encouraging everyone to wear pink to this service to show their support of breast cancer awareness. We would like this Kiddush to feature pink treats in honor of this special month, [please click here if you would like to become a sponsor.](#)



## BZBI Urban Shabbaton

*Friday, November 3 – Sunday, November 5*

Join BZBI for 3 days of music, food, learning, and community!

The weekend will feature a **Rising Song** concert with [Aly Halpert](#); lectures by [Dr. Anne Albert](#) and [Dr. Sigal Ben-Porath](#); learning sessions led by rabbis and community members; yoga, meditation, board games, and more.

[REGISTER NOW](#) – the deadline is quickly approaching.

*Worship*





Noah Lee Laver, son of Sara & Adam Laver, will celebrate his becoming a Bar Mitzvah on Shabbat Noach, October 21, 2023. Noah is in the seventh grade at the Albert M. Greenfield School and is also a student in the Neziner Hebrew School. Outside of school, Noah enjoys playing soccer and basketball.

Noah is a lifelong Jewish Relief Agency (JRA) volunteer, a frequent participant in Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia mitzvah programming, and is an incoming member of Jewish Family & Children's Service of Greater Philadelphia's 2023-24 Teen Empowerment Program. Noah and his older sister, Alana, represent the second generation of their family to become b'nai mitzvah at BZBI and the fourth generation of their family to worship at BZBI.

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## Friday, October 20

5:56 PM Shabbat Candlelighting

6:00 PM Kabbalat Shabbat Services in honor of Noah Laver's Bar Mitzvah. Join us as we celebrate Noah and pray together in community.

## Saturday, October 21

Flowers are sponsored by **proud grandparents Phyllis & Michael Laver and Fran Gallun & Len Weinberg** in honor of Noah Laver's Bar Mitzvah. A donation to the floral fund was also made by **Josh, Heidi, Wynne & Eli Levy** in loving memory of Bernie Levy on his yahrzeit.

**Extended kiddush luncheon is sponsored by the Laver Family** in honor of Noah's becoming a Bar Mitzvah.

9:30 AM [Shabbat Morning Services](#)

[Parashat Noah](#)

- Haftarah: Noah Laver
- Shabbat Learning: Rabbi Ira Stone



## Sponsor Our Neziner KIDdush!

After our Community Avodah Service each Shabbat, we are bringing back kiddush of challot and grape juice in the classrooms. With a one-time sponsorship of only \$54, you can make sure our students experience the blessings over bread and grape juice together as a community.

To sponsor a KIDdush for Neziner Hebrew School, [click here](#).

## Members

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

#### In Honor Of:

- The birth of our grandsons, Eli Corentin Jamain and Shia Lazar Samson Billet by Robert & Fern Billet
- Jacob Weiner for his inspiring remarks at Philly's March for Israel by Arlene Fickler
- The Bar Mitzvah of Noah Laver by Virginia Greene
- Rabbi Stone, Rabbi Friedman, Rabbi Weber, Shayna Flink, Lynne Balaban, Leslee Schwartz, Aleksandra Konior, Julia Pollock, Brian Johnson, Joel Chew and so many others who worked to make Noah's becoming a Bar Mitzvah so special by Sara & Adam Laver
- Harris Devor for davening Pesukei d'zimra and Ed Kerson and Elle Baker for laining Torah on the occasion of Noah's becoming a Bar Mitzvah by Sara & Adam Laver
- Lisa Myers and Suzanne Litke by Susan & Kenneth Myers
- The Bat Mitzvah of Ilana Wasserman by Sharon Weissbach
- The Bar Mitzvah of Noah Laver by Sharon Weissbach

#### In Memory Of:

- Dr. Paul Ravetz by Janice Kolber-Dalinka & Murray Dalinka
- Max Goldstein by Ruth Goldstein
- Isadore Tannebaum by Judy & Steve Hurok
- Beloved family members and friends; may their memories be for a blessing by Sara & Adam Laver
- Mollie Weller by Zelda Litt
- Leonard Moonblatt by Sharon & Avishai Greis

#### In Appreciation Of:

- Beautiful High Holy Days Services by Penina Gould
- Art Fischman's contribution of live music to brighten and enhance the New Member Welcome Brunch by Tanya Hess
- Ashley Kamin, Judy Hurok, Diani Sadfeye, Sheryl Gross, Steve Hurok and Shoshana Bannett for their dedication to creating a welcoming space for new and existing members through their work on the Membership Committee by Tanya Hess
- BZBI congregants Gary Bramnick and Shoshana Bannett for serving as ushers by Sara & Adam Laver

## Yahrzeits October 22 - 27

Milton Bernick | Michael Block | David DeWoren | Albert Deutsch | Harry Devers | Helen Fischman | Samuel Galinsky | Carl Goldenberg | Max Goldstein | Nathan Goodman | Samuel Green | Pauline Harris | Tillye Kaplan | Lillian Kirshner | Bernie Levy | Joseph Litvin | Sarah Lourie | Norman Rosenberg | Charles Saul | Isidore Siris | Isadore Tannebaum | Jacob Weinstein



## Sisterhood "Sock It To Em" Drive for the Bethesda Project and Project Home

*Now through November 30*

Sisterhood is sponsoring our third annual sock drive. We are looking for gently used or new socks and men's t-shirts for the Bethesda Project and Project Home. Drop off donations in the 18th Street Lobby. If you do not have time to drop off donations, [you can order them here](#) and ship them to Eileen Dwell & Charles Steinberg at 1919 Chestnut St. Apt 2401, Philadelphia, PA 19103.

This is a reminder that Sisterhood dues can be paid through Shul Cloud, calling Leslee directly in the office or by writing a check for \$40 payable to Sisterhood BZBI.

Being a member of Sisterhood and paying your dues gives you access to all Women's League for Conservative Judaism resources; helps Sisterhood to give Hanukkah Gifts to all BZBI clergy, office and custodial staff; and supports various programming.





## Sima's Stitchers

*Wednesdays, from 4:00 – 6:00 PM in the Klinghoffer Chapel*

Please be in contact with [Ellen](#) or [Eileen](#) if you are interested in joining the group or learning how to knit. **All creations will be donated to Project Home and the Bethesda Project.**

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### Pennsylvania Primary Date: Urgent Ask for Assistance

The Pennsylvania primary election in 2024 is currently scheduled for April 23, the first day of Passover. Not only would tens of thousands of Pennsylvanians be unable to vote in person that day, but hundreds of dedicated poll workers and volunteers would not be able to set up polling places the night before, during the Passover seder. This could lead to even more dire shortages in election workers and volunteers. **Contact your state senator and PA Senate leadership ASAP to ask that they pass the House bill, which moves the primary to April 2.**

**[Click here for a sample message and contact information for members of the Pennsylvania Senate.](#)** If the Senate does not act *very quickly*, it is likely the date will remain unchanged. **Make your voice heard now!**

## Events



### On One Foot: Introduction to Judaism

*Mondays from 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 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.

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*Sundays, beginning October 22 from 12:00 PM to 1:15 PM on Zoom*

This class is for people with little or no background in reading or speaking Hebrew, who want to be able to read and follow the Hebrew in the prayer book. Class materials are from the National Jewish Outreach Project (NJOP). The course continues for three terms. By next fall, you will know the aleph-bet and be reading passages from the prayer book.

This course is free, to register – [click here](#).

BZBI new member Davida Charney will be one of the teachers during the course. Davida has taught adults to read Hebrew for many years, getting a charge out of seeing people make progress from any starting point. She recently retired as a UT professor of rhetoric and writing who also taught in the Schusterman Center for Jewish Studies. She has written articles and taught classes about the Jewish tradition of arguing with God in using stories from Hebrew Bible stories and the Book of Psalms.



## Functional Judaism with Rabbi Abe Friedman

*Select Mondays, Starting October 23, from 12:30 – 1:30 PM in the Klinghoffer Chapel*

Functional Judaism is a series of mini-courses designed to orient BZBI's staff and interested congregants to some practical aspects of Judaism and Jewish life. Our first two units focus on Jewish time: the flow of our calendar and the cycle of holidays.

This course is free of charge, and will be meeting during the day on select Mondays starting on October 23.



Monday, October 23 at 7:15 PM in the Chapel & on Zoom

Join the BZBI book club as we discuss "*Shanda: A Memoir of Shame and Secrecy*" by Letty Cottin Pogrebin.

**Please note that this book club meeting will be taking place at 7:15 PM this month rather than 7:00 PM.**



## Shabbhakti Yoga with Deb Glassman

Saturday, November 4, at 9:45 AM

Join BZBI in an alternative spiritual journey into the heart of Shabbat through yogic movement, meditation, and song with Dr. Deborah Glassman. Classes will take place on **select Saturdays from 9:45 AM to 11:00 AM in the Kahaner Auditorium**. Registration is required for these classes, and non-members must pay in advance. Member cost is \$18 per person, and general community is \$25 per person.

**To register for November, please click here.** If you registered for the BZBI Urban Shabbaton, the cost of yoga is included.



## Parashat HaShavua

Saturdays, beginning November 4 from 10:00 AM to 11:15 AM in the Klinghoffer Chapel

Would you like to get a closer look at key issues in the weekly Torah portion? Have you been meaning to study Torah more consistently but haven't found the right time? Are you looking for an interactive alternative to the Sanctuary Torah reading?

If you answer "yes" (or even "maybe") to any of those questions then you should check out Parashat HaShavua, led by BZBI's rabbis and other engaging teachers from our community! Each week we will take a close look at one key theme from that week's Torah reading through the eyes of classics and modern Jewish commentaries.

**There is no registration required for this class.**

## Volunteering at Wintershelter

*Starting November 1*

Wintershelter is a small shelter for about 22 homeless men, located in the basement of Trinity Memorial Church at 22nd and Spruce Street. Volunteers for the shelter cook and/or serve dinner every night from November 1 – April 30. BZBI members in the past have used this opportunity for community service for their Brit Mitzvah children. If you or your family are interested in volunteering, please contact [Terry Hirshorn](#) for more information.

## The Philly Friendship Walk

*Sunday, November 5, 1:00 – 3:30 PM, 272 South Bryn Mawr Ave, Bryn Mawr PA*

Join other BZBI families at the Philly Friendship Circle walk. Promote genuine connections between youth with AND without disabilities – no matter what stage of the journey each friend is on. [Register for the friendship walk here.](#)

## Klezmer Jam

*Sunday, November 12 at 2:00 PM at the Kaiserman JCC, Wynnewood PA*

David Brown and Marvin Weinberger will lead the group in playing many traditional Klezmer melodies, as well as explore the Sephardic Ladino tradition and related genres that have evolved as part of the Jewish journey through history. Musicians of all ages, origins and ability levels are welcome to join; sheet music will be provided. We also welcome those who simply want to listen enthusiastically. Participants are welcome to bring a vegetarian snack to share! To learn more or register, [click here.](#)

[Website](#)[Facebook](#)[Twitter](#)[Instagram](#)

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