

Iyar / Sivan 5784

June 2024

Congregation Beth Israel

411 S. 8th Street

Lebanon, PA 17042

717-273-2669

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From the Cantor's Desk:

What makes you Jewish?

No, this is not going to be a discourse on *halacha* (Jewish law). This is a real question I am asking each of you.

For me, there are a number of things. My parents were both Jewish with my father being more observant than my mother. I attended synagogue regularly with my father until he passed away and one of our favorite songs for the car on long trips was Adon Olam – changing the words “*b’cheftso kol*” to “and Pepsi Cola.” I was attending Hebrew School three days a week until I graduated high school and regular participation in services and activities at Synagogue. From college until today, regular synagogue attendance has waxed and waned. When I moved to Taiwan after college, one thing I did was travel an hour every Friday night and Saturday morning to the Jewish Center in the suburbs of Taipei, not because I was particularly observant, but because being half away around the world from home in a completely foreign culture, I wanted something familiar and to feel at home when the holidays would come around. I knew that if I only showed up for Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur services, I would not feel “at home.”

What made me feel at home was a combination of familiar ritual, melodies and liturgy, but more than that, it was that I had come to know the other people who were there. I knew their children and had meals with them even though I was the only 20-something in the room. The people there were from all over the world – Americans, Israelis, Russians, Australians, South Americans, Europeans and Chinese spouses who had chosen to join the community, but we were all Jewish, bound together not only by having received the Torah thousands of years ago, or by ethnicity, but also by the social bonds we built by being in community. I returned last week from attending the annual meeting of the Cantors Assembly. I was uplifted by the new music, the concerts and communal prayer and intrigued to hear Israeli-American author Noa Tishby speak to a room of 1600. But by far the most uplifting thing was to be together, joining voices with other Jews in this time when it seems security concerns lead us to make ourselves as small and invisible as possible. There is a physical reaction to the sound waves of people singing together and an emotional uplift to singing and conversing with people. There was also a catharsis to being in a group where I did not feel that I had to hide or worry how the other people in the room would react to my being Jewish, to being myself.

As we approach the holiday of Shavuot (from the evening of June 11 to sundown on June 13), I want to ask you again to make Congregation Beth Israel your community. Join us for programs and services. I am being selfish in requesting this. I need you! I need a community . . . and you may find that you do as well, even if you thought you did not!

Looking forward to being with you soon!



ANNUAL CONGREGATION MEETING

Will be held on **MONDAY, JUNE 17th at 7PM**
(hybrid)

**We encourage everyone's attendance to raise any questions, or concerns!
Local congregation approval will be needed for revisions to the CBI By-Laws
that were recently approved by the Board.**

PRAYER BOOKS RETURN PROGRAM

During the recent Covid epidemic we loaned out our prayer books for the Zoom Services as we were unable to gather in our Sanctuary.

All of the prayer books we gave to our members have **personal dedication name plates** on the inside cover of the books.

Since these books were donated by our members in memory and/or honor of loved ones to be in our Sanctuary, we, as well as the donors would like to have them returned to CBI.

Replacement books can be purchased and be exchanged: **Lev Shalem Shabbat, Eit Ratzon, Etz Hayim & Lev Shalem Machzor.**
Please contact Sammi in her office for details.
717-273-2669 Thank you.

!!! HELP NEEDED !!!

**High Holy Days Services
Zoom Assistance**

We need a moderator/host to help run the Zoom part of services for the High Holy Days. Only simple basic Zoom computer skills are needed to allow our members to view these services. We will provide the minimal, easy to learn training!

Please contact Stu Perlmutter at 717-269-3767 (stuperl@yahoo.com) or Ben Slotznick at 717-304-0777 (bslotznick@gmail.com)

Thank you for allowing us to continue to provide services for our members.

A full-color guide to prayers, readings, laws, and customs for synagogue and home

LUAH HASHANAH'S WILL SOON BE AVAILABLE FOR ORDERING!!

HOW HADASSAH IS STANDING UP TO ANTISEMITISM

"A 140 percent increase in reported antisemitic assault, harassment and vandalism incidents in 2023 is beyond alarming. Hadassah is committed to standing up to antisemitism everywhere, to advocating for change and to empowering Jewish women to take pride in and celebrate their identities. This rising tide of Jew-hatred affects people, especially women, every day, in big and small ways, and, as we have seen, is dangerous," said Hadassah National President Carol Ann Schwartz . A total of 8,873 antisemitic incidents were recorded in 2023, a 140 percent increase from the previous year.

Resources to Fight Antisemitism

Check out Hadassah's [Antisemitism Resource Guide](#) and [Countering Anti-Zionist Talking Points](#) for support in responding to antisemitism in your local community.

Y A H R Z E I T S



Iyar
27

June
4

Jean Leibowitz— Mother of Ed Leibowitz

Sivan

June

- | | | |
|----|----|--|
| 2 | 8 | Gertrude Bowman-- Mother of Thomas Bowman & Diane Griffiths |
| 6 | 12 | Dr. Allan Cetron-- Brother of Ted Cetron & Friend of Ben Shankroff |
| 7 | 13 | Lorraine Lyle-- Sister-in-Law of Sara Schneider |
| 7 | 13 | Alfred Gitman-- Husband of Fay Gitman |
| 7 | 13 | Howard Glassman-- Husband of Eta Glassman |
| 7 | 13 | Robert Ballot-- Husband of Elizabeth Feller-Ballot |
| 11 | 17 | Marshall J. Miller-- Brother of Mindy Miller Lisman |
| 11 | 17 | Sara Buzgon-- Mother of Bernerd Buzgon |
| 11 | 17 | Bruce Perlmutter-- Brother of Stuart Perlmutter |
| 12 | 18 | Rosalind Feller-- Mother of Elizabeth Feller-- Ballot |
| 13 | 19 | Paul Pleet-- Grandfather of Jesse Pleet, Alec Pleet & Tracy Pleet Troain |
| 14 | 20 | Sylvia Halpern-- Mother of Ed Halpern, and Sister of Dr. Joseph Clark & Donald Clark |
| 15 | 21 | Judy Finkelstein-- Sister of Stuart Finkelstein & Stanton Finkelstein |
| 16 | 22 | Harris Carmel-- Father of Michael Carmel |
| 17 | 23 | Nathalie Cohen-- Sister of Shirley Glaser |
| 18 | 24 | Marilyn (Lynn) Pleet-- Mother Jesse Pleet, Alec Pleet & Tracy Pleet Troain |
| 20 | 26 | Harold Kaufman-- Brother of Zelda Magdule |
| 22 | 28 | Irwin Trautfield-- Father of Deb Schaffer |
| 23 | 29 | Louis Kessler-- Father of Dr. C.W. Kessler |
| 23 | 29 | Robert J. Katz-- Son of Janet Katz |

O u r t h a n k s f o r R e m e m b e r i n g
B e t h I s r a e l i n M a y

Y A H R Z E I T S:

Janet Klompus Sligh

Harris Blickstein

Ed Halpern

Tom & Linda Siegel

Stan Finkelstein

Stuart Finkelstein

Sara Schneider

BULLETIN DEADLINE FOR JULY: June 17th

President of the Month: Stu Perlmutter
Next Month's President: Judith Clark

June 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 9:30AM Service/ HYBRID
2 9AM Minyan/ HYBRID	3	4	5	6 7:30AM Minyan Service/HYBRID Coffee/Cantor	7 7:30PM Service/ HYBRID CL 8:09 PM <i>Fitz coming</i>	8 9:30AM Service/ HYBRID
9 9AM Minyan/ HYBRID	10 Lunch & Learn 1PM	11 8PM services <i>Erev Shavuot</i>	12 9AM service OFFICE CLOSED <i>Shavuot</i>	13 7:30 AM Minyan Service/HYBRID OFFICE CLOSED <i>Shavuot</i>	14 7:30PM Service/ HYBRID CL 8:12 PM	15 9:30AM Service/ HYBRID
16 9AM Minyan/ HYBRID <i>Father's Day</i>	17 BULLETIN DUE ANNUAL BOARD MEETING 7PM	18	19 Book Club 7:30PM	20 7:30AM Minyan Service/HYBRID Coffee/Cantor	21 7:30PM Service/ HYBRID CL 8:14 PM	22 9:30AM Service/ HYBRID
23 9AM Minyan/ HYBRID	24	25	26	27 7:30AM Minyan Service/HYBRID Coffee/Cantor	28 7:30PM Service/ HYBRID	29 9:30AM Service/ HYBRID

30
9AM Minyan/
HYBRID

Let's Celebrate our Members with June Birthdays & Anniversaries!

- | | | | | |
|---------------|----------------|-----------------------------------|---------------|----------------------------|
| Elliot Lisman | Daisy Krevis | Stephen & Jill
(Bennett) Weiss | Jim Schaffer | Elizabeth
Feller-Ballot |
| Sandra Smith | N. Warren Rich | Stu & Bev
Magdule | Thomas Kantor | Diane Magdule |
| | Aaron Grosky | David & Robin
Haller | Jacob Collins | |

BOOK CLUB

Book Club continues to be successful. Liz Feller Ballot did an amazing review of “Genius and Anxiety” with enthusiastic discussion.

Next book club is June 19th with Janet Katz reviewing “The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store”

We are also having a book club on July 17th with Lynn Thompson reviewing “Muppets in Moscow”

The zoom link will be sent to all members as usual but will also be on the synagogue’s website from now on as well. Please call Judith Clark at 717 269-6181 for suggestions or questions.



CONGREGATION BETH ISRAEL

Lunch & Learn

2nd Monday each month!
1 PM - 2 PM

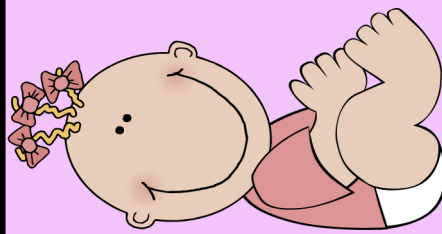
Bring a dairy or pareve lunch and join us!

Please register



BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT

Madelyn Layla Schaffer — April 7, 2024



- ⇒ Daughter of Jessica and Marc Schaffer
- ⇒ Big sister is Camryn Leigh Schaffer
- ⇒ Granddaughter of Debra and Tom Schaffer
- ⇒ Niece of Neil Schaffer

SISTERHOOD NEWS

It is with great regret that we announce that Beth Israel Sisterhood is disbanding. After many years of service to Beth Israel through our fundraising, social, and educational meetings, our membership numbers have dwindled. We were unable to field a list of officers to continue due to lack of participation.

Over the past ten or more years, many of the past functions of Sisterhood have been gradually absorbed by the congregation board or discontinued—Break-fast, Condolence dinners, etc.

At the May 6 congregation board meeting, the board agreed to accept several of the remaining roles that Sisterhood has been fulfilling. Leagrams, a long-standing successful fundraiser and an invaluable way for members to support each other, will be continued. Thank you to Hanna Pollack who will continue in the chairmanship under the mantle of the congregation. Judith Clark will continue to chair the Flower Fund, which provides flowers for High Holy Days, will continue again as a function of the Congregation.

Members who wish to continue to support Torah Fund may do so as individuals, but there will be no collection of donations coordinated by a local Torah Fund chair. Torah Fund supports scholarships and programming at [The Jewish Theological Seminary in New York](#), [Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies in Los Angeles](#), [Schechter Institutes of Jewish Studies in Jerusalem](#), [Seminario Rabinico Latinoamericano in Buenos Aires](#), and [Zacharias Frankel College in Potsdam](#). To donate for the 2024-25 fund-raising year, go to [Torah Fund - Jewish Theological Seminary \(jtsa.edu\)](#) or Google “Torah Fund” to find the donation form. Likewise for condolence or simchas, Torah Fund cards have been discontinued. If you desire to send a Torah Fund card, you may purchase an e-card on the Torah Fund website.

This was a decision that we made with sadness. Each of us has pleasant memories of our Sisterhood experience, a fun anecdote, a friend that we made while we cooked or worked on fund-raisers together. Thank you to all the members and especially the officers and committee chairs who made Sisterhood so successful through the years. It was an excellent organization for a strong Jewish community in Lebanon. We are sad to see it go.

Don't forget to join us on our Facebook page!
Congregation Beth Israel—
Lebanon, PA



(members only)

Check our website for more information on events happening!

www.congregation-beth-israel.org

CONGREGATION BETH ISRAEL

Coffee with the Cantor

DATE:

**Every Thursday.
Location can be found on our website!**



Mailing section only

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