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CIRQUE HANUKKAH

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Our Services

FRIDAY EVENING, SHABBAT SERVICES

Friday at 5:45 pm Weiner Cultural Center

SATURDAY MORNING, SHABBAT SERVICES

Led by Rabbi Steinhardt, Cantor Fishman, Rabbi Epelbaum and Rabbi Susman 9:00 am Main Sanctuary

SHABBAT MINCHA/MA'ARIV/ HAVDALAH Times vary

WEEKDAY SHACHARIT Sunday, 8:45 am Monday - Friday, 8:00 am

WEEKDAY MINCHA/MA'ARIV Sunday - Thursday, 5:30 pm

SHABBAT KULANU FAMILY SERVICES

A musical, interactive, and engaging service led by Rabbi Susman and Cathy Berkowitz, featuring other clergy, musicians, and educators throughout the year.

10 am on select Shabbat mornings

JEWISH RENEWAL SERVICES
Facilitated by Rabbi Amy
Grossblatt Pessah
and Laura Lenes
9:30 - 11:00 am on select Shabbat
mornings

Clergy & Professional Staff

Rabbi David Steinhardt, Senior Rabbi Cantor Magda Fishman, Senior Cantor Rabbi Hector Epelbaum, Rabbi Rabbi Evan Susman, Rabbi Leesa Parker, Executive Director Naomi Gordon, Early Childhood Director Cathy Berkowitz, MRS Education Director Maestro Tomer Adaddi, Musical Director Loulou Amiel, Senior Staff Accountant Penina Bredoff, Melton Site Director Sharon Chazan, Cantorial Assistant Debbie Eberlin, Front Desk Administrator Summer Faerman, Director of TLC Cantor Paul Goldstein, B'nai Mitzvah Program Director Zena Gruda, B'nai Mitzvah Coordinator Beth Herman, Executive Assistant of Education Sam Hitner, Director of Finance Joe Kramer, Front Desk Administrator/ Assistant to Cantor Fishman

Assistant to Cantor Fishman

Shira London, ECC Receptionist

Napel Leveille, Data & Technology Associate

Judi Lowe, ECC Curriculum Director

Cantor Mitchell Martin, Choir Director

Vickie Mazza, Front Desk/Programming Assistant

Gustavo Moscoso, Maintenance Director

Julie Risisky, Ritual Director

Michele Scher, Director of Pastoral Care

Marya Selener, Director of Marketing & Communications

Allyson Sheldon, Executive Assistant to Rabbi Steinhardt

Allison Sherman, Sr. Comms & Community Engagement Liaison

Bonnie Smith, ECC Business Director

Elysa Stark, Programming and Membership Director

Michael Vernof, Director of Operations

AviGail Whiting, Accounting Associate

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Stephen Garber, Vice President
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*Ner Tamid Society Member

Dear Friends,

In some ways, I believe that we are very ready to celebrate Hanukkah. It reminds us of a great and miraculous victory from ages past. As part of our ritual and tradition, we hold on to its story and glorify it - as we should - as it has provided inspiration to our people throughout the ages.

There are essentially two answers to the question posed in the Talmud, "Mai Hanukkah? - What is Hanukkah?"

In one reading, Hanukkah celebrates the miraculous victory of the Maccabees and their followers, a rather small fighting group that defeated Antiochus and the Assyrian Greeks, preserving the religious and political life of our ancestors. They won the battle - the few over the many and the weak over the powerful - and reestablished Jewish sovereignty in Jerusalem and Israel. However, the Rabbis in the Talmud point to the miracle of Hanukkah being contained in the story of the light, in which there was only enough oil to burn for one day, but it lasted for eight days.

In our prayers and liturgy, we see both stories reflected. There is the Al Hanisim prayer extolling the mighty Maccabees, and there is the haftarah read on Shabbat of Hanukkah (Zechariah) that contains the following words, enshrined in our consciousness: "Not by might, nor by power, but by God's spirit we survive!"

So, which is it?

I suggest that today's war in Israel is proof that we depend on both. We need physical power for survival. We need the IDF and the courage of all who fight. But our survival is also contained in our capacity to create communities of caring, to hold on to faith in the destiny of our people and the power of God in our people's lives. The spirit is reflected throughout the prophets as a spirit of love and justice, freedom, and fairness. Our job is to hold both ideas. Our responsibility is to light the candles with pride and prayer.

This Hanukkah, let the narrative and traditions inspire us as a people and serve as a symbol for all of humanity. And may they represent the world we aspire for — a world illuminated by hope, strength, and miracles.



Rabbi David Steinhardt



TO LEARN MORE AND PURCHASE TICKETS: WWW.BTCBOCA.ORG/CS

All concerts will begin at 7:30 p.m.
In loving memory of Eleanor and Paul Weiner

MUSIC FOR HUMANITY

Dear B'nai Torah,

ur people have faced many challenges in each generation. At this time, all I can think of is how to create light in the darkness. How can I help ease the pain of so many, and help with all the anxiety and unknown?

When I speak to my family members, each one of them is going through their own process. Most of them are misplaced from their home with no knowledge of when they are going back. They ache, but they are trying to live and find light.

I was following videos of those misplaced families all together singing. I watched my family members Naama and Daniel. They're a couple - he is a therapist and an actor, and she is a musician/singer/songwriter. They decided that since they won't have work for an unknown amount of time, all they can do is what they do best - give to others through their art. They began hosting video sessions of short therapy sessions featuring humor and music. Daniel dresses as a grandma named Ms. Ravia that has lots of wisdom. During the sessions, people share their feelings, their hurt, and their fears and he helps them process these emotions. Naama then writes a song based on it. I found myself logging on to listen. I laughed. I cried.

Naama and Daniel do this with all their heart, and they have gained a large following as a result. They've been interviewed by many TV channels. Since artists and musicians there have zero income nowadays, participants began giving donations which was so beautiful and inspiring to see. Naama is also hosting song circles for women who were in the southern areas, and I've been dedicating myself to raising funds.

I'm seeing more and more of the impact of music and the power of community, and how it intertwines. Music is a universal language – the language of the heart and soul.

This year's Concert Series will bring us together and provide lots of strength, comfort, and joy. I look forward to sharing these special times, uplifting ourselves and each other through the power of music. Two years ago, we launched Music for Humanity, in which a portion of the Concert Series proceeds go to humanitarian need. This year we will support Israel.

Our choir is thriving, and with the wonderful Maestro Tomer Addadi, we continue to experience more beautiful and inspiring music. It is my dream to continue to grow the choir and of having even more kids and teens joining in singing on Friday night and Saturday morning Shabbat services. I hope you will join us.

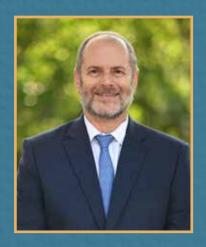
May the darkness fade and may we never stop singing.

I'm wishing you and yours many blessings and lots of light.

Please consider becoming a friend or sponsor of the 2024 Concert Series! For information, please contact Elysa Stark at (561) 305-1816 or Margie Browner Marks at (561) 715-3357.



Cantor Magda Fishman



Rabbi Hector Epelbaum

Chalom (Brachah B'nai Torah,

ur Hanukkah Chai edition is another great opportunity to be in contact, even if it's unidirectional communication, it's communication, nonetheless. And no matter how we spell it - Hanukah, Chanukah, Hanukkah, or Channukah - it means dedication, and if we use a modern interpretation, it also means resilience.

Resilience is probably one of the most powerful Jewish concepts and is extremely appropriate for Hanukkah, as well as for the war in Israel against terrorism. Resilience means the capacity to withstand or recover quickly from difficulties in the face of adversity, and resilient people are quick to look for ways to resolve or at least improve certain situations. Nothing is more Jewish than taking our enduring Jewish spirit and making it a weapon, as the Maccabees did more than 2,000 years ago.

We exercise resilience daily, as individuals as well as members of the most lonely but powerful people in human history. We thank God every day for all the blessings bestowed upon us. We dedicate our lives to our families, our congregation, our People, our State of Israel, and our country. We exercise our capacity for resilience as we bend but do not break facing the difficulties that only we, as the Jewish People, can manage. We chase the darkness away and bring back light to our lives, no matter how difficult the experience is. Hanukkah is about our courage to stand up against giant darkness, fight against it, and dedicate ourselves to God once again.

Hanukkah symbolizes the capacity to be flexible and able to change plans without being frustrated. It means always being willing to learn and being open to new skills and knowledge to cope with adversities. And Hanukkah means looking for solutions when life takes a turn; being resourceful and creative, without forgetting to be realistic with our expectations.

In the same way that we follow Hillel's idea of lighting one more candle each night, adding light and spirituality to our lives, we increase our capacity to withstand the storms of life. As we light one more candle each night, we increase our capacity for empathy. This Hanukkah, we must add light and more strength to our capacity to fight intolerance, prejudice, antisemitism, and antizionism.

May this Hanukkah renew in all of us our capacity to dedicate our lives to our families, our congregation, and our People, and may God bless all of us with resilience, empathy, and justice, lighting in our hearts the faith and hope needed to destroy terror and apathy. *Layehudim Haita Orah V'simcha*, and it was light and joy and honor to the Jewish People. So be with us, today and forever. Amen.

Chag Urim Sameach!

Shalom Friends,

he events that have taken place over the past weeks have been some of the most challenging moments for us, our families, and the Jewish community. Despite these difficulties, Hanukkah continues to hold a unique significance for us. Traditionally a time of joy and celebration, it now holds even greater importance in the face of adversity.

While darkness seems prevalent in our lives, the essence of light holds a profound meaning for the Jewish people. Reflecting on our ancestors, the Maccabees, who bravely confronted religious persecution with community strength and resilience against overwhelming odds. Today, with the challenges faced in Israel and our local community, we strive to recognize the miracles present around us—the smiles of children, the support from friends, family, and our congregation, as well as the light that emanates from the numerous events and programs where acts of kindness and generosity shine brightly.

Hanukkah, often referred to as the "festival of lights," emphasizes the significance of light itself. Beyond the famous miracle of the oil that burned for eight nights, light symbolizes hope during dark times. It inspires us to recognize the daily miracles that illuminate our lives. In addition, the lights of the festival represent the togetherness of the community. They are the spirit and joy of people coming together, strengthening connections and solidarity. Our community at B'nai Torah stands as a beacon of light in these challenging times.

Throughout the year, our programming at B'nai Torah has brought warmth, joy, and support through various programs, providing a sense of community. Programs like SABABA BOCA have successfully connected our young professionals with other Jewish adults throughout South Florida, strengthening ties and support for Israel through events and fundraising efforts.

B'nai Torah is continuously striving to connect with all demographics within our community. We are excited for the launch of ZAHAVA BOCA, a premier social group for Jewish individuals in Palm Beach County over the age of 55 seeking companionship, friendship, and making connections.

As we approach Hanukkah, I wish all of you a peaceful and optimistic holiday season. May it bring hope, joy, and light into our lives and into the lives of the Jewish people.

Am Yisrael Chai!



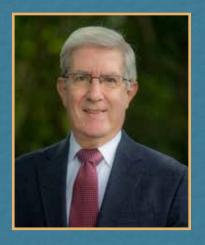
Rabbi Evan Susman







Sababa Boca's Drive For Israel event



Ed Sopher, *President*

A MESSAGE FROM OUR President

To my B'nai Torah Family,

never could have imagined that I would be writing an article for the Chai magazine just weeks after a horrific attack on our brothers and sisters in Israel, a subsequent war against Hamas and a string of antisemitic attacks around our country and across the globe.

I will leave it to others to discuss the causes, impacts and future outcomes of what we are witnessing.

What I can write about and with a great deal of pride is the response of the B'nai Torah community. Our rabbis have spoken beautifully and meaningfully at our services. New classes were scheduled, and previously scheduled classes were repurposed to provide congregants a forum to hear from experts or just have an opportunity to voice their feelings, fears, and concerns.

Our schools provided sessions for parents to hear how to approach the topics of the war and antisemitism with their children – whether preschool, middle school high school or college.

At B'nai Torah, safety is a number one concern. At the start of the crisis, we increased the number of security guards and arranged for support from law enforcement agencies in addition to our own guards.

Summer Faerman and the Meryl & Ron Gallatin TLC program sprang into action and have arranged

for multiple tons of material to be sent to Israel to support the soldiers and the displaced residents. Their effort has been a miracle to behold!

And through it all, hats off to you - the B'nai Torah congregants. The outpouring of support and funds has been amazing!

I am sure that congregations all over this country are doing what they can to help Israel. But B'nai Torah is uniquely suited to do more than almost any other congregation. And we have stepped up!

I wish we never had to undertake any of these activities and pray the need for these efforts will end soon. But as long as we are needed, we will continue to support Israel and the entire Jewish community.

B'Shalom and Happy Hanukkah.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR Executive Director

To my B'nai Torah Family.

anukkah is the story of perseverance and tenacity. As a community, we empower each other to stand up bravely for our Jewish values. At a time when hope needs to be renewed, we recognize the power of connection, and at B'nai Torah Congregation, we strive to connect people to Jewish experiences. We spread the light from generation to generation, joining together in celebrating the miracles and wonders of our world. We carry the light of hope, service, and humanity to the communities we serve.

Through my refreshed eyes as a new grandmother, a bright light has been rekindled within me, as I experience the overwhelming feelings of joy, nurture, and fulfillment. The holiday of Hanukkah is surrounded by light, freedom, and family. Grandparents have a special role to play in the memories created around the holidays, and they are an important part of family legacy and tradition. At this time, I find myself with a renewed appreciation for the intergenerational influence in our shul where our grandchildren watch us continue to learn, to study, and to grow in our spiritual home. We celebrate life's blessings, take them to school, and attend classes with them. Our grandchildren also watch us volunteer, fulfill roles of leadership, and so much more.

I am overjoyed that at B'nai Torah Congregation, we are initiating the Jewish Grandparents Network, a national organization that educates, connects, and supports grandparents as essential partners in enriching Jewish life. I look forward to the future when I can partake in the wonderful and meaningful array of creative programming they offer. For more information, please visit https://jewishgrandparentsnetwork.org/. You must visit their "Family Room."

To all the volunteers, supporters, and staff, thank you for being such an integral part of our work. I wish everyone a healthy and happy Hanukkah and, and hope that every family finds many ways to enjoy Hanukkah together.

May the light of service, hope, and humanity be with you throughout the coming year.

Chag Hanukkah Sameach.



Leesa Parker, Executive Director



From generation to generation: My grandson and his 92-year-old great grandmother.







In this issue, Elysa Stark, Director of Programming and Membership, interviewed Maestro Tomer Adaddi. B'nai Torah's Musical Director.

- Please explain what your professional role at B'nai Torah exactly entails and how long you have been part of our family. I joined the B'nai Torah family a little over a year ago following the invitation of the fabulous Cantor Fishman. As Musical Director, I work with our wonderful choir, conducting Shabbat services, composing and arranging new music, and designing musical events with the Cantor.
- You also work in the community in other venues and occasionally in Israel tell us about that I have been a professional musician my whole life. Some highlights include conducting and arranging for Andrea Bocelli, working with international artists such as Michael Bublé and II Volo, as well as conducting world-famous orchestras, including the Israeli Philharmonic Orchestra. In the past 10 years, I have been the producer of the prestigious Spanish River Concerts. I feel grateful to have music in my life and to be able to share this gift with others.
- What or who brought you to B'nai Torah? I was brought to B'nai Torah by Cantor Fishman. We had been in parallel universes for many years, and I have always been fond of her voice and artistry. When she asked me to join B'nai Torah, I happily accepted the role.
- Where did you grow up? I was born in the city of Ra'anana, Israel, to Shlomo and Drorit Adaddi, who were both born in Israel. I have two siblings, Yael and Shay. My whole family is in Israel, and I miss them a lot, especially in times like this.
- How did music become such a crucial part of your life? The famous story that runs in our family is that my sister Yael studied piano and wanted to stop. At the same lesson where my mom discussed her stopping, I went to the piano at four years old and played a classical piece by ear. Needless to say, the teacher accepted the exchange of clients.
- How do you envision the growth of B'nai Torah's musical program? One of my biggest motivations is creating a legacy of new Jewish

- music. B'nai Torah is unique in its love for music. Cantor and I have been working on new music, videos, arrangements, and ideas, and I believe that the sky's the limit!
- What artists or genres have influenced your journey? I am very eclectic. I studied classical composition and classical piano, had my jazz years earlier in life, and I have been part of the pop-contemporary industry for many years. I am a huge fan of orchestral music and film scores, but first and foremost, great melodies. There are so many artists that influenced me, but one that stands out is Leonard Bernstein.
- What is a fun fact that we would be surprised to learn about you? Here's a fun fact I proposed 3 weeks after meeting my beshert wife, Yaeli. Maybe a funnier fact is that she said yes!
- Tell us more about your beautiful family! Poo Poo Poo, I feel like the luckiest person on earth to be able to meet my soulmate Yaeli, and together we've created a family with our three munchkins, Idan, Romi, and Adam. They are the motivation for all I do.
- How do you spend an ideal day off? Time off always includes the family going in the pool, building Legos with the kids (but I must work on how to avoid the tantrums when I decide to build some of it myself).
- Tell us a little bit about the Concert Series this year what is in store for us? I think that the choices are wonderful and pay homage to our rich tradition and Jewish heritage. I'm sure it will be a treat!



Elysa Stark, Director of Programming and Membership



B'NAI TORAH FOUNDATION

The prestigious Ner Tamid Society honors donors who have contributed a minimum of \$100,000 to the B'nai Torah Foundation. This can be done through a gift or through a charitable trust, life insurance policy, will, IRA or pension. Donors are acknowledged on the Ner Tamid recognition wall located in the front lobby of the synagogue. Create a Jewish legacy through our Ner Tamid Society and perpetuate Jewish life from generation to generation.

Cynthia & Dr. Richard Aronsohn Esther* & Milton* Blank **Sidney Besvinick & Family** Alisa & Dr. Richard Cohen Ellen & Edward Cohen Jane & Alan* Cornell Tammy & Dr. Jack Faintuch Barbara & Dr. Jeffrey* Feingold Miriam* & Henry* Fistel Shulamith Fleischer & Robert Schattner Marleen & Harold* Forkas Shirlee* & Daniel* Freed **Isadore* Friedman Neil Friedman** Meryl & Ron Gallatin **Nancy & Mark Gilbert** Mark W. Glickman Phyllis & Gerald* Golden **Susan* & Howard and Mallory Goldsmith Dorothy* & Milton* Gordon Emily & Dr. Stephen Grabelsky** Linda* & Alan* Hurst **Beatriz & Harold Jacobsohn** Anne & Norman Jacobson **Melanie Jacobson** Carolyn & Robert Kantor & Family **Phyllis & Samuel Kauffman Sue & Myron* Kirshner** Anita* & Paul* Kivell **Debra & Gerald Kramer Donna & Gerald Kramer** Doris B. & Saul* Kuperstock **April & Roger Leavy**

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TAKE A BREAK and learn the

ife is about choices and heaven knows we have a plethora of activities to keep us busy in sunny South Florida. As you know, B'nai Torah is the home of the Lillian, Philip and Gerry Cooperman Academy for Adult Jewish Learning and the Florence Melton School of Adult Jewish learning and we want learning to be an activity that you make a priority.

Below is an article from the *Times of Israel* written by my friend, Rabbi Morey Schwartz, International Director of Melton. He makes a great case for why it's time to learn Torah.

Please visit **www.btcboca.org** and check out all of the learning we offer or go to **www.meltonschool.org**.



Penina Bredoff, Adult Education & Melton Director



Take a Break and Learn Torah

Morey R. Schwartz

he battle in Israel is raging. And you are searching for things you can do to help. You are glued to the news and feeling worried, agitated...helpless.

Take a break and learn Torah.

A few weeks ago, in the first week of the war, I was asked to make a special delivery to an Israeli army base in southern Israel – 100 copies of tractate Kiddushin – for soldiers who were anxious to continue their study of the daf yomi, the daily page of study from the Babylonian Talmud, as they prepared to go to war. In fact, learning Torah at a time of war is a long-standing Jewish tradition.

The battle for the city of Jericho was the very first battles that we, as a Jewish nation, engaged in, more than 3300 years ago. There were challenges, and concerns. The Book of Joshua tells us that at some point during that operation, in the darkness of night, Joshua, leader of the people and leader of the battle, was approached by a threatening stranger. He looked up and saw a figure standing before him, drawn sword in hand. Joshua went up to him and asked him, "Are you one of us or of our enemies?" He replied, "No, I am captain of God's host. Now I have come!" Joshua threw himself face down to the ground and, prostrating himself, said to him, "What does my lord command his servant?" (Joshua 5:13-14).

The Talmud elaborates on this exchange, and suggests the following conversation took place between the angel and Joshua:

The angel said to Joshua: Yesterday, in the afternoon, you neglected sacrificing the daily afternoon offering because you were engaged in warfare, and now, when it is dark, you neglected Torah study...Joshua immediately acted to rectify the matter by deciding that he must devote more time to Torah study. (Babylonian Talmud, Sanhedrin 44a)

The destiny of the Jewish people has been inextricably bound to our study of the Torah from the very beginning. In fact, the opening chapter of the Book of Joshua spelled out very clearly: Be strong, be bold; for you will cause this people to inherit the land I swore to their fathers I would give them. Only be strong and very bold in taking care to follow all the Torah which Moses my servant ordered you to follow; do not turn from it either to the right or to the left; then you will succeed wherever you go. Yes, keep this book of the Torah on your lips, and meditate on it day and night, so that you will take care to act according to everything written in it. Then your undertakings will prosper, and you will succeed. (Joshua 1:6-8)

In the recent words of Israel's Prime Minister, Israel is engaged in "It's Second War of Independence." Every Jew in the world can contribute to this effort. Not only through your donations to the endless list of needs – for the soldiers, for the homeless, for the inured, for the bereaved, but also through dedicating time every day to the study of Torah.

Do it for yourself - to give yourself a spiritual lift. And do it for the Jewish people - more than anything else, our connection to the teachings of our Torah is what inspires our vision for the future and what defines us a people.

Take a break and learn. Now more than ever, engage in the study of Torah.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

As International Director, Rabbi Dr. Morey Schwartz, advances the work of the Florence Melton School as he seeks out and assesses new opportunities to enhance Melton's global impact through communal, national and international partnerships and other strategic relationships. He is also an author, teacher and registered mohel, living in Israel since 2000.



'nai Torah is proud to offer a variety of prayer opportunities - traditional services, family and child-led services, renewal services, and daily minyan in person and online. Prayer is extremely powerful, and we encourage you to find a service that speaks to you and helps you connect with your spirituality and your community and see how the ancient texts can bring comfort and joy to our lives today.

Ira & Sharon Calderon

are frequent Shabbat service attendees. They joined B'nai Torah in October of last year, after discovering that Cantor Fishman was the Senior Cantor here. They had been following Cantor Fishman's career online since seeing her in concert at Park Avenue Synagogue.

Although it's a 37-mile drive for them, what they get spiritually from our services makes it worth the drive. "B'nai Torah is very warm and welcoming," Ira said. "Being among our Jewish people, especially in difficult times, is so important and being together just makes us so happy. Coming to services and praying together feels like a nice escape from the real world."

Sue Gurland

and her husband Mark Wasserman are long-time
B'nai Torah members and active participants in

many synagogue programs, events, and services, and Sue and Mark have found comfort within the Renewal Service, a special service that takes place on select Saturday mornings (1st and 2nd Shabbat of most months), throughout the year. This service, led by Rabbi Amy Pessah and Cantorial Soloist Laura Lenes, provides an opportunity to connect to the meaning of prayer through Torah learning and music. It also ends before the sermon in the Sanctuary. Sue says, "In the intimate setting of the Shabbat Renewal service in the Chapel,

I experience the peace of Shabbat and my connection to the Divine. In this time of war and loss, the service gives me a welcome break from deep sadness and a much-needed reminder to find light and hope."



Les Ascowitz

and his wife Pennie have been members of B'nai Torah for just two years, but their involvement, generosity, and genuine interest in and love for our shul is evident. Pennie and Les are regular Shabbat service attendees and Les is a proud "minyanaire." Les said, "When I pray here, I go into a world of my own. I've always been a musical person, so the music of Cantor

Fishman and the ruach and energy of this synagogue is so uplifting and enjoyable.

The Cantor so beautifully blends rich tradition with the contemporary, which transcends generations. When she sings – especially with her son – I'm so moved. Recently when she sings a Prayer for Israel, I'm not just moved, I'm moved to tears. And our Rabbis, well, they are true menchim. If prayer and spirituality is the heart of a shul, this shul has a lot of heart."

Michal Waskowiak

and her sons Jordan and Rory enjoy Shabbat Kulanu, a family-friendly, musical, and participatory service led by Rabbi Evan Susman and Mirochnick Religious School Director Cathy Berkowitz. After the service, attendees come together for a lunch with members of the clergy. This service provides a great opportunity to build community, learn and pray as a family, and see what your children are learning as they step up and lead the prayers.

Michal says, "Especially during these sad and scary times, it has been so comforting to be a part of B'nai Torah. I love the Shabbat Kulanu service. It's fun for the kids to participate in a service that is full of music, song, ruach, and smiles. It makes me happy to see my boys take an active role in temple and in Judaism."

For more information on services, visit btcboca.org.

HANUKKAH 2023 17





Shine a light in the DARK

ach year the children of The Ruth and Edward Taubman Early Childhood Center kick off the school year with the learning of the High Holy Days.

We learn about honeybees with the sweetness of apples and honey (Rosh Hashanah), gardening and the harvest (Sukkot), and the celebration of finishing the many stories in the Torah (Simchat Torah). After this time, we move right into the Book of Genesis and the Story of Creation. This is when we learn that G-d created the world with the utterance of "Let there be light". The importance of learning about "light" continues each week.

On Monday mornings, the entire school comes together for Havdalah. We light the braided candle as a symbol of the end of Shabbat and the beginning of a new week. We dance and sing and rejoice to be together once again. Every Friday morning, we gather to light the Shabbat candles and bring the joy of Shabbat to our children. The children learn that we bring the warmth of the "aish" (fire) into our heart three times and say the blessing. The miracle of Chanukah is a momentous occasion for our young children. Once again, we speak about the "aish" and the 8 days of lighting candles. We teach the children about the strength of the Jewish people and how we had oil for one day, but miraculously we had oil and light for eight days.

These important teachings inspire and are a source of endless wonder for young and old. Exploration of light is inclusive of science, math, art, and language. The study of light brings emotion, beauty, vivid imagination, and concrete learning to young children. What resonates most is how light continues to bring emotional intelligence to our children. We teach the children of struggles and triumphs through the Hanukkah story. The children learn at a very young age that we may see struggles but with work and perseverance, we can find the "light". Recently, I asked a child, "What happens when you shine a light in the dark?". Her answer was, "The dark goes away."

During these most difficult times, we see our children's joy and happiness and "light" through our Jewish teachings. These social/emotional lessons are endless and empowering. I wonder whether these lessons are for our children or are they for us? The miracle of light and hope is a lesson we must continue to teach our young children and increase in our emotional growth and learning as adults.



Naomi Gordon, Early Childhood Center Director

May the light of Hanukkah continue to remind and teach us that we must stand strong together and unite in hope and peace for Israel and the Jewish people.

Chag Sameach Hanukkah.



Education is the interpretation with the process of the process of

s we approach Hanukkah, I am reminded of the profound connection between this holiday and the concept of Chinuch, which means education in Hebrew. Hanukkah is not only a time to celebrate the miraculous events of our history but also an opportunity to reflect on the role of education in preserving our traditions and values.

The Hanukkah story teaches us about the power of resilience, faith, and the importance of passing down our heritage to the next generation. Just as the Maccabees fought to preserve our Jewish identity, our religious school plays a crucial role in nurturing the Jewish identity of our children. It is the light of education that illuminates the path toward a meaningful Jewish life.

As the Education Director of the Mirochnick Religious School, I am excited to share some of the recent highlights from our program. We have embraced innovative and interactive teaching methods to make Jewish education engaging for our students. Our teachers use creative approaches to bring Jewish history, traditions, and values to life. For example, Shabbat Grades 3-5 participated in a challenge obstacle representing the struggles and tests of Abraham. In 1st grade, students had the opportunity to create tents to represent Abraham's tent when he welcomed the three angels. It was an opportunity for the students to understand the mitzvah of hachnasat orchim (hospitality). In 3rd grade, students built the Tower of Babel with balloons.

Hebrew is an integral part of Jewish education. Our Hebrew classes have seen significant progress, and we are proud to see our students reading and understanding prayers.

We instill the values of performing mitzvot in our students. Our religious school encourages active involvement in community service projects, allowing our students to experience the significance of giving back. Our kindergarten class learned about tzedakah and mitzvot, including making sandwiches for the homeless. Our 5th grade is sending candy to IDF soldiers and creating gratitude rocks for a community garden.

We believe that education should not be limited to the classroom. We encourage parents to be actively involved in their children's Jewish education and provide resources and opportunities for family learning and discussions.

As we celebrate Hanukkah, let us remember that education is the light that dispels darkness and ignorance. Our religious school is committed to nurturing the Jewish identity of our children, ensuring that the flame of knowledge and tradition is passed down from one generation to the next. May the lights of Hanukkah inspire us to continue our mission of Chinuch, educating our children and nurturing the Jewish soul.

Wishing you all a joyous Hanukkah filled with love, learning, and the spirit of togetherness.



Cathy Berkowitz, Mirochnick Religious School Director

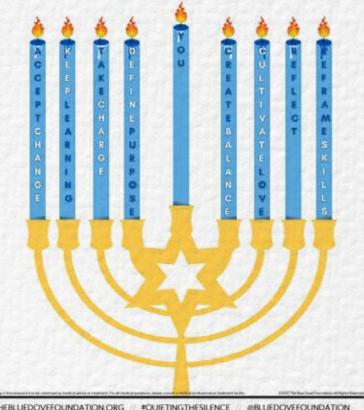
THE MENTAL HEALTH MENORAH



anukkah is a celebration of resilience, both physical and emotional. It is a story of a small group that should have been defeated but was able to push back an entire empire. The Maccabees stood up against overwhelming odds and faced their Greek oppressors, who greatly outnumbered them.

Resilience is the quality that allows people to come back stronger after being knocked down by the adversities of life. Rather than letting difficulties, traumatic events or failure overcome them, resilient people find a way to adapt, heal and continue moving toward their goals. The story of Hanukkah is an inspirational reminder of the strength and resilience of our people. Despite each challenge, the Jews fought back. They took back the Temple, and even the lack of oil proved no match for their resiliency as the Menorah miraculously burned for eight days.

More than any other trait, resiliency has defined the Jewish people and will continue to ensure our survival and existence. It is this trait that we celebrate on Hanukkah, our ability to rise against adversity and bring in light even during the darkest of times.



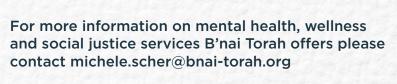
THEBLUEDOVEFOUNDATION.ORG // *QUIETINGTHESILENCE // @BLUEDOVEFOUNDATION

According to the Center for Creative Leadership, there are eight steps to building resilience. Try looking at each night of Hanukkah as another step toward building your more resilient self.

- I. Accept Change: Find ways to become more comfortable with change. Change is constant and inevitable, and you can only move forward if you accept it rather than resisting it.
- 2. Learn Continuously: Learn new skills, gain new understandings, and apply them during times of change. Don't hold onto old behaviors and skills, especially when they don't work anymore.
- 3. Take Charge: Embrace self-empowerment. Take charge of your own life and growth. Don't expect someone else to guide the way.
- 4. **Define Purpose:** Develop a "personal why" that gives your life and ambitions meaning or helps you put yourself into a larger context. A clear sense of purpose helps you to assess setbacks within the framework of a broader perspective.
- 3. Create Balance: Form your identity apart from your career. A job is just one facet of your identity. Separate who you are from what you

do and establish a work/life balance.

- 6. Cultivate Love: Develop and nurture a broad network of personal and professional relationships. Meaningful relationships create a strong base of support, a critical element in achieving goals, dealing with hardships, and maintaining perspective.
- 1. Reflect: Whether you're celebrating success or enduring a hardship, make time to reflect. Reflection fosters learning and a degree of selfawareness that can enhance your resiliency.
- 8. Reframe Skills: Think about the way you define yourself. Reframe how you see your skills, talents and interests. By casting your skills in a new light, you can see how they might shift into new patterns of behavior.





Michele Scher. Director of Pastoral Care



In my work I have the honor and privilege of speaking with and spending meaningful time with parents. Being a parent always comes with its challenges, but it can be especially difficult during hard times in our world. The question I hear often is, "How can we hold it together for our children when we ourselves are struggling?"

I'd like to suggest that perhaps Hanukkah can inspire us to reconnect with guiding Jewish values that give meaning and respite from some of the struggles.

With these eight themes, we can create a shift for the eight Nights of Hanukkah that fortify ourselves and our families.

I. Be the Shamash Candle

In the imaginations of young children, the Hanukkah candles are an opportunity for storytelling each candle comes "alive" sharing light. Oh, imagine the conversations! Consider the vivid story around light growing each night as the candles join together. And, for tired parents everywhere, I give vou permission to not always BE the first light but to receive light and know that your family is strong because you are together in joy and in struggle, in light and in darkness. Candles burn down but the miracle keeps happening.

2. Search for Light

When it's dark and scary we search for light. Acknowledge and celebrate what is good in our lives out loud. The love of family and community, books and toys, playdates, and activities, even the physical light and beauty of sunshine and nature. Acknowledge the blessings.

3. Try to Imagine Miracles

Even when you think there isn't enough – enough oil, enough love, patience, time – or the right answers! The fear and anxiety are real. The measure that parents use for all they "should be" will steal your joy and sanity. If we gave up because each day's oil was not enough for eight days, there'd be no Hanukkah miracle. All you need is to get through today. There's another miracle waiting for you tomorrow.

4. Share Stories of Resilience.

Hanukkah is rich with stories of hope, bravery, and loving effort. Help children feel the joy in not giving up, in doing hard things. Effort is digging deep and discovering something you didn't know was in you. Effort is finding others who will help you do hard things. Be sure to check out PJ Library books and resources for Hanukkah - https://pjlibrary.org/hanukkah

5. You are Not Alone!

Jewish community is strong because of share history, shared values, and shared hope. Parenting is hard and parenting these days is even harder mixed in with grief and loss, anxiety, guilt, pressure, and Sisyphean struggles. I heard a local psychotherapist, Dr. Sharon Arbel, say that relationships heal trauma. Connection is more important than ever.

6. Plan at Least one Night of Giving

Night of Giving
Focus on gifts of service. Help children see and feel how much they must give to others. Not only can they make a difference in the world, but they will grow with a sense of personal value and purpose that will guide and fortify them forever. Thanks to Summer Faerman and the B'nai Torah Congregation community, there are various activities available for everyone to participate in.

7. Stand Up for What is Right

Everyday grownups and children choose what to do, what matters. Jewish values help guide those choices. Children need us to make values and choices visible. Children need us to verbalize "I'm holding the door because there's someone behind us who has their hands full. I'm sending postcards to children in Israel because I want them to know they have friends far away. We're singing at the Senior Center because sometimes older people are lonely and singing reminds them of happy times." Let children see what we do and why.

8. Celebrate that We are Jewish

We live in a world where friends and family celebrate different religions and traditions. We need to fill "our bucket" with meaning and memories. Show your children pictures of you growing up, of their grandparents when they were young, of Hanukkah around the world. And know that "your bucket" is one of a kind - your family celebrations fit your parenting style and your children - from silly to traditional, from messy to organized, from quiet to crazy, from small and intimate to big and wild.



Karen Deerwester, Family Time Inc.

For more resources visit:







Jewish Grandparent Network



Jewish Learning Matters



"A little bit of influence pushes away a lot of darkness."

Then living a Jewish life, proverbs often serve as profound insight, illuminating the path we walk down while using our moral compass. One such proverb is, "A little bit of light pushes away a lot of darkness."

At its core, this proverb addresses the incredible power of even the smallest act of kindness or generosity. In our fast-paced world, it's easy to feel overwhelmed by the enormity of the challenges facing our community, nation, and world. War, hunger, illness, homelessness, and the myriad of other causes we focus on may cast a heavy shadow, but this proverb reminds us that we can shine bright while making a meaningful impact, one mitzvah at a time.

The act of giving can have a profound ripple effect. During mitzvah month we did over 80 mitzvah projects, inspiring others to join us. The light of our kindness encourages others to follow suit, creating a pay it forward mentality that brightens our community.

One of our Hebrew school students shared the lesson she learned during class, sparking a great conversation with her grandmother about mitzvot. This conversation took place in the back seat of the car while they were waiting to pick up Lily's birthday cake. Mimi, as she is called, was inspired by

5-year-old Lily and the mitzvah lesson, she offered to purchase a birthday cake for a child who may not have the opportunity to receive one. Lily and her Mimi are a great example of shining light.

Let us remember that our actions, no matter how small, possess the transformative power to disperse darkness and usher in a brighter, more compassionate world. This Jewish proverb reminds us that we all have the capacity to make a difference, one light-filled mitzvah at a time. Together, we can be the collective force that pushes away the darkness and brings warmth, love, and support to the world.



Summer Faerman, Meryl & Ron Gallatin TLC Program Director



A generous ECC family donates Publix gift cards for the ECC Thanksgiving collection for local families in need.

Mitzvah Month 4



Healthy meal prep session at Dixie Manor.



Volunteers assembled movie themed packages for the Ronald McDonald House in Miami.



Personal **Ponies** brought a therapy pony to B'nai Torah.



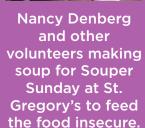
and other soup for Souper Sunday at St.

Police officers with donated books at the **PJ Library** Mitzvah Pizza event.



Ilene and **Matt Gore** sort nonperishables at the Jacobson **Family Food** Pantry.







B'nai Mitzvah families visit the Lucky Horse Sanctuary.



Painting bowls for the Empty Bowls organization, whose tagline is "Eat simply so others can simply eat."

Kindness rocks for Israeli soldiers.





Responding to Critical Needs of those in Israel

Since October 7, our TLC team has been working tirelessly and around the clock to respond to the real-time critical needs of those in Israel.

We have been in constant communication with our partners in Israel, most significantly Hands on Tzedakah (HOT), founded by B'nai Torah members Meryl & Ron Gallatin. In addition to monetary support, with the support of our dedicated and generous contributors in our community, SEVERAL THOUSANDS of life-saving and sustaining supplies have been donated directly to Israel, including:

- Tactical and protective gear
- Medical Supplies and Equipment
- Food and Snacks
- Tzitzit, tefillin and other religious material
- Generators
- Gifts of comfort for local families of lone soldiers
- Letters of appreciation and encouragement
- and more

While we can all be proud of this work, there is still much more to do, and many have asked how to help.

Please visit our website at **www.btcboca.org** for information about Amazon wish lists, local collections of urgent supplies and other opportunities to help.

You can also follow Summer Faerman on social media or contact her at **summerf@bnai-torah.org**.



Gladys and Jesse Hutcher

Gladys and Jesse Hutcher are two extraordinary individuals who joined our synagogue community less than six months ago.

At the beginning of October, Gladys and Jesse embarked on a lifetime journey when they purchased a house in Israel for a well-deserved visit to their newlywed daughter and son-in-law. Their arrival, however, coincided with the outbreak of war. The trip of a lifetime took a turn, however, a heartwarming story of compassion and selflessness in the face of adversity is developing every day.

Rather than retreating from the chaos, Jesse made an inspiring decision: he converted their vacation home into a displacement shelter, providing a safe haven for those in need.

But Jesse's commitment to helping others didn't stop there. He was approached by a Christian organization to spearhead shelters in Jerusalem, and in the wake of the crisis, they transformed hotels into evacuee centers. These centers not only offer shelter but also serve hot meals, provide schooling for displaced children, and organize various activities to help alleviate the emotional strain of those affected by the conflict.

Gladys and Jesse's dedication to providing essential support and comfort during such challenging times is a testament to their unwavering commitment to tikkun olam, the Jewish concept of repairing the world. Their actions embody the values of compassion, empathy, and community that our synagogue cherishes.



Meal prepping for families in need throughout Southern Israel.

Thousands of toys, books, and other educational and recreational activities for children were collected and distributed.

A grateful recipient of the donated tzitzit, one of the items requested by the soldiers and others on the ground in Israel.

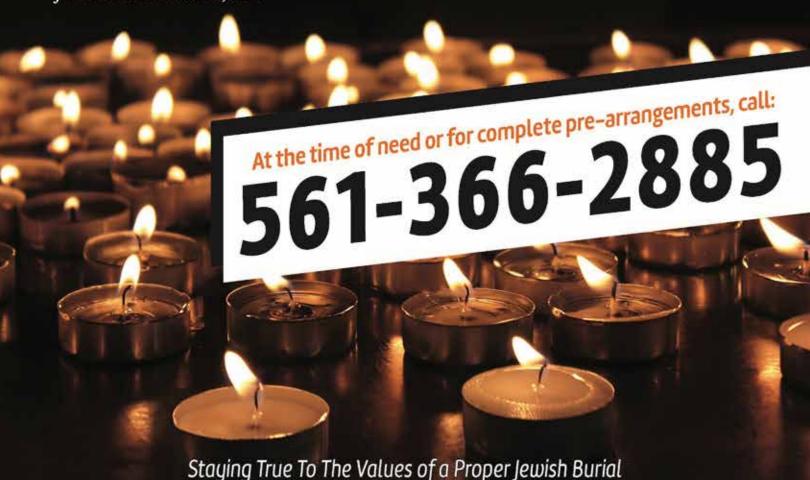
Thousands of metal plates for soldiers to use to protect themselves.

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A NIGHT OF

HONORING

SUMMER FAERMAN SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24

AT B'NAI TORAH CONCREGATION

The Meryl and Ron Gallatin Tzedakah, Learning and Chesed (TLC) Program led by Summer Faerman is B'nai Torah's central source for impactful giving and volunteering opportunities that make a difference in our community and throughout the world.

A MAGICAL PERFORMANCE TO FOLLOW.





Momen's League

ights! Whether you believe in the miracle of the oil in the Book of Maccabees, like the idea of lighting those little candles one at a time for eight nights, want to give small gifts to those you love, brighten the world at the darkest time of the year, or eat as many latkes as you are able, Hanukkah can be a very special holiday that brings families, friends and family traditions together.

Hanukkah is the time when we come together to celebrate the triumph of light over darkness and this year, there is a special significance for all of us. As we prepare for this beautiful holiday, I believe that it's important to find joy and hope in the small things that bring us together.

Each year since 1918, when Mathilde Schechter founded Women's League for Conservative Judaism, we have been strong and courageous in new and defining ways. (We have lived through world events that include tragedies, recessions, and pandemics, and yet, we have remained vital to our synagogue and community)

The women of our Women's League have been so busy.

We have been sharing our heritage as Jewish women with praying together. For Rosh Chodesh our women through commitment and study have demonstrated skills and distinguished themselves as baalot tefillah (prayer leaders) and baalot kri'ah (Torah readers) and take the lead in our service.

For Sukkot, we did an outstanding job chanting from the Book of Kohelit. Our decorations for the Sukkah and Bima were so beautiful and classy. We made Sangria from a secret recipe and had a fun picnic dinner with Scotch and the Men's club. Then we got busy shopping and chopping, making the most delicious salads for the WL mediterranean luncheon prepared for Simchas Torah. We partnered With Summer and the TLC program filling latex gloves with candy to be used at Truck or Treat at the SOS FOSTER CARE VILLAGE.



This signified that we always lend a "HAND" to these children.

We made applesauce for the Jacobson Family Food Pantry and sandwiches and treats for the food insecure in our community.

Food made with love is that much sweeter and appreciated.

One of my goals as president is to keep all the arms of the shul working together.



It was so good to be together.

We are building strong community and connections.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS for Women's League Luncheon & Fashion show, Sunday, April 7 when we will honor **Naomi Gordon** and **Karen Deerwester** for their Extraordinary work in shaping bright minds.



Fran Krause, WLBTC, President

"May we all help light up the world."
- RABBI JONATHAN SACKS Z"L

Happy Hanukkah from our Women's League to our wonderful congregation.



he Men's Club has been off to a great start in 5784 with many nice experiences together.

During Sukkot, we partnered with Women's League for our Sangria and Scotch in the Sukkah. Thank you to Judy Koles, Sheldon Flatow, and especially our Scotch Taste Master Shane Bredoff who instructed us about the varieties of Scotch tastes.

Our Men's Club has also been enjoying our monthly Bagel Bites program. In November, we heard from Dorothy Jacks, Palm Beach County Property Tax Assessor. She talked about the current tax laws and property worth in our county, and the Homestead Property Tax program which stabilizes our taxable home values and how we compare to the State of Florida, especially in South Florida.

In December, we will hear from Alan Swimmer, who works for our government as a private property seizure of ships, oligarch mega yachts and other valuable assets, some from foreign governments. We are also partnering with Woman's League to cohost the Annual Latkas & Vodkas event featuring a live comedian.

We enjoy being with you at our synagogue events. Please remember... "Together we can do so much more!"



Elliot Burns, Men's Club President

Alexander Platt, Esq.

Board Certified in Wills, Trusts & Estates



561-346-5108 alex@alexplattlaw.com alexplattlaw.com

2385 N.W. Executive Dr., #100 Boca Raton, FL 33431









Have you considered making a lasting gift to B'nai Torah Congregation?

Your legacy includes treasured memories that family and friends carry with them, written and spoken words that convey what matters in your life, and actions that make a difference. One of the most impactful ways to create a lasting legacy is through after-lifetime giving that will build our endowment and help sustain our beloved B'nai Torah for the next generation and beyond.

Creating a legacy gift asks all of us to talk about the congregation we want to see in the future – the synagogue we want our great-grandchildren to inherit. Our legacy program has inspired B'nai Torah's leaders and donors to develop a sense of mutual responsibility for that future, where securing legacy commitments is not a zero-sum game, but a win for all of us today and, most importantly, for tomorrow.

The goal of legacy giving is to help you plan your estate and charitable giving in a way that benefits you, your family and charity.

There are many ways you can make these planned gifts and enjoy tax and income benefits.

Your gift: A BEQUEST

Your Goal: Maintain control of your assets during life.

How It Works: Make a gift to the organizations you value; You designate an amount or percentage of your estate by will, trust, etc.

Your Benefits: Estate tax charitable deduction; Life use and ownership of your property

Your gift: LIFE INSURANCE

Your Goal: Guarantee a specific gift amount; Reduced cash outlay supporting larger future gift

How It Works: Purchase a new policy and name B'nai Torah as owner or as beneficiary of an existing policy **Your Benefits:** Charitable deduction for premiums donated; Make larger gift than you thought possible

Your gift: AN IRA OR PENSION PLAN

Your Goal: Make a gift to B'nai Torah upon your death

How It Works: Name B'nai Torah as a beneficiary; You complete a change of beneficiary form, no cost

involved to heirs

Your Benefits: Lifetime use of asset/income; Avoid or reduce income taxed to heirs

Your gift: A CHARITABLE REMAINDER TRUST (CRT)

Your Goal: Transfer appreciated property avoiding capital gains tax; Regular income for life or a term of years; Receive the benefit of tax savings from a charitable deduction

How It Works: Transfer cash or appreciated property to fund a charitable trust. The trust provides you or family members with income for life or a term of years

Your Benefits: Charitable deduction; Income for life or a term of years; Possible income growth over time; Avoidance of capital gains tax







How It Works: Transfer appreciated property avoiding capital gains tax; Income to charity for life or term;

Avoid substantial gift or estate tax; Reduced transfer cost to heirs.

Your Benefits: Income for life or a term of years; Possible income growth over time; Avoidance of capital

gains tax

Your gift: LIFE ESTATE RESERVED

Your Goal: Remain in your home for life; Receive a current charitable income tax deduction

How It Works: Gift property to B'nai Torah but retain the right to use the property during your life; You pay

maintenance, insurance, and property taxes

Your Benefits: Charitable deduction; Lifetime use of property

Questions?

Creating a Legacy gift is something to discuss with your estate attorney, tax advisor, financial planner and/or insurance professional, but here are some questions or curiosities that commonly arise:

"Given my current financial situation, I am unable to make a commitment now."

A legacy commitment does not require any money now; that is the beauty of it. It is a promise for the future and is paid with after-lifetime assets.

"I would love to make a large gift, but I want to make sure my children are provided for."

An estate plan that includes your children and charities you care about can ensure that your children receive an inheritance at the same time as your personal charitable values are honored.

"I am not wealthy. Legacy gifts are for the wealthiest donors."

A legacy gift can be made by anyone and be for any amount.

"I don't have any family, so I don't need to think about gift and estate planning."

State laws will determine the disposition of your estate if you do not have a plan in writing. Even if you do not have a family, you should still create an estate plan that reflects the things you most care about.

For more information, please contact Susan Levine @ Susan.Levine@bnai-torah.org or call the synagogue at (561) 392-8566.



"In matters of principle, stand like a rock." -Thomas Jefferson

I am so proud to have the privilege of leading our B'nai Torah Foundation. It is an honor to work with our dedicated Foundation board members and B'nai Torah leadership and staff to steward the assets currently under management in our Endowment. The Foundation annually is the largest contributor to B'nai Torah's operating budget, and we look forward to growing our assets more to meet the future needs of our beloved congregation.

The quote above by Thomas Jefferson reminds me of our Foundation board, who all stand like rocks to promote the Jewish values and principles we hold dear. Special thanks to my Foundation Board colleagues. Your service to B'nai Torah Congregation is deeply appreciated.

For more information regarding Legacy Giving, contact me at ssax@ssclawfirm.com.

HANUKKAH 2023 33







When your spouse passes, you might feel overwhelmed. After decades of making financial decisions together, you must now face how to protect the wealth you've built for your family's future.

But you don't have to do it alone.

My job — and honor — is to serve as your calming and collaborative guide, helping you find financial self-assurance.

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any years ago, I was invited to the golf tournament at St. Andrews Country Club. I was not playing particularly well. On a big par 5, I took a mighty backswing and hit the ball off the toe of the club and propelled the ball at a 90-degree angle and hit the roof of a house. My mazal, the owner of the house was on a lounge chair resting near his pool when my ball crashed into his roof. We drove to his house. I told him that I was the golfer who hit his roof and I apologized. I told him that if there was any damage to the roof to contact me and I would pay for it. He said, "Thank you, but no problem. I have been living in my house for 14 years and this is the first time it was hit by a golf ball. I'm just glad to meet the person who hit such a lousy shot!"

Then, several years ago, I was competing in a local tournament hosted at Bocaire Country Club. I got up to the tee box and my opponent was properly positioned several yards behind me and to the right (where he should be, out of harm's way). Well, I hit a screaming drive that ricocheted off the tee marker about 15 yards in front of me.

Last year, B'nai Torah hosted the first annual Yiddishe Cup Golf Tournament at Boca Grove. It was a tremendous success and this year promises to be bigger and better.

The 2nd Annual Yiddishe Cup will be held on March 4, 2024. This year's fundraising efforts will benefit the newly established HaMakom B'nai Mitzvah program for special needs students.

I urge you to join. Any skill level can participate, and all are welcome.

- Dr. Bryan J. Wasserman, M.D. Chairman of the Yiddishe Cup Tournament and Member of the Board of Trustees

Dr. Bryan Wasserman at the 2023 Yiddishe Cup We are looking for sponsors, players, and volunteers. If you would like to contribute, please contact me at (561) 789-6952 or bryanjwassermanmd@gmail.com.

WARNING: if you happen to play in my foursome or the foursome ahead of me...stay out of the way!

My craziest golf experience happened about 12 years ago when I was living in Jacksonville, FL. One sunny afternoon, I decided to go out to the golf course near my house alone. For most of the day, I played well. I got to a par-4 that had water all along the side with no choice but to hit over the water when approaching the hole. I hit my drive in the middle of the fairway about 140 yards away from the green.

I got up to my ball and made great contact. Some people don't know that there are shots where you can hit a ball well enough to get some spin on the ball. I hit it 6 ft short of the hole but then it started to spin back a little. Suddenly, I saw a big splash from the water and a couple of seconds later noticed that my ball had disappeared. I ran up to the green and saw an 8ft alligator sitting next to the riverbank who decided that my ball would be a nice snack. The most important question on my mind was, "Where do I drop from?"

Golf is a game of emotions. Both highs and lows never remain constant. Just like anything in life, the game is never perfect. Those who play with me often ask me to say a prayer because as a Rabbi I must have God on my side. To which I kindly respond, "If God heard my prayers on the golf course, I would've been in the PGA a long time ago."

During last year's Yiddishe Cup event, I had the pleasure to play with some wonderful individuals and community members. It was a great day that allowed us to express our love for the game and support our community. I can't wait for this year's tournament on **March 4th**. **We hope to see you there!**

- Rabbi Susman



2023-2024 B'NAI MITZVAH

Gillian Green



OOP

December 30, 2023 Parents: Yuka Yu & Stuart Green Mitzvah Project: Gillian and her twin sister, Jessica, are volunteering at Milagro Center twice a week, where they assist the children with schoolwork and activities

Jessica Green



December 30, 2023 Parents: Yuka Yu & Stuart Green Mitzvah Project: Jessica and her twin sister, Gillian, are volunteering at Milagro Center twice a week. where they assist the children with schoolwork and activities.

Brielle Grieper



Q

January 13, 2024 Parents: Michelle & Brian Grieper Mitzvah Project: Brielle is volunteering with her sister, Sophie, at Allegro senior living facilities doing activities and spending time with the residents.

Sophie Grieper



OOP

January 13, 2024 Parents: Michelle & Brian Grieper Mitzvah Project: Sophie is volunteering with her sister, Brielle, at Allegro senior living facilities doing activities and spending time with the residents.

Emelia Klitsberg



OOF

January 13, 2024 Parents: Carrie & Nathaniel Klitsberg Mitzvah Project: Emelia is collecting baby supplies for foster children and others supported by JAFCO.

Matthew Freedland



OOP

January 20, 2024 Parents: Beth & David Freedland Mitzvah Project: Matthew raised money and participated in the 2023 B'nai Torah Yiddishe Cup Golf Tournament.

"OUR PRIDE & JOY"

Rebecca Sherman



January 20, 2024 Parents: Allison & Geoffrey Sherman Mitzvah Project: Rebecca partnered with Milagro Center to create a wish list and is conducting a donation drive for the arts programs for underserved children.

Shia Silverman



OOP

February 3, 2024 Parents: Jocelyn & Marc Silverman Mitzvah Project: Shia is collecting basketball equipment for children

Kaylee Schaeffer



OOP

February 10, 2024 Parents: Lisa Schaeffer Mitzvah Project: Kaylee is creating and selling bracelets to raise money for Israel.

Noah Feldman



March 9, 2024 Parents: Michal & Guy Feldman Mitzvah Project: Noah will be collecting youth sports equipment to donate to children in need.



and at-risk children.



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B'nai Torah Congregation never turns anyone away from becomming a member because of financial challenges.



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Tzedakah

Greyson

Tzedakah

us overwhelming joy!

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Tzedakah Tzedakah Tzedakah

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Wishing BTC Clergy & members a
Happy New Year
Thank you!
In memory of Avram Kraft

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In memory of Albert Sopher In memory of Albert Sopher In memory of Robert Joblove In memory of Bessie Meisel Tzedakah

Izedakini In memory of Albert Sopher In honor of birth of Roseanne & Ed Sopher's grandson, Miles In honor of birth of Roseanne & Ed Sopher's grandson, Miles Tzedakah

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45th anniversary In memory of Albert Sopher In honor of Miles Beckett Cooper In appreciation of my pulpit honors In memory of Dr. Newman's mother In memory of Avram Kraft

Misheberach In honor of Haftorah reading In memory of Morris Schoenbrum In memory of Anna Schoenbrum In memory of Steve Heitman Tzedakah i

Tzedakah
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In honor of birth of great
granddaughter, Melody
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In memory of Bram Fischler
In memory of Otto Spielman
In memory of Meyer Stolack
Tzedakah Tzedakah In memory of Albert Sopher Tzedakah

In memory of Albert Sopher In memory of Avram Kraft In memory of Leo Staschover

In honor of Ivy & Bill Hurwitz
Thank you for this beautiful programwhat an amazing idea!

In memory of Lawrence Kanaplue

In memory of Grandpa Lee

In memory of Mary Ginchansky

In memory of Seymour Alter

Tzedakah Tzedakah Tzedakah In memory of Lester Brooker Tzedakah Tzedakah

In memory of Warren Silver **Tzedakah**

Tzedakah Tzedakah Tzedakah Tzedakah

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anniversary In honor of Zila & Cantor Dov Keren's

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In memory of Beatrice Weisenberg
In memory of Albert Sopher
In appreciation of aliyah
In memory of Henri Bertuch
In memory of Albert Sopher
In honor of engagement of Sam
Budney & Natalie Siegel
In appreciation of receiving an aliyah &
for the professionalism of the clergy,
In memory of Morton Cohen

In memory of Morton Cohen
In appreciation of officiating at Emily

In appreciation of officiating at Emily & Evan's wedding In honor of Kyle Kimmelman & Hallie Schwamm's marriage In honor of birth of James Estrin In honor of Gerta Gleich's 98th

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Randy Siegler & Selma Wolinsky
Misheberach
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In memory of Bernice Goldstein In memory of Julia Halpern In memory of Herman Halpern

In memory of Albert Sopher Best wishes for a happy, healthy, successful, and meaningful 5784 In appreciation of aliyah Wishing Kathy Feld a happy birthday,

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Susman's marriage In appreciation of officiating at our

wedding Tzedakah

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Susman's marriage

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In memory of Llly Rubin Tzedakah

Goby, Adam & In honor of Shula's beautiful Rosh Hashana Haftarah In honor of Cynthia & Richard

In memory of Albert Sopher Wishing Randi Good happy retirement

In memory of Mildred Gralnick In honor of Jordyn Mitchell's engagement

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For relief to Hawaii For relief to Hawaii For relief to Hawaii

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In memory of Ellen Hall & Beatrice Prober

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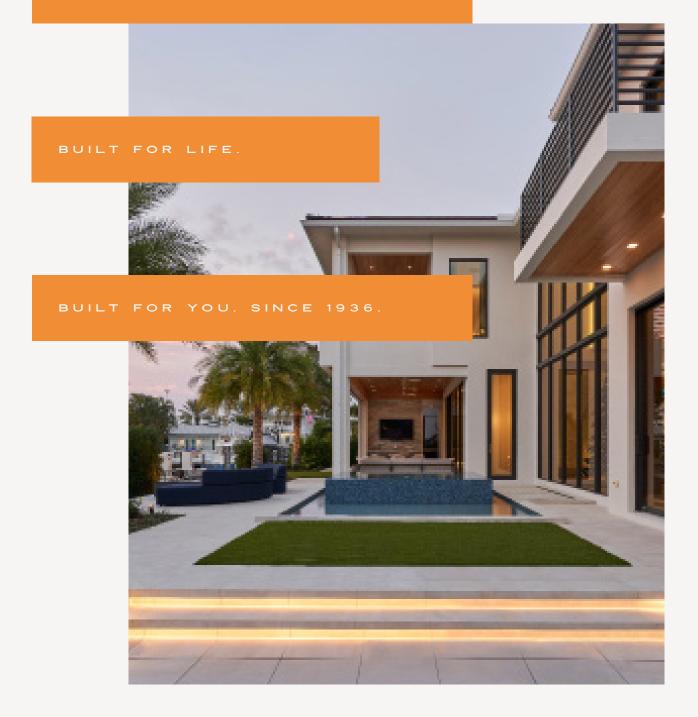


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