

From Rabbi Bronstein “When Being Jewish Gets in the Way”



Rabbi Lester Bronstein

Even in the endless months of pandemic, our Jewishness could mostly be taken for granted. If we wanted to plug in to the limitless worship services, classes, symposia, meetings, and conventions of, by, and for Jews, we were free to do so. We could choose to “practice our religion openly,” as the saying goes. Or not, as has mostly been the case for American Jews since the end of World War II, and especially since the establishment of

the State of Israel, and even more so after the Jewish cultural awakening in June 1967.

So that even with the obstructions the pandemic placed on our ability to gather in synagogues, to nosh and touch base at kiddush, to take and teach courses, and to otherwise congregate in the manner to which we had become accustomed, our access to technology and one another made it not so hard for us to continue with those aspects of Jewish life that give us pleasure and connection.

This left us free, then, to engage—even via Zoom and social media—in the many worldly involvements we American Jews feel called to take part in. These activities are, for the most part, pursuits

that many of us believe to be direct outgrowths of the general and specific “mitzvot” that we teach and cherish.

We are adjured to welcome the stranger, care for the needy, share the corner of our field, heal the sick, free the captive, relieve the burden of the widow and orphan, and generally pursue “justice-justice.”

Our living in America as Jews, and mostly as white Jews, and mostly with the benefit of tremendous academic and professional credentials and assets, has enabled us to translate these big-

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mitzvah Jewish items into specific social justice work: election fairness, political advocacy, immigration and refugee assistance, systemic racism, Black Lives Matter, police reform, vaccination access, and on and on.

All of these matters bring to mind terrible moments in our nation's (and world's) day-to-day experience over the past months. And yet, we Jews were free and ready to pitch in.

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And, indeed we did. In fact, for some of us, we never felt so “Jewish” as we did in these months of righteous struggle for great universal causes. We never felt so un-self-involved, so true to our loftiest principles, so able to be of service.

And then, darn it, being Jewish got in the way.

Israel erupted into violence, both external and internecine. We found ourselves caught between all the proverbial rocks and hard places. We instinctively supported Israel's cause (and its very “right” to exist, as if such an absurd conversation could still be taking place), but we could also plainly see Israel's role in instigating the tensions and exacerbating the inherent systemic problems that Israel itself had largely contributed to or allowed to fester.

We discovered that to be true to our Jewish identity, we needed to think pragmatically about our own role in standing up for Israel in a world that predictably jumps on every outburst as justification to defame Israel as a bastion of colonialism and war crimes.

Simultaneously, we discovered that to be true to those overarching Jewish “values” that propel our civic action on behalf of everyone else's causes, we needed to look long and hard at the injustices coming from our side of the Jewish-Israel equation, and we had to call them out and take our share of ownership.

And, just as we were clearing our throats to do so (hoping to do so in a way that would ultimately help Israel rather than cripple it), along came another bout of ruthless anti-Semitism. It happened locally and around the world, far from Israel and the Palestinian territories, and far from the locus of the argument.

This time – in a way that inconvenienced our well-developed liberal narrative - it came from the so-called “left” as well as from the predictable “right.” Here was true classic anti-Semitism, not “Israel bashing,” and not even “confusing Jews for the State of Israel.” Here was yet another chance for Jew haters and Jew blamers to do their thing and get away with it. For us universal mitzvah-doers, this was more than an

inconvenience. This was a challenge to our sense of balance between universal and particular. This was a blow to our well-honed political and societal loyalties. This was a tough one.

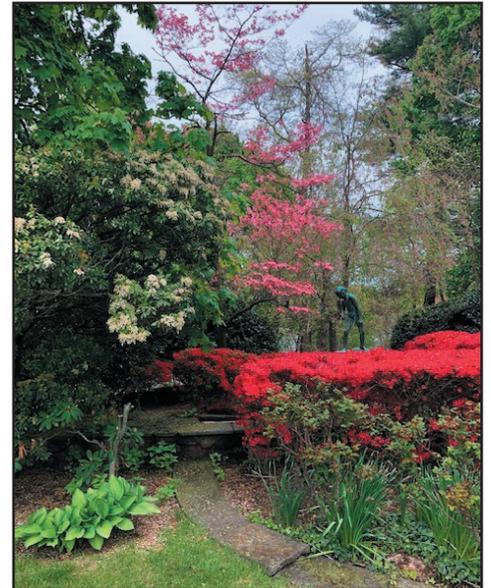
To my eternal gratitude and relief, most of our national and global Jewish institutions reacted without over-reacting. They continued to draw the distinction between “legitimate criticism of Israel” and “anti-Semitic acts” without throwing Israel under the bus, but also without trying to avoid the issues raised by the swift series of events. They stayed loyal to the Jewish state as a reality and as a cause. They continued to engage in the human rights conversations that the Temple Mount/Sheikh Jarrah/Gaza/Mixed Cities turmoil brought to the fore and required us to confront honestly and with nuance.

And they once again (not for the last time, friends!) called on the civilized world to treat Jews as full human beings. To stop reducing Jews to two-dimensional zombies that scheme up and perpetrate all of the problems of the planet. To allow us to define ourselves as a people and an entity, but not to use that narrow definition to marginalize us and exclude us from the family of humanity.

For those of us who resented this “calling home” when we were so busy doing the good “out there” work we do as conscientious Jews, as concerned citizens, and as dedicated humanitarians, allow me to invoke Hillel's dictum yet again: If I am not for myself/if I am only for myself/if not now when. Or perhaps we prefer Kohelet, who warns us that there is a “time for every purpose,” and that we are not the timekeepers.

There will be time to go back to what makes us feel purposeful and good. In fact, it's always the right time to do that holy work on behalf of others. But we must not allow ourselves to feel inconvenienced or embarrassed by the existential realities at the heart of our Jewishness. We must always be ready to come home, and to be truly at home in that place, both with the Jews we relate to, and with those from whom we feel disconnected.

Kol Yisrael areivim zeh bazeh. We Jews really are responsible for one another, and we do better when we embrace that fact than when we try to wish it away. Let us embrace it, then, and move forward toward the task at hand.



From Our President Barbara Aloni



Barbara Aloni

“3:1 To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven.”

-Kohelet

We now long for the familiar and look ahead to new possibilities. After a season of illness, uncertainty, and

physical distancing let us hope that this continues to be a season of health, familiarity, and closeness.

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On May 2, I had the pleasure of attending the Lag B'Omer picnic at Bet Am. Sitting outside, eating, talking, children playing, it was such a “normal” activity and a wonderful opportunity to reconnect. Following this, on Friday night, I attended Kabbalat Shabbat services in-person – the first time I attended services in the sanctuary since the pandemic started. It was powerful to be back in the sanctuary, hearing the Rabbi and Cantor's voices live, being in a space created for prayer and spirituality.

For indoor services and events, we currently require proof of vaccination. Proof of vaccination must be sent to Vicky at executivedirector@betamshalom.org the first time you attend an in-person event only. We encourage you to send the information in so we have it on record should you wish to attend anything. Thank you to our office staff as they have developed and implemented this process.

Guidelines have been changing as COVID case counts in our area have been dramatically dropping. Our Health Advisory Committee of David Abramson, Denise Benkel, Beth Nash and Orit Oppenheimer, have provided guidance and expertise throughout this pandemic. We continue to be so grateful to them. We would have not been able to navigate this pandemic without their knowledge and advice. They meet weekly to review federal and state guidelines, as well as scientific articles and research. As guidelines change, we will keep the community updated.

We are busy planning for the High Holy Days, and we will be back in our tent! As we further open our tent, we will continue to have video

streaming as well. There is much to consider and plan for, including how many people we will be able to have and what guidelines will be in place. More details will be forthcoming in the weeks ahead so please look out for additional information.

This is also a season of change and possibilities. As you know, Abby Reiken, our Education Director over the past ten years, is leaving at the end of June. Under Abby's direction, Torah La'am has become a beautifully integrated educational program, melding Jewish practice, Hebrew language, love of Israel, and social action. Our students have been inspired and intellectually challenged. Most importantly,

in this year of confusion and stress, Abby designed a program that flexibly met the needs of families

and students, while continuing to provide an excellent educational experience. We are deeply grateful to Abby. Many thanks to our incredible teachers who have created engaging lessons virtually this past year, educating and connecting our students and families.

The Jewish Family Education and Engagement Search Committee, led by Gina Emdin and Loren Napoli, along with our School Board, led by Elise Goldman, worked countless hours, tirelessly reviewing resumes and interviewing candidates for Abby's successor. We thank the Search Committee and School Board for their immense work as we look to the future and welcome Lisa Jacobs to this role. Lisa comes to us from Gann Academy in Waltham, Massachusetts, where she has been on the Arts Faculty since 2013, most recently as the Visual and Performing Arts Department Chair.

We also are saying goodbye to Lindsay Lever, our Event Planner, who moved to Florida and has been supporting us remotely over the past several months. Lindsay developed and expanded our rentals and has been a valued member of our staff. We are going to miss her and wish her all the best. We welcome Danielle Thomas, who will be stepping into Lindsay's role. Danielle comes with extensive experience in event planning and even worked as a jazz singer at one time.

As we look ahead, we continue our meaningful visioning work as we enter phase two, with the creation of our Innovation Task Force, under the direction of Merrill Rotter and Rachel Posner. As you may recall, in phase one, the Future Vision Task Force, under the leadership of Marisa Jackson and Ann Schaffer, engaged in

discovery. They held parlor meetings, engaging almost 100 members. In addition, the phase one task force held individual interviews with 40 people (members and non-members), as well as numerous informal conversations. Ann and Marisa shared the following about what we learned through this process:

“Chief among the things people love is the sense of community, of belonging, of affirming their Jewish identity through praying, singing and studying together. They love the multi-faceted and participatory aspects of our community: the intellectual (as in Torah study); the communal (as in Shabbat services and kiddush); the fun (as in the Purim Spiel); and the progressive (as in our social action and tikkun olam work). They expressed deep appreciation for our Rabbi and Cantor. They see Bet Am Shalom as a place where we care -- about each other, about our children's Jewish identity, and about the troubled world we live in. They see that collectively we are stronger when we strive to act upon those concerns.

People also expressed the need for more openness to new ideas, energy and innovation, and for more work on social justice issues because the ‘world is on fire.’ Many are searching for meaning, inspiration and spirituality with services that prioritizes music, song, and meditation. There are those, on the other hand, who fear a dilution of the intellectual and ritual practice level of Bet Am Shalom. Some of our members do not feel that sense of belonging that others experience. There are concerns about rising costs of membership, the need to attract younger families, and in-reach to intermarried families.”

The phase two Innovation Task Force builds on the design thinking model and all that we learned from the phase one discovery process. The Innovation Task Force is focused on a shared goal to maintain, deepen and expand through innovation. This small task force will encourage and challenge our committees and our community to be open to innovation and continue to explore member and non-member needs. They will meet regularly to review activities and innovations, and capture the lessons learned in order to inform the future vision and direction of our community.

As we all look to the future and the possibilities and opportunities it brings, I wish you all a season of hope and good health.

From Our Education Director Abby Reiken



Abby Reiken

At our closing teen program on May 17, the four seniors-- Gabby Abato, Violet Hamlin, Micaela, Oram, and Raquel Sarig-- spoke beautifully about what a BAS Jewish education has meant to them. They each were positively impacted in different ways, as our program strives to address varying needs and interests. They spoke about the power of these moments: applying Jewish ideas and values to their lives, doing social action

I have been overwhelmed with gratitude to have been part of the BAS community for these ten years. I have been enriched by getting to know you, learning with you, collaborating with you, and living Jewishly with you.

projects, making and enjoying Jewish foods, being mentored to meet students' needs, hugging and wrestling with Israel, and building connections with members of all ages.

Each graduate expressed that the BAS education program enriched their lives

while challenging them to grow, as they applied Jewish values to their lives. [Click here \(https://bit.ly/3oKcahG\)](https://bit.ly/3oKcahG) to read their speeches. Mazel Tov, seniors!

At our grades K-6 end of the year program, the students also reflected on their meaningful and joyful experiences, including: gathering on the BAS field for holiday celebrations, learning about Israeli leaders through a modern art project, teaching Roberto's parrot Tico to sing the Four Questions, baking together online, reading verses of Torah on Shabbat, having Joey Kellman read to them, presenting tzedakah organizations they studied, and sharing families' histories.

Our Tizmoret (youth band) shared incredible performances of the songs *Yerushalayim Shel Zahav* (Jerusalem of Gold) and *Yachad* (Together). We

concluded by singing our theme song for this year: *Ani v'tah*—You and I will change the world.

At the family Shavuot program Rabbi Bronstein told the story of receiving Torah at Mt Sinai in a dramatic way. He taught that the Israelites were all together at Sinai,

but every person experienced it in their own way. We all gain from hearing each other's experiences and perspectives.

Families met one another and connected while participating in a variety of activities to explore Shavuot: arts and crafts, matching game, stories, learning Hebrew numbers through movement, and relay races. Participants contributed speech bubbles and flowers to a mural of the scene at Mt. Sinai made by our art teacher, Beth Rosen. We also took selfies in front of the mural, as if we were at Mt. Sinai. The mural will be hung up in the hallway by our classrooms. Thank you to our BAS volunteers—from teens to seniors—who helped to lead the activities! We concluded with candle-lighting and Kiddush with Rabbi Bronstein, then we enjoyed cheesecake and ice cream.

During these end of our Torah La'am year celebrations, I have been overwhelmed with gratitude to have been part of the BAS community for these ten years. I have been enriched by getting to know you, learning with you, collaborating with you, and living Jewishly with you.

Shavuot and Family Picnic



COMMUNITY

Births

We announce with joy

Max Logan Subach, son of Mara and Bryan Subach, Great-grandson of Rona Robinson and the late Marvin Robinson, born on April 27, 2021

Cole Levi Travers, son of Geygy and David Travers, grandson of Diane Travers, born on May 12, 2021

Simon Wolf Bernstein, son of Isaac Bernstein and Jocelyn Fraum, grandson of Lynne and Ben Bernstein, born on May 23, 2021

Weddings

We announce with joy the marriage of

Alexandra Bicks to Adam Levine, son of Terri Simon and Eric Levine, on May 23, 2021

Alexandra Capelin, daughter of Beth and Donald Capelin, to Mark Fishman, on May 30, 2021

Let the office know about your family's weddings, new arrivals, and other important milestones. We would love to announce them!

Bikur Cholim

Visiting the sick and supporting those in need brings comfort and reinforces connections to life and to a supportive caring community by reaching out to each other.

The Bikur Cholim Chevra volunteers are available in time of need. Let us assist by:

Visiting the Sick
Shopping

Driving
Cooking

Listening
Or Just Holding Your Hand

Can we help you? Do you know someone else in our community who may need our help?

CONTACT US CONFIDENTIALLY AT harrywaizer@gmail.com.



Deaths

We mourn the passing of

Jack Grossman, husband of Penny Grossman, on March 21, 2021

Rona Markus, mother of Tony Markus, on April 5, 2021

Richard Haimowitz, husband of Raphaelle Haimowitz and father of Benjamin Haimowitz, on April 7, 2021

Marian Wilcox, mother of Rabbi Michael Goldman, on April 16, 2021

Melanie Canes, wife of Brian Canes, on April 29, 2021

Jules Goldberg, father of Rabbi David Goldberg, on May 26, 2021

Harold Knapp, father of Connie Knapp, on May 29, 2021

Estelle Farhi, mother-in-law of Vicky Farhi, on June 14, 2021

BAS Group on LinkedIn



Did you know that BAS has a closed group on LinkedIn? When you are on the LinkedIn site, type "Bet Am Shalom" into the search box and ask to join the group (Vicki Presser will approve you), or try this link: <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/2012627>.

Refu'at HaNefesh / Healing of Spirit Bet Am Shalom Stress and Mental Health Outreach

YOU ARE NOT ALONE. This is the message we want to extend to anyone experiencing anxiety, depression, loneliness, isolation, stress, or other mental health challenges.

We offer support in the following ways:

- Connection with fellow congregants who may have dealt with similar situations or conditions.
- Clergy support.
- Referrals to non-congregant providers.
- Small zoom groups to share Covid-related or other concerns.

We have also been providing programs designed to help create calm during these challenging times. Congregant and Clinical Psychologist Robin Gibbs taught us about "Managing Anxiety When the Whole World Really is Falling Apart" and Dr. David Aftergood discussed "Establishing a daily practice for physical, emotional, or spiritual health." Look for announcements on future programming.

Please visit our page on the BAS website at <https://betamshalom.org/engage/community-care/refuat-haneresh-mental-health-chevra/>.

For personal support, contact:

Rabbi Les Bronstein (email: rabbibronstein@betamshalom.org, phone 914-946-8851) or Karen Reznik Dolins, Chevra Chair (email: karen.dolins@gmail.com phone 914-391-2982). **All communications are strictly confidential.**

If you would like to join this Chevra as a peer, as part of our planning committee, or participate in a zoom group, please contact Karen Reznik Dolins.

Like Us on Facebook



Bet Am Shalom has a public Facebook page in addition to our closed group page. Please like us!

<https://www.facebook.com/Bet-Am-Shalom-Synagogue-319604318214132/?fref=ts>

Letter from Lori Cohen about her 7th/8th grade class:

On a Monday night in May, kitchens were taken over by teens ready to become bagel bakers. They had all the ingredients and supplies and were excited to take on the challenge. They washed their hands, preheated their ovens and got to work. Zoom gave us a great view of every baker in their own kitchen measuring flour, mixing ingredients, kneading dough and shaping bagels. There was a lot of laughter as kids tried to keep the flour from invading every corner of their kitchens. The possibility of actually producing real bagels was surprisingly exhilarating and the shared joy of the class was palpable. Bagels were formed and toppings were applied. Everything Bagel seasoning was the winner, but cinnamon and nutmeg, sesame seeds and salt made an appearance. Baking sheets were slid into hot ovens and the waiting began. Bakers became kitchen cleaners and we reflected on the experience we were sharing.

In a previous class, we had explored ways teens express their Jewish identities. Many students talked about food as an important element of being Jewish. As the bagels were baking, kids shared their favorite Jewish foods – rugelach, babka, brisket, hamantashen, kugel, matzah pizza. One student had never had matzah pizza, which seemed unbelievable to the others. She couldn't wait to try it. The favorite by far was grandma's matzah ball soup. We spoke about the need for this generation to learn to prepare traditional Jewish foods. One student said she wants to be the Jewish grandma that gives her grandchildren the gift of that special matzah ball soup. They were assured that the best way to realize that dream is to become transmitters of Jewish food culture right now.

The bagels were removed from the oven and proudly shared on the screen. They

were all gorgeous and looked as good as any bagel store bagel. All of a sudden, siblings and parents appeared in kitchens hoping to get a taste. Within minutes, the beautiful bagels were cool enough to devour. The shared pride in our Jewish identity created by baking bagels together was magical.

The students of Kitah Zayin/Chet spent the year having thoughtful conversation about a lot of important subjects – racism, antisemitism, Jewish involvement in the Civil Rights movement, the Holocaust and many others. Zoom has held us together through a difficult time, and baking bagels bonded us with a Jewish experience that we will always remember.

I'm grateful for the time I've spent with these wonderful students.

Warmly,
Lori Cohen



Westchester Jewish Community Services (WJCS) – Partners In Caring Program

As a service to our congregants, Bet Am Shalom contributes to the UJA-Federation of New York's Partners in Caring (PIC). Under the program, a social worker is assigned as our contact, and through her, members have the opportunity to address issues and concerns in a safe, comfortable and familiar environment. On occasion, BAS has arranged for group sessions facilitated by our PIC social worker on topics including caregiving and bereavement. The social worker also works with our Education Director to lead parenting workshops throughout the year. Other possible topics include sandwich generation, preparing for the college environment, bullying and cyber etiquette, concerns of young families, separation and divorce and programs for seniors. Individual Bet Am Shalom members can schedule up to three private sessions with the PIC worker free of charge. If further service is required, a referral will be offered.

Our assigned PIC social worker is Ellen Weisberg, who can be contacted at WJCS at 914-761-0600, ext. 146 or eweisberg@wjcs.com. All meetings are kept strictly confidential.

This program is generously funded by UJA Federation of New York.



Calendar

Jewish Holidays

July 17: Erev Tisha Ba'Av
 July 18: Tisha Ba'Av:
 Book of Lamentations Adult Study
 September 6: Erev Rosh Hashanah
 September 7 and 8:
 Rosh Hashanah

Coming Events

June 21: All Congregational Meeting
 June 22: Gardening Gabfest Session 5
 June 24: 7:30 pm: Book Club
 June 27: Adult Bible Study
 Hybrid Sessions
 July 5: Office Closed in observance
 of Independence
 July 11: Adult Bible Study
 Hybrid Session
 July 14: Gardening Gabfest Session 6
 July 28: Book Club
 August 1, 15: Adult Bible Study
 Hybrid Session
 September 6: Office Closed for
 Labor Day

Selected Jewish Shorts Part I



Rabbi Sandra Lawson

The BAS Tikun Olam/Social Action Chevra, under the guidance of Chair Joy Brownstein, invited Rabbi Sandra Lawson to speak with us, via zoom, on Sunday morning, March 21, 2021, about Jews of Color. Rabbi Bronstein introduced his friend, Rabbi Lawson who, being a queer Jewish person of color, knows firsthand what it feels like to be a member of marginalized communities. She began with a blessing of gratitude and then spoke about pain, comparing COVID to racism, in that it has been inserted into all parts of society. She then sang a blessing, the words of which can be found among the images below. Her words and insights were frequently profound. "Uncomfortableness is good, but dismissiveness is not." She has never been in a Jewish space where her Jewish identity has not been questioned! "You are either a racist or an anti-racist." "We must acknowledge that racism exists in our Jewish communities and work to dismantle racism within..." She advised that the only way to make a community racially equitable is to be in relationships and conversations with people of color. She urged us to look at our art and our website and ask if they reflect people of color as well as queer people. Her message was one of inclusiveness. Rabbi Lawson suggested that music modernization and diversification, such as adding drumming, can open doors to people of color. Congregants actively participated in asking a variety of questions and telling their own stories. Rabbi Lawson generously entertained those well past the original hour for which she had been engaged.



Jewish Views of Organ and Tissue Donation

Congregant Alan Ganek, Rabbi Ari Perl and our Rabbi Les Bronstein spoke through Live On NY about Jewish Perspectives on Organ and Tissue Donation, via Zoom, on April 27, 2021. Alan is a heart transplant recipient and spoke movingly about the importance of signing up as an organ donor to save lives, such as his was saved two years ago. Rabbi Bronstein told of the tragic death of his niece Kate, and how his brother's decision to donate her organs, and thereby save multiple lives, was helpful to their grieving family. His presentation brought tears to listeners. Rabbi Perl, who is the VP for Multicultural Engagement at Live On NY, spoke of religious and technical issues involved in organ and tissue donation decisions. All tried to encourage listeners to sign up to become organ donors after death; the Jewish community has donated in historically low numbers.



Leave A Permanent Legacy To Sustain Our BAS Community: Join The Moreshet Society -- L'dor Va Dor

Bet Am Shalom has thrived for sixty-three years, thanks to outstanding clergy and lay leadership, steady membership influx and widespread congregant engagement in a rich spiritual, intellectual, and caring communal Jewish life, all of which contribute to the ongoing vitality of our wonderful community. We also know, however, that the long-term health of even a strong community such as ours depends on a solid and sustainable financial foundation. Toward this end, our legacy giving project -- the Moreshet ("Legacy") Society -- will, by generating a critical revenue stream for our congregation, help to ensure its vitality long into the future. Please join the multi-generational array of congregants who have already used simple estate-planning techniques that can create a lasting legacy for Bet Am Shalom without affecting their assets while alive. This is easy to do! For example:

- You can make a bequest to BAS in your will (or a codicil) with simple language such as, "I give and bequeath the sum of \$__ (or __% of my residuary estate) to Bet Am Shalom Synagogue, to be used in support of its general charitable and religious purposes."
- You can name BAS as a recipient of your IRA, 401(k) or retirement plan, for a percentage of the amount remaining at your death or for a fixed amount. **You may have an opportunity before year-end to modify your beneficiary designations on retirement accounts – this is a good time to consult your advisor.**
- You can name BAS as a beneficiary of your life insurance policy, for a percentage of the insurance payment or a fixed amount.
- You can title or retitle a bank account, brokerage account or stock certificate as POD (payable on death) or TOD (transfer on death) to BAS.

- You can name BAS as a charitable successor or beneficiary of a percentage or a fixed amount of your donor-advised fund.

If you have questions regarding legacy giving, please contact Terri Simon, terrisimon103@gmail.com, 914-723-5004. If you have already completed your arrangements, please let us know, so we can thank you! If our dedicated congregants follow through with this lasting commitment, others will be inspired to join us and thus sustain a long-term future for our beloved Bet Am Shalom.

Dear Friends,

Our October series, "The Pandemic is Over, it's 2022," was zoomed for a lot of Bet Am participants. A major question for the world of 2022 was, "How can we repair some of the bitter divisions between classes and races in our nation?"

A participant suggested one year of compulsory National Public Service for High School graduates. Several of us saw promise in this idea and expressed interest in pursuing civic service with the now Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg. The major *New York Times* editorial of May 2, 2021 was, "**A Call to National Service.**" I was heartened to read this article asking young Americans for a year of their time helping to restore the sense of community and hope the country desperately needs. Some letters to the editor on May 12 mirrored our enthusiasm!

What seemed at first like "castles in the air" appears to have inspired a genuine, thoughtful response.

I want to put together a list of Bet Am Shalomers who are excited about this. Some of you wrote of your fervent wish to make National Service a reality. Please add your name (again) to a list I'm compiling for the future. I plan to write to "Mayor Pete" with a long list of those of us who support him in his efforts to bring his campaign policy to reality. Please send an email to me: ceceej@optonline.net

Thank you,
Jo Kellman

Bet Am Shalom Synagogue Moreshet Society

Each of these individuals has made arrangements to include BAS in his/her estate planning.

Susan Ackerman
Barbara Aloni
Rabbi Lester Bronstein and
Cantor Benjie Schiller
Joy Brownstein and David Chalfin
Elizabeth Clain
Beth Davidson and Jeffrey Rothman
Bonnie and Julian Emanuel
Ivy Eisenberg
Marge Feder

Richard and Raphy Haimowitz
Ruth Handel
Jon Gerstel
Laure Kaminsky
Kari Kohl
Jesse and Maris Krasnow
Betsy Landis
David Levy
Brian Oxman
Vincent Park and Ilene Semiatin

Robin Rattner
Laura and Merrill Rotter
Ann and Ben Schaffer
Jay Siegelau
Terri Simon
Susan and Dan Van Doren
Patty Wager
Harry Waizer
Barbara and Hal Weinreb
Robert and Marilyn Weintraub



Donations

Donations may be submitted online at our website at betamshalom.org/donation or by sending a check to the BAS office at 295 Soundview Avenue, White Plains, NY 10606. Please indicate the fund to which you are making your donation.

We gratefully acknowledge the following contributions since our last issue:

General Fund

By Sydell Aaron
By Andrew L. Blank and Dalit Ashany
By Rita Bush
By Cantor Mimi Frishman
By Rise and Richard Liskov
By The Sampliner Family

In honor of

Rabbi Fredda Cohen and her morning minyan leadership
By Cippi Harte and Ira Huttner
Rabbi Bronstein and Cantor Schiller
By Cippi Harte and Ira Huttner
Rabbi Bronstein
By James Meier and Judith Edelstein
Rabbi Bronstein with appreciation for the inspiring Talmud Class
By Judith Arner Brown
Alan Ganek and his craftsmanship
By Jesse and Maris Krasnow

Penny Grossman with appreciation for all she does to keep the Yiddish Group functioning
By Barbara Simon
Seth and Joan Rosen
By Alan Septimus
Harry Waizer, in celebration of his special birthday and a life well-lived
By Suzi and Wayne Eisman
The Bat Mitzvah of Evie Schiff, daughter of Amy and Scott Schiff, granddaughter of Cynthia Schneider
By Judy Zingher
Nancy Abraham who officiated so warmly and compassionately at the funeral of her uncle, Marvin Goldsmith
By Lynne Goldsmith
Barbara Aloni for outstanding leadership during this difficult time
By Rachel Gordon Bernstein and Robert Bernstein

In memory of

Jean Epstein, mother of Marilyn Weintraub
By Robert Balin and Elizabeth Clain
By Idie Benjamin
By Ellen Cutler and David Levy
By Sharon and Michael Dashow
By Marisa Jackson and Neil Faden
By Jesse and Maris Krasnow
By Susan and Daniel Silverman
By Michael and Lorraine Stromes
By Harry and Karen Waizer
Bernard Chalfin, father of David Chalfin
By Robert Balin and Elizabeth Clain
By Buzz and Sandy Birnbach
By David Bixby and Ivy Eisenberg
By Sue and Ben Blumberg
By The Capelin Family
By Laura and John Cromwell
By Ellen Cutler and David Levy
By Laura and Glenn Estersohn
By Jesse and Maris Krasnow
By Cynthia and Gregg Fisher

By James C. Rogers
By Adam Sheer
By The Roosevelt Investment Group
By Rob and Risa Weinstock
By Paula Markowitz Wittlin
Louis J. Mayo, father of Mark Mayo on the occasion of his Yahrzeit
By Mark and Sandy Mayo
Etta Grodinsky, mother of Diane Slonim
By Rachel Gordon Bernstein and Robert Bernstein
Marshall Greenberg, brother of Susan Zuckerman
By Gale Cantor
Elizabeth (Betty) Bates, mother of Bill Bates, mother-in-law of Jay Siegel
By Jesse and Maris Krasnow
Dolly Harte, mother of Cippi Harte
By James Meier and Judith Edelstein
Howard Blitman, husband of Maureen Blitman
By James Meier and Judith Edelstein
Rona Markus, mother of Tony Markus
By Buzz and Sandy Birnbach
By Sue and Ben Blumberg
By Harry and Karen Waizer
Jack Grossman, husband of Penny Grossman
By Sue & Ben Blumberg
By Geoffrey and Mary Cahn
By The Capelin Family
By Ellen Cutler and David Levy
By Bettina and Michael Klein
By Jesse and Maris Krasnow
By Carol Japha
By Harry and Shirley Miller
By Barbara Moss
By Grace and Bruce Rapkin
By Elliott and Phyllis Rosen
By Diane Safer
By Barbara Simon
By Pearl Stark
By Harry and Karen Waizer
By Risa and Steve Wolter
Marian Wilcox, mother of Rabbi Michael Goldman
By Buzz and Sandy Birnbach
By Athene Goldstein
By Peter and Rhoda Trooboff
Eleanor Scheiner, sister of Joseph Zelvin and Norman Zelvin, brother of Joseph
By Mimi Koren and Joseph Zelvin
Richard Haimowitz, husband of Raphaele Haimowitz and father of Benjamin Haimowitz
By Susan Abramowitz and Aaron Gurwitz

By Susan Ackerman
By Margie and Jim Arsham
By Bobbi and Simon Baker
By Naomi Bayer
By Sue and Ben Blumberg
By Carolyn Blackburn-Grayman and Burt Grayman
By Harriet and Tom Burnett
By Jacky Clyman
By Terry and Norman Cohen
By Suzi and Wayne Eisman
By Jeffrey and Renee Epstein
By Neil Faden and Marisa Jackson
By Sarah Frank
By Judith and Richard Gerson
By Harriet Gluckman and Frederick Mehlman
By Jerry and Linda Golden
By Bonnie Goldner
By Warren T. Gregory
By Karen and Dave Hamlin
By Cippi Harte and Ira Huttner
By Iris Hillman
By Suzanne D. Jaffe
By Valerie Kaplan
By Denise Kellen
By Maris and Jesse Krasnow
By Ilene Leff
By Andrew and Marina Lewin
By Debra Malki
By Barbara Moss
By Lani Moss
By Lisette and Bill Naylor
By Victoria and Barry Presser
By Rose M. Quintero
By Grace and Bruce Rapkin
By Barbara Salmanson
By Alice and David Schiff
By Joy V Silber
By Ellen Sills-Levy
By Kathryn Swintek
By Leslie D. Toepfer
By Susan and Daniel Van Doren
By Judy Waksberg & Philip Genty
By Vicki and Ronald Weiner
By Richard and Charlou Woodrow

Rabbi's Good Works Fund

By Ricki Gardener

In honor of

The anniversary of the Bar Mitzvah of Samuel Duke, son of Gavin Duke and Deborah Levin
By Gavin Duke and Deborah Levin

Andrea and Marty Glenn's 50th wedding anniversary
By Andrea and Marty Glenn
Rabbi Bronstein and Cantor Schiller
By Simon and Rosie Aronin
By Raphy Haimowitz
The Rabbi and Cantor's beautiful Second Seder
By Judy Zendell and Wayne Groh
Rabbi Bronstein
By Diane Slonim and David Miller
Gillian Friedlander
By Diane Slonim and David Miller
Robin and Howard Rattner with appreciation for their kindness and love
By Pearl Stark
The engagement of Rachel Silverman, daughter of Lynne Hoffman and Jerry Silverman, to Adam Bonnifield
By Peter Cohen and Ellen Hoffer Cohen
The engagement of Hannah Heyman, daughter of Fran and Daniel Heyman, to Nathaniel Mark
By Peter Cohen and Ellen Hoffer Cohen

In memory of

Jean Epstein, mother of Marilyn Weintraub
By Rachel Gordon Bernstein and Robert Bernstein
By Roger Harris & Robin Gibbs
By Martin Rudow and Nancy Ehrlich
Bernard Chalfin, father of David Chalfin
By Randi L Goldmann
By Roger Harris and Robin Gibbs
Arthur Schertz, father of Gloria Lazar on the occasion of his 26th Yahrzeit
By Gloria Lazar
Rona Markus, mother of Tony Markus
By Heidi and David Abramson
By Rachel Gordon Bernstein and Robert Bernstein
Jack Grossman, husband of Penny Grossman
By Cippi Harte and Ira Huttner
By Nancy and Richard Isaacs
By Gloria Lazar
By Lisette and Bill Naylor
By Judy Zendell and Wayne Groh
Marian Wilcox, mother of Rabbi Michael Goldman
By Cippi Harte and Ira Huttner
By Phyllis and Tom Osterman
By Sally Shore-Wittenberg and Bruce Wittenberg
By Judy Zingher

Richard Haimowitz, husband of Raphaelle Haimowitz and father of Benjamin Haimowitz

By The Abner and the Mitchell Families
By Buzz and Sandra Birnbach
By Raphy Haimowitz
By Richard Hirsh
By Nancy and Richard Isaacs
By Arlene London
By Joan and Andrew Milano
By Janet and William Schwartz
By Judy Zingher

Eli Ehrlich, father of Nancy Ehrlich
By Martin Rudow and Nancy Ehrlich

BAS Cultural Programs Fund

In honor of

Barbara Moss on the occasion of her birthday
By Eileen Prichep

In memory of

Beverly Kasten, mother of Patrice Schwartz
By Susan D. Rabin
Arthur Jerome Cohen, father of Laura Cromwell
By Donna Seltzer
Tola and Leon Messing, parents of Lisette Nayor
By William and Lisette Nayor
Etta Grodinsky, mother of Diane Slonim
By Anne Corey and Connie Knapp
Jean Epstein, mother of Marilyn Weintraub
By Anne Corey and Connie Knapp

BAS Cultural Programs Fund

In memory of

Jack Grossman, husband of Penny Grossman
By Bernie and Eda Klinger
By Andrew and Joan Milano
Richard Haimowitz, husband of Raphaelle Haimowitz and father of Benjamin Haimowitz
By James and Eve Starkman
By Myrna Weiss
Melanie Canes, wife of Brian Canes
By Raphy Haimowitz
Bernard Chalfin, father of David Chalfin
By Rachel Gordon Bernstein and Robert Bernstein

BAS Bikur Cholim Fund

In memory of

Richard Haimowitz, husband of Raphaelle Haimowitz and father of Benjamin Haimowitz
By Rachel Gordon Bernstein and Robert Bernstein

Pearl and Morris Herson Landscape Fund

In memory of

Howard Blitman, husband of Maureen Blitman
By Moira and Bill Yanuck
Julius and Lyn Yanuck, parents of Louise and Bill Yanuck
By Moira and Bill Yanuck

BAS General Education Fund

In memory of

Jack Grossman, husband of Penny Grossman
By Buzz and Sandy Birnbach
By Vicki and Norm Ettenger
By Rachel Gordon Bernstein and Robert Bernstein
By Mimi Koren and Joseph Zelvin
By Frank and Ellen Ress
By Jean Schon
By Esther Sloan
By Diane Travers
By Judy Waksberg and Philip Genty
By Paula Markowitz Wittlin
By Moira and Bill Yanuck
By Judy Zingher
Rona Markus, mother of Tony Markus
By Laura and John Cromwell
By Judy Zingher
Morris Herson, father of Moira Yanuck and Marcia Tokson
By Moira and Bill Yanuck
Richard Haimowitz, husband of Raphaelle Haimowitz and father of Benjamin Haimowitz
By Vicki and Norm Ettenger
By Moira and Bill Yanuck
Marian Wilcox, mother of Rabbi Michael Goldman
By Harry and Karen Waizer

Elizabeth (Betty) Bates, mother of Bill Bates, mother-in-law of Jay Siegelau

By Ruth Cowan
By Rachel Gordon Bernstein and Robert Bernstein

Norman Zelvin, brother of Joseph Zelvin

By Rachel Gordon Bernstein and Robert Bernstein
By Judy Zingher

Allan Abrahams Torah Restoration & Adult Education Fund

In memory of

Arthur Jerome Cohen, father of Laura Cromwell
By Rachel Gordon Bernstein and Robert Bernstein

BAS Library Fund

In memory of

Jean Epstein, mother of Marilyn Weintraub
By Patrice and Lonnie Schwartz

BAS Prayerbook Fund

In memory of

Jack Grossman, husband of Penny Grossman
By Lina Cipollone
Richard Haimowitz, husband of Raphaelle Haimowitz and father of Benjamin Haimowitz
By Sharon Ron

Refugee Resettlement Fund

In memory of

Jean Free, mother of Vicki Presser
By Linda Ingber



Rabbi Lester Bronstein
Cantor Benjie Ellen Schiller
President Barbara Aloni
Executive Director Vicky Farhi
Education Director Abby Reiken

Lev La'am **Submission Procedure**

Next Deadline is
Thursday, August 19, 2021

**We welcome articles, notices, and
other contributions.**

Please send your submissions to
Sandy Birnbach, levlaam@hudres.com.
Materials should be unformatted and in
Microsoft Word. Please include your name,
phone number, and email address.
Lev La'am is edited by Sandy Birnbach
and Anne Corey.