



MARCH/APRIL 2021

# Hadashot



The Newsletter of Congregation B'nai Shalom

ADAR-IYYAR 5781 VOLUME 78, ISSUE 2

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bshalom.org



*Welcome to Congregation B'nai Shalom, a Conservative synagogue offering a warm, supportive, dynamic community joined together by prayer, learning and celebration!*

## THE RABBI'S STUDY

*by Rabbi Daniel Stein*

While Jewish civilization is often pointed to as a culture that resists change (think Tevye's famous refrain "Tradition!"), in fact, quite the opposite is true: Judaism's endurance is, perhaps, linked to its ability to radically re-imagine itself in ways large and small while insisting that revolutionary practices are, in fact, traditional. David Roskies, a scholar of Yiddish literature, has named this process "creative betrayal."

Examples of such betrayal are to be found throughout Jewish history. The rabbi's exhaustive rereading of biblical literature and the formation of the Talmud, the pursuits of Jewish philosophers and kabbalists in the Middle Ages, and even the rise of the rise of Jewish cultural and political activities in the modern period all present themselves as organic continuations of past traditions, even as they profoundly redefined the meanings of Judaism.

It should surprise us, then, that despite the willingness of Jewish communities to embrace change, one physical object

has assumed a prominent place at the center of Jewish culture: The Torah scroll has remained largely unchanged over a millennium. In the collection of the Israel Museum, one can find a parchment fragment of the Song of the Sea dating the 8th century CE. The scroll is badly burnt, but modern technology has revealed the letters long damaged by the ravages of time. What emerges is a text strikingly similar to our modern Torah scrolls. While over the years some communities have chosen deer parchment over cow hide, and some have chosen to house scrolls in ornate, gilded wooden cases while others have draped them in richly colored fabrics, the scroll, itself, has remained remarkably unchanged. Just as many, today, cling to print books despite the relative convenience of tablets and readers, one can imagine Jews of the third century remarking to their fellow: "I know that these codices are easier to carry, and you can turn from one page to another so quickly, but I just prefer the feel a scroll."  
*(continued on page 2)*

# Directory

# THE RABBI'S STUDY

(continued from page 1)

Hadashot is published bi-monthly by Congregation B'nai Shalom, 74 Eckley Lane, Walnut Creek, CA 94596

## Clergy and Professional Staff

Rabbi.....	Daniel Stein
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Cantor Emeritus.....	Marc A. Dinkin
Executive Director.....	Alyssa Faulkenberg
Preschool Director.....	Marla Medwin
Religious School Director.....	Elaine Manno

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## Officers

President.....	Michael Bloom
Vice President.....	Earl Agron
Vice President.....	Steve Goodman
Treasurer.....	Jim Liston
Secretary.....	Sarah Vital
Immediate Past President.....	Tim Plattner

## At-Large Directors

Michael Fischer	Karla Smith
Stan Goldman	Jenn Stripe
Rachel Holloway	Rebecca Teutle
Mike Korenstein	Joel White
David Marshak	



While scrolls, written in ink on parchment ultimately became normative, the question of what constitutes a valid scroll was a source of productive dispute in the Mishna and Talmud:

אין בין ספרים לתפלין ומזוזות אלא שהספרים נכתבין בכל לשון ותפלין ומזוזות אינן נכתבות אלא אשורית.

“There is no distinction between [Torah] scrolls, *tefillin*, and *mezuzot* except that [Torah] scrolls may be written in any language, while *tefillin* and *mezuzot* must be written in Assyrian [script].” Mishna Megillah, 1:8.

This statement generates a rich debate in the Babylonian Talmud: May a Torah scroll, in fact, be written in the vernacular? May it be written in Biblical Hebrew script? Can a Torah scroll gild God’s name? What scribal errors render a scroll invalid. *What constitutes a book?*

A similar question could be asked about our Passover Haggadah: Under what circumstances did it emerge from a collection of texts into what we, today, might call a book?

The Cairo Genizah contains the earliest Haggadot—texts that were nearly 1000 years old. These texts illustrate a change from a loose collection of teachings to a coherent literary unit. The image on the right, from the Dropsie Haggadah at the University of Pennsylvania, dates to the 10th-11th Century. If you look closely, you can make out the kiddush for Passover in the text to the side.



Three additional developments solidified the status of the Haggadah: the rise of illuminated manuscripts, the development moveable type, and—perhaps most surprisingly—the rise of mass marketing in the 20th century. Perhaps no innovation served to unify people more than the distribution of free Haggadot with Maxwell House Coffee. First published in 1932, the text became the standard edition for nearly every Jewish household in the United States.

This year, we will again celebrate in a different way: whether you gather with a small group of friends, or join with family and community over Zoom, future generations will look back on this Passover as a time when Jews, again, embraced innovation in the face of adversity.

I want to be among the first to wish you all a Happy and Kosher holiday!  
*Rabbi Stein*



# President's Pen

by Michael Bloom

Friends,

I am taking this unique opportunity to share with you some of the key initiatives in which your leadership team is now engaged. Warning -- this is (and should be) much more than a list of projects and managers: I want us all to have a realistic understanding of what the leadership and congregation are doing, and what is realistic, and what's the direction in which we are headed.

In light of the COVID-19 restrictions placed on the synagogue as well as everyday life, I think the most effective way for each of you to get the answers to your questions is to join my office hours – calling it “Bloom Zoom” (catchy, huh?) -- any Monday between 11:00am and 1:00pm. If you'd like detail or to discuss your opinion or ask “Why?”... then please write to Debbie Stephens, [dstephens@bshalom.org](mailto:dstephens@bshalom.org), or call her at the office 925-934-9446 for an appointment.

## Here are the top Initiatives we have been working on so far:

- A Sharpened Focus: More Policy, less Micro Managing, shorter meetings
- Close and Open for COVID Safety
- Colleague for Rabbi Stein – Hazzan or Rabbi?
- Lifelong Learning – Pre-School, Religious School, *B'nai Mitzvah*, *Midrasha*, Adult Education
- Membership and Market extension
- Revised Staffing Plan for employees, new job descriptions
- Strategic and long-range planning
- The Budgeting Process

Some of the other issues that we are tackling are:

## Terms of Endowment

Thanks to the spirit and foresight of several of our members who have passed away, B'nai Shalom now has a solid endowment. It is being managed by several of our members who have proven expertise in this area. The terms of the Endowment only permit CBS to use the earnings from the funds, not the principal, so put very simply, the challenge is to draw out as little as we must to complement our budget while leaving the rest “in the market” so that the principal continues to grow. If this interests you, I suggest you contact Bernie Notas or your Estate Advisor.

## Leveraging available technology

It seems that there are many new and innovative devices coming on the market all the time. Some of them take a while to refine how they work and how much they cost. (We installed our first version of the WebCam in our sanctuary more than 20 years ago. Now it's much less expensive, much more reliable, and we nearly “take it for granted” like we did for High Holy Days 2020.)

Now we must put in new computers and software in the Office, at peoples' desks, and as complements to both formal and self-paced education (like learning *Trop* for your *Bat Mitzvah*). We are planning to use the Member and Board portals on the CBS website to share information, to keep private things that are nobody's business but ours, and to reduce the temptation to employ email for multi-person debates on issues. We have installed a new time-tracking system for the pre-school and now we have to get to work on “MM2000” the unwieldy and poorly-maintained Congregation Data Base; at this point, it's probably outlived its usefulness, too. Contact Mike Korenstein or Earl Agron if you'd like to pitch in with this effort.

## Sharing the Good Life

I am not hoping for another Pandemic...not by any means. But the COVID lockdown has taught us all something about the practical uses of very basic tools, such as our smart phones and tablets. If you remember back to when the WebCam was starting to become popular, our congregant Zaki Jacob traveled to Israel for a month or so to visit with family. He casually “dialed in” to our *Shabbat Shacharit* service and shared with his family; he kept connected to his community here in California. Adam Levy, son of Joann Knell, was on a trip around China for several weeks, and he went to an internet café and dialed us in, and felt connected back to our community.

These days I am in contact with the presidents of other United Synagogue communities, ranging from Arizona to British Columbia. We meet every two weeks or so – by Zoom – to share ideas and approaches to problems. And we think of making these connections no more challenging than dialing the telephone.

So we have realized that we can take the programming of which we are so proud, and make it available to one of our own *Havurot* for enjoyment at home, or making a community seder by hooking together Zoom Rooms in several individual neighborhoods in the County, or bringing a real attraction – such as the three *Hazzanut* Tenors who appeared at the San Francisco JCC a couple of years ago, or a top tier speaker

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# Religious School

by Elaine Manno

January and February were filled with fun holidays to celebrate as a school. We enjoyed a school-wide Tu B'shevat Zoom seder led by Rabbi Stein and planted parsley seeds which will hopefully be ready for our Passover seder plates. (Fingers crossed!) Our Purim party on Zoom was a great success with our teachers performing a Purim spiel and the kids sharing time doing art and participating in a fun costume contest. Prizes were delivered to the winners' homes!

Our elective program is up and running for our 3<sup>rd</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> graders. We are currently offering a comedy sketch elective, which is being led by one of our madrichim, Robert Plattner. Robert has worked for several months to help create another fun way for our students to connect with each

other. We are looking forward to offering it again after Passover.

A huge "todah rabah" to our congregants and school families who participated in our DIY (Do It Yourself) Mishloach Manot exchange or our hamataschen fundraiser! We really enjoyed trying something new this year for Purim and thinking about new ways to come together. It also turned out to be a tasty way to raise money for our school with almost \$500 raised! Funds will go into our family program budget which helps us make our all-school programs come to life!

Passover is fast approaching. What will we do next? Stay tuned!



# Preschool

by Marla Medwin

The last eleven months have been both odd and successful at the same time, as we all navigate through COVID. I am happy to report that the preschool staff has begun receiving COVID vaccinations. That alone is cause for celebration.

While the preschool was closed from March 15, 2020-June 14, 2020 we offered virtual programming. During that time, teachers made calls to families keeping students and families engaged.

Over the last 12 months, Gan B'nai Shalom has been fortunate to receive grants; some from public agencies, some from preschool associations, and some from Jewish organizations. Some of the grant money was to fund the additional costs of having our preschool start the accreditation process by the **Early Learning Leaders**, and the associated additional expenses of doing so. As an aside, a big "thank you" to all of our parents for responding to the parent survey associated with this accreditation process. We received 100% of the surveys back!

One of the grants to our Gan B'nai Shalom staff was from the **Rodan Family Foundation** (this is the second grant/gift from this Foundation) which paid all preschool teachers a stipend for their work during COVID.

As we move forward into the second half of the school year, please remember to continue to

practice safe COVID protocols for both you and your children, whether at home, school or work.

Finally, be on the lookout for Fall preschool registration. This should come out in early March.

As always if you have questions or would like to speak to me, you may reach out to me at [psdirector@bshalom.org](mailto:psdirector@bshalom.org)



## Gan B'nai Shalom

Ages 2 through Pre-kindergarten  
Monday-Friday: 9am-1pm  
Extended day options: 7:30am-6pm



- A nurturing, experienced staff
- Play-based, hands-on learning
- A rich Jewish experience
- Small classes
- Family and community programming

Find us at [bshalom.org](http://bshalom.org) in Lifelong Learning and on Facebook at **GAN B'NAI SHALOM PRESCHOOL**  
Contact us at 925-934-9446 ext 104 or [psdirector@bshalom.org](mailto:psdirector@bshalom.org)



# Congregation News

*We share in  
the celebration of  
a beautiful new life*



Mazel Tov to Elliot Lavey and  
Marcia Goodman-Lavey on the birth  
of their identical twin granddaughters

**Amelia and Evelyn**

Born December 29, 2020



Mazel tov to the Serper Family  
on the birth of their son

**Ilan Valor Serper**

Born December 1, 2020  
7lbs 6oz, 20 inches

## President's Pen (continued from page 3)

in our Adult Ed programming -- to B'nai Shalom and letting other communities access this programming, too, such as linking together all of the JCC sites in the Bay Area, or sharing resources among the 14 Conservative Synagogues, or having a direct link with a community in Israel to discuss and improve our understanding of the politics and leadership there.

All these things are possible, and they are practical, too. I believe that these kinds of programs can help B'nai Shalom to extend its "brand" across the entire Bay Area, and next? Who knows? Ask Sarah Vital, our Corporate Secretary, who is also head of the Communications Committee, and who is leading that group's internal and external advertising, marketing, and promotion activity on top of a branding policy.

And if the Israeli community-B'nai Shalom idea is of interest to you, please contact Matthew Shugart to get some insight into the kinds of ideas with which he has been working.

### When is a *Kehilla* not a *Kehilla*?

Calling a Synagogue – EVERY Synagogue -- a *Kehilla* has become very chic recently, particularly in the New York Metro Area. Frankly, it leaves me with a dry taste in the mouth. But thinking about loose confederations and about opportunities for like-minded people to get together makes me wonder whether we are serving all of our community as best we can. I am concerned about saddling our existing congregants with too much growth and change that benefit people who are not members (or are not yet members).

We need to grow our membership, fill up our schools' classrooms, have two or three B'nai Mitzvot per month, in short, to spread the heartfulness and the vision across the 40,000+ Jews in the Bay Area who are "below the RADAR," or unaffiliated. We have done this before – now we must do it again, but in the context of a vastly changed environment. Then this will be a broad-based community that is connected by principles and passion, not just by highways and technologies, and is not threatened by the migration of an industry or a nasty virus.

### Come join us!

All Board meetings are open to all congregants, including Associate Members (but closed, of course, for discussion of personnel matters). Fourth Thursday of every month from 7:00pm to 8:00pm. Call the office for specific Zoom instructions to get into the meeting.



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CAIS and WASC accreditations  
Lafayette, CA 925-284-8288 [www.ccjds.org](http://www.ccjds.org)  
CCJDS is a beneficiary of the Koret Foundation, Jim Joseph Foundation,  
and the Jewish Federation of the East Bay.

Again, I invite you to join me at my office hours -- Zoom with Bloom any Monday from 11:00am to 1:00pm. Call the office to arrange an appointment (925-934-9446), or email Debbie Stephens, [dstephens@bshalom.org](mailto:dstephens@bshalom.org), our Office Manager.

May you have a sweet and comfortable *Purim* and *Pesach*.  
*Hag Sameach*.

# Congregation News

## Support and Celebrate Jewish Literature with our Online Author Series

THURSDAY, MARCH 18, 2:00PM

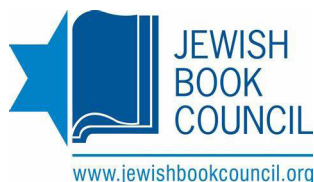
**Red Sea Spies** - The True Story of Mossad's Fake Diving Resort by Raffi Berg

TUESDAY, MARCH 23, 4:00PM

**Nobody Will Tell You This But Me** - A True (as Told to Me) Story by Bess Kalb

SUNDAY, APRIL 25, 4:00PM

**Eat Something** - A Wise and Sons Cookbook Event by Rachel Levin




Kudos to B'nai Shalom!! We are happy to report that B'nai Shalom donated over 200 good books to White Pony. White Pony provides good preschool books etc. to the underserved local community. The books were surplus ones our preschool no longer needed. Not only did we do a mitzvah, but we also fulfilled a mission or tikkun olam. Thank you to all who helped clear out the unneeded books and to those who delivered them to White Pony. Well Done !!




## B'Yachad Committee

The B'Yachad committee continues to reach out to congregants to provide support and care. Our services most recently have been to send out fruit platters for congregants observing shiva, cards to those who have been hospitalized and phone calls to individuals with various needs. We are not always aware of congregants who need help or support. If you know of anyone that B'Yachad or Rabbi Stein may be of assistance to, please let the B'nai Shalom office know.

If you would like to volunteer for B'Yachad, please contact **Marcia Goodman-Lavey** at [MGL1414@aol.com](mailto:MGL1414@aol.com) or **Elyse Eisner** at [Elyse.eisner@gmail.com](mailto:Elyse.eisner@gmail.com)



MAZEL TOV  
TO  
ELLIOT AND TAMMY KALLEN  
ON THE ENGAGEMENT OF THEIR  
DAUGHTER, ALEXA



ALEXA & WAYNE  
PLAN TO MARRY AUGUST 2021

# Congregation News

by Mike Korenstein

2021-2022

## CBS Board

On Sunday 1/31/2021 the full CBS Board got together for a retreat via ZOOM. Getting together for the first meeting, Board members got to meet each other and learn how the CBS Board operates. Topics like safety, security, reading financial reports, communicating with membership and each other, what to do when planning events, updating the CBS calendar, DOs and DON'Ts, working with CBS Staff, having fun, and encouraging volunteering were discussed. Each member gave a short bio about themselves. Interesting how diverse a group we have, along with 3 Michaels, 4 members from New Jersey (?) and so many different industries are represented. You're going to have to join the Board to find out who's the swimmer, weight lifter, extreme traveller, and mineral collector.

Above is a picture from the ZOOM retreat showing us taking a short break.



*Top row left to right:*

- Joel White**..... Director
- Earl Agron** ..... Vice President
- Mike Korenstein**..... Director Building & Grounds
- David Marshak**..... Director Adult Ed

*Second row left to right:*

- Alyssa Faulkenberg** . Executive Director
- Michael Bloom** ..... President
- Michael Fischer**..... Director
- Jim Liston** ..... Treasurer

*Third row left to right:*

- Rachel Holloway**..... Director Education
- Steve Goodman** ..... Vice President
- Becca Teutle** ..... Director Education
- Sarah Vital** ..... Secretary Communications

*Bottom row left to right:*

- Tim Plattner** ..... Past President, Religious Committee
- Jenn Stripe** ..... Director
- Rabbi Stein**..... Rabbi
- Stan Goldman** ..... Director Education

by Michael Fischer

## Civil Rights Study Group

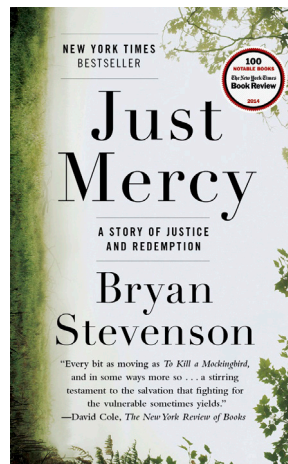
As we continue our look into issues surrounding the racial aspects of mass incarceration systems, we will be reading and discussing the books "Just Mercy" and "Becoming Mrs. Burton."

**March 31, 2021; 7-8:30** by Zoom (link to come) and led by Rabbi Gordon Freeman, **Just Mercy** is a memoir by Bryan Stevenson, the founder of the Equal Justice Initiative (EJI), an organization dedicated to challenging racial injustice in the criminal justice system. It tells the story of an early EJI case involving defense of a Black man wrongly sentenced to die for a murder he did not commit.

"A searing, moving and infuriating memoir...Bryan Stevenson may, indeed, be America's Mandela. For decades he has fought judges, prosecutors and police on behalf of those who are impoverished, black or both...Injustice is easy not to notice when it affects people different from ourselves; that helps explain the obliviousness of our own generation to inequity today. We need to wake up. And that is why we need a Mandela in this country."

—**Nicholas Kristof, *The New York Times***

**Coming in April, 2021; *Becoming Mrs. Burton from prison to recovery to leading the fight for incarcerated women***, a memoir by Susan Burton. Our discussion will be facilitated by Rev. Larry Foy, former policy director for Susan Burton's advocacy organization. We hope to have Ms. Burton with us as well.



In this memoir, Ms. Burton tells her story of moving through the criminal justice system and transforming her life into one of advocacy.

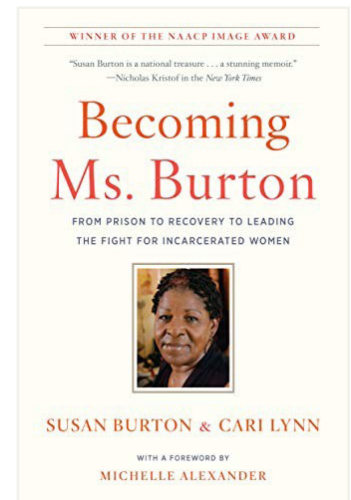
"Susan Burton is someone who inspires while she educates. Her powerful and compelling memoir is an unforgettable journey and also an

extraordinary light for all who are looking for answers on how we must recover, restore, and redeem those who have been incarcerated. This is a must-read." —**Bryan Stevenson, executive director of the Equal Justice Initiative and author of *Just Mercy***

**Coming this spring (date TBA):** A workshop with Jews on Ohlone Land (JOOL). JOOL was founded in the East Bay in recognition of the common cause between Jews and Native Californians, two peoples each with strong ties to historic homelands that each were exiled from, each having experienced centuries of persecution.

Our workshop will include speakers from JOOL and the Ohlone tribe and will explore the history of the Ohlone, and current efforts to restore Ohlone language and culture and to rematriate sacred sites.

**If you were unable to attend our January program on Race and the Criminal Justice System, a link to a recording of the event is now posted in the Adult Education section of the CBS web site.**



# Congregation News

by the Building & Grounds team

## BUILDING & GROUNDS UPDATES

### Planting time at CBS

“Can I donate a plant, bulb, bush or tree for you to plant now?” Members often ask me this during the summer or fall. The answer is the same, not NOW, later. So later is NOW!!! With the late rains NOW is the time to plant. The ground is soft, the ground is warming up, and the warm sunny time of day is getting longer each day...March, April, and sometimes into May are ideal. “Can I donate a plant, bulb, bush or tree for you to plant now?” Yes, NOW is the time to plant!

If you would like to help beautify the grounds by donating a plant, bulb, bush, or tree please contact [office@BShalom.org](mailto:office@BShalom.org) or [MikeKorenstein@Gmail.com](mailto:MikeKorenstein@Gmail.com),

### CBS needs some gardening tools

A few extra tools would help us maintain the CBS grounds. Tools need to be in good working condition. If you have any of the items listed below or other garden tools please contact [office@BShalom.org](mailto:office@BShalom.org) or [MikeKorenstein@Gmail.com](mailto:MikeKorenstein@Gmail.com). Mike's phone number is 925-285-0587. Do not just drop off items please!

**ITEMS NEEDED:** Long handle shovels, long handle rakes, long handle outdoor push broom, long handle garden spade, long handle weed puller, and gas or electric power mower. Thanks in advance for your help.





## A CELEBRATION OF ETHIOPIAN JEWISH HERITAGE IN ISRAEL

March 14, 1:00 PM Social Activist Ashager Araro will take us on an exciting, virtual tour of Bataae, the new Ethiopian Jewish cultural center in Tel Aviv. We'll learn about the community's history, food, art and dance.

March 14 – 19 Free streaming of the award-winning documentary *The Passengers*

March 18, 2:00 PM Author Raffi Berg will reveal the Mossad's secret rescue operation that brought Ethiopian Jews to Israel through the Sudan and the Red Sea

March 19 –22 Free streaming of the phenomenal film *Live and Become*

Admission is free to all events. For more info & to register for the online links:

**[underonetent.org](http://underonetent.org)**

**Sponsors: Cong. B'nai Tikvah, Contra Costa JCC, Cong. B'nai Shalom & EBIJFF**

# Congregation News

Israel & The UAE: Building a Future Together  
Sunday, March 7, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.



**Michal Cotler-  
Wunsh**



**Arsen Ostrovsky**



**Thani Al Shirawi**

- **MICHAL COTLER-WUNSH:** MEMBER OF THE KNESSET FOR THE BLUE AND WHITE PARTY. MEMBER OF THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS, CHILDREN'S RIGHTS, WOMEN'S RIGHTS, AND IMMIGRATION COMMITTEES.
- **ARSEN OSTROVSKY:** INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS LAWYER. FOUNDING MEMBER OF THE ISRAEL - EMIRATE FORUM AND A BOARD MEMBER OF 'SHARAKA', AN ORGANIZATION FOUNDED BY SOCIAL ACTIVISTS FROM ISRAEL AND UAE.
- **THANI AL SHIRAWI:** VICE-CHAIRMAN AND DEPUTY MANAGING DIRECTOR OF THE AL SHIRAWI GROUP OF COMPANIES FROM THE UAE, AND CO-FOUNDER OF THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES-ISRAEL BUSINESS COUNCIL.

Admission is free at [UnderOneTent.org](http://UnderOneTent.org) Sponsors: Congregation B'nai Tikvah, CCJCC and Progressive Zionist Union

# IT'S A FAMILY ISSUE HEREDITARY CANCER

## FREE VIRTUAL SPEAKER PANEL

### WEDNESDAY | MARCH 10 | 7PM

Learn the latest in genetic testing, cancer prevention, and how inherited genes can impact men and women in your family.



PAMELA MUNSTER, M.D.  
Co-Director of the UCSF  
Center for BRCA Research



JOSH BARNHART, B.S., M.S.  
Genetic Counselor  
John Muir Health



RALEIGH ZWERIN  
Previvor and Sharsheret  
Peer Supporter

Moderated by Aimee Sax, MSW, California Program Coordinator of Sharsheret, The Jewish Breast & Ovarian Cancer Community.  
For more information or free support, visit [Sharsheret.org](https://www.sharsheret.org).

Admission to this online event is free and open to all.

Register: <https://bit.ly/2JcyBvo>

Questions? Email [asax@sharsheret.org](mailto:asax@sharsheret.org)

Sponsored by: Anshei Isaiah, Beth Chaim Congregation, B'nai Israel of Rossmoor, Chabad of Contra Costa, Congregation Beth Emek, Congregation B'nai Shalom, Congregation B'nai Tikvah, Contra Costa JCC, Contra Costa Jewish Day School, Diablo Valley Hadassah, Interfaith Council of Contra Costa County, NCJW, Sharsheret, Temple Isaiah, and Women of Isaiah

# Congregation News



We are a private, independent, Junior Kindergarten – 8<sup>th</sup> grade school in Walnut Creek. We offer a challenging, engaging program in a diverse and welcoming community.

**Why do parents choose Sonder Creek?** Parents and families come to us for a variety of reasons. Parents often tell me that they liked their previous school, but they just did not see their children being challenged, or that their local school did not offer computers, art, or language options. Some of our parents are looking for their older students to prepare for high school in a smaller environment that does not have some of the same pressures as larger middle schools. All of our current families say that they love their teachers!

Whatever your reason, we encourage you to learn more about our...

- Smaller class sizes - max of 20 per homeroom
- Skills-based groups (~10 students for reading and math)
- Extra-curricular offerings, including Spanish, Mandarin, Computers and STEAM
- Engaging, hands-on approach

We are a secular school, but we will be offering in-person classes at both Faith Christian Fellowship (860 Bancroft) and the Walnut Creek Presbyterian Church (downtown) for the 2021/2022 school year as we move forward with finding the right permanent location in Walnut Creek.

Interested in learning more? I invite you to attend one of our upcoming virtual information sessions. Please email [office@sondercreekacademy.org](mailto:office@sondercreekacademy.org) for details.

#### **Junior Kindergarten & Kindergarten**

- Thursday, March 4 @ 6:00pm
- Wednesday, March 31 @ 6:00pm

#### **Lower school: 1st – 4th Grade**

- Wednesday, March 3 @ 6:00pm
- Tuesday, March 30 @ 6:00pm

#### **Upper School: 5th – 8th Grade**

- Tuesday, March 2 @ 6:00pm
- Thursday, April 1 @ 6:00pm

I look forward to seeing you soon,

Ryan Perez  
President, Sonder Creek Academy  
[SonderCreekAcademy.org](http://SonderCreekAcademy.org)

P.S. – ask us about our summer camp, open to Sonder and non-Sonder students©

## Annual Passover Food Request



CBS Tikkun Olam Committee is assisting Jewish Family and Community Services – East Bay by providing bags of essential Passover food for 40 homebound seniors.

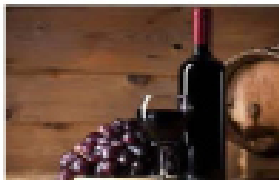
**COST OF EACH BAG IS APPROXIMATELY \$36**

**Donations of any amount gratefully accepted!**

Take this opportunity to perform a Mitzvah

If you have any questions, please contact Margie Goldware at [margiegoldware@gmail.com](mailto:margiegoldware@gmail.com)

Please earmark your donation to Tikkun Olam Passover Bag and mail to the synagogue office by March 21<sup>st</sup>. Thank you advance for your generosity!



# Tikun Olam

by Margie Goldware and Margalit Ir

## Making a Difference in our Communities

The Tikun Olam committee thanks everyone for continued support of our community in this time of need. We are asking you to help many individuals in our community who are going to sleep hungry, living in their cars and have lost their jobs. Right now, we are focusing on the following organizations who help keep our community fed and cared for.

**JFCS – East Bay** - Every year we provide Passover food for homebound East Bay seniors to be distributed by Jewish Family and Community Services. This year, the need is greater than ever, so we are committing to provide enough to fill 40 bags. Each bag costs approximately \$36. Please send your donation to the CBS office or ask that your donation to this cause be added to your monthly bill. We are already collecting the items requested by JFCS and will be delivering them March 22. Thank you in advance for your generosity.



Throughout this year, **B'Yachad** continues to reach out to our congregants who are experiencing poor health or sorrow. We are grateful to all of you for your generous support in time, money and encouragement as we continue to help our community, our friends in need and those who have been harmed by natural disasters.



The Tikun Olam committee is acutely aware that requests for donations are coming to you multiple times per day. The situation is critical for thousands of people in our community. The mitzvah of providing help and lightening the load for someone is one of the greatest deeds we can do. We are grateful for your very generous donations in the past and now again as we head into the Spring holidays. Contact our office with your donations or go directly to our website, [Bshalomg.org](http://Bshalomg.org) and click the DONATE button. This will easily allow you to select the organization you want your funds to go to.

**The Food Bank** is a year-round program, please consider this organization in your donation plans for this year.



**Monument Crisis Center** is a central point for many of our community members to obtain food and services. They are in dire need of jars of peanut butter and boxes of cereals, toiletries and, of course, funds. Please contact Sue Lefelstein to make your donation.



Contact Margie Goldware or Margalit Ir to learn how you can help build our Tikun Olam Mission. Our caring congregants assist our neighbors in need in many ways. Your contributions are so appreciated.

Anne Cahn manages the volunteers at **Loaves and Fishes** and **Shelter, Inc.**

While the volunteers are not able to participate in the preparing and serving meals during the pandemic, the clients still need to eat. Your generous donation to either of these two organizations would be welcome. As we all know, support is critical for these clients.



# Women of B'nai Shalom

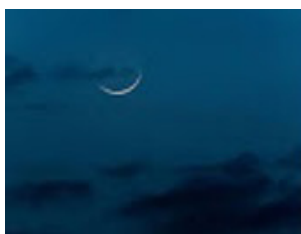
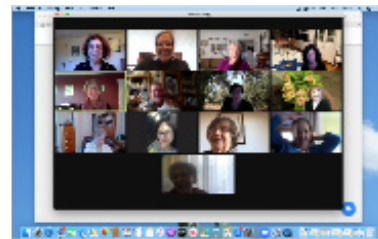
by Anne Nicolson

WBS activities are open to all. We strive to serve a wide range of interest. Please join us. Watch the Shavua Tov emails for the Zoom links.

## Libations with the Ladies

**March 8, 3:00pm, April 12, 3:00pm**

We may be looking forward to returning to Dames who Dine, as we become immunized, but in the meantime we are enriching our friendships on-line. Libations with the Ladies is an informal time to chat. The only agenda? Become better friends. Join us!



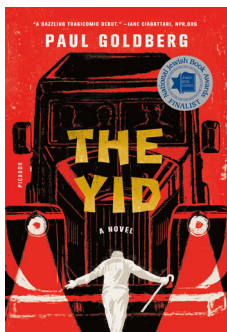
## Rosh Chodesh

A Traditional Holiday for Women. We meet monthly with different guest speakers and topics of interest:

**March 15, 7:00pm** - "Esther's Priorities in Her Time" Women's priorities in 2021

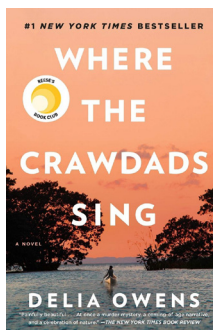
**April 12, 7:00pm** - Counting the Omer + Pesach trivia quiz + let's talk about Pesach now!

## WBS Book Group



**March 16, 11:00am**

*The Yid*, by Paul Goldman, a dark-comedic take on the Doctors' Plot and the death of Stalin. We are honored to have Rabbi Stein as our discussion leader. (And you may want to check out the very dark 2017 comedic film, *The Death of Stalin* as additional background.)



**April 20, 11:00am**

*Where the Crawdads Sing*, by Delia Owens, discussion led by Sue Agron. The loneliness and isolation of the protagonist, Kya Clark make it an appropriate selection for pandemic reading. According to the NY Times, the novel is popular because "Crawdads" had several things going for it. The plot seemed tailored to appeal to a wide audience, with its combination of murder mystery, lush nature writing, romance and a coming-of-age survival story.

## Kol Ha Kavod to Karla Smith, the WBS Torah Fund Chair

The Women's League Torah Fund supports all the Conservative Seminaries. Our seminary students certainly need more support in these pandemic times when part-time employment may be limited. For the 2020-2021 campaign, the WBS goal was \$5500. With Karla as our leader, we have already doubled that amount. We are the largest contributor in our region. Thanks to Karla for her hard work and to all our contributors for their very generous contributions. We are working to insure the continuity of Conservative/Masorti Judaism.

## Support our Judaica Shop!

We remain open by appointment. The Judaica shop is a primary funding source for WBS. Please check out our Pesach goods to enrich your seder. Call Eva Vogel or Julie Solomon to place your order!!



## It has never been easier to come to Spring Conference

Meet women from throughout our great NxNW region with an all Zoom region conference. It will be on Zoom April 11 and 12. Hosted by Edmonton Beth Shalom sisterhood. All are welcome. Wonderful programs are planned. And the lasting friendships you can forge with women in other towns, states, and countries is priceless.



# Men's Club

by Jon Medwin

As I write this article, we are just about at the 11<sup>th</sup> month mark of Shelter in Place. I am writing this on a Tuesday afternoon from home, while taking a lunch break from work, something I would not have done in the Pre-COVID era. We have all experienced changes and disruptions to our lives, and most of us have adjusted reasonably well, or as well as can be expected.

While the Synagogue has suspended services, although offered some Friday night and High Holiday services in person in recent months, the CBS Men's Club has tried to bring a sense of normalcy to our members and to our Synagogue community by pivoting and providing programming to engage our community and to include some sense of normalcy.

This past weekend, we conducted and celebrated World Wide Wrap. Instead of doing this in person and with just our member and members and guests, we did this regionally with our brothers and sisters in Arizona, California, Nevada, New Mexico, and Oregon. That was followed by a virtual Man of the Year. Keith Feiring from our club was named the CBS Man of the Year and other clubs shared the accomplishments and bios of their Man of the Year. It was nice to get together in this manner, and celebrate the successes of the various clubs.

Going forward, I am working on getting approval for an in-person Yom Ha Shoah Candle Packing event on Sunday, February 28<sup>th</sup> with specific protocols, include social distancing, and having the event outside without food to minimize risks. I think the takeaway here is doing something on campus and returning to a sense of normalcy in a safe and approved manner.

Last year, just after Shelter-in-Place, we were planning for our annual CBS Men's Club Community Seder in the Social Hall, we had to cancel the in-person event. We were able to pivot quickly and offer a free virtual Seder. As much as I would like to see us return to the Social Hall in 2021 for an in-person Seder we are looking to host a Second Seder on Sunday, March 28<sup>th</sup>. Exact starting time and details to be forthcoming. Based on the success of the CBS Men's Club First Virtual Second Seder, I am sure that the CBS Men's Club Second Annual Second Seder will be even bigger and better. Please mark your calendars for that day and date. More information, including Zoom links to follow. Oakland Kosher is offering a choice of Seder meals including brisket, chicken, salmon, and vegetarian. Pricing is listed on this page. You will have a choice of home delivery for an additional \$45, or FREE pickup at CBS on Friday, March 26<sup>th</sup> due to Shabbat followed by Yom Tov. The Second Annual Virtual CBS Men's Club Community Seder will begin at 6:30 PM.

In mid-late April, we will tentatively host a virtual Dinner and Discussion with Dr. Ron Wasserman a member of CBS and the CBS Men's Club, a member of the CBS Opening Committee (relative to COVID) and a renown infectious disease specialist. He will be

addressing the Men's Club on among other things, where we are as a community, where we are as a State, and where we are as a country, relative to COVID. He will speak on what to expect in the next 12 months, as well as an opportunity for Questions and Answers. Again, more specifics will be provided in April.

The Biennial Federation of Jewish Men's Club Convention that was scheduled for Chicago June 30-July 5, 2021 has been canceled. Instead, there will be numerous virtual offerings from June 6<sup>th</sup>-June 13<sup>th</sup>. Having a virtual convention may allow many of our members to participate in the Biennial Convention without having to travel, and from the comfort of your own homes. More to come on these specifics as we get closer to June.

Finally, as we approach the Yom HaShoah Candle program, because of increased costs in both postage and extra supplies (especially PPE), we are looking for sponsors to help offset our additional costs to this program. Specifically, we are looking for sponsors in the range of \$180-\$500, above and beyond normal donations in multiples of *Chai*. If you are interested in being a sponsor, please contact me at [cbsmensclub@aol.com](mailto:cbsmensclub@aol.com).

  
**OKF**  
**PASSOVER 2021 MENU**  
**B'nai Shalom Congregants**

**Sedar Plate**

(mashed egg, lamb bone, horse radish, parsley, matzo, hard boiled eggs, parsley, horseradish enough for each person)

**Gefilte Fish w/red horseradish**  
**Chicken Soup w/matzo balls**  
**Roasted Chicken**  
**Roasted Vegetables**  
**Candied Yams**  
**Israeli Cake**

**\$64.99 p/person + tax**

(price based on 25 guests or more the price is \$9.99 p/p)  
(substitute brisket + roasted potatoes & carrots the price is \$74.99 p/p, based on 25 guests / or \$69.99 p/p + tax)  
(price for the salmon substitute is \$59.99 p/p + tax)  
(vegetarian - pasta & roasted vegetables, vegetable soup is \$49.99 p/p + tax)

**WINE SALE!**

> **Bartenura Moscato**    **Reg. Price \$15.99 btl. Now \$10.99**  
> **Yarden Gilgal Merlot**    **Reg. Price \$16.99 btl. Now \$ 9.99**  
> **Barkan Classic**    **Reg. Price \$13.99 btl. Now \$ 9.99**  
(Barkan Classic: Cabernet, Pinot Noir, Malbec, Chardonnay, Sauvignon Blanc)  
(No additional discounts available on any of these wines)

**Oakland Kosher Foods will deliver to your home on Friday, March 26, 2021 for a delivery charge of \$45.00 p/delivery or you may pick up at the synagogue for free between 3-4 PM**

**3419 Lakeshore Avenue, Oakland, CA 94610 \* P/(510) 839-0177 \* F/(510) 839-0170**

by Devra C. Aarons

Our BIG News! CCM has been chosen as one of 13 organizations for the SF Jewish Federation Teen Initiative's NEW Tzedek Cohort. This cohort also provides funding for CCM to create a new covid engagement program for teens called Project Ezech (citizen in Hebrew). Project Ezech aims to educate and empower our teens to be agents of change through both civic engagement and to be partners helping to create cultures of diversity and belonging at CCM in particular. Teens participating in Project Ezech will fulfill a journey of growth involving three key strategies - education, advocacy and service - empowering teens to become change-makers. This will include monthly learning seminars, a sustained and local service project, advocacy work with local and State lawmakers and a Spring Break impact learning trip focused on an issue of their choosing. Application and Information can be found at [ccmidrasha.com/ezech](https://ccmidrasha.com/ezech). The application deadline is March 12th, with the first program happening April 18th.

Our Wednesday nights this Winter and Spring are very full with an amazing array of opportunities for our community's teens. They include:

- Wednesday nights - while still happening virtually on Zoom - will continue to delight our teens with special opportunities like guest speakers, henna-making art courses, Jewish Dungeons and Dragons, and engaging sessions with our passionate educators.
- We'll start another round Celebrity Chef Courses in March.
- While it's not on a Wednesday night, our Spring retreat is set to happen April 23-25. We are not yet sure if it will be in person or virtual - so stay tuned!
- Mark your calendars for our graduation - set to happen on May 26th.



**CCM's Hamsa Fund**, has started their fundraising efforts for this year. Our teens are working hard to help construct a world where "all families and their members are safe and healthy." Investigate their efforts at [ccmidrasha.com/hamsa-fund](https://ccmidrasha.com/hamsa-fund).

Our **Better Together** program has now been building relationships between elders and teens for over nine months. They've truly built meaningful connections together! Now we're moving into a third unit of this effort, where our teens are creating reflective art pieces in honor of these friendships. Find out more at: [ccmidrasha.com/byachad](https://ccmidrasha.com/byachad).

In short, even in these challenging times, we continue the work to engage our teens in Jewish identity, community, culture, Israel and more! Check out all we have to offer at: [ccmidrasha.com](https://ccmidrasha.com).

# Tzedakah

The Congregation gratefully acknowledges the following contributions:

## Legacy Gifts

We are deeply grateful to the following congregants who have shown their love for our community and their desire to ensure that it continues to thrive and grow in the future through a legacy gift. We will always remember these special members with love and appreciation.

- Sam Borcover z"l
- Bob Golden z"l
- Jack Kamzan z"l
- Reva and Martin Rothenberg z"l
- Leah Yaffee z"l

Including Congregation B'nai Shalom in your estate planning is a meaningful way to plant a seed and create a lasting legacy that will benefit our synagogue family for years to come. It can also be an effective way to realize tax savings for your estate, while at the same time helping our community and fulfilling the Jewish obligation to give tzedakah.

For information about leaving a lasting legacy to Congregation B'nai Shalom, please contact **Craig Judson at 925-323-5041 or [cljnw@aol.com](mailto:cljnw@aol.com)**.

## B'nai Shalom Patrons

We are grateful for the generosity and commitment of our Patron Members. Through their financial support we are able to maintain and expand our excellent programming. A heartfelt Todah Rabah, thank you, to all of our Patron Members, listed below:

### Life Members

Lynda & Allan Chasnoff  
Lea Cohen  
Nancy & Jerold Kaplan  
Eve & Bernie Notas  
Jill Robinson & Jim Kronrod

### Patron Members

Anne & Joel (z"l) Cahn	Elise & Norman Lustig
Rita Goldman	Anne Nicolson
Alice & Stephen Goodman	David Marshak
Jill & Craig Judson	Gina & Morris (z"l) Rosnow
Tammy & Elliot Kallen	Debbie & Leonard Roudman
Channah & Lawrence Katz	Andra Strauss
Anita & Mike Korenstein	
Anne (z"l) & Sy Lapporte	

**For more information on becoming a Patron Member, please contact the Office.**

## Donors

### Breitbart Scholarship Fund

The Jacobi Family .....In memory of Irving Wohl, beloved father and grandfather.

### Building & Ground's Projects

Muriel Dash .....In memory of Benjamin & Jennie Dash.

### Facilities Expansion Fund

Michael Fischer.....In memory of my grandfather, Harry Maslow (z"l).

### Freeman Youth Activities Scholarship Fund

Ester Alkanli .....In honor of my mom, Yamrhisid Estrella Sherez.

### Gan B'nai Shalom Preschool Fund

Howard & Susan Charlop.....In remembrance of Shaina Hertz.  
The Jacobi Family .....Donation.  
Denise Ezial.....In memory of my brother Joe Lichaa.

### General Fund

Gitty Altman .....Donation.  
Joe & Lois Piade.....Many thanks to Tim Plattner for a job well done.  
Evan & Patty Spinrod.....In honor of Howard & Susan Geifman.  
Gregory Charlop.....Donation.  
Larry & Channah Katz.....In memory of Larry's father, Leon Katz.  
Larry & Channah Katz.....In memory of Channah's mother, Fernanda Uomini.  
Dennis Danziger & Ronnie Theirman...In memory of my grandmother, Else Danziger.  
Dennis Danziger & Ronnie Theirman...In memory of my grandfather, Paul Rehfeld.  
Susan Jaffe .....Adult Education donation in honor of Teri Cooper.  
Larry & Channah Katz.....In memory of Larry's grandmother, Zlata Katz.  
Susan Grossman .....Adult Education donation.  
Soliman & Lisa Elgazzar.....In memory of Soliman's father.  
Edward & Hollace Ungerleider..In honor of Susan & Howard Geifman.  
Zippy Weinbaum.....Adult Education donation.  
Naim Yashar .....In memory of my mother, Monazam Yashar.  
Bernice Rudley .....Donation.

Margalit Ir & Sid Landman .....In appreciation of the Donor Concert. on Feb. 7, 2021.  
 Karla & Neil Smith .....Adult Education donation in honor of Teri Cooper.

**Hazzan Marc Dinkin Scholarship Fund**

JoAnn McGinnis .....In memory of my mother, Bess Wiseman.

**Ir-Landman Medical Support**

Jim & Julie Solomon .....In memory of our beloved mothers, Eva Solomon & Maria Folton.  
 Ester Alkanli .....In honor of my mom, Yaaris'd Estrella Sherez.  
 Stan Goldman & Carol Stone....In memory of Leonard Krauss, father of Gloria and Sharon.

**Licht Memorial Open Air Worship Center**

Beverly Licht .....In loving memory of Abraham Parker.

**Rabbi's Discretionary Fund**

Paula & Albert Schiff .....Thank You CBS for supporting Under One Tent with Zoom Connection.  
 Larry & Channah Katz.....In honor of Channah's birthday.  
 Keith Feiring.....Donation.  
 Karla & Neil Smith .....In appreciation of Tim Plattner's leadership during this very challenging time.  
 Norm & Elise Lustig .....Donation.  
 Besi & Manny Lateiner .....In memory of our mother, Beatrice Smilovitz.  
 Ester Alkanli .....In honor of my mom, Yamrhisid Estrella Sherez.  
 Carol Stone & Stan Goldman....Donation.  
 Karen Stern.....In honor of Rabbi Stein for the fabulous Sunday Zoom Adult Education.  
 Cindy Fassler.....In memory of Arnold Fassler.  
 Lawrence & Rhona Wanetick....In loving memory of our dear father. May his memory be a blessing.  
 Seymour Lapporte .....In loving memory of Anne Frankel Lapporte.  
 Donald Light .....In memory of Manny and Leslie Silverberg.  
 Lawrence & Rhona Wanetick....In memory of our dear sister, Flo Wanetick Lurie.  
 Rodney & Helen Sweet.....Donation.

Steve & Patty Bort.....In honor of Tim Plattner's exemplary service and leadership of the Congregation.  
 Bruce Locke .....In memory of my father, Sidney Locke.  
 Bob & Cindie Levine.....Donation.  
 Denise Ezial.....In memory of my aunts, Rachel Cohen & Sarah Simmons.  
 Stuart Klitsner.....In loving memory of my father.

**Tikun Olam Fund**

Besi & Manny Lateiner .....In memory of our father, Sigmunt Lateiner.  
 Margalit Ir & Sid Landman .....B'Yachad Donation.  
 Elyse Eisner .....In memory of my parents, Estelle and Leonard Eisner.  
 David & Judith Miller .....In recognition of shopping assistance during Judy's recovery. Thank you, Suzy Lutz.  
 Sharon Krauss & Gloria Greengard...In memory of Leonard Krauss.  
 Jim & Julie Solomon .....In memory of my Jim's father, Sam Solomon.  
 Margalit Ir & Sid Landman .....Passover Drive Donation.

**Torah Endowment Fund**

Michelle & Charles Rubovits ....Mazel Tov to Howard & Susan Geifman on their tremendous honor.  
 Naim Yashar .....In memory of my brother, Nasser Yashar.



**SINAI**  
**MEMORIAL CHAPEL**  
 CHEVRA KADISHA  
[HTTPS://WWW.SINAICHAPEL.ORG](https://www.sinaichapel.org)

**EAST BAY OFFICE**  
 3415 MT. DIABLO BLVD.,  
 LAFAYETTE 94549 (FD #1523)

**GAN SHALOM CEMETERY**  
 1110 BEAR CREEK ROAD  
 BRIONES, 94553

**SHARON BRUSMAN**  
 MANAGING FUNERAL DIRECTOR  
 (925)962-3636  
 (FDR #4186)

Congregation  
**B'nai Shalom**



74 Eckley Lane  
Walnut Creek, CA 94596

## SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

### Virtual Morning Minyan

Please join us for minyan on Monday and Thursday mornings, held at 7:30 am unless there is a holiday or special service indicated below. Please see our on-line calendar at [bshalom.org](http://bshalom.org) for dates/times for all religious services.

### Virtual Candle Lighting and Kabbalat Shabbat Service

Fridays at 7:00 pm unless otherwise noted below.

### Virtual Abridged Shabbat Morning Services

Saturdays at 10:00 am.

### Preschool Shabbat

Fridays 9:30 am in sanctuary when Preschool in session.

## SPECIAL SERVICES FOR MARCH & APRIL

Friday, March 12	Family Shabbat & K-3rd Grade Class Service.....	6:30pm
Sunday, March 28	Pesach Zoom Services.....	10:00am
Monday, March 29	Pesach II Zoom Services .....	10:00am
Monday, March 29	Communal Second Seder on Zoom .....	6:30pm
Saturday, April 3	Pesach VII Shabbat and Passover Services .....	10:00am
Sunday, April 4	Pesach VIII/Yizkor Passover Services .....	10:00am
Thursday, April 8	Yom HaShoah On-line Commemoration .....	8:00pm-12:00am
Friday, April 9	Family Shabbat with Isaac Zones.....	6:30pm
Saturday, April 24	Abridged Morning Shabbat Service and 4th - 7th Grade Service.....	10:00am

*For information on all streaming events, please email the office at [dstephens@bshalom.org](mailto:dstephens@bshalom.org)*