

From: B'nai Israel Congregation [info@bnaisraelcong.org]
Sent: Tuesday, April 08, 2014 11:34 AM
To: marni@bnaisraelcong.org
Subject: April 2014 e-Midmonth

B'NAI ISRAEL



A P R I L 2 0 1 4 E - M I D M O N T H

Disability Awareness Shabbat

Saturday, April 12

9:00 a.m.

with Guest Speaker Liz Weintraub, B'nai Israel Member and Co-chair of the Inclusion Committee



Celebrate our congregation's commitment to inclusion at all levels.

Shabbat Magic Highlights

10:00 a.m. Gold *Kippah* (Prayer Enrichment) *Chug* (when school is in session)

10:30 a.m. Mini-*Minyan* (Grades K-2)

10:30 a.m. Junior Congregation (Grades 3-6)

11:00 a.m. Torah for Tots (Children Pre-K and Younger)

[Click here](#) for a detailed schedule.

April 12 - *Parashat HaShavua* Discussion at 9:00 a.m.

April 19 - Combined Mini-*Minyan* and Junior Congregation

April 26 - April Birthday Shabbat

May 3 - May Birthday Shabbat

May 10 - *Parashat HaShavua* Discussion at 9:00 a.m.

Sisterhood Judaica Shop

For all Your Judaica Needs

301-770-7577

We will be open on Sunday, April 13 at 9:00 a.m. for all your last minute Pesach shopping.



Pesach Services

Please note changes to the regular evening service schedule in observance of the holiday.

Tuesday, April 15*

First Day of Pesach - 9:00 a.m.

Youth Services - 11:00 a.m.

Mincha - 12:15 p.m.



Wednesday, April 16

Second Day of Pesach - 9:00 a.m.

Youth Service - 11:00 a.m.

Pesach Pizza Party at the conclusion of services. \$12 per family.** Reservations are due ASAP!

Mincha and Ma'ariv - 7:45 p.m.

Saturday, April 19

Sisterhood Shabbat

Shabbat and 5th Day of Pesach - 9:00 a.m.

10:30 a.m. Combined Mini-Minyan and Junior Congregation

11:00 a.m. Torah for Tots

Gold Kippah will not meet this week.

Sunday, April 20

Seventh Night of Pesach - 7:45 p.m.

Monday, April 21

Seventh Day of Pesach - 9:00 a.m.

Matzah Brei Mania - 10:30 a.m.

\$12 per family.** Reservations are due ASAP!

Youth Service - 11:00 a.m.

Mincha and Ma'ariv - 7:45 p.m.

Tuesday, April 22

Eighth Day of Pesach with Yizkor Prayers - 9:00 a.m.

Youth Service at the Landow House - Please meet at B'nai Israel at 10:30 a.m. and walk with our staff to the Landow House.

Mincha and Ma'ariv - 7:45 p.m.

Pesach ends at 8:17 p.m. on Tuesday, April 22.

**Please note that there will be no evening services at B'nai Israel on Monday, April 14, and Tuesday, April 15. Copies of the evening service along with CDs chanting are available to enable individuals to conduct the Ma'ariv service in their homes.*

**Special rate of \$20 per family for both events. [Click here](#) to download the reservation form. Questions about these programs? Contact [Sharon Safra](#).

Pesach is Monday, April 14-Tuesday, April 22

To download the ***Rabbinical Assembly Guide to Pesach***, [click here](#).

It is customary to make a contribution for *ma'ot hittin*, providing Pesach food for the needy, when selling *chametz*. Contributions should be made payable to the B'nai Israel Congregation Tzedakah Fund. Please return the form by noon on Friday, April 11, in order to sell your chametz. Chametz will be repurchased at the conclusion



of Pesach on Tuesday evening, April 22. [Click here](#) to download the form.

B'dikat Chametz - The Search for ***Chametz***, and ***Bi'ur Chametz-Burning Chametz***

The search for leavened bread takes place on Sunday evening, April 13, after sunset. Members of the family, equipped with a lighted candle, go from room to room gathering crumbs of bread to ensure that the house has been cleansed of all *chametz*. Special *b'dikat chametz* sets (including a feather, spoon, candle, and instructions) are available from the Sisterhood Judaica Shop. *Chametz* is burned no later than 10:00 a.m. on Monday morning, April 14. This activity involves even the youngest members of the family.

Siyyum Bekhorim- Fast of the First Born

Monday morning, April 14, following the 7:15 a.m. minyan.

This observance reminds us that when the first-born of Egypt were slain during the Tenth Plague, the Israelite first-born were saved. It is incumbent upon first-born Jewish males to fast on the day before Pesach but, this responsibility is nullified when one joins in the completion of text study. All first-borns past bar/bat mitzvah age are therefore encouraged to join in this special tradition. Following the morning service and the study session, we will join in a *seudat mitzvah*, a festive meal, provided through the courtesy of Micki and Lowell Gordon.

Sisterhood Shabbat
Saturday, April 19

9:00 a.m.- 12:00 p.m.

Chair: [Lesley Schrier](#)

Come join us for this special service on the *Chol Hamoed* Shabbat of Passover as we celebrate Sisterhood and its contributions to B'nai Israel and the greater Washington, DC area community. Sisterhood women participate in all parts of this service. A delicious *kiddush* luncheon will follow.



Men's Club Dinner and Speaker
Thursday, April 24
6:30 p.m.
Free of Charge

Join the Men's Club for dinner and a presentation of a Holocaust survivor provided by the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, All congregants are encouraged to join us. Please RSVP to [Joel Goldberg](#) by April 17.



Social Action: Manna Food Packaging
Sunday, April 27

10:00 a.m.- 12:00 p.m.

Mark your calendars for our next Manna Food Warehouse food packaging. This is always a wonderful family activity. The Manna Food Warehouse is located at 9311 Gaither



Road in Gaithersburg. Questions? Contact [Andrea Nadelman](#) (301-455-5934).

Bonim: Bricks and Beads
Sunday, April 27
12:15 p.m.

Please note the change of date for this event.

Community-Wide Holocaust Memorial Observance
Sunday, April 27

B'nai Israel is honored to host this year's community event.

3:00-4:00 p.m.

Unto Every Person There Is A Name

An annual worldwide community name reading. Names may be brought to the service or submitted in advance online at www.jcouncil.org.



Art Exhibit - Montgomery College

The exhibit features photographs and personal histories of Holocaust survivors who witnessed evil, then turned their backs on hatred to tell their stories.

Community **Dor L'Dor** Program

All members of our community are invited to join local Holocaust survivors to hear their living testimony of survival and triumph.

4:00-5:30 p.m.

Community Commemoration

A community-wide remembrance of the victims, survivors, and heroes of the Holocaust including a multi-generational memorial candle lighting, Kaddish, reflection, music, poetry, memorial to the destroyed communities of Europe and a keynote address by Holocaust survivor Nesse Godin. She has dedicated her life to remembering and telling the world what hatred can do.

For more information, contact the [Jewish Community Relations Council](#) (301-770-0881).

Sisterhood General Meeting

Wednesday, April 30

9:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Elections followed by program "Momma's Got an Almost New Bag"

Treat yourself to expensive looking accessories (gently used purses, wallets, scarves, accessories, costume jewelry, etc.) at exceptionally low prices! The sale continues on Thursday morning, May 1.

Study Havurah with Rabbi Matthew Simon

Wednesday, April 30

7:30 p.m. in the Blumberg-Zalis Family Library

Join our study group which focuses on chapters from [The Observant Life](#). This month's session focuses on issues of citizenship and military service. For more information please contact our librarian, [Jill](#).

Pajama Shabbat
Friday, May 2
6:00-6:45 p.m.

Pajama Shabbat is a family-oriented Friday night service geared for young children. This mini-service will feature singing, age-appropriate prayers, story time, and dessert refreshments. We encourage all children and any children-at-heart to come dressed in their favorite pj's. Teddy bears and other bedtime lovin's are welcome too! Adults need not worry about getting dressed up either-this will be a fun and casual night for all.



There is no fee to attend but registration to [Sharon Safra](#) (240-221-2500) is appreciated.

Dairy Potluck Shabbat Dinner
Friday, May 2
6:45 p.m.

Bring in Shabbat together with your friends at B'nai Israel at these dairy potluck Shabbat dinners. Each attending family is asked to bring one dairy or parve item to feed 10-15 people. The atmosphere for the evening is informal with opportunities to meet and schmooze with other B'nai members, sing Shabbat z'mirot and Birkat Hamazon, and enjoy relaxed time with your synagogue community.

Registration will take place online through a Sign Up Genius website. To register, go to www.bnaiisraelcong.org/familyliving and look for a link.

Yom HaZikaron
Sunday, May 4
6:00 p.m.
B'nai Israel Congregation
Doors open at 4:00 p.m.

Join with the Embassy of Israel Defense and Armed Forces Attaché's Office for their annual Yom HaZikaron Memorial Ceremony honoring fallen service members and victims of terror. Presentations will be made by Ambassador Ron Dermer and Defense Attaché, Major General Yaacob Ayish.



Monthly Lunch and Learn: Torah Study
Monday, May 5
12:30-1:30 p.m.
Registration: Free

Join the eager group of congregants and others who assemble monthly to participate in a detailed engagement with the text of the Torah. Because Rabbi Schnitzer will be out of the country leading our B'nai Israel Trip to Central Europe and Berlin, Rabbi Michael Safra will teach the class on May 5.

Yom HaAtzmaut
Tuesday, May 6

The Israel Affairs Committee of B'nai Israel Presents the Annual Yom HaAtzmaut Celebration in honor of Israel's 66th year of independence.

5:15 p.m. Fun Activities for Children in Pre-school through 2nd Grade
Activities include a moonbounce and more. Separate activities for children in grades 3-6.

6:15 p.m. Celebrate with An Israeli-style "Al Ha-Esh" Barbeque
Hamburgers, hot dogs, Israeli salad, falafel, and more.



6:45 p.m. Musical Performance by the Robyn Helzer Trio
Robyn Helzner is luminous on stage. A stunning vocalist who brings joy and a lifelong appreciation of the power of folk music to resonate across cultural boundaries. She has appeared in concert throughout the world, including Beijing and Hong Kong China, and Moscow and St. Petersburg Russia. She and the trio will be accompanied for some songs with students from the B'nai Israel Talmud Torah.

Reservations are due by Thursday, May 1. Questions? Contact Beth in Rabbi Safra's office (301-881-6550, ext. 575, beth@bnaisraelcong.org).

Our celebration of Yom HaAtzmaut is made possible by the generous funding of the Edith and Charles M. Pascal Yom HaAtzmaut Programming Endowment.

[Click here](#) to register online. [Click here](#) to download a registration form.

13th Annual B'nai Israel Golf Classic
It's not too late to register!
Wednesday, May 7
[Whiskey Creek Golf Club](#) in Ijamsville,
Maryland



Please join us for our 13th Annual Golf Classic at Whiskey Creek Golf Club, one of the most beautiful golf courses in our region. Enjoy golf with that special B'nai Israel twist as we bring back the Hamantashen Hole, the Blessing over the Golf Balls, a full Kosher BBQ, and some special noshes for our golfers. We will have prizes on all Par 3 holes and other on-course contests for you to enjoy. Play with friends, entertain clients, or sign up individually and meet some of your fellow congregants. Proceeds from this event will go toward programming at B'nai Israel Congregation.

8:30 a.m. Registration, Breakfast and Warm-up
10:00 a.m. Shotgun Start
2:30 p.m. Awards Ceremony

- * Payment for all sponsorships is required by Friday, April 18.
- * Camera-ready logo artwork/disc for all signs and ads is due by Friday, April 18.
- * Sponsors are invited and encouraged to play in the tournament.

Online registration is now open.

Jews and Brews: An Informal Jewish Conversation for Men

Thursday, May 8
7:30 p.m.

Lakewood Country Club

Join us for drinks and schmoozing, followed by informal text study and discussion with Rabbi Michael Safra. Contact [Bernie Rod](#) for more information.



3rd Grade Haggigat Sefer Friday, May 9 6:15 p.m.

Celebrate your child's Judaic accomplishments at our Haggigat Sefer service and ceremony on Friday, May 9. Our 3rd graders will lead our Erev Shabbat service and will be presented with their own *siddur* or *milon*. We thank the B'nai Israel Sisterhood for providing these books to our students from the Gabbai Debby Cohen Sisterhood Education Fund.

We also encourage all third grade families to join us for a festive Shabbat family dinner following the ceremony. Details will come by snail mail and email shortly. Questions? Contact [Sharon Safra](#) (240-221-2500).

Remember that all ***siddur*** and ***milon*** covers are due into Sharon's office by Sunday, April 27.

Monday Night at the Movies Monday, May 12 7:30 p.m.

Fugitive Pieces (2007) - 104 min. English
This story is the harrowing and haunting tale of Holocaust survival and the personal awakening of Jakob Beer, a man whose life is haunted by his childhood experiences during World War II. This program is free. Refreshments will be served.



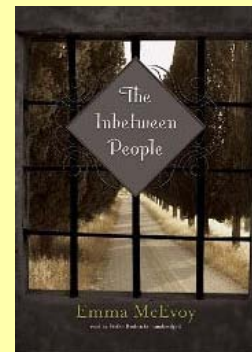
Rabbi Simon's Spring Book Review Wednesday, May 14 10:00-11:00 a.m.

Join Rabbi Matthew Simon for his exciting summer book review and summer reading suggestions. Questions? Contact [Jill](#) in the Blumberg-Zalis Family Library.



B'nai Israel's Book Discussion Group Wednesday, May 14 11:00 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. Discussion Leader: Harriet Fredman

The Inbetween People by Emma McEvoy - Avi Goldberg and his Israeli Arab friend Saleem, believe the past can be buried, reduced to nothing. But they both learn that war devours everything, and if you do not speak of these things, they are lost forever. Set amongst the Galilee Mountains and the hostile desert terrain of the Negev, this is a story of longing that deals with hatred, forgiveness, and the search for redemption.



Adult B'nai Mitzvah Class Information Session
Sunday, May 18
9:15 a.m.

Have you never had a bar or bat mitzvah? Are looking to increase your comfort level in the synagogue? Then come to an informative meeting about an Adult B'nai Mitzvah course to begin this fall and running for a year and a half. If you have any questions, please contact [Rabbi Michael Safra](#) (301-881-6550, ext. 565).

Sisterhood: Chicks Who Stitch
Sunday, May 18
10:00 a.m.

Bring your knitting, crocheting or other needlework project that you are working on and join Sisterhood's Chicks Who Stitch. Newcomers are always welcome. For more information contact [Harriet Levi](#).



Roots of Israelite Monotheism: Evidence from
Archaeology and Texts

L.I.F.E. Lecture Series

with Dr. Mark S. Smith and Dr. Elizabeth Bloch-Smith
Sunday, May 18
7:30 p.m.

Fee: \$5 members/\$10 nonmembers

This lecture is co-sponsored by the Biblical Archaeology Forum and the Biblical Archaeology Society of Northern Virginia

[Click here](#) for more information.



L.I.F.E. Lectures are open to all B'nai Israel members and the entire community.

What Do Bananas Have to Do with Jeffrey Tambor?



On the hit show *Arrested Development* Jeffrey Tambor plays George Bluth, Sr., the patriarch of the formerly wealthy, highly dysfunctional Bluth family. As the show begins George Bluth is arrested and the family's assets are frozen, though the Bluth's Original Frozen Banana Stand, selling frozen bananas on the boardwalk, still functions. In one of the show's most famous lines, Tambor, as Bluth Sr., reminds his son "There's Always Money in the Banana Stand."



[CLICK HERE](#) to see Jeffrey Tambor on YouTube delivering the famous line on the hit show, *Arrested Development*.

Join us on Wednesday, May 28 for an unforgettable evening as Jeffrey Tambor shares anecdotes from his decades in front of the camera. [Click here](#) to order your tickets.

Tikkun Leyl Shavuot
Tuesday, June 3
Mincha at 6:45 p.m.
Shavuot Dinner at 7:00 p.m.
Services at 8:15 p.m.
Study sessions begin at 8:45 p.m.



Help usher in the Festival of Shavuot, the season of receiving the Torah, with dinner, a service and a traditional evening of Torah study. Sessions, led by lay people and professionals, will cover a variety of topics and formats. This year's study will also include a special presentation from our Confirmation class. Learners at all levels are invited. Participants may stay for one or two sessions or for the entire evening if they desire.

Our evening of study is presented in memory of Rabbi Henry and Yetta Segal.

Schilit Nursery School Registration

2014-2015 Nursery School registration is now underway for our Schilit Nursery School. Prospective families with children ages 2-5 interested in enrollment in our half day or full day programs for nursery school 2014-2015, including Before Care and After Care, please contact Karen Gerton, Director, Schilit Nursery School, 301-816-5578, to schedule a tour of our school.



From Our Table to Yours, Volume II B'nai Israel Schilit Nursery School Cookbook

A collection of over 450 recipes including Jewish holiday recipes, family favorites, child-friendly foods and many more organized in a professionally designed 3-ring binder.

Buy a few!

From Our Table to Yours, Volume II is a great gift for Mother's Day, house warming, birthday, bridal shower, hostess gifts, etc.

Don't miss out-Volume I sold out in record time. Available in the Nursery School Office for only \$25 per book.

Congregational Trip to Eastern Europe with Rabbi Jonathan and Beverly Schnitzer

April 28-May 12
Join Rabbi Jonathan and Beverly Schnitzer as they visit Prague, Budapest, Krakow, Warsaw with an optional extension to Berlin. A trip to these destinations is an extraordinarily powerful and memorable Jewish experience-one that will truly touch your soul!

[Click here](#) for more information and tour highlights.



Multi-Generational Israel Adventure with Rabbi Michael and Sharon Safra

Imagine Yourself in Israel!
July 28-August 8

Here are just some of the incredible highlights:

Visit the wonderful excavations of ancient Caesarea, enjoy a boat ride on the Kinneret followed by a lakeshore dinner, travel to the Golan Heights by jeep, tour and wine and cheese tasting at the Bahat Winery, glide down Jordan River tributaries in a kayak, swim in the wondrous natural pools at Sachne, experience Kabbalat Shabbat in Jerusalem, slosh through Hezekiah's water tunnel, ascent by cable car for a tour of Masada, walk through the beautiful Ein Gedi Nature Reserve to the waterfall, and much, much more!



Questions? Contact [Rabbi Safra](#) (301-816-5565). [Click here](#) for more information.

Ramah Day Camp

We are excited to announce the inaugural season of the Ramah Day Camp of Greater Washington! We are going to bring the Ramah magic to your area.

- August 18-22 at Ohr Kodesh Congregation in Chevy Chase
- For children entering 1st-4th grades fall of 2014
- Under the direction of Camp Ramah in New England
- Welcome to our outstanding director, Shira Rosenbaum. Shira has many years of Ramah experience as camper, counselor, and *rosh edah*, and Ramah Service Corp Fellow.

Ramah Day Camp of Greater Washington will feature all the classic programming and fun of Ramah camping in a day camp setting. [Click on this link](#) to learn more and to register: <http://www.campramahne.org/day-camp-washington-dc>

For more information, contact [Shira Rosenbaum](#) (301-500-8251).

The DJTorah Honor Society in Memory of Hazzan Deborah Togut

The DJTorah Honor Society was created to honor the memory of Hazzan Deborah Togut by increasing the number of teenagers who participate in the ritual life of the synagogue through Torah reading. Teenagers who read full-length portions in the Dweck Sanctuary service will receive credit towards the Society.

Three (3) qualified readings reaches the Yad (Pointer) level and earns a gift certificate to Amazon.com, a special kippah, and a yad.

Seven (7) qualified readings reaches the Keter (Crown) level and earns a place on a plaque in the Goldberg Youth Chapel. Students at this level will be entitled to an additional \$100 for approved youth programs (i.e. a member of the Society who would normally receive \$500 for a trip to Israel would be entitled to \$600).

The rules governing eligibility for scholarships are determined by the B'nai Israel Scholarship Committee. For more information about our scholarship programs, please contact [Melissa Schwartz](#).

Get started reading Torah and earning credits this fall. Please contact [Cantor Ilana Wolpert](#) to schedule your first reading today!

Memorable Moments of B'nai Israel

Calling all photography enthusiasts! Would you like to be a part of preserving the legacy and posterity of B'nai Israel? We are looking for members to help us to record the history of B'nai Israel Congregation for future generations. If you are interested in this important task, please email your name and contact information to Marni to be a part of this team.

If you had previously responded to our request for photographers, please send your contact information to [Marni](#) . We look forward to working with you!

Mah Jongg Cards

The Sisterhood Judaica Shop is selling the 2014 Mah Jongg card. Please stop by the shop to purchase yours. Extra cards were ordered and will be available for purchase as long as they last. The standard card is \$8.00 and the large card is \$9.00. If you have any questions, please call Harriet Levi (301-649-3429).



Daily Minyan Sign-Up

At B'nai Israel, we are justifiably proud of sustaining daily morning and evening *minyanim*. Unfortunately, our evening minyan sometimes lacks the required ten adults during the winter months. We are again instituting a voluntary sign up list to try to encourage more people to participate in our evening *minyan*. We want to urge you to try to commit to a *minyan* or two over the coming weeks, and to let us know in advance when those dates might be.

[Click here](#) to see a list of dates and people who have agreed to support us. You will notice that there are 4 slots for each date, as we already count on at least 6 "regulars" on any given night. The password is "bnai" and there is no need to register with the website unless you want email reminders.

Your commitment to ensuring our daily evening *minyan* helps B'nai Israel maintain the sense of community excellence for which we are known.

Don't forget to subscribe or renew your Washington Jewish Week subscriptions through Sisterhood. Make your check payable to B'nai Israel Sisterhood and leave it in the Washington Jewish Week envelope found in the Sisterhood mailbox in the main office. For questions, contact Toby Loewy. The rates are as follows:



Regular: \$72.08 for 1 year, \$99.64 for 2 years
Senior (55 and up): \$38.16 for 1 year, \$72.08 for 2 years

An Invitation to Join Your Congregation by Telephone When You Cannot Be With Us at Our Services

Open your Siddur or Humash at home or away from home and participate in our Shabbat, Festival and High Holy Day services. Follow the reading of the Torah, study the parasha together with the congregation, listen to the comments of the rabbis on the many concerns of Jewish life, offer personal prayers and sing familiar melodies along with the Hazzan and our B'nai Israel community.

Up to 15 participants will be able to call into the B'nai Israel phone system between 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon and listen to the live audio of our service in the Dweck Sanctuary.

How to use the system:

1. Dial the regular B'nai Israel phone number, 301-881-6550.
2. When the automatic system answers the telephone, dial "7".
3. You will be transferred to the live Dweck Sanctuary audio.

Please note: If 15 participants are already listening on the system, you will receive a message that the system is full. Please try again later in the morning.

B'nai Israel Congregation

301-881-6550 | info@bnaiisraelcong.org | <http://www.bnaiisraelcong.org>

6301 Montrose Road, Rockville, MD 20852

[Affiliated with the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism.](#)

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