

## Marni Meloul

**From:** B'nai Israel Congregation <info@bnaiisraelcong.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 11, 2015 6:29 PM  
**To:** Marni Meloul  
**Subject:** August 2015 e-Midmonth



AUGUST 2015 e - MIDMONTH

### HIGH HOLY DAY SEATS

We have not yet received High Holy Day seat forms from some of you. We hope you will be attending services at B'nai Israel this year. We urge you to send your High Holiday seat forms to B'nai as soon as possible so that we can assign you seats - we cannot do so without your form.

Questions about seats? Please call the High Holy Day hotline (240.221.2510) or send an email to [HHDseats@bnaiisraelcong.org](mailto:HHDseats@bnaiisraelcong.org). For any financial questions, call the Financial Office (301.816.5577) or send an email to [Finance@bnaiisraelcong.org](mailto:Finance@bnaiisraelcong.org).

We look forward to hearing from you as soon as possible.

Sincerely,  
High Holiday Seating Committee

**SHABBAT MAGIC** - including a variety of age-specific youth services, special events, and adult learning - is a regular feature of our Shabbat morning program. During the summer, though, our youth services meet on a modified schedule. For a full listing of our summer youth services, please [click here](#). Here are some upcoming dates to know:



Every Shabbat morning at 11:00 a.m. - Torah for Tots for preschoolers and their families  
August 22 - Mini-Minyan & Junior Congregation Lite (10:45 a.m.)  
August 29 - August Birthday Shabbat; Combined Junior Congregation & Mini-Minyan (10:30 a.m.)  
September 12 - Shabbat Magic Opening  
September 19 - 7th Grade Shabbat in Dweck Sanctuary

[Click here](#) to see the August schedule.

### **B'nai Israel Schilit Nursery School SCHOOL BEGINS TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1**

Attention all prospective families with children ages 2-5 interested in enrollment in our half day or full day programs for nursery school 2015-2016, including Before Care and After Care. Please contact [Karen Gerton](#), Director, Schilit Nursery School, 301-816-5578, to schedule a tour of our school.



### **HOLIDAY FLOWERS**

Enhance your own holiday table or send holiday flowers to a family member or friend. Flowers always complement a beautifully set holiday table. Let the B'nai Israel Sisterhood take care of the legwork so you have less to think about during the holiday preparations.

\$54 for local delivery, \$59 for out-of-state delivery  
All arrangements will arrive in time for Rosh Hashanah  
Place your order by Thursday, September 3, 2015.



[Click here](#) to download the order form.

Questions? Contact Gail Libin ([gail.libin@verizon.net](mailto:gail.libin@verizon.net), 301-871-3661).

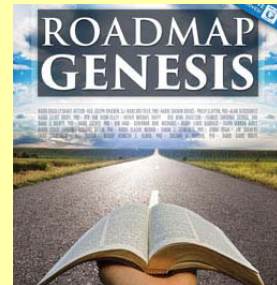
### **SELICHOT: The Official Start of the High Holy Day Season**

Saturday, September 5

9:00 p.m. - Screening and Discussion of "[Roadmap Genesis](#)" by Nolan Lebovitz

10:45 p.m. Selichot Service

The days before the High Holy Days are a time for reflection on family and Jewish values - many of which are found right there in the stories of Genesis. Film maker and rabbinical student Nolan Lebovitz embarked on a personal journey from his home in Los Angeles to New York, Boston, and cities throughout the Midwest. He met with Jewish and Christian clergy, scholars and theologians to affirm the point that the ancient ideas of Genesis are still quite relevant today. Join Rabbi Safra for a short discussion and reflection after the film.



Following the presentation, join Rabbi Schnitzer and Cantor Josh for a beautiful service that introduces the melodies, themes, and emotions of the High Holy Day Season. The service ends at the stroke of midnight.

### **TALMUD TORAH OPENING DAYS & REGISTRATION**

**Grades 3-6** Tuesday, September 8, 4:30-6:15 p.m.

**Grades 3-6** Wednesday, September 9, 4:30-6:15 p.m.

**Grades K-6** Sunday, September 20, 9:00 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

[If you have not yet registered, please do so online.](#) For questions, please contact [Jennifer Inzelstein](#) (301-816-5576).

### **GRAND OPENING OF SHABBAT MAGIC**

Saturday, September 12

The program begins at 10:00 a.m. with Gold Kippah. [Gold Kippah](#) is an incentive program that rewards students for their mastery of various prayers that are arranged in four levels in accordance with our graded curriculum. From 10:00-10:30, teachers will be available to listen to students, guide them, and grant credit for proficiency.



At 10:30 a.m., we divide into [Mini-Minyan](#) in Goldberg Youth Chapel (grades K-3), and [Junior Congregation](#) in Hayman Chapel (grades 4-7).

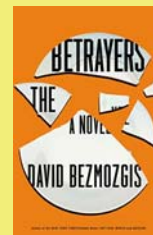
[Torah for Tots](#) (pre-K and younger) meets at 11:00 a.m. in the Blumberg-Zalis Family Library.

Near the end of the services, the three groups will join together for a presentation on the Torah portion, a celebration of our September birthdays, and birthday cake. We then join the Dweck Sanctuary service for the concluding prayers and the congregational Kiddush. "Special" Shabbats like this one are a great way to earn attendance credits to meet our Shabbat expectations for the year (10 times for grades 3-7; 5 times for grades K-2).

### **ALL ON THE SAME Page Congregational Summer Reading Program**

*The Betrayers* by David Bezmozgis  
Winner of 2014 National Jewish Book Award for Fiction

**Join us after services on Saturday, September 12 for a book discussion in the Blumberg-Zalis Family Library.**



Baruch Kotler was a Soviet Jewish dissident who now finds himself a disgraced Israeli politician. When he refuses to back down from principled stand regarding the West Bank settlement, his political opponents expose his affair with a much younger mistress. The couple escape, to Yalta, the faded Crimean resort of Kotler's youth. There, shockingly, Kotler encounters his former friend whose denunciation sent him to the Gulag almost forty years earlier. In a whirling twenty-four hours, Kotler must face the ultimate reckoning, both with those who have betrayed him and with those whom he has betrayed. *The Betrayers* is a high-wire act, a powerful tale of morality and sacrifice that will haunt readers long after they turn the final page. (Amazon review)

### **HONEY FROM THE HEART Sisterhood Fundraiser**

Ordering honey for your family, friends, and business associates is a sweet way to welcome the New Year and support B'nai Israel Sisterhood.

Each Honey From The Heart gift contains an 8 oz. jar of pure clover honey, certified Kosher by the Orthodox Union. It is accompanied by a personalized gift card from you, and is delivered in time for Erev Rosh Hashanah (September 13).

The \$15 cost includes free shipping within the United States. Orders received by August 31 are guaranteed delivery for Rosh Hashanah.

To place your order online, go to [www.orthoney.com/ROC](http://www.orthoney.com/ROC) or [www.honeyfromtheheart.org/ROC](http://www.honeyfromtheheart.org/ROC).

Please contact [Linda Reisner](#) for additional information and/or help to place orders.



### **SEVENTH GRADE SHABBAT**

Saturday, September 19

All seventh grade students are invited to participate in the Shabbat service in Dweck Sanctuary on September 19th. Students will have an opportunity to lead the congregation in prayer that day. If your child would like to sign up to participate on the Bimah, please contact [Babette Cohn](#) or [Sharon Safra](#).

### **ADULT B'NAI MITZVAH: Semesters 2 and 3**

Instructor: Rabbi Michael Safra

Sundays, September 20-November 22; January 24 -May 22

9:45-11:00 a.m.

This class will not meet on February 14 or April 24.

Registration: \$75

Continue the journey towards our adult b'nai mitzvah ceremony, which will take place in January 2017. The fourth and final semester will take place in the fall of 2016. Students without a reading knowledge of Hebrew MUST enroll in Aleph Isn't Tough concurrently.

If you are interested in joining the adult b'nai mitzvah program but did not enroll in Semester 1, please contact [Rabbi Safra](#). [Click here](#) to register.

### **SUKKOT IS COMING!**

Sunday evening, September 27 - [Congregational Sukkot Dinner in honor of the Board of Governors](#)

Monday morning, September 28 - [Sukkot Family Brunch](#)

Wednesday, September 30 - [Open Sukkah Night](#)

Thursday, October 1 - [Pizza in the Hut Family Dinner](#)

Saturday, October 3 - [Sukkah Hop](#)

Registration is now open. [Click here](#) to register.

Please contact [Sharon R. Safra](#), Family Education Director, with questions about any of these events.

**Lulav & Etrog / Sukkot Orders** - [Click here](#) to download the order form. Lulav & Etrog orders are due Thursday, September 10.



## PLAY AT B'NAI

Mommy and Baby Playgroup

Mondays, October 2015-May 2016  
Children ages newborn-15 months



This group is designed for all moms and babies to get out and about, play, do activities, socialize, share conversations and experiences together. Throughout the year, we will host guest speakers presenting topics of interest to parents.

Bring your friends! If you have any questions or would like to register, call the Nursery School office (301.816.5578).

## ALEPH ISN'T TOUGH: Hebrew Reading Level 1

Instructor: Nechama Fellner

10 Sundays, October 11- December 20

No class on November 29.

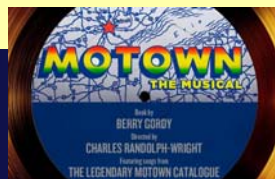
11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Registration: \$45 members, \$60 nonmembers (includes a copy of *Aleph Isn't Tough* textbook)



Learn to read Hebrew in 10 weeks! This class is a basic introduction for decoding Hebrew letters and vowels. It is perfect for individuals who want to get started on a path of learning and greater involvement in worship at B'nai Israel. [Click here](#) to register.

## TICKETS ON SALE NOW!



***Beautiful: The Carol King Musical*** at the Kennedy Center

Sunday evenings, October 11, 18 and 25, 7:00 p.m.  
Orchestra Seats - \$130, Front of First-Tier Seats - \$125

***Matilda the Musical*** at the Kennedy Center

Sunday matinee, December 20, 1:00 p.m.  
Center Orchestra Seats, Rows S & T - \$135, First-Tier Seats, Rows A, B & C - \$125

***Motown the Musical*** at the National Theater

Saturday evenings, December 19 and January 2, 7:30 p.m.  
Orchestra Seats - \$135

## **WINE, WOMEN & WHAT'S NU**

### **Beyond Bagels and Lox: Global Flavors Inspire Jewish Foodies**

Wednesday, October 14

7:30-9:00 p.m.

Registration: Free for members, \$10 for nonmembers



What are the most innovative trends happening in Jewish culinary circles? Join us for a mouth-watering conversation between Paul Entis, Director of The Jewish Food Experience, and Vered Guttman, local caterer, restaurant consultant and contributing food writer to the Washington Post and Ha'aretz.com. Vered hails from Israel and fuses cooking traditions from both sides of her family: one parent immigrated to Israel from Poland and the other from Iraq.

Chefs and home cooks alike are kvelling as they take old world dishes and re-imagine them with modern twists. So, are dishes like Pastrami Egg Rolls, Mexican Plantain Latkes and Korean inspired Kimchi Knishes a flash in the pan, or do they represent an evolution in Jewish cooking? Join us as we engage in lively conversation about the future of the Jewish palate. And, of course, taste a sampling of desserts from the Jewish Food Experience's website ([www.jewishfoodexperience.com](http://www.jewishfoodexperience.com)).

We are grateful for the generosity of Sisterhood, the Jewish Food Experience, and our current member sponsors. Please consider becoming a member sponsor. Donations of \$72 or more will be acknowledged in the Fall 2015 and Spring 2016 event program. To help us with our planning, please RSVP to [Carol Vogel](#). This program is for women.

## **THE FLORENCE MELTON ADULT MINI-SCHOOL**

A Project of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Proudly presented by B'nai Israel Congregation, in

Partnership with Congregation Har Shalom, Temple Beth

Ami, and the Jewish Community Center of Greater Washington



*Join eager adults for a journey of deep examination of Jewish texts. Melton's unique curriculum presents classic and modern interpretations that have shaped Jewish perspectives of the Bible for thousands of years and invites students to lend their voices to the ageless pursuit of Jewish wisdom.*

## **MYSTICISM AND KABBALAH: Secret Knowledge in Judaism**

Instructors: Rabbis Michael Safra, Jack Luxemburg, Adam Raskin, and Baht Weiss

10 Thursdays, October 22, 2015-January 14

No class on November 26, December 24 or December 31.

9:30-11:00 a.m. at B'nai Israel

Registration: \$150 members, \$250 nonmembers

This exciting new course will introduce participants to the rich history of Jewish mysticism—a tradition that has been popularized by Madonna and other celebrities but remains a "closed book" to many. Explore some of the ways that the Jewish mystical tradition has influenced many of our modern traditions and customs. We will discover deeper meanings of Judaism and uncover answers for some of life's eternal universal questions. [Click here](#) to register.

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**Dor L'Dor (Generation to Generation) Grandparent-Grandchild Event**

Sunday, October 25  
12:15 p.m.



We'll hold our fall *Dor L'Dor* (Generation to Generation) Grandparent-Grandchild event on Sunday afternoon, October 25th. We'll bake brownies and write cards as part of the upcoming Mitzvah Day project supporting U.S. soldiers serving overseas. Lunch will be served as well. Look for registration details soon! Contact [Sharon Safra](#) or [Juliann Goldman](#) with questions.

**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!

**SISTERHOOD JUDAICA SHOP - For All Your Judaica Needs!  
301-770-7577**

**AUGUST Hours** (August 3-21)  
are by appointment only. Call Dottie (301-881-7115),  
Ellen (301-231-9312), or Miriam (301-649-3770).

**Celebrate Our GRAND REOPENING  
Sunday, August 23  
9:00 a.m.**

Featuring all new Judaica and gifts!

To special order personalized *kippot* and *benchers* for your *simcha*, call Suzy Levy (301-460-9636).



Photo by Emily Koo

**HARRIS TEETER TOGETHER IN EDUCATION**

B'nai Israel Schilit Nursery School is linked with Harris Teeter as a registered school for Together in Education (TIE). At no cost to the customer all members of the congregation and friends can link your Harris Teeter VIC card to B'nai Israel Schilit Nursery School using our TIE account number, 1506. You can link at the store, by



contacting the school office or by registering online. The new Together in Education school year starts on August 1, 2015 - you must re-link annually. After your card is linked, simply purchase Harris Teeter brand products or fill prescriptions. We appreciate your support.

Questions? Contact the Nursery School Office (301-816-5578).

### **PARASHAH PUZZLER END-OF-THE-YEAR THANK YOU**

The Parashah Puzzler is a weekly Torah based challenge geared to all B'nai Israel students in grades K-6. Each week, student written questions related to the weekly parashah are presented: a basic factual question that can be answered by reading a summary of the parashah and a "thinking question" that requires critical thought. Prizes are awarded to students for their participation.

Morah Juliann Goldman cheers the following students for their participation in the Parashah Puzzler in 2014-2015: Ben Amdur, Amanda Azia, Alexa Azia, Gabrielle Barke, Joey Barke, Ethan Berman, Lauren Block, Jonas Blum, Dalya Brickman, Nick Casertano, Max Cohen, Brady Cohen, Dana Edwards, Samuel Edwards, Wes Greenberg, David Grief, Logan Kalish, Ari Kalish, Allison Kende, Alexis Kende, Noah Parker, Shoshana Peck, Jacob Peters, Gila Safra, Ethan Safra, Samantha Shapiro, Lindsey Shapiro, Eliot Shulman, Sam Silverman, Cooper Sunshine, Madison Sunshine, Avi Wallace, Naomi Wallace, and Jaden Yaffe.

A special shoutout goes to the following students who wrote questions for the Puzzler: Jason Altneu, Judith Altneu, Gabrielle Barke, Joey Barke, Max Cohen, Sam Diewald, Sam Edwards, David Greif, Ari Kalish, Logan Kalish, Shoshana Peck, Ethan Safra, Gila Safra, Rebecca Safra, and Avi Wallace.

And extra special kudos to Gabrielle Barke, Joey Barke, Ari Kalish and Logan Kalish. They participated in every or nearly every Puzzler - 25 in total!

Morah Juliann sincerely thanks the B'nai Israel Sisterhood for supporting her, the Parashah Puzzler, and the students of the Talmud Torah. For the past two years, the Sisterhood graciously provided the prizes for the Puzzler winners.

### **HELP WANTED**

Want to spend a few hours in a beautiful shop? Want to offer some of your free time to your Synagogue and Sisterhood? Join us as a Judaica Shop volunteer!



The Sisterhood Judaica shop is looking to add to its cadre of volunteers. No experience is necessary and training will be provided.

Stop by to see the beautiful Judaica and giftware items we sell. Then contact [Dottie Cohen](#) to add your name to our ever growing list of women. For more information, call the shop (301.770.7577).

### **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): \$42 for 1 year, \$76 for 2 years

### **MAH JONGG Cards**

2015 Mah Jongg Cards are now available in the Sisterhood Judaica Shop. The standard card is \$8 and the large card is \$9.

### **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](mailto: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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