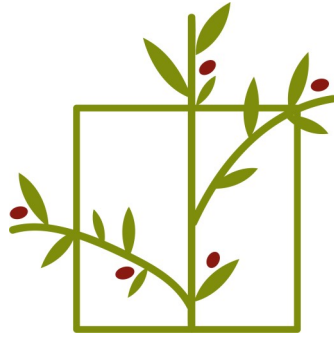


# חברים

CHAVERIM

November/December 2020 | Cheshvan/Kislev/Tevet 5781



**BOLTON  
STREET**

*Synagogue*

doors • wide • open

## HANUKKAH, OH, HANUKKAH!



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### CLERGY, STAFF, & LEADERSHIP

Andrew Gordon	<i>Rabbi</i>
Justine Abel	<i>Co-Administrator</i>
Monica Blum	<i>Co-Administrator</i>
Cory Hermann	<i>Director of Education</i>
Board of Trustees	
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Ethel Zelenske, <i>Vice President</i>	David Speer
David Conn, <i>Treasurer</i>	Abe Wasserberger
Randi Reichel, <i>Secretary</i>	Alexandra Weil
Judy Bass	Ben Wilson
Paige Finkelstein	Nick Windt



## SEARCHING FOR HOPE

I sit at my computer to write this *Chaverim* article at the end of the month of October and at the start of the Hebrew month of Cheshvan. The rabbis called this month, Mar Cheshvan, the bitter month of Cheshvan, because it is the only month of the year without a Jewish holiday!

I don't know about you, but bitterness is what I feel at this moment. I'm fearful of what is to come in the days, weeks, and months ahead. I watch with bated breath as November 3<sup>rd</sup> approaches. What will happen with the election? Will all our votes be counted? Will our fellow citizens stand up for democracy and justice? In addition, I watch as the COVID-19 numbers begin to creep up around the country. I recognize that many are getting restless wearing masks and socially distancing. As we begin the turn towards the fall and winter holidays, I wonder what will happen here in Baltimore.

Perhaps, we need a month of bitterness smack in between the High Holy Days and Hanukkah. It provides us with time to step back to normality as we watch the days get shorter, darkness increase, and winter approach. Each year, the leaves fall from the trees, and we turn towards battening up the hatches and preparing for the cold temperatures.

Luckily, as winter approaches, we do move towards our next celebration, Hanukkah. I'm always amazed at how our Jewish calendar was formed and how our ancestors recognized the need for light and hope during the darkest moments of the year. Hanukkah is not a solstice holiday, but it is a holiday that occurs during one of the darkest nights of the year. Our calendar works out so that we light the 8 candles (plus the shamash helper candle) on a night of the new moon. This is the night with no extra light from the moon, so it becomes one of the longest and darkest nights of the year. It is on this night that we bring extra light into our homes.

Our rabbis long ago debated about how we should light the menorah. Beit Shammai believed that we should start with 8 candles on the first night and end

with one candle on the last night. This makes logical sense because on the last night there was the smallest amount of oil left over in the original candelabra. Luckily, it was Beit Hillel who won out. Beit Hillel believed that we should increase the amount of light each night to proclaim the Hanukkah miracle and to bring a sense of optimism into our lives and the lives of those who surround us.

There is a sense of dread in the air. Who knows what our country will look like after November 3<sup>rd</sup>? Will we have new leadership? Will we be safe from COVID-19? Will empathy and decency be found? Our ancestors worried about many of these same problems. Each year, they stopped what they were doing during the darkest and most pessimistic moment of the year and brought light into their world. They increased light hoping to dispel darkness and fear and searching for a better day ahead. No matter the outcome of the election or our worries of an increase of COVID-19, may we too glean a sense of optimism that tomorrow will be a brighter day than today.

B'shalom,

*Andy*



BOKER TOV MINYAN

Join Rabbi Gordon for a Tuesday morning check-in and meditation experience. We'll gather at 8:00 am for chanting, prayers of healing, meditation, and time to reflect as the day begins.

Check BSS emails for upcoming gatherings.



## WE'RE LIVING ANXIOUSLY IN AN HISTORIC TIME

An historic time might be marked by war, pestilence, affluence, poverty, strife, peace, or (fill in the blank). Never before has one been marked by COVID-19. We're all sharing a unique, historic experience.

Another experience many of us are sharing, says the American Psychiatric Association (APA), is anxiety. In a recent poll, they found that significantly more people are anxious this year than in the past several years.

Sixty-two percent (62%) of participants in the APA poll reported anxiety. Compare that to the earlier two years where the percentage was approximately 35%. Top anxiety-producers were: keeping family and self safe (80%), COVID-19 (75%), overall health (73%), gun violence (73%), and the presidential election (72%).

Other top contenders for some of us might include schooling children from home, racial injustice, underemployment, finances, climate change, domestic discord, foreign affairs, missing out on meaningful events like religious activities or weddings, or (fill in this blank, too).

My #1 personal stressor is not seeing my west coast family. The adults work in medical settings and building construction. The kids go to school 4 days a week. Their potential exposure to COVID-19 poses too big a risk for me.

### Let's Give it a Rest

I had a mini-epiphany recently about reducing my stress. Take myself less seriously! It's okay to watch too many programs, indulge in too many carbs, avoid political discussions, or have another glass of wine!

I experimented with this new thinking in an email to my worldly-wise sisters-in-law. We hadn't been in touch since a Zoom call on Rosh Hashanah where seven family members showed off their honey cakes. It was so much fun making the cakes—from the same Bolton Street Synagogue recipe—and sharing!

So, I sent them a chatty email about the weather,

kayaking, cooking, house painting, puppies, visiting outdoors with friends, family updates, and an idea for a shared Thanksgiving dessert recipe. No mention of politics, COVID, or an ailing 99-year-old in the family.

They wrote their own chatty emails back within minutes. It felt great! We'd replaced serious issues with a soul-warming, anxiety-reducing, and loving exchange. It seems we're not the only ones. I'm hearing a lot of references to "Schitt's Creek;" I call it a palate cleaner for the brain. The podcast "Unorthodox" is a program I like, too, for its comic relief and great insights. Another is "Real Time with Bill Maher" for its irreverent approach to tough issues. Then, there's Hillary Clinton and Kamala Harris laughing about family and home life in a "You and Me Both with Hillary" podcast episode. And there is always the hilariously relevant "Saturday Night Live."

To put it simply (let's!), I'm advocating for giving escapism the status it deserves in this historic time. I do have one request—if and when you find the time, but don't stress if you don't--please share your ideas for ways of soothing anxiety ([president@boltonstreet.org](mailto:president@boltonstreet.org)).

Shalom,

*Alain*

60s+ Group  
~ Save the Date ~  
November 17  
Cory Hermann  
December 1  
Julia Pierson



## RELIGIOUS SCHOOL NEWS

What a start to the year it has been! We welcomed everyone at our Drive-In Kick-off Celebration in September, and we were able to celebrate Sukkot in person at our Sukkot Family Adventure in October. It was so great to be able to be in person in these small groups, outdoors, to welcome everyone to Bolton Street Synagogue. We will continue to find ways to occasionally bring our school families together in small groups, even as we engage our students in online learning.

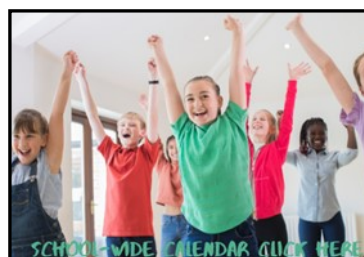
We have begun our online learning, and it has been really wonderful to bring our whole community together, while being apart. We gather to begin each week together, break up into our classes for Hebrew and Judaica classes, and then come together once more to explore our prayers and holidays. Our ShalomLearning curriculum has given us a great tool to use to engage our students at every age. [Click this Parent Info Page](#) to learn more about the curriculum we are using this year for both online and in person instruction.

For now, we will be meeting weekly online. Our hope is that we will be able to shift to in-person instruction at some point in the school year. We are using the ShalomLearning curriculum so that we can easily pivot to in-person instruction when it is safe to do so. That decision will be guided by Baltimore City requirements, as well as guidance from the Bolton Street Synagogue Coronavirus Task Force.

Our teachers and I continue to learn how to use the technology to enhance our instruction and build community. Even while we are online, our students have music with Nomi and time with our Shinshin, (Israeli Emissary), Ofir Yasur. Keep an eye out for weekly emails for ways to build on the learning your children are experiencing during class time. Remember, our students in grades Bet-Zayin (2-7) have the ability to log onto [www.shalomlearning.org](http://www.shalomlearning.org) to access review and reinforcement activities. The more students access this tool, the stronger their Hebrew proficiency will be.

As we head into to November and December, we are busy planning ways to connect with one another and celebrate Hanukkah as a community. Keep a look out for more information about small, in-person, family events as we plan them. Information will be found in weekly religious school emails from me. If you are not getting these emails, please let me know so we can be sure to add you to our list. (If you use gmail, it is possible our emails get stuck in the promotions section of your email.)

Below are links to our School Calendars and our Daily and Hebrew pod schedules. I hope you are having a great fall!



## SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE NEWS

The members of the SAC continue to be active as we move into this election season. Our **Vote2020** group, coordinated by Randi Reichel ([rreichel4@gmail.com](mailto:rreichel4@gmail.com)), has been actively coordinating letter and postcard writing activities, phone banking, providing information about registration and safe voting, and ensuring that everyone had information about how to volunteer for COVID-safe canvassing to get out the vote in our area and in neighboring states.

As we continue to advocate for local and national anti-racist agendas and social justice, we have also been participating, with other area faith communities, in **Black Lives Matter** rallies around the city and, more recently, in Baltimore County.



A first group of congregation members participated in a facilitated discussion of racism and anti-black perspectives using *White Fragility* by Robin Diangelo and we have started a second group for those who were on the original waitlist.

Our group continues to grapple with and talk about how we can be involved in police reform in Baltimore and nationally – currently through ongoing collaboration with BUILD and Jews United for Justice: <https://jufj.org/where-we-work/maryland-state/annapolis-police/>

Please know that you are all welcome to join the Social Action Committee meetings at any time. We meet at 7:00 pm on the first Wednesday of the month. Feel free to come and learn more about what we are doing – and, then, get involved!



### Save the Date

**BSS Trail Clean-Up**  
Sunday, November 22  
approx. 10:30 am

**Remote Hanukkah Party**  
Friday, December 18  
approx. 7:30 pm

## UPCOMING EVENTS



FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11

*Hanukkah Tot Shabbat Service*  
6:00 pm

*Hanukkah Shabbat Service &  
Menorah Lighting*  
6:30 pm

Join Rabbi Gordon and Cory Hermann  
for these special and festive services.  
-Please have your menorah and candles ready to light.-



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13

**BOLTON STREET SYNAGOGUE DRIVE-IN  
HANUKKAH CANDLE LIGHTING**

UPPER PARKING LOT  
4:00 5:00 6:00



Come out to celebrate as a community and light the Bolton Street Synagogue menorah!

Drive up to BSS with your family or pod at your chosen time and partake in a Hanukkah story, songs and blessings right from your car or the adjacent parking spot (feel free to bring chairs).

Cars will be distanced, and families will be asked to stay in their pre-marked areas. Masks are required for those who choose to leave their cars.

**Pre-registration is required!**

Please sign up for your timeslot [HERE](#).

District Community Playback Theatre Presents:

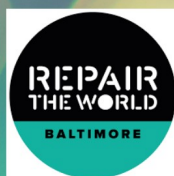
# THIS IS WHAT JEWISH PEOPLE OF COLOR NEED YOU TO KNOW

November 14, 6:30-8:00pm ET

RESERVE YOUR TICKET AT:

<https://tinyurl.com/jocplayback>

Sponsored by:



Tuesday, December 15th



## LGBTQIA Chanukah Event

Featuring a screening of "Trembling Before G-d" and discussion with Sandi DuBowski, the film's director

The controversial and ground-breaking film, "Trembling Before G-d," changed the landscape of being a gay Jew. The movie interviews and follows several gay and lesbian Orthodox Jews, many only seen in silhouette, and also interviews several rabbis and psychologists regarding their views on homosexuality in Orthodox Judaism. Join us as we reflect on the progress we have made as LGBTQI Jews and the challenges that lie ahead. Open to all.

Look for additional details in the weekly email.

This event is made possible by Neely Tal Snyder JPride Seed Grant.



**TAKING HOLD OF TORAH**  
JOIN RABBI GORDON FOR A  
LIVELY DISCUSSION ON TORAH

Saturday mornings at 9:30  
November 7, 14 and 21  
December 5 and 19



**Happy Hour with Rabbi Gordon**  
**Tuesday, November 10**  
**Wednesday, December 9**  
**7:00 pm**

JOIN RABBI GORDON WITH A DRINK OF YOUR CHOICE AS WE COME  
TOGETHER FOR A DISCUSSION OF SACRED TEXT.

# YAHREZEITS

## November 2020

11/05/2020 Janet Scheff, mother of Salem Reiner  
11/06/2020 Margot Frank, grandmother of Karen Brown  
11/06/2020 Theodor Frank, grandfather of Karen Brown  
11/09/2020 Herbert L. Cohen, father of Andy Cohen  
11/10/2020 Morton Brenner, father of Mark Brenner  
11/10/2020 Hugo Ehrlich, grandfather of Marion Ehrlich  
11/10/2020 Gabriel Hartstein, father of Marc Hartstein  
11/11/2020 Jack Raphael, father of Ralph Raphael  
11/12/2020 Rachel Herz, mother-in-law of Bernard Berkowitz  
11/15/2020 Charles Brennecke, father of Peggy Brennecke  
11/15/2020 Jack Hyman, father of Mark Hyman  
11/16/2020 Walter Spaderna, father of Max Spaderna  
11/16/2020 Goldie Waxman, grandmother of Kalee Gould  
11/17/2020 Ernest Herskovits, father of Edward Herskovits  
11/18/2020 Arthur Feinstein, father of Miriam Lupien  
11/19/2020 Deborah Potter Brener, sister of Elli Potter  
11/22/2020 Bruce Stein, brother-in-law of Joyce Moskovitz  
11/24/2020 Milton Moskovitz, father of Joyce Moskovitz  
11/25/2020 Louis Kreshtool, father of Barbara Anderson  
11/28/2020 Charles Potter, father of Elli Potter  
11/30/2020 Charlotte Berkowitz, mother of Bernard Berkowitz

## December 2020

12/02/2020 Edward Novick, father of Abe Novick  
12/02/2020 Bill O'Neill, brother of Patrick O' Neall  
12/03/2020 Milton Baitman, father of Frank Baitman  
12/04/2020 Emma Moliver, grandmother of Roni Neff  
12/06/2020 Marion Ehrlich, aunt of Marion Ehrlich  
12/06/2020 Gertrud Ehrlich, grandmother of Marion Ehrlich  
12/06/2020 Pepi Zielinski, mother of Ethel Zelenske  
12/07/2020 Wilbur Simon, father of Eleanor Simon  
12/08/2020 Alan Rosenberg, brother of Sara Rybczynski & son of Ruth Rosenberg  
12/09/2020 Ruth Morrison, mother of Reed Morrison & mother-in-law of Sheila Morrison  
12/10/2020 Randy Siegmeister, cousin of Lissa Abrams  
12/13/2020 Albi Tallarico, father of Pat Gilstein  
12/16/2020 Judy Freedman, mother of Jacqueline Bershad  
12/16/2020 James Lurie, grandfather of Ilena Lurie  
12/16/2020 Richard Schuck, father of Lane Zawacki  
12/18/2020 Bertha Lurie, grandmother of Ilena Lurie  
12/18/2020 Edith Solomon, mother of Bayla Weisbart  
12/18/2020 Martin West, father of Jason Weixelbaum  
12/19/2020 Janet Richman, mother of Elaine Richman  
12/22/2020 Olivia Himmelfarb, aunt of Helene Breazeale  
12/23/2020 Jean Saklad, mother of Sheila Morrison  
12/24/2020 Evelyn Gilstein, mother of Saul Gilstein  
12/24/2020 Miriam Simon, sister of Eleanor Simon  
12/26/2020 Elaine Stern, step-mother of Jeffrey Stern  
12/27/2020 Kate McGready, sister of John McGready  
12/27/2020 Nancy Weishaar, sister of Tim Nehl  
12/27/2020 Harry Wishnie, great-grandfather of Rose Berns-Zieve & grandfather of Melissa Zieve  
12/28/2020 Eugene Gould, father of Lois Gould  
12/30/2020 Martin Moliver, grandfather of Roni Neff

# CONTRIBUTIONS

### Commemorative Garden

Peter Berns & Melissa Zieve  
Adrienne Leibovitz

### Leadership Development Fund

Russell Margolis & Leslie Seid Margolis, in memory of Rose Wiener  
Ralph Raphael & Elaine Richman, in honor of Adam Riess who received the 2020 Chalonge-de Vega Medal for Astrophysics

### Melvin Cohen Social Action Fund

Gary Felser & Debra Brown Felser, in honor of Sharon Krevor-Weisbaum being honored as a Lawyer of the Year  
Alison Hartman, in memory of Roy Fishman  
Richard & Donna Neuworth, in memory of Thelma B. Neuworth  
Ralph Raphael & Elaine Richman, in honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Alec Abel  
Beth Raymond, in memory of Jeffrey C. Raymond  
Ethel Zelenske, in memory of Martin Drucker

### Music and Worship Fund

David & Anne Hamburger, in memory of Herbert Hamburger  
Marc & Chris Hartstein, in honor of the High Holiday musicians & music  
Patty Kahn & Mark Kaufman, in gratitude for the wonderful Zoom experience of Erev Sukkot with Rabbi Gordon & Cory Hermann  
Shelley Marcus

### Operating Fund

Gary & Barbara Anderson, in memory of Marion B. Kreshtool  
Joseph & Jacqueline Bershad, in memory of Ronald Bershad  
Jeffrey & Joan Dier, in memory of James H. Crumpton  
Gary Felser & Debra Brown Felser, in memory of Mildred Felser  
Allison Gutwillig & Michael Pollina  
Marc & Amy Halushka, in memory of Robert Rosewater  
Marc & Chris Hartstein, in memory of RBG & Eddie VanHalen  
Marc & Chris Hartstein, in memory of Carole Hartstein  
Marc & Chris Hartstein, in memory of Ceil Zukof  
Nancy Hutton & Larry Wissow, in memory of Elaine Wissow  
Shelley Marcus  
Joyce Moskovitz & Jeffrey Stern, in memory of Babette Stern  
Ralph Raphael & Elaine Richman, in honor of Sharon Krevor-Weisbaum for being a Lawyer of the Year  
Jay Steinmetz & Claire Carberry  
Nicholas Windt & Catherine Sullivan-Windt



facebook.com/BoltonStreetSynagogue

# CONTRIBUTIONS, CONT'D.

## Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Michael & Catherine Gordon, in gratitude for the High Holy Day services  
 Michael & Gail Green, in memory of Roslyn Goldner  
 Patty Kahn & Mark Kaufman, in gratitude for the wonderful Zoom experience of Erev Sukkot with Rabbi Gordon & Cory Hermann  
 Robert Jenner & Elizabeth Graham, in memory of David Jacobowitz  
 Russell Margolis & Leslie Seid Margolis, in honor of Rabbi Gordon, who led wonderful High Holy Day services of inspiration, power & community  
 Russell Margolis & Leslie Seid Margolis, in memory of Martin Drucker  
 Russell Margolis & Leslie Seid Margolis, in memory of Sandra Santiago Candelaria  
 Ruth Rosenberg, in memory of Paul M. Rosenberg  
 Micah Rubin, to celebrate wonderful & meaningful High Holy Day services  
 Francine & Neil Schulman, in honor of the 49th wedding anniversary of Francine & Neil Schulman  
 Ethel Zelenske, in gratitude for amazing, meaningful and spiritual High Holy Day services  
 Ethel Zelenske, in memory of Morris Wax

## Zabner Youth Education Scholarship Fund

Ralph Raphael & Elaine Richman, in honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Johan Mogul  
 Ralph Raphael & Elaine Richman, in honor of the Bat Mitzvah of Amelia Mogul  
 Elli Potter, in memory of Mike Zabner

## In Memory of D'oro McKinney

- Justine Abel & Troy Skinner
- Abe Wasserberger & Lissa Abrams
- Brian Barker & Lisa Berger,
- Eric Bielitz & Erin O'Connell
- Gary Felser & Debra Brown Felser
- Joel Cohn
- Scott Feeser & Elisabeth Liebow
- Noam & Paige Finkelstein
- Mark Giuliano & Cathy Raab
- Marc & Amy Halushka
- Marc & Chris Hartstein
- Larry Wissow & Nancy Hutton
- Dana Johnson & Salem Reiner
- David & Robin Kantor
- Scott Kravetz
- Harold Weisbaum & Sharon Krevor-Weisbaum
- Miriam Lupien
- Russell Margolis & Leslie Seid Margolis
- Evan Mayfield
- Douglas & Alexis Mogul
- David & Julie Newman-Toker
- Elli Potter
- Ralph Raphael & Elaine Richman
- Hope Ratner
- David & Lauren Rauseo
- David & Diana Speer
- Carol & Rob Van Besien
- Marc Wernick



## Bolton Street Synagogue Welcomes Its New Members

- Naomi & Keith Adams
- Lydia Baghdoyan & Stephen Wissow
- Louis Blank
- Mark Brenner
- Ilena Lurie
- Kalee & Sam Gould
- Ariel & Andy Green
- Emily Hoppe & Michael Levin
- Joy & Sean Johnson
- Melissa Perlin
- Lainie Rutkow & Adam Spira
- Sudipa Sarkar & Max Spaderna
- Sarandon Smith & Daniel Turnbow
- Ursula Suskin

# CALENDAR

## NOVEMBER 2020

1	9:00 AM	Religious School
3	8:00 AM	Boker Tov Minyan
4	7:00 PM	Social Action Committee Meeting
6	6:30 PM	Shabbat Service with Rabbi Gordon and Cory Hermann
7	9:30 AM	Taking Hold of Torah
8	9:00 AM	Religious School
	12:00 PM	New Member Luncheon Event
10	8:00 AM	Boker Tov Minyan
	7:00 PM	Happy Hour with Rabbi Gordon
13	5:30 PM	Tot Shabbat
	7:30 PM	Shabbat Service with Rabbi Gordon and Keith & Nomi Adams
14	9:30 AM	Taking Hold of Torah
	6:30 PM	Jewish People of Color Program
15	9:00 AM	Religious School
17	8:00 AM	Boker Tov Minyan
	5:30 PM	60s+ Meeting
18	7:00 PM	Board of Trustees Meeting
19	7:00 PM	Membership Engagement Committee Meeting
20	6:30 PM	Shabbat Service with Rabbi Gordon and Keith & Nomi Adams
21	9:30 AM	Taking Hold of Torah
22	9:00 AM	Religious School
26		Thanksgiving Day
27	7:30 PM	Shabbat Service with Rabbi Gordon

## DECEMBER 2020

1	8:00 AM	Boker Tov Minyan
	5:30 PM	60s+ Meeting
2	7:00 PM	Social Action Committee Meeting
4	6:30 PM	Shabbat Service with Rabbi Gordon and Keith & Nomi Adams
5	9:30 AM	Taking Hold of Torah
6	9:00 AM	Religious School
8	8:00 AM	Boker Tov Minyan
9	7:00 PM	Happy Hour with Rabbi Gordon
10		First Night of Hanukkah
11	6:00 PM	Tot Shabbat
	6:30 PM	Hanukkah Shabbat Service and Menorah Lighting with Rabbi Gordon & Cory Hermann
12	10:30 AM	Bat Mitzvah of Tara Bass
13	9:00 AM	Religious School
	4, 5 and 6:00 pm	Hanukkah Drive-In Candle Lighting
15	8:00 AM	Boker Tov Minyan
17	7:00 PM	60's+ Membership Engagement Committee Meeting
18	6:30 PM	Shabbat Service with Rabbi Gordon and Keith & Nomi Adams
19	9:30 AM	Taking Hold of Torah
20	9:00 AM	Religious School
25	7:30 PM	Shabbat Service with Rabbi Gordon

