



**From the Rabbi**

## 100 Blessings a Day



*Dear Friends,*

I still remember the day I learned what good manners are. There I was, a boy of five or six, sitting at the dinner table and feeling frustrated that whatever I was asking for wasn't being passed. Was it the ketchup? The cause of the holdup, I soon came to learn, was that I had failed to utter a certain "magic word." I renewed my request, this time including that magic word, and the ketchup made its way down the table with dispatch.

Yet it would be years before I learned what gives such simple words such potency. It's not that they are magic per se. It's that the attitude behind them conveys to one's fellow a sense of honor and respect. In the theology of Martin Buber, the language embodies a human relationship of "I and You" rather than "I and It." You are a person, created in God's image, not merely the "It" which passes the ketchup.

In Jewish terms, good manners are really about what Hillel called a great principle of the Torah—loving your neighbor and not doing to him or her that which is hateful to you. Saying "please" and "thank you" opens doors not because the words are intrinsically magical, but because they bestow honor upon the person being addressed. They are a form of blessing.

The opposite is true as well. Speaking coarsely to, or about, others dishonors them and drives out the Divine Presence from one's midst. Poor manners, untruths, half-truths, gossip—all of these are the opposite of blessings. They are curses. And so the Rabbis of old instruct the listener to admonish the would-be speaker from uttering such curses and, failing that, to walk away.

Several years ago, my enchantment with the ideal of offering 100 blessings a day inspired the name for this column. Since then, I have explored many of the reasons for blessing God and each other. Sometimes the blessings were petitionary.

Sometimes they expressed praise or thanks. And all of them were intended to inspire us to be more awe-filled, appreciative, and action-oriented people. We use our blessings, correctly, to help ourselves feel profoundly grateful for our good fortunes. And we use them to remind us of all the work left to us to make our world whole and complete.

May the New Year be filled with goodness, happiness, wholeness and peace.

Rabbi John A. Franken

### Celebrate Our Newest Addition!



**Please join the fun in our new gaga pit on Sunday, Sept. 14th at noon.**

We greatly thank Paul Goodsell, who built and installed the pit (with a little help from a group of fellow congregants leveling the rocky field).

For those of you unfamiliar with the game, it is often described as Israeli dodge ball. It is a very lively game that is well suited to players of all ages (4 to 84?). It moves quickly and easily accommodates people of all skill levels.

Please consider a donation to help cover the cost of the pit and future improvements including surrounding benches and a rubber floor. Donations can be made through the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund.



## From the President

There will be no President's message this month because several Congregants and I have been working with Arts and Ideas Sudbury School on rental of the Sunday School portion of the building. We have been also working with Evergreen Association, the association for the neighborhood where we are located, to address their concerns about a Monday through Friday school coming to Bolton Street. While I had previously planned on providing a full update on the status of those discussions, I have decided based on recent developments that it would be better to share information via the Congregational email once we have completed arrangements. If you do not know about AI Sudbury, I encourage you to read a recent feature article in the Baltimore Sun at: <http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/maryland/education/bs-md-ci-sudbury-school-20140806,0,7653954.story>. There was also brief mention of AI Sudbury in a recent article in the Baltimore Jewish Times: <http://jewishtimes.com/26967/new-and-notable-in-baltimore/>.

I would like to offer my thanks for the tremendous amount of work that several of our Congregants have put into this effort. Jeff Stern has worked tirelessly with our rental agent and AI Sudbury on the provisions of a potential lease and to address community concerns. Salem Reiner and David Conn have lent their expertise working with local community associations to obtain letters of reference where AI Sudbury was previously located and generate local support. David, at my request, has been Bolton Street's representative on discussions with the Evergreen Association's President. Harold Weisbaum has been a continuing source of advice and wisdom.

## Reminder: Please Make a Pledge and Payment Prior to the High Holidays

Contact Debbie Barnes to make your pledge and payment for the 2014/2015 year. Debbie can be reached at [dbarnes@boltonstreet.org](mailto:dbarnes@boltonstreet.org) or call 410-235-5354. We do not turn anyone away based on an inability to pay minimum dues. If minimum dues are an issue for you, please contact me at 410-372-0528 and we can make alternative payment arrangements. If you are not current in your dues prior to the High Holidays, you will not receive High Holiday tickets in the mail.

In 2013, we began a policy of asking members and visitors to show their High Holiday tickets on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. This was a significant change in practice for Bolton Street Synagogue and was very helpful to facilitating pledges and payment of dues and purchases of High Holiday tickets from visitors. We significantly improved revenue from High Holiday ticket sales in 2013. We initiated this policy to both generate needed financial support for Bolton Street activities but also for fairness and equity so that all members and visitors are sharing equally in support of our community. Thank you for cooperation and I look forward to seeing you in the synagogue both before, after and during the High Holidays.



Marc Hartstein  
President

## Bolton Street Synagogue High Holy Days Information

### High Holy Days Parking

Parking will be available at Cathedral of Mary Our Queen, 5200 North Charles Street, between Cold Spring Lane and Northern Parkway. **PLEASE use the lower parking lot and note that the top tier and the yellow number spaces are not available during the day.** Loyola shuttle buses will leave every 15 minutes for the synagogue, with travel time of 5 minutes. A volunteer will be at the Cathedral lot to direct our members to the shuttle. Shuttles will be marked "Cathedral-Newman" and will drop off and pick up Bolton Street guests at Newman Towers, a very short walk from the synagogue.

The Loyola Cathedral lot shuttles will be available from Cathedral of Mary Our Queen for Erev Rosh Hashanah services, Wednesday, September 24 (5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.), Rosh Hashanah Day 1, Thursday, September 25 (8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.), and Erev Yom Kippur, Friday, October 3 (5:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.).

Fleming transportation will provide shuttle service from Cathedral of Mary Our Queen to Bolton Street Synagogue on Yom Kippur, Saturday, October 4 from 8:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Parking on the lot directly in front of the BSS is extremely limited and will be reserved for members needing assistance.

Please contact Debbie Barnes at [dbarnes@boltonstreet.org](mailto:dbarnes@boltonstreet.org) or 410-235-5354 to reserve a spot.

**Parking is no longer available in the old Bank of America lot (on the east side of BSS) OR at the medical building lot, adjacent to the synagogue on the west side.**

Please help us honor our pledge to the Evergreen and Keswick communities by not parking on side streets near the synagogue. For more information on parking, a detailed map of the Cathedral lot and the route to and from BSS, please visit [www.boltonstreet.org](http://www.boltonstreet.org), and click on the "parking" icon at the bottom right corner of the homepage.

### Break-the-Fast

We will be hosting the traditional **Break-the-Fast at BSS after Yom Kippur services on October 4th at approximately 6:45 p.m.** BSS provides drinks, bagels, tuna and egg salads -- the rest is provided by the congregation. Remember we keep a dairy kitchen, so no meat. In order to make sure we have enough food, please bring enough to feed 8 people according to the following list:

- A-H green salads, vegetable salads
- I-P pasta salads, kugels
- R-Z fruit salads, desserts

**Please RSVP to the Break Fast by September 29th to Debbie Barnes at 410-235-5354 or [dbarnes@boltonstreet.org](mailto:dbarnes@boltonstreet.org).**

## From Our Director of Education and Engagement



One minute, he would have us in stitches. The next, he would have us reaching for the tissues, tugging at our heartstrings. That was just the kind of talent that Robin Williams was, one of the single greatest entertainers of all time. When prompted to name your favorite Robin Williams role, any of the genie from Aladdin, Jack, Mrs. Doubtfire, Sean McGuire from Good Will Hunting or Patch Adams would suffice as terrific answers among so many. For me, I was particularly touched by his portrayal of prep school English teacher John Keating in Dead Poets' Society. Among his seemingly countless notable quotes from that incredible 1989 film is the following message to his class of young men at the beginning of the school year: "Carpe Diem. Seize the day, boys. Make your lives extraordinary." Should this not be the goal of every educator—to inspire their students make their lives extraordinary?

With the start of Religious School right around the corner, I think back to a verse from the Torah which includes the commandment to "...teach [the commandments] diligently to your children" (Deuteronomy 6:7). Why? So that we may provide our children with the tools and direction to lead a just, fulfilling and rich life! In Judaism, education is of utmost importance, a direct pathway through which can connect to God. We are encouraged to explore challenging topics, ask difficult questions and seek out new avenues through which we can develop a deeper understanding of the world around us. Jewish values enable us to not only make our own lives meaningful, but those of others as well. Over the course of the coming year, the teachers of the Bolton Street Synagogue Religious School will be working tirelessly to educate our children in the ways of Torah, prayer and acts of loving kindness, the three pillars upon which the world stands according to Jewish thought. It is through our passion and dedication to Jewish values that we as educators, parents and members of the Jewish community can ensure that the lives of our children are not merely ordinary, but, in the words of John Keating, extraordinary. In the spirit of Robin Williams, may we all seek to "carpe diem" through our acts of kindness and pursuit of righteousness.

Best,

Mickey Rubin  
Director of Education and Engagement, Bolton Street Synagogue  
Mrubin@boltonstreet.org

## Welcome new BSS members

Maggie Dier  
Jacqueline and Andrew Kreinik  
Paul Levine  
Abe, Ling, Ben and Olivia Novick (welcome back)  
Mark, Emily and Mae Shank  
Jill Epstein  
Judy Bass, Fernando Goes, Tara and Natalia Bass Goes

## Mitzvah Project

Hi. My name is Ben Polyakov.

I am having my Bar Mitzvah on the 1st of November. I am gathering school supplies and backpacks for my mitzvah project. I will give them to immigrants coming to Baltimore. I want to do this because when my dad came to America as a kid, the Hebrew Immigration Aid Society (HIAS) helped him and my Aunt Olga and my grandparents get settled.

When they first came, they were poor and didn't have enough money to buy many school supplies. I would like to be able to help kids who are starting a new life in America go to school with the proper supplies and pursue their dreams. If you would like to donate school supplies or backpacks, you can drop them off at:

Bolton Street Synagogue  
212 W Cold Spring Ln  
Baltimore, MD 21210  
or

The Community of Ethical People  
1777 Reisterstown Road Suite 50  
Pikesville, MD 21208

Are you celebrating a special event  
or remembering a loved one?

Why not sponsor an  
**Oneg Shabbat**  
to mark the occasion?

Look for the sign-up sheet  
at the next oneg!

Contact Debbie Barnes in the Administrative office  
(410-235-5354)  
if you would like to sponsor or  
co-sponsor or if you would like more information.

### Thank you to our recent oneg sponsors:

Gan Alef class  
Membership, Marketing & Engagement Committee  
Miriam Lupien  
Lissa Abrams and Abe Wasserberger  
Marc Wernick and David Gerson  
Dexter Clark and Irving Reti  
Collin McFall and Rachel Niedermayer  
Ethel Zelenske  
Marni and David Greenspoon  
Hya Heine

# Contributions

## Leadership Development Committee

Elaine Richman and Ralph Raphael in memory of Elaine's father, Albert Richman

## Library and Lifelong Learning Fund

Mr. and Mrs. Paul M. Rosenberg in memory of Mollie Rosenberg, mother of Paul Rosenberg  
Alison Hartman in memory of her mother, Joyce Hartman

## Melvin Cohen Social Action Fund

Ethel Zelenske in memory of her father, Chaim Zelenske

Russ and Leslie Margolis in memory of Barbara Harris Gerson, mother of David Gerson

## Mike Zabner Youth Education Scholarship Fund

Irving Reti in honor of the first anniversary of Dexter Clark's conversion to Judaism

Larry Wissow and Nancy Hutton in memory of Larry's parents, Lennard J. Wissow and Elaine Wissow

## Music and Worship Fund

Anne and David Hamburger in memory of Dr. Miriam Farkas and Herbert Hamburger, father of David Hamburger

## Operating Fund

Ruth and Paul Rosenberg toward the purchase of a defibrillator in memory of their son, Alan L. Rosenberg

Miriam Lupien in memory of Tony Lupien, in honor of Tim Nehl's retirement, and in appreciation of the support from the Bolton Street Synagogue community

Harrison and Madeline Menkes in honor of Sarah Berns-Zieve's bat mitzvah

Colonel M. Dave Bach in memory of his wife, Lucy Bach

Allan Berenstein in memory of Joy Gerson

Marc Hartstein in memory of his mother, Carole Leah Hartstein

## President's Discretionary Fund

Larry Wissow in memory of Gayle Hafner and Tony Lupien

## Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Eileen Epstein in memory of her husband Arthur Epstein and in appreciation of Rabbi Franken

Wendy Jachman in memory of her mother, Louise Myerberg and her husband, Howard Jachman

Deb Gadsden in honor of her son Max's bar mitzvah

David Gerson and Marc Wernick in appreciation of Rabbi Franken, Carl Allen and Debbie Barnes for assistance with their wedding

Salem Reiner and Dana Johnson in honor of Eleanor's Bat Mitzvah

Beverly Franken in honor of Rabbi Franken with love and appreciation

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## Description of Special Supplemental Funds

### Building Fund

Our House of Worship is the fulfillment of a dream, actively serving the congregation and our community at large. Built in 2003, our building has brought tremendous pride and unity to our members. Your contribution to the BSS Building Fund will help keep our facility in tiptop shape.

### Melvin Cohen Social Action Fund

Tikkun Olam (repairing the world) is our call to action as Jews. At BSS, we take this commitment seriously, running energetic and robust social action initiatives throughout the year. Your contribution to the BSS Melvin Cohen Social Action Fund provides the extra dollars needed to help us carry out our community-wide service to those in need.

### Bolton Street Synagogue Operating Fund

The cost of running BSS is only partially covered by membership dues; the rest comes from other sources, such as fundraising. Your support of the BSS Operating Fund provides added stability as we meet the challenging fiscal needs of running a professionally-staffed synagogue.

### Music and Worship Fund

The beauty of our service is enhanced by our ability to accentuate prayer with music and song. Your support of this spirited aspect of our BSS worship and musical programs will be inspiring.

### President's Discretionary Fund

Serving as President requires a significant commitment of time and energy. It is also a role filled with uncertainty and steadfast devotion to our mission while becoming intimate with the challenges and opportunities that are part of our growing BSS family. The President's Discretionary Fund provides the president with the extra means to respond to certain unforeseen circumstances that may require an immediate response.

### Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Every synagogue has a Rabbi's Discretionary Fund. This fund provides the Rabbi with additional resources to help a needy congregant or family in an emergency or provide that extra measure of funding needed to help ensure a worthy program or project can succeed. It also supports social justice, tikkun olam projects, and organizational advancement.

### Mike Zabner Youth Scholarship Fund

Our children are our future. With your support of the BSS Youth Education Scholarship Fund, we will have the resources to support youth group programming, educational retreats and provide critical scholarships in support of a worthy youth seeking a Jewish camp or Israel travel experience.

### Leadership Development Fund

The DNA of BSS lies in its heritage of congregational volunteerism. Your support of the Leadership Development Fund will help ensure that BSS will continue to invest in its leadership through educational retreats, seminars and programs.

### Library And Lifelong Learning Fund

Providing our congregation with life long learning is a top priority for BSS. Your gift to the Library and Lifelong Learning Fund will underwrite special adult and family adult educational projects and the purchase of books, equipment and program materials. Special bookplates and naming opportunities are available.

Inspired by all that's happening at BSS? Please support our programs by making a contribution.

## Acknowledge the Occasion Through Bolton Street Synagogue

First & Last Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

*If your contribution is from a couple or family, please list all names (use additional paper if necessary)*

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Amount of Contribution \_\_\_\_\_

*(\$18 minimum requested; please make checks payable to Bolton Street Synagogue)*

In memory of     In honor of     In appreciation of

Send acknowledgement card to

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

### Fund Designation

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Operating Fund                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Leadership Development Fund                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Rabbi's Discretionary Fund |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Melvin Cohen Social Action Fund | <input type="checkbox"/> Library and Lifelong Learning Fund           | <input type="checkbox"/> Music and Worship Fund     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> President's Discretionary Fund  | <input type="checkbox"/> Mike Zabner Youth Education Scholarship Fund |   |

## Wish List

\$5,000 for strategic initiatives

\$3,000 to subsidize a family retreat

\$3,000 for a scroll of the book of Esther and Casing

\$3,000 for outreach to unaffiliated Jews in the community

\$2,500 for a youth retreat

\$1500 to purchase a defibrillator (AED)

\$750 for one month of Friday Shabbat music

\$500 for Green ware (cups, plates, napkins)

\$500 for Green energy credits to keep BSS carbon neutral for one year

\$500 to sponsor a synagogue BBQ

\$360 for a "Shabbat Unplugged" service

\$250 for one month's Tot Shabbat program

\$180 to sponsor a subsidized catered Shabbat dinner

To fulfill a wish list item, mail a check payable to:  
Bolton Street Synagogue, 212 W. Cold Spring Lane, Balt., MD 21210.  
Donate online by credit card at [www.boltonstreet.org](http://www.boltonstreet.org).

Please specify the item you are funding. Contributions will be recognized in future issues of the Chaverim, so please let us know if you prefer to donate anonymously. For more information, contact Debbie Barnes, Administrator, 410-235-5354 or [dbarnes@boltonstreet.org](mailto:dbarnes@boltonstreet.org).



**September 2014**

<b>1</b>		Admin Office closed - Labor Day
<b>5</b>	7:30 p.m.	Shabbat Unplugged Service
<b>6</b>	9:30 p.m.	Taking Hold of Torah with Rabbi Franken
<b>7</b>	9:30 a.m.	First Day of School
	10:30 a.m.	Bagels at Bolton Open House
	11:30 a.m.	Religious School Assembly
<b>10</b>	6:00 p.m.	High Holiday Torah Read Thru I
<b>12-13</b>		Seventh Grade Retreat at Pearlstone
	7:30 p.m.	Shabbat Unplugged Service
<b>13</b>	9:30 a.m.	Taking Hold of Torah with Rabbi Franken
<b>14</b>	9:30 a.m.	Religious School - Back to School Day
	11:00 a.m.	Religious School Assembly
	12:00 p.m.	Congregation-wide BBQ
<b>16</b>	6:00 p.m.	High Holiday Torah Read Thru II
<b>19</b>	5:45 p.m.	Tot Shabbat with Pizza Dinner
	7:30 p.m.	Shabbat evening service
<b>20</b>	9:30 a.m.	Taking Hold of Torah with Rabbi Franken
	7:45 p.m.	S'lichot wine and cheese reception and Autumn potluck
	9:00 p.m.	Service for entering the High Holy days
<b>21</b>	9:30 a.m.	Religious School
	11:30 a.m.	Religious School Rosh Hashanah Assembly
<b>24</b>	6:00 p.m.	Erev Rosh Hashanah Musical Prelude
	6:30 p.m.	Erev Rosh Hashanah Service in the Meadow
<b>25</b>	9:00 a.m.	Rosh Hashanah Day 1 Service
	9:45 a.m.	Torah Service
	10:00 a.m.	Youth Service
	11:00 a.m.	Children's/Tot Service
	12:00 p.m.	Reception
	12:30 p.m.	Tashlich at Stoney Run
<b>26</b>	9:00 a.m.	Rosh Hashanah Day 2 Service
	6:00 p.m.	Shabbat evening service
<b>28</b>	8:00 a.m.	Sukkah set-up
	9:30 a.m.	Religious School
<b>29</b>	7:00 p.m.	Board meeting

**October 2014**

<b>3</b>	6:45 p.m.	Erev Yom Kippur Musical Prelude
	7:15 p.m.	Kol Nidre
<b>4</b>	9:00 a.m.	Yom Kippur Morning Service
	9:45 a.m.	Torah Service
	10:00 a.m.	Youth Service
	11:00 a.m.	Children's/Tot Service
	12:00 p.m.	Break
	12:30 p.m.	Yizkor and Service of Healing and Wholeness
	1:30 p.m.	Break
	3:00 p.m.	Study Session
	4:15 p.m.	Afternoon Service
	5:15 p.m.	Neilah (concluding service)
	6:15 p.m.	Shofar and Havdalah
	6:30 p.m.	Community Break-the-Fast
<b>5</b>	9:30 p.m.	Religious School Sukkah Decorating
<b>8</b>		Erev Sukkot
<b>9</b>		Sukkot - Admin office closed
<b>10</b>	7:30 p.m.	Shabbat Unplugged Service
<b>11</b>	9:30 p.m.	Taking Hold of Torah with Mickey Rubin
	10:30 a.m.	B'nai Mitzvah of Madeline & Harrison Menkes
	5:00 a.m.	Community-wide Sukkot Dinner, Smores and Havdalah (with PAC & MME)
<b>12</b>	9:30 a.m.	Religious School
	11:30 a.m.	School Assembly
<b>16</b>		Shmini Atzeret - Admin office closed
	7:30 a.m.	Festival and Yizkor Service
<b>17</b>	7:30 p.m.	Shabbat and Simchat Torah/Consecration Services with Shir Chadash
<b>18</b>	9:30 a.m.	Taking Hold of Torah with Rabbi Franken
	10:15 a.m.	Pancake Party and Tot Shabbat
<b>19</b>	9:30 a.m.	Religious School - Heh/Vav Family Education Day
	10:00 a.m.	New Member Brunch @ Lissa Abrams' home
<b>22</b>	12:00 p.m.	Rabbi's Roundtable
	7:00 p.m.	Taste of Judaism: Are you Curious? with Rabbi Franken

## October 2014, cont.

<b>24</b>	6:30 p.m.	Family Potluck
	7:30 p.m.	Shabbat Unplugged Service with Vav & Zayin classes
<b>25</b>	9:30 a.m.	Taking Hold of Torah with Mickey Rubin
	10:30 a.m.	Bar Mitzvah of Julian Urban
<b>26</b>	9:30 a.m.	Religious School
	9:30 a.m.	Adult Ed
<b>27</b>	7:00 p.m.	Board meeting
<b>29</b>	7:00 p.m.	Schmooza Palooza
	7:00 p.m.	Taste of Judaism: Are you Curious? with Rabbi Franken
<b>31</b>	7:30 p.m.	Shabbat Unplugged evening service

### Leslie Margolis' D'var Torah on July 18, 2014

When the Rabbi asked me to co-lead services tonight, little did I know that the patesha for the week would be the same challenging portion that faced me last year as I struggled to write my very first dvar Torah. After a long discourse on vows, the patesha turns to the topic of war, when Moses is commanded by God to wreak vengeance on the Midianites. The Israelites initiate a brutal war, and then Moses, not satisfied by the violence that has been wrought, demands even more, ordering the slaughter of the captured women because he holds them responsible for certain sins committed by the Israelites. Only virgins are spared. The patesha then turns to a discussion about parceling out portions of land. Last year was particularly challenging because it was a leap year and resulted in a double portion, requiring us to read the next patesha, in which the Israelites, before entering Canaan, are commanded to massacre its inhabitants and their possessions or essentially face God's curse if they do not. A truly disturbing portion, but at least tonight, I only have to worry about the Midianites.

For those of you who were here last year, you may remember that I discussed commentary by a Stanford Hillel rabbi who placed the violence of this patesha in the context of "shalom" and explained that "shalom", rather than meaning "peace" itself, really embodies the concept of working towards peace. I drew parallels to the notion of tikkun olam. Tonight, I want to take those ideas as my jumping off point.

Some of us who are here tonight returned last week from Bolton Street Synagogue's first trip to Israel. An educational, spiritual, fun, thought-provoking, and indescribably rich experience, the trip made me think about this patesha, Israel, and current events in new ways.

We, of course, were in Israel at a particularly challenging time. Soon after we arrived in Jerusalem, the bodies of Naftali Fraenkel, Gilad Shaar, and Eyal Yifrach were found in the West Bank, and a day or so later, the body of Mohammed Hussein Abu Khdeir was found. These senseless and tragic deaths, and the escalation of violence they spawned, cast a long shadow over the remainder of our trip.

Because we were unable to travel to Ashkelon, we instead had the great fortune of spending part of our last day in Israel with one of the Rabbi's favorite teachers, a literature professor named Rachel Korazim, in her beautiful home in Jaffa. After she analyzed some poetry with us, she sent us on our way with the wisdom she could bestow, knowing that we were all feeling overwhelmed by how complex Israel is, and by how quickly tensions were escalating. She told us that she wanted to give us the gift of ease, and that we should feel comfortable with Israel's multiple narratives. I found this to be a helpful paradigm for thinking about what I was experiencing, and I quickly realized that the United States is also a country with multiple narratives. Do we not pride ourselves on how far we have come in guaranteeing civil rights to our citizens? And yet, if we look below the surface, we can find examples of racism and discrimination almost everywhere.

I also realized that as Diaspora Jews, we ourselves live multiple narratives. Everyone tells us that we got out of Israel just in time, but what does that mean? Yes, home is here in Baltimore with our families and our friends, but post-1948, home is also Israel, is it not? Many of us went to Israel knowing we had family and friends there; all of us came back with new friends, and some came back with new-found bonds with long-lost relatives, or re-discovered friends from long ago. It is important to understand that their narratives are ours as well.

The slaughter of the Midianites echoes through the millennia, weaving itself into what appears to be an endless narrative of death and destruction, the latest chapter of which is the deaths of the four teens and the ensuing escalation of violence. However, there is another, equally compelling narrative.

The Torah tells the story of Abraham welcoming strangers to his tent. Abraham does not know that the strangers are angels of God. He does not know if the strangers mean well or ill. He welcomes them and shows them hospitality, much as some of us experienced when we spent a night with the Arab Bedouin in Jordan. This other narrative is the narrative of Tikkun Olam and of "Shalom". Somewhere between the story of Abraham welcoming strangers to his tent and the slaughter of the Midianites; somewhere amidst the ancient stones of Jerusalem and the minarets of mosques; somewhere between the many Israelis and Arabs we saw side by side in places like Jaffa, lies the path of making the world a better one. There are many chapters already written in this narrative, and some were written while we were in Israel. We heard from Anat Hoffmann, the civil rights lawyer who heads both the Religious Freedom Action Center and the Women at the Wall project, and is devoting her life to making Israel a country where plurality and equality govern. Our own rabbi intervened to confront hate-filled ultra-extremist protestors until the police, fearing for his safety, asked him to leave. Cousins of Russ' run a popular bar in Jaffa that serves both Israelis and Arabs and is a comfortable place for gay Arabs to frequent. Each of us built bridges by talking with our Arab waiters, taxi drivers and tour guides, taking advantage of every opportunity to learn about Ramadan, and about life from their perspective. To be sure, some of these chapters in the narrative are more significant than others, but all contribute to the bigger narrative of tikkun olam.

It is my hope that of the multiple narratives that comprise each of our lives, each one of us will have a tikkun olam narrative and that together we can engage in the process of "shalom"—of working for peace.

Shabbat Shalom.

# Birthdays and Anniversaries

## September

3	Harry Genth	15	Gabriel Cohen
4	Adam and Merritt Miller		Rachelle Axel
7	Benjamin Cohn	20	Jessica Gundel
	Louise Baron	25	Donna Neuworth
8	Susan & Donald Allen	29	Sarah Sette & Aaron Schneiderman
9	Joan Dier	30	Madeline Menkes
13	Seth Murphy, Calvin McCormack		Harrison Menkes
14	Jeff Stern		Elizabeth Liebow & Scott Feeser

## October

1	Andrew Rybczynski	20	Larry Wissow
2	Rohan Korn	21	Caroline Kaufman, Gerald Gross, Aaron Schneiderman
3	Nathan Krimmel	22	Wendy Jachman
6	Salem Reiner	23	Alec Goldstone, Judy Gundel, Leah Genth
7	Max Grossman, Sophie Gitlin, Eleanor Lechtzin	24	Robert Brown, Paul Raynes,
8	Mason Miller	25	Marissa Feinsilver & Joseph Urban
9	Lissa Wasserberger	27	Dana Johnson, Tara Bass Goes
10	Beth and Jeff Raymond, Jeff Stern, Emma Conn, Diane Stillman, Brynn Berman	28	Glenn Grossman, Stephen Snyder
16	Sara & Paul Rybczynski	29	Maggie Dier
17	Benjamin Gilstein		
19	Gail & Scott Berkenblit, Joy Mandel & Tim Nehl		

### Event Space Available

BSS has a wonderful space available to congregants, their family and friends. Feel free to spread the word to any non-profit organizations that you think may be interested. For information, contact Debbie Barnes at 410-235-5354 or [dbarnes@boltonstreet.org](mailto:dbarnes@boltonstreet.org).

# Yahrzeits

## September

3	Carole Leah Hartstein, mother of Marc Hartstein	8	Elul
8	Isadore Schachter, grandfather of Alan Rubinstein	13	Elul
10	Herbert Hamburger, father of David Hamburger	15	Elul
16	James Weisbart, husband of Bayla Weisbart	21	Elul
17	Elaine Wissow, mother of Larry Wissow	22	Elul
20	Hugo Dalsheimer, grandfather of Nancy Savage	25	Elul
23	Elliot Liebow, father of Elisabeth Liebow	28	Elul
24	Robert Rosewater, father of Amy Halushka	29	Elul
25	Celia Bach Weisman, sister of M. David Bach	1	Tishrei
30	Melody Ann King, sister of Justin King	6	Tishrei

## October

2	Joseph Krupnick, father of Barbara Krupnick	8	Tishrei
3	Morris Wax, cousin of Ethel Zelenske	9	Tishrei
5	Ruth Gelber, aunt of Karen Brown	11	Tishrei
7	Lenora Green, mother of Mike Green	13	Tishrei
7	Roslyn Berns, mother of Peter Berns	13	Tishrei

9	Esther Rothman, grandmother of Aaron Schneiderman	15	Tishrei
9	Ceil Zukof, grandmother of Marc Hartstein	15	Tishrei
9	Peter Solomon, brother of Bayla Weisbart	15	Tishrei
12	Imre Rado, father of Agi Rado	18	Tishrei
17	Mildred Sisco, mother of Joyce Caplan	23	Tishrei
22	Bertha Liebow, grandmother of Elisabeth Liebow	28	Tishrei
25	Evelyn Karp, grandmother of Gail Vernick	1	Heshvan
27	Bernard Caplan, father of Carl Caplan	3	Heshvan
28	Mildred Smith, mother of Gary Felser	4	Heshvan
28	Marion Kreshtool, mother of Barbara Anderson	4	Heshvan
30	Alice Simons Siedner, step-mother of Karen Brown	6	Heshvan
30	Eleanore Mervis Cohen, grandmother of Randi Reiss-McCormack	6	Heshvan
31	Harold Berman, father of Lewis Berman	7	Heshvan

## Bring your expertise, hobby, or interest to Bolton Street!

The Adult Education Committee is seeking congregants who would like to lead an activity of interest to them and related to the mission of BSS. We can help with publicity and logistics. A few examples: Speak to the congregation about your past or present experiences, expertise, interests, plans etc. • Show a movie and lead a discussion. • Start a book club—you choose what, when, and where. Yiddish literature? Contemporary Israeli authors? History? Jews and sports? • Launch an informal discussion group: Politics, food, theology? • Organize a tour: Jewish Baltimore, Philadelphia, NY? • Teach a seminar • Teach a cooking class • Host a guest lecturer

Contact Russ Margolis, [rmargoli@jhmi.edu](mailto:rmargoli@jhmi.edu), if these or any other idea strikes your fancy.