

חברים

CHAVERIM

July/August 2020 | Tamuz/Av/Elul 5780



BOLTON STREET
Synagogue
doors • wide • open



Join Rabbi Gordon and meet our new Director of Education, Cory Hermann, as we gather together to say goodbye to Shabbat, to sing, and to have some fun. An intergenerational event; all are welcome.

Saturday, July 11th, & Saturday, August 15th, at 6:30 pm

A Look Inside

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Clergy, Staff, & Leadership

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Justine Abel	<i>Administrator</i>
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Reflecting, Reframing, and Rebuilding Based on Remarks from the Annual Meeting

We're tired. We're angry. Enough is enough. Time to march in the streets, to make our voice heard. These familiar thoughts were not just uttered in our generation. Even in our Torah, Korach, a rabble rouser, led his 250 followers to revolt against Moses and Aaron. Korach and his followers were upset at the state of their world and furious that there was not equality among the tribes.

And so they stood up, a battle between Moses and Korach using their fire pans to make a sacrifice to God. Unfortunately for Korach, things didn't end so well. The fire he made consumed his 250 men, and the ground burst open swallowing them whole.

If we take a step back and reflect upon this story today, it feels very timely. Not only have many of us spoken up against racism and stood together with Black Lives Matter, but we also have felt that our world is on fire and that our lives have been swallowed whole. We can't be together physically. We've been locked in our homes. Our daily routines have been severely altered, many of us have lost jobs or have lost pay. It's been a very difficult couple of months.

I've been walking this journey alongside all of you. Navigating what it means to be a rabbi, who works remotely out of his home. Trying to figure out how I be a dad and also a teacher to Caleb who just finished 1st grade. How do I be a comforting presence when I'm removed from my community? How do I offer spiritual support, lead moving services, build community, and navigate the complexities of Jewish life solely through Zoom?

My husband Brian says that no one at this moment gets an A+, but if you work hard enough you can get a B. I know that things have not been perfect. But I'm thankful that we have all come together to continue to thrive during this difficult moment. I want to thank Elaine Richman, our president, our Executive Committee and Board, all of our lay

leaders, and our professional staff for your diligence, your devotion, and your hard work. I commend us all for coming together and helping to create a virtual community during this time of challenge.

After Korach and his followers were swallowed into the ground, God shares an interesting command to Moses. "Remove the fire pans – for they have become sacred – and let them be made into hammered sheets as plating for the altar – let them serve as a sign to the people of Israel" (Numbers 17:1-3). I find this reasoning strangely reassuring. The people gathered up the fire pans of Korach and his followers, not to throw them away, but to reuse them, to reframe them for the future. The fire pans were hammered onto the altar – the most sacred place in their community – as a sign for the future.

That I believe is our responsibility moving forward. Our world has been turned upside down. We've been separated from each other, we've been marching in the street, we've woken up to the systematic racism that pervades our society, we've been swallowed whole. Now is the moment that we begin to rebuild and rethink about what is next. We take these past experiences, those things that have been burnt and destroyed, and rehammer them, reframe them for the future. Our goal is to build upon our vision, to reframe the past, and rethink what it means to be a Jewish congregation in Baltimore at this very moment. That means thinking creatively, that means doing things differently, but it also means holding on to our ideals, our culture, and our rituals. It means finding ways to gather together in any way possible – and building a world of kindness, learning, justice, and peace. Let us join together to reflect, to reframe, and to rebuild!

B'shalom,

Andy



From the President

2020 Annual Meeting Address

What an odd spring we had and summer we're having. The vast majority of us and our families and friends have managed to stay healthy during this amazing, perplexing, once in a lifetime (we surely hope) COVID-19 experience.

As you may already know, two of our Bolton Street Synagogue members were extremely sick with COVID-19. That's Doug Carrey-Beaver and Michael Green. Doug has largely recovered. Mike is still in rehab. I'm sure you all join me in sending them our hopes for a complete recovery.

If you're willing to go along with my anthropomorphizing Bolton Street Synagogue, you'll be very happy to hear that we're in good health and even vigorous. Sure, we very much miss being together in person, holding services, enjoying our onegs together, and more, but we're staying strong, productive, and relevant.

So, I want to show you what I mean by pointing out some of our successes over the past year, since our last Annual Meeting:

We can boast that our religious services have **attracted enviable numbers** of people—when they were in person and now remotely. So have our discussion groups like Torah study, our social events like our Spring Gala or the BOLT meet-ups. The same is true for our social justice initiatives related to our BUILD partnerships, and much more.

We **increased our profile in the community** around LGBTQ issues, inclusivity, support of city-wide educational improvements, and anti-racism. On June 3, for example, Rabbi Gordon addressed a rally for justice, healing, and peace. This was by invitation from Saint Vincent de Paul Church in downtown Baltimore and the Baltimore Jewish Council. Everywhere I go people know about Bolton Street Synagogue and marvel at our relevance and growth.

In the past year we also **engaged more with the larger community**. We collected electronic hardware for city school students, conducted a food drive, and delivered casseroles in our long-term commitment to Our Daily Bread. Several of our BSS leaders, including Rabbi Gordon, now serve on local and national boards where important decisions are made that affect the well-being of the Jewish and larger community.

Our **Social Action Committee** is charging ahead to understand and make an impact on anti-racism. To start, the Committee will be hosting a conversation based on a book called *White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism*, by Robin DiAngelo.

We are growing the responsibilities of our **Membership Engagement Committee** and **Care Committee**. We've introduced a **60+ group** that meets virtually every two weeks for people of a certain age. At the other end of the spectrum, Rabbi Gordon leads new **Tot Shabbat events** and **family programming**.

We have received **government funding** to improve the safety of our building. We've expertly drawn up plans—thanks to our **Security Committee**—to ensure the safety of our congregants.

Our **religious school** grew to its highest numbers in years and we saw our older students take on significant responsibility in the classroom and for relationship building.

We said goodbye to our beloved religious school director **Jillian Manko** and are about to welcome—on July 1—**Cory Hermann** as our new and very talented religious school leader.

As our outgoing **treasurer, Nancy Hutton**, is about to report, we feel confident that our bills will be paid despite a possible downturn in revenues in the coming year related to COVID-19.

We're working on plans for **safely reopening**, when the time is right. We're also keeping up on building maintenance and beautifying our grounds during this quiet period. As for the **grounds**, please swing by to see how lovely our property looks. Sit for a while in the Commemorative Garden if you'd like or stroll through our new native garden to the west of the upper parking lot.

We're **updated our bylaws**, purchased new Shabbat and High Holiday **prayerbooks**, and today are presenting to you a slate of new board members to take the place of the wonderful people who are rotating off.

Finally, I want to mention the **Religious Culture Committee**. Some of you attended a meeting last night to help the Committee envision our High Holy Day celebrations in the light of COVID-19. Across the globe, synagogues are preparing for a new kind of service: perhaps with some parts in person and others via Zoom or through streaming from the homes of Torah readers. It won't be the same, that's for sure, but I have every confidence that it'll be memorable and great because that is what we do at Bolton Street Synagogue.

We will go forward in big and little ways, as we always do. I miss you all. I would love to be together and we will be when the time is right.

Thank you again for being here tonight, for being a member of the Bolton Street community, and for giving me the honor of being your President. Thank you, too, to the Bolton Street Synagogue staff for all the important work they do and to our volunteers for all their amazing work. Thank you to the Bolton Street Synagogue Board of Trustees for helping steer the direction of our community, and thank you Rabbi Gordon for being the exactly right spiritual leader for us.

Shalom,

Elaine

Bolton Street Synagogue 2020 - 2021 Board

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Elaine Richman

President-Elect

Leslie Seid Margolis

Vice President

Ethel Zelenske

Treasurer

David Conn

Secretary

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Members-at-Large

Judy Bass

Paige Finkelstein

Rachel Levine

Theresa Nicol

David Speer

Abe Wasserberger

Alexandra Weil

Ben Wilson

Nick Windt

Please check your e-mails for more upcoming social programs and gatherings for all ages that will be happening remotely in July and August.



Religious School News

Hello! I am thrilled to be joining the Bolton Street Synagogue Community as the new Director of Education. I am looking forward to meeting many of you over the next month or two as we get ready to launch a new school year.

Let me share a little bit about myself. I grew up in New York, just outside of New York City. My family was very active in our Reform synagogue as I was growing up. It was that involvement that really informed and formed my love of Judaism and connection to the Jewish people. Whether it was my parents volunteering in synagogue activities and leadership, my extended family celebrating holidays and festivals, attending religious school through Confirmation, or my involvement in youth group and NFTY, including serving on the regional board, all had a great impact on who I am today and the choices I make in my life.

After pursuing my Bachelor's degree in education from the University of Delaware, I began my professional career in formal and informal Jewish Education. I continued that work after receiving my Master's degree in social work and have been working in the field of Jewish education in some capacity for the past 29 years. I have worked in a variety of settings including synagogues in NY, NJ, and Baltimore, camp, teen post b'nai mitzvah programs and JCC early learning centers and outreach programs. These experiences have given me the opportunity to work with all kinds of families, in all different stages in their own Jewish journeys. Also during that time, my husband, Barak, and I have raised three amazing boys, two of whom are in college and one who will enter high school in the fall.

Over the next month or so, we will have opportunities to get to know one another. Please join me at one of the informal gatherings we will have so I can learn about you and your family. I want to know who you are, what is important to you and your family, and how I can help make sure your Bolton Street Synagogue experience is one that can enrich your family's lives. Be sure to fill out the Sign-Up genius when it arrives in your inbox. If none of the times work for you, send me an email so we can set up a time to connect. Thank you for welcoming me into the BSS family.



TOT SHABBAT
Friday, July 17th and August 21st
at 5:30pm

Social Action Committee News

Soon after the murder of George Floyd, the Social Action Committee (SAC) met to discuss our response to this senseless death.

We shared our feelings which ranged from outrage, despair, hopelessness, and sadness, to guilt. For some, this event unmasked the trauma of being arrested and beaten just for being Black, and feeling overwhelmed that humanity no longer exists for Black people. Listening to people of color was powerful and deeply meaningful. Members asked why so much hate exists in our country. Why do we consider ourselves good-intentioned people who are anti-racist, but at the same time we live in a society that has deep racial inequities?

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted how centuries of systemic racism has caused people of color to have a disproportionate number of deaths from the virus, inadequate testing availability, and not enough electronic devices or WiFi access for quality in-home schooling.

We discussed that our country is at a crossroads and the national spotlight on institutional racism has created an opportunity for BSS to join in this movement.

What can we do?

1. We should have honest and reflective conversations about racism, among ourselves, our community and our congregation. As Rabbi Abraham Joshua Hershel says, "Few are guilty, but all are responsible." It is time to work on dismantling racism rather than letting it continue to exist.
2. We need to continue working with BUILD, Jews United for Justice (JUFJ), and Strong Schools Maryland. In addition, we should connect with NAACP, Baltimore Racial Justice Action, the Poor People's Campaign and other local groups. The Reform Action Center (RAC) can provide guidance and resources as well.
3. The police structure needs to be reexamined. Why is there a disproportionate use of force, arrests and death against people of color?

As a first step, the SAC is scheduling a facilitated book discussion based on *White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk about Racism*, by Robin DiAngelo. The author looks at assumptions that perpetuate racist beliefs without us realizing it. To reserve a book contact Lauren Kelleher at lauren.joyce.kelleher@gmail.com. The discussion is open to all BSS members; please contact Debra at debrabrownfelser@gmail.com if you are interested in participating. Details will follow.

The SAC created a Google doc so we can share resources and actions about racism. Please see link below: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1oisBsHto187Qn7n0kBAC1n1n8yJ-VQESz-PwBhJLxVk/edit?usp=sharing>

The next SAC meeting is Wednesday, July, 1st. Watch for the zoom link.

The social justice work we have been doing for the last few years will continue, but through the conscious lens of racial equality.

Bolton Street Synagogue has been a member of Strong Schools Maryland since August 2017. Strong Schools Maryland's initial goal was to ensure that the recommendations of the Kirwan Commission became law. This would create a world-class education system for every student, especially those who are disproportionately affected by issues of race, poverty, language, and disability. Working as a Group of Ten within Strong Schools Maryland, Bolton Street members have advocated by letter, email, phone call, and in person, both in Baltimore and Annapolis

Governor Hogan vetoed the bill that was passed in both the House and the Senate. They plan to vote to override his veto when they are back in session. At this time, there are no known plans for a special session so this probably will not happen until January 2021 at the earliest. We will keep the community informed about any actions to be taken.

As a member of BUILD, we assembled packages for the distribution of food and PPE's to over 500 families in need. BUILD is organizing to expand testing sites into communities across Baltimore and to ensure equitable access to public health care as well as addressing long standing health inequities.



July 2020

07/02/2020 Greta Gutwillig, grandmother of Allison Gutwillig
 07/04/2020 Albert Kilberg, uncle of Melissa Zieve
 07/04/2020 Jean Pendleton, aunt of Chris Hartstein
 07/05/2020 Gerd Ehrlich, father of Marion Ehrlich
 07/06/2020 Sylvia Weiner, sister of Ruth Rosenberg
 07/07/2020 William Abrams, grandfather of Lissa Abrams
 07/09/2020 Ruth Dattel Brandt, mother of Diane Stillman
 07/09/2020 Malcolm Mogul, father of Douglas Mogul
 07/10/2020 Beatrice Meyers, aunt of David Meyers
 07/11/2020 Harold A. Schneider, grandfather of Naomi Adams
 07/15/2020 Edith K. Wald, mother of Mitch Wald
 07/17/2020 Bobbie Feinstein, mother of Miriam Lupien
 07/18/2020 Isydor Herz, father-in-law of Bernard Berkowitz
 07/20/2020 Oly Gerstenberg, grandmother of Marion Ehrlich
 07/20/2020 Alfred Sette, father of Sarah Sette
 07/20/2020 Dorothy Weitz, mother of Anne Hamburger
 07/21/2020 Barbara Brown, mother of Debra Brown-Felser
 07/21/2020 Roger Dalsheimer, uncle of Nancy Savage & friend of Sandra Hess
 07/21/2020 Jackie Dobry, sister of Cheryl Hindes
 07/27/2020 Allan J. Caplan, brother-in-law of Helene Breazeale
 07/28/2020 Sarah Clark, mother of Dexter Clark
 07/28/2020 Harold Gutwillig, grandfather of Allison Gutwillig
 07/28/2020 Rose Belkowitz Scherr, mother of Stanley Scherr

August 2020

08/03/2020 Mollie Rosenberg, grandmother of Sara Rybczynski
 08/04/2020 Eva Jacobi, aunt of Karen Brown
 08/04/2020 Harold Nass, father of Sherri Nass-Teret
 08/05/2020 Sidney Schwartzstein, father of Sheila Thaler
 08/06/2020 Walter Brown, father of Debra Brown-Felser
 08/06/2020 Jacob B. Gilstein, father of Saul Gilstein
 08/12/2020 Joyce Hartman, mother of Alison Hartman
 08/13/2020 Edward Heine, step-father of Lyn Watner
 08/13/2020 Helen Mason Rubin, mother of Amy Rubin
 08/21/2020 Elsie Schwartzstein, mother of Sheila Thaler
 08/21/2020 Rozia Stolzenberg, grandmother of Allison Gutwillig
 08/23/2020 Lennard J. Wissow, father of Larry Wissow
 08/24/2020 James Lippman, grandfather of Dena Shaffer
 08/27/2020 Philip D. Zieve, father of Melissa Zieve
 08/28/2020 Louis Friedman, grandfather of Louis Blank
 08/28/2020 Carol Leah Hartstein, mother of Marc Hartstein
 08/30/2020 Margaret Herskovits, mother of Edward Herskovits

Contributions 4/24/2020 through 6/25/2020

Building Fund

Randi Reichel & John Benner, in memory of Herman Reichel
 Randi Reichel & John Benner, in memory of Evelyn Reichel
 Louis Blank, in memory of Sam Blank
 Helene Breazeale, in memory of Sophia H. Cohen

Library & Lifelong Learning Fund

Ralph Raphael & Elaine Richman, in memory of Sylvia Hoberman Mandel

Melvin Cohen Social Action Fund

Vicki Cohen in memory of Sylvia Hoberman Mandel
 Marion Ehrlich in memory of Sylvia Hoberman Mandel
 Rona Kobell & Jesse Walker in memory of Helen Kobell
 Marilyn Shapiro in honor of Debra Brown Felser
 Ethel Zelenske in memory of Jacques Zielinski

Mishkan T'filah Bookplate

Ralph Raphael & Elaine Richman

Music and Worship Fund

Linda Blonsley, in memory of Goldye Selig
 Eleanor Simon & Patrick O' Neall, in memory of Phyllis O'Neall & Shirley Simon
 Ralph Raphael & Elaine Richman, in honor of the marriage of Sam Weisbaum and now wife Stacey
 Nancy Savage, in memory of Sylvia Hoberman Mandel
 Bruce & Marsha Schachtel, in memory of Sylvia Hoberman Mandel

President's Discretionary Fund

Russell Margolis & Leslie Seid Margolis, in memory of Albert Wiener
 Alexandra Weil, in memory of Herbert Weil

Operating Fund

Gary & Barbara Anderson, in memory of Donald Kreshtool
 Susan Bennett, in memory of Doris Rubin Bennett
 Gary Felser & Debra Brown-Felser, in memory of Ethel Brandsdorfer,
 Barbara & Howard Cohen, in memory of Sylvia Hoberman Mandel
 Scott Feeser & Elisabeth Liebow, in memory of Sylvia Hoberman Mandel
 Damie & Diane Stillman, in memory of Fanita Damie Stillman & Ruth Dattel Brandt
 Sheila Thaler, in memory of Sylvia Hoberman Mandel
 Rich Weitzman, in memory of Sylvia Hoberman Mandel

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Bernard Berkowitz, in memory of Bernice Herz
 Louis Blank, in memory of Geoffrey MacLellan
 Louis Blank, in memory of Ruth Friedman
 Robert & Karen Brown, in memory of Frank & MaryAnn Seidner
 Robert & Karen Brown, in memory of Jerome Cohen and Sylvia Mandel
 Alaine Jolicoeur, in appreciation of Rabbi Gordon's hard work and guidance during this unprecedented time
 Adrienne Leibovitz, in gratitude for performing Sid Leibovitz's funeral
 Russell Margolis & Leslie Seid Margolis, in honor of the 12th anniversary of Rabbi Andy Gordon and Brian ten Siethoff
 Abe & Ling Novick, in memory of Florence Novick
 Abe & Ling Novick, in memory of Lee Hammel
 Karen & Richard Soisson, in memory of Sylvia Hoberman Mandel

Mike Zabner Youth Education Scholarship Fund

Ralph Raphael & Elaine Richman, in memory of Joel Havemann
 Elisabeth Sachs & David Sheehy, in memory of Sheila Sachs
 Ethel Zelenske, in memory of Chaim Zielinski

Calendar

July 2020

1	7:00 PM	Social Action Committee meeting
3	6:30 PM	Shabbat Service with Rabbi Gordon & Cory Hermann
10	6:30 PM	Shabbat Service with Rabbi Gordon and Nomi & Keith Adams
11	9:30 AM	Taking Hold of Torah
	6:30 pm	Havdalah
14	5:30 PM	60's+ Meeting
16	7:00 PM	Membership Engagement Committee meeting
17	5:30 PM	Tot Shabbat
	6:30 PM	Shabbat Service led by Rabbi Gordon
18	9:30 AM	Taking Hold of Torah
22	7:00 PM	Board of Trustees meeting
24	6:30 PM	Shabbat Service with Rabbi Gordon & Mark Giuliano
28	5:30 PM	60's+ Meeting
31	6:30 PM	Shabbat Service

August 2020

5	7:00 PM	Social Action Committee meeting
7	6:30 PM	Shabbat Service with Rabbi Gordon & Cory Hermann
11	5:30 PM	60's+ Meeting
14	6:30 PM	Shabbat Service led by Rabbi Gordon and Nomi & Keith Adams
15	9:30 AM	Taking Hold of Torah
	6:30 pm	Havdalah
20	7:00 PM	Membership Engagement Committee meeting
21	5:30 PM	Tot Shabbat
	6:30 PM	Shabbat Service with Rabbi Gordon & Mark Giuliano
25	5:30 PM	60's+ Meeting
26	7:00 PM	Board of Trustees meeting
28	6:30 PM	Shabbat Service led by Rabbi Gordon and Nomi & Keith Adams
29	9:30 AM	Taking Hold of Torah

Summer Hours!

All services in July & August
will be held at 6:30 pm



BOKER TOV MINVAN

Join Rabbi Gordon for a 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.

 facebook.com/BoltonStreetSynagogue

TAKING HOLD OF TORAH WITH RABBI ANDY GORDON



Saturdays at 9:30 am
July 11 & 18
August 15 & 29