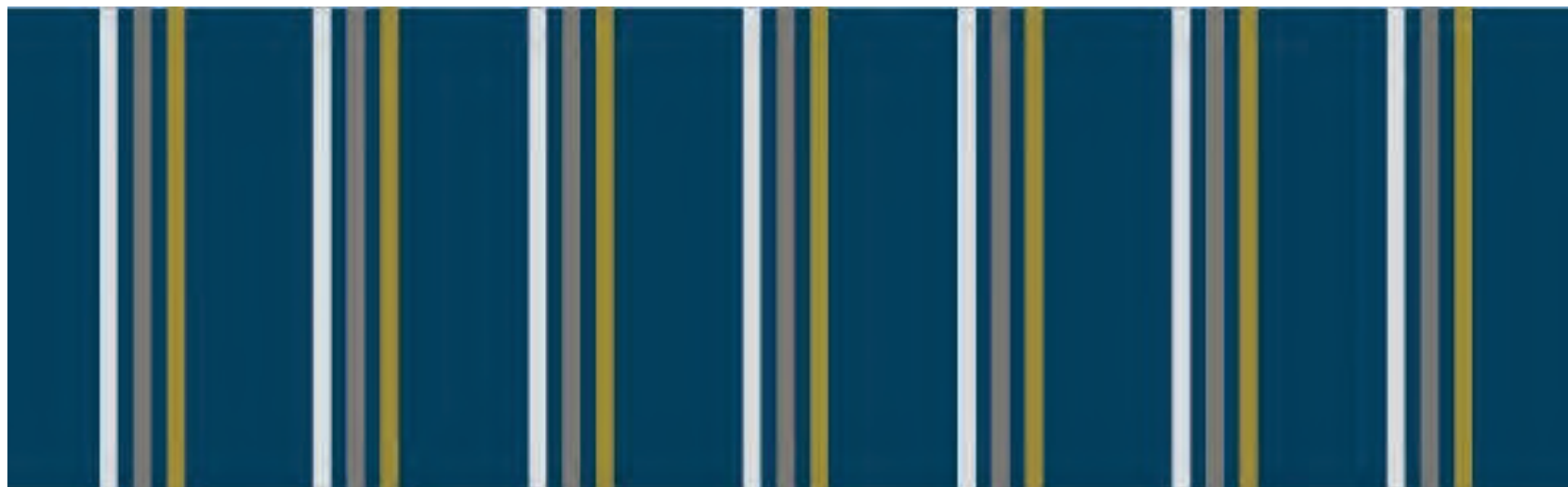


Congregation Beth Israel

Lifelong Learning, Events, and Programs

Spring 2018 / 5778

713-771-6221 | www.beth-israel.org



Welcome!

At Congregation Beth Israel we offer dynamic, engaging, and fun programming for our congregants ages 1 to 100. Our goal is to ensure that all our members are finding ways to engage with their congregational community, deepen their understanding of Reform Judaism, and enrich their learning with guest speakers, multimedia presentations, art exhibits, and volunteer opportunities for the personal growth of mind, body, and spirit.

Congregation Beth Israel's vision is to be relevant, modern, and joyful, so we choose programming that amplifies that vision. We invite musicians from all over the country to perform here, we bring dynamic and well-known panelists to participate in symposia, and we highlight our congregants who are making a positive difference in the world we wish to see.

Should you have any questions about our upcoming programming, please contact Temple offices at 713-771-6221 or David Scott at dscott@beth-israel.org. Our programming is open to the community. Please bring friends and family to participate with you.



Pictures (Left to Right):

The YAD table at the 2017 Lyon Cohen Symposium.

Members of the Scott family at the Second Night Seder with Past President Bobby Lapin, Joanne Levy, and Bruce Levy, President of the Board of Trustees.

ABIDE Committee Co-Chair, Lisa Stone, with guests from Interfaith Ministries for Greater Houston, at ABIDE's 2017 Sukkot program.

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Scholar-in-Residence Weekends



Rabbi David Stern

January 12th and 13th

Rabbi David Stern, President of the Central Conference of American Rabbis (CCAR), will join us as Scholar-in-Residence. He will speak on “Imagination and Community” during the Friday evening Shabbat Service at 6:30pm, in the Sanctuary, and during Saturday morning Torah Study at 9:45am, in the Finger Board Room.

We also invite you to Shabbat dinner on Friday night with a special discussion entitled, “CCAR: Leading from the Left in a World on the Right,” led by Rabbi Stern following our services. The cost for the dinner is \$18.00 per person. RSVP to Gabby Burgard, Adult Education Coordinator, 713-771-6221 x307 or gburgard@beth-israel.org.

Rabbi Michael Marmur from Jerusalem, Israel February 9th and 10th

We are very excited to welcome Rabbi Michael Marmur, from Jerusalem, as our Scholar-in-Residence. Rabbi Marmur is the Vice-President for Academic Affairs of the Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion, and former Provost of the HUC-JIR Jerusalem campus. He has degrees from the University of Oxford and the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. He will deliver the Shabbat message Friday night, and will lead Torah study on Saturday morning.

We also invite you to Shabbat dinner on Friday night with a special discussion led by Rabbi Marmur following services. The cost for the dinner is \$18.00 per person. RSVP to Gabby Burgard, Adult Education Coordinator, 713-771-6221 x307 or gburgard@beth-israel.org.

Special thanks to Susan and Ed Septimus for underwriting this special weekend.



Rabbi Susan Silverman February 16th-18th

We are delighted to welcome Rabbi Susan Silverman, from Jerusalem, as part of our continued celebration of Israel’s 70th anniversary year. In 1997, Rabbi Silverman co-authored the book *Jewish Family and Life: Traditions, Holidays, and Values for Today’s Parents and Children*. She worked as a congregational rabbi in Maryland and as a Jewish educator in Boston before moving to Israel in 2006. In 2015, Rabbi Silverman was present when, for the first time, Women of The Wall read from a full-size Torah scroll during the group’s monthly prayer service at the Western Wall. She will be joining us for the Shabbat message Friday night and will lead the Torah study on Shabbat morning.

We also invite you to Shabbat dinner on Friday night with a special discussion led by Rabbi Silverman following our services. The cost for the dinner is \$18.00 per person. RSVP to Gabby Burgard, Adult Education Coordinator, 713-771-6221 x307 or gburgard@beth-israel.org.

Special thanks to Stephen Breslauer, Diane Novy, and Stanley Novy, for helping to underwrite Rabbi Silverman’s visit. This weekend is also co-sponsored by the Beth Israel Sisterhood.

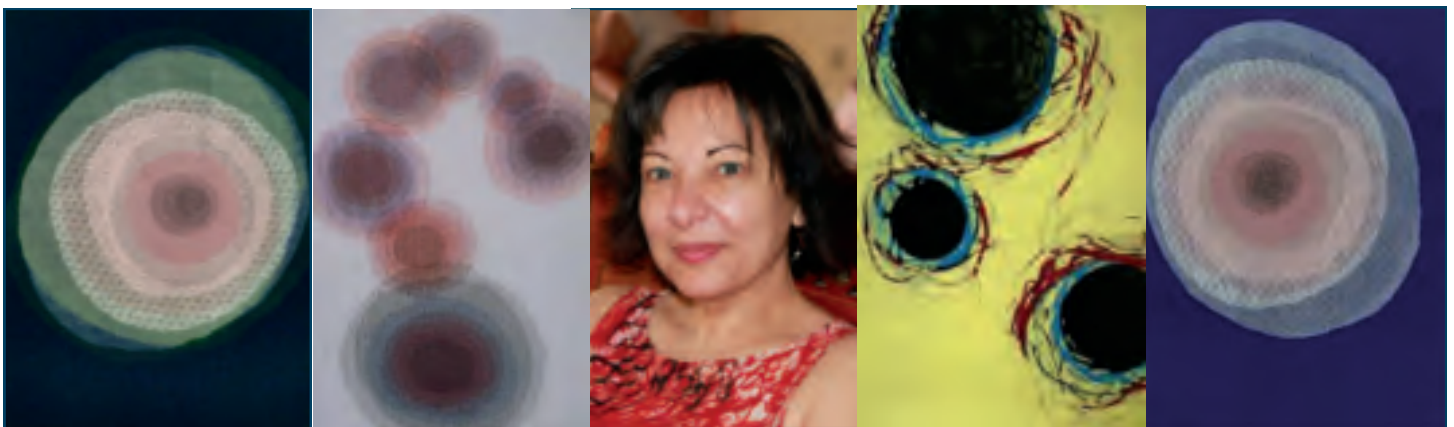


THE MARGOLIS GALLERY

of Congregation Beth Israel

“Friends of The Margolis Gallery” provides enrichment to Congregation Beth Israel and to the entire community through high-quality art exhibitions, educational programs and art acquisitions which enhance our congregational home. We also offer art tours around our well-endowed city, including collections of our own Beth Israel congregants. And for those who enjoy venturing out of town, we will offer customized trips of utmost luxury and quality interests.

Membership in the Friends of The Margolis Gallery is currently available at an annual fee of \$125 per person or \$200 per couple.



Orna Feinstein

January 11th

6:00pm

The Houston community is invited to the kick-off of a joyous celebration of Israel's 70th birthday in the Margolis Gallery, featuring an art exhibition of Israeli born, local artist Orna Feinstein. "Ya'ar", the exhibit title, means "forest" in Hebrew and sets the stage for a beautiful study of nature inspired by Israel. Friends of Margolis Gallery will host an Artist Reception and Talk to open the exhibit at 6:00pm on Thursday, January 11th. RSVP to Sara Kaiser, skaiser@beth-israel.org or 713-771-6221

Fotofest 2018 Exhibit: Baghdadi Jewish Actresses in Bollywood

March 15th

6:00pm

All are welcome to join Friends of Margolis for the opening of this new and exciting exhibit featuring images from the collection of Joyce and Kenneth X. Robbins. The Margolis Gallery is excited to be a stop on the art tour for Fotofest 2018.

For more information and to RSVP please contact Sara Kaiser at skaiser@beth-israel.org or 713-771-6221 x301.





Ira Forman, Houston Community-Wide Event January 16th

7:00pm

Ira Forman was sworn in as Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism (SEAS) on May 20, 2013. He leads the State Department's efforts to advocate on behalf of Jewish communities and through his travels, regularly articulates U.S. policy on monitoring and combating anti-Semitism throughout the world.

Prior to serving as SEAS Mr. Forman accumulated 40 years of experience in Jewish communal work and public service. From 2011-2012 Mr. Forman served as the Jewish Outreach Director for the Obama for America campaign. He served for nearly 15 years as the Executive Director of the National Jewish Democratic Council and spent four years with the American Israel Public Affairs Committee where he worked as Political Director and Legislative Liaison. He has also served on the boards of a number of Jewish non-profits.

Throughout his career he has spoken and written extensively on Jewish history and public policy. Mr. Forman co-edited and wrote for the reference book, *Jews In American Politics*.

Shir Shabbat and New Member Blessing

January 19th

6:30pm

Our next Shir Shabbat will feature an expanded band playing lively selections by Craig Taubman, Noah Aronson and other contemporary composers. CORE, our volunteer choir, will also sing at the service. Come sing, clap, and dance with us for this exciting Shabbat service.

New members from 2017 will be invited to the bimah during Shabbat services in the Sanctuary for a blessing led by our clergy. A dinner in their honor will follow services. For more information, contact Sara Kaiser at skaiser@beth-israel.org or 713-771-6621 x 301.

Mussar Information Session

January 30th

7:00pm

Mussar is a centuries-old Jewish tradition that can help you develop inner awareness to become the finest version of the person you already are. If you are interested in learning about our upcoming small-group Mussar course beginning in February, please join us for this short information session. This session will offer you a short version of an actual Mussar meeting to give you a picture of what the structure and content of each class meeting will entail. To RSVP for the information session or to register for the course, please contact Gabby Burgard at gburgard@beth-israel.org or (713) 271-7369.



GFC Family Retreat February 2nd- 4th

It's the ultimate Jewish family vacation and a great opportunity for parents and children of all ages to discover the incredible experience of a GFC Shabbat. The young and young-at-heart will spend much of their weekend together - climbing the 50-foot Alpine Tower, experiencing the giant swing, creating arts & crafts projects, learning Israeli folk dances and camp songs, enjoying outdoor and indoor sports, as well as participating in many of the other great activities that GFC offers during the summer.

This year, we are partnering with PJ Library for an incredible, literary Family Retreat weekend. Thanks to our partnership, you can save 50% on the cost for the event.

Join us for the GFC Family Retreat, and you will return home with memories of a Shabbat your family will not soon forget. There will be "Parents Only" sessions with our scholar-in-residence, as well as "Camper Only" sessions with our all-star staff. Our entire extended camp family will join together for exciting family programming and a wonderful time. Please see the GFC website for more details, at <https://greene.org>.



Installation Service for Cantor Star Trompeter February 23rd 6:30pm

We will officially welcome Cantor Star Trompeter to our congregation during a Shabbat Sanctuary service, in her honor and a special oneg to follow. Special guest, Cantor Roslyn Barak, will return to Beth Israel to participate in Cantor Trompeter's installation.

Rock n' Roll Bingo February 25th 5:00pm

Get ready for Purim, with Family Rock n' Roll Bingo Night! Prizes will be awarded, and dinner will be served. We will play bingo based on many favorite rock & roll hits! Stay tuned for more details and pricing information. Underwriting opportunities are available.



Purim Shpiel and Party (Adults Only) February 28th 7:00pm

Come celebrate one of the most joyous and fun holidays that Judaism has to offer! This holiday commemorates the deliverance of the Jewish people from certain destruction, a story recorded in the biblical book of Esther. It is a day to be happy and celebrate all of the wonderful things life has to offer, while in costume!



AIPAC Policy Conference

March 4th-6th

Each year Congregation Beth Israel sends a delegation to Washington DC's annual AIPAC Policy Conference. Over 16,000 people from around the country attend this convention where national leaders come to speak and interesting break-out sessions are led by our nation's greatest experts. You will travel to Capitol Hill and lobby your congressional leaders on important issues affecting the Israel/United States relationship. For information on attending Policy Conference, contact David Scott at dscott@beth-israel.org or 713-771-6221x612.

Israeli Movie Night

March 22nd

7:00pm

We invite you to join us for the film "In Search of Israeli Cuisine," a portrait of Israeli people told through food. This event is sponsored by the Adult Education and Israeli Advocacy Committees, and is part of our celebration in honor of Israel's 70th anniversary year. Be on the lookout for more information.



Musical Shabbat

March 23rd

6:30pm

Cantor Trompeter and our clergy team welcome you to a Musical Shabbat filled with Broadway music, a great family-friendly service, and a special oneg.

Endowment Book of Life Ceremony

March 25th

11:00am

In the Margolis gallery from 11:30AM to 1:30PM on March 25th, Joining over 100 previous signers, members of the Ner Tamid Society are invited to inscribe their name in Congregation Beth Israel's Endowment Book of Life. Ner Tamid Society members and signers will be listed in an interactive video monitor, where their stories are shared and personal hopes for the continuity of our Jewish community for generations to come. The keepsake book provided to guests at this meaningful ceremony is a collection of reflections, histories, and hopes for the future. To join the Ner Tamid Society in time for the Endowment Book of Life ceremony, please contact Lory Conte, (713) 771-6221 x600 or lconte@beth-israel.org.





Passover Second Night Seder

March 31st

6:00pm

Join us as we celebrate the second night Passover Seder on March 31st with our congregational family. Please come and share in food, wine, and storytelling. We will hold the Seder in Wolff-Toomim Hall. An invitation and reservation form will arrive in the spring.

Lyon Cohen Symposium on Ethics in Media

Wednesday, April 18th

5:30pm

Our annual Symposium focuses on topics presented through the lens of Jewish ethics. The 2018 Lyon Cohen Symposium will address ethics in the media, and will feature panelists Evan Smith, Lisa Falkenberg, Khambrel Marshall, Talia Stroud, and Rabbi David Lyon. The Lyon Cohen Merit Scholarship will also be presented during the Symposium. More information on our panelists and this program will be available in the spring.

Mitzvah Day

April 22nd

9:00am

Come and celebrate Mitzvah day with us by volunteering for one of the many organizations with which we partner. You can aid in many causes from making care packages, to cooking meals, and visiting children and the elderly at hospitals and hospices. This is truly a day to give back, and the best way to do it is with your friends and family!



A Tribute to Leonard Bernstein

April 22nd

7:00pm

In honor of Leonard Bernstein's 100's birthday, we will pay tribute to his memory in this year's musical program, underwritten by The Carolyn Fleishman Fund, led by Cantor Star Trompeter, and five guest cantors including Cantor Richard Cohn, Director of the Debbie Freedman School of Sacred Music, HUC. This event is free and open to the whole community, and will be held in the Sanctuary.



Kehillah High Graduation

May 2nd

7:00m

You are invited to celebrate the Kehillah High senior class, as they graduate alongside their friends from this dynamic Hebrew High School. The community is invited to wish them well as they take their next steps into adulthood and move forward on their Jewish journey. For more information on Kehillah High, contact Danielle Alexander at dalexander@kehillahouston.org.

KEHILLAH

High

Save the Date

Samuel E. Karff Leadership Gala

May 11th

7:30pm

This spring we honor Barbara and Barry Lewis as recipients of the 2018 Samuel E. Karff Leadership Award, which will be presented to them at our Gala Shabbat Dinner on Friday evening, May 11, 2018. Look for your invitation in the mail. Mark your calendars now.

Annual Meeting

May 29th

6:30pm

Our annual meeting will take place on Tuesday, May 29th. Reflect on our highlights from this year, learn about plans for next year, and help us recognize our outstanding Volunteers of the Year.

Confirmation

May 18th

6:30pm

Our Confirmation service will take place on Friday night, May 18th for all 10th grade students enrolled in Kehillah High. This special service will be held in the Sanctuary and will be led by our Confirmands, with a Shabbat oneg to follow in Wolff-Toomim Hall.

Blessing for Israel Travelers

June 1st

6:30pm

Our Israel Travelers will be blessed on the bimah on during Shabbat services, before they embark on our biennial trip to Israel, with Rabbi Lyon and Rabbi Scott.

Beth Israel's Israel Trip

June 3rd-13th

Our biennial trip to Israel will be on June 3-13, 2018, and we hope you can travel with us! If you have not yet journeyed to Israel, consider joining this year's trip! Rabbi David Lyon, Lisa Lyon, and Rabbi Adrienne Scott will be leading members and friends of our congregation for an exciting 10 day experience that is unlike any other Israel experience you can imagine. Meet with leaders of the country, explore areas that are generally unknown, and witness the growth and change of the Reform movement in Israel. For registration information and to view the itinerary, please visit www.frosch.com/cbi.



Family Shabbat and Shabbat Shindig

At Congregation Beth Israel, we offer diverse, interactive, spiritual, meaningful programming for all members of our community. Family Shabbat and Shabbat Shindig serve to engage families and are crafted for our youngest members!

Family Shabbat, our gathering for families with children in 5th grade and younger, features a fun and light musical Shabbat program, and includes dinner, activities, and happy hour for parents. The cost is \$20 per family, and always begins at 6:00pm.

Shabbat Shindig is a great program for families with children 5 and under to meet, mingle, play, and have breakfast together, beginning at 10:00am.

January 12th—Family Shabbat

February 9th—Family Shabbat

February 24th—Shabbat Shindig

April 6th—Family Shabbat

May 4th—Family Shabbat

May 19th— Shabbat Shindig

June 1st— Family Shabbat



Some of our youngest congregants participating in Family Shabbat and Shabbat Shindig.

Spring Coffee Talk Series

Engaging Adult Education programming begins with Coffee Talk on many Sunday mornings throughout the year. Led this year by our clergy team and staff, our Coffee Talk series delves into Jewish history, and courses on Reform Judaism, education, and music. These talks begin on Sundays at 10:15am, in The Margolis Gallery, and are free and open to the community. Breakfast and coffee are provided.

January 21st: Coffee Talk with Rabbi David A. Lyon

January 28th: Coffee Talk with Rabbi Chase W. Foster

February 4th: Coffee Talk with Rabbi Adrienne P. Scott

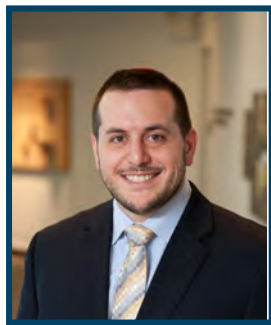
February 11th: Coffee Talk with MBJLC Principal, Samara Schwartz

February 25th: Coffee Talk with Executive Director and Director of Lifelong Learning, David Scott, RJE

April 8th: Coffee Talk with Herut Gez, Community Israel Emissary

April 15th: Coffee Talk with Rabbi David A. Lyon

April 29th: Coffee Talk with Rabbi David A. Lyon



Leisure Club

11:30am

Wolff-Toomim Hall

Leisure Club provides a space for learning, socializing, and great food. For more information and to RSVP, please contact Marsha Gilbert at mgilbert@beth-israel.org or 713-771-6221 x336

January 24th: A showing of the documentary “Deli Man” – Deli Lunch

February 28th: Julia Kay Laskowski – “Julia Sings Patsy” if you like Patsy Cline you’ll be in heaven listening to Julie sing Patsy – BBQ Lunch

March 28th: Mixteco Ballet Folklorico – Mexican Food Lunch

April 25th: Jazz Brunch

June 27th: Patriotic Indoor Picnic

Kids’ Meals: Our Monthly Mitzvah Project

9:30am

Each month we partner with Kids Meals, an organization that delivers free healthy meals to the doorsteps of Houston’s hungriest preschool children. For more information and to RSVP, please contact Marsha Gilbert at mgilbert@beth-israel.org or 713-771-6221 x336.

January 24th: Wolff-Toomim Hall

February 28th: Wolff-Toomim Hall

March 28th: Wolff-Toomim Hall

April, 25th: Wolff-Toomim Hall

May 23rd: The Margolis Gallery

June 27th: Wolff-Toomim Hall

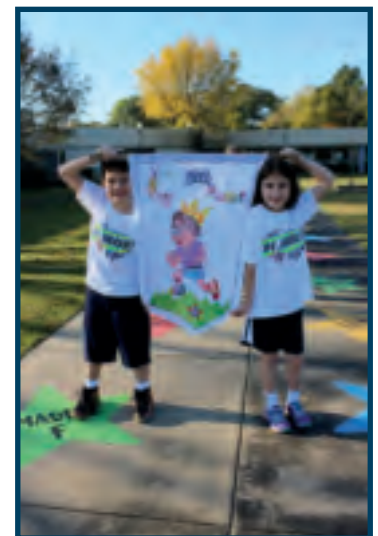


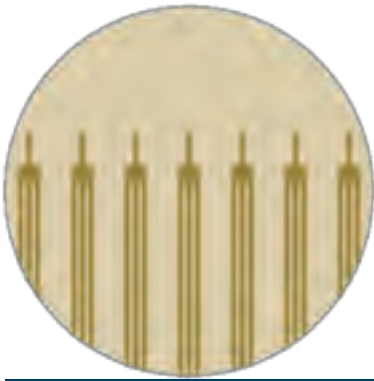
- January 28th: Limmud B'Yachad
- February 11th: 5th grade Family Education Program
- February 18th: Yom Limmud Program, Congregation Emanu El
- February 25th: 6th Grade B'nai Mitzvah Kallah #3
- February 25th: 4th grade Family Education Program
- March 25th: Religious School Passover Seder
- March 25th: School Registration Opens for 2018/19
- April 15th: Kindergarten Hebrew Naming Ceremony
- April 15th: 6th Grade B'nai Mitzvah Kallah #4
- May 6th: Last Day of Religious School Celebration



The Shlenker School
 Congregation Beth Israel

- January 26th: Elementary Pancake Breakfast
- February 23th: Early Childhood Grandparents' and Special Friends' Day
- April 14th: Shlenker School Gala
- May 6th: Carnival
- May 11th: Early Childhood Muffins with Mom
- May 16th: Musical
- May 24th: 5th Grade Graduation
- May 25th: Last Day of School





SISTERHOOD

of Congregation Beth Israel

Locally we are a group of women of all ages and varied backgrounds. Our common bond is an interest in programs to strengthen and enrich our own Judaism, support our youth, provide Mitzvah to others in our congregation and community and offer opportunities to socialize.

Working with a common bond of friendship, we offer programs that will benefit Beth Israel and the greater Houston community.



SAVE THE DATE WITH
SISTERHOOD!



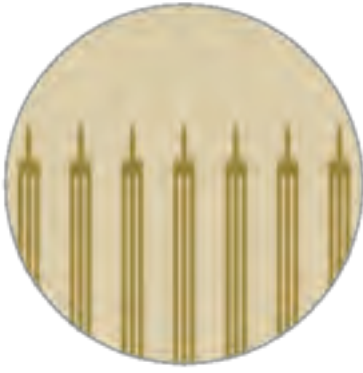
For more information on the Sisterhood programming, the Gift Shop, or becoming a member of the Sisterhood of Congregation Beth Israel, please contact the Sisterhood President, Courtney Clark at sisterhood@beth-israel.org.

Tickets \$40
 January 25, 2018
 6:00pm-10:00pm
 Congregation Beth Israel
 Youth/Tween Hall
 5600 W. Briarwood Blvd

The Sisterhood of Congregation Beth Israel
 celebrates its 5th annual
Mah! Mania!
 Come spend time with your Sisters!
 Enjoy a game of Mahj,
 A chance to win fabulous raffle items.
 And, of course, food and wine!
 REGISTRATION & EVENT DETAILS TO COME!
sisterhood@beth-israel.org
 Check our FB page for updates!

JANUARY
25





BROTHERHOOD

of Congregation Beth Israel

After our reboot in 2017, the Congregation Beth Israel Brotherhood has come together to help build a community of friends, do community service, and have fun.

For more information on how to join Congregation Beth Israel's Brotherhood, contact David Scott at dscott@beth-israel.org or 713-771-6221 x612



For the second year in a row, along with Congregation Beth Israel, the Brotherhood will help concoct, cook, and kvell at the Kosher Chili Cook Off!

February 25th, 2018

Cooking starts at 6am and the festival is from 12:00-4:00pm.

If you are interested in signing up for a booth shift, please contact Joe Weinstein-Sears, with the Brotherhood, at josephvsears@gmail.com.

Save the Date:

The Brotherhood will host their first Poker Night on February 1st, 2018, Meet other members of the Beth Israel Community for poker, drinks, and great food and conversation.

Be On the Look Out for more information on this program, and additional programming and community service projects with the Brotherhood!



Congregation Beth Israel
5600 North Braeswood Blvd.
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