

February 2019



## A SENSE OF WONDER Rabbi Jeffrey Kurtz-Lendner

One of the most brilliant theologians of the twentieth century was Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel. Not only his activism was inspiring but the words he shared with use can truly move our souls.

Heschel addressed the question of synagogue attendance. We are constantly seeking ideas to fill our sanctuary during services. Heschel stated in “Man’s Quest for God:”

“The problem is not how to fill the buildings but how to inspire the hearts.... The problem is not one of synagogue attendance but one of spiritual attendance. The problem is not how to attract bodies to enter the space of a temple but how to inspire souls to enter an hour of spiritual concentration in the presence of God.”

The problem we face is that our modern lives, filled with everyday activities, have blunted the wonder people used to feel. The mysteries of existence have been replaced by our scientific quests to conquer it. The question is not viewing in awe the wonder of the rainbow but understanding the forces that split light into an infinite spectrum.

Heschel taught us to bring that wonder back into our lives. Our scientific understanding of how things work should not negate the sense of mystery and wonder that accompany witnessing the beauty of nature. The miracle of life is nature, not nature’s cessation. Understanding the natural cycle of life gives us the experience of God’s presence in the world. Just because we do not understand the Bible literally does not mean that the Bible does not represent God’s presence in history. On the contrary – the Bible is the very representation of God’s interaction in human and Jewish history.

Heschel described the difference between philosophy and theology. Philosophers present the question and seek the answers. Theologians begin with the answer – the answer being the assertion of the presence of God in the world and take that assertion and embark on a quest for a greater understanding of the world based on that foundation. The philosopher seeks evidence for God and looks to the world for that evidence. The theologian experiences the world and feels God’s presence. A scientist need not be an atheist. As the scientist discovers how things work, the spiritual scientist continues to be amazed at the wonder of why things work.

The commitment to Judaism is a commitment to reclaim the spiritual component of human existence. We do not just pass through life and make mental notes of the complexities around us, rather we pause and reflect on those complexities and recognize the wonders and mysteries of the world as we experience it. We see the beauty and awesomeness of existence and recognize the force of God that pervades all of life.

## From Our President



By the time this article comes out, we have had the Jewish film festival, the Saints may or may not have won the Super Bowl and our next big event is the Bazaar which is Wednesday, March 27th. But thank goodness February is a short month and at least after February spring is just a short time away.

We have had great attendance for “Shabbat 2.0” and our singalongs. Everyone has seemed to enjoy these and another is planned for February 15th, along with an enhanced oneg. Please make an effort to attend. If you have not been to one of these you have missed a great time.

And last, please sign up to help with the BIC Bazaar. This annual event would not be possible without our faithful volunteers.

Larry Goldstein  
President

### HAVDALAH

Saturday, February 2, 2019  
5:30 p.m.  
BIC Library

### HEBREW READING CRASH COURSE

Hebrew Reading Crash Course registration is open!  
Classes begin Wednesday, February 20 at 6:15 p.m.,  
in the Library. This free course teaches the  
aleph-bet and reading skills.  
Wendy Farley, Instructor

Five sessions, free Hebrew primer.  
Register by contacting Bill Morris at:  
[wdmorris@bethisraelms.org](mailto:wdmorris@bethisraelms.org).

### Beth Israel Board – 2019

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### Disney Singalong Oneg

Be a *beauty*, not a *beast*, and join the Shirim  
Choir for a *supercalifragilistic* time singing Disney songs,  
following the Shabbat service on February 15, 2019.

Children are invited to *be our guest* and come dressed as  
their favorite Disney character.

Dinner will be served and everyone will surely discover  
*a whole new world* in the *circle of life*.

**Happy New Year!!!!**  
**This year I resolve to.....**

Did you make your resolutions? Have you broken any of them yet? We all like to think that we will be better in many ways, but who succeeds 100% ?

If you made a resolution to be kinder to people and you lost your temper with someone today, does that mean your resolution is broken? I don't think so.

If we resolve to eat more of a healthful diet, but then have a hot fudge cake on January 10, does that mean we stop trying? No!!

If we resolve to be kinder to people and then we falter in a small way, does that end our resolve? I don't think it should.

If we stumble, or even fall, we get back up and keep going. This should go for everything in life. We should never feel as though we have failed in our resolve, only having hit a bump in the road. As long as we continue to try to move in a positive direction, we are succeeding.

So I feel that my resolutions cannot be broken, but maybe bent a little. I will continue to try to adhere to my resolves as much as possible and hope that by the end of 2019, I am a better person for it. Join me?

Esther Roberts  
Sisterhood President

**52<sup>nd</sup> BIC BAZAAR**  
**MARCH 27, 2019**  
**10:00 A.M. – 6:00 P.M.**



**TIME TO FIND YOUR  
HIDDEN TREASURES**

We are now taking all white elephant items for the bazaar. We will be accepting books, toys, all kitchen items, small kitchen appliances, purses, jewelry, art, home accessories, new clothing with tags, lamps, bikes and furniture.

Please contact Charna Schlakman at 954-629-1371 for pick up, drop off, or if you have any questions.

**NO ELECTRONICS OR COMPUTERS**

**BIC TAKE HOME BOOTH**

The 52<sup>nd</sup> annual BIC Bazaar is just around the corner on Wednesday, March 27<sup>th</sup>. The Take Home Booth has been a success because of all the time and effort put in by our wonderful volunteers. We are asking for every congregant to prepare at least two items.

Last year we used signup.com to help organize the Take Home Booth. We will be using this again this year. An email will be sent out within the next week with a link and directions on how to sign up for the food of your choice.

If you have any questions, please contact Frankie Springer at 601-383-1209 or [fmspringer10@gmail.com](mailto:fmspringer10@gmail.com).



## We need your help

### *BIC 52<sup>nd</sup> Annual Bazaar/ Silent Auction*

*We are asking every member to donate **at least 2 items** for the auction.*

*Items of any value are appreciated, as long as the items are new.*

*Gift cards are always great!!*

*Please drop off items*

*in the Gift Shop-Sundays 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.*

Restaurants that you frequent are usually  
happy to help a loyal customer.

Ask your barber, manicurist, yard worker, pool company,  
masseur, mechanic, housekeeper, etc.

Any company you deal with should be asked.

This is a chance for them to promote their business and  
help your temple at the same time.

For any questions or to get a donor receipt form, please contact:

Esther Roberts—901-230-8963

[travelwithesther@yahoo.com](mailto:travelwithesther@yahoo.com)

## What is the Chevra Kadisha?

Just as we don't rely upon outside professionals to visit the sick and comfort the bereaved in our community, we believe that those who die in our community should be cared for by members of our community and not by strangers, at the sacred and vulnerable time of death.

For centuries, every Jewish community maintained its own Chevra Kadisha—a sacred fellowship whose members lovingly cleanse, dress, lay out and watch over the bodies of the dead until burial. In cooperation with our Cemetery Committee, Beth Israel currently maintains the only Chevra Kadisha in Mississippi under egalitarian Jewish auspices.

Our Chevra Kadisha volunteers are on call to fulfill the imperatives of Chesed shel emet (true kindness, or kindness at the moment of truth) for Jews and their immediate relatives who die in our community. Sh'mirah (vigil-keeping) volunteers—men, women, and teenagers—sit for two-hour shifts around the clock. Taharah (cleansing and dressing) is performed by a small group of volunteers—women for women, and men for men—under the guidance of an experienced team leader.

Our Chevra Kadisha needs you. As our community grows, so does our need to stay connected. Our Chevra Kadisha continues to welcome additional members to our ranks for both sh'mirah and taharah. The only prerequisite is a willingness to be respectful and cooperative in the presence of the dead.

## Ways to Help Out

If you're already receiving Chevra Kadisha notifications, try to show up whenever you can even if it's for someone you don't know, or don't know well.

**DONATE.** Your donations will benefit Jewish families during their time of greatest need. Visit the **DONATE** page at [Bethisraelms.org](http://Bethisraelms.org) and give generously.

## Upcoming Training

Please check the Beth Israel event calendar and weekly BIC Blast for Chevra Kadisha learning opportunities.

## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

**Why is the Chevra Kadisha so important?** Death is part of life. In times of illness and loss, our Jewish imperatives of kindness call us to show up and care for each other, regardless of our social connections or professional credentials. We have found that the

Chevra Kadisha provides comfort for those who grieve, enriches the lives of those who serve, and strengthens our Jewish community.

**Doesn't the funeral home take care of everything?**

No. However, upon request, either Parkway Funeral Home or Sebrell Funeral Home will transport the deceased, provide a place for the Chevra Kadisha to perform its service, and accommodate the shomrim (guardians).

**If I volunteer, how often will I be called?**

We understand that, when you are on call, you can only be available when you are available. That's why we always welcome new volunteers, since we never know who will be available when the next time of need will arise. We may go for a year or more without a mobilization, or we may find ourselves mobilizing twice in the span of a month—for an overnight, or for 2-3 days before a funeral. If you sign up, you will be asked to specify any limits on your availability, including how early and how late you can be called. You decide.

**What if I have young children at home?**

Several of our Chevra Kadisha volunteers are parents of young children and take turns looking after their children during a mobilization. We have found that young children are respectfully curious about their parents' involvement in this kind of effort. Encouraging their questions as part of a family dialogue helps ensure that the values of caring for our own at death will be reclaimed and passed on to the next generation.

**Contact us.** If you would like to learn more and receive information about upcoming educational programs, please speak with Mindy Humphrey, Petra Kay, Tamar Sharp, or Bill Morris.

Email [wdmorris@bethisraelms.org](mailto:wdmorris@bethisraelms.org).



## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

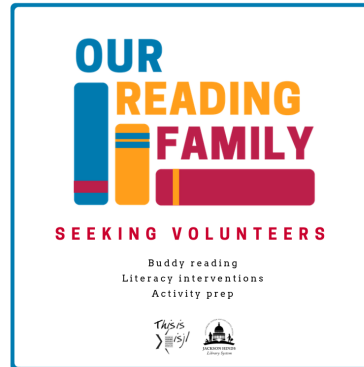
- 1 David Docter
- 2 Robert Levingston
- 2 John Craig
- 2 Danielle Wahba
- 3 Jay Hesdorffer
- 3 Efrem Lehman
- 3 Rachel Lehman
- 4 Chris Myers
- 5 Melissa Daniel
- 7 Susan Fijman
- 7 Theresa Priebatsch
- 11 Eli Abeles
- 12 Steve Jacobson
- 12 Natalia Ustinova
- 14 Shirley Eriksen
- 15 Kimberely Roberts
- 15 Susan Hart
- 18 Betsy Samuels
- 19 Joseph Samuels
- 20 Caroline Samuels
- 22 William Howell
- 22 Ian Rost
- 22 Ruth Docter
- 22 William Orlansky
- 23 Debra Jacobs
- 23 Dave Miller
- 24 Honorine Weiss
- 26 Matthew Dobel
- 26 William Morris
- 27 Zoey Rockoff
- 27 Mary Ann Schwartz

## FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- 10 Sally and Phil Cohen
- 18 Trenia and Irv Feldman



## **BABYSITTING WILL BE OFFERED DURING SERVICES ON THE MARCH 1, 2019 AT 6:15 P.M.**



Willie Morris Library will be hosting a family literacy program on Saturdays from February 2nd through February 9th.

The program is looking for volunteers to be buddy readers for an hour of the program. Choose to come to one weekend or all; it's up to you.

This is a great chance to support a local library and have fun with some great children.

Who: BIC Congregants

What: Buddy Reading

Where: Willie Morris Library, 4912 Old Canton Road, Jackson, MS

When: Saturdays—January 2nd—February 9th, 2019 (choose one or more weekends—your choice.) 12:00 p.m.—1:30 p.m.

RSVP: [davemiller.dmm@gmail.com](mailto:davemiller.dmm@gmail.com) or 662-616-9132

## **DOUBT AND DISCOVERY**

Doubt & Discovery meets Tuesday, February 19, at 6:15 p.m.  
at Chez Finkelberg (4134 Oakridge Drive in Fondren).

The discussion will be “Who Wrote the Bible?”  
with James Bowley.

Light refreshments provided.

Please RSVP to [Arty.Finkelberg@raymondjames.com](mailto:Arty.Finkelberg@raymondjames.com) or  
[wdmorris@bethisraelms.org](mailto:wdmorris@bethisraelms.org)

**WE APPRECIATE THE THOUGHTFULNESS OF THOSE WHO SUPPORT BETH ISRAEL  
BY REMEMBERING AND HONORING THEIR FRIENDS AND LOVED ONES THROUGH THEIR GENEROUS CONTRIBUTIONS**

*Donations may be applied to the following funds, per your request:*

GENERAL FUND	MEMBERSHIP & ENGAGEMENT	CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND	TIKKUN OLAM FUND
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RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND	SATURDAY MORNING FUND	CHOIR FUND	CEMETERY FUND
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BITY	MITZVAH FUND (SISTERHOOD)	RELIGIOUS SCHOOL	HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL FUND
CHEVRA KADISHA FUND			

**BITY**

*In Memory of Linda Brantley—Rose Mary Foncree*

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*In Memory of A.J. Orkin, Sr.—Donna & Ted Orkin*

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*Donation—Mindy & Clay Humphrey*  
*In Memory of Seymour Schwartz—Tammy & Bert Rubinsky*  
*In Memory of Paulette Hearon—Tammy & Bert Rubinsky*  
*In Memory of Shirley Orlansky—Lynn Crystal*  
*In Memory of Meyer Crystal—Lynn Crystal*  
*In Memory of L. P. Gradinger—Lynn Crystal*  
*In Memory of Paulette Hearon—Janice & Bernard Blumenthal*  
*In Memory of Shirley Orlansky—Jeanne & Stephen Rozman*  
*In Memory of Martin Zapletal—Jarmila & Peter Zapletal*  
*In Memory of Thelma & George Mitchell—Don Mitchell*

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*Donation—Mindy & Clay Humphrey*  
*In Memory of Marvin Joyner—Bea Gavant*  
*Donation—Michele & Ken Schipper*  
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*In Memory of Seymour Schwartz—Rebecca & Mark Fowler*  
*In Memory of Seymour Schwartz—Gilda Hesdorffer*  
*Donation—Dianne Kersh*

**JACKSON JEWISH FEDERATION**

*Donation—Michele & Ken Schipper*

**RABBI DISCRETIONARY FUND**

*In Memory of Lou Shornick, Shirley Orlansky & Seymour Schwartz—*  
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## *We Remember — Yahrzeits for FEBRUARY 2019*

### 2/3/2019—2/9/2019

James Lucien Loeb  
Jimmy Gordon  
Harry Magidson  
Yonodav Allouche  
\*Judy Feldman  
\*B. Lewis Garshman  
Jennie Rosenzweig  
Camilla Wahba  
\*William Hirsch  
Mark Berger  
Bernard Kahn  
Ruth Chamow  
June Grundfest  
Dave Fisher  
Esther Levin  
M.A. Lewis  
\*Ruth Taub  
\*Augusta Engel Lehman  
Mary Sher  
David Kweller

### 2/10/2019—2/16/2019

Riki Hoffberg  
Erwin Adler  
Joseph David Sollek  
Avi Schaefer  
\*Frieda Levy  
\*Minnie Ascher  
Joe Pepper  
Nina Katz  
\*Ettie Cohen  
Sidney Pollack  
Joe Stern  
Eda Newhouse  
Louis Binder  
Celia B. Abromson  
Joseph Fisher  
Reba Gavant

### 2/17/2019—2/23/2019

Lillian Horton  
Denise Elfassy Hamou  
Phillip Eisenstatt  
Maggie Weaver  
\*A.D. Oppenheim  
Milton Smith  
Gailynn Ava Pollack  
Ruth Feldman  
Sheli Hoffberg  
Judy Wahba  
Esther Segal  
Henry Greenberg  
Alvin Hoffberg  
Irene Cessna  
Sarah Nechamkin  
Betty Kreisman  
\*Ruth Muskin

### 2/24/2019-3/2/2019

Fannie Schwartz  
Irwin Ross  
Sarah Banks  
Madeleine Bluestein  
Doris Rubin  
Matthew Riba  
\*Bessie Shornick  
Marilyn Schur  
Max Millstein  
Jean Rosen  
Sadie Shapero  
\*Max Sebulsky  
Edward Schur  
Adeline Fish  
H. Fish  
John Hart Lewis  
Lois Krock

\*Memorial Alcove