



בית אברהם

Bais Abraham
CONGREGATION

Founded 1894

6910 Delmar Boulevard
Saint Louis
Missouri 63130

314-721-3030

www.baisabe.com

BAIS ABRAHAM
CONGREGATION

*An inspiring past, an exciting
future, a vibrant community*

The Shofar

BAIS ABRAHAM'S
ANNUAL REPORT

HIGH HOLIDAYS 5784 / 2023

A Message from Rabbi Garth Silberstein

Dear Friends,

In Judaism, we turn endings into new beginnings. The most well known example of this is that our calendar treats the evening, the natural end of the day, as the beginning of the next day. In the final hours of the week, on Shabbat afternoon, we read the beginning of the next week's Torah reading; more dramatically, once a year, on Simchat Torah, when we reach the end of the annual cycle of Torah reading and read the final verses of the book of Deuteronomy, before we even have a chance to put the Torah away, we immediately return to the beginning of Genesis and begin again.



The month of Elul, the last month of the Jewish year, is also an end, which doubles as a beginning. Elul is a time of introspection and repentance, as we not only reflect on the year that is coming to a close, but prepare ourselves spiritually for Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur, and the beginning of a new Jewish Year.

Earlier this summer, I announced that I will be stepping down as Bais Abe's rabbi in November. I already see signs of the ways this ending is turning into a new beginning. Even as the Nominating Committee is already hard at work lining up a slate of officers and board members for the next term, the current board is working diligently to line up not only interim coverage and plan for a full rabbinic search process. More than that, though, I am seeing how my departure is catalyzing conversations about not just what the past four years have been, but what Bais Abe's future could be.

Just as an individual is meant to use the last weeks of the year to reflect on what they have done right and wrong in the past and who they want to be in the future, we can use these final weeks of my tenure as Bais Abe's rabbi to reflect on what these past four years have been, as well as what Bais Abe's future could be. This rabbinic transition is an occasion for the entire community to think and talk about not just who Bais Abe's next rabbi should be, but what our community has gotten right, what our shortcomings have been, and how we want Bais Abe to grow in the future. Engaging in that conversation will allow Bais Abe not just to identify what kind of rabbi should lead this community going forward, but also what we as an organization and as a community, should be focusing on. (continued on next page)

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A Message from Rabbi Garth Silberstein

(Continued from previous page)

If we take this opportunity seriously, and have honest, and open conversations with each other about where we have been and where we could go, this ending could become the beginning of great new things for Bais Abe.

May it be G-d's will to transform this ending into a new beginning of growth and transformation. May He bless us all with the wisdom to understand how we, as individuals and as a community, are meant to serve Him.

May you and those you love be inscribed in the book of life.

Bivracha,



Rabbi Garth Silberstein

Welcome New Members

Anonymous (2)

Daphne Drohobyczer

Dr. Joseph & Esther Levay and Family

Bret Silvergate

When I was a kid, the time between the holidays this year and next year seemed like an eternity. Now I wonder how it is that we are approaching the chagim again so soon. Wasn't it just last month that I wrote my previous letter for the Shofar? How is it that we are in the month of Elul again so soon?



Our tradition is full of wonderful reminders of the passing of and the preciousness of time. We have a different psalm for each day of the week; we have Shabbat every week to remind us to take a break from the mundane; we have holidays to mark the passing of the year; and we sound the shofar almost every day of Elul to remind us to mentally prepare for Rosh HaShannah and Yom Kippur. And yet, despite all of this, time continues to rush past us and we wonder where the days have gone.

Sometimes we each feel older (and sometimes we hope we aren't). Our kids are definitely older, so some time must have passed. Did we notice? Or did we get lost in the minutiae of life? Did we use the time to become better people and to make the world a better place? Or did we procrastinate and watch too many hours and days slipping away. For me, it too often feels like the latter. I hope that isn't the case for you.

But there was a series of programming and one very particular announcement this year that has made me far more focused on the passing of time. For those of us who receive the weekly Shmooze newsletter and related emails you will have already seen Rabbi Silberstein's announcement that he will be moving back to California in a couple of months. Please know that the Board of Directors and staff are working diligently to make sure that that transition is as smooth as possible, but that isn't the focus of what I want to state here. Here I want to thank Rabbi Garth for his more than four years of service to our community. Looking back it is hard to believe that it has already been four years. He moved to St. Louis for us, started his family with us, and dedicated four years of his career to us - including through the trying years of the pandemic. For those four years I offer my heart-felt thanks and gratification to Rabbi Garth and wish him, Aviva, Ya'ara, and Leo (the dog) all the best. BeHatzlacha!

From my daughter's point of view, Rabbi Silberstein is the only Bais Abe rabbi that she knows. For my son, he remembers our two years with Rabbi Greenfield. My wife and I date our time at Bais Abe back to Rabbi Shafner. Others of us date our time at Bais Abe back to Rabbi Magence, of blessed memory, whose 20th yahrtzeit was this year. He, himself, started as the Rabbi here nearly 50 years ago. These memories are only a brief portion of the 130 year history of our congregation.

This history we have shared and that we will continue to build into the future is only possible because of all of our members and friends and our collective generosity. As you reflect on your past year and look forward to what is to come, please consider making the time to make a contribution to Bais Abe to help to ensure its future as well.

Shanah Tovah and Gmar Chatima Tovah,

Dan Vianello

Report from the Executive Director

When I sat down to write this letter last year, I was preparing to go on maternity leave. In my mind, I was organizing everything – both in my personal life and at work – to make the transitions as seamless as possible. As the Yiddish proverb aptly reminds us, though, “*Mann Tracht, Un Gott Lacht*,” or “Man plans and HaShem laughs.” Baby girl Cohen arrived five weeks early (thankfully very healthy), just over a week before Rosh HaShanah. Suffice to say, I had not completed all the tasks I set out to fulfill. I am incredibly grateful to Michelle Gralnick, the interim office manager, who so ably jumped in and kept Bais Abe’s daily operations running smoothly. On a small staff, everyone plays so many different roles, and I am thankful that Rabbi Silberstein and Abby Goldberg were, and continue to be, such supportive colleagues. Additionally, I am appreciative of Bais Abe’s Board of Directors, who created a family-friendly work environment, and to all of you who checked in and continue to ask about my family’s well-being. It was an overwhelming, yet beautiful, time in my life, and it’s hard to believe that almost a year has passed since then!



5783 marked the 20th yahrzeit of Rabbi Abraham Magence, zt”l. A lay committee led by Alan Nemes, Randi Mozenter, and Larry Friedman, and staffed by Abby Goldberg, laid out a vision for a year of learning and sharing, a vision that is now being implemented via a series of Shabbatons and a book of remembrance. While I never had the honor of knowing Rabbi Magence, it has been a joy being in touch with Bais Abe members past and present who have shared their memories and helped elucidate Bais Abe’s storied history. Our Shabbaton speakers represent different generations who knew, and learned from, Rabbi Magence. I hope you will join us for the programs in November and February and add your voice to this archive.

Our shul is a place of prayer, of Jewish learning, and of questions. We are constantly examining who we are as a Modern Orthodox shul in St. Louis, and having difficult and thought-provoking conversations. Indeed, as 5783 comes to a close, we are facing questions of identity as we embark on a rabbinic search. I appreciate all that Rabbi Silberstein and his family have done for the Bais Abe community, and hope that our entire community will pull a chair up to the proverbial table and help determine our beloved synagogue’s future.

I am immensely proud of Bais Abe’s mission and role in the St. Louis Jewish community. While there are struggles and difficult moments in time, this is a community that faces challenges and perseveres. This coming year will be one where we all have a role to play in helping shape the shul’s future. This involves financial, communal, and emotional investment. I look forward to sharing this journey with you.

Wishing you and your loved ones a new year that is filled with good health, peace, and happiness,

Ruth Schachter-Cohen

Ruth Schachter-Cohen



Report from the Programming and Engagement Coordinator

As 5783 comes to a close I can see what a difference a year makes. This time last year, I was just beginning to put names to faces in the Bais Abe community. Now, I know so many of you and am truly feeling like a member of this family. I have learned so much.



Together, we have achieved many great things. We began the year by welcoming volunteers back into the building with Rosh Hashana bag stuffing and distribution. We went on to see groups gather in celebration in person for the first time in years. Our Shabbat dinners began in the Sukkah last October and went through April with different cuisine and activities at each. October also afforded us an information filled Lunch and Learn with Sharsheret in honor of Breast Cancer Awareness Month. In December we had a dairy dessert feast with BINGO and other games for Channukah.

Not all our events revolved around food. We were able to collect significant funds to support U City school families through the holiday season and we took in a substantial amount of winter clothing donations as well. In February we were treated to an amazing concert given by David Schwartzman and Matis Rosenberg at our Havdalah Happy Hour. Our kids helped to make Israel themed Shalach Manot that many volunteers delivered across the city and for Purim we enjoyed dinner from Gokul while we watched Elliot the Entertainer on stage in the social hall. In the spring we had the privilege of hearing Dr. Randi Mozenter present strategies for keeping our stress under control.

Volunteers came out throughout the year to help bake classic Bais Abe desserts as well as new recipes. We made some exciting new cholent alternatives and twice hosted Seudah Shlishit Intergenerational Learning with volunteer made noodle bowls.

As fall approached, we were thrilled to welcome Rabbi Hyim Shafner to spend a weekend in commemoration of Rabbi Abraham Magence's zt"l 20th yahrzeit as the kick off to our Learning Initiative Honoring Rabbi Magence. We look forward in 5784 to Rabbi Joe Ozarowski and his mother Eva joining us for the second installment of this Initiative and Rabbi Hody Nemes joining us for the third.

There are lots of opportunities coming up this year for even more members of our community to participate, cooking, collecting, calling, packing, delivering, decorating and more. I look forward to working along with all of you toward another successful year of programming.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Abby Goldberg'.

Abby Goldberg





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Congregation,
6910 Delmar Blvd.
Saint Louis, MO
63130

SELICHOT*Saturday, September 9*

Selichot.....11:00pm

Monday September 11 & 18

Selichot/Shacharit.....7:30am

Thursday September 14 & 21

Selichot/Shacharit.....6:00am

EREV ROSH HASHANAH*Friday, September 15*

Selichot/Shacharit5:30am

(followed by Hatarat Nedarim)

Hatarat Nedarim.....6:30pm

Candle Lighting/

Mincha/Maariv.....6:51pm

ROSH HASHANAH I and Shabbat*Saturday, September 16*

Shacharit8:30am

Mincha/Maariv.....6:30pm

ROSH HASHANAH II*Saturday evening, September 16*

Candle Lightingafter 7:48pm

Sunday, September 17

Shacharit8:30am

Shofar10:00am

Tashlikh/Shofar at Lewis Park...6:00pm

Mincha/Maariv.....6:45pm

Havdalah.....7:47pm

FAST OF GEDALIA*Monday, September 18*

Fast begins5:33am

Selichot/Shacharit.....7:30am

Mincha/Maariv6:35pm

Fast ends7:34pm

Shabbat ends7:37pm

SHABBAT SHUVAH*Friday, September 22*

Candle Lighting/

Mincha/Maariv.....6:40pm

Saturday, September 23

Shacharit9:00am

Followed by Lunch & Learn

Mincha/Seudah Shelishit.....6:25pm

EREV YOM KIPPUR*Sunday, September 24*

Selichot/Shacharit8:00am

Mincha3:00pm

Kol Nidrei Drasha Livestream...3:30pm

Candle lighting/Fast begins....6:37pm

Kol Nidrei.....6:37pm

YOM KIPPUR*Monday, September 25*

Shacharit9:00am

Yizkor10:30am

Mincha.....5:00pm

Neilah.....6:15pm

Shofar sounds/fast ends.....7:34pm

SUKKOT I*Friday evening, September 29*

Candle lighting6:29pm

Mincha/Maariv6:29pm

Saturday, September 30

Shacharit9:00am

Mincha/Maariv.....6:15pm

SUKKOT II*Saturday evening, September 30*

Maariv.....7:26pm

Candle lightingafter 7:26pm

Sunday, October 1

Shacharit9:00am

Mincha/Maariv6:30pm

Havdala7:24pm

HOSHANA RABBAH*Thursday Evening, October 5*

Evening of Torah and Song

(co-hosted by Kol Rinah and CRC,
and sponsored by NJOP)....7:30pm*Friday, October 6*

Shacharit and

Hoshanot.....6:00am

SHEMINI ATZERET*Friday evening, October 6*

Candle lighting6:18pm

Mincha/Maariv6:18pm

Saturday, October 7

Shacharit9:00am

Kohelet.....9:45am

Yizkor10:30am

Mincha/Seudah Shelishit.....6:00pm

SIMCHAT TORAH*Saturday evening, October 7*

Maariv/Hakafot.....7:15pm

Candle lighting.....after 7:15pm

Kiddush/Dessert break.....7:45pm

Sunday, October 8

Shacharit9:00am

Hakafot9:45am

Women's Torah Reading...11:00am

Yom Tov lunch.....1:00pm

Mincha/Maariv6:15pm

Havdalah.....7:13pm

SHABBAT BEREISHIT*Friday Night, October 13*

Kabbalat Shabbat.....6:08pm

Candle lighting6:08pm

Saturday, October 14

Shacharit9:00am

Mincha5:53pm

Shabbat ends7:05pm



Yamim Noraim Scholar in Residence - R' Marianne Novak

We are thrilled to welcome R' Marianne Novak as Bais Abe's Scholar in Residence for Rosh HaShanah and Yom Kippur.



R' Marianne Novak received her semikha, rabbinic ordination from Yeshivat Maharat in 2019. She served her internships at the Hebrew Institute of Riverdale, New York and Congregation Netivot Shalom in Teaneck, New Jersey. R' Novak has been on the faculty of the Melton School of Adult Jewish Learning for over 25 years. Additionally, she has served as gabbai for the Skokie Women's Tefillah Group and has prepared numerous young women for their Bat Mitzvah celebrations for the group. R' Novak writes a popular blog on the Times of Israel, and has served as Scholar-in-Residence and lecturer at various congregations. She is also on faculty of the Jewish Learning Collab and recently became the Program Director for Va'tichtov: She Writes, a writing cohort through Yeshivat Maharat. R' Novak received her B.A. cum laude from Barnard College and her J.D. from Washington University School of Law in St. Louis. Currently, R' Novak is on Judaic studies staff at Akiba-Schechter Jewish Day School in Hyde Park.

Spiritual Preparation for the Days of Awe with Rabbi Garth Silberstein

*Thursdays, August 31st and
September 7th at 7 pm*

Join Rabbi Garth in person at Bais Abe for two evenings of song, study, and personal reflection in preparation for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur.

Women's Torah Reading on Simchat Torah

Sunday, October 8th at 11 am

All women are invited to attend the annual Women's Torah Reading on Simchat Torah Day. If you would like to be involved, please contact Fawn Chapel, Judy Hoffman, or the shul office. For a complete Simchat Torah schedule see page 6.

Sukkot ACROSS AMERICA

**let's celebrate
together**

Experience the most joyous time on the Jewish calendar together with Jewish singles, couples and families at NJOP's annual Sukkot Across America celebrations!

For a list of national Sukkot Across America locations and dates, visit NJOP.org/SukkotAcrossAmerica or call 1-800-44-HEBRE(W).

A Hoshana Rabba Evening of Music, Learning, and Food
*Hosted by: Bais Abraham Congregation, Central Reform Congregation,
and Kol Rinah*
 Thursday, October 5th at 7:30 pm
 Bais Abraham Congregation, 6910 Delmar Blvd.

NJOP Dedicated by Paul Taubman in memory of his mother, Sylvia Taubman, z"l
 NJOP | 1345 Avenue of the Americas, 2nd Floor | New York NY 10105
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Some Highlights of the Past Year

Be a part of Bais Abraham's social programs, service initiatives, and learning.

REMEMBERING RABBI ABRAHAM MAGENCE ^{zt"l}



Help create a book of memories of Bais Abe's beloved rabbi, a pillar of learning and kindness.

Send in your pictures, stories, memories and tributes to be included in this keepsake.

Please send all submissions ASAP to Abby@baisabe.com

Mark your calendar to honor Rabbi Magence's 20th Yahrzeit

- Shabbaton with Rabbi Hyim Shafner, August 11 -12, 2023
- Shabbaton with Eva and Rabbi Joe Ozarowski, November 10-11, 2023
- Shabbaton with Rabbi Hody Nemes, February 16-17, 2024

Gender Identity and Judaism Summer Speaker Series

This summer Bais Abraham Congregation hosted a speaker series on the theme of Gender Identity and Judaism. One evening we were joined via video link by Dr. Joy Ladin, who spoke on the topic, "Ivrim, the people who pass over: what being Jewish can help us understand about gender and transgender identities." Rabbi Micah Buck-Yael spoke on the topic of "Lo Ta'amod Al Dam Reiecha: Allyship as Mitzvah," and Rabbi Garth Silberstein led a lunch and learn titled, "Jewish Law and Transgender Identity." We are grateful to those who attended these programs and participated in these important discussions.

Ongoing Bais Abe Classes with Rabbi Silberstein (through November 2023)

SUNDAY

Understanding the Siddur

Join us for breakfast as we explore why we say the prayers we say and how to make them meaningful.

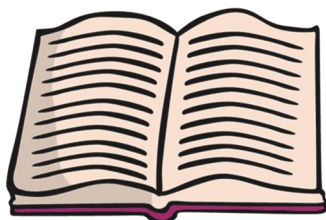
Time: after 8:00 am Shacharit

MONDAY

Mesilat Yesharim

Join us for breakfast as we study Rabbi Moshe Chaim Luzzato's classic guide to living a life of holiness, and discuss how we can apply its lessons in our own lives.

Time: after 8:00 am Shacharit



SHABBAT

Hilchot Shabbat

Time: Shabbat afternoon between Mincha and Maariv

Mark Your Calendars for Upcoming Shabbat Meals at Shul

September 23
Shabbat Shuva Lunch and Learn with Rabbi Garth Silberstein

October 21
Lunch and Learn on Holocaust Literature with Erin McGlothlin, Associate Professor of German and Jewish Studies at Washington University
Sponsored by Drs. Michael Rauchman & Ariane May

November 10-11
Shabbaton with Eva Ozarowski and Rabbi Joe Ozarowski
Part of the Rabbi Abraham Magence zt"l Learning Initiative

February 16-17
Shabbaton with Rabbi Hody Nemes
Part of the Rabbi Abraham Magence zt"l Learning Initiative

More Meals may be added!



Faces of Bais Abe

From holiday programs to classes to cooking and more, we were busy this past year. We look forward to seeing you in 5784!





Rosh Hashanah Greetings

Blessings for a healthy and joyous year to all from Aviva, Garth and Ya'ara Silberstein. We will miss you when we go, and we hope to continue sharing joyous occasions together, even if it will be from afar.

~

Shana Tova to all of our friends at Bais Abe!

Mark and Judy Hoffman

~

Lashana tova to the Bais Abe community. May you have a sweet and healthy new year.

Helene Gottesmann Phd.

~

Shana Tova to the Bais Abe community. We wish everyone a healthy, safe, and peaceful 5784.

The Schachter-Cohen Family

~

With warmest wishes for everyone in the Bais Abe community, especially for Rabbi Garth, Aviva and Ya'ara, for a very happy and healthy 5784.

Jessica Friedlander

~

Chag sameach to all of our friends in the Bais Abe community with our best wishes for a happy and healthy new year.

Lisa Ring and Greg Storch

~

We wish everyone a healthy, happy and peaceful new year. Shana tova u'metukah!

Morey and Tessa Gardner

Shana Tova! Wishing the Bais Abe Community a sweet and joyous New Year!

With warm wishes from Will Soll, Kalanit Chappell, and Family

~

Shanah Tovah to all our friends at Bais Abe from Jonathan, Lilly and all the far-flung Katzes

~

Warmest wishes to my Bais Abe family for a good, sweet, and peaceful New Year.

Janet Weinberg

~

Chana R. and Rabbi Hershey Novack send best wishes to the entire Bais Abe community. L'Shana Tova to all!

~

Wishing our Bais Abe family and the entire community a year filled with joy, good health, peace, and prosperity. K'etivah V'Chatima Tova.

Lyla & Ed Puro

~

Best wishes for a happy and healthy New Year to all of the Bais Abe community

-- Randi Mozenter and Larry Friedman

~

Wishing a Year of Peace, Health and Happiness!

Kim Margolis

~

Shana tova Bais Abe!

Nathan Waldman

Rosh Hashanah Greetings

Wishing everyone a happy, healthy new year.

Love, The Pickers

~

"Give People Light And They Will Find The Way..." Thank you Bais Abe for being a Holy Light, overcoming darkness, in my Sojourn to the Way of G-D... Light The Night! LaShanah Tovah!!!!

James Wallace

~

To the Rabbi and the entire Bais Abraham Congregation community,

We wish you all a happy and healthy new year.

Best wishes, Linda & Selwyn Picker

~

Wishing our Bais Abe family a sweet, healthy, and happy New Year! We miss the community and look forward to visiting again soon.

- Anne and Adam

~

A happy, healthy, sweet, and peaceful year to all. I look forward to seeing you in November.

Eva Ozarowski

~

Shana Tova from the Scherba-Swartz family (Rebecca, David, Yael, and Ari)!

~

May 5784 be a year of happiness for all.

Shu Simon

~

Shana Tova Greetings from the Thomas Family

~

Wishing everyone in the Bais Abe community a happy and healthy New Year.

Dan Reich, still in St. Louis

~

Chag sameach.

Dr. Ken and Cyndee Levy

~

Wishing you all a good and sweet year!

Goldman-Willick Family

~

Shalom from Israel, with best wishes to our Bais Abe community for a good New Year!

Phyllis & Jack Shapiro

~

We wish all in our Bais Abe community a shana tova u'metukah, a sweet New Year of good health and happiness.

~Fawn Chapel and Alan Nemes

~

לשנה טובה תיכתבו

May each of you be inscribed for a year of health and contentment.

Bonnie & Alan Templeton

~

A sweet New Year to all!

Steve Aroesty

Thank You To Our Contributors (through August 31, 2023)

We rely on your financial support via membership dues, the Yom Kippur Appeal, the annual fundraiser, and more.

Be a part of those who support the shul financially throughout the year.

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Rabbi Hyim Shafner & Sara Winkelman		
Daniel Shanks		

Thank you to all those who helped design, write for, edit, print, and deliver this year's edition of The Shofar.

*Thank
you*



בית אברהם

Bais Abraham
CONGREGATION

Founded 1894

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שנה טובה

Contacts

Shul Office (314) 721-3030, office@baisabe.com
Rabbi Garth Silberstein, rabbigarth@baisabe.com
Ruth Schachter-Cohen, Executive Director,
office@baisabe.com
Abby Goldberg, Programming & Engagement
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