



B'nai Tikvoh-Sholom & The Neshama Center for Lifelong Learning February 2023 Shevat/Adar 5783

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Who's Who at BTS: Christine "Chrisi" Bonchick

Chrisi, BTS's new Communications Coordinator, lives in West Simsbury (home of BTS members Janna & Jeff Gross and Judith Bramson, as well). She has three children, 22-year-old twins Sarah and David, and 21-year-old Leah. Sarah lives in Charleston, SC, where she is finishing school at the College of Charleston and working full time. David lives in Chicago and is finishing school up his BFA Studies at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago (SAIC), where he works in neon, paint and anything else he can find. Leah is the manager at the Ben & Jerry's in West Hartford. As well as Chrisi's new position as our Communications Coordinator, she is also the administrator for the Farmington Valley Jewish Congregation—Emek Shalom, in Simsbury, where she has been a member for 20 years and the Program Coordinator for Simsbury A Better Chance. A Better Chance is a nationwide program that takes young men and women of color from economically disadvantaged communities and provides them an opportunity to achieve their dreams through education. (See <https://www.simsburyabetterchance.org/> to learn more about the program.)



Chrisi did this interview over the phone from her Dad's house in Viera, Florida. She drove his car down for him, after stopping to hug her daughter in Charleston. Chrisi's father recently returned to Florida, having moved back to New York after the death of her mother, to whom he was married for nearly 60 years. Remembering how much he disliked winters made him return to Florida.

More Things You Don't Know About Chrisi

- Chrisi is one of three siblings, and is an Irish twin to her sister Angel, having been born just 13 months apart. Her brother, P.J., is three years younger; they are both among her best friends.
- She grew up in Flushing, NY, in the shadow of Shea Stadium, and lived there until she finished high school. Chrisi lived in NY, NC, and TX before settling in CT 22 years ago. She is unwavering in her love of all NY sports teams.
- Her work background, prior to Communications and Administration, was in Human Resources in the financial industry and at IBM in Operations until she had children.
- Chrisi is an avid Mah Jongg player and plays as often as she can. She loves cats and looks forward to saving another one very soon after the recent loss of her beloved tripod kitty, Shelby.
- She's a big [Ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com) buff and she loves spending time looking for where her family came from. This has led to a love of photo journaling her family's life, including the creation of both digital and printed journals that document her family's history and adventures.

Shalach Manot from the BTS Sisterhood

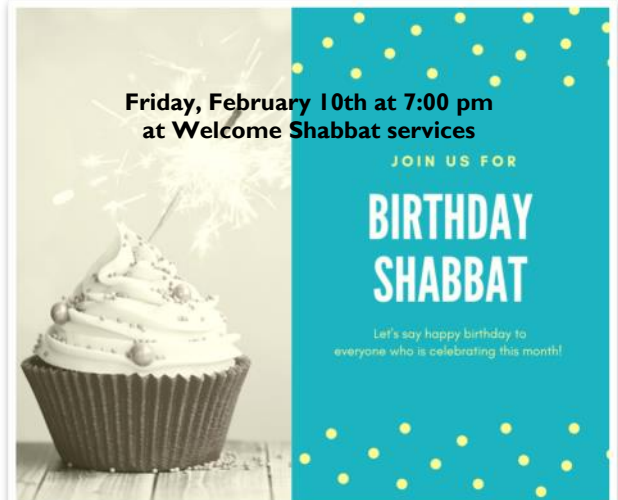
for your children or grandchildren away at school or for shut-ins

The B'nai Tikvah-Sholom Sisterhood shalach manot project provides **free** shalach manot goodies to the children/grandchildren (of BTS Sisterhood members) in college or graduate school, and for BTS members or the loved ones of BTS members who are cared for at home or in care facilities. To have shalach manot sent or to receive it, email Barbara Katzman at barbaralenore@yahoo.com with the name, address and any food allergies of the recipient(s) by Monday, February 13th.



Package assembly will take place at BTS on Sunday, February 19th at 2:00 pm. To volunteer, email Barbara Katzman by Thursday, February 16th, at barbaralenore@yahoo.com.

The cover photo of a snow-covered weeping cherry tree, as well as the photo of icy branches below, are courtesy of Shari J. Cantor.



A Year of Books: 2023 Sisterhood Book Discussions

March 19th at 3:00 pm on Zoom

***Henna House* by Nomi Eve**

"A captivating and evocative novel, at once intensely intimate and sweeping in scope."—Molly Antipol, author of *The UnAmericans*

May 21st at 3:00 pm on Zoom

***The Thread Collectors* by Shauna Edwards and Allyson Richman**

"An unforgettable story of female strength, hope and friendship. This collaborative work is magnificent—a true revelation!" —Pam Jenoff, *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Woman with the Blue Star*

July 16th at 4:00 pm on Zoom (Note later time for summer)

***As Close To Us As Breathing* by Elizabeth Poliner**

"Vivid, complex, and beautifully written, Elizabeth Poliner's novel, *As Close to Us as Breathing*, brims with characters who leave an indelible impression on the mind and heart. —Edward P. Jones, Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *The Known World*

October 15th at 3:00 pm on Zoom

***The Book of Dirt* by Bram Presser**

"The lyrical, impassioned and culturally rich prose of *The Book of Dirt*, and its moral force, bears echoes of such great Jewish writers as Franz Kafka, Elie Wiesel, Primo Levi, Isaac Bashevis Singer and Cynthia Ozick . . . "—*Saturday Paper*

December 17th at 3:00 pm on Zoom

***The Gallery of Beauties* by Nina Wachsmann**

"Riveting, magical & beautifully written."—Mally Becker, Agatha-award 2022 nominee for *The Turncoat's Widow*



Sisterhood Book Discussion: *Henna House* by Nomi Eve

March 19th at 3:00 pm on Zoom

Nomi Eve's vivid saga begins in Yemen in 1920, when Adela Damari's parents desperately seek a future husband for their young daughter. After passage of the Orphan's Decree, any unbetrothed Jewish child left orphaned will be instantly adopted by the local Muslim community. With her parents' health failing, and no spousal prospects in sight, Adela's situation looks dire until her uncle arrives from a faraway city, bringing with him a cousin and aunt who introduce Adela to the powerful rituals of henna tattooing. Suddenly, Adela's eyes are opened to the world, and she begins to understand what it means to love another and one's heritage. She is imperiled, however, when her parents die and a prolonged drought threatens their long-established way of life. She and her extended family flee to the city of Aden where Adela encounters old loves, discovers her true calling, and is ultimately betrayed by the people and customs she once held dear.

Henna House is an intimate family portrait and a panorama of history. From the traditions of the Yemenite Jews, to the far-ranging devastation of the Holocaust, to the birth of the State of Israel, Eve offers an unforgettable coming-of-age story and a textured chronicle of a fascinating period in the twentieth century.

Join Shari J. Cantor for a discussion of this "rich, spirited, and sensuous tale of love, loss, betrayal and forgiveness." You only need to register once for Sisterhood book discussions online. https://bit.ly/BTS_Sisterhood_Book_Group



A Year of Films: 2023 BTS Film Schmooze

February 26th at 4:00 pm on Zoom

***I Am Not Your Negro* with Professor Bilal Sekou**

"*I Am Not Your Negro* is an unforgettable work. Baldwin's words—eloquently spoken by Samuel L. Jackson—will haunt you."

—*The Philadelphia Inquirer*

April 23rd at 4:00 pm on Zoom

The Green Prince

"Taut dramatic reconstructions and an extraordinary story of strained allegiances, subterfuge and an unexpected friendship makes *The Green Prince* as tense as any Hollywood thriller." —*The Times (UK)*

June 11th at 4:00 pm on Zoom

Menashe

"It's a touching and nuanced film, and so skillfully made that you quickly get over the novelty of the fact that its characters are speaking Yiddish and get right into the story." —*Jerusalem Post*

November—Date and Time TBA

The Flat

"*The Flat* is a compelling tale of history made personal, and of what happens when light is shone on something previously murky."

—*Seattle Times*

December—Date and Time TBA

Norman Lear: Just Another Version of You

"This is a story of a life of enormous fulfillment—eloquently told and openhearted as related by the subject himself, now in his early 90s, who knows, as he reveals, what to value in life." —*Wall Street Journal*



BTS Film Schmooze: *I Am Not Your Negro*

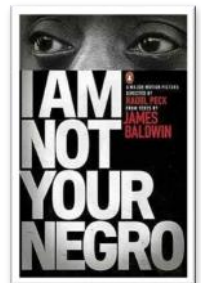
Sunday, February 26th at 4:00 pm on Zoom (Watch the film one day and schmooze about it another.)

Available on Amazon Prime/ Google Play for \$2.99



"*I Am Not Your Negro* is a kaleidoscopic journey through the life and mind of James Baldwin, whose voice speaks even more powerfully today than it did 50 years ago. . . . He was the prose-poet of our injustice and inhumanity. . . . The times have caught up with his scalding eloquence." —*Variety*

I Am Not Your Negro envisions the book never finished, a radical narration about race in America, using the writer's original words, as read by Samuel L. Jackson. Alongside a flood of archival material, the film draws on the lives and assassinations of Medger Evers, Malcolm X, and Martin Luther King, Jr. to explore and bring a fresh and radical perspective.



Raoul Peck's Oscar-nominated documentary is a journey into Black history that connects the past of the Civil Rights movement to the present of #BlackLivesMatter. It is a film that questions Black representations in Hollywood and beyond. And, ultimately, by confronting the deeper connections between the lives and assassination of these three leaders, Baldwin and Peck have produced a work that challenges the very definition of what America stands for.

Join Bilal Dabir Sekou for a discussion of issues of race in America. An associate professor of political science at Hillyer College at the University of Hartford, Bilal's research interests include race and politics, urban politics, campaigns, elections and voting behavior. He sits on the boards of Common Cause, The Connecticut Mirror, Connecticut Citizen's Action Group, Connecticut Center for a New Economy and Common Cause Connecticut. You only need to register once for BTS Film Schmooze events. https://bit.ly/BTS_FilmSchmooze

Friends of Yiddish

Sunday, February 12th at 10:30 am on Zoom

Friends of Yiddish is an informal, mostly English bilingual drop-in social group which meets to hear a guest speaker or discussion & maybe absorb a Yiddish word or two. For more information, contact Barbara Katzman at 860-666-7651 or barbaralenore@yahoo.com. You only need to register once for Friends of Yiddish online. <https://bit.ly/BTS-Friends-of-Yiddish>



Partners in Creation: “Tu B’Shevat & The Torah of Trees”

With Rabbi Debra Cantor and Art Instructor Melinda Wright

Sunday, February 5th at 10:30 am on Zoom

What does nature have to teach us in the depths of winter? Even as we shiver, the sap is beginning to rise deep within the trunks and branches of the trees. On the eve of Tu B'Shevat - the New Year of Trees, join Rabbi Debra Cantor and art instructor Melinda Wright as we explore the "Torah" of trees.



We'll study a few texts, then do some reflective writing and simple expressive art with items easily found around the house. Please have a pencil or pen and any kind of paper handy. You're welcome to use any kind of art supplies you have: colored pencils, crayons, watercolors, whatever. But just pencil and paper are fine. Absolutely no experience needed! This virtual event is free and open to all. You only need to register once for Partners in Creation online. https://bit.ly/BTS_PartnersInCreation

Tangling with Talmud

Wednesdays, 10:30 am on Zoom, February 1st, 8th and 15th

The Talmud is a rich and lively conversation among many generations. Passionate arguments about law and justice are intertwined with wild stories and musings about the meaning of life. Come participate and add your own voice. No experience needed. You only need to register once for Tangling With Talmud online. https://bit.ly/BTS_Tangling_With_Talmud



Repro Shabbat—Reproductive Justice in a Post-Roe World

Saturday, February 18th

Shabbat services begin at 10:00 am & our study session will begin around 11:15 am

Join us on Shabbat morning as we take a deep dive into Jewish views on abortion and examine the new challenges posed by the end of Roe v. Wade. We'll go beyond the basic Jewish sources (though we'll refer to them) and explore more recent perspectives and first-person narratives.

You only need to register once for Shabbat Morning Services online. https://bit.ly/BTS_ShabbatDeepDive



Shabbat services have returned to the chapel, with a hybrid option for those who prefer to remain at home. Please join us in person or online.

Weeknight Minyan

Wednesday night at 7:00 pm on Zoom

Join us for a brief service to *daven* and say *Kaddish*. Register for Weekly Minyan at https://bit.ly/BTS_WednesdayMinyan

Welcome Shabbat

Fridays at 7:00 pm at BTS

Join us as we make the transition from the workweek into Shabbat. We'll sing some Shabbat melodies, share words of Torah, recite a prayer for healing and Mourner's *Kaddish*, and then make *kiddush*. You only need to register once for Welcome Shabbat Services online.

https://bit.ly/BTS_Welcome_Shabbat

Shabbat Morning Services and Deep Dive

Repro Shabbat: Reproductive Justice in the Post-Roe World will take place on February 18th

Saturdays at 10:00 am at BTS

We'll celebrate Shabbat with services, Torah reading and a deep dive into the text.

You only need to register once for Shabbat Morning Services online. https://bit.ly/BTS_ShabbatDeepDive



Good News

Got good news to share? We want to hear it. To share good news with your friends at BTS, contact Rabbi Debra Cantor at cantordebra@gmail.com or 860-463-0986 or Dale Osborn at daleoz@att.net or 860-508-7261.

Refuah Sheleymah to:

Phyllis Berman, Ruth Brainin, Judith Cramer, Alan Fein, Mary Calvert-Heavilin, Bob Gerrol, Lynn Kaplan-Goldberg, Leon Goldsmith, Esther Multer, Judy Pearlson, Rabbi Marshal Press, Elayne Ringler, Marty Shinder, Marion Warner, David Wolf



Donations as of January 15th

GENERAL FUND

Deborah Butler, in honor of the yahrzeit of Helen Lashin
Deborah Butler, in honor of the yahrzeit of Marvin Weil
Karen Freilich, in honor of the yahrzeit of her friend,
Paula Cohen Clemente
Carmen Hammerschlag
Jacqueline Isaacson & Louis Blumenfeld
Ursula Marx, in honor of the yahrzeit of her sister, Rita Felsenfeld
Jeremy Sachs, in honor of the yahrzeit of his mother,
Estelle Room Rosby Sachs
Louis Tellan, in honor of the yahrzeit of Irene Novogrod
Jon Tress, in memory of his parents, Norman & Frances Tress

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Ruth Brainin, in honor of the yahrzeit of Harold Brainin

Shereen Edelson, in gratitude to Rabbi Cantor for her birthday blessing
Andrea Igdalsky, to thank Rabbi Cantor for her unwavering support of the LGBTQ community
Lenore & Gerry Kerachsky, for the good health of BTS

KIDDUSH FUND

Norma K. Fienman, in honor of the yahrzeit of her brother-in-law,
David Galinsky

BUILDING FUND

Barbara Katzman, in honor of the yahrzeit of her uncle, Jesse Steinberg
Barbara Katzman, in honor of the yahrzeit of her grandmother,
Yetta Bailin Steinberg
Steven Warner, wishing Norman Fleishman a speedy recovery

February 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 10 Shevat 10:30 Tangling with Talmud 7:00 Minyan on Zoom	2 11 Shevat	3 12 Shevat 4:50 Candle Lighting 7:00 Welcome Shabbat	4 13 Shevat Shabbat Shirah <i>Beshalach</i> 10:00 Shabbat Services & Deep Dive
5 14 Shevat 10:30 Partners in Creation: Tu B'Shevat Edition on Zoom	6 15 Shevat Tu B'Shevat BTS Office Closed	7 16 Shevat 7:00 Board of Directors Meeting on Zoom	8 17 Shevat 10:30 Tangling with Talmud on Zoom 4:00 Different Perspectives Committee Meeting on Zoom 7:00 Minyan on Zoom	9 18 Shevat	10 19 Shevat 4:59 Candle Lighting 7:00 Welcome Shabbat/ Birth Shabbat 	11 20 Shevat <i>Yitro</i> 10:00 Shabbat Services & Deep Dive
12 21 Shevat 10:30 Friends of Yiddish on Zoom	13 22 Shevat Sisterhood Shalach Manot Requests Deadline	14 23 Shevat	15 24 Shevat 10:30 Tangling with Talmud on Zoom 7:00 Minyan on Zoom	16 25 Shevat BTS Bulletin Deadline	17 26 Shevat 5:08 Candle Lighting 7:00 Welcome Shabbat	18 27 Shevat Shabbat Shekalim <i>Mishpatim</i> Repro Shabbat: Reproductive Justice in the Post-Roe World 10:00 Services 11:15 Study Session
19 Shevat 2:00 Sisterhood Shalach Manot Assembly	20 29 Shevat President's Day BTS Office Closed	21 30 Shevat Rosh Hodesh Adar Rabbi on vacation through 2/28	22 1 Adar Rosh Hodesh Adar No Tangling with Talmud 7:00 Minyan on Zoom	23 2 Adar	24 3 Adar 5:16 Candle Lighting 7:00 Welcome Shabbat	25 4 Adar <i>Terumah</i> 10:00 Shabbat Services & Deep Dive
26 5 Adar 4:00 BTS Film Schmooze: <i>I Am</i> <i>Not Your Negro</i> with Professor Bilal Sekou on Zoom	27 6 Adar	28 7 Adar				



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(Revised 11/1/2020)

Donation From: Name _____ Telephone # _____

Donation For: _____

Fund: _____

Minimum Donation for General Fund or Specific Fund is \$10 each or for other—see listed below:

If applicable, acknowledge to: _____

Please check other donation you wish to order and attach with specific instructions for:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chumash, Machzor Bookplate \$35 | <input type="checkbox"/> Prayer Bookplate \$25 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Memorial Plaque \$300 | <input type="checkbox"/> Sanctuary Seat Plaque \$350 |

Foyer Tree of Life: Gold \$360 Silver \$250 Bronze \$125 Stone \$1,500 Hallway Tree of Life: Gold \$125

Provide additional information if necessary: _____

Sol Ackerman Fund

To provide support for the Kiddush/Ritual Fund

Beautification Fund

To further enhance the beauty of the synagogue

Justin Bernheimer Award

For a Congregational Service Award

Cantor Wilfred Birnbaum Fund for Religious Enhancement

Building Fund

To offset the costs of operating the building

Education Fund

To fund Lifelong Learning

General Fund

To support the operation of the synagogue

Bob Guggenheim Memorial Fund

To support the operation of the synagogue

Meier and Rahel Katten Memorial Fund

To support Lunch and Learn programs

Kiddush/Ritual Fund

To provide food for Shabbat and Holidays

Mandell Israel Program Fund

To subsidize teen trips to Israel

Phyllis Margolin Memorial Music Education

To fund music programs

Neshama Center For Lifelong Learning Fund

To support the Neshama Center for Lifelong Learning

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

To be used at the Rabbi's discretion

Alyssa Suzanne Roy Memorial Fund

To provide gifts to *bar* and *bat mitzvah* students

Ilse & Manfred Stein Memorial Fund

Malcolm M. Snyder Memorial Fund

To support the operation of the synagogue

Torah Fund

To maintain integrity of the Torahs

Youth Fund

To subsidize attendance at youth events

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The rabbi is happy to communicate with you via email, text and telephone. Feel free to contact her.

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm.

Mail and items placed in the drop box will be picked up.