

**Judith Swimmer** was born and raised in New York. She met her husband, Brad, in high school and they married while she was in college at the University of Hartford. They have two daughters and four grandchildren. Over the years, Judy has been involved in different Jewish organizations, including two years on the Board at B'nai Jeshurun. Although being raised in a very conservative Jewish family, Judith says her faith became somewhat "relaxed" over the years and she recently felt the need to find Judaism again. After attending the Saturday morning Starbucks, Bread & Torah sessions for several years, she decided to become a Bat Mitzvah.

Judith wants to thank her husband for his encouragement and especially Cantor Shifman for his confidence in her ability to achieve this and for making it a wonderful experience.

**Judith Wolkoff** was born in Utica and graduated from CWRU with a degree in Health Science. She practiced in the field of Anesthesia at Mt. Sinai and University Hospitals. She married her high school sweetheart, Lawrence, and they raised three wonderful sons, Aaron (Na'ama), Seth (Lisa) and Gregory (Chelsea). She has the best daughters-in-law a mother-in-law could ask for. Judith grew up in a very religious home. Since she retired last year, she volunteers at the Transplant House of Cleveland. Judith would like to thank her fellow B'not Mitzvah girls for their mitzvah project there.

Judith hopes to make her family proud today. She says B'nai Jeshurun has been a large part of her adult life and it has been a most fulfilling year studying with Cantor Shifman and her classmates.

Marking 150 Years in 2016



Rabbi Stephen Weiss  
Rabbi Hal Rudin-Luria  
Cantor Aaron Shifman  
Education Engagement Rabbi Josh Foster  
Rabbi Emeritus Stanley J. Schachter  
Rabbi Emeritus Michael Hecht

*Honoring the Past,  
Celebrating the Present,  
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*Mazal tov to our  
Adult B'not Mitzvah Class*

*October 22, 2016  
20 Tishri 5777*

*Shabbat Sukkot*



**Deby Auerbach-Brown** lives in Cleveland Heights with her husband Chris, children Caleb and Caroline, and cat Isabel. She is a graduate of Earlham College and holds a M.A. in Medical Anthropology from CWRU. Deby is the Director of Development for Malachi Center. She enjoys running and is training for her first 100K trail race. She also enjoys gardening, reading, cross country skiing, and being outside as much as possible. Deby was inspired to participate in the Adult B'not Mitzvah Program after watching her son go through the Bar Mitzvah process earlier this year.

Deby would like to thank Cantor Shifman for his time, direction and encouragement and Rabbi Rudin-Luria for his help with the preparation of the D'var Torah. She would like to thank her classmates for their amazing positivity and encouragement, her husband and children for their support and enthusiasm, and her parents for taking care of the kids so she could attend class.

**Amy Berman** was born and raised in Cleveland and currently lives in Solon with her husband, Michael, and children, Abigail and Joshua. She graduated from Brush High School and has a Liberal Arts Degree from Wright State University. She is a sales service representative at UNIQUE Paving Materials. Her hobbies include crocheting, walking, reading and spinning. Amy did become a Bat Mitzvah, but, 30 years later, decided she would like to have the opportunity do it again. She finds this time around has been much more of a meaningful and appreciative experience.

Amy would like to thank Cantor Shifman, her classmates and family for their continuous support and guidance through this extraordinary learning experience.

**Patti Berns** was born in Columbus. She attended the University of Michigan and CWRU School of Dental Medicine. She is currently a member of the faculty of the Dental School at CWRU. Patti currently serves on the board of Menorah Park and is on the leadership council for the UH Seidman Cancer Center. She was a Marcus Fellow. For the past 13 years, Patti has been co-chair of The Race, a walk/run founded by her children that takes place each Mother's Day at Legacy Village, raising both funds and awareness for Breast Cancer. To date, they have raised over \$1,000,000 for research in Northeast Ohio. Patti is married to Jonathan Berns, and they have three children, Josh, Dani, and Abby.

Patti attended day school and an Orthodox synagogue growing up, but never had the opportunity to have a Bat Mitzvah. She would like to thank Cantor Shifman and her family for their support and encouragement.

**Shudina Brown** was born and raised in Cleveland. She began her spiritual journey in high school and converted to Judaism with the help of B'nai Jeshurun in 2014. Becoming a Bat Mitzvah was the next step in her spiritual journey because she finishing what she starts is one of her life mottoes is keeps her motivated.

**Renee Greller** was born and raised in Cleveland with a two-year detour during elementary school to Ramat Aviv, Israel. She received her undergrad degree from The Ohio State University and law degree from Cleveland Marshall College of Law. After a short career practicing law, Renee focused her time on raising her three children, Maya, Jonah and Lielle and being an active parent volunteer at their day school. After having great experiences volunteering in the event planning realm, she decided to pursue it professionally, and has been the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Coordinator at B'nai Jeshurun for the last 18 months. Renee loves to watch Ohio State football, the Cleveland Cavs and Indians. She enjoys traveling, spending time in Israel, watching mindless television and playing volleyball. Renee grew up at an Orthodox shul and was not able to have a Bat Mitzvah. With her daughter becoming a Bat Mitzvah next year, she thought it was best to have been through the experience herself beforehand.

Renee would like to thank her husband, Guy, for his encouragement and her children for allowing her the time to focus on her lessons and her re-connect to Judaism, and Cantor Shifman for being so inspiring and having faith in her when she did not.

**Peggy Lipp** was born and raised in Grand Rapids. She graduated with a BS in Fashion Merchandising from the University of Arizona where she met her husband, Alan. Their three children, Jordan, Kevin and Alison, have all become B'nai Mitzvah and confirmands at B'nai Jeshurun. Peggy worked for The May Co., Dan Howard Maternity and Nordstrom while her children were in school so she could be home when they came home. She is now retired. She enjoys volunteering, traveling, tennis, yoga, mahj jong and walking her dog Sadie.

Peggy is a Jew by choice. She started attending the 6 pm minyan after her father passed away and started reconnecting with Judaism. The B'nai Jeshurun family was there when she most needed them and inspired her to learn more about her religion and continue her Jewish studies.

Peggy would like to thank Cantor Shifman, her tutor, Zehava, and Nedra for encouragement and making this process so enjoyable.