



Sameach Uvadeach: Bringing Purim Joy to Everyone

By Rabbi Michael Schwab

For most Jews Purim is likely the most carefree and merry of all of the Jewish holidays. Masks, costumes, sweets, and singing characterize our celebration on this happy day. It is not a *yuntif*, and our religious services take on a light, festive and raucous character that is unlike any other service during the year.

common. It was a time when formal convention was temporarily dismissed and joy ruled the day.

Following that spirit, we at NSS Beth El will be holding joyous Purim services as well. At 7pm on Wednesday, March 16th we will have Maariv and a fun and spirited megillah reading for all.

Everyone is encouraged to join the clergy and Beth El staff and come in costume. Though COVID will prevent us from sharing a sit-down meal (*seudah*) together, after the service you are invited to a comedic screening introducing Beth El's very own streaming service, Beth El Plus! It will be sure to make you laugh and help you capture the

Purim spirit. Of course, both services and the video sketches will be available on livestream for those who are not able to attend in person.

Finally, never forget that on Purim we must also ensure that the larger community around us is able to be as joyous as we are. Thus, it is customary to do two important things. One, on Purim we are to send *mishloach manot*, a gift of foods to several other community members. The idea is that by giving gifts you will include others in the joy of the day and bring them your festive spirit. Second, and even more important, is to give gifts to those in need. At Beth El we take a collection at both the evening and morning Megillah readings. Plus many wonderful Jewish organizations that support those in need have programs for *matanot laevyonim*. Please give generously when you attend our services or find a way to make a donation to the poor that day.

Have a joyous Purim and hope you can join the Beth El community celebration!



Young family Purim event from 2018

As most of you know, Purim is a celebration of the victory of Esther, Mordechai and the Jewish population of Shushan over Haman, the evil advisor of King Ahashverosh who plotted to destroy us. Therefore, on the holiday of Purim we read this story from *Megillat Esther* (the Scroll

of Esther), both in the evening and again in the morning. In the spirit of the distinctiveness of Purim, it is not read in the typical style of a sacred text but rather with a special trope (melody) and with plenty of interruptions. Instead of simply listening quietly to the reading, we pay careful attention to the words so that when we hear "Haman" read aloud, we can all spin our noisy *graggers* to drown out any mention of his name. At those moments the synagogue is transformed from a quiet sanctuary to a spirited gathering place, allowing each member to participate in the holiday regardless of one's individual level of Jewish knowledge.

Further, a slightly lesser known fact is that a tradition of comedy, satire and parody has long been associated with Purim. Yiddish theater turned Purim into prime time for satirical entertainment and even the traditional yeshivas had Purim spiels and other satirical events to capture the spirit of the holiday. During those spiels, comedic impersonations of even the heads of the yeshiva were

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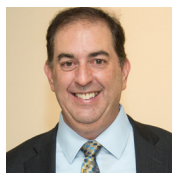
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President's Corner

Spring is in the Air

By Stuart Hochwert, NSS Beth El President



Spring is nature's way of saying, 'Let's Party.'

– Robin Williams

As I write this it is snowing in Chicago. But I know soon this too shall pass and as a community we will have much to celebrate and enjoy both indoors and outdoors. Of course, some of our activities will be governed by the COVID-19 virus. And while challenging, I am so impressed that our clergy, staff, lay leadership, medical task force and our congregation have all worked so hard to keep our building open and safe.

I recall not too fondly that two years ago our family Passover Seder was just me and my wife Barbara leading the festivities for family and friends entirely over Zoom. For my family this was a substantial change as Barbara is a good cook and we always entertain a large group of immediate family, extended family, and friends in-person at our house. While our Zoom Seder was nice, it was also a bit sad. Last year my immediate family was fortunate to be all vaccinated, so we got together in-person. A much smaller group but it was as close to normal as we could expect.

Passover is the most celebrated of all Jewish holidays with more than 70% of Jewish Americans taking part in a Seder,

the ritual meal. So, it is my hope that this year we can all celebrate in-person with our families and friends. I do not know what that means just yet – a few of us, immediate family or extended family and friends? May our Seders be filled with those dear to us this year.

Of course, Passover brings back both fond and sad memories. Those who were regulars at our Seder and are no longer with us. And we all remember famous quotes from our relatives – how many more pages, who wrote this – it is not English (we use the Maxwell House Haggadah), and of course the giggling as relatives read words with unique and questionable pronunciations. And yet an enjoyable time was always had by all.

Our Mitzvah 613 Torah Writing kicks off on Sunday, May 22nd. Please mark your calendars for 11am. We will have our Scribe, special guests, educational events for people of all ages and so much more. As you may recall Mitzvah #613, the final mitzvah in the Torah, is the religious duty for every Jew to write a Torah scroll. We will give everyone the opportunity to fulfill this mitzvah. Look for more details soon.

I am also so excited about Team Torah. Our goal was to

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Recent Happenings at Beth El



New Member Event



Concert with Rabbi Josh Warshawsky



Artist's Beit Midrash Exhibit



Sisterhood Torah Fund Class

Shabbat Schedule

Please refer to our NSSBE@Home page for accurate Minyan times as they will be changing in the upcoming months.

www.nssbethel.org/about/nssbehome/

You can also find weekly Minyan times in the Thursday Kol Beth El email blast.

Clergy:

Rabbi Michael Schwab*
Rabbi Alex Freedman
Hazzan Jacob Sandler
Rabbi Vernon H. Kurtz,
Emeritus



Every Shabbat

10:30 am Junior Congregation

Services for students in 2nd - 6th grade (Sager Beit HaMidrash).

11:00 am Tot Shabbat

Year round services for families with children 1st grade and younger (Horwitz-Hoffman Youth Lounge).

Please note:

For weekly Torah and Haftorah readings, clergy commentary, and Zoom links, please open your weekly Thursday Kol Beth El emails.

For classes, meetings and other scheduled events, please refer to our website calendar or call the synagogue office at

(847) 432-8900.

**Rabbi Schwab occupies the Vernon H. Kurtz Senior Rabbinic Chair

March

Friday, March 4

5:26 pm Candle Lighting
6:00 pm Kabbalat Shabbat - *led by Rabbi Josh Warshawsky

Saturday, March 5

Parashat Pekudei
9:00 am Shabbat Service
6:28 pm Shabbat Ends
6:30 pm Ma'ariv/Havdalah

Friday, March 11

5:35 pm Candle Lighting
6:00 pm Kabbalat Shabbat

Saturday, March 12

Shabbat Zachor/Parashat Vayikra
9:00 am Shabbat Service
6:36 pm Shabbat Ends
6:40 pm Ma'ariv/Havdalah

Friday, March 18

6:00 pm Kabbalat Shabbat
6:43 pm Candle Lighting

Saturday, March 19

Parashat Tzav
9:00 am Shabbat Service
7:44 pm Shabbat Ends
7:45 pm Ma'ariv/Havdalah

Friday, March 25



RINAT SHABBAT

6:00 pm Kabbalat Shabbat
6:51 pm Candle Lighting

Saturday, March 26

Sisterhood Shabbat/Shabbat Parah/
Parashat Shemini
9:00 am Shabbat Service
7:53 pm Shabbat Ends
7:55 pm Ma'ariv/Havdalah

April

Friday, April 1

6:00 pm Kabbalat Shabbat
6:59 pm Candle Lighting

Saturday, April 2

- Rosh Chodesh Nisan

Teacher Appreciation Shabbat/
Shabbat HaHodesh/Parashat Tazria
9:00 am Shabbat Service
8:01 pm Shabbat Ends
8:05 pm Ma'ariv/Havdalah

Friday, April 8

6:00 pm Kabbalat Shabbat
7:06 pm Candle Lighting

Saturday, April 9

Shabbat HaGadol/Parashat Metzora
9:00 am Shabbat Service
8:09 pm Shabbat Ends
8:10 pm Ma'ariv/Havdalah

Friday, April 15

Fast of the First Born/Erev Pesach/1st Seder

7:00 am Morning Minyan followed by study session/Siyum Bechorim
10:13 am Last time to eat Hametz
11:32 am Should burn Hametz
6:00 pm Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat
7:14 pm Candle Lighting

Saturday, April 16

-Pesach 1st Day/2nd Seder

9:00 am Festival Service
7:15 pm Mincha Service
8:18 pm Shabbat Ends
8:18 pm Candle Lighting
8:20 pm Maariv

Friday, April 22

Pesach 7th Day

9:00 am Festival Service
7:15 pm Kabbalat Shabbat/Maariv
7:22 pm Candle Lighting

Saturday, April 23

Pesach 8th Day/Yizkor

9:00 am Festival Service
8:27 pm Shabbat/Yom Tov Ends
8:30 pm Ma'ariv

Friday, April 29

6:00pm Kabbalat Shabbat - * led by Rabbi Josh Warshawsky
7:22 pm Candle Lighting

Saturday, April 30

Parashat Acharei Mot
9:00 am Shabbat Service
8:36 pm Shabbat Ends
8:40 pm Ma'ariv/Havdalah

May

Friday, May 6

RINAT SHABBAT

6:00 pm Kabbalat Shabbat
7:38 pm Candle Lighting

Saturday, May 7

Parashat Kedoshim
9:00 am Shabbat Service
8:45 pm Shabbat Ends
8:45 pm Ma'ariv/Havdalah

Friday, May 13

6:00 pm Kabbalat Shabbat
7:45 pm Candle Lighting

Saturday, May 14

Parashat Emor
9:00 am Shabbat Service
8:53 pm Shabbat Ends
8:55 pm Ma'ariv/Havdalah

Friday, May 20

6:00 pm Kabbalat Shabbat
7:52 pm Candle Lighting

Saturday, May 21

Parashat Behar
9:00 am Shabbat Service
9:02 pm Shabbat Ends
9:05 pm Ma'ariv/Havdalah

Friday, May 27

6:00 pm Kabbalat Shabbat
7:58 pm Candle Lighting

Saturday, May 28

Parashat Bechukotai
9:00 am Shabbat Service
9:09 pm Shabbat Ends
9:10 pm Ma'ariv/Havdalah

*Join us for spirited Shabbat prayer services led by the wonderful singing and inspiring teaching of our Musical Scholar in Residence, Rabbi Josh Warshawsky.



Music

Notes from Hazzan Sandler



At NSS Beth El we are proud to say we support Israel. Our commitment to Am Yisrael (the People of Israel), Eretz Yisrael (the Land of Israel) and Medinat Yisrael (the State of Israel) is highlighted in a variety of ways. As Rabbi Freedman put it so beautifully on Rosh Hashanah, we can go, watch and listen. As we continue to monitor the trends of the pandemic, there is a hope that a Beth El mission trip will take place in the months ahead - I encourage you to go to the land, visit and see for yourself the beauty and history that is there.

Noa has released 15 international albums and graced many of the world's most important and prestigious stages! I have memories of singing and dancing at Camp Ramah to different songs she wrote that were each so distinct, I didn't realize she had written both tunes until much later! In that sense, she reminds me of the Beatles, evolving and exploring a wide range of styles while sticking true to herself and her roots. Noa is considered Israel's most prominent cultural advocate of dialogue and co-existence. With gratitude to the Glass Family foundation for helping to sponsor this event, I do hope you'll join us for a wonderful evening with a bona fide Israeli superstar!

Thursday, March 10

Noa Live in Concert with Gil Dor

7:30 pm

Another wonderful way that we support Israel at Beth El is in our prayer. We are a synagogue after all. I've been inspired by my fellow clergy sharing different *kavanot* (intentions) preceding the Prayer for The State of Israel during our Shabbat morning Torah Service. Each week, a new fact or story about Israel that focuses us on Israel, not as a mythical land of the past, but as a thriving reality of the present of which we can be proud. And I'm excited to share that with the help of our musical scholar-in-residence Rabbi Josh Warshawsky, I and a wonderful group of fellow Beth El-niks are crafting our very own melody to that prayer.

In our discussions and jam sessions, the thesis of the prayer revealed itself: "venatata Shalom b'aretz" - "and give peace to the land." I am really excited to debut this melody with Rabbi Warshawsky on **Shabbat, April 29th - just in time for Yom Ha'atzma'ut** the following week. Be on the lookout for session 3 of this project if you'd like to join in!



You can watch and listen simultaneously on **Thursday, March 10th by attending the Achinoam Nini (Noa) Concert**. Tickets are available now, and this is truly a performance not to miss! This is a way Beth El is bringing Israel to us. Noa, along with her collaborator Gil Dor, are truly fabulous musicians and performers whose accolades you can see for yourself at <https://www.nssbethel.org/achinoam-nini-noa-in-concert/>

Six13 Chanukah Concert





Kindness and Community

By Ali Drumm, Director of Congregational Learning

The end of my favorite quote (from *Pirkei Avot* 1:6) is a bit surprising. “Select for yourself a master-teacher, cultivate a partner in study, and when you assess people, tip the balance in their favor.” At first glance, it doesn’t seem to directly connect to the first two pieces of the message. Rabbi Reuven Hammer shares that the progression is from only benefit to you, benefit to your close friend, and finally extending benefit to the larger community.

5782 has been a year of re-engaging with community, and after a year with so much isolation, it is no easy thing. Teachers are utilizing every tool in their toolkit to maintain calm and focus in a classroom. Students who have not had to negotiate group dynamics work hard to figure out how to talk to their classmates and manage their changing friendships. Families

who don’t agree about health protocols bicker and offend each other.

We all are exhausted after the ongoing pandemic and the challenges that aren’t directly related to it. This meaningful message from our ancestors tells us— give people the benefit of the doubt. Assume that the administration is trying hard to meet the needs of all its constituents. Assume that the other parent is trying their best to raise a nice kid who has friends. Assume that repair person who came to your house might have had three angry clients before you and is just trying to make it successfully through the day. Start your interaction with someone assuming the best about them— tipping the balance in their favor right from the start.

It’s not easy to assume the best, or constantly offer the best possible

explanation for challenging behavior. Being in community is challenging, especially when your community doesn’t seem to see eye-to-eye with you on how to be! We are exhorted elsewhere in the Sayings of Our Ancestors by the great sage Hillel (*Pirkei Avot* 2:4) “not to withdraw from the community.” Though it presents us with periodic challenges, the value of being in community far outweighs any drawbacks. It is the community that will support you in good times and bad ones. The power of community will change and strengthen how we interact with the world. Through community, our children will find partners and friends and colleagues. Start with kindness, continue in kindness, assume a kind intention, and offer a kind resolution. We will reap the benefits of teachers, partners, and a community that grows ever more beautiful each day.



The Power of Questioning

By Anna Besser, Director of The Jack and Mildred Cohen Religious School

Asking questions is fundamental to our free society. We are free to express our opinions and observe holidays, religion and faith as we choose. Around Passover, I enjoy hearing how others celebrate it. Some traditional, some liberal and others who are still finding the rituals that feel right and most meaningful to them. As an immigrant, the freedom to celebrate Passover, or any Jewish holiday, is not something I take lightly. It is a powerful privilege not to be underestimated.

So this Passover let’s engage in the tradition of asking questions. Whether you’re participating in a Seder in your home or connecting virtually with your family and friends, I hope you ask questions, both prescribed and spontaneous, that connect each of us to our history in deeper ways.

So in true Jewish form, let’s ask questions.

- Dayenu means “enough.” What does it mean to have enough? When do you say Dayenu in your life?
- As COVID-19 continues to alter the global community, how do you stay resilient and grounded in the face of uncertainty?
- If you were to add a new food to the Seder plate to symbolize the journey to freedom, what would it be — and why?
- How can you speak out against ‘modern day Pharaohs’ who undermine freedom and democracy in our world?
- We retell the Passover story in each generation. What do you want the next generation to remember about how you responded to today’s challenges?



- Reciting the ‘10 Plagues’ is one of the most dramatic moments in the Passover Seder. What are some of the plagues that threaten our planet today?
- The Haggadah concludes with a hopeful aspiration for the coming year. What’s your hope for your life and for our collective future this year?

This Passover, take time to celebrate community, family, friends and, of course, freedom.

Chag Sameach!

Lifelong Learning



And the Winners Are...

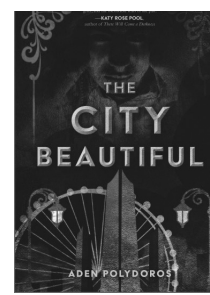
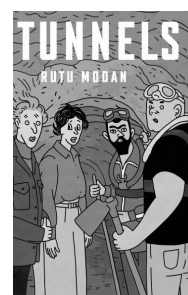
By Rachel Kamin, Director of Lifelong Learning

Book award season is always exciting! I had the honor to serve on the American Library Association's Sophie Brody Book Award Committee, given to outstanding works of Jewish literature for adults. We reviewed over 150 fiction, nonfiction and poetry books published in 2021. This year's winner is **Jane Yolen** for her poetry collection **Kaddish: Before the Holocaust and After**. Dubbed "The Hans Christian Anderson of Children's Literature," Yolen, who has published over 400 books for readers of all ages, also received the Sydney Taylor Body-of-Work Award from the Association of Jewish Libraries in recognition of her substantial contribution to Jewish children's literature. **Dara Horn's People Love Dead Jews: Reports from a Haunted Present** earned a Sophie Brody Honor Award as well as a National Jewish Book Award and was recognized as an American Library Association Notable Book. The other 2022

Sophie Brody Honor winners are: **Tunnels**, a graphic novel by **Rutu**

Modan, translated from Hebrew by Ishai Mishory; **Squirrel Hill: The Tree of Life Synagogue Shooting and the Soul of a Neighborhood** by **Mark Oppenheimer**; and **American Baby: A Mother, a Child, and the Shadow History of Adoption** by **Gabrielle Glaser**.

The winners of the 2022 Sydney Taylor Book Awards, presented to outstanding books for children and teens that authentically portray the Jewish experience, are: **The Passover Guest** by **Susan Kusel**, illustrated by **Sean Rubin** in the Picture Book category; **How to Find What You're Not Looking For** by **Veera Hiranandani**



in the Middle Grade category; and **The City Beautiful** by **Aden Polydoros** in the Young Adult category. *The City Beautiful* and *How to Find What You're Not Looking For* were also finalists for a National Jewish Book Award. **The People's Painter: How Ben Shahn Fought for Justice with Art** by **Cynthia Levinson**, illustrated by **Evan Turk**, is a Sydney Taylor Notable Book and a National Jewish Book Award finalist plus it won the Sibert Award for most distinguished informational book for children.

All of these winners, and more, are available in our Abbell Library and Pinsof Children's Reading Room. Check one out today!

Ritual Director



Ritually Speaking - Team Torah: We Did It!

By Hazzan Barbara Barnett, Ritual Director

Last summer, a group congregants and staff committed to making Torah reading at NSS Beth El accessible, fun and easy (relatively speaking, because reading Torah is a hard-won skill).

"Let's do something no shul has ever done before," proposed Michael Millenson, the new chair of the synagogue's venerable Baal Korei Institute, whose name was ultimately changed to the welcoming "Team Torah." He went on, "Let's see if we can engage 100 members of the synagogue to read Torah in the Jewish year 5782 (which began Rosh Hashanah). Do you think it's possible, given the realities of the pandemic?"

I had no doubt it would come to pass. I knew we had the people, the committee had the drive and I was committed, as Ritual Director, to make it happen—somehow.

"We should do something fun for each Torah reader," someone

on the committee suggested during a very long meeting. We discussed Torah Troll dolls, and a whole host of other swag, when someone (I think half-jokingly) proposed "cookies."

And so it was: a plan was hatched (or rather mixed and baked) to reward each Torah reader with an iced sugar cookie decorated with the yet-to-be designed Team Torah logo. Said logo was created, and we created a poster whereupon we would place a logo-sticker with each person's name on it. It seemed ambitious at the time, and in the back of our heads we hoped we could cajole or coerce enough people to read that we would, sometime by next Rosh Hashanah reach our #100.

With delighted smiles, Hazzan Sandler handed off the cookie after the reader finished, and one of the Rabbis acknowledged the achievement. More cookies, more smiles (and, dare I say, more mirth) and we were in reach of the goal long before next Rosh Hashanah.

It seemed everyone wanted to get in on the cookie thing.

"How do I get a cookie?" "What do I have to do?" Take a class, sign up for a TorahReaders.net account, learn and do! Readers from teens to octogenarians heard the call of the cookie and many "cookie-paloozas" (Shabbatot when we have a particularly large number of new-for-5782 readers) later, we are there. We are at #100 and heading for 120 and more!

It's not too late to become a part of the Team Torah more-than-100-Reader Challenge. "Everyone" can be part of it if you are at least bar/bat mitzvah age.

Participation will be easy. If you need a refresher course, a recording, a helping hand – we're here, online and in person. If you'd like to learn to read – we'll help.

If you haven't already, we invite you to sign up for a TorahReaders.net account. If you need help with this, contact Hazzan Barbara Barnett.

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Membership & Development



Mitzvah 613 Torah Writing and Ner Tamid Donations

By Judy Berkeley, Membership & Development Director

On Wednesday, December 1, our Bonim donors and Mitzvah 613 Steering Committee joined together for a special meet and greet with the band Six13. The band's visit was in conjunction with our NSS Beth El Chanukah party and the public announcement of

our **Mitzvah 613**

Torah Writing

project. Since then, we have begun to receive initial inquiries and pledges in amounts from \$5,000 to \$36,000 and beyond. We encourage donations from any member who wishes to sponsor Torah passages that are meaningful to them and their families. For more information and to solidify your commitments, please send inquiries to

Mitzah613@nssbethel.org or call Judy at (312)720-0045.

Annual Giving Report

We have surpassed our Chesed fundraising goal by over 10%, and our Kol Nidre Appeal fundraising goal by over 30%. Thank you!

Ner Tamid/Legacy Giving Society

We currently have nearly seventy NSS Beth El members who have included North Suburban Synagogue Beth El in their wills or estate plans.

Following the recent passing of an unnamed member of the Ner Tamid Society, Beth El received gifts totaling \$100,000 which will support various activities at the Synagogue. This gift will truly serve as a legacy to the memory of our member.

We also just received a formalized \$250,000 legacy gift agreement from another member allowing Beth El to memorialize their memory and support their synagogue interests.

We hope that you will also consider becoming a member of the Ner Tamid Society by providing a gift to Beth El in your will or trust to ensure the future of our congregation. We would be happy to assist you - it starts with a simple written declaration of intent to make a gift in the future.

Please contact Judy Berkeley at jberkeley@nssbethel.org with your estate plans and intentions on behalf of Beth El.

SAVE THE DATE for a Ner Tamid Society/legacy gift program, "Ways to Plan Charitable Gift Giving", featuring our very own David Rosen, Senior Vice President, Endowments at the Jewish United Fund/Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago, on Sunday, April 24 at 4:00 pm.

RSVP to Judy Berkeley at jberkeley@nssbethel.org.



Pre-School



Bringing in the Light

By Kory Goldenberg, Paul S. and Sylvia Steinberg Pre-School Director

Perhaps you noticed that a work of art was unveiled to our community at our Chanukah party with the help of Six13 for all to enjoy!

With an open heart, creative mind and magic touch, Steinberg Pre-School Art Specialist Chantal Blaustein transformed the Beth El Chanukah originally crafted by Lilach Schrag into a show stopping treasure for the NSS Beth El community to enjoy for years to come.

Years ago, along with the help of the children in the Cohen Religious School, Lilach constructed and decorated the magnificent Chanukah.

This year, Chantal, along with the help of the children in our Steinberg Pre-School reimagined its aesthetic and blanketed it in Jerusalem stone.

Each stone, carefully placed, joins the one next to it to bring the beautiful feeling of Jerusalem right here to

Highland Park.

From conceptual conversations to the hours spent working with our Steinberg Pre-Schoolers on the Chanukah, Chantal's vision, artist's eye and sense of joy shined through.

We are so grateful to Lilach and to Chantal for sharing their talents with us and giving such a wonderful gift to our community. See completed Chanukah in color on pages 3 & 4!



Youth Community



The New Youth Leadership Award Wall

By Sarah Topal, Director of Youth and Family Engagement

“Just as my ancestors planted for me, so do I plant for my descendants” (Talmud, Ta’anit 23)

The Youth Community at NSSBE has been a pillar of this synagogue for many years. We have seen individuals go on to accomplish incredible things, we have seen them give back to Beth El in many ways, and have seen their children (and children’s children) be integral members of our community as well.

Since 1962, teens have been recognized and honored on our Youth Leadership Award board. This board

has hung prominently in the hallway outside our Horwitz-Hoffman Youth Lounge and features the names of individuals who gave of themselves to strengthen our youth community and help build a place where kids and teens can come share themselves and experience Jewish life.

With the recent renovations of the Horwitz-Hoffman Youth Lounge a few years ago, these boards were taken down and we searched for a new and meaningful location to place them. We wanted a location that honored these people, was prominent for all to see,

and encouraged future generations to add their names to the board.

Together with Jeff Baden, the facilities committee, Ali Drumm, our incredible clergy, the talented Amy

Reichert, and our unstoppable maintenance team, we worked to imagine a new display that complimented our renovated space but still gave special prominence to our youth leaders. A huge thank you to all of them for their assistance and support as we made this idea a reality.

I am thrilled to share our success as this January, we installed a brand new Youth Leadership Award wall that features all the names of our award winners leading down to the Horwitz-Hoffman Youth Lounge. The wall isn’t full yet, we are always building and growing our youth leaders and we can’t wait to see additional names added for years to come.

I encourage all of you to stop by and see our growing wall of youth leaders! We are so proud of the teens who helped create a strong youth community of the past and are excited for the youth leaders who are still to come.



Show Up, You Will be Glad You Did!

By Ben Channon, Ritual Committee Member

As a member of the Ritual Committee, I was asked to write a contribution for this quarterly newsletter. As I think about our ritual practices, I begin to think about why ritual is important to me. I didn’t grow up in a particularly ritually observant family, nor did I always feel the need to be observant.

For those who don’t know, my father passed away in December of 2016. At that time, I came to an evening minyan and was admittedly intimidated. I struggled to keep up; I was lost to say the least. Then something happened. I kept showing up and I not only became more familiar with the service, but I started becoming friendly with the “minyan regulars.”



We would talk about anything: sports, news of the day, the weather or work. There were others who were regulars and there were others also saying *kaddish*. The connections I made while observing this ritual cross all populations in

our congregation.

In time, I started to feel confident in the minyan service; that translated to attending more minyan services and more of the Shabbat morning service, and more of the Yom Tov services so much that I am now someone who has a “regular seat” in the back row of the sanctuary.

Our rituals, whether they be congre-

gational or individual at home, are designed to provide a rhythm to our lives. There is an intentional pause to the bustle of the week in our Shabbat. Most of our holidays embrace appreciation for something that is easily overlooked by the business of our lives. Kashrut even requires a pause to think about what we are eating or not eating, and why.

I am on my own Jewish journey based on ritual observance that has been on a sharp increase since my father’s passing; the more I involve myself with ritual, the more I find its importance. If you are someone who does not see themselves as ritually observant, my recommendation to you is to “show up” to services and keep showing up. We are happy to help you on your journey and welcome you.

Guest Speaker **Gil Hoffman** from **The Jerusalem Post**

Saturday, April 9

The chief political correspondent and analyst for The Jerusalem Post will be our special guest on Saturday, April 9, 2022, speaking during Shabbat services and after Shabbat Kiddush at 12:30pm.

Shabbat Hagadol Sermon:

The Ongoing Pursuit of Freedom

Thoughts on the modern Exodus of the Jewish people and the State of Israel, and each of us as individuals in an increasingly confined world.

Post Kiddush Lecture:

Peace, Politics and the Pandemic: How Israel is Overcoming the Plagues of Political Instability and COVID-19

A behind the scenes look into the challenges faced by the Jewish state and the world, and how Israel has succeeded in tackling them against all odds.

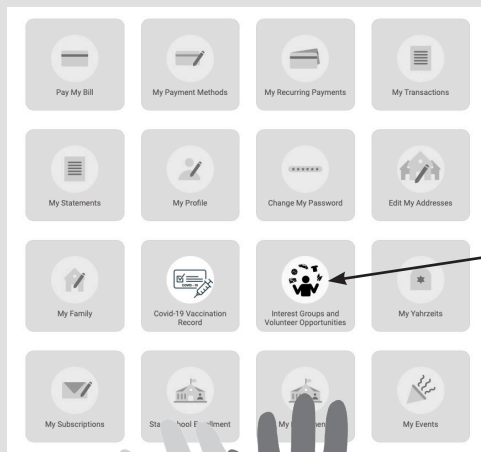


Gil Hoffman is the chief political correspondent and analyst for The Jerusalem Post. Well-connected to Israeli and Palestinian leaders, he has interviewed every major figure across the Israeli political spectrum, has been interviewed by top media on six continents and is a regular analyst on CNN, Al-Jazeera and other news outlets. Called “The most optimistic man in Israel” by Israel Television,

Hoffman provides a behind the scenes look at the intrigue and humor in the Israeli political arena. He was raised in Lincolnwood, IL, graduated Magna Cum Laude from Northwestern University’s School of Journalism, and wrote for the Miami Herald and Arizona Republic before moving to

Israel. A reserve soldier in the IDF Spokesperson’s Unit, he has lectured in every major English-speaking country in the world, more than half the Canadian provinces, and recently made history in Hawaii by becoming the first speaker to have lectured about Israel in all 50 US states. He lives with his family in Jerusalem.

New! Interest Groups and Volunteer Opportunities



In order to enhance and create programming geared towards your interests, we have added a new page to your ShulCloud account. Simply log into your account and click the

“Interest Groups and Volunteer Opportunities”

button (depicted on left), and you will find a long listing of interests and hobbies. Simply click all that apply, and this information will be added to your account profile. This information will enable Beth El to reach out to you and other members with similar interests when developing new programs or forming small groups/clubs.

Interested in getting more involved by volunteering at Beth El? Below the Interest

section, you will find a listing of current volunteer opportunities offered at different times throughout the year at Beth El. By clicking on the opportunities that interest you, our committee chairs will be able to reach out to you directly when a volunteer position becomes available.

Please feel free to contact us with any questions and/or additional ideas you may have!

Judy Berkeley, Membership Director
(312)720-0045 or
jberkeley@nssbethel.org

Dana Atlas, VP Membership
(847)722-3772 or atlas.dana@gmail.com





As Jews, we track time through two, concurrent timelines, as we make our annual journey through our weekly Torah readings and, at the same time, our rotation of Jewish holidays.

As this newsletter reaches mailboxes, we find ourselves simultaneously in the midst of Moses's life and approaching Purim. Both stories are dependent upon the actions of women. In our "parsha timeline," we can credit the proactive actions of females – midwives and his mother and sister – for saving Moses's life from Pharaoh's death edict, thus paving the way for the Exodus and the continuation of Jewish history. In our holiday cycle, while the new Persian queen may not have come up on her own with the idea of saving the Jews in her kingdom, she certainly "took the ball and ran with it" and our people's salvation was

dependent upon her actions.

The women of Beth El, under the auspices of Sisterhood, carry on this tradition of females as essential players in the sustaining of Jewish communal life. Thankfully, our women are now fortunate to have countless outlets to make a positive impact. However, it was Sisterhood that was our women's original, solo vehicle for involvement, and it continues to occupy a unique position as an organization that allows us to come together and plan social, educational, spiritual and social action programs that speak specifically to the needs and sensibilities of women.

Through membership dues, fundraisers and our gift shop, we are also a major financial supporter of many initiatives within Beth El,

including enhancement of our physical structure, dues relief for members in need and gifts to B'nai Mitzvah, wedding couples and our outstanding Maxwell Abbell Library. We support Torah Fund, Women's League's dedicated philanthropy, by offering – for an all-inclusive annual, directed contribution – a selection of classes, led by our clergy and talented lay leaders, and our ever-popular Book Club, facilitated by Rachel Kamin.

If you haven't taken advantage of the outstanding and diverse programs that Sisterhood has been offering, please plan to do so in the coming months. These days, most of our events are free and online and we try to plan programming that will entice women in all stages of life and who have a wide range of interests.

If you're not already receiving our weekly Sisterhood emails, please go to the NSSBE website and add yourself to that list. These emails include news of our local programs as well as many virtual events sponsored by our national organization (Women's League for Conservative Judaism) and our region (Central Great Lakes Region). We welcome the involvement of all the women in our community and hope that Sisterhood will be one of the ways that you choose to make your mark.



Sisterhood Gift Shop Time to Celebrate with Joy, Faith, and Hope

By Sulie Holt and Pam Schlosberg, Gift Shop Co-chairs

These remain extraordinary days where the norm is uncertainty and the buzz words for coping remain, "pivot" and "adapt." As the months tumble forward, we're grateful to find a lifeline in Judaism with its gifts of Shabbat and holidays. Their steady rhythm anchors us through reality's harsh winds; their traditions keep us focused on the beauty of our heritage. that keeps us focused on the beauty of our heritage.

Whether Shabbat, or the fast approaching Passover celebration, we're encouraged to try to fulfill the precept of *Hiddur Mitzvah*, "beautifying the mitzvah." And this year, fulfilling *Hiddur Mitzvah* takes on an even greater significance – as an investment in renewing our spirit. Whether

it's creating a Shabbat moment of beauty and peace; or retelling the story of Passover with a spirit of joy and hope at our seder, *Hiddur Mitzvah* recaptures the wonder and the joy of why we're here and enables us to renew the legacy of hope gifted to us by the generations before us.

So where do you begin? That's where Sisterhood's Gift Shop comes in!

As you enter that Passover state-of-mind, begin organizing that To-Do List, and thinking about your seder, come browse our Gift Shop. We have beautiful new Judaica to enhance your Pesach celebration, from seder plates and Miriam and Elijah cups to Afikomen bags and jumping frogs that will delight the youngest guest.



And because Shabbat is our weekly miracle of time, we can show you a new array of challah boards from your favorite artisans, beautiful challah covers, and those long-awaited pure beeswax candles for your Shabbat table.

So, please stop in either on a Sunday morning, or call Sulie: 847/558.3389; or Pam: 847/433.7546 for an appointment. We would love to see you!

Men's Club

Men's Club Corner

By Steve Coven, Men's Club Member

Why is Men's Club important to me? Since the day I joined Beth El, in 1987, I always paid my Men's Club dues. But, to tell the truth, for about the first ten years of my membership, I avoided participating in any Men's Club events. I thought Men's Club was for a bunch of alter cockers. Then, one day, one of my Shul friends, invited me to an event. I, begrudgingly, accepted. I was blown away by the age range which went from guys in their 80's all the way down to some guys in their 30's (my age group – at the



time). My friend said to me, "This is our club, so let's make it into a club that men, older and younger, will engage with and enjoy."

Even more surprising is I found out that, while there were some programs that involved study and learning, many programs were more socially oriented. They involved visiting and networking with shul friends and, a surprise to me at the time, a lot of eating and drinking (usually scotch). The fun and laughing are usually over the top.

There is, however, another reason why Men's Club is so important to me. Men's Club is an extension of the shul. Our entire purpose is to support the shul. For each event, we always kick back some money to the shul.

One, of the noteworthy ways we do this is with the Men's Club Yom HaShoah program. This is the program where the Men's Club purchases a yahrzeit candle for every Beth El family, boxes, labels and mails these candles to every household that has a Beth El membership. We also raise money through our Lox Box Program, and yes, even from our world-renowned Steak & Scotch event and Cave Man Dinner; these two dinners include gluttonous amounts of meat and many fine single malt scotches.

Bottom line, I want to encourage all men, young and old, to come check out the Men's

Club. This is your club, so come join us, help create the programming you are interested in, and I assure you that you won't be sorry.

Let's Play 2! Calling All Softball Players

Would you like to play softball for your Men's Club teams? Would you like to be a part of fun fraternal and charitable activity? Your NSS Beth El Men's Club plays in the 12 team Synagogue Men's Clubs 12inch (play with glove) softball league. This year we are seeking more active participants. We play 10 games plus the playoffs starting in early May and could play into early August. We play on Sundays. Start times for our games are between 9:30 am and 12:30 pm. You need to be in shape to play as this is a somewhat competitive league. There are patched umpires officiating. To be on the main roster, you must be willing to commit to playing most of the season and be a member of or willing to join the Men's Club to play. If you like, you could also become a member of the extended roster, playing when needed.

If you are interested, please contact Michael Salberg at mbsalberg@sbcglobal.net or 847-903-1491.

Ritually Speaking: Team Torah: We Did It! continued from page

By Hazzan Barbara Barnett, Ritual Director

Kol Hakavod and Yasher Koachem to our first 100 readers. Those that just dipped a toe in the Torah reading waters, and those who have been the pillars of the Torah Reading program this and every year (Special shout-out to our Teen Readers are in boldface):

Bruce Cowans
David Rosenberg
David Shapiro
Ella Pestine
Jonathan Rosenberg
Liana Oshin
Lori Gross
Melanie Axelrod
Molly Narrod
Rebecca Halfin
Reuben Warshawsky
Yael Smith
Jeffrey Kopin
Michael Katz
Michael Millenson
Ralph Schwartz
Simon Halfin
Ali Drumm
Rolly Cohen
Benji Derman

Brian Jacobson
Jeffrey Gordon
Jonathan Sherman
Mia Feinberg
Michael Rosenberg
Rachel Smiley
Rebecca Jacobson
Richard Rabinowitz
Rod Slutzky
Sarah Besser
Yali Derman
Leon Fox
Marla Grossberg
Jay Levine
Leo Sher
Michael Sher
Rachel Sher
Michael Bilow
Phil Barnett
Zachary Natenshon

Adam Natenshon
Sandy Starkman
Richard Schlosberg
Blake Atlas
Josh Atlas
Larry Pachter
Stephanie Blumberg
Jerry Blumberg
Harry Solomon
Leah Brajer
Ryan Blumberg
Austin Blumberg
Michael Small
Aidan Stoltze
Marcy Freeman
Sam Stoltze
Laura Patterson
Ben Kopin
Marilyn Lewis
Beth Shapiro Kopin

Noah Hersh
Alyse Hersh
Fran Sherman
Ronnie Jo Sokol
Ari Jacobson
Mason Jacobson
Ari Schwab
Jack Reinsdorf
Avram Pachter
Rick Small
David Smiley
Richard Brener
Arielle Levitan
Lauren Smiley
Ellen Lavin
Lorelai Lindon
Marla Hand
Reese Lindon
Lexi Rosenthal
Levi Rosenthal

Ron Goldberg
Elizabeth Ury
Robyn Newman
Clara Berman
Len Tenner
Mike Kamin
JoAnne Blumberg
Ronit Ripes
Sophie Ripes
Dan Ripes
Greg Pestine
Liana Schwab
Erica Schwab
Trevor Gross
Ben Channon
Darryl Temkin
Josh Warshawsky
Jori Brajer
Gordon Schwartz
Joyce Joseph

Sefirat HaOmer - The Counting of the Omer

By Hazzan Jacob Sandler

By the time you're reading this, we'll be looking forward to Purim, Passover, Yom Ha'atzma'ut and shortly thereafter, Shavuot. So many wonderful holidays I could write about.

Of course as a musician, theater person, and so-called funny guy, I love Purim. However, the calendar offers another, often overlooked observance that has become one of my favorites - Sefirat HaOmer - the Counting of the Omer.

From the second night of Passover we count up 7 complete weeks, equaling 49 days and on the 50th day, we celebrate Shavuot, recounting the revelation at Mount Sinai. While the Omer has agricultural origins, collecting a sheaf of wheat each day between the spring harvest and the first fruits of summer, it has since taken on a mystical significance that I've found especially meaningful.

If you want a more in-depth introduction to Kabbalah and the Omer, consider registering



for my spring Continuing Education class, **"Counting The Omer: A Mystical Journey from Liberation to Revelation," (Mondays, March 28-May 23 at 8:00 pm)** but for now all you need to know is that each of these 7 weeks corresponds to one of the seven lower sefirot of the Tree of Life.

Sefirot are like attributes or characteristics of how G-d interacts with creation, and also characteristics we aspire to cultivate in ourselves. They are: **Chesed** (Loving-kindness), **Gevurah** (Strength or discipline), **Tiferet** (Balance), **Netzah** (Endurance), **Hod** (Gratitude), **Yesod**

(Connection), and **Malchut** (Leadership). Every year when the Omer comes, many Jews spend a week ruminating on each of these themes, in that order. And within each week, are seven days to consider how each of the 7 themes are related to the other 6.

What does it mean to have enduring kindness? How can we strive to have more balance in our leadership? How do we show gratitude to those we connect with?

Every spring, after celebrating the Exodus from Egypt during Passover, we have the chance to take our renewed sense of freedom and begin the process of self-reflection and self-refinement that will open us up to deeper revelation when Shavuot comes. Some of these attributes come naturally to us while others are a real struggle to hold on to. However, as we are made in the Image of G-d, we contain the capacity to embody each one. You can count on that!

Form to Sell Your Hametz

Use this URL to fill out the digital form: <https://nssbe.shulcloud.com/form/selling-of-hametz>

.....
Detach and send to: Hazzan Barbara Barnett NSS Beth El, 1175 Sheridan Road, Highland Park, IL 60035 to arrive no later than Thursday, April 14, by 5:00 pm.

I, (please print name) _____
hereby authorize Rabbi Michael Schwab to act as my agent to sell Hametz that may be in my possession wherever it may be at home, place of business or elsewhere in accordance with the requirements and provisions of Jewish Law.

My home address is: _____

My office address is: _____

Signed: _____

Date: _____ I enclosed \$ _____ for Maot Chitim (list amount)

Passover Programs 2022

Pesach Workshops with Rabbi Alex Freedman

Tuesday, April 5, 12:00 pm
How Long Were the Jews in Egypt?

It's a simple question with a complicated answer, which leads to a larger question: what do we do when the Torah seems to give contradictory answers? This class will follow several strands and seek to harmonize these differing answers.

Tuesday, April 12, 12:00 pm
The Water That Runs Through Moses's Life

Water is a dominant literary motif in both the Exodus story and the life of Moses. We will trace the role of water in Moses's life to understand the character in a new way. Attend one or both on Zoom. Visit the Continuing Education page on the Beth El website for more information and to register.



Sunday, April 10; 10:30 am-12:00 pm
Chocolate Seder and Pesach Activities

CRS and the Youth Community are joining together to invite all 2nd-7th graders to join us for a morning of chocolate and activities. Rotate through stations as you make 10-plague kits to use at home, Seder

Jeopardy, Breakout EDU, and the always popular, chocolate seder.

For students in CRS, this will be part of your school day! Watch your email for registration information or contact Sarah Topal at stopal@nssbethel.org to register.

Museum Reception

Tuesday, April 19, 7:00 pm
Out of the Narrows: Art from a new Haggadah by the Jewish Artists Collective Chicago

This exhibit, on display in the Rissman Kol Ami Collection March 25 - June 2022, features handmade silver ritual objects, paintings, woven tapestries, encaustic, collage, printmaking, drawing and digital photography from the new Haggadah, *Out of the Narrows* by the Jewish Artist Collective Chicago. Participating artists are: Susan Dickman, Dorit Jordan Dotan, Berit Engen, Alan Hobscheid, Ellen Holtzblatt, Judith Joseph, Carol Neiger, Amy Reichert, Beth Shadur and Jane Weintraub.

Pesach Service Times

Thursday April 14 - Bedikat Hametz

7:30 am (in person)- Morning Minyan
7:30 pm (in person)-Maariv
8:15 pm- Should search for Hametz at nighttime after.

Friday April 15 - Fast of the First-born/Erev Pesach/1st Seder

7:00 am (in person)- Morning Minyan followed by study session/ Siyum Bechorim
10:13 am- Last time to eat Hametz
11:32 am- Should burn Hametz by...
6:00 pm (in person)- Minchah/ Kabbalat Shabbat/Ma'ariv
7:14 pm-Candlelighting

Saturday April 16 - Pesach 1st day/2nd Seder

9:00 am (in person)- Shabbat/Festival Service

8:18 pm- Shabbat ends/Candlelighting for 2nd day

8:20pm (Zoom)-Maariv

Sunday April 17- Pesach 2nd day

9:00 am (in person)- Festival Service
8:19 pm- Yom Tov ends
8:20 pm (Zoom)-Maariv

Monday April 18 - 1st day of Hol Hamoed

7:30 am (in person)- Morning Minyan
7:30 pm (in person)- Evening Minyan

Tuesday April 19 -2nd day of Hol Hamoed

7:30 am (in person)- Morning Minyan
7:30 pm (Zoom)- Evening Minyan

Wednesday April 20 -3rd day of Hol Hamoed

8:15 am (Zoom)- Morning Minyan

7:30 pm (zoom)- Evening Minyan

Thursday April 21 -4th day of Hol Hamoed/Erev Yom Tov

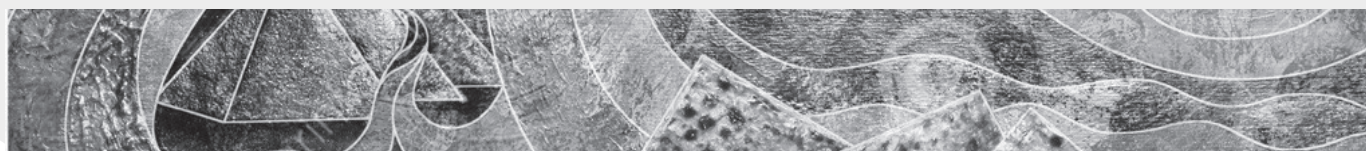
7:30 am (in person)- Morning Minyan
7:15 pm (in person)-Mincha/Maariv
7:21 pm-Candlelighting

Friday April 22 - Pesach 7th day

9:00 am (in person)- Festival Service
7:15 pm (in person)- Kabbalat Shabbat/ Ma'ariv
7:22 pm-Candlelighting

Saturday April 23 - Pesach 8th day/ Yizkor

9:00 am (in person)- Shabbat/Festival Service
8:27 pm Shabbat/Yom Tov ends
8:30 (Zoom) Maariv



Passover

Supplement – 2022/5782



Forbidden Foods

The following foods are forbidden to Ashkenazic Jews during Pesach: leavened bread, cakes, biscuits and crackers; cereals, coffee substitutes derived from cereals; wheat, barley, oats, rice, dry peas, dry beans, and all liquids which contain ingredients or flavors made from grain alcohol. (Sephardic Jews have some different practices.)

Permitted Foods

Requiring no kosher l'Pesach label, the following foods are permitted in unopened packages or containers: natural coffee, sugar, tea, salt, pepper, and fresh vegetables (except peas and beans, although string beans are permitted on Pesach).

The following foods are permitted if certified for Pesach use by Rabbinical authority (have a kosher l'Pesach label): matzah, matzah flour, Passover noodles, candies,

cakes, beverages, canned and processed foods, milk, butter, jams, cheese, jellies, relishes, dried fruits and vegetables, salad oils, vegetable gelatin, shortening, vinegar. Wines and liquors are permitted if certified by a Rabbinical authority as fit for Pesach use.

Dishes and Utensils

Only dishes and utensils specially reserved for Pesach should be used with the following exceptions: silverware made entirely of metal if used during the year may be used on Pesach if thoroughly scoured and immersed in boiling water. Metal pots and pans used for cooking purposes only (but not for baking), if made wholly of metal, though used during the year, may be used on Pesach. They must first be thoroughly scoured and immersed in boiling water. The utensils should not be used for a period of at least 24 hours between their cleaning and immersion in boiling water.

Utensils used for baking during the year cannot be used for Passover. Earthenware, enamelware and porcelain utensils used during the year may not be used. Fine translucent chinaware if not used for a year is permitted if scoured and cleaned in hot water.

Authorities disagree as to the method of kashering drinking glasses. One opinion requires soaking in water for three days, changing the water every 24 hours. The other opinion requires only a thorough scrubbing before Pesach or putting them through a dishwasher. A dishwashing machine may be used for Passover after a thorough scouring, non-use for 24 hours and running a complete cycle. Authorities disagree whether a new tray is necessary.

The stove is prepared by a thorough scrubbing and cleansing of all parts, then turning on the ovens and all burners full-flame

for one half hour. Self-cleaning ovens should be scrubbed and cleaned, then put through the self-cleaning cycle.

Continuous cleaning ovens must be kashered in the same manner as regular ovens. Microwave ovens should be cleaned, and then a cup of water placed inside. The oven should be turned on until the water disappears.

A microwave that has a browning element cannot be kashered. In all the above cases the appliance cannot be used for 24 hours prior to kashering.

If the parts of electrical appliances that come into contact with Hametz are removable, they can be kashered in the appropriate way. If the parts are not removable, the appliance cannot be kashered.

Non-Passover dishes, pots and Hametz whose ownership has been transferred should be separated, locked up or covered and marked in order to prevent accidental use.

If you have specific questions, please contact our rabbis.

Bedikat Hametz (The Search For and Burning of Leaven)

On the evening of Thursday, April 14th, the Search for Leaven, Bedikat Hametz, is conducted. This is a ritual that symbolizes the final cleaning of the house of all Hametz. It is customary to place pieces of bread in various rooms around the house before the search begins – remember how many pieces there are and where they are hidden! The search is conducted with a candle for light and a feather and wooden spoon to collect the Hametz. The Hametz, feather and wooden spoon should be put in a bag and set aside to be burnt in the morning.

In the morning – this year on Friday, March 26 – after eating our last meal of Hametz, add any remains from breakfast to the bag of Hametz from the previous night, and burn them outside the home. This is the final act of removal of Hametz from our homes. Hametz should be burned by 1:32



am. The appropriate prayers for the search for and destruction of Chametz are found at the beginning of every Haggadah.

Mechirat Hametz (Sale of Hametz)

In addition to the thorough cleaning of the house before Pesach, we are commanded to completely free ourselves of leavened products. Anything made from wheat, barley, oats, rye or spelt, which had a chance to leaven (rise or ferment), must be destroyed. Today a simple but meaningful tradition is followed:

- Each Jewish home must be cleaned before Pesach.
- The Rabbi contractually arranges for the sale of the Hametz to a non-Jew so that it will, technically, be out of Jewish possession during Pesach.

- At the end of Pesach, everything in your stored-up area will be repurchased for your immediate use.

Please see Hazzan Barbara Barnett or use the form on page 12 to sell your Hametz. Please contact Barbara no later than Thursday, April 14th at 5:00 pm. A voluntary contribution should be made upon selling Hametz. All gifts will be added to our Maot Chitim fund.

Maot Chitim (Portions of Wheat)

It is traditional for Jews who have been blessed by the Almighty to make sure that their less fortunate brethren have all that is necessary to celebrate a joyous Pesach. Special funds for this purpose, known as Maot Chitim, are collected in synagogues throughout the world. Beth El participates in this activity. If you would like to make a contribution to the Maot Chitim fund, please mail it directly to the synagogue, or bring it in personally, and earmark it accordingly. These funds will be distributed to the

Greater Chicago Maot Chitim and other institutions that provide Pesach food to the less fortunate.

Siyyum Bechorim (Fast of the Firstborn)

The ceremony of Siyyum Bechorim will take place following the morning minyan on Friday, April 15th at 7:00 am. It is customary for the first-born male to fast on the day preceding Passover. In place of the fast, however, tradition developed the practice of concluding a portion of study of a Rabbinic text after which celebration and feasting takes place. The Siyyum Bechorim ceremony is the means of obviating the need for a fast. We encourage all first-born males to attend.

Our Opportunity to Give Back and Welcome Refugees to Our Community

By Rachel Ferber



Many of us know personally, through our family histories, what it is like to be refugees in need of assistance in a new homeland. JCFS Chicago's HIAS Immigration & Citizenship program will be supporting over 100 people from around the world as they rebuild their lives in the Chicagoland area, beginning with 50 people from Afghanistan in January and early February. The first family from Afghanistan arrived in the Chicago area in early January. A group of congregants from Am Yisrael in Northfield is working with HIAS to ensure the family's needs are met, that their integration into our community goes smoothly, and that they are on their way to self-sufficiency.

When refugees first arrive at their new homes, they rarely have anything more

than a single suitcase. They are usually overwhelmed by a new language, new culture, and new environment. Co-sponsorship is an opportunity for our community to work with HIAS to support these families during the first three months in their new homes and communities. Together, we can help them understand and adjust to all that is around them and provide critical financial and social-emotional support.

I am hoping several of you will consider joining together to co-sponsor a refugee family. Here is what's involved.

Each co-sponsor group is asked to complete these steps:

1. Raise a minimum of \$10,000 for HIAS Immigration & Citizenship's Welcome Campaign.
2. Set up their assigned family's apartment prior to arrival.
3. Support their assigned family for a minimum of 3 months post-arrival.

This includes:

- Providing or purchasing furniture and household goods and setting up the family's apartment before their arrival
- Welcoming the family at the airport upon arrival.
- Preparing the family's first meal and stocking their pantry with culturally appropriate foods (under the supervision of HIAS).
- Assigning 3-4 volunteer tutors to work with the family on English language learning and/or homework assistance for school-aged children.
- Assigning 3-4 volunteer mentors to work with the family. Mentors may provide transportation to medical and other appointments, help the family locate and access community resources, and support the family with general acclimation and problem solving.

To get involved, please send an email to Rachel.ferber@att.net

THE SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE PRESENTS:

Beth El Annual Mitzvah Day Sunday, March 6 - 9:00 am - Noon

All Beth El members are invited to participate in our annual Mitzvah Day! The event will kick off with several speakers from local organizations who will share their mission and current initiatives with us.

Look for emails in the coming weeks with a variety of opportunities to sign up and participate in many different projects that will help support a variety of organizations in our area. Some of the projects will require buying items to bring with you to the event. Here are some of the participating organizations:



Weekend Fun Kits and Journal Kits



PLARN (plastic yarn) Mats and Birthday Bags



Sign up for Local Refugee Resettlement Support



Craft Kits for children



Winter Soup Supplies



Sign up to support your local neighborhood food pantry



Fleece blankets for hospitalized children



Donate a used bike

Additionally, you can help clean-up and organize our Beth El Used Book Sale, make cards for local healthcare workers, and for residents at Gidwitz. Come yourself, or bring the whole family!

Mazel Tov to:

Melanie Axelrod on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of becoming a bat mitzvah

Mayer Channon on the occasion of his 3rd birthday

Linda Clark on the occasion of her 70th birthday

Katie and Matt Doscher on the birth of their baby girl, Julie Elle

Roberta and Bob Goldman on the birth of their grandson, Jacob Michael Goldman

Ellie Goone and Jordan Bender on the occasion of their marriage

Richard Gross on the occasion of his 70th birthday

Marlene and Seth Halpern on the occasion of their 30th wedding anniversary

Barbara and Stuart Hochwert on the birth of their grandson, and great-grandson of Racquel Hochwert, Eli Lawrence Newman

Suzanne and Donald Horwitz on the birth of their granddaughter, Sloane Dot Bradley

Joyce Joseph on becoming the 100th Torah reader

Mary and Jerry Kaltman on the marriage of their son, Dr. David Kaltman to Rebecca Weissman

Debbie and Ira Rosenberg on the birth of their granddaughter, Elana Margo Freeman

Sharon and Dr. Michael Rosenberg on the birth of their granddaughter, Zeldia Lielle Rosenberg

Marissa and Dr. Jonathan Rosenberg on the birth of their daughter, Zeldia Lielle Rosenberg

Jamie Cooper and Mark Schnitzer on the birth of their daughter, Ruby Maxine Schnitzer

Rabbi Ora and Dr. David Schnitzer on the birth of their granddaughter, Ruby Maxine Schnitzer

Ari Schwab on the anniversary of becoming a Bar Mitzvah

Erica Schwab on the occasion of her birthday

Janice and Rick Small on the occasion of their wedding anniversary

Barbara Stern on the birth of her great-grandson, Simcha Kupchik

Len Tenner on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of becoming a bar mitzvah

Condolences to:

The Family of Dr. Gilbert "Gil" Bogen on their loss

Brian (Gail) Boorstein on the loss of his father, Ronald L. Boorstein

Elizabeth (David) Copeland on the loss of her father, Edward Samuel Elins

Charlene Eilian on the loss of her husband, Pierre Eilian

Adam (Leslie) Glazer on the loss of his father, Dr. Victor M. Glazer

Suzanne (Donald) Horwitz on the loss of her sister, Rochelle Claire Miller

Susan Hoseman on the loss of her husband, Daniel Hoseman

Nancy Lerner on the loss of her step-

father, Selwyn (Shlomo) Zun

Elaine (Jeffrey) Oberlander on the loss of her father, Myron H. Fox

Carol (Dr. Michael) Rosenberg on the loss of her father, Leon Gurny

Richard A. Rosenfield on the loss of his wife, Barbara Rosenfield

Ira (Sandy) Rosenthal on the loss of his mother, Leah Rosenthal

Rachel (Alan) Russo on the loss of her father, Saul Silverstein

David (Susie) Sherman on the loss of his father, Leonard Sherman

The family of Irvina Warren on their loss

Todd (Lisa) Warren on the loss of his

father, Michael B. Warren

Danielle (Brian) Weinstein on the loss of her father, Marvin Raymond Litt

IN MEMORIAM:

Dr. Gilbert "Gil" Bogen

Pierre Eilian

Daniel Hoseman

Barbara Rosenfield

Leonard Sherman

Saul Silverstein

Irvina Warren

Kiddush Co-Sponsors:

Mary and Ben Channon

Katie and Matt Doscher

Jennifer and Todd Deutch

Marcie and Derek Faust

Era and Ben Green

June and Richard Gross

Melissa and Todd Halperin

Jennifer and Josh Herz

Rebecca and Brian Jacobson

Michelle and Jeff Leon

Kim Levy

Allyson and Andrew Marcus

North Suburban Beth El Sisterhood

North Suburban Synagogue Beth El Men's Club

North Suburban Synagogue Beth El Team Torah

Holly and Jonathan Reinsdorf

Jennifer and Paul Schmidt

Erica and Rabbi Michael Schwab

Bobbie and Len Tenner

Anyia and Victor Viner

Leslye and Brian Whittman

Rabbi Schwab Discretionary Fund

*In honor of Bernie Alpert's involvement and contributions to Beth El - **Michael Bloom***

*In honor of Jonathan and Erin Gordon's wedding and with appreciation to Rabbi Schwab - **Jeff and Mindy Gordon***

*In honor of Karen Weiss - **Richard and Janice Small***

In honor of Liana Schwab, daughter of Erica and Rabbi Michael Schwab, on becoming a Bat Mitzvah

- **Babs Balson**
- **Robert and Iris Center**
- **Adrienne Eckerling**
- **Kim and Eric Ephraim**
- **Ron and Eileen Goldberg**
- **Anton and Tracey Hendler**
- **Andrew and Laurie Hochberg**
- **Gerald and Adrienne Lasin**
- **Ira and Deborah Rosenberg**
- **Earl and Rochelle Rubinoff**
- **Marc and Melissa Spellman**
- **Millie Weber**
- **Daniel and Jodi Weiss and Family**
- **Karen Weiss**
- **Marc and Mimi Yoskowitz**
- **Richard Zelin and Judith Hirsch-Zelin**

*In honor of our wonderful children, Daniel, Dani, Nathan and Marc - **Steven and Roni Weiss***

*In honor of Pam Schlosberg on being honored at Simchat Torah as Kallat Bereshit - **Karen Weiss***

*In honor of Rabbi Schwab - **Marla and Terry Grossberg***

*In honor of Rabbi Schwab and with many thanks and much gratitude for officiating at Jordan and Aaron's wedding - **Scott and Gwen Heyman***

*In honor of Richard Gross, Erica Schwab and Ari Schwab on their birthdays - **Larry Pachter and Sandy Starkman***

*In honor of Richard Rabinowitz being honored at Simchat Torah as Hatan Torah - **Karen Weiss***

*In honor of Ronit Ripes being honored at Simchat Torah as Kol Ne'arim - **Karen Weiss***

*In honor of Sandy Starkman's installation as Mercas USA vice president - **Richard and Pamela Schlosberg***

*In honor of the Auf Ruf of Michael Bilow and Samantha Wyman and with appreciation to Rabbi Schwab - **Sharon and Paul Bilow***

In honor of the birth of Stuart and Barbara Hochwert's grandson, Eli Lawrence Newman

- **Kim and Eric Ephraim**
- **Ron and Eileen Goldberg**

*In honor of the wedding of Melissa Feinstein and Josh Berns - **Alan and Susan Resnick***

*In honor of Zachary Natenshon, son of Debra and Adam Natenshon, on becoming a Bar Mitzvah - **Daniel and Lori Gross***

*In memory of Aaron Marcus, beloved grandfather - **Cindy Shekhtman***

In memory of Barbara Rosenfield, beloved wife of Richard Rosenfield, beloved mother and grandmother

- **Sally Aaron**
- **Karen Weiss**

*In memory of Bessie Talman, beloved grandmother - **Jacalyn and Marc Birnbaum***

*In memory of Cara Madansky, beloved wife of Mayer Stiebel, beloved mother of Susan (Dan) Groner, Noreen (David) Ohcana, Cynthia Madansky and Michele (Travis Mowbray) Madansky and beloved grandmother - **Karen Weiss***

*In memory of Charlotte Saks and with appreciation to Rabbi Schwab - **Bonnie Saks and Family***

*In memory of Daniel Hoseman, beloved husband and father and with appreciation to Rabbi Schwab - **Susan Hoseman and Family***

*In memory of Dr. Melvin Sered and with appreciation to Rabbi Schwab - **Hedy, Lynne and David Sered***

*In memory of Dr. Melvin Sered, beloved husband of Hedy Sered, beloved father of Lynne (Jeff Schoenberg) Sered, David (Tracy) Sered and beloved grandfather - **Robert and Maxine Greenstein***

*In memory of Dr. Zayne Wilk, beloved brother - **Roger and Ronnie Wilk***

*In memory of Eddie Friedman, beloved uncle - **Marla and Terry Grossberg***

*In memory of Edith Hymanson Weiss and Sidney Weiss, beloved parents - **Karen Weiss***

*In memory of Elaine Reisin, beloved mother - **Richard and Karen Reisin***

*In memory of Frank Pollack, beloved father - **Mark Pollack***

*In memory of Gale Rothner, beloved mother of Katy (Josh) Silvers and beloved grandmother - **Mimi and Marc Yoskowitz and Family***

*In memory of Goldie Vishny, beloved grandmother - **Richard and Karen Reisin***

*In memory of Harrin Meltzer, beloved niece - **Anita Spieler***

*In memory of Irvina Warren and with appreciation to Rabbi Schwab - **The Family of Irvina Warren***

In memory of Irvina Warren, beloved mother, grandmother and great-grandmother

- **Ruth Fischer**
- **Lloyd and Natalie Shefsky**

*In memory of Joseph Birnbaum, beloved grandfather - **Jacalyn and Marc Birnbaum***

*In memory of Joseph Rosen, beloved father - **Rochelle and Leonard Foxman***

*In memory of Josephine Birnbaum, beloved grandmother - **Jacalyn and Marc Birnbaum***

*In memory of Leah Rosenthal, beloved mother of Ira (Sandy) Rosenthal and Shellie Berkowitz - **Marlene and Sherwin Konik***

*In memory of Leon Gurny and with appreciation to Rabbi Schwab - **Carol Rosenberg and Family***

*In memory of Leonard Sherman and with appreciation to Rabbi Schwab for the respect paid to Leonard during his funeral - **Leonard and Diane Sherman Family Foundation***

*In memory of Max Eckerling, beloved father-in-law - **Adrienne Eckerling***

*In memory of Natalie Bernstein, beloved sister - **Sharon and Robert Abrams***

*In memory of Pearl White and with appreciation to Rabbi Schwab - **Michael White***

*In memory of Philip Zerkowitz, beloved grandfather - **Marla and Terry Grossberg***

*In memory of Phillip Kahalnik, beloved father of Chuck and Neal Kahalnik, beloved grandfather of Paige Kahalnik and Sloane (Steven) Sahd - **Karen Weiss***

*In memory of Reuben Stein, beloved father - **Dr. Alan and Marcia Kaplin***

*In memory of Richard Wexler, beloved husband of Roberta Wexler, beloved father and grandfather - **Judith Leff***

*In memory of Richard Wexler, beloved husband of Roberta Wexler, beloved father and grandfather and with appreciation to Rabbi Schwab - **Deborah Sokobin and Family***

*In memory of Rochelle Claire Miller, beloved sister, and with appreciation to Rabbi Schwab - **Suzanne Horwitz and Family***

*In memory of Rose Eckerling, beloved mother-in-law - **Adrienne Eckerling***

*In memory of Saul Silverstein, beloved father of Rachel (Alan) Russo, Stuart Silverstein and Miriam (Michael) Rudolph, beloved brother, grandfather and great-grandfather - **Irvina Warren z"l***

*In memory of Selwyn (Shlomo) Zun, beloved step-father of Nancy Lerner, Richard Lerner and Lauren Lerner Eskenazi, beloved husband of Beverly Preiser, beloved father of Debra Kleinman and David Zun, and beloved grandfather and with appreciation to Rabbi Freedman - **Irvina Warren z"l***

In memory of Valerie Lois Stark, beloved mother of Lori (David Shapiro) Stark and Erica Lemley and beloved grandmother

- **Arnie and Nina Harris**
- **Michael and Betsy Katz**
- **Karen Weiss**

*In memory of Victor Glazer, beloved father of Adam Glazer and Mark Glazer, beloved husband of Mary Glazer and beloved grandfather - **Marc and Melissa Spellman***

*With appreciation to Dr. Jeff Kopin - **Herb Rosen***

*With appreciation to Rabbi Schwab - **Steven and Rochelle Katz***

*With appreciation to Rabbi Schwab for friendship, kindness and spiritual guidance in Reese's Bat Mitzvah - **Erica and Zachary Lindon***

*With appreciation to Rabbi Schwab for his support, advice and learning - **Samuel and Judith Bernstein***

*With appreciation to the Beth El clergy and congregation on the occasion of our 30th wedding anniversary Aliyah - **Seth and Marlene Halpern***

With appreciation

- **Murray and Abra Alscher**
- **Anonymous**
- **Jeff and Marcia Rubin**

Rabbi Freedman Discretionary Fund

*In honor of Mayer Stiebel - **Richard and Janice Small***

*In honor of Rabbi Freedman - **Marla and Terry Grossberg***

*In honor of The Auf Ruf of Michael Bilow and Samantha Wyman and with appreciation to Rabbi Freedman - **Sharon and Paul Bilow***

*In memory of Dr. Melvin Sered and with appreciation to Rabbi Freedman - **Hedy, Lynne and David Sered***

*In memory of Irvina Warren and with appreciation to Rabbi Freedman - **The Family of Irvina Warren***

*In memory of Merwin Rosenberg, beloved father - **Dr. Jerome and Mary Kaltman***

In memory of Selwyn (Shlomo) Zun, beloved step

-father of Nancy Lerner, Richard Lerner and Lauren Lerner Eskenazi, beloved husband of Beverly Preiser, beloved father of Debra Kleinman and David Zun, and beloved grandfather and with appreciation to Rabbi Freedman - **The Family of Selwyn Zun**

In memory of Sidney Epstein, beloved step-father - **Dr. Jerome and Mary Kaltman**

With appreciation for Rabbi Freedman's kindness and patience in helping Reese plan for her Bat Mitzvah - **Erica and Zachary Lindon**

With appreciation

- **Anonymous**

- **Rebecca and Corey Derdiger**

Hazzan Sandler Discretionary Fund

In honor of Alan and Margaret Silberman - **Richard and Janice Small**

In honor of Hazzan Sandler - **Marla and Terry Grossberg**

In honor of Hazzan Sandler for bringing ruach to our tefilah and for wonderful Rinat Shabbat Services - **Sandy Starkman and Larry Pachter**

In honor of Herb Isaacs' 85th birthday - **Dr. Myron and Susan Block**

In honor of The Auf Ruf of Michael Bilow and Samantha Wyman and with appreciation to Hazzan Sandler - **Sharon and Paul Bilow**

In memory of Irvina Warren and with appreciation to Hazzan Sandler - **The Family of Irvina Warren**

With appreciation for Hazzan Sandler's time and kindness in helping Reese prepare for her Bat Mitzvah - **Erica and Zachary Lindon**

With appreciation to Hazzan Sandler - **Shael and Myrna Siegel**

With appreciation - **Anonymous**

Rabbi Kurtz Discretionary Fund

In memory of Barbara Sporn, beloved sister - **Gary and Debbie Lindon**

In memory of Daniel Hoseman, beloved husband of Susan Hoseman, beloved father of JoAnne (Seijie Hayashi) Myles, Jonathan (Elizabeth) Hoseman, beloved brother of Judy Wexler and beloved grandfather - **Gerald and Adrienne Lasin**

In memory of Eva Hofman, beloved mother - **Gary and Debbie Lindon**

In memory of George Albert Goldstein, beloved father - **Phyllis Fischel**

In memory of Jack Hoffman, beloved father - **Robbie Hoffman Schreiber**

In memory of Robert Echt, beloved husband - **Rita Echt**

Ann and Jack Weinberg Holocaust Education Endowment Fund

In honor of Orley Kagan, grandchild of Pearl and Joel Kagan, on becoming a Bat Mitzvah - **Michael and Judith Balter**

Arnold Rissman Family Kol Ami Museum Endowment Fund

In honor of Pam Schlosberg on being celebrated as Kallat Bereshit - **Marla Hand and James Nyeste**

In memory of Valerie Lois Stark, beloved mother of Lori (David Shapiro) Stark and Erica Lemley and beloved grandmother - **Marla Hand and James Nyeste**

Ba'al Korei Fund

In honor of Hazzan Barbara Barnett - **Marla and Terry Grossberg**

In memory of Sarah Epstein, beloved mother - **Gerald and Adrienne Lasin**

With appreciation - **Anonymous**

Ben and Marion Drachler Education Endowment Fund

In memory of Bella Drachler Tesler, beloved sister

- **Ferne Avery**

- **A. Michael and Nancy Drachler**

In memory of Rochelle Claire Miller, beloved sister of Suzanne (Donald) Horwitz, beloved aunt and partner

- **Ferne Avery**

- **Robin and Charles Kafenshtok**

Bernard H. Sokol Hebrew High School Fund

In memory of Irvina Warren, beloved mother, grandmother and great-grandmother - **Ronnie Jo Sokol**

Cal and Lana Eisenberg Halomdim Program Endowment Fund

In memory of Lois Eisenberg, beloved sister - **Calvin and Lana Eisenberg**

In memory of Marvin Eisenberg, beloved brother - **Calvin and Lana Eisenberg**

With appreciation to Hazzan Barbara Barnett for her time and kindness in helping Reese prepare for her Bat Mitzvah - **Erica and Zachary Lindon**

Camp Ramah General Scholarship Endowment Fund

In honor of Mason Jacobson, son of Rebecca and Brian Jacobson, on becoming a Bar Mitzvah - **Seth and Marlene Halpern**

In memory of Saul Silverstein, beloved father of Rachel (Alan) Russo, Stuart Silverstein and Miriam (Michael) Rudolph, beloved brother, grandfather and great-grandfather - **Amy and Dan Schwartz**

In memory of Valerie Lois Stark, beloved mother of Lori (David Shapiro) Stark and Erica Lemley and beloved grandmother - **Rachel and Alan Russo**

Edward S. Frank Israel Study Memorial Endowment Fund

In honor of Liana Schwab, daughter of Erica and Rabbi

Michael Schwab, on becoming a Bat Mitzvah - **Joel and Frances Rabinowitz**

In memory of Dr. Melvin Sered, beloved husband of Hedy Sered, beloved father of Lynne (Jeff Schoenberg) Sered, David (Tracy) Sered and beloved grandfather - **Joel and Frances Rabinowitz**

In memory of Ernie Kaplan, beloved husband - **Gerry Kaplan**

In memory of Meyer Kaplan, beloved father-in-law - **Gerry Kaplan**

Family Engagement and Center Endowment Fund

In honor of the birth of Stuart and Barbara Hochwert's grandson, Eli Lawrence Newman - **Richard Zelin and Judith Hirsch-Zelin**

In memory of Valerie Lois Stark, beloved mother of Lori (David Shapiro) Stark and Erica Lemley and beloved grandmother - **Michael Krule and Lisa Alter Krule**

General Fundraising Fund

In memory of Daniel Hoseman, beloved husband of Susan Hoseman, beloved father of JoAnne (Seijie Hayashi) Myles, Jonathan (Elizabeth) Hoseman, beloved brother of Judy Wexler and beloved grandfather - **Ron and Chantal Blaustein**

In memory of Irvina Warren, beloved mother, grandmother and great-grandmother - **Cindy Silberman**

Gerald and Rita Buckman Yom Ha'atzmaut Endowment Fund

In memory of Lila Hodes, beloved sister - **Gerald and Rita Buckman**

Gertrude Lederman Family Continuing Education Fund

In memory of Irvina Warren, beloved mother, grandmother and great-grandmother

- **Robert Berger**

- **Howard and Judy Friedman**

- **Barry and Irene Sufrin**

In memory of Valerie Lois Stark, beloved mother of Lori (David Shapiro) Stark and Erica Lemley and beloved grandmother

- **Joyce and Don Joseph**

- **Cindy Shekhtman**

With appreciation for the great Continuing Education classes - **Marla and Terry Grossberg**

With appreciation - **Anonymous**

Glass Family Music Endowment Fund

In honor of Liana Schwab, daughter of Erica and Rabbi Michael Schwab, on becoming a Bat Mitzvah - **Philip and Ellen Glass**

In memory of Barbara Rosenfield, beloved wife of Richard Rosenfield, beloved mother and grandmother - **Philip and Ellen Glass**

In memory of Leonard Sherman, beloved father and grandfather - **Philip and Ellen Glass**

Hazak Fund

In honor of Gerald and Annette Blumberg's grandchild's B'nai Mitzvah - **Essie Wolken**

In honor of Mary Ellen Bowers for all the hard work she does for the community - **Richard and Janice Small**

In memory of Albert Levin, beloved father - **Marcy and Ken Levin**

In memory of Barbara Rosenfield, beloved wife of Richard Rosenfield, beloved mother and grandmother - **Gerald and Annette Blumberg**

In memory of Daniel Hoseman, beloved husband of Susan Hoseman, beloved father of JoAnne (Seijie Hayashi) Myles, Jonathan (Elizabeth) Hoseman, beloved brother of Judy Wexler and beloved grandfather - **Ken and Marcy Levin**

In memory of Irvina Warren, beloved mother, grandmother and great-grandmother - **Gerald and Annette Blumberg**

In memory of Jean Sechan, beloved aunt - **Pearl Zaid**

In memory of Valerie Lois Stark, beloved mother of Lori (David Shapiro) Stark and Erica Lemley and beloved grandmother

- **Gerald and Annette Blumberg**

- **Barbara Freeman**

With appreciation to Hazak

- **Gerald and Annette Blumberg**

- **Roger and Ronnie Wilk**

With appreciation to Hazak after recent surgery

- **Rob and Marcy Freeman**

With appreciation to Sandy Starkman and Larry Pachter for hosting our family during Reese's Bat Mitzvah - **Erica and Zachary Lindon**

With appreciation to the Hazak volunteers - **Gerald and Annette Blumberg**

With appreciation

- **Gerry Kaplan**

- **Home Instead (Jackie and Michael Melinger)**

- **Hilda Reingold**

Israel Scholarship Endowment Fund

In memory of Bernard Pachter, beloved uncle - **Sandy Starkman and Larry Pachter**

In memory of Irvina Warren, beloved mother, grandmother and great-grandmother - **Sandy Starkman and Larry Pachter**

In memory of Isador Finkelstein - **Anonymous**

In memory of Milton Field - **Anonymous**

In memory of Rochelle Claire Miller, beloved sister of Suzanne (Donald) Horwitz, beloved aunt and partner - **Michael and Debora Pinzur**

Jack and Mildred Cohen Religious School Fund

In honor of Liana Schwab, daughter of Erica and Rabbi Michael Schwab, on becoming a Bat Mitzvah - **Robert and Roberta Goodman**

In memory of Anna Winterman Szanto, beloved mother - **Michael J. Szanto**

In memory of Howard Hirschfield, beloved father - **Pamela and David Hirschfield**

In memory of Phillip Kahalnik, beloved father of Chuck and Neal Kahalnik, beloved grandfather of Paige Kahalnik and Sloane (Steven) Sahd - **Daniel and Lori Gross**

In memory of Valerie Lois Stark, beloved mother of Lori (David Shapiro) Stark and Erica Lemley and beloved grandmother - **Rayna Forman**

With appreciation

- **Donald M. Ephraim Family Foundation**

- **Kim and Eric Ephraim**

Jean T. and Morton Bernstein Camp Ramah Endowment Fund

In honor of Liana Schwab, daughter of Erica and Rabbi Michael Schwab, on becoming a Bat Mitzvah - **Morton and Miriam Steinberg**

With appreciation - **Morton and Miriam Steinberg**

Joseph and Mae Gray Cultural and Learning Center Fund

In memory of Cara Madansky, beloved wife of Mayer Stiebel, beloved mother of Susan (Dan) Groner, Noreen (David) Ohcana, Cynthia Madansky and Michele (Travis Mowbray) Madansky and beloved grandmother - **Sharon and Paul Bilow**

In memory of Gene Siskel, beloved brother - **Elaine Loseff**

In memory of Irvina Warren, beloved mother, grandmother and great-grandmother

- **Barry and Debra Kravitz**

- **Elaine Loseff**

In memory of Sheldon Gray, beloved brother

- **Elaine Loseff**

In memory of Victor Glazer, beloved father of Adam Glazer and Mark Glazer, beloved husband of Mary Glazer and beloved grandfather - **The Tennis Group (Noreen, Rob, Joel, Ponch, Arielle, Greg and Dave)**

Kopin Family Children's T'filot Endowment Fund

In memory of Al Kopin, beloved husband of Myrna Kopin - **Sandy Starkman and Larry Pachter**

Kurtz Family Unrestricted Youth Endowment Fund

In memory of Leonard Sherman, beloved father and grandfather - **Debra Rade**

LGBTQIA+ Inclusion Fund

In memory of Helga Bierig, beloved mother - **Gerald and Judy Farby**

In memory of Selma Farby, beloved mother - **Gerald and Judy Farby**

In memory of Valerie Lois Stark, beloved mother of Lori (David Shapiro) Stark and Erica Lemley and beloved grandmother - **Wendy and Danny Kahn**

Maxwell Abbell Library Fund

In honor of Richard and Janice Small's wedding anniversary - **Sandy Starkman and Larry Pachter**

In memory of Avra Shoshana Tovian, beloved daughter of Merle and Steve Tovian - **Debra Rade**

In memory of Barbara Rosenfield, beloved wife of Richard Rosenfield, beloved mother and grandmother

- **Sandy Starkman and Larry Pachter**

- **Fran and Joel Rabinowitz**

In memory of Celia and Max Katz, beloved mother and father - **Mildred Lidov**

In memory of Daniel Hoseman, beloved husband of Susan Hoseman, beloved father of JoAnne (Seijie Hayashi) Myles, Jonathan (Elizabeth) Hoseman, beloved brother of Judy Wexler and beloved grandfather

- **Fran and Joel Rabinowitz**

- **Frank and Ruth Stern**

In memory of Gale Rothner, beloved mother of Katy (Josh) Silvers and beloved grandmother - **Elise and Ira Frost**

In memory of Gertrude Goodman, beloved sister - **Mildred Lidov**

In memory of Howard Lidov, beloved husband - **Mildred Lidov**

In memory of Milton Levenfeld, beloved husband of Iona Wishner Levenfeld, beloved father of Judy Hollenberg, Barry Levenfeld and David Levenfeld, beloved grandfather and beloved great-grandfather - **Robert and JoEllen Lidov**

In memory of Valerie Lois Stark, beloved mother of Lori (David Shapiro) Stark and Erica Lemley and beloved grandmother - **Joel and Frances Rabinowitz**

With appreciation - **Anonymous**

Minyan Service Fund

In honor of the birth of Ira and Debbie Rosenberg's grandchild - **Barbara and David Lansing**

In honor of the marriage of Dr. David Kaltman and Rebecca Weissman - **Gerald and Adrienne Lasin**

In memory of Benjamin Wasserman, beloved grandfather - **Robert and Loree Wasserman**

In memory of Bernie Alpert, beloved husband of Fran Alpert, beloved father and grandfather - **Donald and Suzanne Horwitz**

In memory of Bert Derdiger, beloved father - **Stanton and Carole Derdiger**

In memory of Daniel Hoseman, beloved husband of Susan Hoseman, beloved father of JoAnne (Seijie Hayashi) Myles, Jonathan (Elizabeth) Hoseman, beloved brother of Judy Wexler and beloved grandfather - **William and Sharon Gertz**

In memory of Dr. Melvin Sered, beloved husband of Hedy Sered, beloved father of Lynne (Jeff Schoenberg) Sered, David (Tracy) Sered and beloved grandfather - **Dr. Ranna Rozenfeld and Dr. Shane Greenstein**

In memory of Dudley Derdiger, beloved brother - **Stanton and Carole Derdiger**

In memory of Henrietta Derdiger, beloved mother - **Stanton and Carole Derdiger**

In memory of Leah Rosenthal, beloved mother of Ira (Sandy) Rosenthal and Shellie Berkowitz - **Barbara**

and David Lansing

In memory of Leon Gurny, beloved father of Carol Rosenberg - **Donald and Suzanne Horwitz**

In memory of Lillian Leiderman, beloved mother - **Michael and Hermine Leiderman**

In memory of Mildred "Mickey" Gross, beloved sister - **Stanton and Carole Derdiger**

In memory of Mort Bloomberg, beloved father - **Stanton and Carole Derdiger**

In memory of Rhonda Arndt, beloved niece - **Stanton and Carole Derdiger**

In memory of Ruth Stern, beloved mother - **Michael and Hermine Leiderman**

In memory of Tillie Bloomberg, beloved mother - **Stanton and Carole Derdiger**

With appreciation - **Bruce Pomeranz**

Music Fund

In honor of Ellen and Bob Doppelt's new granddaughter, Moonie - **Abby and Larry Block**

In memory of Barbara Rosenfield, beloved wife of Richard Rosenfield, beloved mother and grandmother - **Abby and Larry Block**

In memory of Daniel Hoseman, beloved husband of Susan Hoseman, beloved father of JoAnne (Seijie Hayashi) Myles, Jonathan (Elizabeth) Hoseman, beloved brother of Judy Wexler and beloved grandfather - **Abby and Larry Block**

In memory of Dr. Melvin Sered, beloved husband of Hedy Sered, beloved father of Lynne (Jeff Schoenberg) Sered, David (Tracy) Sered and beloved grandfather - **Abby and Larry Block**

In memory of Milton Levenfeld, beloved husband of Iona Wishner Levenfeld, beloved father of Judy Hollenberg, Barry Levenfeld and David Levenfeld, beloved grandfather and beloved great-grandfather - **Abby and Larry Block**

In memory of Saul Silverstein, beloved father of Rachel (Alan) Russo, Stuart Silverstein and Miriam (Michael) Rudolph, beloved brother, grandfather and great-grandfather - **Abby and Larry Block**

NSS Beth El Camp Scholarship Fund

In memory of Valerie Lois Stark, beloved mother of Lori (David Shapiro) Stark and Erica Lemley and beloved grandmother

- **Scott and Betsy Forester**

- **Jeffrey and Stacy Goldsmith**

- **Yael Mirelman and Pere Berkowitz**

NSS Beth El Sisterhood Special Gifts Fund

In honor of Doreen Feitelberg's birthday - **Philip and Doreen Feitelberg**

With appreciation to NSS Beth El Sisterhood and their programs and projects

- **Marsha and Robert Weinstein**

With appreciation - **Rob and Marcy Freeman**

NSS Beth El Special Gifts Fund

In honor of the online High Holiday Services - **Elizabeth Richman**

In honor of Rabbi Josh Warshawsky and his concert

- **Marci Dickman and Ralph Schwartz**

- **Jeffrey and Zina Kovit**

In honor of Reese Lindon, daughter of Erica and Zach Lindon, on becoming a Bat Mitzvah - **Ira and Deborah Rosenberg**

In honor of the birth of our new granddaughter, Robin Simone Benbrook - **Robert and Carol Ruderman**

In memory of Barbara Rosenfield, beloved grandmother of Courtney and Zach Kalter - **Scott and Maureen Chaikin**

In memory of Barbara Rosenfield, beloved wife of Richard Rosenfield, beloved mother and grandmother - **Scott and Maureen Chaikin**

In memory of Belle Mann, beloved mother - **Sheldon and Nancy Mann**

In memory of Cara Madansky, beloved wife of Mayer Stiebel, beloved mother of Susan (Dan) Groner, Noreen (David) Ohcana, Cynthia Madansky and Michele (Travis Mowbray) Madansky and beloved grandmother - **Susie Krasnow and Bob Massey**

In memory of Dr. Melvin Sered, beloved husband of Hedy Sered, beloved father of Lynne (Jeff Schoenberg) Sered, David (Tracy) Sered and beloved grandfather

- **Gerry Kaplan**

- **Michael and Andrea Zimmerman**

- **Sheila and Werner Gideon**

In memory of Henry Mann, beloved father - **Sheldon and Nancy Mann**

In memory of Irene Regenstreif, beloved mother - **Sheldon and Nancy Mann**

In memory of Irvina Warren, beloved mother, grandmother and great-grandmother

- **Brian and Diane Albert**

- **Amanda Bardosy**

- **Lori Crane**

- **Dr. William Fry**

- **Jay Goldberg**

- **Joan Golder**

- **Andy and Junia Hedberg**

- **Marc and Luba Levine**

- **Marlene Levine**

- **Monte Levinson and Linda Harvey**

- **Gary and Roberta Morris**

- **Jay and Andrea Perman**

- **Judith Rhodes**

- **Judith Schmidt**

In memory of Louis Shulman, beloved father - **Alvin Shulman**

In memory of Milton Levenfeld, beloved husband of Iona Wishner Levenfeld, beloved father of Judy Hollenberg, Barry Levenfeld and David Levenfeld, beloved grandfather and beloved great-grandfather - **Selma Hoffman**

In memory of Richard Wexler, beloved husband of Roberta Wexler, beloved father and beloved grandfather - **Selig Foundation**

In memory of Saul Silverstein, beloved father of Rachel (Alan) Russo, Stuart Silverstein and Miriam

(Michael) Rudolph, beloved brother, grandfather and great-grandfather - **Skip and Lynn Schray**

In memory of Valerie Lois Stark, beloved mother of Lori (David Shapiro) Stark and Erica Lemley and beloved grandmother - **Adina Gwartzman and Neil Wyant**

With appreciation for the Six13 concert - **Iris Lifton**

With appreciation to Beth El - **Dr. Fred and Phyllis Nathan**

With appreciation

- **Larry Engelhart / Deja Views**

- **Allen and Gail Juris Fund**

- **Leon and Wendy Zar**

Paul S. and Sylvia Steinberg Pre-School Endowment Fund

With appreciation - **Morton and Miriam Steinberg**

Paul S. and Sylvia Steinberg Pre-School Fund

In honor of Liana Schwab, daughter of Erica and Rabbi Michael Schwab, on becoming a Bat Mitzvah - **Brian and Lucy Bortman**

In honor of Reese Lindon, daughter of Erica and Zach Lindon, on becoming a Bat Mitzvah - **Dr. Jared and Jordana Greenberg**

In memory of Ellen Maiman Bookman, beloved sister and aunt - **Steve and Linda Feinstein**

In memory of Rochelle Claire Miller, beloved sister of Suzanne (Donald) Horwitz, beloved aunt and partner - **Marc Berman**

Prayer Book Fund

In memory of Sylvia and Albert Wishnick, beloved mother and father - **Adrienne Eckerling**

In memory of Valerie Lois Stark, beloved mother of Lori (David Shapiro) Stark and Erica Lemley and beloved grandmother - **Leon and Leslie Fox**

Ritual Refurbishment Endowment Fund

In honor of Lexi and Levi Rosenthal becoming B'nai Mitzvah and with appreciation to Rabbi Schwab, Rabbi Freedman, Hazzan Sandler and Hazzan Barnett for all of their help and guidance - **Martin Rosenthal and Family**

In memory of Alan Eirinberg, beloved husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather - **Barbara Blumberg**

In memory of Dr. Melvin Sered, beloved husband of Hedy Sered, beloved father of Lynne (Jeff Schoenberg) Sered, David (Tracy) Sered and beloved grandfather - **Barbara Blumberg**

In memory of Gloria, beloved mother of Mary Beth Cohen - **Barbara Blumberg**

In memory of Valerie Lois Stark, beloved mother of Lori (David Shapiro) Stark and Erica Lemley and beloved grandmother - **Barbara Blumberg**

Todah Rabbah

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THE FOLLOWING CONTRIBUTIONS:

*Wishing a Complete and Speedy Recovery to Barbara Freeman - **Barbara Blumberg***
*With appreciation to Hazzan Barbara Barnett - **Elizabeth Shapiro Kopin and Benjamin Kopin***

Sarah and Henry Stiebel Solomon Schechter Endowment Fund

*In memory of Samuel Rubin, beloved father - **Marlene and Stuart Senescu***

Social Action Fund

*In honor of the friendship of Sandy Starkman and Larry Pachter - **Pam and Richard Schlosberg***

*In memory of Dr. Pierre Eilian - **Len and Bobbie Tenner***

*In memory of Valerie Lois Stark, beloved mother of Lori (David Shapiro) Stark and Erica Lemley and beloved grandmother - **Barbara and Danny Fox***

Staff Recognition Fund

*In honor of the birth of Stuart and Barbara Hochwert's grandson, Eli Lawrence Newman - **Sandy Starkman and Larry Pachter***

Tzedakah/Pushke Fund

*In memory of Daniel Hoseman, beloved husband of Susan Hoseman, beloved father of JoAnne (Seijie Hayashi) Myles, Jonathan (Elizabeth) Hoseman, beloved brother of Judy Wexler and beloved grandfather - **Kim and Eric Ephraim***

*In memory of Pearl Weber, beloved mother-in-law - **Millie Weber***

*In memory of Richard Wexler, beloved husband of Roberta Wexler, beloved father and grandfather - **Dr. David and Karen Benson***

*With appreciation to our Rabbis and Cantor and Beth El staff for all they do - **Dr. Jerome and Mary Kaltman***

Vernon H. Kurtz Senior Rabbinic Chair Endowment Fund

*In memory of Jack Blumberg, our beloved cousin - **Eve and Stuart Pinkert***

Youth Community Fund

*In honor of Jack Reinsdorf, son of Holly and John Reinsdorf, on becoming a Bar Mitzvah - **Daniel and Ronit Ripes***

*In memory of Gale Rothner, beloved mother of Katy (Josh) Silvers and beloved grandmother - **Brad and Marcie Pickard***

*In memory of Marvin Raymond Litt, beloved father of Danielle (Brian) Weinstein, Sheryl Litt-Feldman and Michael Litt, beloved brother and grandfather - **Rachael Gluck***

*In memory of Valerie Lois Stark, beloved mother of Lori (David Shapiro) Stark and Erica Lemley and beloved grandmother - **Brad and Marcie Pickard***

*With appreciation - **Alan Spellberg and Audra Kaplan***

Membership

Grateful for Our Membership Team

By Judy Berkeley, Membership & Development Director

We have had such a busy year as a membership team! We'd like to take a moment to thank our wonderful membership committee for all their hard work. This year, we recruited so many amazing members to join our membership team, with a common goal to make all members – new members, long-term members, and even college kids away from home – feel welcome and included in our community.

Our committees include brand new members, lifelong members and everyone in between.

Some of our highlights from this year include:

- We brought back the Sukkah Walk successfully after being on hiatus due

to COVID-19. It was a wonderful celebratory day for the whole community!

- We held a new members event in mid-November, which welcomed in so many new families with gifts, treats, family photos, and most importantly, to "hang out" together and meet and learn about all the various departments and opportunities to get involved at Beth El.

- We doubled the number of our college connections recipients, from 60 last year to 120 this year and worked as a group to send them meaningful packages for the High Holidays and Chanukah, Purim and Pesach.

- We have put in place ways to welcome all new members including new member letters from clergy and staff, gifts, membership committee personal connections and invitations to events.

- And of course our members/interests and volunteer opportunities form: <https://nssbe.shulcloud.com/form/Interest-Groups-Volunteer-Opportunities>

- Stay tuned as we have another new members event scheduled for Sunday, May 1st!

If you are interested in getting more involved in all of our exciting membership initiatives, please contact us at:

Dana Atlas, VP Membership

(847)722-3772 or atlas.dana@gmail.com

Judy Berkeley, Membership & Development Director

(312)720-0045 or jberkeley@nssbethel.org

Membership Committee:

Dana Atlas, VP Membership
 JoAnne Blumberg
 Allie Davidson
 Maryl Dayan
 Derek Faust
 Jonathan Glick
 Jefford Humes
 Arielle Levitan
 Marcie Pickard
 Holly Reinsdorf
 Irene Savine
 Rebecca Schechter
 Pamela Schlosberg
 Steve Sheffey
 Dawn Sidney
 Sandy Starkman
 Tina Wolf
 Allison Zabelin

College Connections Committee!:

Beth Bernat
 Dena Cooperman
 Maryl Dayan
 Kim Ephraim
 Lisa Fishbein
 Leslie Kaufman



1960s History Challenge

By Mort Steinberg, Beth El Historian

The Harold and Ruby Blumberg Auditorium, dedicated in honor of one of the key founding families of the synagogue, was the site of numerous gala celebrations and banquets during the 1960s. This photograph from the Beth El archives was taken at a 1969 dinner honoring the youth of the congregation. On the left



are Thelma and Harold Gorin (president of the congregation) and on the right are Sophie and Milt Fields (also an officer of the congregation). The couple in the center is unidentified. Do you know who

they are? If so, contact our Director of Lifelong Learning, Rachel Kamin, at rkamin@nssbethel.org.

Spring is in the Air continued from page 2 By Stuart Hochwert

get 100 NEW and unique Torah Readers for 2021-2022. We hit this goal in late January 2022, so it is onward to 120+! If you would like to participate we will help you every step of the way. Feel free to e-mail me for more information.

And if you hear the noise of minor construction in our building I am proud of our continued and ongoing commitment to excellence. Here are some items planned this Spring and Summer:

- Upgrades and preservation of the

bluff and back yard of the property.

- Repairs and refurbishment of the Sanctuary including new carpeting and reupholstering the seats.
- Classrooms and offices on the second floor of the building will get upgrades and new carpeting.

Our rented tent was such a big hit last year we have bought a larger tent that will be available for use every year. Beth El meetings, gatherings, and Kiddush

on the lake in our tent cannot be beat. And a perfect venue for a wedding, Bar or Bat Mitzvah or that special occasion. Paired with that perfect meal from Circle of Life Catering and you have one of the most spectacular venues in Chicago.

Beth El has so much to offer. And this Spring is no exception. So as the late Robin Williams once said, 'Let's Party!' And what better way than to have some fun at Beth El.

HAZAK

By Jackie Melinger, HAZAK Co-Chair

Two Years into the COVID-19 Pandemic - We have found our Silver Linings!

No one needs to be reminded that we have been navigating the Coronavirus for two years now. We all know someone who has been exposed, suffered from COVID-19 or worse. It's been a difficult, chaotic and lonely time. Through it all, our NSS Beth El Community has found "silver linings" which have brought us closer together.

For several years we spoke of how to bring religious services to someone who is homebound, how to make sure we are looking after our senior members and showing them respect, how to care for young families and everyone in between when they are going through a difficult

time, how to provide delicious meals to our congregants, and how to bring our community together in new ways.

The Beth El clergy, staff and leaders quickly came together and began streaming services and programs. We had record numbers of people tuning in for Shabbat and Yom Tov services and more than ever engaged in all types of programming. We reached out to members and provided much needed companionship and services. Circle of Life Catering warmed our souls with gourmet Shabbat dinners and To Go Kiddush packages. We watched each other's simchas over Live Stream when we couldn't be there in person and we attended outdoor shivas. We put together meal trains for those recovering



from hospitalizations or surgeries. The Social Action Committee found new and creative ways to engage members in mitzvot for the community. The schools found ways to keep the children learning and connecting.

Although COVID-19 is still very much on our minds, we have seen our resiliency. Let's be proud of the Silver Linings we have found both personally and at NSS Beth El as we continue on in strength together!

Counting Down To Mitzvah 613!

By Mitzvah 613 Marketing Committee

What is the 613th Mitzvah in the Torah? For every Jew to write a Torah scroll. Together, through the new Mitzvah 613 project every NSS Beth El congregant is invited to bring this mitzvah to life! The countdown to a completed scroll will begin on **May 22, 2022 and conclude May 21, 2023.**

Here's how it works: a professional Sofer - scribe - will spend the next year writing the Torah for our community in Israel and at NSS Beth El. Once a Torah section is almost complete, the Sofer will come to our synagogue so that our members, and their loved ones, can each share in the sacred moment when letters are set down on the parchment of Beth El's newest Torah.

The sofer will be at Beth El on various dates throughout the year. Stay tuned

for sign up dates, which will go live on the NSS Beth El website in the coming months!

Consider adding a deeper level of meaning to Mitzvah 613 with a donation that can underwrite a letter, or extend to verses and beyond. Your contribution will help the congregation dedicate our newest Torah and help us maintain the strength of our religious school and physical space. Multiple opportunities are available. Whether you donate \$6.13 at the L'Dor V'Dor level or give as a Guardian or Visionary of the Torah, your participation in this exciting experience is invited.

Writing a Torah is a lasting legacy, the truest expression of L'Dor V'Dor - "from generation to generation" - as the Torah we create this year will phys-



ically be in the hands of future NSS Beth El generations. As our own Rabbi Schwab says, "Torah is 'etz hayim hee' - it is the tree of life for those who hold fast to it. Torah represents the foundation of our religious tradition. And, you can personally fulfill the last mitzvah in the Torah - to write a Sefer Torah for yourself."

To find out more, please contact Judy Berkeley, Membership & Development Director at (312) 720-0045 or mitzvah613@nssbethel.org

Unsung Heroes "Stalking" a Culinary Giant

By Chef Laura Frankel



Celery is so much more than crudites, dieter's munchies and a garnish in a Bloody Mary. Celery is often relegated to barely a mention in so many recipes. And yet, handled properly, celery can be the STAR!

Celery is used in many cuisines around the globe, and the entire plant is edible. The stalks can be used as an aromatic in soups, stocks and stews. The leaves are delicately flavored and can be used as a garnish. The French love celery so much it is part of the "holy trinity" along with carrots and onions as the base for many dishes.

In north America, we eat a variety of celery called Pascal stalk celery. In Europe, celeriac or celery root is used. Celeriac has a LOUD celery flavor, while the stalks we eat in the states have a quiet flavor.

Love it or hate it, celery is often an afterthought. But cooked and carefully paired with other flavors, celery becomes the star that it is and shines in many dishes including this recipe for Passover or all year round.

Creamy Celery Soup

A gorgeous Emerald Green soup that screams SPRING is quick to prepare, easy to find ingredients and perfect for a Passover meal or anytime.

Serves 6+

1/3 cup Extra Virgin Olive Oil

1 large head Celery, thinly sliced (leaves reserved)

Sea Salt and freshly cracked Black Pepper

2 large Leeks, white and light green parts only, thinly sliced

1 large Celeriac root, peeled and diced
4 large Garlic Cloves, minced
3 medium Yukon Gold Potatoes, peeled and sliced

1/2 cup dry white wine

6 cups Chicken or Vegetable Stock (homemade is best)

2 cups fresh Baby Spinach

1/2 cup flat leaf Parsley leaves



Suggested Garnishes: celery leaves, garlicky-lemon oil, chopped almonds, snipped chives

1. Heat a large saucepan or stock pot, lightly coated with evoo, over medium heat. Add celery, leeks and celeriac and cook, stirring occasionally until veggies are wilted and very fragrant (about 20 minutes). Be sure to season with salt and pepper.
2. Add garlic, potatoes and wine and continue cooking until most of the wine has evaporated. Add stock and reduce heat to a simmer. Continue cooking until potatoes and celeriac are very soft (about 30 minutes). Turn off heat and allow to cool for 30 minutes before pureeing.
3. Add spinach and parsley leaves and puree until creamy.
4. Adjust seasoning with salt and pepper and garnish with reserved celery leaves, snipped chives and drizzle with good quality extra virgin olive oil.

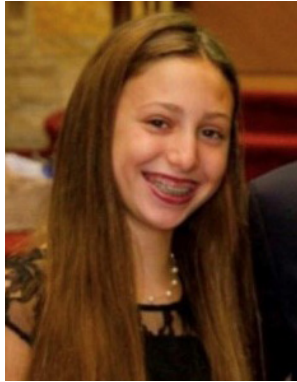
Mazel Tov to Our B'nai Mitzvah Students



Bar Mitzvah

Azzi Green,
son of Era and Ben Green

Shabbat, March 12



Bat Mitzvah

Eden Deutch,
daughter of Jennifer and
Todd Deutch

Mincha, May 12



Bar Mitzvah

Joseph Deutch,
son of Jennifer and Todd
Deutch

Mincha, March 12



Bar Mitzvah

Ari Leon,
son of Michelle and
Jeff Leon

Shabbat, April 30



Bar Mitzvah

Sam Viner,
son of Anya and
Victor Viner

Shabbat, May 7



Bat Mitzvah

Julia Herz,
daughter of Jennifer and
Josh Herz

Mincha, May 7



Bat Mitzvah

Jana Schmidt,
daughter of Jennifer and
Paul Schmidt

Shabbat, May 14



Bat Mitzvah

Kourtne Halperin,
daughter of Melissa and
Todd Halperin

Shabbat, May 21



Bat Mitzvah

Sage Whittman,
daughter of Leslye and
Brian Whittman

Shabbat, May 28

NSS Beth El Summer Camp & Steinberg Pre-School Registration Now Open!



Registration is **NOW OPEN** for:

NSS Beth El Summer Camp and The Paul S. & Sylvia Steinberg Pre-School

We offer programs for children 5 months through Pre-K.

We would love to welcome you and your family to our
Steinberg Pre-School community!

Please go to: <https://www.steinbergpreschool.org>
for more information about our programs.

TO REGISTER, CONTACT:

Kory Goldenberg at kgoldenberg@nssbethel.org or Michele Friedland at mfriedland@nssbethel.org,
or call **847-432-2830**



March/April/May Events at a Glance

For more details, to register or RSVP, and for Zoom links, please check your Beth El emails or visit the website at www.nssbethel.org.

Saturday, March 5 - 7:00 pm Brain Bash Trivia Night

Join Sisterhood and Men's Club for another exciting evening of trivia! Details to follow.



Saturday, March 5 Havdalah Dance Party PreK-4th Grade join us 6:45-7:45 pm 5th-8th Grade join us 7:45-8:45 pm

Calling all partiers grades PreK-4th and 5th-8th... Dress for the weather and join us for a parking lot Havdalah Dance Party! We'll have snacks and gifts as we ring out Shabbat with Rabbi Josh Warshawsky and then continue the party after. Join us for a DJ, snacks, and glowsticks for all. We can't wait to play!! This program is free but registration is required.



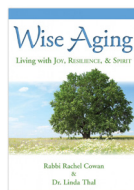
Sunday, March 6, 9:00 am Mitzvah Day

Join other Beth El members to do a mitzvah – or two! The event will begin with several speakers from local organizations sharing their missions and their current needs. Afterwards, members will participate in projects they have signed up for preceding the event.



Wednesday, March 9, 1:00 pm Wise Aging: Living with Joy, Resilience & Spirit with Dr. Betsy Dolgin Katz

This special session, based on the book by Rachel Cowan and Linda Thal, will examine how to cultivate joy so it becomes a source of spiritual well-being at a time in our lives when it is challenging to remain joyful, grateful, and optimistic. Join Dr. Betsy Dolgin Katz for a "taste" of *Wise Aging*, co-sponsored by HAZAK.



Thursday, March 10, 7:30 pm Concert with Achinoam Nini - aka Noa

We welcome international superstar Achinoam Nini - aka Noa - in concert. With roots and upbringing spanning Yemen, Israel and the United States. Noa has released 15 international albums and graced many of the world's most important and prestigious stages like Carnegie Hall and the White House. Tickets start at \$36.



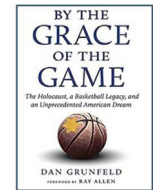
Sunday, March 13 - 9:00 am Purim Celebration

Families are invited to sign up and join us for a Purim celebration including games, magic, family community service projects, hamentashen making and so much more! Enjoy a Purim Spiel, interactive story, and we invite all kids to come in costume for a costume parade!



Sunday, March 13, 8:00 pm Special Selection Sunday March Madness Event

Join the Gray Cultural & Learning Center, Sisterhood and the Men's Club for a Zoom presentation with Dan Grunfeld, former professional basketball player, sports writer, and author of the new book *By the Grace of the Game: The Holocaust, A Basketball Legacy, and an Unprecedented American Dream*.



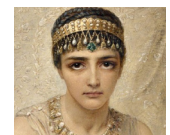
Wednesday, March 16, 6:45 pm All Congregation Purim Celebration

See back page for details.



Thursday, March 17, 12:00 pm Purim Study Session: The Mysterious Queen

Explore Queen Esther and her role in the Purim story with Sara Efrat Efron, Professor of Education at National Louis University. BYO Purim seudah and login on Zoom.



Thursday March 17, 6:30 pm Yom Hashoah Candle Packing

Come join our USY group and the Men's Club as we pack Yom Hashoah candles to send out to the congregation. Come for the whole time or a half an hour. This is a great event to bring your family. Contact Matt Pestine at mpestine@gmail.com for more information.



Saturday, March 19 Shabbat Speaker: Rabbi Tamar Manasseh

Rabbi Tamar Manasseh is an African American rabbi who fights gun violence in Chicago by strengthening her South Side community. She is the focus of the documentary "They Ain't Ready for Me," which we screened on Selichot this year.



Sunday, March 20, 2:00 pm Rise Up: Stonewall and the LGBTQ Rights Movement Exhibit

Join us for this in-person tour of this exhibit at the Illinois Holocaust Museum. Stonewall ignited the modern LGBTQ movement in the U.S. Explore the stories and hear their voices. Reservations required. Look for registration link in weekly emails. For more information, contact tami.warshawsky@schechter.org.



Thursday, March 24, 12:00 pm Lunch & Learn

Grab your lunch and join Rabbi Schwab from the comfort of your own home or office for a study session on Zoom centered on the ethical issues of our lives. Relying on source material from biblical and rabbinic texts, we will discuss the ethical principles and interpretations of Jewish law over the centuries.

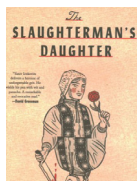


Saturday morning, March 26
Sisterhood Shabbat

Please join us as the women of Beth El showcase their ritual talents during our Shabbat morning service.

Saturday, March 26, 12:30 pm
Sisterhood Torah Fund Book Club

Rachel Kamin will facilitate an in-person discussion of *The Slaughterer's Daughter* by Yaniv Iczkovits after Shabbat Kiddush. Copies of the book, both in English and the original Hebrew, are available in our Abbell Library.



Thursday, March 31, 12:00 pm
Meet the Author & Translator

Join the Sisterhood Torah Fund Book Club for a special Zoom conversation with Yaniv Iczkovits, the award winning Israeli author of *The Slaughterer's Daughter*, and the English translator Orr Scharf.



Tuesdays, April 5 and 12 12:00 pm
Pesach Workshops with Rabbi Alex Freedman
See page 13 for details.

Wednesday, April 6, 2:00 pm & 3:00 pm
and Tuesday, April 5, 6:00 pm & 7:00 pm
Mobile Museum of Tolerance

The Mobile Museum of Tolerance, the Simon Wiesenthal Center's newest educational initiative, will be stopping at Beth El to inspire our Cohen Religious School students as well as visitors of all ages and backgrounds to raise their voices and combat anti-Semitism, bullying, racism, hate, and intolerance. Space is limited and reservations are required.



Saturday, April 9
Shabbat Speaker Gil Hoffman
See page 9 for details.



Sunday, April 10; 10:30 am
Chocolate Seder and Pesach Activities
See page 13 for details.



Tuesday, April 19, 7:00 pm
Out of the Narrows: Art from a new Haggadah by the Jewish Artists Collective Chicago
See page 13 for details.



Thursday, April 21, 12:00 pm
Sisterhood Torah Fund Chol Hamoed Zoom Event: If Objects Could Speak with Abra Cohen

All current Torah Fund donors are invited to attend this special free event presented by Abra Cohen,



Archivist at the Joint Distribution Committee. The JDC's Artifacts and Ephemera Collection contains close to 1,000 works ranging from posters and illuminated records to precious artwork and gifts from Jewish committees around the world. Contact Mary Ellen Bowers at eyerishmar@comcast.net if you have questions about your Torah Fund donation.

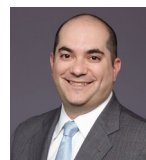
Wednesday, April 27, 7:00 pm
The Importance of Remembrance: Connecting Deeper on Yom Hashoah through Classical Music



Our Yom Hashoah commemoration will feature a live performance and presentation by Dan Schwartz, professional oboist and the Instructor of General Music and Sixth Grade Band Director at Solomon Schechter Day School, of music incorporating sound recorded from actual locations pivotal to the Jewish experience during World War II. The evening will also include minyan, lighting of memorial candles, words of remembrance, and honoring the survivors of the Shoah in our community.

Sunday, May 1, 10:00 am
Frankel Memorial Lecture with David Goldenberg From Charlottesville to Colleyville: Fighting Antisemitism in 2022 and Beyond

ADL Midwest Regional Director David Goldenberg will discuss the current state of antisemitism. A lite breakfast will be served at 9:30 am and the lecture will be held in the Field Family Sanctuary and on the LiveStream.



Thursday, May 5, 12:00 pm
Catching Up with the Kurtzes

Celebrate Yom Ha'atzmaut with a Zoom conversation with Rabbi Vernon and Bryna Kurtz live from Jerusalem!



Saturday, May 7, 12:30 pm
Sisterhood Torah Fund Book Club

Join Riva Lehrer, a longtime faculty member of the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and current instructor in medical humanities at Northwestern University, for an in-person discussion of her memoir *Golem Girl*.



SAVE THE DATE:

Our Tikkun Layl Shavuot Scholar, June 4-6, 2022, will be Rabbi Adina Lewittes, the founding rabbi of Sha'ar, a northern NJ/NYC-based, values-driven Jewish community oriented around the call to societal, environmental and spiritual sustainability.

REGISTER FOR SPRING CONTINUING EDUCATION COURSES
New Classes Begin March 28, 2022

Visit the Beth El website for information on classes, or contact Rachel Kamin at rkamin@nssbethel.org.

North Suburban Synagogue

Beth El

בית כנסת בית אל

1175 Sheridan Road
Highland Park, IL 60035

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MUST SEE TV

Wednesday, March 16



6:45 pm - Mincha service

7:00 pm - Maariv service

7:15-8:00 pm - Megillat Esther reading

8:15-9:00 pm - Beth El's Bingeworthy
Purim Spiel
(It's a Big Deal!)

Come watch a series of "clips and trailers" hosted by Hazzan Sandler to show you what's hot on Beth El+ this season!

What's Beth El+? The [imaginary] streaming platform, like Netflix or Disney+, but for all of Beth El's original TV shows and movies.

You don't want to miss this!

**Join us in person
or via Livestream**

