



## 8 Ways to Prepare for 8 Nights of Hanukkah

By Rabbi Alex Freedman

Take out your Hanukkiah and grab some potatoes! Hanukkah begins on December 10th. While this pandemic Hanukkah (pandem-ukkah?) won't be the same as other years, we can still do many things to make it meaningful.

a night. Maimonides wrote that our joy can't be complete when others can't celebrate too.

**5. Enjoy the YouTube show.** There is a fantastic collection of entertaining Hanukkah music videos. Some are serious, others are parodies, but

all are enjoyable - and short. Go to YouTube and search "Hanukkah music videos." If you like James Corden, don't miss "Boyz II Menorah."

**6. Make your own family show.** Have the kids plan and record a short family video and share with your family and friends who you usually see at the Hanukkah party.

**7. Discuss the big ideas.** The holiday celebrates our freedom to be Jewish. What does this look like in 2020? Are we Jews fully free to practice our faith? Are there religious groups today who do not enjoy such freedom?

**8. Consider how to add your light.** Hanukkah is about driving out the darkness by adding light. It's why we light the candles at night and not during the day; and why the holiday falls in the winter and

not in the summer. What light can you add to the world to drive away some darkness?

Check out the back page to see Beth El's schedule of Hanukkah events.

Our world really needs some more light right now. Let Hanukkah spur us to make these days a little brighter. Happy Hanukkah!

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**1. Zoom the party with out-of-town-ers.** Sadly we cannot have the large family-and-friends parties we all enjoy, as we have to be safe. So let's "invite" out-of-town guests over Zoom to light candles, spin dreidels, and shmooze.

**2. Upgrade your latkes.** Start with the potatoes and oil to remind us of the holiday's miracles. But then add some fun. Go bold with toppings: apple salsa, sour cream with chives, basil pesto, Greek yogurt with honey, etc.

**3. Check out Beth El's online resources.** Go to <https://www.nssbethel.org/worship/holidays-at-home/> for a

Hanukkah Table Talk conversation-starter and a separate all-in-one colorful guide complete with blessings and ritual instructions. Look for our 5 in 5 Hanukkah video here: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCTeLi8yYrZ1cTjVhqWZvNmQ/> videos.

**4. Buy gifts for others who need.** Ask your kids to choose a charity in lieu of their gifts for



**Food, Facts, and Fun for Hanukkah**

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# As I Was Saying...

By Ron Goldberg, NSS Beth El President



My Friends,

I hope everyone is healthy and doing well!

I want to start this article by updating you on some of the key areas we were focused on leading up to the High Holidays.

I also want to give you a preview of a few of the major items we will focus on over the next few months.

As you'll recall, we spent a good deal of time talking to you about our financial outlook during our Town Hall Meetings and subsequent, related communications. We talked about our contingency planning process and the various scenarios we were preparing for.

I am pleased to tell you that some key measures of our financial health are well within our contingency budget parameters.

Our membership dues are fine, and our

Chesed and Kol Nidre Appeal donations are also well within the range we hoped for.

I don't want to mislead anyone. We are not at pre-pandemic levels, but we are within our contingency guidelines.

Let me stop right here and recognize you, our Members, for your amazing generosity and continued support of Beth El! Thank you so very, very much!

Another area of focus has been our schools. Due to the ebb and flow of the pandemic, this has been fluid and changing. The true impact on our fiscal year will not be known until we have the enrollment figures for the January session. Those figures are not available in time for this article, but we will be sure to inform you in future communications.

What we do know is that our schools are doing fabulous work!

The Steinberg Pre-School is currently

operating outdoors and plans to move classes indoors in January. The Cohen Religious School is currently using a virtual learning model. Be assured that our schools will continue to operate in accordance with the strictest safety guidelines.

Over the next few months we'll continue to be busy.

The Nominating Committee has already begun working on the next slate of Officers, board members and trustees who will serve you and Beth El next year.

Our Finance Committee will shortly begin the budget process for the upcoming fiscal year. With so many unknowns, I would expect the need to look at various contingency scenarios again for '20/'21.

Our Strategic Planning Task Force is completing their work and we await their thoughts on the how best to prepare

*continued on page 6*

## Recent Happenings at Beth El



Back-to-School Kick off



Men's Club Steak and Scotch Dinner



Pre-School Sukkot



Hoshanah Rabbah



# Daily and Shabbat Worship Schedule

Daily Services on Zoom

	Morning	Evening
Sun	8:45 am	7:30 pm
Mon	7:30 am*	7:30 pm
Tues	8:15 am	7:30 pm
Wed	8:15 am	7:30 pm
Thurs	7:30 am*	7:30 pm
Fri	8:15 am	6:00 pm
Sat	9:00 am*	Varies

\*We will hold in-person minyan on Monday and Thursday mornings. All services, (except Shabbat morning) including those in-person, will be streamed via Zoom using the link on the website. You must sign up to attend all in-person services.



### Clergy:

Rabbi Michael Schwab\*  
 Rabbi Alex Freedman  
 Hazzan Benjamin A. Tisser  
 Rabbi Vernon H. Kurtz,  
 Emeritus

### Every Shabbat

#### 10:30 am Junior Congregation

Services for students in 2nd - 6th grade on Zoom

#### 11:00 am Tot Shabbat

A weekly half-hour Shabbat service for families with children in 1st grade and younger every Saturday morning at 11:00 am. To get the link, email Ali Drumm at [adrumm@nssbethel.org](mailto:adrumm@nssbethel.org).

Zoom links can be found at <https://www.nssbethel.org/about/nssbehome/>

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

## December

### Friday, December 4

🕯️ 4:01 pm Candle Lighting  
 6:00 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Service

### Saturday, December 5

Parashat Vayishlach  
 9:00 am Shabbat Service  
 5:06 pm Shabbat Ends  
 5:10 pm Ma'ariv Service  
 5:30 pm Havdalah

### Friday, December 11

Hanukkah 2nd Candle  
 🕯️ 4:01 pm Candle Lighting  
 6:00 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Service

### Saturday, December 12

Hanukkah 3rd Candle  
 Parashat Vayeshev  
 9:00 am Shabbat Service  
 5:07 pm Shabbat Ends  
 5:10 pm Ma'ariv Service  
 5:30 pm Havdalah

### Friday, December 18

🕯️ 4:03 pm Candle Lighting  
 6:00 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Service

### Saturday, December 19

Parashat Miketz  
 9:00 am Shabbat Service  
 5:09 pm Shabbat Ends  
 5:10 pm Ma'ariv Service  
 5:30 pm Havdalah



### Friday, December 25

🕯️ 4:06 pm Candle Lighting  
 6:00 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Service

### Saturday, December 26

Parashat Vayigash  
 9:00 am Shabbat Service  
 5:13 pm Shabbat Ends  
 5:15 pm Ma'ariv Service  
 5:35 pm Havdalah

## January

### Friday, January 1

🕯️ 4:12 pm Candle Lighting  
 6:00 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Service

### Saturday, January 2

Parashat Vayechi  
 9:00 am Shabbat Service  
 5:18 pm Shabbat Ends  
 5:20 pm Ma'ariv Service  
 5:40 pm Havdalah

### Friday, January 8

🕯️ 4:19 pm Candle Lighting  
 6:00 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Service

### Saturday, January 9

Parashat Shemot  
 9:00 am Shabbat Service  
 5:25 pm Shabbat Ends  
 5:25 pm Ma'ariv Service  
 5:45 pm Havdalah

### Friday, January 15

🕯️ 4:26 pm Candle Lighting  
 6:00 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Service

### Saturday, January 16

Parashat Vaera  
 9:00 am Shabbat Service  
 5:32 pm Shabbat Ends  
 5:35 pm Ma'ariv Service  
 5:55 pm Havdalah

### Friday, January 22

🕯️ 4:35 pm Candle Lighting  
 6:00 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Service

### Saturday, January 23

Parashat Bo  
 9:00 am Shabbat Service  
 5:40 pm Shabbat Ends  
 5:40 pm Ma'ariv Service  
 6:00 pm Havdalah

### Friday, January 29

🕯️ 4:44 pm Candle Lighting  
 6:00 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Service

### Saturday, January 30

Parashat Beshalach  
 9:00 am Shabbat Service  
 5:48 pm Shabbat Ends  
 5:50 pm Ma'ariv Service  
 6:10 pm Havdalah

## February

### Friday, February 5

🕯️ 4:53 pm Candle Lighting  
 6:00 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Service

### Saturday, February 6

Parashat Yitro  
 9:00 am Shabbat Service  
 5:56 pm Shabbat Ends  
 6:00 pm Ma'ariv Service  
 6:20 pm Havdalah

### Friday, February 12

🕯️ 5:02 pm Candle Lighting  
 6:00 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Service

### Saturday, February 13

Parashat Mishpatim  
 9:00 am Shabbat Service  
 6:05 pm Shabbat Ends  
 6:05 pm Ma'ariv Service  
 6:25 pm Havdalah

### Friday, February 19

🕯️ 5:11 pm Candle Lighting  
 6:00 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Service

### Saturday, February 20

Parashat Terumah  
 9:00 am Shabbat Service  
 6:13 pm Shabbat Ends  
 6:15 pm Ma'ariv Service  
 6:35 pm Havdalah

### Friday, February 26

🕯️ 5:19 pm Candle Lighting  
 6:00 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Service

### Saturday, February 27

Parashat Tetzaveh  
 9:00 am Shabbat Service  
 6:21 pm Shabbat Ends  
 6:25 pm Ma'ariv Service  
 6:45 pm Havdalah



# Notes from Hazzan Tisser



## Bechirot - Choices

Life is full of choices. At virtually every moment of every day, we make choices – some intentional, and some unintentionally. Some choices might be considered more major and others more mundane, but all of these choices add up to the sum total of our lives.

The Hebrew word for choices is *Bechirot*, from the root בחר (to choose). I looked up this root in the Torah and found 44 instances of it. The first is in Genesis 6:2 when the *B'nei Ha-Elohim* (often referred to as “divine beings”) saw how beautiful human women were and took wives from among the choicest of them.

The most common use of this root in the Torah has to do with “the place that the Lord your God will choose” (במקום אשר יבחר), having to do with the location of the Temple and sacrifices.

There is, however, one use of this root which stands out from the rest. Only once does it come in the form of a mitzvah – a commandment. In Deuteronomy 30:19 we are commanded, “...and you shall choose life so that you shall live, you and your offspring.” These famous words, “*u-vacharta ba-chayim*,” are words that have carried me, and I am sure many others, through the highs and lows of life.

We are coming off contentious Presidential elections. We are heading into the fourth quarter of the first (halevai, only) year of this pandemic. There are fires burning out west and



terror attacks throughout Europe on people of all walks of life. The world is a seemingly dark place. This is the time when we must remember just weeks back to what we read at the end of *Parashat Nitzavim* – it is our obligation, even in the face of darkness, to choose life. How lucky are we to be taught, commanded, and reminded annually to choose positivity, life, and blessing! Rashi teaches us about this verse that it is as if a parent says to their child “Choose for yourself a good piece of real estate,” sets his son in front of the best piece of land, and says, “Choose this!”

The choice is ours. The weather is cold, the skies cloudy, darkness sets in early...it’s easy and natural to let this affect us. But we are an *Am Kadosh* – a holy, separate nation. It is our outlook on life, our obligation to mitzvot, which sets us apart. I pray that during these cold and dark months, during this pandemic, and with everything else going on in the world, we are able to remind ourselves, and to support each other in choosing life, positivity, and blessing. We really have so much to be grateful for, and we are lucky to have the support of an entire community to make it through.

As we have said always, and especially during these last trying months: we, your clergy, are here for you. If you are having difficulty at any time, reach out to us; if you want to catch up or share about your life and family, reach out to us. In allowing us to support you, you support us and strengthen our community. And, watch for the many exciting programs and classes we will hold throughout the winter months – life is always better when we are together, even if only on Zoom.

# Remote Learning Fosters Creativity

By Dr. Alicia Gejman, Director of Formal Education



As adults, we can recall stories from Jewish history when Jews could not gather to study or pray together. These days, we face a similar reality as mortar and brick schools across the nation are forced to remain locked, pivoting to remote learning.

Despite the different historical circumstances, the Beth El schools have

found creative ways to continue their educational mission to teach the next generation of Jews. Schools beyond the walls of the classroom look different and are ever-changing. The staff has risen to the challenge with incredible fortitude and imagination.

The parents have embraced changes with grace and understanding. As a result, our students are flourishing as they learn Torah in the broader sense, along with lessons of resilience, endurance, and broad-mindedness. Witnessing the enthusiasm and perseverance of our students during these unusual times is no small gift. In addition to studying, our students are engaged in mitzvah projects dedicated to helping others.



In the summer a group of Beth El children and teens produced a 30-minute virtual concert for the seniors at the CJE Senior Life. Last month, students participated in an intergenerational art project sponsored by the Hazak committee. Students created life affirming pictures that were given to the Beth El senior members to hang in the window of their residences.

Every month we will continue to offer students opportunities to reach out to others. We will continue to practice both study and action as study not only leads us to action, it leads us through action.



## Informal Education



# Challenging the Way Things Are

By Ali Drumm, Director of Informal Education

It's Shabbat, and my kids are singing along with Hazzan Barnett in the other room. Whether they understand it fully or not, they have been singing along that loving our neighbor as ourselves is the main essence of Torah and Judaism for years. "This is Torah" they chant.

It has been so exciting to watch our community push itself ever further to understand each other and prioritize care for others, including listening and advocating, responding and stretching in our understandings. As I prepare to teach a course this winter called **"The Heart of Judaism in Theory and Practice"** from the Melton School of Adult Jewish Learning, certain phrases keep jumping out at me. "We encourage compassionate listening and thoughtful, judicious dialogue," implores the welcome note by Ruth Messinger, global ambassador and former director

of American Jewish World Service. Through this trying time, we all want to ground our good work in Jewish principles, and to understand how Jews have historically thought about the issues and challenges we face.

A course like this would be important for Jews at any time. That is because it emphasizes our commitment to pursue justice, to go beyond individual care giving and service mitzvot, to challenge the way things are. It comports directly to the teaching of Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel that, "In a free society where terrible wrongs exist, some are guilty but all are responsible."

We feel drawn to learn but also to do more. We know that responding to need or suffering in the world is central to Jewish tradition. Often we use terms interchangeably like chesed, tzedek, tikkun olam, and tzedakah. In secular

society, too, this work is referred to in different ways: social justice, charity, activism, service, and advocacy—often without making sufficient distinctions. In this course we will work to unpack this language and parse out our own response to the problems of our world.

I hope there will be a cohort of us who will meet together to do the difficult work of acknowledging our own contributions to societal challenges, to learning how to address societal ills systemically, and to believing like our ancestors that we can make our world better.

Join me on Wednesday nights this winter starting February 3, 2021 to study, to push ourselves, to support each other, and to grow. For more information see all our Winter courses at <https://www.nssbethel.org/learn/lederman-continuing-education/>.

## Cultural & Learning Center



# The Beth El Libraries are Open!

By Rachel Kamin, Joseph and Mae Gray Cultural and Learning Center Director

We have an incredible collection of over 20,000 Jewish books (and movies!) for all ages in our Maxwell Abbell Library and Pinsof Children's Reading Room. We invite the Beth El community to read and enjoy our wonderful, rich, unique and diverse collection! Reach out to me at [rkamin@nssbethel.org](mailto:rkamin@nssbethel.org) if you are interested in borrowing library materials. Marcie Eskin and I are happy to select items specifically tailored to you and your family.

You can also search our online catalog and request specific items. Go to [www.nssbethel.org](http://www.nssbethel.org) and click on "Learn" and then "Library Catalog." We can leave items for you to pick up at Beth El or we can deliver them to you. Due dates can be extended and we never charge overdue fines!

Over 100 congregants have been sheltering-in-place with books from the Beth El Library. Here's what they're saying:

*"Thank you for picking such good books for us! That was such a treat to get a whole bag of books - what a genius idea!"*

*"I really enjoyed the book selections you put aside for me! Thank you so much for helping me get through the High Holidays. Having thoughtful and varied reading material made a huge difference."*

*"As far as I am concerned, the Library is the best reason for belonging to the synagogue!"*

It's going to be a long winter but nothing will warm you up more than a good book!

**NOTE:** The Gray Cultural & Learning Center will not hold the annual Used Book Sale in 2021. We are not able to accept any book donations at this time. If you have books to donate and can't wait until our 2022 Used Book Sale, here are some options:

[www.open-books.org](http://www.open-books.org)  
[www.declutterneighbor815.com](http://www.declutterneighbor815.com)

[www.halfpricebooks.com](http://www.halfpricebooks.com)

However, if you have anything that would need to be buried in the genizah (prayer books, chumashim, mahzorim, etc. – anything with G-d's name in Hebrew), you can drop them off at Beth El. We are also accepting PJ Library and Jewish children's books in "like new" condition.



# Stepping Forward in Difficult Times

By Judy Berkeley, Membership & Development Director



In October, we held two very meaningful Development programs:

On Wednesday, October 14, we held a dedication for the new Shehechyanu Playspace in the Gan Sylvania Playground. The Cooper family, our generous donors whose major gift helped to spearhead this project, gathered together with family and friends to celebrate the dedication. They were joined by repre-



sentatives from the Steinberg Pre-School community, Rabbi Schwab and Beth El President Ron Goldberg. This wonderful new playspace has helped make it possible for our Steinberg Pre-school to run an outdoor program this fall, during the COVID-19 pandemic.

On Sunday, October 18, over fifty “screens” came together as we held a virtual Donor Recognition Event for our Ner Tamid Society legacy donors and our Bonim donors which include those who participate in one of these enhanced annual memberships: B’Yachad/\$10,000, President’s Circle/\$18,000, Rabbi’s Circle/\$25,000, and

our new Double Dues/\$6,990 and Sustainers/\$5,000. The group welcomed guest speaker Ron Blaustein, Beth El member and Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of Children’s Hospital of Chicago Medical Center. Ron shared some of the accomplishments and challenges of managing the finances and operations of Lurie Children’s Hospital during this pandemic.

Invited donors all received a gift bag that included wine and freshly baked sweets from Circle of Life Catering, as a small thank you for their generosity and commitment to Beth El.



As the donor event came to a close, a wonderful new fundraising idea was put forward by one of our donors, Ann Dee Holland. Expanding the outreach already established by our HAZAK Caring Community, this new initiative will provide meals for members of any age who are sick with COVID-19 or to those

facing other challenging health issues. Many thanks to Ann Dee and Edward Holland, Stacy & Jeffrey Goldsmith and Lisa & Jeff Rosenkranz who stepped up during the donor event to offer the first donations toward this initiative. For more information on donating to the HAZAK Fund and/or how you can help our extended HAZAK community, please contact Jackie Melinger at [jackiemelinger@gmail.com](mailto:jackiemelinger@gmail.com) or 847-361-9798 or Mary Ellen Bowers Goldsmith at [eyerishmar@comcast.net](mailto:eyerishmar@comcast.net) or 847-910-1080.

To donate to any of the many worthy funds at Beth El, please click on the DONATE tab at the top of the home page on the Beth El website. I am also available to help facilitate any donation or answer any donation questions.

We are so pleased to report that we continue to receive new Bonim donors as well as Kol Nidre Appeal gifts and Chesed Dues contributions. To make your annual contributions and continue to help our congregation and community during this difficult time, please contact me at [jberkeley@nssbethel.org](mailto:jberkeley@nssbethel.org) or (312)720-0045.

## As I Was Saying continued from page 2

By Ron Goldberg

for the long-range future of Beth El.

We’ll also be planning for our Annual Spring Gala Fundraiser.

Finally, as I mentioned, we’ll be letting you know the latest regarding our Schools.

It has been our commitment to keeping you informed on all these topics and more,

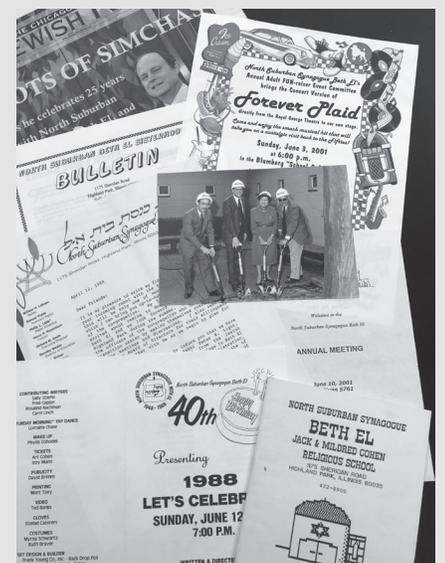
so please keep reading our weekly emails, check our website and keep an eye out for any special communications.

As always, if I can help you in any way, please don’t hesitate to reach out to me at [president@nssbethel.org](mailto:president@nssbethel.org).

Warm regards,  
Ron

## Wanted for the Beth El Archives

Do you have any items from Beth El’s past such as photos, correspondence, announcements, invitations, newspaper clippings, ephemera, or other documents? Do you remember the Mr. and Mrs. Club? The Tefillin Club? The bowling league? LTF? We are building our collection of historical items from the synagogue, Sisterhood, Men’s Club, Couples Club, Youth Community, Schools and more. Help us to keep Beth El’s history alive! Contact Rachel Kamin at [rkamin@nssbethel.org](mailto:rkamin@nssbethel.org) if you think you have anything of archival value that you would like to donate.



# When You are Given Lemons...Make Lemonade!

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



As with most things since the pandemic hit, our Pre-School looks a lot different than it once did.

Our hallways, once bustling with pre-school parents, children and teachers, are now quiet.

Our classrooms once filled with provocation lie still.

But one thing hasn't changed and that is our desire and ability to provide a meaningful early Jewish education for our children. We believed that if there was a will, there was a way!

So, instead of learning and playing in our classrooms, we learned and played in tents on the beautiful grounds of Beth El.

Instead of celebrating Shabbat in the Sanctuary, our children enjoyed singing and dancing with Magic Jeff and Hazzan Tisser on the back lawn of the synagogue.



Our teachers skillfully transformed simple 10 by 20 tents into vibrant outdoor classrooms. And, our

preschoolers quickly adapted to their new environment. We were so lucky to have had Lake Michigan as the backdrop and the soundtrack for our outdoor program.

We are so grateful to our teachers, the Medical Taskforce and the staff and clergy for helping us find a way to offer Pre-School at this time.

And, we are so grateful to our Pre-School families for joining us for our Fall Outdoor Pre-School program.

Looking forward to welcoming you back to the halls of the Pre-School in January 2021! Wishing you all a very happy, healthy and hopeful new year!

# Bringing on the Light

By Hazzan Barbara Barnett, Ritual Director



We are heading into the darkest time of the year. The sun rises later; it sets earlier. In our part of the country, the temperatures are beginning to venture from seasonably cool to the land of, "OMG, it's freezing cold this morning. Do I really have to walk the dog?"

On the other hand, the later sunrise also makes a beautiful sunrise over the lake more accessible, and I remember last winter (my first at Beth El) allowing myself to feel the power and awe of sunrise just before or during the middle of our morning Shacharit services as it washed through the Beit Midrash glass.

The night sky, too, lets us into earlier view of the stars and planets, and it can be worth the momentary chill to catch a glimpse of Saturn or Mars or a distant star so clearly in the night sky, and share it with a younger child or grandchild who, in the summer might already be asleep when it's dark enough to view the canvas of cochavim (stars).

We gravitate toward light; we enjoy the lights of the winter season—whether it's the nearby Botanic Gardens with its winter light show, or sparkle of new-fallen snow under the moonlight,

just to name two. And of course, there's Hanukkah, which we celebrate this year mid-December. Hanukkah, the Festival of Lights. The celebration of a miracle—that small cruse of pure oil, needed to relight the menorah in the Temple lasted, against all odds, for eight days.

As it is written upon the letters of the dreidel (Nun, Gimel, Hey, Shin) in acronym: "a great miracle happened there." Or, if you are in Israel, replace the "shin" with a "pay" and "there" with "here."

Then, there is, of course, the miracle of a small band of zealous Jews who refused to give into the oppressive demands of the Syrian-Greeks, led by the tyrant Antiochous.

Perhaps, the miracle of the tiny vessel that prevailed against all odds to last far longer than anyone might have anticipated is a metaphor for the rebellion. The defeat of the mighty by the small and inspired—it is a proud tradition for us to remember. A miracle in the midst of certain defeat—the spirit of the few prevailing over the physical might of the powerful. A shining light in the

midst of darkness.

The Baal Shem Tov, 18th Century founder of Chassidism, said, "From every human being there rises a light that reaches straight to heaven." Each of us has within us the light, the spark of the Divine, to prevail against the odds and do amazing things.

The prophet Zechariah says in the haftarah for Shabbat Hanukkah, "Not by might, and not by power, but by my spirit..." Perhaps we are meant, at this time of the year ("ba'zeman hazeh") to rededicate ourselves in the darkest, coldest time of the year to renewing that spark of light that resides in all of us.

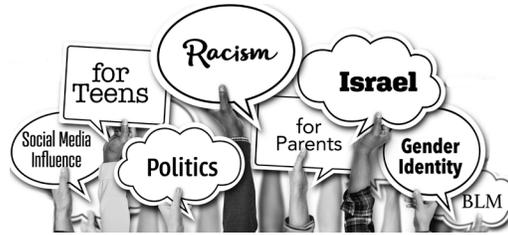
It's been an incredibly difficult year for all of us on so many levels. (And like many, I will be happy to see 2020 depart.) But each of us has that spark, that flame burning bright inside, no matter how dimmed it might have grown. In this joyous season of Hanukkah, surrounded by the light of the chanukia, by celebration, by song, and community we can be rededicated, relit, renewed for another year.

# Straight Talk With Youth and Teens

By Sarah Attermann, Youth Community Director



Each bulletin is an opportunity for the Youth Department to highlight programs and individuals in our community. In coordination with Beth El's theme of the year, *Love your Neighbor as Yourself*, we are inviting teens and their parents to challenge themselves in reaching out to strangers and inviting them in through social justice virtual discussions. Over two sessions, with the help of Billy Planer from Etgar36, teens and parents have started in "conversation workshops" where, as a group, we will work on moving as a community beyond initial conversations, and ask



ourselves "what's next?" Back in November our first discussion – how to be comfortable having uncomfortable conversations – took place. America is so split and to speak across the divide often feels impossible. Within this session, the group participated in discussions about race, politics, or Israel that often seem too heated or contentious to have. These

important and necessary conversations can be difficult, but together the group began to learn how to have these conversations and practice self-care as we entered them. In January, we will host the second discussion, Jews and Blacks in the Civil Rights Era and Now Midrash and Fact. During this session, we will explore the reality of the relationship between the Jewish and Black communities during the Civil Rights era.

For more information and to sign up for this session, please contact me at [sattermann@nssbethel.org](mailto:sattermann@nssbethel.org).

## YOUTH SPOTLIGHT

*While programming may look a little different these days, our youth and teens are still active in the community and staying involved in ways that are meaningful to them. This bulletin, we're highlighting 11th grader Yael Smith and 5th grader Jaclyn Wynes.*



### Yael Smith

Yael is no stranger to Beth El. She is a board member for BEANS USY, an active Torah reader and part of BKI and so much more. Beyond her involvement at Beth El however, Yael participates in Moving Traditions and is a Diller Teen Fellow for the 2020-2021 year.

Yael's involvement in Moving Traditions began in 8th grade. Looking for a way to meet new people, she found a cohort of girls who joined together monthly to discuss a variety of topics from peer pressure, decision making and Judaism in their lives. Now, the group still meets monthly and as Yael shared "I never would have met these people if it wasn't for this program."

This year, Yael also became a Diller Teen Fellow. Beyond just being an opportunity to experience Israel with a new group of teens, The Diller Teen Fellows program is an "immersive leadership program inviting a group of Jewish 10th and 11th graders to step up, lead their communities, and repair the world." While the program has just started, the group has spent time exploring what makes a good leader, identifying leaders in their lives and who impacts them. For Yael, it is an opportunity to continue exploring her role as part of a larger Jewish community.

- Interested in learning more about Moving Traditions? Email Karen Ebroon at [kebroon@moriahcong.org](mailto:kebroon@moriahcong.org)
- Interested in learning more about the Diller Teen Program? Visit [https://www.juf.org/teens/Diller\\_About.aspx](https://www.juf.org/teens/Diller_About.aspx)



### Jaclyn Wynes

If you've seen anyone with a tie-dye shirt or pillowcase recently, there is a chance it may have come from Jaclyn (and her mom) and their business dyeGirl. Jaclyn has always been a fan of tie-dye and would often wear her tie-dye creations for others to see. During

quarantine, Jaclyn and her mom were having so much fun, she wanted to offer the opportunity to other kids who weren't able to attend camp or other summer activities. They started dyeGirl as a creation station in their front yard, by appointment, in a safe, socially distant manner. With everything provided, customers only needed to bring their creativity!

Beyond the incredible creations of art, Jaclyn has also given back to the community. During the month of July, they donated 10% of their proceeds to the Camp Ramah Emergency Fund, in October they raised over \$2,100 for Keshet by making and selling hand-dyed masks, and they've donated their time and expertise to community tie-dye events for Camp Ramah and Beth El! Most recently, they joined our middle school outdoor program where each participant got to tie-dye their own t-shirt to wear! Thank you dyeGirl\_Chicago!

- Check out their incredible designs and their boutique of items for purchase on Facebook and on Instagram, @dyeGirl\_Chicago.

Know someone involved in the community? Let's celebrate them! Email Sarah at [sattermann@nssbethel.org](mailto:sattermann@nssbethel.org) with information.

# Everything Bagel Seasoning is Just EVERYTHING!

By Chef Laura Frankel, Executive Chef Circle of Life Catering



While the history of the EVERYTHING Bagel is obscure and a virtual food fight with so many people claiming the iconic foodstuff's creation, we know one thing for sure, the resulting seasoning is versatile, delicious and mouthwateringly good.

I don't eat bagels very often as I am trying to eat in a super healthy way. I do, however, crave the flavor of the EVERYTHING bagel. Little bits of charred onions and garlic, toasted sesame, flakes of crunchy sea salt and crunchy poppy seeds and because we Chicagoans like to do things our way, the local version has a sprinkle of chili flakes that wakes up your palate. YUM! I have some ideas on how to get the flavor into healthier options.

While you can easily find EVERYTHING Bagel Seasoning in stores and online, it is much better to make your own. Homemade seasoning lets you control the freshness of ingredients, salt content and allows for some interpretations. Sesame seeds sitting in a jar can become rancid and ruin the whole mix. Making your own seasoning is simple, fast and fresher, plus making your own allows for some fun variations.

Start with the mix I have written here and add some of your own twists like: black sesame seeds for a nutty flavor, caraway seeds for a toasty rye flavor, fennel seeds for a licorice flavor, cummin seeds for a smoky flavor and more. I love making my own mix and have a small container of it next to where I sauté. When I need a little extra "something" a pinch of EVERYTHING adds flavor and texture.



## Making your own Everything

The mix is so addictingly delicious, you will find yourself sneaking it into... well EVERYTHING!

¼ cup poppy seeds

¼ cup toasted sesame seeds (toast sesame seeds in a dry pan over medi-

um heat until lightly golden brown)  
2 tablespoons dried garlic flakes (not garlic salt!)

2 tablespoons dried onion flakes (not onion salt)

1 tablespoon coarse sea salt

1 teaspoon crushed chili flakes (optional-I am from Chicago and this is what we add!)

1. Mix together and store in a covered jar at room temperature for up to 3 months.

## EVERYTHING Roasted Vegetables

Roasting vegetables is easy. Cut your vegetables to the same size so they cook at the same rate. Be sure the veggies are dry. Drizzle generously with extra virgin olive oil. Sprinkle with EVERYTHING seasoning and a bit of freshly cracked black pepper. Place in a pre-heated oven.

Serves 5+

1 ½ pounds seasonal vegetables (such as: diced winter squash, sliced mushrooms, root vegetables such as parsnips, sweet potatoes, turnips, celery root, finely shredded cabbage,

*continued on page 11*

## Let's Make Our Facilities More Green!

By Richard Schlosberg

Recently we began the annual rereading of the Torah. In B'reishit Ch. 1 v. 28, Adam and Eve are told to "fill the earth and master it." Rabbi Jonathan Sacks z"l wrote: "The Midrash says that God showed Adam around the Garden of Eden and said, 'Look at my works! See how beautiful they are - how excellent! For your sake I created them all. See to it that you do not spoil and destroy My world; for if you do, there will be no one else to repair it.'" Thus, R. Sacks wrote, man as "guardian must exercise vigilance while protecting, and is personally liable for losses that occur through negligence."

Pollution of our air, land and seas is a reality. A recent TV commercial has the message that

addressing climate change "is the challenge of our generation." A warmer earth means higher seas, more hurricanes, more droughts, increased wildfires, etc. What can NSSBE do?

While our facilities are old (the original mansion was built more than 100 years ago), there are opportunities to improve our carbon footprint, make our facilities more environmentally sustainable and help in the generational challenge.

We will be leaders in this, another important role in of our mission as a leading Conservative synagogue. Please send any ideas on the subject, big or small, serious or for fun, to



Richard Schlosberg at [rschlosberg144@comcast.net](mailto:rschlosberg144@comcast.net) or to our Executive Director, Jeff Baden at [jbaden@nssbethel.org](mailto:jbaden@nssbethel.org). Let's take another step.

Interesting fact : Year to year car sales in the US show only a single company with a sales increase. Not surprisingly it is TESLA the electric powered car company.



### And So, We Begin Again

With the High Holy Days behind us, we begin again, hopefully, refreshed and renewed. Those sacred days gifted us with time to be together, though virtually, to pause and focus on our lives; to think about and truly see the world around us; to give thanks and to look forward with hope.

Hope is a very strong word, perhaps more importantly now with each day so charged with change and uncertainty. It's with this hope that we look with anticipation to new beginnings, rich with opportunities for growth and service.

As we began the cycle of the Torah with the parsha, Bereshit, we read that Adam and Eve were placed in a garden of perfection. Given the freedom to make choices, they chose to eat from the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil. Afterwards, when the spirit of God entered the Garden and formed the very first question ever put to human beings, "Where are you?" Adam and Eve had hidden themselves.

Certainly, when overwhelmed by the complexities and challenges of life, who doesn't at one time or another want to hide? 2020 has

provided compelling circumstances where it would be easier to let the world go by. Often in Genesis those who are deeply conflicted are ultimately inspiring, for in them we find the resilience of the human spirit.

To the question, "Where are you?" the Torah offers an alternative response, "Hineni - Here I am." Here I am, present in this very moment; one with whatever is asked of me.

In this time of rededication to who we are and what we do, Sisterhood stands ready to say, "Hineni, Here I am." It's a time to re-channel and re-establish our priorities, rewire and replenish our spirit, and reintroduce ourselves to the opportunities available to help us realize the promises we made to ourselves during the High Holy Days. It's a time to remember our deep commitment to the service of our Jewish Community.

So we begin again, united in a common goal with sacred threads of purpose that unite us. Mathilde Schechter set Sisterhood's framework when she said, "I will do more than live - I will live and help lives." "As Jewish women, we wish," she noted, "to serve the cause of Judaism by strengthening the bond of unity among Jewish women.

By learning to appreciate everything fine in Jewish life, Jewish women will fulfill a unique role to help preserve Judaism not only for today but for tomorrow's generation."

This is our Sisterhood's blueprint today. It's remembering that we are involved in a history of service that transcends time, as we build on the work of the women who came before us. All generations are present in our commitment to be present for our Jewish Community.

So we begin again, providing opportunities for our members to be all that they can be as Conservative Jewish Women through programs that engage, enrich, and empower. Wonderful things are possible as we work together and allow our mission to guide us beyond ourselves in the work of our hands and in all that we do together, as we learn, serve, and have fun along the way! Sisterhood is about a continuum and connection.

As we begin our journey of service again, I encourage you to see our work with Sisterhood as a unique gift we offer to our Jewish Community, as a way to make a difference marked by caring, kindness, and love so we may be a unique blessing in this year of 5781.

## Sisterhood Gift Shop: Celebrate with Gratitude

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

Although there is no equation that would provide a way for our days to be what they were before the pandemic, and life has shrunk to the diameter of our homes, we still have life's milestones to remember and celebrate. From newborn babies and B'nai Mitzvah to weddings and new homes, we have gifted moments in our lives. And celebrating with gratitude magically expands our world!

Our Gift Shop is here with items to mark every unique, precious moment, from delicate kiddush cups for babies to magnificent tallitot and yads for B'nai Mitzvah. For the bride and groom, we have a new array of richly embroidered challah covers, by Eretz, beautifully engraved challah boards and hand-crafted mezuzahs for their new home.

As your virtual, personal shoppers, we're a phone call away, and we'll help you find the perfect gift! We can email photos of what we have, call you to discuss options, and you can complete your order over the phone. We can arrange for you to pick your order up, or we will deliver it to your home.

If you found the perfect item online, we also can order it and have it ready for you at the front desk. Call us for an appointment:

Diane Levin: 847-571-5629;  
Sulie Holt: 847-558-3389; or  
Pam Schlosberg: 847-433-7546.



# Men's Club Corner

By Steve Coven, Men's Club President

Men's Club kicked off the season with our Annual Steak and Scotch event, albeit with a COVID-19 twist. To accommodate social distancing, the event was held in three backyards, with over 30 members attending. While we could not be all together in one place, we were able to gather via Zoom to attend evening minyan. Our board continues to identify programs that can be done virtually, including the expansion of our weekly L'Chaim where everyone can get together, raise a glass and catch up. If you have any ideas or would like to become more involved, please contact Steve Coven at [scoven613@gmail.com](mailto:scoven613@gmail.com).



In spite of COVID-19, the Men's Club and Sisterhood were able to successfully co-sponsor a safe blood drive. Proper precautions were taken to ensure social distancing and other necessary safety measures in order to complete this ever important mitzvah.

We are happy to report that over 28 people signed up which did not include additional walk-ins.

## World Wide Wrap XX

On Sunday, February 7th, 2021, Conservative Jews around the world will celebrate the mitzvah of Tefillin at their morning minyan, joining thousands of others in the twentieth annual "World Wide Wrap" sponsored by the Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs (FJMC). We are pleased to announce that once again North Suburban Synagogue Beth El will be part

of the World Wide Wrap. In these uncertain times, gathering together for minyan, may it be in person or virtually, is a great way to maintain the sense of community.

The mitzvah of wrapping Tefillin is one of the most basic Jewish rituals. Yet for many of us it is removed from our daily lives. The Men's Club encourages each of you to join us and participate in this mitzvah. We realize that for some of you this may be a new or unfamiliar experience, so our Tefillin Trainers are here to help you through the process. Tefillin Trainers are available to Zoom with you privately before minyan.

We hope that you will all plan to join us on February 7th as we take part in the World Wide Wrap XX. Minyan starts promptly at 8:45.

For more information or to request a Tefillin Trainer, please contact Jori Brajer at [jbajer@gmail.com](mailto:jbajer@gmail.com)

## Everything Bagel Seasoning Continued from page 9

cauliflower and broccoli) cut into dice or julienne

Extra virgin olive oil  
3 tablespoons EVERYTHING seasoning

Freshly cracked black pepper  
Line a sheet pan with parchment paper  
Preheat oven to 375F

1. Toss vegetables with evoo, EVERYTHING mix, freshly cracked black pepper. Scatter vegetables on lined sheet pan and roast, stirring occasionally, until cooked through and lightly browned.
2. Adjust seasoning with sea salt if needed before serving,

### Crispy EVERYTHING Schnitzel with Almond Flour

This recipe is LOW CARB! Start the new year off with a healthy, protein packed and seriously delicious low-carb version of your favorite chicken. Crispy, tender and deliciously flavored chicken that is pan-fried and LOW CARB! This is a weekly staple in my house. I serve this with roasted vegetables and drizzle generous amounts of tahini over the whole plate. YUM!



¾ cup almond flour  
½ cup psyllium husk (available at most grocery stores and online. This ingredient makes breading pliable and retains moisture, so it won't crumble and will still be very crispy)  
3 heaping tablespoons Everything Seasoning  
Zest of 1 lemon  
Sea salt  
Freshly cracked black pepper  
4 boneless, skinless chicken breasts, pounded thinly  
2 egg whites  
½ cup extra virgin olive oil

Place a cooling rack over a parchment lined

sheet pan. This will ensure the schnitzel stays very crispy.

Preheat oven to 350F.

1. Whisk together almond flour, psyllium husks, Everything seasoning and zest. Place mixture on a large sheet of parchment.
2. Whisk egg whites with 1 tablespoon water in a small bowl.
3. Season pounded chicken breasts with salt and pepper.
4. Place a large sauté pan with about ½ inch of oil over medium-high heat.
5. Dredge chicken in egg white mixture and dip chicken into almond flour mix. Be sure to coat chicken thoroughly with dry mix.
6. Place chicken in heated oil and cook until golden brown on one side. Turn and cook on other side.
7. Transfer chicken to a cooling rack.
8. About 7 minutes before serving, transfer chicken on cooling rack to preheated oven and continue cooking for about 5-7 minutes until cooked through and sizzling.



# Happy Purim

## Pre-Purim and Purim Festivities!

### Friday, February 19

Be sure to order your Purim Seudah by 12 noon! Chef Laura is cooking up a festive, family friendly meal that will be available for pick-up on Purim, Thursday, February 25. (Note: There will be no Shabbat Dinners-to-Go for February 26.)



### Sunday, February 21

Chef Laura will prepare her famous dough and provide all of the fillings but we need volunteer bakers to help make hamantaschen for our entire Beth El community. Watch for sign-up information . . . A great activity for families without making a mess in your own kitchen!



### Sunday, February 21 @ 4:00pm

Certified mixologist Cheryl Rich Heisler will host a hands-on Zoom workshop and interactive demonstration featuring cocktails & mocktails for each character in the Megillah to enjoy on Purim Eve and all year round.



### Thursday, February 25 @ 4:00-5:00 pm

Stop by NSS Beth El to pick up a complimentary Mishloach Manot gift bag from the congregation, plus your pre-ordered Purim Seudah meal from Circle of Life Catering.

### Thursday, February 25 @ 6:00 pm

Join the entire Beth El community for an entertaining and engaging Megillah Reading for all ages, live streamed from the Field Family Sanctuary. Put on your costume and mask, grab your grogger, and be on the lookout for special celebrity guest appearances!

### Thursday, February 25 @ 8:00 pm

After the Megillah Reading, Beth El will host a special episode of "Who Knows One," the internet's first and finest quarantine-inspired game show! Our clergy and other Beth El "celebrities" will compete in this fun Jewish geography Zoom racing game where it's not who you know, it's who [who you know] knows! Get ready for Purim by watching an episode live on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/WhoKnowsOne> every

Wednesday and Saturday night at 8pm.

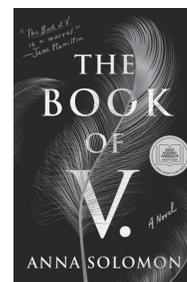


### Friday, February 26, @ 8:15 am

Morning service with Megillah Reading

### Friday, February 26 @12:00 pm

Ali Drumm will join Rachel Kamin and the Sisterhood Torah Fund Book Club for a special Purim Lunch & Learn to discuss *The Book of V.* by Anna Solomon, a propulsive novel that intertwines the lives of the biblical Queen Esther, a Watergate-era senator's wife, and a Brooklyn mother in 2016.



פורים שמח

## Mazel Tov to:

Hazzan Barbara and Phillip Barnett on the birth of their grandson, Gavriel Reuvein Barnett-Jolson

Naoma and Michael Cahr on the baby naming of their granddaughter

Iris and Robert Center on the birth of their granddaughter, Olivia Rose Center

Lois and Donald Chudacoff on the birth of their great-grandson, Max Jacob Chudacoff

Donna and Mark Chudacoff on the birth of their grandson, Max Jacob Chudacoff

Alexandra and David Davidson on the baby naming of their daughter, Violet Audrey

Dr. Jessica Finkielstein and Michael Chudacoff on the birth of their son, Max Jacob Chudacoff

Laura and Rabbi Alex Freedman on the occasion of their 10th wedding anniversary

Julie and Dr. Colman Kraff on the marriage of their son, Noah, to Sophie Fritz

Bryna and Rabbi Vernon Kurtz on their grandson, Schumel Binyamin, becoming a bar mitzvah

Avram Pachter on the occasion of his birthday

Annette and Stephen Ray on the birth of their granddaughter, Lilah Rose Ray

Rabbi Ora and David Schnitzer on the marriage of their son, Mark, to Jamie Cooper Alan Silberman on the occasion of his 80th birthday and for continuing to represent Mercaz

Sandy Starkman on the occasion of her birthday and for being an alternate delegate for Mercaz

Mira Temkin on the occasion of her birthday

Bobbie and Len Tenner on the occasion of their 60th wedding anniversary

Lori and Matthew Wasserman on the birth of their son, Rafael Micha Wasserman

## Our New Members:

Please see a list of all our new members in the Membership Update on page 19.

## Condolences to:

Michael (Dori) Becker and Donna Becker on the loss of their mother, Florence Becker

Joey, Sasha and Jessica Becker on the loss of their grandmother, Florence Becker

Leon (Cynthia) Lome on the loss of his sister, Florence Becker

Adriane Bernstein on the loss of her husband, Marvin Bernstein

Joyce Bernstein on the loss of her brother, Marvin Bernstein

Melanie Axelrod, Peri (Scott) Babendir, Rebecca and Rena Lustig on the loss of their grandfather, Jack Blumberg

Barbara Blumberg on the loss of her husband, Jack Blumberg

JoAnne, Benjamin, and Paula Blumberg on the loss of their father, Jack Blumberg

DeBofsky Family on the loss of their mother and grandmother, Greta DeBofsky

Stacy (Jeffrey) Goldsmith on the loss of her father, Marty Horowitz

Sawyer and Ellie Goldsmith on the loss of their grandfather, Mary Horowitz

Addysen and Trevor Gross on the loss of their grandfather, Louis Gross

Dan (Lori) Gross on the loss of his father, Louis Gross

Michael (Lois Lourie) Gurtman on the loss of his mother, Gisella Gurtman

Hamilton Family on the loss of their father and grandfather, Bertram Hamilton

Edward (Ann Dee) Holland on the loss of his mother, Joan Holland

Bradley Holland, Lindy (Aaron) Resnick, and Jori (Daniel) Leeb on the loss of their grandmother, Joan Holland

Joshua Lederman, Lauren Lederman and Rebecca (Alison) Garber on the loss of their grandfather, Marvin Lederman

Scott (Jane) Lederman on the loss of his father, Marvin Lederman

Jay Lerner on the loss of his mother, Marcia Lerner

Less Family on the loss of their father and grandfather, Robert Less

Jeffrey (Elaine) Oberlander on the loss of his father, David Oberlander

Lillian Oberlander on the loss of her grandfather, David Oberlander

Fran (Joel) Rabinowitz on the loss of her sister, Estelle Sabsel

Jacob, Jordan and Michael Shapiro on the loss of their grandfather, Edward Baum

Marci (Keith) Shapiro on the loss of her father, Edward Baum

Jorge (Beth) Singman on the loss of his mother, Regina Beatriz Stiglitz de Singman

Leah, Noah and Jonah Singman on the loss of their grandmother, Regina Beatriz Stiglitz de Singman

Amanda, Charlie, Jaclyn Skurie on the loss of their grandmother, Joan Skurie

Samuel (Karen) Skurie on the loss of his mother, Joan Skurie

Sheldon Solow on the loss of his father, Gilbert Solow

Alison and David Solow on the loss of their grandfather, Gilbert Solow

Anya (Victor) Viner on the loss of her father, Richard Harelik

Ricki, Max and Sam Viner on the loss of their grandfather, Richard Harelik

Andrew, Caroline and Courtney Zessar on the loss of their grandmother, Sandra G. Zessar

Bruce (Lauri) Zessar on the loss of his mother, Sandra G. Zessar

### IN MEMORIAM:

Florence Becker

Marvin Bernstein

Jack Blumberg

Greta DeBofsky

Bertram Hamilton

Joan Holland

Robert Less

**Rabbi Schwab Discretionary Fund**

*In honor of a job well done for High Holidays 5781 - Terry and Marla Grossberg*

*In honor of Arielle Levitan's Simchat Torah honor as Kallat Bereshit - Rodney and Marilyn Slutzky*

*In honor of Eli Krumbein's special birthday and the birth of his great-grandchild - Larry Pachter and Sandy Starkman*

*In honor of Karen Kesner's special birthday and all she does for so many - Larry Pachter and Sandy Starkman*

*In honor of Lauren Ravich - Tim and Sara Ravich*

*In honor of Linda Beth Maiman Feinstein in celebration of her birthday - Tim and Sara Ravich, children and grandchildren*

*In honor of Michael Millenson, Arielle Levitan and Jenna Smiley on their Simchat Torah honors*

- Larry Pachter and Sandy Starkman  
- Karen Weiss

*In honor of Michael Millenson's Simchat Torah honor as Hatan Torah - Rodney and Marilyn Slutzky*

*In honor of NSS Beth El - Lael and Mark Edelstein*

*In honor of Rabbi Michael Schwab's Installation as senior rabbi*

- Jeffrey and Janice Aronoff
- Cara Becker
- Lucy Bortman
- Dan and Honey Bronson
- Sue Cohen
- Stan and Carole Derdiger
- Steven and Judith Dolins
- Rachel and Jake Katz
- Stephen and Ellen Lasin
- Andrew and Allyson Marcus
- David and Robin Nankin
- Alan and Barbara Newman
- Dale and Betsey Pinkert
- Dina Shiner

*In honor of Rabbi Schwab - Susan and Alan Resnick*

*In honor of Rabbi Schwab and his guidance and help during the mezuzah hanging on our new Rapha house - Keshet*

*In honor of Rabbi Schwab's continued support, we are so proud and honored to be part of Michael's family - Burton and Sharon Behm*

*In honor of Richard Rabinowitz's recovery and with appreciation to Rabbi Schwab - Maria Ponsillo and Arthur Rabinowitz*

*In honor of Ronan Ditekowsky, son of Benjamin and Madi Ditekowsky, on becoming a Bar Mitzvah - Simon and Elizabeth Halfin*

*In honor of Sam Sotoloff starting the Steinberg Pre-School - Stephen Sotoloff and Rachel Lansing*

*In honor of Sylvia and Sid Pachter's 68th wedding anniversary - Larry Pachter and Sandy Starkman*

*In honor of the baby naming of Molly Sara Cahr, daughter of Michelle Cahr and granddaughter of Naoma and Michael Cahr - Naoma and Michael Cahr*

*In honor of the baby naming of our granddaughter, Leilan Yordan Ravich and with appreciation to Rabbi Schwab - Steven and Linda Feinstein*

*In honor of the birth of Ellen and Aaron Krumbein's grandchild - Larry Pachter and Sandy Starkman*

*In honor of the great high holidays - Andrew and Gail Brown*

*In honor of the marriage of Allison and Max Affrunti and with appreciation to Rabbi Schwab - Diane and Stephen Levin*

*In honor of the marriage of Allison Levin and Max Affrunti - Leon and Leslie Fox*

*In honor of the marriage of Noah and Sophie Kraff and with appreciation to Rabbi Schwab - Julie and Colman Kraff*

*In honor of the Narrod family Aliyot - Steven and Sharon Narrod*

*In honor of the wedding of Erin Doppelt and Jon Gordon and with appreciation to Rabbi Schwab - Jeffrey and Mindy Gordon*

*In memory of Allen Mitzenmacher and with appreciation to Rabbi Schwab - Katherine Mitzenmacher*

*In memory of Bertram Hamilton, beloved father of James Hamilton, William Hamilton and Susan Selbst*

- Joseph and Susan Ament
- Jason Greenstein
- Harold and Robbin Gross
- Karen Weiss

*In memory of Cheryl Ziering, beloved sister of Debora Pinzur*

- Andrew and Gail Brown
- Ivy and Joel Levin

*In memory of David Oberlander and with appreciation to Rabbi Schwab - Jeffrey Oberlander and Family*

*In memory of Edith H. and Sidney Weiss, beloved parents on the occasion of Yizkor - Karen Weiss*

*In memory of Faye Bloom, beloved mother - Linda and Irwin Magad*

*In memory of Gilbert Solow, beloved father and with appreciation to Rabbi Schwab - Sheldon Solow and Family*

*In memory of Gisella Gurtman, beloved mother of Michael Gurtman*

- Jerome and Mary Kaltman
- Michael and Susan Millenson
- Richard Zelin and Judith Hirsch-Zelin

*In memory of Greta DeBofsky, beloved mother of Mark DeBofsky*

- Elise and Ira Frost
- Karen Weiss

*In memory of Harry Reisin, beloved father - Richard and Nancy Reisin*

*In memory of Ira Berger and with appreciation to Rabbi Schwab - Barbara Berger and Family*

*In memory of Jean Lang, beloved mother - Stephen and Judy Smiley*

*In memory of Joan Frances Skurie, beloved wife of Paul Skurie and beloved mother of Dr. Samuel Skurie*

- Elise and Ira Frost
- Lisa and Jeff Rosenkranz

*In memory of Joan Holland, beloved mother and grandmother and with appreciation to Rabbi Schwab - Edward and Ann Dee Holland*

*In memory of Joan Holland, beloved mother of Edward Holland; beloved grandmother of Lindy Resnick, Jori Leeb and Bradley Holland; beloved great-grandmother of Elliot and Vivian Resnick and Holden, Walker and Harlow Leeb*

- Sandra Becker

- Eenie Frost
- Elise and Ira Frost
- Carol Rosenberg

*In memory of Jack Blumberg, beloved husband of Barbara Blumberg, beloved father of Benjamin Blumberg, JoAnne Blumberg, and Paula Blumberg, beloved grandfather of Melanie Axelrod, Peri (Scott) Babendir, Rebecca and Rena Lustig*

- Jeffrey and Janice Aronoff
- Jackie and Marc Birnbaum
- Adrienne Eckerling
- Rita Echt and Brad and Robin Axelrod

- Mark and Nina Gaines
- Ronald and Eileen Goldberg
- Ellen and Larry Goldstein

- Anton and Tracey Hendler
- Stuart and Barbara Hochwert
- Gail Scully and Randall Iden
- Jerome and Mary Kaltman

- Philip and Phyllis Lapin
- Karen Levy

- Dale and Betsey Pinkert
- Johnathan and Francine Sherman
- Rodney and Marilyn Slutzky
- Stephen and Judy Smiley
- Len and Bobbie Tenner

*In memory of Louis Gross, beloved father of Dan Gross and beloved grandfather of Addysen and Trevor Gross - Barbara and Stuart Hochwert*

*In memory of Marty Horowitz, beloved father of Stacy Goldsmith and beloved grandfather of Sawyer and Ellie Goldsmith*

- Elise and Ira Frost
- Friends of Stacy and Jeffrey Goldsmith
- Richard and Sharon Schwab
- Len and Bobbie Tenner
- Karen Weiss

*In memory of Maurice Raizes, beloved husband of Sandra Raizes - Sharon and Art Triester*

*In memory of Mona Shapiro Schwab, beloved mother of Richard Schwab, beloved grandmother of Rabbi Michael Schwab and beloved great-grandmother of Ari, Liana, Miriam and Noa Schwab*

- Leon and Leslie Fox
- Michael and Jennifer Zukerman and Family

*In memory of Muriel Kushner, beloved mother - Susan and Mark Pollack*

*In memory of Richard Harelik, beloved father of Anya Viner and Justin Harelik - Faye and Victor Morgenstern*

*In memory of Ruth Norman and with appreciation to Rabbi Schwab - Earl and Tamara Norman*

*In memory of Ruth Norman, beloved mother of Earl Norman - Larry Pachter and Sandy Starkman*

*In memory of Sandra Zessar, beloved wife and mother and with appreciation to Rabbi Schwab - The Zessar Family*

*In memory of Sandra Zessar, beloved wife of Marvin Zessar and beloved mother of Bruce Zessar - Barbara and Stuart Hochwert*

*In memory of Sidney L. Starkman, Mildred L. Starkman and other family who have left us - Larry Pachter and Sandy Starkman*

*In memory of* Water Levy, beloved father - **Renee and Marvin Bearak**

*With appreciation for* a wonderful wedding ceremony - **Samantha Israel**

*With appreciation to* Rabbi Schwab for his efforts in keeping us connected - **Ronnie Jo Sokol**

*With appreciation to* Rabbi Schwab for his leadership, dedication and awesome davening skills during Neilah - **Terry and Marla Grossberg**

*With appreciation to* Dr. Jon Rosenberg for his exceptional care and good humor - **Linda Kellough and Katie Reisner**

*With appreciation to* Lori Stark for her wonderful Shekhtman family photographs - **Louis, Rachel, Asher and Cindy Shekhtman**

*With appreciation to* Rabbi Schwab and NSS Beth El - **Benjamin and Shellie Schwartz**

*With appreciation to* Rabbi Schwab for his beautiful officiating at Erin and Jon Gordon's wedding - **Abby and Lawrence Block**

*With appreciation to* Rabbi Schwab for his support - **Cara Madansky -Stiebel and Mayer Stiebel**

*With appreciation to* Rabbi Schwab for maintaining our community and tradition during the high holidays - **Margaret and Alan Silberman**

*With appreciation to* Rabbi Schwab for officiating the marriage of our children Erin and Jon - **Ellen and Robert Doppelt**

*With appreciation to* Rabbi Schwab for officiating a beautiful baby naming for Lauren - **Tim and Sara Ravich**

*With appreciation*

- **Alan and Susan Ellenby**

- **Marilyn Hirsch and Gary Gordon**

- **Carol Jesselson**

- **Barbara and David Lansing**

- **NSS Beth El Men's Club**

- **Silverman Family Foundation and David Blumenthal**

- **Richard and Lois Werner Family Foundation**

### **Rabbi Freedman Discretionary Fund**

*In honor of* Jenna Smiley's Simchat Torah honor as Kol Ne'arim - **Rodney and Marilyn Slutzky**

*In honor of* Laura and Rabbi Alex Freedman's 10 year wedding anniversary - **Larry Pachter and Sandy Starkman**

*In honor of* the six month birthday of our grandson, Leon Levy Katz - **Janis and Ralph Katz**

*In honor of* the baby naming of Talia Greenberg and with appreciation to Rabbi Freedman - **Allen Greenberg**

*In memory of* Carol Linch, and with appreciation to Rabbi Freedman - **Keith, Mark and Steven Linch**

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

*In memory of* Esther Shlensky, beloved mother - **Lenore and Melvin Blum**

*In memory of* Evelyn Smiley, beloved mother - **Stephen and Judy Smiley**

*In memory of* Jay Paset and with appreciation to Rabbi Freedman - **Shari Paset**

*In memory of* Joan Frances Skurie, beloved wife of Paul Skurie and beloved mother of Dr. Samuel Skurie - **Rodney and Marilyn Slutzky**

*In memory of* Maxine Sprung, beloved mother - **Cindy Shekhtman**

*In memory of* Mitchell Robert Zand, beloved son and with appreciation to Rabbi Freedman - **Frances Lee Zand and Family**

*In memory of* Orrin B. Stine and with appreciation to Rabbi Freedman for officiating at his funeral - **Hochberg Family Foundation**

*In memory of* Rose Feitelberg, beloved mother - **Doreen and Philip Feitelberg**

*In memory of* Sid Feitelberg, beloved brother - **Doreen and Philip Feitelberg**

*In memory of* Vera Blum, beloved mother - **Lenore and Melvin Blum**

*With appreciation for* Rabbi Freedman's participation in the bris of Charles Edward Berryman, the son of his sister and brother-in-law Blake Berryman

- **Harriett and Bill Freedman**

*With appreciation for* the Shofar Services - **Terry and Marla Grossberg**

*With appreciation to* Rabbi Freedman for his efforts in keeping us connected - **Ronnie Jo Sokol**

*With appreciation to* Marlene Halpern, Seth Halpern and Rabbi Freedman for the great collaboration, teamwork and good times for bringing the Shofar services to life - **Terry and Marla Grossberg**

*With appreciation to* Rabbi Freedman

- **NSS Beth El Men's Club**

- **Debora Pinzur**

- **Michael and Alex Schraiber**

*With appreciation to* Rabbi Freedman for helping me write Korach, D'var - **Anne McDonagh**

*With appreciation to* Rabbi Freedman for his guidance and support - **Honey and Daniel Bronson**

*With appreciation to* Rabbi Freedman for maintaining our community and tradition during the high holidays - **Margaret and Alan Silberman**

*With appreciation to* Rabbi Freedman's wonderful classes and Torah at Ten - **Matthew Pestine and Jamie Glass-Pestine**

### **Hazzan Tisser Discretionary Fund**

*In memory of* Cheryl Ziering, beloved sister of Debora Pinzur - **Beverly and Steven Gordon**

*In memory of* Jack Blumberg, beloved husband of Barbara Blumberg, beloved father of Benjamin Blumberg, JoAnne Blumberg, and Paula Blumberg, beloved grandfather of Melanie Axelrod, Peri (Scott) Babendir, Rebecca and Rena Lustig - **Michael and Betsy Katz**

*In memory of* Leo Gambone, beloved father of Karen Bieber - **Beverly and Steven Gordon**

*In memory of* Marcia Lerner and with appreciation to Hazzan Tisser - **Jay and Karyn Lerner**

*In memory of* Marty Horowitz, beloved father of Stacy Goldsmith and beloved grandfather of Sawyer and Ellie Goldsmith - **Michael and Betsy Katz**

*With appreciation for* Hazzan Tisser's efforts in keeping us connected - **Ronnie Jo Sokol**

*With appreciation to* Hazzan Tisser for maintaining our community and tradition during the high holidays - **Margaret and Alan Silberman**

*With appreciation to* Hazzan Tisser for his hard work in making the holidays beautiful - **Terry and Marla Grossberg**

### **Rabbi Kurtz Discretionary Fund**

*In honor of* the Bar Mitzvah of Rabbi Vernon and Bryna Kurtz's grandson Schmu'el - **Adrienne Eckerling**

*In memory of* Anselm Kahn - **Debbie and Gary Lindon**

*In memory of* Bertha Kahn - **Debbie and Gary Lindon**

*In memory of* Elick Lindon - **Debbie and Gary Lindon**

*In memory of* Jack Blumberg, beloved husband of Barbara Blumberg, beloved father of Benjamin Blumberg, JoAnne Blumberg, and Paula Blumberg, beloved grandfather of Melanie Axelrod, Peri (Scott) Babendir, Rebecca and Rena Lustig - **Steven and Susan Kessler**

*In memory of* Mitchell Robert Zand, beloved son of Dr. Frances Lee and Philip Zand z"l, beloved step-son of Pendri Shalem and beloved brother of Jay and Rich Zand - **Debbie and Gary Lindon**

### **Andrew and Gail Brown Technology Endowment Fund**

*In memory of* Joan Frances Skurie, beloved wife of Paul Skurie and beloved mother of Dr. Samuel Skurie - **Andrew and Gail Brown**

### **Ann and Jack Weinberg Holocaust Memorial Endowment Fund**

*In memory of* Louis Gross, beloved father of Dan Gross and beloved grandfather of Addysen and Trevor Gross - **Jamie Glass-Pestine and Matt Pestine**

### **Ba'al Korei Fund**

*In honor of* Michael Millenson's Simchat Torah honor as Hatan Torah

- **Keren Daskin**

- **Gary Gordon and Marilyn Hirsch**

- **Steve and Fran Shapiro**

### **Camp Ramah General Scholarship Endowment Fund**

*In memory of* Joan Holland, beloved mother of Edward Holland; beloved grandmother of Lindy Resnick, Jori Leeb and Bradley Holland; beloved great-grandmother of Elliot and Vivian Resnick and Holden, Walker and Harlow Leeb - **Susan and Lee Rosenberg**

### **Capital Improvement Fund**

*In memory of* Joan Holland, beloved mother of Edward Holland; beloved grandmother of Lindy Resnick, Jori Leeb and Bradley Holland; beloved great-grandmother of Elliot and Vivian Resnick and Holden, Walker and Harlow Leeb - **Kenneth and Marcy Levin**

*In memory of* Jack Blumberg, beloved husband of Barbara Blumberg, beloved father of Benjamin Blumberg, JoAnne Blumberg, and Paula Blumberg, beloved grandfather of Melanie Axelrod, Peri (Scott) Babendir, Rebecca and Rena Lustig

- **Karen and Scott Bieber**

- **Gary Gordon and Marilyn Hirsch**

- **Kenneth and Marcy Levin**

*In memory of* Lavina Baron Friedman, beloved mother - **Kenneth and Marcy Levin**

*In memory of* Mitchell Robert Zand, beloved son of Dr.

Frances Lee and Philip Zand z"l, beloved step-son of Pendri Shalem and beloved brother of Jay and Rich Zand - **Kenneth and Marcy Levin**

**Edward S. Frank Israel Study Memorial Endowment Fund**

*In honor of Len and Bobbie Tenner's anniversary - **Paulette and Ed Margulies***

*In memory of Anna Kaplan, beloved mother-in-law - **Gerry Kaplan***

*In memory of Bertram Hamilton, beloved father of James Hamilton, William Hamilton and Susan Selbst - **Paulette and Ed Margulies***

*In memory of Edward Knell, beloved father - **Gerry Kaplan***

**Family Youth Engagement Fund**

*In memory of Joan Holland, beloved mother of Edward Holland; beloved grandmother of Lindy Resnick, Jori Leeb and Bradley Holland; beloved great-grandmother of Elliot and Vivian Resnick and Holden, Walker and Harlow Leeb - **Terri and David Polan***

*In memory of Jack Blumberg, beloved husband of Barbara Blumberg, beloved father of JoAnne Blumberg, Benjamin Blumberg and Paula Blumberg, beloved grandfather of Melanie Axelrod, Peri Babendir and Rebecca and Rena Lustig - **Marlene and Eric Whitman and Family***

**Fertig Family College Campus Visits Endowment Fund**

*In memory of Jack Blumberg, beloved husband of Barbara Blumberg, beloved father of Benjamin Blumberg, JoAnne Blumberg, and Paula Blumberg, beloved grandfather of Melanie Axelrod, Peri (Scott) Babendir, Rebecca and Rena Lustig - **Nancy and Maury Fertig***

**General Israel Scholarship Endowment Fund**

*In memory of Joan Holland, beloved mother of Edward Holland; beloved grandmother of Lindy Resnick, Jori Leeb and Bradley Holland; beloved great-grandmother of Elliot and Vivian Resnick and Holden, Walker and Harlow Leeb - **Dennis and Amy Pessis***

**Gertrude Lederman Family Continuing Education Fund**

*In honor of Adam, Alyse, Jacob and Noah Hersh - **Rae and Michael Jedel***

*In honor of Michael and Karen Kesner - **Avram Pachter***

*In honor of NSS Beth El for providing access to High Holidays online - **Chicago Loop Synagogue***

*In memory of Avraham Kahana, beloved father - **Dov and Eileen Kahana***

*In memory of Bertram Hamilton, beloved father of James Hamilton, William Hamilton and Susan Selbst - **Millie Weber***

*In memory of Joan Frances Skurie, beloved wife of Paul Skurie and beloved mother of Dr. Samuel Skurie*

**- Jodi and Danny Weiss**

*In memory of John "Jack" Blumberg, beloved husband of Barbara Blumberg, beloved father of JoAnne Blumberg, Benjamin Blumberg and Paula Blumberg, beloved grandfather of Melanie Axelrod, Peri Babendir and Rebecca and Rena Lustig*

**- Babette and Mark Daskin**

**- Brad and Marcie Pickard**

**- Jane Pickus**

*In memory of Louis Gross, beloved father of Dan Gross and beloved grandfather of Addysen and Trevor Gross - **Brad and Marcie Pickard***

*In memory of Mitchell Robert Zand, beloved son of Dr. Frances Lee and Philip Zand z"l, beloved step-son of Pendri Shalem and beloved brother of Jay and Rich Zand - **Gerry Kaplan***

*With appreciation for the excellent and entertaining Zoom lecture with Burton Visotzky - **Anne Schwartz***

**Glass Family Music Endowment Fund**

*In memory of Sandra Zessar, beloved wife of Marvin Zessar and beloved mother of Bruce Zessar - **Philip and Ellen Glass***

**Hazak Fund**

*In honor of Michelle Leon and Family - **Len and Bobbie Tenner***

*In honor of the birth of Veronica Haylee, granddaughter of Felissa Kreindler - **Karen Weiss***

*In memory of Bertram Hamilton, beloved father of James Hamilton, William Hamilton and Susan Selbst - **Annette and Jerry Blumberg***

*In memory of Joan Holland, beloved mother of Edward Holland; beloved grandmother of Lindy Resnick, Jori Leeb and Bradley Holland; beloved great-grandmother of Elliot and Vivian Resnick and Holden, Walker and Harlow Leeb - **Gerald and Annette Blumberg***

*In memory of Jack Blumberg, beloved husband of Barbara Blumberg, beloved father of Benjamin Blumberg, JoAnne Blumberg, and Paula Blumberg, beloved grandfather of Melanie Axelrod, Peri (Scott) Babendir, Rebecca and Rena Lustig*

**- Gerald and Annette Blumberg**

**- David and Francine Ephraim**

**- Lisa and Jeff Rosenkranz**

*In memory of Marty Horowitz, beloved father and grandfather - **Jeffrey and Stacy Goldsmith***

*In memory of Marvin Goldsmith, beloved father - **Jeffrey and Stacy Goldsmith***

*In memory of Toby Horowitz, beloved mother - **Jeffrey and Stacy Goldsmith***

*With appreciation for the extraordinary work of the Hazak committee during these difficult times - **Karen Weiss***

*With appreciation for the face masks - **Bernard and Frances Alpert***

*With appreciation to Ben Leshem and Family - **Louis and Vivian Rosen***

*With appreciation to Hazak*

**- Anonymous**

**- Jack z"l and Barbara Blumberg**

**- Annette Feller**

**- Ron and Debby Hahamy**

**- Fran and Joel Rabinowitz**

**- Cara Madansky-Stiebel and Mayer Stiebel**

**- Ruth and Frank Stern**

**- Eugene and Nicole Terry**

*With appreciation to Hazzan Barbara Barnett for asking me to read at Tisha B'av services - **Mary Ellen Bowers***

*With appreciation to Jackie Melinger and Mary Ellen Bowers for their wonderful leadership of the Hazak committee - **Lisa and Jeff Rosenkranz***

*With appreciation to JoAnne Blumberg for her coordination of the high holiday sanctuary services - **Mary Ellen Bowers and Larry Goldsmith***

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*With appreciation to Rabbi Freedman and Hazak for the food - **Evelyn Becker***

*With appreciation to the Hazak program and the committee - **Pearl Zaid***

**Jack and Mildred Cohen Religious School Fund**

*In honor of Jenna Smiley's Simchat Torah honor as Kol Ne'arim*

**- Gary Gordon and Marilyn Hirsch**

**- David and Jenna Smiley**

*In memory of Greta DeBofsky, beloved mother of Mark DeBofsky - **Howard Turner***

*In memory of Marty Horowitz, beloved father of Stacy Goldsmith and beloved grandfather of Sawyer and Ellie Goldsmith - **Howard Turner***

*With appreciation - **Donald M. Ephraim Family Foundation***

**Janger Family Haverot Endowment Fund**

*In memory of Richard and Lois Janger - **Rachel, Lee, Michael and Marisa Janger***

**Jean T. and Morton Bernstein Camp Ramah Endowment Fund**

*In memory of Bertram Hamilton, beloved father of James Hamilton, William Hamilton and Susan Selbst - **Rachel Kraft***

**Joseph and Mae Gray Cultural and Learning Center Fund**

*In honor of Arielle Levitan's Simchat Torah honor as Kallat Bereshit - **Gary Gordon and Marilyn Hirsch***

*In memory of Gisella Gurtman, beloved mother of Michael Gurtman - **Arielle and Victor Levitan***

*In memory of Jack Blumberg, beloved husband of Barbara Blumberg, beloved father of Benjamin Blumberg, JoAnne Blumberg, and Paula Blumberg, beloved grandfather of Melanie Axelrod, Peri (Scott) Babendir, Rebecca and Rena Lustig*

**- Cheryl and Theodore Banks**

**- Amy and Charles Spungen**

*In memory of* Louis Gross, beloved father of Dan Gross and beloved grandfather of Addysen and Trevor Gross - **David and Francine Ephraim**

*With appreciation* - **Barbara Eisenberg**

**Judith A. Heyman Memorial Israel Scholarship Endowment Fund**

*In memory of* Bertram Hamilton, beloved father of James Hamilton, William Hamilton and Susan Selbst - **Beth and Jeff Silverman**

*In memory of* Jack Blumberg, beloved husband of Barbara Blumberg, beloved father of Benjamin Blumberg, JoAnne Blumberg, and Paula Blumberg, beloved grandfather of Melanie Axelrod, Peri (Scott) Babendir, Rebecca and Rena Lustig - **Scott and Gwen Heyman**

*In memory of* Sandra Zessar, beloved wife of Marvin Zessar and beloved mother of Bruce Zessar - **Scott and Gwen Heyman**

**Kopin Family Fund for Children's T'filot Education Endowment Fund**

*In honor of* the birth of Hazzan Barbara and Phil Barnett's grandson, Gavriel Reuvein - **Larry Pachter and Sandy Starkman**

*In memory of* Edward Baum, beloved father of Marci Shapiro - **Myrna Kopin**

*In memory of* Joan Holland, beloved mother of Edward Holland; beloved grandmother of Lindy Resnick, Jori Leeb and Bradley Holland; beloved great-grandmother of Elliot and Vivian Resnick and Holden, Walker and Harlow Leeb - **Myrna Kopin**

*In memory of* Jack Blumberg, beloved husband of Barbara Blumberg, beloved father of Benjamin Blumberg, JoAnne Blumberg, and Paula Blumberg, beloved grandfather of Melanie Axelrod, Peri (Scott) Babendir, Rebecca and Rena Lustig - **Myrna Kopin**

**Kurtz Family Youth Endowment Fund**

*In memory of* Bernard C. Kurtz, beloved father - **Rabbi Vernon and Bryna Kurtz**

**LGBTQ+ Inclusion Fund**

*In honor of* Judy and Gerry Farby's granddaughter Hilary Richard, on becoming a bat mitzvah - **Iris and Robert Center**

*In memory of* Marty Horowitz, beloved father of Stacy Goldsmith and beloved grandfather of Sawyer and Ellie Goldsmith

- **Andrew and Gail Brown**

- **Sue Cohen and Family**

- **Ron and Eileen Goldberg**

- **Michael and Karen Kesner**

- **Michael and Jackie Melinger**

- **Matthew Pestine and Jamie Glass-Pestine**

- **Pam and Richard Schlosberg**

**Maxwell Abbell Library Fund**

*In honor of* Rachel Kamin and Marcie Eskin - **Larry Pachter and Sandy Starkman**

*In memory of* Alfred Stern, beloved brother - **Hilda and Arnold Reingold**

*In memory of* Greta DeBofsky, beloved mother of Mark DeBofsky - **Fran and Joel Rabinowitz**

*In memory of* Jack Blumberg, beloved husband of Barbara Blumberg, beloved father of Benjamin Blumberg, JoAnne Blumberg, and Paula Blumberg, beloved grandfather of Melanie Axelrod, Peri (Scott) Babendir, Rebecca and Rena Lustig

- **Ruth and Frank Stern**

*In memory of* Louis Gross, beloved father of Dan Gross and beloved grandfather of Addysen and Trevor Gross - **Michael and Barbara Salberg**

*In memory of* Marty Horowitz, beloved father of Stacy Goldsmith and beloved grandfather of Sawyer and Ellie Goldsmith

- **Robert Lidov and Family**

- **Michael and Barbara Salberg**

*In memory of* Monica Anne Jankowitz, beloved sister - **Sheila G. Jacobson**

*In memory of* Selma Stern, beloved mother - **Hilda and Arnold Reingold**

*In memory of* Stanley Rosenbloom, beloved friend - **Robert Lidov and Family**

*In memory of* William Marx, beloved brother - **Hilda and Arnold Reingold**

**Minyan Service Fund**

*In honor of* Morris Perelmuter King, Estelle King, Larry Lauterbach, Sarah Lauterbach, Muriel Solomon and Joe Solomon - **Anonymous**

*In memory of* Abraham Sterman, beloved father - **Toby Schwartz**

*In memory of* Allen Mitzenmacher, beloved father - **Stephanie Mitzenmacher and John Lesniak**

*In memory of* Allen Mitzenmacher and in honor of his 85th birthday - **Andrew Mitzenmacher and Family**

*In memory of* Allen Mitzenmacher, beloved husband of Katherine Mitzenmacher - **Anne McDonagh and David Fishbaum**

*In memory of* Estelle Weitzman, beloved mother - **Keith and Cheryl Weitzman**

*In memory of* Greta DeBofsky, beloved mother of Mark DeBofsky - **Gerald and Adrienne Lasin**

*In memory of* Hienneh Back, beloved mother - **June Back Frydman**

*In memory of* Hirshel Back, beloved father - **June Back Frydman**

*In memory of* Jack Blumberg, beloved husband of Barbara Blumberg, beloved father of Benjamin Blumberg, JoAnne Blumberg, and Paula Blumberg, beloved grandfather of Melanie Axelrod, Peri (Scott) Babendir, Rebecca and Rena Lustig

- **Stan and Carole Derdiger**

- **Leon and Leslie Fox**

- **Ranna Rosenfeld and Shane Greenstein**

- **Susan and Richard Jacobson**

- **Gerald and Adrienne Lasin**

- **Andrew Mitzenmacher**

- **Stephanie Mitzenmacher**

- **Dennis and Amy Pessis**

- **Steven and Timna Sheffey**

- **Ronnie Jo Sokol**

**- Morton and Miriam Steinberg**

*In memory of* Joseph Lipsman, beloved father - **Wendy and Bill Lipsman**

*In memory of* Louis Gross, beloved father of Dan Gross and beloved grandfather of Addysen and Trevor Gross - **Seth and Marlene Halperin**

*In memory of* Robert O. Rosenman, beloved husband, father and friend - **Stan and Carole Derdiger**

*With appreciation to* Larry Goldstein for his leadership of summer services - **Anne McDonagh and David Fishbaum**

*With appreciation for* the online minyan services - **Barry King**

*With appreciation to* JoAnne Blumberg for her tireless dedication and time to ensuring a smooth and meaningful chagim - **Terry and Marla Grossberg**

*With appreciation to* NSS Beth El for the high holiday arrangements - **Ethel Meyer**

**Miriam and Bernard H. Sokol Hebrew High School Fund**

*In memory of* Greta DeBofsky, beloved mother of Mark DeBofsky - **Ronnie Jo Sokol**

*In memory of* Ira Berger, beloved husband of Barbara Berger and beloved father of Heidi Rodino, Gayle Glazer, Susan Millner and Andrew Carter - **Ronnie Jo Sokol**

*In memory of* Marty Horowitz, beloved father of Stacy Goldsmith and beloved grandfather of Sawyer and Ellie Goldsmith - **Ronnie Jo Sokol**

*With appreciation* - **Jaimy and Jeffrey Hamburg**

**Music Fund**

*In honor of* Sonny Shiner's granddaughter Emma becoming a bat mitzvah - **Abby and Lawrence Block**

*In honor of* the birth of Marilyn and Rod Slutzky's granddaughter, Marin Pearl - **Andrew and Gail Brown**

*In honor of* the marriage of Erin and Jon Gordon - **Abby and Lawrence Block**

*In memory of* Joan Holland, beloved mother of Edward Holland; beloved grandmother of Lindy Resnick, Jori Leeb and Bradley Holland; beloved great-grandmother of Elliot and Vivian Resnick and Holden, Walker and Harlow Leeb - **Lee and Steffi Becker**

*In memory of* Jack Blumberg, beloved husband of Barbara Blumberg, beloved father of Benjamin Blumberg, JoAnne Blumberg, and Paula Blumberg, beloved grandfather of Melanie Axelrod, Peri (Scott) Babendir, Rebecca and Rena Lustig - **Abby and Lawrence Block**

*Wishing a complete and speedy recovery to* Richard Rabinowitz - **Abby and Lawrence Block**

**NSS Beth El Special Gifts Fund**

*In honor of* Gary Savine's birthday - **J. and F. Sosniak**

*In honor of* Jenna Smiley's Simchat Torah honor as Kol Ne'arim

- **Lionel Kramer**

- **Robert and Marla Ferencz**

- **Ira and Deborah Rosenberg**

- **Earl and Rochelle Rubinoff**

*In honor of Marilyn and Rod Slutzky - Anne Bolotin*

*In honor of Yvette and David Stone - Joel and Barbara Stone*

*In memory of Allen Mitzenmacher, beloved husband of Katherine Mitzenmacher - Kayla and Jerry Schwartz*

*In memory of Bernice Cohen, beloved wife of Benjamin Cohen - CIBC*

*In memory of Bertram Hamilton, beloved father of James Hamilton, William Hamilton and Susan Selbst*

- Debra and Gerry Bickoff and Alyssa and Dan Elfman

- The Radin Family

- Maria Elena and Joseph Schwartz

- Elaine Schiff

- Stanton and Barbara Selbst

- Joanne Stein

- Barbie and Bruce Taylor

- Nina Winner

*In memory of Gilbert Solow, beloved father of Sheldon Solow and Michael Solow*

- Donna and Martin Field

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

*In memory of Ira Berger, beloved husband of Barbara Berger and beloved father of Heidi Rodino, Gayle Glazer, Susan Millner and Andrew Carter - David and Pamela Hirschfield*

*In memory of Joan Holland, beloved mother of Edward Holland; beloved grandmother of Lindy Resnick, Jori Leeb and Bradley Holland; beloved great-grandmother of Elliot and Vivian Resnick and Holden, Walker and Harlow Leeb*

- Lawrence and Linda Blackstone

- David Spitulnik and Diana Cohen

- Brian, Corrie and Jaxson Eccles

- Lynne and Steven Emminger

- Leatte and Adam Gelfeld

- Peter Henry and Jackson Henry

- Charles Kafenshtok

- Abby and Mark Neumann

- David and Suzie Waitz

*In memory of Jack Blumberg, beloved husband of Barbara Blumberg, beloved father of Benjamin Blumberg, JoAnne Blumberg, and Paula Blumberg, beloved grandfather of Melanie Axelrod, Peri (Scott) Babendir, Rebecca and Rena Lustig*

- Susan and Joseph Ament

- Les and Leah Axelrod

- Donald and Carole Babendir

- Stuart and Nancy Babendir

- Daniel and Ruth Bernkopf

- Mark, Joseph and Lena Bromberg

- Murray Brown

- Robert and Sherry Caro

- Alan and Zora Eiringer

- Mark and Carol Entman

- Mona Fishbane

- Scott and Betsy Forester

- Bruce and Sonya Frazin

- Barbara Freeman

- Elaina and Mike Geraghty

- Laeh Grant

- William and Ellen Habay

- Beth Shapiro Kopin and Ben Kopin

- Helen and Millard Mack

- Esther Collins Merritt

- Adam Miller and Michelle Gooze-Miller

- Matthew Pestine and Jamie Glass-Pestine

- Ira and Deborah Rosenberg

- James and Gloria Saag

- Ken and Leah Saag

- Barry and Gayle Shapiro

- Mark and Allison Shiffman

- The Spero Family

- Roger and Ronnie Wilk

- Gary and Lauren Wool

- Hercules Zagoras

*In memory of Lois Hirschfield, beloved mother*

- David and Pamela Hirschfield

*In memory of Louis Gross, beloved father of Dan Gross and beloved grandfather of Addysen and Trevor Gross*

- Glen Gardberg

- Ronald and Eileen Goldberg

- Earl and Rochelle Rubinoff

*In memory of Marvin Bernstein, beloved husband of Adriane Bernstein and beloved brother of Joyce Bernstein - Wilma Bahrmassel and Jackie Ernest and Family*

*In memory of Mitchell Robert Zand, beloved son of Dr. Frances Lee and Philip Zand z"l, beloved step-son of Pendri Shalem and beloved brother of Jay and Rich Zand - Bobbie and Len Tenner*

*In memory of Sandra Zessar, beloved wife of Marvin Zessar and beloved mother of Bruce Zessar*

- Michael and Joyce Fox

- Patricia Toofangian

*Wishing a complete and speedy recovery to Steve Smiley - Ira and Deborah Rosenberg*

*With appreciation for a spiritual and lovely Zoom high holiday service - LeBoyer Giving Fund*

*With appreciation for the hard work of the synagogue staff, especially Ali Drumm - Talia Mikhelson*

*With appreciation for the high holiday live stream services - Jason Auerbach*

*With appreciation for the High Holiday services*

- Anonymous

- Joel and Elaine Brody

## Paul S. and Sylvia Steinberg Pre-School Fund

*In honor of Jenna Smiley's Simchat Torah honor as Kol Ne'arim - David and Jenna Smiley*

*In honor of the birth of Arthur and Lynn Cohen's grandson, Lewis Joseph Barmach - Patricia Shapiro*

*In memory of Marvin Margolis - Keith and Cheryl Weitzman*

*In memory of Rebecca Benson, beloved daughter of Karen and David Benson - Morton and Miriam Steinberg*

## Prayer Book Fund

*In honor of Al Soffer's 99th birthday - Barbara Hoffman and Study Group*

*In honor of JoAnne Blumberg - Marvin and Sara Siegel*

*In honor of Joel Rabinowitz's 95th birthday - Barbara Hoffman and Study Group*

*In honor of Larry Weiner - Marvin and Sara Siegel*

*In honor of Michael Millenson's Simchat Torah honor as Hatan Torah - Michael and Susan Millenson*

*In honor of Len and Bobbie Tenner's 60th wedding anniversary and with heartfelt appreciation for your friendship - Shoshana Friedman*

*In memory of Bertram Hamilton, beloved father of James Hamilton, William Hamilton and Susan Selbst*

- Miriam Berlin

- Ramona Choos and Family

- Roberta Reindel

*In memory of Greta DeBofsky, beloved mother of Mark DeBofsky - Eenie Frost*

*In memory of Jack Blumberg, beloved husband of Barbara Blumberg, beloved father of Benjamin Blumberg, JoAnne Blumberg, and Paula Blumberg, beloved grandfather of Melanie Axelrod, Peri (Scott) Babendir, Rebecca and Rena Lustig*

- Samuel and Judith Bernstein

- Andrew and Gail Brown

- Gordon and Carol Derman and Family

- Leon and Leslie Fox

- Eenie Frost

- Elise and Ira Frost

- Betty Ann Levin

- NSS Beth El Sisterhood

*In memory of Marty Horowitz, beloved father of Stacy Goldsmith and beloved grandfather of Sawyer and Ellie Goldsmith - Leon and Leslie Fox*

*In memory of Mitchell Robert Zand, beloved son of Dr. Frances Lee and Philip Zand z"l, beloved step-son of Pendri Shalem and beloved brother of Jay and Rich Zand - Betty Ann Levin*

## Ritual Refurbishment Endowment Fund

*In honor of Jim Saag on his 90th birthday - Jack z"l and Barbara Blumberg*

*In memory of Bertram Hamilton, beloved father of James Hamilton, William Hamilton and Susan Selbst - Jack z"l and Barbara Blumberg*

*In memory of Jack Blumberg, beloved husband of Barbara Blumberg, beloved father of Benjamin Blumberg, JoAnne Blumberg, and Paula Blumberg, beloved grandfather of Melanie Axelrod, Peri (Scott) Babendir, Rebecca and Rena Lustig*

- Sally Aaron

- Corrine and Laurence Baskin

- Sue Cohen and Family

- Kim and Eric Ephraim

- Sharon and Harris Goldenberg

- Robert and Maxine Greenstein

- James Hollensteiner

- Julie Isaacson

- Gerry Kaplan

- William and Wendy Lipsman

## Todah Rabbah

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- Pam and Richard Schlosberg
- Patricia Shapiro
- Cindy Shekhtman and Louis Shekhtman
- Rick and Carolyn Shiffman
- Myrna and Shael Siegel
- Stephanie and Michael Smerling
- Michael and Judy Smith
- Millie Weber

*In memory of* Minnie Levenson, beloved mother - **Jack z"l and Barbara Blumberg**

*In memory of* Pearl S. Blumberg, beloved mother - **Jack z"l and Barbara Blumberg**

### **Sarah and Henry Stiebel Camp Ramah Scholarship Endowment Fund**

*In honor of* Michael Millenson, Arielle Levitan and Jenna Smiley on their Simchat Torah honors - **Mayer Stiebel and Cara Medansky Stiebel**

*In memory of* Greta DeBofsky, beloved mother of Mark DeBofsky - **Mayer Stiebel and Cara Medansky Stiebel**

*In memory of* Marty Horowitz, beloved father of Stacy Goldsmith and beloved grandfather of Sawyer and Ellie Goldsmith - **Mayer Stiebel and Cara Medansky Stiebel**

### **Staff Recognition Fund**

*In memory of* Robert "Skip" Engert, beloved husband of Karen Engert, beloved father of Elise Engert Kline and beloved grandfather of Logan Maysonet - **Marvin and Sara Siegel**

*With appreciation for* making our entry into the Beth El community effortlessly and meaningful - **Sheldon and Raye Isenberg**

### **Tzedakah/Pushke Fund**

*In memory of* Robert Weber, beloved husband - **Millie Weber**

*In memory of* Samuel Kurchitzer, beloved father - **Millie Weber**

### **Youth Community Fund**

*In memory of* Joan Holland, beloved mother, grandmother and great-grandmother

- Anonymous
- David and Katherine Krajcovic

*In memory of* Marty Horowitz, beloved father of Stacy Goldsmith and beloved grandfather of Sawyer and Ellie Goldsmith

- Gary Gordon and Marilyn Hirsch
- Jeff and Lisa Rosenkranz
- Steve and Fran Shapiro

### **Youth Community Program Endowment Fund**

*In memory of* Joan Holland, beloved mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and dear friend - **Debbie and Peter Leeb**

*In memory of* Joan Holland, beloved mother of Edward Holland; beloved grandmother of Lindy Resnick, Jori Leeb and Bradley Holland; beloved great-grandmother of Elliot and Vivian Resnick and Holden, Walker and Harlow Leeb - **Philip and Ellen Glass**

*Donations reflected in Todah Rabah were made by October 27, 2020.*

## Membership Committee Update

By Judy Berkeley, Membership & Development Director, Stacy Goldsmith, VP Membership

### **We welcome the following new members to our NSS Beth El family:**

Max Affrunti & Allison Levin  
Alan Burack & Dina Luke & their son Aidan (8)  
Steven (Skip) Frost  
Carol Granof  
Matthew & Laura Gray & their children Asher (6) & Lyla (8)  
Mario Jedwabnik & Gail Brenner  
Corey & Rebecca Dardiger  
Arnold & Debra Landis  
Richard & Sarah Liebman  
William & Barby Loeb  
James & Laura Schallman  
Michael & Marsha Schwartz  
James & Michelle Seidenberg  
Joel Steinberg & Laura Patterson and their children Micha (9) & Tamar (6)  
Danny & Lisa Srouf and their children Alex James (7) & Jack Walter (10)  
Shira Steinberg and her children Leor (6) & Naama (9)  
Jonathan & Ariel Towers & their children Alexander (23), Julian (22) & Danielle (19)

On Sunday, October 25th, 25 "screens" came together to introduce our new members to Rabbi Schwab and Rabbi Freedman, our membership committee and Beth El representatives Stacy Goldsmith, VP of Membership and Judy Berkeley, Membership & Development Director. We even had some new members on the Zoom who had just joined that week! All participants brought a meaningful Jewish object to share with one another so we got to know each other a little bit better.

We have a new member of our membership committee, Jonathan Glick. Welcome Jonathan!

We are pleased to share with you that Beth Bernat is our new College Connection Chair. Just after the High Holidays this year, we sent our 56 college students who signed up to be part of our program each an \$18 Amazon gift card. They really appreciated it, especially this year when online shopping is "the thing" due to the pandemic. Since so many of them will be home starting with Thanksgiving through

February, we plan to next reach out to our college kids for Purim and Passover.

Save the date for future holiday membership programs!

**Sunday, December 13 @4 pm**  
**Zoom Latke-Making Demonstration**  
with Laura Frankel

**Sunday, February 21, @4 pm**  
**Pre-Purim Persian Mixology Program**  
with amazing mixologist Cheryl Heisler who will take all participants to the next level of cocktailing in their homes...

Please contact Judy Berkeley at [jberkeley@nssbethel.org](mailto:jberkeley@nssbethel.org) or (312)720-0045 if you are interested in getting involved in membership and/or our College Connection program! With this being the year of Covid-19, these are great ways to stay connected.

# Love Your Neighbor as Yourself

By members of the Love Your Neighbor as Yourself Committee

Events of this past summer once again brought to the forefront simmering racial, political, cultural and economic divisions across the country. Our rabbis took these tensions to heart.

Working through Continuing Education, our rabbis, several congregants, and staff members began to discuss how to create a Beth El Community-wide program to better understand these challenges and work toward good. Thus *Love Your Neighbor as Yourself* was conceived.

In their High Holiday sermons, our Rabbis reflected upon the importance of embracing our core Jewish value *Love Your Neighbor as Yourself*. Rabbi Schwab noted that one of the great blessings of Judaism is that it provides an eternal tradition of core values and ethical principles that can act as our guide during challenging times. Rabbi Freedman observed “Loving Your Neighbor includes racial justice but extends beyond. It is an opportunity to explore lots of neighbors in and out of our own community.”

In October, a new committee was formed and began meeting. The committee members are as follows: Co-Chairs, Judy Berkeley and Mary Channon; Rabbi Michael Schwab; Rabbi Alex Freedman; Sarah Attermann; Leah Brajer; Rolly Cohen; Ron Goldberg; Marla Grossberg; Rachel Kamin; Betsy Katz; Linda Kupfer; Elana Lazarus; Ronit Ripes; Pam Schlosberg; Fran Shapiro; Dawn Sidney; Sandy Starkman. We thank Ronit Ripes for being the initial chairperson.

The initial tasks were to develop a formal Mission Statement and goals against which to identify programs, partnerships, and target audiences. The Mission Statement is now in place:

*Inspired by our tradition, NSSBE honors ‘Love Your Neighbor As Yourself’ as a core value of our community. Therefore, we seek to establish a synagogue-wide mandate to pursue our understanding of diversity and equity through prayer, study and dialogue that inspires and promotes a sustained commitment to help build a more just and equitable world for everyone.*

Going forward, the committee hopes to identify and provide a diverse line of speakers, relevant



book and movie discussions, business and religious leader participation, as well as a partnership in our ongoing Social Action efforts. A goal is to involve every age group of our congregation from preschool children to seniors. Through education, dialogue, and initiatives, we hope to motivate, inspire, and foster a new way of thinking, talking, and acting upon matters that currently divide our country. We hope you will participate in these events. To find them, check upcoming emails identified as a part of *Love Your Neighbor as Yourself*.

If you'd like to be part of the committee, or share your input, please contact Judy Berkeley at [jbberkeley@nssbethel.org](mailto:jbberkeley@nssbethel.org), or Mary Channon at [marychannon@yahoo.com](mailto:marychannon@yahoo.com).

## CRS Challah Bake - A Legend in the Baking

By Challah Bake Originators Jenna Smiley and Dana Atlas

The Cohen Religious School Challah Bake began as a way to build a sense of community among the parents of the Religious School.

The goal was to offer a fun social event with a strong Jewish component as well. As the original co-chairs of the event, we attended previous challah bake events through other organizations to help gather ideas. We then formed a committee of Religious School parents to help publicize the event, buy supplies, and organize the evening.

Donations were solicited from local grocery stores/businesses for ingredients and supplies. All participants at the Challah Bake are provided with a recipe card and all of the ingredients and supplies necessary to make and braid the dough. There is an expert baker leading the group through the process of making the dough and answering any questions along the way. While the dough is rising, there is time for socialization and there have also been various speakers throughout the years addressing topics such as Shabbat

traditions and Jewish values.

Wine, appetizers, and desserts are provided as well during the time that the dough is rising. All participants then braid their dough and bring it home to bake in their own ovens.



Original Challah Bake Co-Chairs Dana Atlas and Jenna Smiley

The first Challah Bake was held over four years ago with 80 people attending. The event has grown tremendously over the past few years and now boasts attendance over 200 people! This includes participants from

NSS Beth El and many members of our local community! We are so proud of the incredible interest and participation in our Annual Challah Bake, also known as “Knead a Night Out,” and hope that it will continue to build community and be an important funding resource for the Cohen Religious School.

The Challah Bake has raised over \$7000 since it began 4 years ago. The money is used to help enhance the school experience for the students of the Cohen Religious School. Some of the money has helped buy flexible seating furniture for the classrooms.

We have enjoyed watching the program grow into such a wonderful success. Stay tuned for upcoming Challah Bake Programming. Chairs of last year's and this year's event are Nami Goldenberg and Melissa Block. While still in the planning stages for COVID safety, this year's event will take place on February 28. Details to come!

# Mazel Tov to Our B'nai Mitzvah Students



## Bar Mitzvah

Mitchell Posner,  
son of Dr. Romy Block-Posner  
and Dr. Adam Posner

**Shabbat, December 5**

## Bat Mitzvah

Sophie Ripes,  
daughter of Ronit and  
Daniel Ripes

**Shabbat, December 12**

## Bar Mitzvah

Trevor Gross,  
son of Lori and Daniel  
Gross

**Shabbat, January 16**

## Bat Mitzvah

Emma Weinger,  
daughter of Jennifer and  
Noah Weinger

**Shabbat, January 23**

## Bar Mitzvah

Ben Berkowitz,  
son of Yael Mirelman  
and Pere Berkowitz

**Shabbat, February 6**

# More Recent Happenings at Beth El



Outdoor Movie Night and Havdalah



Cohen Religious School Students



Men's Club and Sisterhood Blood Drive



Teen Outdoor Activities



# December/January/February Events at a Glance

**Wednesdays, December 2 & 16,  
January 6 & 20, and February 3 & 17  
9:30-10:30 am**

## **Writer's Beit Midrash**

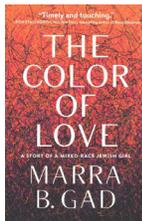
All fiction, non-fiction, poetry, memoir, and essay writers (published or not yet published) are welcome for discussions, exercises, camaraderie, and critique every other Wednesday morning. Contact Rachel at [rkamin@nssbethel.org](mailto:rkamin@nssbethel.org) for the Zoom link and to be added to the mailing list.

**Wednesday, December 2**

**7:45 pm**

## **Sisterhood Torah Fund Book Club**

Join Rachel Kamin for a discussion of *The Color of Love: A Story of a Mixed-Race Jewish Girl* by Marra B. Gad, an unforgettable memoir about a woman who, after fifteen years of estrangement from her racist great-aunt, helps bring her home when Alzheimer's strikes. Contact [rkamin@nssbethel.org](mailto:rkamin@nssbethel.org) for the Zoom link.



**Sunday, December 6**

**1:00 pm**

## **Artist Beit Midrash Virtual Exhibit**

The participants in this summer's class will showcase their visual and literary art on the theme, On the Edge: Jewish ideas about Margins, Marginality, and Marginalization.



**Saturday, December 12**

**5:45 pm**

## **Hanukkah Concert & Toy Drop-off**

LIVE Havdalah and Hanukkah Concert with Hazzan Tisser, Hazzan Barnett and Jeff Baden. 3rd candle for *tzedakkah* - bring an unwrapped new toy to Beth El for Toys for Tots.

**Sunday, December 13**

**5:00 pm**

## **Cooking with Chef Laura Frankel**

Follow along with this special Hanukkah latke cooking demonstration with Chef



Laura Frankel. Tips and tricks you never knew! Your latkes have never tasted so good!

**Sunday, December 13**

**1:00 pm**

## **Travel with Sisterhood to "Jerusalem at Night"**



We will be led by an experienced tour guide on a fascinating one-hour (virtual) glimpse into the Old City, from the Cardo to the Kotel. \$18 per computer. Watch future emails for participation details. Questions? Email Lori Stark, Sisterhood's Program VP, at [loristark@comcast.net](mailto:loristark@comcast.net).

**Monday, December 14**

**6:00 pm**

## **Storytime with Eric Kimmel**

You're invited to a very special storytime & candle lighting with award-winning author Eric Kimmel. 6:00 pm Preschool-1st Grade Families; 6:30 pm: 2nd-5th Grade Families. Login for one or both of the sessions! Check your Beth El email, or visit [www.nssbethel.org](http://www.nssbethel.org), for the Zoom link.



**Wednesday, December 16**

**8:00 pm**

## **Hanukkah Show & Tell**

Join us as we look at treasures from our Rissman Kol Ami Museum as well as congregants' own unique *hanukiyot* and dreidel collections.



**Thursday, December 17**

**6:00 pm**

## **Light Up the Night!**

See back page for details.



**Wednesday, December 23**

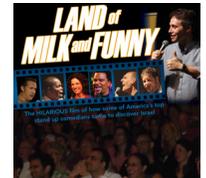
**Time TBD**

## **Evening @ the Movies & Chinese Dinner too!**

The new documentary *Land of Milk and Funny* follows the story of Avi Lieberman,

an American Jewish comedian who brings his colleagues to Israel to lift spirits and raise funds for a great cause.

Order a Chinese dinner through Circle of Life Catering, stream the movie, and join the Gray Cultural & Learning Center and Beth El Sisterhood for a talk with Avi Lieberman on Zoom. Contact Marcie at [meskin@nssbethel.org](mailto:meskin@nssbethel.org) for information.

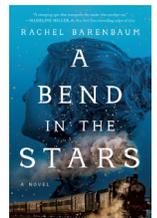


**Sunday, January 10**

**1:00pm**

## **Sisterhood Torah Fund Book Club**

Join Rachel Kamin for a discussion of *A Bend in the Stars*, a sweeping historical novel about an ambitious young doctor and her scientist brother who journey across Russia and race against Einstein to solve one of the greatest mysteries of the universe. Author Rachel Barenbaum will join us for a Q&A following the discussion. Contact [rkamin@nssbethel.org](mailto:rkamin@nssbethel.org) for the Zoom link.



**Monday, January 11**

**7:00 pm**

## **Jews and Blacks in the Civil Rights Era and Today - Midrash and Fact**

Teens and adults explore the reality of the relationship between the Jewish and Black communities during the Civil Rights. How does the complicated Jewish narrative of that era impact what is happening in the streets of America today? Contact [sattermann@nssbethel.org](mailto:sattermann@nssbethel.org) for the Zoom link.



**Tuesdays, (7 sessions)**

**starting January 12**

**8:00 pm**

## **Sulam for a Purposeful Life Rabbi Alex Freedman**

This engagement and leadership program from the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism will help baby boomer congregants reflect, re-energize, and re-imagine their personal and communal lives. Winter Quarter Fee: \$60 for members. Contact Marcie Eskin to register at [meskin@nssbethel.org](mailto:meskin@nssbethel.org).

**Wednesday, January 13**

**8:00 pm**

**A Fun-Filled Virtual Examination of our “Mama Loshen”**

Sisterhood welcomes Joy Eisenberg and Ellen Scolnic, The Word Mavens, for a hilarious look at Jewish holidays, traditions, foods, and



more, with a focus on funny stories, Yiddish mistakes and little-known facts. Details to follow. Questions? Email Lori at [loristark@comcast.net](mailto:loristark@comcast.net).

**Saturday, January 23**

**7:00 pm**

**Virtual Trivia Night**

Join Sisterhood and Men’s Club for an adult community virtual trivia night. A great chance to have fun with your Beth El friends! Watch future emails for details.



**Wednesday, January 27**

**6:45 pm**

**Tu B’Shevat Seder**

Did you know that we get to enjoy the Seder not one, but THREE times each year?! Join Hazzan Tisser for a fun and



festive (and delicious!) virtual Tu B’Shevat Seder as we celebrate the “birthday of the trees” and the seven biblical species native to Eretz Yisrael. RSVP to Marcie Eskin at [meskin@nssbethel.org](mailto:meskin@nssbethel.org).

**Wednesdays, (10 sessions) beginning**

**February 3**

**7:45 pm**

**The Heart of Judaism in Theory and Practice with Ali Drumm**

This 10-lesson course from the Florence Melton School of Jewish Learning explores historical and contemporary examples of Jewish commitment to social justice through the lens of Jewish wisdom manifest in our texts. Drawing from texts and history, topics of study include poverty, immigration, environmental degradation and more. Go to [www.events.org/MeltonBethEl](http://www.events.org/MeltonBethEl)

**February 7**

**8:45 am**

**World Wide Wrap XX**

Join the NSSBE Men’s Club and Conservative Jews around the world when they celebrate the mitzvah of Tefillin at their morning minyanim, joining thousands of others in the twentieth annual “World Wide Wrap” sponsored by the Federation of Jewish Men’s Clubs (FJMC).



**Wednesday, February 10, 2021**

**8:00 pm**

**“Roadmap through the Siddur”**

Sisterhood is proud to present Hazzan Barbara Barnett for a virtual guide through Jewish worship services that is sure to enrich our participation in tefillah. She’ll discuss the choreography, twists, turns and off-road excursions and maybe even provide an “aha” moment along the way! Details to follow. Questions? Email Lori at [loristark@comcast.net](mailto:loristark@comcast.net).



**Sunday, February 21 Hamentaschen Baking**

Chef Laura will prepare her famous dough and provide all of the fillings but we need volunteer bakers to help make hamantaschen for our entire Beth El community.



**Sunday, February 21**

**4:00pm**

**Purim Cocktail Event**

Certified mixologist Cheryl Rich Heisler will host a hands-on Zoom workshop and interactive demonstration featuring cocktails & mocktails for each character in the Megillah to enjoy on Purim Eve and all year round.



**Thursday, February 25**

**6:00 pm**

**Megillah Reading**

Join the entire Beth El community for an entertaining and engaging Megillah Reading for all ages, live streamed from the Field Family Sanctuary. Put on your costume and mask, grab your grogger, and be on the lookout for special celebrity guest appearances!



**Thursday, February 25**

**8:00 pm**

**Who Knows One Game**



After the Megillah Reading, Beth El will host a special episode of “Who Knows One,” the internet’s

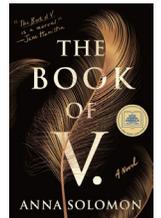
first and finest quarantine-inspired game show! Our clergy and other Beth El “celebrities” will compete in this fun Jewish geography Zoom racing game. Get ready for Purim by watching an episode live on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/WhoKnowsOne> every Wednesday and Saturday night at 8pm.

**Friday, February 26**

**12:00 pm**

**Sisterhood Torah Fund Book Club**

Ali Drumm will join Rachel Kamin for a special Purim Lunch & Learn to discuss *The Book of V.* by Anna Solomon, a propulsive novel that intertwines the lives of the biblical Queen Esther, a Watergate-era senator’s wife, and a Brooklyn mother in 2016. Contact [rkamin@nssbethel.org](mailto:rkamin@nssbethel.org) for the Zoom link.

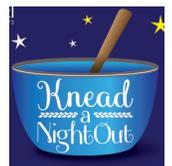


**Sunday, February 28**

**10:00 am - noon**

**Challah Bake**

This annual event, put on by the Jack and Mildred Cohen Religious School Parent Committee, will be open to families this year. Bakers of ALL ages are invited to attend. During this virtual community event, we will together watch a live demo on how to prepare and braid challah dough.





## Bring On The Light! Hanukkah 5781@NSSBE!

Zoom with us each night for Community Candle Lighting (except Friday night) **Meeting ID: 843-2149-0001**  
Candles will also be lit at the end of Evening Minyan. Evening minyan is at 7:30 pm nightly, except Friday and Saturday evenings. Hanukkah begins the evening of Thursday, December 10.

**THURSDAY  
DEC.  
10  
1st Night**

Light the first candle with Rabbi Alex Freedman @ 6pm.



**FRIDAY  
DEC.  
11  
2nd Night**



Join us for Kabbalat Shabbat @ 6pm.

**SATURDAY  
DEC.  
12  
3rd Night**

Havdalah and Hanukkah LIVE Streamed Concert lot with Hazzan Tisser, Hazzan Barnett and Jeff Baden @ 5:45 pm.

Instead of giving gifts in your own family, bring an unwrapped new toy to a drive-thru collection after the concert that will be donated to Toys for Tots.



**HANUKKAH  
HIGHLIGHT**

**SUNDAY  
DEC.  
13  
4th Night**



Hanukkah edition latke cooking demonstration with Chef Laura Frankel @ 5 pm, followed by candle lighting.

**MONDAY  
DEC.  
14  
5th Night**

Story Time with Author Eric Kimmel!

@ 6 pm - Preschool thru 1st Graders

@ 6:30 pm - 2nd thru 5th Graders

Each session will include candle lighting.



**TUESDAY  
DEC.  
15  
6th Night**

Light the 6th candle and sing with Hazzan Barnett @ 6pm.



**WEDNESDAY  
DEC.  
16  
7th Night**

Light the 7th candle with us @ 6 pm

Experience a Hanukkah "Show & Tell" @ 8 pm with treasures from our Rissman Kol Ami Museum as well as congregants' own unique *hanukiyot* and dreidel collections.



**THURSDAY  
DEC.  
17  
8th Night**

**Light Up the Night!**

Join Rabbi Schwab and Hazzan Tisser as we light the 8th Candle with singing @ 6 pm! Our Zoom allows 500 devices to sign on - don't forget to send your photos, see info below.

**HANUKKAH  
HIGHLIGHT**

**SEND US YOUR PHOTOS!** On the last night of Hanukkah we will share a montage of photographs of our Beth El families celebrating Hanukkah! Send pictures to Abby Lasky (alasky@nssbethel.org) by the end of the day on December 15th to be included! (Please do not take photos on Shabbat).