



NSSBE Responds to Pandemic Challenges With Reinvigorated Care and Support

By Rabbi Alex Freedman

Sometimes the worst things bring out the very best in people. The pandemic challenged our own community in a host of ways.

The Hazak Caring Committee mobilized: volunteers made calls to our 190 members ages 80 and up.

“Beth El is here to support you.
How are you doing?
How can we help?
Can we arrange for medicine pickup or food delivery?
We are here for you.”

A huge Kol HaKavod goes out to Jackie Melinger, Pam Schlosberg, Mary Ellen Bowers, and Roni Weiss for their leadership.

Some of our own really did need help with medicine and food; most others did not. In Mary Ellen’s words, “It’s heartwarming and heartbreaking.”

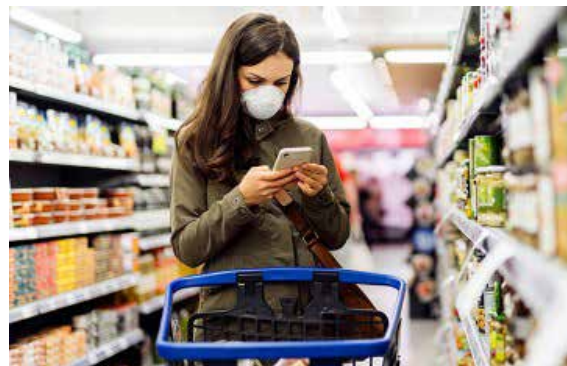
Nevertheless, congregants felt so reassured that our Beth El community reached out to them in that scary moment. (The phone calls - over 500 to date - and assistance are ongoing.)

The reaction was so positive that President Ron Goldberg asked to extend calls to all 1000 Beth El families. Under Pam Schlosberg’s leadership,

53 volunteers made these 988 calls before Passover. (While Beth El tried to reach every family, some wrong numbers were discovered.)

Homemade food was delivered; an anonymous benefactor sponsored some Seders-in-a-box so all had a Seder plate and food; families volunteered to be a virtual Zoom host for Seders; 95 facemasks were distributed for free (all these forms of assistance are ongoing; please email - afreedman@nssbethel.org). From the start, clergy supported these efforts and called congregants to reassure them.

Seeing Hazak’s efforts up close makes me so proud to be a rabbi here. Rabbi Schwab agrees. He says, “I continue to be blown away by the energy and compassion of our community.”



Passover should motivate us - not just one week but all year; not just with our family but our community -

to take care of each other because we ourselves were once slaves who needed help too.

Those who wish to help can donate to the HAZAK Senior Life fund to help pay for masks and meals.

The pandemic is not yet over. But rest assured that the strength of the Beth El community will outlive and outlast any challenge.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- President’s Corner 2
- Shabbat Schedule..... 3
- Notes from Hazzan..... 4
- Informal Education..... 5
- Cultural & Learning Center 6
- Pre-School..... 6
- Development 7
- Youth Community 8
- Ritually Speaking..... 8
- Formal Education..... 9
- Sisterhood..... 10
- Sisterhood Gift Shop 10
- Men’s Club..... 11
- Membership..... 12
- Catered Dinners to Go..... 12
- All in the Beth El Family..... 13
- Todah Rabbah 14
- Events at a Glance 17
- Porch Portrait Project 18
- Grilling with Chef Laura..... 20

North Suburban Synagogue Beth El
1175 N. Sheridan Road
Highland Park, IL 60035
(847) 432-8900 | www.nssbethel.org

Growing More Connected in Spite of our Separation

By Ron Goldberg, NSS Beth El President



My friends,

I can't believe I've been President for a year already. What a year it's been! We began with Rabbi Kurtz's retirement and Rabbi Schwab's Vision for Beth El - for Beth El to be a warm, welcoming, dynamic, life-long home to all our members. To be THE place for Jewish families on the North Shore. Driven by your feedback from the Congregational Survey, we began to thoughtfully and transparently transition Beth El to a more modern synagogue that maintained our traditional Conservative values.

This manifested itself with such things as new vision and mission statements, Rinat Shabbat, bima changes to our B'nai Mitzvah celebrations, LGBTQ+ training, increased accessibility, and exciting changes in our communications and website with a greatly enhanced video capability.

Our strategic planning process continues. Task forces are currently focused on 5 key areas from our Community Conversations - T'fillah Experience (Shabbat and High Holiday Services); Young Families; Leadership and Governance; Operational Effectiveness/Communication; and Relational Judaism/Member Experience/Inclusion/Engagement.

Dayenu - that would have been enough for one year, but then came the pandemic. I could not be prouder of this community and its response to this unprecedented challenge!

Under the leadership of Rabbi Schwab and Executive Director Jeff Baden, plus the hard work and commitment of our clergy, staff, lay leaders and volunteers, Beth El rapidly transformed itself from a brick-and-mortar shul to a virtual shul.

We continue to provide meaningful experiences in all key areas: ritual/spiritual, education and as a caring community. Please go to the top of our website homepage and click on NSSBE@HOME for a full list of services and activities.

- Ritual/Spiritual - After much Halachic research and discussion, we offer twice-daily Zoom Minyan prayer services, and weekly Kabbalat Shabbat, Shabbat, and Havdalah services. Each service allows mourners to say Kaddish. We have also held services for Pesach, Yom HaShoah and Yom Ha'atzmaut. Weekly audio and written sermons are published each Thursday in advance of Shabbat. Our clergy continues to officiate funerals and shiva minyanim.

continued on page 11

Photos from Purim - Our Last Pre-Covid Event



Shabbat Schedule

Daily Service

Monday through Friday
Mornings, 8:45 am

Sunday through Thursday
Evenings, 7:30 pm

Sunday and Major Holiday
Mornings, 8:45 am

Rosh Hodesh and
Hol Hamoed Mornings,
8:45 am

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

Please note:

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

For classes, meetings and other scheduled events, please refer to our website NSSBE@home page, or call the synagogue office at (847) 432-8900.

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

June

Friday, June 5
8:06 pm Candle Lighting
6:00 pm Kabbalat Shabbat

Saturday, June 6
Parashat Nasso
9:30 am Shabbat Service
9:17 pm Mincha/Ma'ariv
9:35 pm Havdalah
9:17 pm Shabbat Ends

Friday, June 12
6:00 pm Kabbalat Shabbat
8:10 pm Candle Lighting

Saturday, June 13
Parashat Beha'lot'cha
9:30 am Shabbat Service
9:22 pm Mincha/Ma'ariv
9:40 pm Havdalah
9:22 pm Shabbat Ends

Friday, June 19
6:00 pm Kabbalat Shabbat
8:12 pm Candle Lighting

Saturday, June 20
Parashat Sh'lach
9:30 am Shabbat Services
9:23 pm Mincha/Ma'ariv
9:40 pm Havdalah
9:23 pm Shabbat Ends

Friday, June 25
6:00 pm Kabbalat Shabbat
8:13 pm Candle Lighting

Saturday, June 27
Parashat Korach
9:30 am Shabbat Services
9:24 pm Mincha/Ma'ariv
9:45 pm Havdalah
9:24 pm Shabbat Ends

July

Friday, July 3
6:00 pm Kabbalat Shabbat
8:12 pm Candle Lighting

Saturday, July 4
Parashat Chukat-Balak
9:30 am Shabbat Service
9:25 pm Mincha/Ma'ariv
9:45 pm Havdalah
9:23 pm Shabbat Ends

Friday, July 10
6:00 pm Kabbalat Shabbat
8:10 pm Candle Lighting

Saturday, July 11
Parashat Pinchas
9:30 am Shabbat Service
9:20 pm Mincha/Ma'ariv
9:45 pm Havdalah
9:19 pm Shabbat Ends

Friday, July 17
6:00 pm Kabbalat Shabbat
8:05 pm Candle Lighting

Saturday, July 18
Parashat Matot-Ma'asei
9:30 am Shabbat Services
9:35 pm Mincha/Ma'ariv
9:14 pm Shabbat Ends

Friday, July 24
6:00 pm Kabbalat Shabbat
8:00 pm Candle Lighting

Saturday, July 25
Shabbat Chazon
Parashat D'varim
9:30 am Shabbat Services
9:05 pm Mincha/Ma'ariv
9:25 pm Havdalah
9:05 pm Shabbat Ends

Friday, July 31
6:00 pm Kabbalat Shabbat
7:52 pm Candle Lighting

August

Saturday, August 1
Shabbat Nachamu
Parashat Va'etchanan
9:30 am Shabbat Services
9:00 pm Mincha/Ma'ariv
9:20 pm Havdalah
8:58 pm Shabbat Ends

Friday, August 7
6:00 pm Kabbalat Shabbat
7:44 pm Candle Lighting

Saturday, August 8
Parashat Ekev
9:30 am Shabbat Services
8:50 pm Mincha/Ma'ariv
9:10 pm Havdalah
8:48 pm Shabbat Ends

Friday, August 14
6:15 pm Kabbalat Shabbat
7:34 pm Candle Lighting

Saturday, August 15
Parashat Re'eh
9:30 am Shabbat Services
9:15 am Beit Midrash Minyan
8:40 pm Mincha/Ma'ariv
9:00 pm Havdalah 8:37 pm
Shabbat Ends

Friday, August 21
6:00 pm Kabbalat Shabbat
7:23 pm Candle Lighting

Saturday, August 22
Parashat Shoftim
9:30 am Shabbat Services
8:25 pm Mincha/Ma'ariv
8:45 pm Havdalah
8:25 pm Shabbat Ends

Friday, August 28
9:30 am Kabbalat Shabbat
7:12 pm Candle Lighting

Saturday, August 29
Parashat Ki Tetzai
9:30 am Shabbat Services
8:15 pm Mincha/Ma'ariv
8:35 pm Havdalah
8:13 pm Shabbat Ends

Notes from Hazzan Tisser



Singing a New Song

The Tanakh commands us to sing 14 times in total. Song is part of our story. It is our ultimate form of expression, of praise. And song is something that stays with us. It becomes core to our individual and collective memory. This is why we are touched so deeply each time we, as a community, chant the Song of the Sea in shul; and this is why we are equally moved (though in a different way) when we hear a favorite song from our childhood. It is why the task of singing the Kol Nidre nearly brings me to tears each year; and it is why singing a favorite Sinatra tune is so elating. Whatever we are experiencing, in other words, we can surely express it with song.

But what about when something new happens? What if there aren't words or melody to convey what we're experiencing? I'm sure we've all had moments like this...and if not, then the current situation is certainly something new for most of us. Sometimes we have to write a new song.

If we look to the Torah, as soon as the people of Israel experienced the first taste of freedom, they wrote a song. When Hannah finally bore her son, Samuel, she expressed her thanks with a new song. And to bring a more modern example, one of my favorite country singers, Toby Keith, responded to the 9/11 attacks with "Courtesy of the Red, White, and Blue". It's a common theme throughout history - to respond to new situations in new ways.

These past 10 weeks have been difficult. They have tested our capacities and pushed our limits. They have forced us to get creative in our approach to business, relationships, and daily living. Some of us have had to "up" our cooking game (thanks, Chef Laura!); others of us have learned to become more handy around the house (I'm proud to report I learned how to install and plumb a new bathroom sink!). We have had to adapt to being around our spouses and children much more than many of us are used to, and to find ways to

navigate these new dynamics, while others of us have been forced to be alone. None of this is easy.

I have seen some marvelous creativity in the music world - both Jewish and secular. On any given day I am sent at least half a dozen videos over email, Facebook, and WhatsApp, and without fail a number of them are related to music. I've been uplifted and inspired by friends and colleagues, and have found myself seeking new ways to connect to others through music - during this period and beyond. Watch the Beth El Facebook page, where we share the awesome work of the Cantors Assembly colleagues who lift us up with their music, and search the internet - there is so much out there to raise our spirits and keep them soaring.



Our recent Cantor's Assembly Concert for Yom Ha'Atmaut and Yom Hazikaron was shared on Facebook on April 28. It is still available to watch.

"Sing a new song to God," we are commanded four times in the Tanakh. What will be the song that we each write? What will the words convey? What will the melody be? Whatever it is, sing it loud and share it with God, and with each other.

Robyn and I wish you all good health, and pray that we all see each other soon - hopefully, in shul.

Purim Carnival at Beth El



What Gives Our Life Meaning

By Ali Drumm, Director of Informal Education



We've been incredibly pleased that during this unusual time in our lives, adult education has been blossoming. For those with unexpected time on their hands, who have always wanted to grow in their Jewish knowledge and experience, being able to engage with our On Demand classes and other learning opportunities has been a boon. Our community members have found outlets of expression with our Artists Beit Midrash and grown in their Jewish literacy with the Melton School of Adult Jewish Learning. We have found solace and inspiration from a cohort of other stressed parents in the Peaceful Parent Project and learned Torah from our clergy sometimes

by listening to recorded sermons or watching educational videos.

For a few of us, there has been a question that while adult education is a nice way to fill the time, maybe even better than the latest show streamed on Netflix or endless news cycle, it doesn't yet answer the question of meaning.

What is important to know during this strange time at home? What do we value? What is the Jewish response when we feel at time hopeless?

In our final Sulam for Emerging Leaders session, a program through the United Synagogue for Conservative Judaism, we studied a text that helped



us connect the reminders of where we come from and what we value most highly to the search for balance in our modern lives. Through learning, through marking the year in Jewish time and connecting to the wisdom and traditions of our ancestors, we make our own meaning. Through being together even if online, expanding our minds in ways both religious and secular, our lives seem more valuable and our hearts support each other.

Mazal Tov to Melton Graduates

The Florence Melton School of Adult Jewish Education normally offers their signature Core Curriculum courses in two years of intensive study. With the flexibility provided by the Board of Jewish Education of Metropolitan Chicago and our colleagues Rolly Cohen and Merle Tovian, NSSBE offered this course in four years. The course provides learners with a comprehensive understanding of Jewish thought, practice, and history. This transformative learning experience gives a framework in which to integrate previous and future learning while also challenging its students to find their voice amidst our diverse tradition. The core curriculum is comprised of text-based courses that integrate Jewish philosophy, ritual, ethics, literature, theology and contemporary Jewish life.



Harkening back to a time when we still met in person! A Sunday Melton Class.

We congratulate the following Melton Core Graduates:

- Michael Drumm
- Deborah Fox
- Rebecca Jacobson
- Joyce Joseph
- Felissa Kreindler
- Erica Lindon

Over the past four years of study, these learners have immersed themselves in a rigorous and enriching educational journey that has exposed you to a rich variety of Jewish sources in a pluralistic and respectful setting. Please take the time to congratulate them on this incredible achievement.

Welcome to Our New Director of Youth Engagement



We are pleased to welcome **Sarah Attermann** to our staff as our new Director of Youth Engagement. Sarah is finishing her time as the Youth and Family Coordinator at Adas Israel in Washington D.C., and has served as the Program Director for Camp Ramah Darom. She holds degrees in Elementary Education and Educa-

tion Technology from the University of Florida and a Masters Degree in Jewish Education from the Jewish Theological Seminary. Her work has given her opportunities to interact with students from all ages and in a variety of Jewish settings, her passion was evident to the search committee which consisted of many members

of our community including our teen leadership. Sarah begins her work this summer and we look forward to warmly introducing her to our community.

A special thank you to Erica Lindon for chairing the search committee and guiding their work. Allison Nemirow

continued on page 11

Your Summer Reading Assignments

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



Hopefully you are staying healthy and safe and have discovered new ways to fill your days with meaningful, rewarding, and entertaining activities and pastimes. As many of us are finding more time to read, we've lined up several programs this summer to help satisfy your reading appetite. And, until we can be back at NSS Beth El together in person, we will continue to offer programming on Zoom. We hope you will join us for one or more of these upcoming events!

In April, the Sisterhood Torah Fund Book Club discussed *The Third Daughter*. 57 people participated in our Zoom discussion and over 80 people logged in to meet author Talia Carner and representatives from the Jewish Community Against Sex Trafficking. Our next book club selection is ***The Liar* by Ayelet Gundar-Goshen**, a new literary thriller by the bestselling Israeli author of *Waking Lions*. We will meet on Zoom on Sunday, June 7 at 1:00 pm.

***Unorthodox: The Scandalous Rejection of My Hasidic Roots* by Deborah Feldman** is the bestselling memoir of a young woman's escape from the Satmar sect of Hasidic Judaism. Orig-

inally published in 2012, along with the follow-up memoir *Exodus* in 2015, *Unorthodox* is now a four-part Netflix Original Series. Read the book and/or watch the series and join us for an enlightening, in-depth discussion on **Wednesday, July 8 at 7:45 pm.**

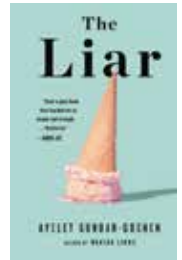


Our annual "Summer Stories & Sweet Treats" program is back and this year we're adding a movie too! The literary critic Clive James called Israeli author Etgar Keret "one of the most important writers alive." His newest collection of short stories, ***Fly Already***, won the 2019 Sapir Prize, Israel's most prestigious literary award.

On **Wednesday evening, August 5** we'll discuss these subversive, hilarious, and heart-breaking stories along with a screening of the hybrid documentary

Etgar Keret: Based on a True Story. Stay tuned for more information . . .

eBook and eAudio copies of *The Liar*, *Unorthodox* and *Fly Already* are available from local public libraries and online booksellers. If you are interested in purchasing the hardcover, The Book Stall is offering free storefront pick-up as well as delivery locally. Order online at www.thebookstall.com or call 847-446-8979 between



11am-2pm. Contact Marcie at meskin@nssbethel.org if you would like to be on the reserve list for a copy a book from our Abbell Library. While Beth El members have been doing a great job sharing library books while sheltering in place, we hope to be able to open our libraries back up soon and look forward to having you stop by to pick up a great summer read. Until then, please do not hesitate to contact me at rkamin@nssbethel.org if you need any recommendations. Happy Summer Reading!

Pre-School



This Time is a Gift

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

Yes...
Our Pre-School halls are frozen in time. And, the classrooms are still.

And, yes...
We are missing the sounds of children at play. And, the feeling of being together.

Yet... Our teachers quickly shifted to meet the current needs of our Pre-School community. And, the children are learning in a new way.

Yes...
It isn't the same...

And yes...
There are many emotion-filled moments.

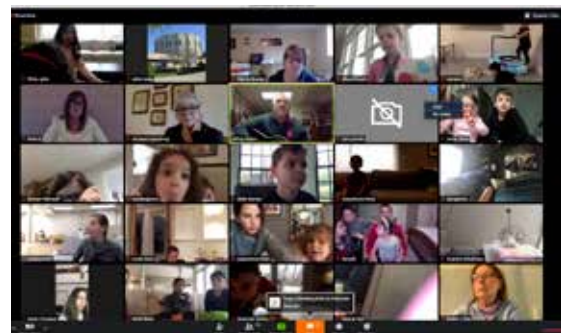
Yet...

We have come together as a community. And, are doing all we can to bring comfort and provide support to our families.

Yes...
Our children are learning to Zoom rather than zipper. And, circle time looks more like the Brady Bunch family grid.

And yes...
Family bike rides have replaced time on the playground.

Yet...
I choose to look at this time as a gift. As families make memories and build new family traditions.



So...
While the challenges of the time are clear.

So is our hope and vision for what is and what is to come. Until then...I wish you all good health and safety.

L'hitraot,
Kory

Rabbi Schwab Installation Postponed

By Judy Berkeley, Membership & Development Director



The Installation of Rabbi Michael Schwab has officially been postponed to August 29th, with November 21st as a back-up date. These are both Saturdays, placing the Installation on Shabbat which we feel will be very meaningful. A wonderful Kiddush celebration will follow. The event will adhere to all COVID-19 guidelines that exist at the time, and of course be appropriate for Shabbat.

We would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge our sponsors and advertisers who have shown their support for Rabbi Schwab and the future of Beth El. (Sponsors and advertisers over \$1,000 are listed below):

Platinum Sponsors - \$5,000

Penny & Jeff Hecktman
Karen & Michael Kesner
Myrna Kopin
Beth & Jeff Kopin
Karen & Mitchell Kopin
Marcie & Brad Pickard
Susan & Marc Sacks
The Schwab Family: Mona Schwab z"l,
Richard & Sharon Schwab, Ian Schwab &
Paula Orlando & Nina, Benjamin Schwab
& Germaine Halegoua & Margalit

Diamond Sponsors - \$3,600

Barbara & Nathan Birnberg
Lois & Donald Chudacoff
Jan Gaines & Andrew Kenoe
Lori & Richard Rabinowitz
Margaret & Alan Silberman

Gold Sponsors - \$2,500

Wendy & Steve Abrams
Gail & Andrew Brown
Linda & Steve Feinstein
Lisa & Todd Fishbein, Melanie & Brian
Hoffman & Barbara & David Hoffman
Mindy & Jeff Gordon
Fran & Mark Levy

Silver Sponsors - \$1,800

Lizzy & Josh Cohen
Rachel & Ron Cooper, Harriet & Joe
Resnick, Susan & Howard Resnick
Kim & Eric Ephraim
Linda & Wayne Goldstein
Barbara & Stuart Hochwert
Brenda & David Jackson
Jane & Scott Lederman
Karyn Lutz
Sheila Olshansky
Howard Turner

Bronze Sponsors - \$1,000

Cheryl & Ted Banks
Karen & Scott Bieber
Lenore & Melvin Blum
Gila Bronner & Craig Deligdish
Adrienne Eckerling
Nancy & Maury Fertig
Ann McDonagh & David Fishbaum
Elise & Ira & Eenie Frost

Nina & Mark Gaines
Eileen & Ron Goldberg
Melissa & Todd Halperin
Rebecca & Brian Jacobson
Jackie & Mike Melinger
Sandy Starkman & Larry Pachter
Karen & Richard Reisin
Robyn & Sami Rosenblatt
Barbara & Richard Rosenfield
Lisa & Jeff Rosenkranz
Rachel & Alan Russo
Andy & Ken Saffir
Robin & David Small
Bobbie & Len Tenner
Cheryl & Keith Weitzman
Deborah & Adam Winick

AD BOOK DONORS:

Back Cover (\$2,500):

Auto & Home Insurance

Platinum Full Page (\$2,500):

Terri & Michael Lipsitz & Family
Inside Back Cover (\$2,000):
Sally Aaron and Family

Gold Full-Page (\$1,200)

Marilyn Hirsch & Gary Gordon

Silver Full Page (\$1,000):

Chicago Jewish Funerals
Barbara & Larry Field & Family
June & Richard Gross and Allyson,
Andrew, Lily & Brynn Marcus
Mesirow Financial
NSS Beth El Sisterhood

We will be distributing the Ad Book in electronic form at the end of June. Sharing the Ad Book in June allows us to honor all our sponsors and advertisers and to recognize all the committee and board members for their incredible work during the 2019-20 fiscal year. An updated copy of the Ad Book will be distributed again at the time of the event, both electronically and a limited quantity of printed copies. This later release provides an opportunity for additional sponsors and ads from anyone who still wishes to participate.

Any additional questions about the Installation or Ad Book can be directed to Judy Berkeley at jberkeley@nssbethel.org. [Click here](#) if you'd like to buy an ad!

Youth Community

Thanks for the Memories

By **Marah Altenberg**, Youth Community Director



The last two years running the Youth Department at North Suburban Synagogue Beth El have been an absolute joy. There are many things about Beth El that stand out, yet for me my favorite is the incredible youth I have been able to get to know, watch grow and evolve, and spend time with most days of the week. Their smiles are in-



fectious and regardless of what we are doing, they are excited to be with their synagogue friends, excited to connect with something Jewish, and interested

in exploring their ever-evolving Jewish identity.

These past couple of years it has been my pleasure to plan activities and programs to supplement our students' Jewish social and academic journey and help them to find a sense of security and confidence within themselves.

At NSS Beth El there are so many amazing role models for our students to learn from. Our students are inspired by synagogue regulars who come every Shabbat, inspired by the many clubs and committees that reach out and help our community, and inspired by our bond with Israel. Our students pick up on that and do truly get interested in the traditions that keep Judaism thriving and growing as these traditions get handed off to the next generation.

Our USYers are developing the skills to become leaders of Jewish communities in college and beyond. Our current USY President Stephanie Kallish is a great example of someone who found her Jewish passion in USY. She recently was elected to a regional office where she will get to share her passion for Israel with students across the Chicago area, and building on the confidence she gained from Beth El, has earned a spot on the International General USY Board for the coming year.

I want to thank all of the staff and clergy at Beth El for warmly welcoming me into the community and giving me the opportunity to mentor and care for your garden of youth, and helping provide them the strength and courage to become leaders of their future Jewish communities. Thanks for these special memories that I will take with me on my Jewish journey.

Ritual Director

Ritually Speaking

By **Hazzan Barbara Barnett**, Ritual Director



As my first year as NSS Beth El's ritual director draws to a close, I want to begin by saying to my Beth El community how blessed Phil and I feel to have been so warmly welcomed by congregants and colleagues. The year has been marked by so many "first times" I lost count a while back: first Elul, first High Holidays, first Sukkot, etc. We have been continually impressed by the compassion, dedication and sense of community engendered by NSS Beth El.

For me, every holiday felt new, different than at my last synagogue post—sometimes challenging, but in good ways. Now all of us together are living an experience that is new and different, strange and challenging for all of us. A first for us all.

My days have been framed and structured these past few weeks by Brady-Bunch-esque squares of Zoom: morning minyan and evening minyan bookending my hours in between,

teaching, singing, interacting—on Zoom all from my easy chair or dining room table while Phil works—also on Zoom—from a different room.

But I've felt far from isolated. I've cherished morning minyan in ways I hadn't before. Seeing everyone gather together in numbers often far greater than our "live" minyan, returning to NSS Beth El from far and wide for friendship, prayer—and community. Inspiring.

Pre-pandemic, morning minyan-aires would share a quick breakfast and a schmooze in the Blumberg—and, sometimes a bit of a "I'chayim." In the first few weeks of Zoom minyan that had gone away, until someone suggested staying on for a few minutes after to get a taste of the sort of camaraderie shared in the pre-Zoom days. The strength of community to find a way to merge a tradition, a ritual, into a new reality.

Of course, there are challenges more difficult to overcome. How to create an effective way for children to participate in singing and tefilah; they want to sing and be heard by each other; it's frustrating for most of them to sing on "mute." (And me too!) But Zoom (nor any other platform) was never built for multiple voices singing, talking—or praying together. But we do what we can—more adaptation.

The lockdown will eventually come to an end, and we'll once again be in the building, bustling with life, with study, with prayer, with singing and dancing. Shabbat will once again fill Beth El with worship experiences for all—from the youngest children to our cherished elders. Until then, we'll Zoom around or gather on Facebook Live to study, pray (even to sing—despite the challenges inherent in the existing technology)—and be together, stronger as a community, closer to each other than ever.

The Lessons of Resourcefulness, Resilience and Creativity

By Dr. Alicia Gejman, Director of Formal Education



The day after Purim is viewed by many as a race against time to get ready for Pesach. This year the COVID-19 pandemic compounded this huge undertaking. The day the shelter in place was announced reminded me of the story of the Exodus from the time the Israelites left Egypt until they entered the promised land. How so? On the day the stay at home order was announced, the staff and I left the building in haste, packing light bags while fleeing from an enemy that we still know very little about. There was no Pharaoh to chase behind us and no Sea of Reeds to cross but certainly, each one of us was going into our own wilderness, to a place that we have never been before, educationally speaking. The brick and mortar building we knew and called school had to be hastily replaced by a new wilderness: a digital school. We had to adapt quickly to the change. The roadmap laid out for school was no longer suitable to guide us. Every move, every action, and every lesson plan

that we had executed error-free in the past had to be re-imagined digitally, including discovering and dealing with new challenges. Paradoxically our homes became our exile where we had to learn anew how to educate children. Mimicking the Israelites in the desert, we learned the lessons of resourcefulness, resilience, and creativity. Provided with fortitude, vision, and imagination, our Beth El schools continued the journey of educating our students. We are still in the wilderness, but hopefully it will take us less than forty years to reach the school building we left behind. But when we finally arrive, we will have been transformed forever, equipped with new teaching tools and possibilities. The hope – Ha-tikvah that accompanies Israelites and Jews throughout two millennia will help us go back to the promised land—the land of education—strengthened and inspired for a new future filled with new ideas.

*Pre-Covid-19 days at CRS and SHHS
(Teen Midrasha)*

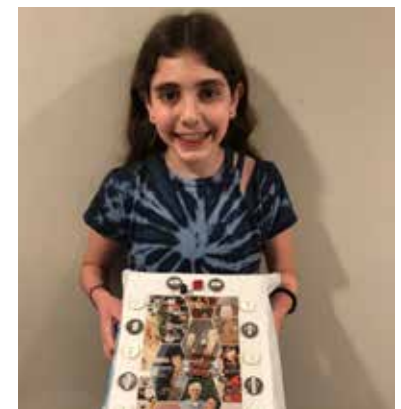


Mazel Tov to Our *My Family Story* Winners!



Mazel Tov to Lauren Smiley and Trevor Gross, members of Noreen Ohcana's 6th Grade Vav class, who won this year's *My Family Story* competition at Beth El.

We are pleased to announce that Trevor Gross has been selected as a winner of the *My Family Story* competition in Memory of Manuel Hirsh Grosskopf.



Mazel Tov to the 7th grade students for completing seven years of study at the Jack and Mildred Cohen Religious School:

These students are eligible to apply to the Sokol Hebrew High School

Hannah Ayzman
Alfred Caplan
Valerie Faust
Evan Hecht

Nathan Heftman
Dana Holt
Sophie Katznelson
Holden Leeb
Lorelai Lindon
David Pickard
Max Plankar
Samantha Rosenberg
Sy Rosenblatt
Lincoln Seidman
Adam Smiley
Ricki Viner
Ela Weininger
Lily Weinstein

Mazel Tov to the Rochelle Zell Jewish High School Seniors

Alexander Bernat
Evan Dayan
Isaac Levitan
Ma'ayan Noy
Jacob Silvers
Jonah Singman
Elizabeth Winick
Sophie Wolle
Rachel Zell

Mazel Tov to the Solomon Schechter Day School 8th Grade Grads

Jessica Aronwald
Asher Dayan
Simon Levitan
Jacob Perlen
Isabel Wolle

Mazel Tov to The Sokol Hebrew High School Graduates

Eli Gidron
Ellie Goldsmith
Stephanie Kallish



As I write this, in April, we have just experienced Pesach, the holiday that commemorates the liberation of the Israelites from bondage in Egypt. As this motley group exits one reality, they enter a new world in the desert, one full of unexpected obstacles and uncertainty. None of them knows what lies ahead or at the end of their journey, even as almost an entire generation perishes along the way. Strong leadership and their faith, however, sustain them as they move toward the Promised Land.

Can we make an analogy from this to our lives right now? We are certainly on a path from the familiar through – and toward – the unknown. Thankfully, we have exceptionally strong synagogue leadership to help us navigate our way and get us to “the other side.” How fortunate we are to have our indefatigable clergy team, office staff and lay leaders, who have all risen to challenges that none of them could have ever foreseen. Beth El is

busier than ever and is “open for business,” even though its physical doors are locked to us.

Sisterhood has, of necessity, canceled some programming over these past few weeks and will obviously make changes in events that are on the calendar for the next several months. However, during this time, a number of our board members have transitioned into helping with other urgently-needed synagogue projects.

Many of us made phone calls to other Beth El members, to let them know that Beth El is here for them in whatever way they need – to shop, to help with technology so they can connect virtually with family or fellow congregants or just so they know that someone cares. Some of us are collecting and distributing face masks to the community and Sisterhood has committed to donating funds from its coffers toward purchasing groceries for

congregants who lack funds to do so on their own. Not unexpectedly, when notified of this gesture, several Sisterhood board members pledged personal donations toward this effort.

Even, however, as our lives have been upended in so many ways, some aspects continue and that includes the changeover from one Sisterhood administration to the next. Our marvelous current board ends its tenure on June 30 and a new two-year board begins its term on July 1. A list of new board members will be announced soon. I know that these women will use their ingenuity and creativity to devise new and exciting ways to keep Sisterhood going strong until we can be together, in person, again.

Please join us at our installation, Tuesday, June 16, 8:00 p.m. Watch for the Zoom link in your weekly Kol Beth El e-blast.



A Note from the Sisterhood Gift Shop Chairs

By Sulie Holt, Diane Levin, and Pam Schlosberg

We Miss You!

So many of you have said that, other than Shabbat and the holidays, the Gift Shop is a major community center of Beth El. Located on a busy thoroughfare corridor, it's always a delight to greet so many of you as you hurry on your way to classes, programs, and meetings or when you stop in to keep in touch and to see what new merchandise is on display. The Gift Shop is a place where we all connect.

So you understand when we say, we miss you.

We appreciate your friendliness, your interest,

and your support. Proceeds from every purchase you've made have helped to support our donations to the Jack and Mildred Cohen Religious School. You truly have made a difference.

We don't know when the doors will be open again. But when the lights are back on and the doors are open, among the wonderful merchandise we showcase will be the Judaica, jewelry, and gifts by Israeli artists. We work with a large number of Israeli artists and many are only a website away. Your purchase not only will help to support our religious school and also support these Israeli artists who have been financially

devastated by the the pandemic.

We look forward to when we can gather again as a community and connect in the Gift Shop!



Men's Club Corner

By Steve Coven, Men's Club President

The NSS Beth El Men's Club wishes everyone good health. To our members, family and friends who are medical professionals and other essential personnel, thank you for your service to the community.

As we all adjust to the new normal, the Men's Club has adjusted several of our traditional programs to virtual. While we were not able to send out candles this year, the annual Yom Hashoah program was held and was well attended. Thank you to Matt Pestine, Dan Gross

and Hazzan Tisser for their efforts. We recently held our first virtual Hearing Men's Voices session to support the community.

Finally, the Board is actively planning activities for when the stay at home order is lifted, including the possibility of an abbreviated softball season and a BBQ in July.

If you have programming ideas or would like to get more involved in the Men's Club, please contact Steve Coven at scoven613@gmail.com



Growing More Connected continued from page 2

By Ron Goldberg

• Education - Each of our schools had various degrees of regular programming for their students and families. There is a full schedule of educational opportunities for all members, including our Continuing Education classes plus programs from partner organizations. In addition, Chef Laura continues to offer cooking demonstrations.

• Caring Community - We immediately established a Corona Task Force of medical professionals to help us make decisions to protect our congregants. HAZAK immediately called and gathered information on congregants who are 80 years of age and above to assess their needs, let them know

we are there for them and then doing incredible things like shopping for them, picking up meds, transporting people to appointments and providing other support. This has been ongoing and incredible. HAZAK and the Board called the entire congregation to check in, and followed up on those with needs. Clergy, using data from the outreach, have been in touch with all of our congregants whom we know are ill, in need, or desired outreach. We have also distributed some funds to some in our congregation who are in need.

Let me mention a few administrative items. With Board approval, we applied for and

received PPP/SBA funds. This helped offset some Pre-School tuition refunds and enabled us to pay our staff. In addition, the Board passed the 2020/2021 budget. Finally, a special Budget Task Force is working on contingency plans to respond to financial challenges from the pandemic.

It's been quite a year. On a very positive note, despite the isolation, I feel we are more connected than ever. I look forward to next year, and the day we are all together again at the Shul.

Warmly,
Ron

New Director of Youth Engagement continued from page 5

has led the Youth Commission through this process and the ongoing strategic visioning for the department. She has advocated for the budget for the Youth Community and engaged in a widespread listening tour to em-

power our whole community in the next steps for our youth. We look forward to this next few months of continuing a process of vision for our community which connects families to a variety of Jewish youth programming both

on and off-site that will engage a youth audience we also remain committed to supporting existent Conservative Jewish teen travel and region-wide programming.

Staying Together...Apart

By Judy Berkeley, Membership & Development Director and Stacy Goldsmith, Membership & Development Chair

As I'm writing this, we are six weeks into the stay at home order...

We hope that everyone is doing well and that you and your families are safe and healthy at home and surviving the pandemic! Through the tragedy of the coronavirus, we hope that you have found that the Beth El community has been here for you. One light at the end of this deep dark tunnel is that our Beth El family has found ways to stay connected – from services and holiday celebrations, from Tot Shabbat to Junior Congregation and CRS classes, to adult education – all via Zoom and Facebook Live, we are finding ways to stay connected to each other, to Beth El, and to our Judaism.

Please know that if you or someone you know is in need of anything at all, know that your Beth El community is here for you – so please don't hesitate to reach out to any one of us if you and/or your loved ones are in need of anything.

Although this is not the season for new member enrollment, we are pleased to announce the following new members that have joined since January 1, 2020:

Brian & Lucy Bortman, along with their children Leo (age 3) and Shai (6 mos old)

Marc & Susan Sacks Lawrence & Marissa Levy joined with their children Ethan (age 13), Ellie (age 10) & Jonah (age 4)

David & Lynda Greenberg and their children Elliott & Malcha, (age 8)

During the pandemic, we are continuing to hold our Sulam for Emerging Leaders, and we have scheduled Sulam for "Baby Boomers" to take place next year.

Our "Blessing Our Babies" program took place via Zoom; it is truly a blessing during this time to have the opportunity to acknowledge all the new babies and grandbabies who were born into the

Beth El community over the past year!

Our Annual Meeting was also held via Zoom, as we acknowledge the hard work of all of our 2019-2020 Executive Committee, Board of Directors and Trustees and welcome in the new slate for 2020-2021.

You will very soon be receiving your membership packets for next year in the mail, if you have not already. If you have any questions or concerns, do not hesitate to reach out to Judy Berkeley, Membership and Development Director, at jberkeley@nssbethel.org or 312-720-0045 at any time. We understand that this year might not be "business as usual" for all of our families, and please know that Beth El is here to work with each and every one of our members at this time.

Most importantly, we continue to wish you and your families a safe, happy and healthy summer!

Chef Laura Begins Shabbat Dinner Curbside Pick-up in June!

Home cooking got you down? Food fatigue tormenting you? If you've burned through every recipe in your cooking repertoire by now, you are not alone. But help is here! Starting in

June, Chef Laura will be providing simple Shabbat Dinners for four people* that can be picked up at Beth El on Friday afternoons.

Here's how it will work:

Watch for Beth El emails that will provide a link to order dinner. This link will also be available under Circle of Life Catering on our website.

Dinner will include a salad, choice of



entrees, choice of sides and dessert. Chef Laura will do her best to accommodate allergy requests and gluten free versions of food items offered. Each week there will be a FIRM cut-off date for orders. Click [HERE](#) to order!

Take the night off and enjoy restaurant quality food in your home on Shabbat! If the program is a success, Chef Laura hopes to expand her offerings and continue past June and for the High Holidays.

*Please note, in order to simplify the process and the pricing, orders will only be done in portions of four. If you have fewer than four, you will have leftovers - which is not a bad thing! Online payments only, no checks or cash accepted.



Mazel Tov to:

Linda and Steven Feinstein on the engagement of their daughter, Melissa, to Josh Berns

Beth Footlik on the occasion of her 70th birthday

Rachel and Jonathan Greenberg on the birth of their daughter, Talia Jaime

Hilary and Allan Greenberg on the birth of

their granddaughter, Talia Jaime Greenberg Stephanie Kallish on being elected to the USY 2020 International General Board

Betty Ann Levin on the occasion of her 91st birthday

Diane and Stephen Levin on the marriage of their daughter, Allison Sara, to Robert Affrunti

Betsey and Dale Pinkert on the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary

Merle and Sheldon Rosenfeld on the birth of their granddaughter, Mira Jacqueline Klein

Millie Weber on the occasion of her 91st birthday

Condolences to:

Amy Bieber and Rebecca Garrett on the loss their grandfather, Leo Gambone

Karen Bieber on the loss of her father, Leo Gambone

Marc Birnbaum on the loss of his father, Leonard Birnbaum

Benjamin Bronson, Sarah Bronson and Jennifer Robins on the loss of their grandmother, Shirley Levick

Honey Bronson on the loss of her mother, Shirley Levick

David Dlugie on the loss of his mother, Rochelle Dlugie

Reva Dreebin on the loss of her husband, Dr. Harold Rubin Dreebin

Deborah Graham on the loss of her brother, Daniel Howard Glick

William Horowitz on the loss of his father, Allen B. Horowitz

Chuck Kafenshtok on the loss of his mother, Rivka Kafenstok

Dr. Gerald Lasin on the loss of his brother, Dr. Arthur Lasin

Elise Kline on the loss of her father, Robert "Skip" Engert

Sheila Krumstok on the loss of her husband, Robert Krumstok

Sandra Levin on the loss of her father, Dr. Donald I. Charous

Dolly Nast on the loss of her husband, Dr. Daniel Nast, Jr.

Martin Pinsky on the loss of his father, Alex Pinsky

Jay Prystowsky on the loss of his mother, Rhalda Prystowsky

Frances Rabinowitz on the loss of her sister, Estelle Sabsel

Sandra Raizes on the loss of her husband, Maurice P. Raizes

Lisa Rosenkranz on the loss of her mother, Marilyn Kaplan

Elliot Rossen on the loss of his step-father, Myles Elias

Ken Saffir on the loss of his mother, Joyce Saffir

Ari, Liana, Miriam and Noa Schwab on the loss of their great-grandmother, Mona Shapiro Schwab

Rabbi Michael Schwab on the loss of his grandmother, Mona Shapiro Schwab

Richard Schwab on the loss of his mother, Mona Shapiro Schwab

Jeff Shapiro on the loss of his mother, Muriel Shapiro

Martin Wasserman on the loss of his mother, Lynn Wasserman

Mira Wolf on the loss of her father, Albert Mendlovitz

IN MEMORIAM:

Leonard Birnbaum
Dr. Harold Rubin Dreebin

Milton Greenfield
Dr. Daniel Nast, Jr.

Maurice Raizes
Joyce Saffir

Melissa "Missy" Stein

Kiddush Sponsors:

Susan and Joseph Affrunti
Igor Ayzman
Edna and Hadley Donenberg
Beth and Bob Footlik
June and Richard Gross
Ann Dee and Edward Holland

Gerry Kaplan
Jori and Daniel Leeb
Diane and Stephen Levin
North Suburban Beth El Sisterhood
North Suburban Synagogue Beth El Men's Club

Betsey and Dale Pinkert
Helen Plavink
Linda and Fred Rosenberg
Pamela and Jonathan Rosenberg
Jenna and David Smiley
Danielle and Brian Weinstein

Job Search and Business Networking Groups Are Here to Support You

NSSBE Job Search Group by JoAnne Blumberg

At Beth El, we are fortunate to have a Job Search Support and Networking group that began in 2009. This group has been meeting every Friday, through the tenacity of Dr. Eliezer Krumbein. In this time where the world has changed overnight, we recognize there may be a growing need and many congregants and the community at-large could use our support.

The Beth El Job Network is a confidential, mutual support self-help group and is now meeting on Zoom, at **10:00am each Friday morning.**

Come prepared to share your background experience and the type of job you seek. If you do not have an elevator speech, resume or direction, the members of this group are resources for each other. If you are unemployed, under-employed, partially employed, or entering the job world, or feel you can help others with their search, please join us.

The Zoom link is posted on the nssbethel.org website NSSBE@HOME page under each Friday listing. **Contact Eli Krumbein 847-432-6994 or JoAnne Blumberg JoAnneB1729@gmail.com for additional information.**

Business Networking by Jackie Melinger

The first meeting of our Business Networking Group was a great success! Please join us for the next NSS Beth El Networking meeting via Zoom, **Wednesday, June 17th, 4:30pm-5:45pm.** We will each get a couple minutes to talk about our individual businesses and our favorite marketing tool we're using right now. Our hope for this recurring monthly meeting will be to learn about other members' (and non-members') businesses and ways to refer each other to grow our business through community and networking. Zoom link to follow in NSSBE weekly email.

Rabbi Schwab Discretionary Fund

*In honor of Adam becoming a Bar Mitzvah and with appreciation to Rabbi Schwab - **David and Jenna Smiley***

*In honor of Doreen and Phil Feitelberg's 60th wedding anniversary - **Ronald and Eileen Goldberg***

*In honor of Steven Shapiro - **Steven and Frances Shapiro***

*In honor of Ari Schwab, son of Erica and Rabbi Michael Schwab, on becoming a Bar Mitzvah - **Karen Weiss***

*In honor of the birth of Rabbi Ora and Dr. David Schnitzer's granddaughter, Quinn Millie Jones - **Karen Weiss***

*In honor of Lorelai Lindon, daughter of Erica and Zachary Lindon, on becoming a Bat Mitzvah - **Karen Weiss***

*In honor of Delilah Belle Berk's baby naming - **Julie and Colman Kraff***

*In honor of Jeff Zilka - **Jeff Zilka***

*In honor of Ruth Fischer's special birthday - **The Fischer Family***

*In memory of Alan Ander, beloved father - **Carol Jesselson***

*In memory of Alice Genis, beloved sister - **Amos and Edith Turner***

*In memory of Anna Hirschfeld, beloved grandmother - **Marc and Brenda Wilkow***

*In memory of Benjamin Cohen, beloved father - **Arthur and Lynn Cohen***

*In memory of David Goldberg, beloved father - **Richard and Lila Kohn***

*In memory of David Grossberg, beloved father - **Terry and Marla Grossberg***

*In memory of David Sher, beloved grandfather - **Michael and Sara Sher***

*In memory of Edward Salinas, beloved husband - **Sari Salinas***

*In memory of Eva Wittenberg, beloved mother-in-law - **Iris Wittenberg***

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

*In memory of Freda Siegel, beloved mother - **Marvin and Sara Siegel***

*In memory of Helen Leeds, beloved mother - **Steven and Beth Leeds***

*In memory of Herbert Friedman, beloved father - **Marc and Jacalyn Birnbaum***

*In memory of Hortense Rubinoff, beloved mother - **Lynn Weitz***

*- **Earl and Rochelle Rubinoff***

*In memory of Howard Gerstein, beloved brother - **Melvyn and Joyce Gerstein***

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

*In memory of Joan Epstein, beloved mother - **Jerome and Mary Kaltman***

*In memory of Joan Zweifler, beloved mother - **David and Robin Nankin***

In memory of Joseph Rosen, beloved father -

Leonard and Rochelle Foxman

In memory of Joyce Saffir, beloved mother of Ken Saffir

*- **Jerome and Mary Kaltman***

*- **Josh and Katy Silvers***

*- **Melissa and Marc Spellman***

*In memory of Joyce Saffir, beloved mother, and with appreciation to Rabbi Schwab - **Mark and Judith Hoffman***

*In memory of Julius Goldberg, beloved father - **Ronald and Eileen Goldberg***

*In memory of Leo Gambone, beloved father of Karen Bieber and beloved grandfather of Rebecca Garrett and Amy Bieber - **Ira and Elise Frost***

*In memory of Lila Grossman, beloved sister - **Sally Aaron***

*In memory of Louis Goldstein, beloved grandfather - **Paul and Eileen Goldstein***

*In memory of Marcia Melinger - **David and Jody Melinger***

In memory of Marilyn Kaplan, beloved mother of Lisa Rosenkranz

*- **Deborah and Bruce Cowans***

*- **Elise and Ira Frost***

*- **Ron and Eileen Goldberg***

*- **Dr. Laurie Hochberg***

*- **Sandy Starkman and Larry Pachter***

*In memory of Maurice Raizes, beloved husband - **Sandra Raizes***

*In memory of Maurice Raizes, beloved brother - **Sheldon and Marilyn Raizes***

In memory of Maurice Raizes, beloved husband of Sandra Raizes

*- **Arthur and Judith Coren***

*- **Mildred Lidov***

*In memory of Max Smiley, beloved father - **Judy and Stephen Smiley***

*In memory of Melvin Levin, beloved father - **Jeffrey and Arlene Levin***

*In memory of Mildred Rubenstein, beloved mother - **Paul and Eileen Goldstein***

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

*In memory of Mollie Rich, beloved mother - **Sheila Olshansky***

*In memory of Morris Hirsch, beloved father - **Joel and Cynthia Hirsch***

*In memory of Morris Wilk, beloved father - **Roger and Ronnie Wilk***

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

*In memory of Norman Chudacoff, beloved brother - **Donald and Lois Chudacoff***

*In memory of Richard A. Silver, beloved brother - **Melvyn and Joyce Gerstein***

*In memory of Rivka Kafenstok, beloved mother and with appreciation to Rabbi Schwab - **Charles and Robin Kafenshtok***

*In memory of Robert M. Kupchick, beloved husband - **Ruth Kupchick***

*In memory of Rochelle Dlugie, beloved mother of David Dlugie - **Michael and Joyce Fox***

*In memory of Rosalyn Fegenhols, beloved mother - **Iris Wittenberg***

*In memory of Ruth M. Abrams, beloved mother - **Robert and Sharon Abrams***

*In memory of Shirley and Morris Foxman, beloved mother and father - **Leonard and Rochelle Foxman***

*In memory of Shirley Levick, beloved mother and with appreciation to Rabbi Schwab - **Daniel and Honey Bronson***

In memory of Shirley Levick, beloved mother of Honey Bronson

*- **Mark and Nina Gaines***

*- **Barbara and Jeff Lerch***

*- **Terri and Michael Lipsitz***

*- **Paul and Vicki Morton***

*- **Debbi and Ira Roy***

*- **Rochelle and Earl Rubinoff***

*In memory of Sidney Starkman, Mildred Starkman, Annette Berg and Richard Berg at Yizkor - **Sandy Starkman and Larry Pachter***

*In memory of William Karson, beloved brother - **Sally Aaron***

*In memory of Dr. Arthur Lasin, beloved brother of Gerald Lasin - **David Schwartz and Renee Hirsch***

In memory of Dr. Daniel Nast Jr., beloved husband of Dolly Nast

*- **Board of Directors of the Northbrook Country Condo Association***

*- **Sandra Becker***

*In memory of Dr. Daniel Nast, Jr., beloved husband and with appreciation to Rabbi Schwab - **Dolly Nast***

*In memory of Irv Stawkowski, beloved uncle - **Jay and Mindy Sterns***

*In memory of Robert "Skip" Engert, beloved father of Elise Kline - **Friends of Elise Kline***

*In memory of Leonard Birnbaum, beloved father of Marc Birnbaum, Holly Sherman, Andrew Birnbaum and Bess Jo Kaufman, beloved grandfather and beloved great grandfather - **Sandy Starkman and Larry Pachter***

*In memory of Milton Leeds, beloved father - **Steven and Beth Leeds***

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

*- **Julie and Jeff Benensohn***

*- **Zalman Sam and Judith Bernstein***

*- **Lawrence and Abby Block***

*- **Honey and Dan Bronson***

*- **Gary Charlestein***

*- **Rabbi Burton Cohen***

*- **Deborah and Bruce Cowans***

*- **Adrienne Eckerling***

- Francine and David Ephraim
- Kim and Eric Ephraim
- Linda and Steve Feinstein
- Elise and Ira Frost
- Amy, Craig, Ben and Sammy Gerstein
- Ron and Eileen Goldberg
- Mindy and Jeff Gordon
- Gail and Bruce Greenspahn
- The Hochberg Family
- Gerry Kaplan
- Janet and Phil Kirschner
- Julie and Colman Kraff
- Barbara Lansing
- Abby and Ed Lasky
- Steven and Beth Leeds
- Sherry and Brad Levin
- Marcy and Kenneth Levin
- Sandy and Mark Levin
- Arielle and Victor Levitan
- Terri and Michael Lipsitz
- Yael Mirelman and Pere Berkowitz
- Debbi and Ira Rosenberg
- Lisa and Jeff Rosenkranz
- Rochelle and Earl Rubinoff and Family
- Pam and Richard Schlosberg
- Skip and Lynn Schroyer
- Michael and Stephanie Smerling
- Judy and Steve Smiley
- Ronnie Jo Sokol
- Melissa Spellman
- Sandy Starkman and Larry Pachter
- Jay and Mindy Sterns
- Debby and Dale Strauss
- Bobbie and Len Tenner
- Millie Weber
- Debbie and Adam Winick
- Nadine and Rick Woldenberg
- Richard Zelin and Judith Hirsch-Zelin

In memory of Rochelle Dlugie and with appreciation to Rabbi Schwab for his assistance - The Dlugie Family

In memory of Rochelle Dlugie, beloved mother of David Dlugie - Marilyn & Rodney Slutzky

Wishing a complete and speedy recovery to Susha Bat Zlota Mechla - Marvin and Sara Siegel

Wishing a complete & speedy recovery to Rabbi Schwab

- Lawrence and Abby Block
- Gail and Andrew Brown
- Oron and Kristen Daihes
- Marilyn Hirsch and Gary Gordon
- Elizabeth and Simon Halfin
- Steven and Nicole Putzel

With appreciation to Rabbi Schwab for keeping our community connected during these times - Andrea and Ben Leshem

With appreciation to Rabbi Schwab - Andrew and Laurie Hochberg

With appreciation to Rabbi Schwab for all of his efforts - Fredric and Elaine Kamin

Rabbi Freedman Discretionary Fund

In honor of Adam becoming a Bar Mitzvah and with appreciation to Rabbi Freedman - David and Jenna Smiley

In honor of Steve and Debbie Graham's birthdays - Leah and Adi Gidron, Linda Sugar, Sheryl and Mark Seef

In honor of the birth of my grandson, Asher Aaron Shekhtman - Cindy Shekhtman

In memory of Max Becker, beloved grandfather - Stuart and Barbara Hochwert

In memory of Rebecca Karsh, beloved grandmother - Stuart and Barbara Hochwert

In memory of Maurice Raizes, beloved husband of Sandra Raizes - Bobbie and Len Tenner

In memory of Michael and Jordan Wainstein, beloved cousins - Philip and Doreen Feitelberg

In memory of Lloyd Falk, beloved husband, and with appreciation to Rabbi Freedman - Judy Falk

In memory of Sarah Bichunsky, beloved mother - Philip and Doreen Feitelberg

In memory of Nettie Zelkowitz, beloved grandmother - Terry and Marla Grossberg

In memory of Harold Siegel, beloved father - Dov and Eileen Kahana

In memory of Roma and Sam Kaltman, beloved mother and father - Jerome and Mary Kaltman

In memory of Sarah Berger, beloved grandmother - Mark and Laura Lieberman

In memory of Phyllis and Louis Senescu, beloved mother and father - Stuart and Marlene Senescu

In memory of Steve Millman, beloved husband - Natalie Millman

With appreciation to Rabbi Freedman - Gail and Andrew Brown

With appreciation for my Aliyah - Mel Seidenberg

Rabbi Kurtz Discretionary Fund

In memory of Florence Behrstock, beloved mother - Neil and Adrienne Aaronson

In memory of Tillie and Charles Michaels, beloved mother and father - Harold and Reva Dreebin

In memory of Maurice Raizes, beloved husband of Sandra Raizes - Mrs. Lorry Field

In memory of Thekla Taussig, beloved mother - Stuart and Marianne Taussig

Hazzan Tisser Discretionary Fund

In honor of the marriage of Hazzan Ben Tisser to Robyn Sack

- Adrienne Eckerling

- Gerald and Judy Farby
- Ira and Elise Frost
- Ronald and Eileen Goldberg
- Sheila Jacobson
- Edward and Paulette Margulies
- Ira and Deborah Rosenberg
- Millie Weber
- Karen Weiss
- Richard Zelin and Judith Hirsch-Zelin

In memory of Shirley Levick, beloved mother and with appreciation to Hazzan Tisser - Daniel and Honey Bronson

In memory of Maurice Raizes and with appreciation to Hazzan Tisser - Sandra Raizes and Family

In memory of Sara Siegel, beloved mother - Shael and Myrna Siegel

In memory of Sidney Wideltz, beloved father - Marvin and Sara Siegel

With appreciation to Hazzan Tisser - Gail and Andrew Brown

Andrew and Gail Brown Technology Endowment Fund

In memory of Marilyn Kaplan, beloved mother of Lisa Rosenkranz - Gail and Andrew Brown

Ann and Jack Weinberg Holocaust Memorial Endowment Fund

In memory of Ann Weinberg, beloved mother and Bubbie - Kagan and Wynes Families

Ba'al Korei Fund

In memory of Norman Kozak, beloved friend - Gerald and Adrienne Lasin

Ben and Marion Drachler Israel Scholarship Endowment Fund

In memory of Ben Drachler, beloved father

- Ferne Avery
- A. Michael and Nancy Drachler

Camp Ramah General Scholarship Endowment Fund

In honor of Lori Stark and her years of service to Ramah Day Camp

- Scott and Karen Bieber
- Steven and Frances Shapiro

In memory of Leo Gambone, beloved father of Karen Bieber and beloved grandfather of Rebecca Garrett and Amy Bieber - Bobbie and Len Tenner

Capital Improvement Fund

In memory of Cathy Feinstein Molever, beloved sister - Steven and Linda Feinstein

In memory of Martin Maiman, beloved father and grandfather - Steven and Linda Feinstein

*In memory of Sally Levin Lerner, beloved mother -
Marcy and Kenneth Levin*

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

*In memory of Joyce Saffir, beloved mother of Ken
Saffir - Jeff and Lisa Rosenkranz*

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

*In honor of Nessia Frank's special birthday - Benjamin
Frank*

*In memory of Joyce Saffir, beloved mother of Ken
Saffir - Edward and Paulette Margulies*

**Family Engagement Endowment
Fund**

*In honor of Maury Fertig's "big" birthday - Arielle and
Victor Levitan*

**Fertig Family College Campus Visits
Endowment Fund**

*In honor of Maury Fertig's birthday - Skip and Lynn
Schrayner*

**Gertrude Lederman Family
Continuing Education Fund**

*In honor of Philip and Doreen Feitelberg's 60th
wedding anniversary - Sandy Starkman and Larry
Pachter*

**Irving and Janet Robbin Schol-
ar-in-Residence Program Endowment
Fund**

*In memory of Fanny Schwartzberg, beloved grand-
mother - David and Karen Benson*

*In memory of Rebecca Ellen Benson, beloved
daughter - David and Karen Benson*

**Jack and Mildred Cohen Religious
School Fund**

*In memory of Jack Hirschfield, beloved brother -
David and Pamela Hirschfield*

*In memory of Neil Levinson, beloved brother -
David and Pamela Hirschfield*

*In memory of Maurice Raizes, beloved husband of
Sandra Raizes - Judith Sarnat*

*In memory of Evelyn Schwartz Shere, beloved mother
- Judith Sarnat*

*In memory of Howard Silberman, beloved father -
Lawrence and Susan Silberman*

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

*In honor of Mort Steinberg's 62nd anniversary of his
Bar Mitzvah - Sandy Starkman and Larry Pachter*

In memory of Joyce Saffir, beloved mother of Ken

Saffir - David and Karen Benson

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

*In honor of Barbara Herst's 90th birthday - Neil and
Rachel Greenbaum*

*In memory of Betty Fox Jacobson Levi, beloved moth-
er of Nadine Woldenberg and Gail Cooper - Enid
and Larry Arnowitz*

*In memory of Ephraim Goldstein, beloved father -
Michael Goldstein*

*In memory of Roy H. Millenson, beloved father -
Michael and Susan Millenson*

*In memory of Marilyn Kaplan, beloved mother of
Lisa Rosenkranz - Debra Rade*

*In memory of Eugene Siskel, beloved brother -
William and Judith Siskel*

*In memory of Kasiel Steinhardt, beloved husband -
Joyce Steinhardt*

*In memory of Joyce Saffir, beloved mother of Ken
Saffir - Millie Weber*

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

*In memory of Riva Kafenstok, beloved mother of
Charles Kafenshtok - Gwen and Scott Heyman*

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

*In honor of Rita Kopin on her very special birthday -
Myrna Kopin*

*In memory of Lois Freidman's beloved daughter,
Jeanne - Myrna Kopin*

*In memory of Joyce Saffir, beloved mother of Ken
Saffir - Myrna Kopin*

In memory of Arnold Loeb - Myrna Kopin

LGBTQIA+ Inclusion Fund

*In honor of Dan Gross on being named our Man of
The Year - Aaron and Ellen Krumbein*

*In memory of Shirley Levick, beloved mother of
Honey Bronson*

- Andrew and Gail Brown

- Steven and Frances Shapiro

Maxwell Abbell Library Fund

*In memory of Morris Banks, beloved father - Cheryl
and Ted Banks*

*In memory of Kasiel Steinhardt, beloved father -
Cheryl and Ted Banks*

*In memory of Maurice Raizes, beloved husband of
Sandra Raizes*

- Gerry Kaplan

- Joel and Frances Rabinowitz

- Hilda and Arnold Reingold

*In memory of Joyce Saffir, beloved mother of Ken
Saffir - Richard and Lori Rabinowitz*

Minyan Service Fund

*In memory of Rachel Frydman, beloved mother-in-
law - June Back Frydman*

*In memory of Abe Frydman, beloved father-in-law -
June Back Frydman*

*In memory of Terry Goldenberg, beloved mother -
Bruce and Gail Greenspahn*

*In memory of Jack Epstein, beloved father -
Gerald and Adrienne Lasin*

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

*In memory of Joyce Greenberg, beloved sister -
Mark and Laura Lieberman*

*In memory of Harry Magad, beloved father -
Irwin and Linda Magad*

*In memory of Marilyn Kaplan, beloved mother of Lisa
Rosenkranz - Jackie and Michael Melinger*

*In memory of Israel Edidin, beloved grandmother -
Fern Roseman*

With appreciation - David and Barbara Lansing

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

*In memory of Maurice Raizes, beloved husband of
Sandra Raizes and beloved father of Sherri Register -
Poonacha Mandeda*

*In memory of Dr. Daniel Nast Jr., beloved husband of
Dolly Nast - Ronnie Jo Sokol*

*In memory of Joyce Saffir, beloved mother of Ken
Saffir - David and Judy Weiss*

Music Fund

*In honor of the marriage of Hazzan Ben Tisser and
Robyn Sack - Lawrence and Abby Block*

*In honor of Lorelai Lindon, daughter of Erica and
Zachary Lindon, on becoming a Bat Mitzvah -
Jennifer, Emma and Dylan Weinger*

*In memory of Maurice Raizes, beloved husband of
Sandra Raizes - Lawrence and Abby Block*

With appreciation - Howard and Lynne Schechter

NSS Beth El Special Gifts Fund

*In honor of Debbie and Steve Graham's 70th
birthdays - Sally and Gerry Korkin*

*In memory of Sadie Kulakofsky, beloved mother -
Ruth Belzer*

*In memory of Milton Greenfield, beloved father of
Barbara Berger - Sheldon and Nancy Mann*

*In memory of Leo Gambone and with appreciation to
the NSS Beth El clergy - Scott and Karen Bieber*

*In memory of Shirley Levick, beloved mother of
Honey Bronson - Robert and Beth Footlik*

*In memory of Albert Ferencz, beloved father -
Robert and Marla Ferencz*

In memory of Maurice Raizes, beloved husband of Sandra Raizes

- Susan Dickman
- Robert and Roberta Goldman
- David and Pamela Hirschfield

In memory of Joseph Goldberg, beloved father - Louis and Barbara Kahn

In memory of Joyce Saffir, beloved mother of Ken Saffir

- Michael and Betsy Katz
- William and Wendy Lipsman

In memory of Dr. Leonard Favus, beloved father - Michael and Phyllis Sadoff

In memory of Naomi Favus, beloved mother - Michael and Phyllis Sadoff

In memory of Maita Sadoff, beloved mother - Michael and Phyllis Sadoff

In memory of Sam Sadoff, beloved father - Michael and Phyllis Sadoff

In memory of Lester Sadoff, beloved brother - Michael and Phyllis Sadoff

In memory of Jack Warshawsky, beloved husband - Eileen Warshawsky

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

In memory of Yetta Stark, beloved mother - Natalie Weinstein

In memory of Sarah Ehrlich, beloved mother - Pearl Zaid

In memory of Esther Lauter, beloved sister - Pearl Zaid

In memory of Ann Block, beloved mother - Frances Lee Zand and Pendri Shalem

In memory of Maurice Raizes, beloved uncle, and beloved husband of Sandra Raizes - Steven Raizes

In memory of Betty Fox Jacobson Levi, beloved mother of Nadine Woldenberg and Gail Cooper - Renee Zussman

Paul S. and Sylvia Steinberg Pre-School Fund

In honor of Mort Steinberg's special birthday - Amy and Dennis Pessis

In honor of the birth of Sarit Pogofsky's grandson, Lior
- Steinberg Pre-school Staff

- Ira and Deborah Rosenberg

In honor of Mort Steinberg's 75th birthday - David and Judy Weiss

In honor of the birth of Nina and Mark Gaines' granddaughter - Keith and Cheryl Weitzman

In memory of Abram Szwaiger, beloved father - Martin and Yolanda Schachter

With appreciation for a great Challah Bake - Rachel Powers

Prayer Book Fund

In honor of the engagement of Amy Rubinoff, daughter of Rochelle and Earl Rubinoff - Allan and Hilary Greenberg

In honor of the marriage of Perri Kramer, daughter of Bernard Kramer and Jill Weinberg - Allan and Hilary Greenberg

In honor of the marriage of Hazzan Ben Tisser to Robyn Sack - Alvin and Elinor Bayliss

In honor of Doreen and Phil Feitelberg's 60th wedding anniversary - David and Madeleine Solomon

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

In memory of Joyce Saffir, beloved mother of Ken Saffir - Allan and Hilary Greenberg

In memory of Sidney Fraelick, beloved cousin - Marvin and Renee Bearak

In memory of Bella Lazarus, beloved mother - Philip and Carol Lazarus

In memory of Robert Gerstein, beloved father - Mark and Julia Gerstein

In memory of Leonard Weitzman, beloved father - Keith and Cheryl Weitzman

In memory of Maurice Raizes, beloved husband of Sandra Raizes - Bertram Hamilton

With appreciation to Jeffrey Goldsmith for organizing the Gabbai Gadol schedule - Steven and Frances Shapiro

Ritual Refurbishment Endowment Fund

In honor of Adam becoming a Bar Mitzvah and with appreciation to Hazzan Barnett - David and Jenna Smiley

In memory of Benjamin Levenson, beloved father - Jack and Barbara Blumberg

In memory of Esther Schiffman, beloved grandmother - Jack and Barbara Blumberg

Sarah and Henry Stiebel Solomon Schechter Endowment Fund

In honor of Jan Channon's special birthday - Sandy Starkman and Larry Pachter

In honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Bob and Beth Footlik's grandson, Aiden Zukerman - Sandy Starkman and Larry Pachter

In honor of Maury Fertig on his special birthday - Sandy Starkman and Larry Pachter

Senior Rabbinic Chair Endowment Fund

In honor of Stuart Hochwert's 60th birthday - Michelle, Josh, and Lucas Newman

Social Action Fund

In memory of Shirley Levick, beloved mother of Honey Bronson

- Edward and Paulette Margulies

- Richard and Pam Schlosberg

In memory of Marilyn Kaplan, beloved mother of Lisa Rosenkranz

- Richard and Pam Schlosberg

- Bobbie and Len Tenner

Staff Recognition Fund

With appreciation to the NSS Beth El staff - Gail and Andrew Brown

Tzedakah/Pushke Fund

In memory of Maurice Raizes, beloved husband of Sandra Raizes - Millie Weber

In memory of Robert Krumstok, beloved husband of Sheila Krumstok - Millie Weber

In memory of Mariasse Kurchitzer, beloved grandmother - Millie Weber

In memory of Anna Pathman, beloved aunt - Millie Weber

June/July/August Events at a Glance

Currently, clergy and staff are brainstorming exciting virtual, and possibly some outdoor socially distanced events that will take place in June July and August. Stay Tuned!

We encourage you to read carefully through the Thursday Kol Beth El weekly email to find out what the events will be, and when they will happen. Additionally, services, candle lighting, and all weekly events and their Zoom links will always be posted at:

<https://www.nssbethel.org/about/nssbehome/>.

If you are currently not receiving Beth El emails, or have any questions about programming and events, please contact Director of Communications, Abby Lasky at alasky@nssbethel.org.

If you have any issues using a link, or connecting on Zoom, please contact Executive Director, Jeff Baden at jbaden@nssbethel.org.

Beth El Keeps Smiling for “Porchtraits”

By Mira Temkin, Porchtrait Coordinator

In an effort to make an impact on the Covid 19 Pandemic, Beth El congregants stepped up to the plate for a community fundraiser. Held over two days, photographer Larry Engelhart of DejaViews generously contributed his time and talents without charge to take beautiful pictures in exchange for a contribution to the Moraine Township Food Pantry in Highland Park. Almost 30 families participated and more than \$1400 was raised. Additionally, The

NSS Beth El Sisterhood is donating several hundred dollars of Jewel gift cards.

“With so many low-income hourly workers in the service industry being laid off, we are experiencing a surge in residents’ need for Township help, both food and rent,” said Anne Flanigan Bassi, Supervisor. “We received 33 applications for emergency rent assistance since April 1.”

Bassi continued, “Thanks to generous donations from the community, we are also distributing gift cards from Jewel and Sunset to help registered pantry clients purchase food items since the pantry is closed to shopping.”





Grill Like a BOSS with Chef Laura Frankel



I love to grill. I love building the fire just the right way and managing the food so that each piece is perfectly charred. I love the flavor, the aromas and the quiet, contemplative work. In my restaurants, I was always happy to work the grill station, no matter how busy that job can be on a crowded night.

This year, more than ever, I can't wait to get outdoors. I need to feel normal and for me, firing up the grill, managing fire and cooking outdoors is just what I need NOW!

If you are new to grilling or are intimidated by the prospect of burning your dinner, no worries. You got this!



Salsa Verde

- 1-pound tomatillos, papery skin removed and rinsed
 - 4 large garlic cloves, sliced
 - 1 jalapeno, stemmed, seeded and minced
 - 1 small white onion, diced and rinsed in cold water (the water will take some of the "bite" out of the onion)
 - ½ cup chopped cilantro, or parsley
 - 1 teaspoon sea salt
 - 2 tablespoons fresh lime juice
 - 1 good "glug" of extra virgin olive oil
1. Grill or broil tomatillos until charred on all sides.

2. In a food processor, pulse tomatillos, garlic and jalapeno until a chunky paste has formed.
3. By hand, fold in onion, cilantro, salt and lime juice. Adjust seasoning with salt and lime juice if desired.

Crispy Skin Salmon

Grilling fish can be traumatic. The darn fish wants to stick to the grates. Attempts to turn the fish results in stuck on fish and trauma and drama ensue. This fish recipe takes the drama and trauma out of fish grilling. No turning the fish! Just you looking like a GRILL BOSS with perfectly cooked and crispy skin salmon.

- 4 to 6-ounce salmon filets, skin on, patted dry (I wait all year for wild salmon season—starting NOW. Alaskan wild salmon is rich in Omega 3 fatty acids, better tasting and just a more sustainable product than the farmed counter-parts)



- Extra virgin olive oil
- Sea salt
- Freshly cracked black pepper
- 1 lime, cut in half

1. Preheat grill to medium. Clean and oil grill grates once the grill is hot. (I keep a towel just for rubbing the grates with evoo).
2. Brush salmon skin with evoo and season both sides with salt and pepper. Place salmon, skin-side down on preheated grill. Cover and do not touch the salmon for 6-8 minutes until skin is charred and flesh is opaque.
3. Gently transfer salmon to a platter and squeeze each filet with lime juice.
4. Serve salmon with Salsa Verde.

Watermelon and Lime Agua Fresca

- 8 cups cubed watermelon
 - 1 cup water
 - Zest and juice of 1 lime
 - 2 tablespoons sugar (optional)
 - Garnish: lime slices, fresh mint, tequila (!)
1. Puree watermelon in batches with water. Strain mixture through a fine mesh sieve.



2. Stir in lime zest and juice and sugar if using. Chill before serving.

Elote

Elote (Mexican Street Corn) is so NOW! And no wonder, it is simply Corn on the Cob 2.0!

Flavored with smoky cumin, chili powder, fresh lime and brushed with crema (Mexican sour cream), mayo and coated with cheese making the corn insanely flavorful and savory. This makes plain old corn on the cob look so... ho-hum.

- 4 ears corn—husked
- ¼ cup melted butter
- Sea salt
- Freshly cracked black pepper
- ½ cup crema or sour cream
- ½ cup good quality mayo
- 1 tablespoon chili powder
- 2 teaspoons cumin
- 1 cup grated parmesan cheese
- 2 limes cut into wedges

1. Preheat grill to medium-high. Brush corn with butter and season with salt and pepper. Clean and oil grill.
2. Grill corn on each side for about 5 minutes per side until slightly charred and the kernels look bright yellow.



3. While the corn is grilling, mix crema or sour cream and mayo in a tall glass. Mix chili powder and cumin in a small bowl. Place cheese on a plate.
4. Once corn is grilled, dip an ear into cream/sour cream mixture. Shake off excess. Sprinkle with cumin mixture and roll in cheese. Transfer to platter. Continue with remaining corn. Generously squeeze fresh lime over corn and serve.