



The Sacred Seder: A Touchstone of Meaning

By Rabbi Michael Schwab

Everyone waxes nostalgic at times. Some of us do it quite often. We look into our past and we relive a powerful experience, a meaningful event, or a cherished time. Such reflection often brings us comfort and it can reconnect us with what is most important to us in our lives. Many kinds of occasions can become the subject of nostalgia but, more often than not, most represent times when we were surrounded by people we love, at moments of significance, especially during times of joy.

For me, the Passover seder unfailingly sends me into the world of nostalgia. Years of past Sedarim cycle through my head. Precious memories of times spent with family

members, some of whom who are no longer alive and some of whom who are no longer able to be part of my seder, suddenly become tangible and vivid. I can smell the food, hear the laughter and feel the warmth. Through the experience of these memories I reconnect with my own past, with my treasured relationships, with my personal family history and with my Jewish heritage, all at once, in an emotionally compelling way.

While many of us complain about the lack of bread and the poor taste of matzah, the reality is that this is one of the most meaningful and most celebrated holidays on the Jewish calendar. Much of that, I believe, stems from the powerful entwining of our personal memories with the collective memory of our people. This is a holiday, which, perhaps like no other, actively builds Jewish identity and connects us as individuals to the on-going story of the Jewish people. "I" becomes "We". Our family customs become intertwined with the ancient customs of our ancestors. Our present intermingles with our past – creating a new and powerful

future. The Passover seder, in many ways, acts as our Jewish compass helping us to better understand who we are and, therefore, serves to guide us to where we need to go.

Every year I tell anyone who will listen that the more one puts into the preparations for the seder night, the more one will get out if it in return. Making the content of the Seder interesting, interactive, meaningful and fun allows the Seder experience to go even beyond a wonderful meal with family and

friends (already a great foundation). With some forethought, participants can come away with a deeper appreciation for their freedoms, a greater understanding of the Jewish past, a deeper connection to their family history and a greater affinity for their Jewish identity. Any time we

have the opportunity to engage in Jewish identity building and family bonding, we should seize it! And the seder night might be the greatest opportunity for many of us each year.

Jewish education is crucial, Jewish camping is wonderful, and synagogue life is essential. However, a vibrant and meaningful Jewish home life is also vital to the continuation of the Jewish people. So please, wax nostalgic in advance of the Passover holiday, remember what made your sedarim of the past so meaningful and help create memories that will sustain you and the participants at your table well into the future. And if you don't have nostalgia for past Passovers, there is no time like the present to create an experience worthy of such memories! Feel free to consult with me or Rabbi Freedman on wonderful resources to enhance your seder, especially in a year when we still may need to conduct our sederim virtually. Whatever you do, I wish you a meaningful Passover filled with memorable moments, which can help each person connect in a lasting way with our beautiful tradition. Hag Sameah – Have a Happy Passover holiday!



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

President's Corner	2
Shabbat & Holiday Schedule.....	3
Notes from Hazzan.....	4
Informal Education.....	5
Formal Education.....	5
Cultural & Learning Center	6
Ritually Speaking.....	6
Development	7
Pre-School	7
Youth Community	8
Security and Building Updates.....	9
Sisterhood.....	10
Sisterhood Gift Shop	10
Men's Club.....	11
Israel Week	11
Pesach Service Times	12
Form to Sell Hametz	12
Pesach Programs	13
Passover Supplement	14
Membership.....	16
Season of Mitzvah	16
All in the Beth El Family	17
Todah Rabbah	18
Environment	23
HAZAK.....	24
Love Your Neighbor	24
B'nai Mitzvah Students.....	25
A Day with Sofer.....	25
March/April/May Events.....	26
Chef Laura on Maror	28

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Preparing for the Year Ahead

By Ron Goldberg, NSS Beth El President



My friends,

It is my prayer that by the time you read this, many of us are vaccinated and a degree of normalcy has begun to return to our lives. In the meantime, we are busy preparing for all contingencies.

There are so many exciting new initiatives going on, as well as the work that always comes to us at this time of the year.

They include:

- **Hazzan Search** – Our search for a new Hazzan is in full swing as of this writing. We hope to complete the process in the spring and will be keeping you informed along the way.
- **Annual Budget Preparation** – The budgeting process for the 2021/2022 Fiscal Year is under way. Our current plan is to operate under a Contingency Budget, much the same as we did this year. By the way, we forecast that we'll finish this year in a good place. By that I mean our revenues will be higher, and our expenses lower than we planned for in our Contingency Budget. That being said, we will finish at levels below our original, pre-Covid Budget plan.

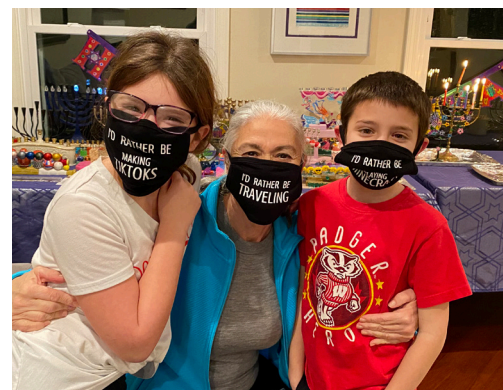
- **New Slate of Officers and Board Members** – The Nominating Committee is well along in their work and we will be announcing the new Board and Executive Committee roster in March.
- **The Annual Meeting** will be Thursday May 13th. At the meeting, you will hear from our incoming President, welcome our new Board and Exec Members, and say thanks to those who are completing their term of service.
- **Honoring our Covid-19 Heroes** – our Annual Fundraiser on April 25. So excited about this! So many members, staff and clergy have gone above and beyond to help get us through this most difficult period in our lives. We will honor them on April 25th. Please look for information on how you can Honor our Covid Heroes. Remember to save the date!
- **Beth El-wide Member Outreach** – Along these lines, HAZAK, Social Action and a wonderful group of volunteers have been touching the lives of about 200 of our senior members every week! From making an occasional delivery to simply checking in and saying hi, they have

continued on page 9

Recent Happenings at Beth El



Beth El members celebrating Hanukkah



Outdoor Storytime in the Steinberg Preschool with Mrs. Kamin



HAZAK Deliveries



Shabbat 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.

Check out Livestream page on our website for Shabbat Services.

Clergy:

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

Every Shabbat

9:00 am Shacharit Service

10:30 am Junior Congregation

Services for students in 2nd - 6th grade

11:00 am Tot Shabbat

Year round services for families with children 1st grade and younger.

Please note:

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

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

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

March

Friday, March 5

5:28 pm Candle Lighting
6:00 pm Kabbalat Shabbat

Saturday, March 6

Shabbat Parah
Parashat Ki Tisa
9:00 am Shabbat Service
6:30 pm Shabbat Ends
6:30 pm Ma'ariv
6:30 pm Young Family Programming
In-Person Havdalah Dance Party
6:50 pm Havdalah

Friday, March 12

5:36 pm Candle Lighting
6:00 pm Kabbalat Shabbat

Saturday, March 13

Shabbat Hachodesh
Parashat Vayakhel-Pekudei
9:00 am Shabbat Service
6:38 pm Shabbat Ends
6:40 pm Ma'ariv
7:00 pm Havdalah

Friday, March 19

6:00 pm Kabbalat Shabbat
6:44 pm Candle Lighting

Saturday, March 20

Parashat Vayikra
9:00 am Shabbat Service
7:46 pm Shabbat Ends
7:50 pm Ma'ariv
8:10 pm Havdalah

Friday, March 26

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

Saturday, March 27

Erev Passover
Shabbat Hagadol
Parashat Tzav
9:00 am Shabbat Service
7:54 pm Shabbat Ends/
Festival Candle Lighting

Please Note: for Shavuot schedule please turn to page 11.

For a complete schedule of Festival Holiday service times for Pesach, please turn to page 12.

April

Friday, April 2

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

Saturday, April 3 7th Day of Passover

9:00 am Festival Service
8:01 pm Candle Lighting/
Ma'ariv

Friday, April 9

6:00 pm Kabbalat Shabbat
7:08 pm Candle Lighting

Saturday, April 10

Parashat Shmini
9:00 am Shabbat Service
8:11 pm Shabbat Ends
8:15 pm Ma'ariv
8:35 pm Havdalah

Friday, April 16

6:00 pm Kabbalat Shabbat
7:16 pm Candle Lighting

Saturday, April 17

Parashat Tazria-Metzora
9:00 am Shabbat Service
8:20 pm Shabbat Ends
8:20 pm Ma'ariv Service
8:40 pm Havdalah

Friday, April 23

6:00 pm Kabbalat Shabbat
7:23 pm Candle Lighting

Saturday, April 24

Parashat Achrei Mot-Kedoshim
9:00 am Shabbat Service
8:28 pm Shabbat Ends
8:30 pm Ma'ariv Service
8:50 pm Havdalah

Friday, April 30

6:00 pm Kabbalat Shabbat
7:31 pm Candle Lighting

May

Saturday, May 1

Parashat Emor
9:00 am Shabbat Service
8:37 pm Shabbat Ends
8:40 pm Ma'ariv Service
9:00 pm Havdalah

Friday, May 7

6:00 pm Kabbalat Shabbat
7:39 pm Candle Lighting

Saturday, May 8

Parashat Behar-Bechukotai
9:00 am Shabbat Service
8:46 pm Shabbat Ends
8:50 pm Ma'ariv
9:10 pm Havdalah

Friday, May 14

6:00 pm Kabbalat Shabbat
7:46 pm Candle Lighting

Saturday, May 15

Parashat Bamidbar
9:00 am Shabbat Service
8:55 pm Shabbat Ends
8:55 pm Ma'ariv
9:15 pm Havdalah

Friday, May 21

6:00 pm Kabbalat Shabbat
7:53 pm Candle Lighting

Saturday, May 22

Parashat Nasso
9:00 am Shabbat Service
9:03 pm Shabbat Ends
9:05 pm Ma'ariv Service
9:25 pm Havdalah

Friday, May 28

6:00 pm Kabbalat Shabbat
8:00 pm Candle Lighting

Saturday, May 29

Parashat Beha'alotcha
9:00 am Shabbat Service
9:10 pm Shabbat Ends
9:10 pm Ma'ariv Service
9:30 pm Havdalah

Music

Notes from Hazzan Tisser



It's hard to believe that we have been living in this mostly virtual world for almost a full year. When I reflect on all we have experienced, all we have learned, all we have accomplished, it's pretty astonishing. It's been challenging knowing that we are all so separate, but we have found and taken advantage of as many opportunities as we are able to come together. Perhaps more than ever before, this is why I love the springtime, with all of its opportunities to come together and feel the closeness of family and community – even if only virtually.

In a period of seven weeks we have two major Festivals and four more modern celebrations, as well as special days on our secular calendar, which offer us opportunities to celebrate.

One two-day period in particular stands out in my mind – the days we know as Yom HaZikaron (Israel's Memorial Day for Fallen Soldiers and Victims of Terror), and Yom Ha'Atzma'ut (Israel's Independence Day). Each day has a very different tenor – bringing families, communities, and the Jewish people together in very different ways and for different reasons – and yet there is something that has always been so moving to me about each day individually, and the very blurry line between them. Just as the sun sets on Yom HaZikaron, the celebrations begin for Yom Ha'Atzma'ut. It's as if we are required to flip a switch that changes the national mood from one of somber recollection to the most incredible celebration.



This year we will have the opportunity to experience this transition – not in the same way we would if we were in Israel, where the entire country literally moves from a day in the cemetery to a 24-hour party in the streets -- but in a very moving way. We will have a week-long celebration of Israel with events for our members of all ages – lectures, cultural events, and even virtual tours of Israel! At the center of it all will be an evening of memory and celebration. On Wednesday, April 14th (our apologies to our CPA friends!),

we will begin with songs of memory, and will have the opportunity to hear from a former IDF Soldier about his experiences. We will then share in a special Havdalah ceremony, guiding the emotional shift as one day turns to another, and then share in a special sing-a-long concert featuring our NSSBE House Band playing our favorite songs of Israel! I sincerely hope you will join us for this and the other events.

I hope that over these weeks of festivals, commemorations, and celebrations – as winter turns to spring and summer – we take as much advantage as we are able of the opportunities we have to come together.

I wish you a happy and Kosher Pesach, and a wonderful rest of the programming year!

Tu Bish'vat Seder and Grazing Box at Beth El



Informal Education



Days of Gratitude

By Ali Drumm, Director of Informal Education

"Snowflakes that stay on my nose and eyelashes...silver white winters that melt into springs...these are a few of my favorite things." I'm cuddled up on the couch, watching *The Sound of Music* with my children as they hum along. We're building snowmen and sledding together.

There are mugs of hot chocolate and crackling fires. And I am so very grateful. For our warm home. For

our togetherness. For the opportunity to appreciate these things and understand that we are very very lucky and blessed. My children help me to see the magic and wonder in the change of seasons, the sprouting of parsley seeds in a small indoor pot, the majesty of the natural world. For them, but even more for me, Judaism is an important gratitude clock that reminds

us multiple times a day to be grateful, to be thankful for what we have, and to use that grateful energy to spark the good we can do.

In the midst of this strange year, several Jewish organizations joined together to guide each other on a journey to



help us notice and celebrate the blessings in our lives.

For three days each month, this pop-up community offers extra exercises to increase resilience and hope at a time when we may need them most. It's called Days of Gratitude. There are activities you can access from the Jewish months of Tevet and Shevat, or you can join now to receive prompts, resources and activities designed to increase resilience and find hope.

Days of Gratitude is framed around the Jewish tradition of blessings and seeks to ground us in the moments that matter, help us count our blessings, and bless what really counts. By marking these moments, we hope to become more attuned to the good around us and see ourselves as part of a more just, compassionate, and engaged world. In May 2021, Days of Gratitude will culminate with a seven-day worldwide celebration of gratitude, leading up to the festival of Shavuot.

By celebrating Shabbat and holidays together, learning something in a class or reading a Jewish book, by relishing the flavor of a new recipe- we can stop and use this slowed down time to savor the pleasures and opportunities we have, and to spend our days in gratitude.

To join Days of Gratitude yourself, go to <https://gratitudedays.com/join/>

Formal Education



Spring Will Blossom Again

By Dr. Alicia Gejman, Director of Formal Education

We are entering the last stretch of this most unusual academic year with hopes for renewal, healing, and mutual support. As our national Hebrew poet Chaim Nachman Bialik reminds us in his poem Tzanach Lo Zalzal – A Long Bough – "Spring will blossom again." We plan to celebrate and commemorate the Jewish spring holidays adding new meanings and understandings to reflect our collective trauma caused by the pandemic. Past Jewish literary creations, such as the Pesach Haggadah, Holocaust literary creations, and Israeli literature, will once again provide us an anchor and help us heal by developing our sensitivity to suffering and by showing us ways to overcome challenges.

Our students are engaged in meaningful projects connecting to our rich Jewish history and the people of Israel. To this effect, we conducted several virtual field trips to Israel to connect with the people and the land. Our

students communicated with Jewish students in Berlin and exchanged pictures and poems for Hanukkah.

Our sixth-grade students are participating again in the My Family Story Exhibition by the Beit Hatfutsot Museum. The seventh graders participate in the Generation to Generation (G2G) program sponsored by Beit Hatfutsot where two different generations interact via high tech and history. Our students are paired with older family adults: students share hi-tech and apps knowledge, while the adults relay the value of personal and collective narratives.

Our Challah Bake activity will bring parents, grandparents, and other relatives to teach children how to continue this tradition.

Our students are putting the final touches on two six-foot Mezuzot that will be affixed in the school wing.

Our high school students are diving deep into thought-provoking discussions on Jewish ethics. This enriching experience is made possible by the coming together of teens, clergy, and educational directors from four synagogues.

We are proud of our students for showing tremendous resilience and wit. Thank you to our parents for trusting our staff to continue our educational mission during these trying times. A heartfelt thanks to the entire school staff for their creativity and positive outlook as we navigate the new educational reality.

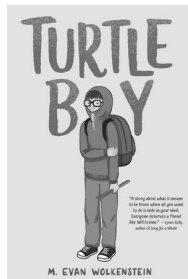
I wish you a fruitful and hopeful spring ahead!

And the Winners Are...

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



When the children's book awards were announced last month, I let out a scream: "WE TOLD YOU SO!" You see, after my 11 year old and I listened to the audio-book of ***Turtle Boy* by Evan Wolkenstein** last summer, I posted this in my 5-star review: "When this book wins one of the major Jewish literary awards, you can all say that Evan and I predicted it back in August!" And guess what? *Turtle Boy* won the 2021 Sydney Taylor Book Award from the Association of Jewish Libraries! In this middle-grade debut, Will's Bar Mitzvah project helps him face challenges in his own life. Bullied at school and a loner, he completes a



bucket list of milestone activities for a terminally ill boy and gains the strength to face his own upcoming surgery. I'm so excited that all of the 4th -7th graders at Beth El received a copy of the book for Hanukkah and will have the opportunity to meet Evan Wolkenstein during our annual Family Book Club on **Sunday, March 7 at 10:00 am**. All are welcome - adults too!

***Welcoming Elijah: A Passover Tale with a Tail* by Lesléa Newman**, illustrated by Susan Gal, was the winner in the picture book category. This warmly illustrated, poetic book parallels the experiences of a young boy at the seder and a small kitten outside. Anybody who has ever opened the door for Elijah will relish this charming, magical,



heart-warming story.

***Dancing at the Pity Party* by Tyler Feder** was the winner in the Young Adult category. This debut graphic memoir is a funny, sad, confidently illustrated meditation on grief. It's both a tribute to Tyler's wonderful mom, who died of breast cancer at the age of 47, and a guide to Jewish mourning practices.



Copies of *Turtle Boy*, *Welcoming Elijah*, *Dancing at the Pity Party*, and all of the Sydney Taylor Honor and Notable Books, are available in our Pinsof Children's Reading Room. Contact rka-min@nssbethel.org to request a copy.

Ritual Director



Ritually Speaking: Tip Top Torahs

By Hazza Barbara Barnett, Ritual Director

The Jewish people (that would be us) are often called "am ha-sefer," People of the Book. The most important "book" to us is the Torah; we read it four times weekly, a new portion of it each week, on holidays and other observance days during the year.

The Torah is a gift, given at Mount Sinai, to be our inheritance generation upon generation. But it is a gift that can't be neglected nor taken for granted, but must be used, studied, turned and turned to grasp at the meanings and subtext that weave in and throughout its words and ornamented letters, which seem to leap from the scroll, living and vibrant, inscribed by hand on kosher parchment with care and skill.

But it is not only the teachings and content of Torah that must be preserved, but the scrolls themselves. The Torah scroll must be perfect—no faded, missing or misshapen letters—in order to be used and read publicly during services. Many of our Torahs are

close to 100 years old!

They have been around for generations, and to make sure they are passed down for generations to come, every once-in-awhile, it's important to make



sure the Torahs are in tip-top, perfect condition—before we encounter a problem in the middle of a Shabbat morning Torah reading (for example). Over the course of time, we identified through use several NSS Beth El Torahs we knew were in need of repair—some minor, some major, and although we had enough Torahs, what would

happen if we found another rendered "pasul" (not-kosher).

So, what's a shul to do?

The very week after we read in the Torah about the giving of the Torah at Mount Sinai in the Torah portion called Yitro, we invited master sofer (a very specialized type of scribe—and as he calls himself, a "Holy Roller") Rabbi Moshe Druin to evaluate NSS Beth El's Torahs and institute the repairs he could over a two-day visit so we will have a plenty of Kosher Torahs to serve the community for years to come.

You might think, perhaps, that five Torahs seem like a lot of scrolls when we read one portion a week. But there are Shabbatot and other times of the year, when we read from three Torahs in one service! That happens every year on Simchat Torah, and this year, when Shabbat Hanukkah and a special Shabbat called Shabbat Shekalim both coincided with Rosh Chodesh (the

Continued on page 13, photos on page 25

Membership & Development



Join Us in Honoring our Beth El COVID-19 Heroes

By Judy Berkeley, Membership & Development Director

Save the date for Beth El's Annual Fundraiser: Honoring our COVID-19 Heroes!

We will honor the many individuals who have worked to support our community during this challenging year.

Honorees include the Hazak Caring Community committee and volunteers, Bikkur Cholim committee and volunteers, the Medical Task Force, the Social Action committee and volunteers and Beth El's Education staff and teachers.

The event itself will take place via Zoom on **Sunday, April 25 at 4 pm**

Please visit event website (under Donate tab) to become a sponsor, place an ad in our Honoree Ad Book and donate!



We are all in need of a little laughter so the event will feature comedian Joel Chasnoff performing, "The Jokes

Or honor the memory of a loved one lost. Do so via any of the donation levels.



All Bonim donors and sponsors of \$1,000 and above will be invited to a special pre-event program with Joel Chasnoff. Sponsorships of \$1,000 and above also include dinners for 2 or 4 from Circle of Life Catering delivered on the date of

the event. Don't miss out. Become a sponsor now!

Many thanks to our event Co-Chairs:

Annette & Jerry Blumberg
Allie & David Davidson
Maryl & Medwin Dayan
Stephanie & Jordan Goldstein
Andrea & Ben Leshem
Sandy Starkman & Larry Pachter

To register, and for complete event committee and honoree lists go to: nssbethel.org/2021-annual-event/

Pre-School



What a Difference a Year Makes

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

It was just about a year ago when we went from enjoying a Pirate themed Purim Schpiel to planning Passover Seders via Zoom!

Last year our teachers made a Passover themed video to connect with our pre-school families and teach our pre-schoolers about Passover.

This year we are grateful to be together again, giving children the opportunity to make some of their favorite Passover keepsakes!

It was a year ago that we went from bringing in Shabbat by singing and dancing with our Rabbis, Hazzan and Song leaders to tuning into a weekly Shabbat Zoom so that the Pre-School community could bring in Shabbat together.

Last year our Shabbat celebrations included a community singalong and welcoming Shabbat guests to our classrooms.

This year while we can't welcome Shabbat guests into our classrooms,



we have a new mystery reader program where Shabbat guests join the class via Zoom!

It was a year ago that our halls went from the sounds of children singing and laughing to utter silence.

Last year, our teachers learned how to teach through a screen and our children learned to mute and unmute themselves.

This year, we are thrilled to be learning and teaching in person and though our process looks a little different... we are back!

Our halls are once again filled with the sounds of children at play...

And, our teachers are all in the process of being vaccinated...

We are moving forward.

Our Summer Camp and Fall Pre-School registrations are open and filling up!

Please call us at (847)432.2830 to register.

We can't wait to welcome you and your family to our Pre-School community.

With a light at the end of the tunnel, we can once again do what we do best... create a safe space for children to grow and learn and share our love of Jewish holidays and Jewish values.

From Backyards and Beyond

By Sarah Topal, Youth Community Director



Each bulletin is an opportunity for the Youth Department to highlight programs and individuals in our community. The past few months have proven to be challenging in exploring how to create and maintain relationships. The youth community is continuing to explore how to find meaningful connections, and we have invited kids of all ages to connect with the youth department (and others) in new ways.

In coordination with Beth El's theme of the year, Love your Neighbor as Yourself, we have invited our middle school cohort to join together with other kids their age to form new relationships and friendships around the Chicago area. Nine of our 4th-7th graders applied and were selected to join a partnership with the Chicago Youth Center (CYC). CYC is a place that invests in youth in under-served communities to help them discover and realize their full potential. CYC provides Chicago children with resources, experiences and mentors to

pursue lives of endless possibility.

Prior to the program, our students expressed an interest in meeting new people in the Chicago area, learning about what it means to be a Peace Maker and a Peace Keeper, and showing off their creativity. In January, our students met with 8 children from the Chicago Youth Center where they participated in discussions, games, and showcased their creativity while exploring and learning about Dr. Martin Luther King. In small groups, relationships and friendships started to emerge, and a second session will occur in the spring focusing on the holiday of Passover.

New connections have also been made through a new initiative, Hot

Chocolate Shmooze. These wellness checks provide an opportunity to meet one-on-one with teens and tweens in their backyards for hot

chocolate. With hot chocolate bombs and mugs in hand, these short visits allow me to get to know more of our youth community and continue to learn about our incredible and diverse group of kids. From conversations about their interests, their passions and what they would love to see at Beth El, each check-in provides valuable and meaningful

information about how we can continue to grow our community.

If you know of someone who would be interested in arranging a hot chocolate schmooze, please reach out to Sarah at stopal@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 two of our seniors who were selected as Springboard's 18 under 18 honorees, Stephanie Kallish and Leah Seidman. 18 Under 18 is planned with support from the Jewish Teen Alliance of Chicago (JTAC).

Stephanie Kallish

Stephanie currently serves as USY International Israel Affairs Vice President and CHUSY regional Israel Affairs Vice President. She is a StandWithUs High School Intern, a Student to Student board member and is the president

of Highland Park High School's JSU (Israel Interest) club.

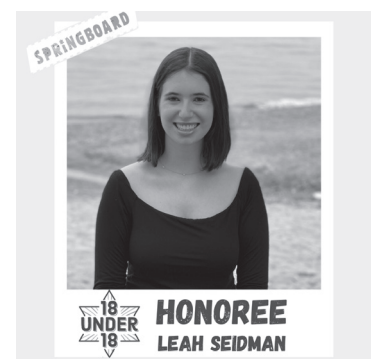
Leah Seidman

Leah is the Co-President of the HPHS Orchestra Leadership Board and a founding member of the HPHS Holocaust Remembrance Day Student Board. A proud member of NSS Beth El, she serves on the BEANS USY Board and works at the synagogue's library. Leah is so grateful for the Chicago Jewish community's investment in youth programming and education, which have allowed her to participate in amazing programs like Ta'am Yisrael, RTI, and the Diller Teen Fellowship.

Stephanie, Leah and the other hon-

orees will be recognized at a drive-in celebration on April 25th.

Know someone involved in the community? Let's celebrate them! Email Sarah at stopal@nssbethel.org with information.



Comfort, Health and Security a Top Priority

By Jeff Baden, Executive Director



Even though Beth El remains closed for regular programming and meetings, our maintenance team, headed by Facilities Manager John Patrascu and his crew, Edward Aronson, George Bora, and Michelle Fetea have been hard at work cleaning, painting, and making necessary repairs to the building so that everything will look great and work properly when we are finally able to resume normal operations.

Once we do reopen, you will see that everything is much brighter, especially the Cohen Religious School and Steinberg Pre-School, where we have replaced all lighting with energy efficient LED fixtures and bulbs. We have also added LED lighting to the Horwitz-Hoffman Youth Lounge and the Grossinger-Brickman Activity Room. As you enter the Joseph and Mae Gray Cultural & Learning Center, you will notice that the carpet on the Grand Staircase has been replaced with a beautiful carpet runner, and the woodwork has been completely restored, returning this unique feature of our building to something close to its

original grandeur. In addition, you will see that we have added new directional signage throughout the building.

Pre-pandemic, we received a very generous grant from the United States Department of Homeland Security. In January, we used the funds from this grant to install new access control systems for both our school and office entrances and added wheelchair accessible doors. We also added keypad access to all student classroom doors. In addition, we installed a new 20-camera security system, that allows us to monitor activity around the entire building and parking lot. All video cameras can be viewed by fixed monitors in the building as well as remotely on our computers, tablets, and even our phones. This system will allow our security personnel as well as the Highland Park Police to monitor our building as well. After the unfortunate riot at the Capitol in DC, I attended a security seminar hosted by the ADL. I was reminded that the safety and security of everyone can be greatly enhanced if our members sim-

ply remember, "if you see something out of place, please say something."

As COVID-19 continues to limit the number of congregants who may participate in our in-person services, we continue to make improvements to our video streaming systems in order to provide the best worship experience possible during these challenging times. If you are able to join us for a service or minyan at Beth El, I can assure you that our safety protocols have not wavered. We continue to clean regularly. Everyone is still required to wear a mask in the parking lot and throughout the building. All members and guests receive a temperature scan as they enter the building, and we continue to strictly adhere to all social distancing guidelines.

Everything mentioned above was done to ensure the comfort, health, and security of our membership, guests, clergy, and staff. I look forward to a time shortly when we can all be back together at Beth El!



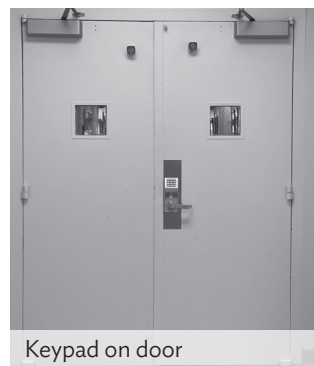
Completed Library Stairs



View from new cameras



Keypad entry



Keypad on door

Preparing for the Year Ahead continued from page 2

By Ron Goldberg

shown what a wonderful community we are blessed to belong to. Leading up to Passover, we will be reaching out to the entire congregation as we did last year. We look forward to saying hi and connecting with you!

• **Love Your Neighbor As Yourself** - I also want to mention our synagogue-wide initiative, Love Your Neighbor as Yourself.

Every area of our Shul is engaged in this endeavor towards seeking a just and equitable world. Please see our weekly Kol Beth El email where you can see the many activities related to this most worthy initiative, and how to join and participate.

• **Town Hall Meeting** - Finally, we are making preparations for another Town Hall Meeting. We'll update you on many

of these items, as well as our thoughts on safely opening the building to more members. We'll also touch on our early thinking and planning for the High Holidays.

As you can see, there is much to be proud and excited about at Beth El.

Be well my friends,
Ron



As you read this, we'll have been in "pandemic mode" for a full year. There's no question that this has been an extraordinarily devastating time to some degree for just about everyone. Even if we're still (hopefully) personally healthy, each of us is still part of a wider community, and what affects our neighbors – whether near or far – affects us.

Sisterhood is proud to have helped keep up the spirits of our congregants throughout these past months with an array of engaging programming. Along with most other organizations, we've moved to a fully remote platform and it's been an overwhelming success. Those of us who never thought of ourselves as "techies" are learning to use computers in ways we never anticipated.

We're enjoying welcoming in our little Zoom boxes participants whom we never saw when programming was in person. (No more excuses that we can't attend an event because we don't drive at night, our car is buried under snow or we're out of town!) This tragedy has also opened up the option for us to share classes, webinars and tours originating from around the world. Why didn't we think of this pre-COVID?

During this time, Sisterhood brought to Beth

El the wonderful teacher, Rabbi Marianne Novak, who shared the fascinating history of Jewish women's hair coverings and we heard about Jewish hereditary cancers from a Sarnoff Center for Jewish Genetics speaker. We co-sponsored our annual blood drive with Men's Club, as well as a fabulously fun and extremely well-attended virtual trivia night.

We traveled to Jerusalem for a Hanukkah stroll through the Jewish Quarter, the "Word Mavens" entertained us with stories about Yiddish and Hazzan Barnett shared her "Roadmap through the Siddur."

As I write this, Sisterhood is turning outward toward our wider community, raising funds for the ARK and MAZON via a Purim fundraiser, understanding that both organizations are in greater need of our help than ever before.

We also continue to collect for the "I Support the Girls" organization. We look forward in March to hosting Honey Bronson, RN, who will talk to us about the mitzvah of nourishing our minds and bodies, and to learning from Melissa Yaverbaum about Mah Jongg and its Jewish-American Roots.

In April, American University's Pamela Nadell will speak to us about America's Jewish Women from Colonial Times to Today. Beyond

that, additional meaningful programs are in the planning stage.

Here's hoping that we'll be able soon to come together in person, leaving behind all the negatives of this past year but holding on to the positives that have come out of it.

Sunday, April 25

10:00 am - 3:00 pm

Virtual Spring Conference, Central Great Lakes Region of the Women's League for Conservative Judaism

The theme for CGLR's virtual Spring Conference will be: "Our Journey Continues...Nourishing our Souls." Plan to



lace up your virtual walking shoes and join the sisterhoods from our seven-state region on the pathway for an amazing day. Guaranteed to recharge and reawaken your spirit! We're so proud that Pam Schlosberg will be installed as our CGLR President for 2021-24! There is no charge to attend. Questions, contact Karen Weiss - kbweiss1023@gmail.com.

Sisterhood Gift Shop

A Pause In The Ordinary Becomes The Extra Ordinary!

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

The glass doors of the Gift Shop are quite heavy. When we close them they whoosh and then clang together when they're ready to lock. We remember that sound last March when COVID required us to close those doors and shelter at home.

Remarkably, this pause in the ordinary has brought about the extra ordinary. Throughout the uncertainty of the days and months that followed, our Beth El Community's irrepressible spirit and deep caring for each other shaped our response to COVID, and our Jewish traditions provided our compass forward. And we have grown stronger.

We found that our bonds are deep, and together we created ways to connect, pray, learn, support each other, celebrate simchas and, though

virtual, have fun together. We continue to find ways to say "Yes" to life during this time of pause.

Our traditions remain our continuum — carrying us forward and connecting us with their teachings and timeless beauty. From the peace of Shabbat, marking the end of each week, to the holidays and festivals, they mark our path forward through the year. In this spirit, you have continued to refresh and enhance your observances. To respond to your needs and requests for beautiful Judaica and gifts, we reorganized and became your virtual resource!

Thank you for staying connected with us. Thank you for your continued support. Thank you for helping us sustain our financial commitment to Beth El and its many programs and services.



We look forward to continuing to be your personal shoppers, researching items, emailing or texting photos and prices, completing sales virtually and even delivering items to you if you need. We're a phone call away: Sulie (847-558-3389), Diane (847-571-5629) or Pam (847-433-7546).

Men's Club

Men's Club Corner

By Steve Coven, Men's Club President

Men's Club began 2021 with a well attended, online trivia night and a successful virtual World Wide Wrap. This past January, we partnered with the Sisterhood to bring back Brain Bash Trivia in a virtual format, which was loads of fun!! On February 7th, we had a nice turnout for the World Wide Wrap during morning minyan and we joined clubs from all over the country for an excellent joint program hosted by FJMC and Women's League for Conservative Judaism. Once again we have found ways to continue our annual traditions with a virtual twist.

On March 14th at 11:30, the Men's Club, in conjunction with the Illinois Holocaust Museum, will host a virtual tour of Mandela: Struggle for Freedom exhibit that will temporarily be on display at the museum. Men's Club made a generous donation to the museum this past year. The museum asked for the donation to be used to support the Mandela exhibit. In return they offered us a virtual tour led by one of their docents. Details to sign up and participate will be available in the Kol Beth El email and Men's Club newsletter.



Men's Club Shabbat will take place this year on **March 20th** but will be limited to participation in Shabbat services. Unfortunately, we will not be having our traditional Shabbat dinner and afterglow party, but we are investigating other ways to celebrate together. We are also exploring ways to host a Caveman dinner later in the year so we can take advantage of the warmer weather outdoors.



Zoom screen from World Wide Wrap

Israel Week

Connecting Live to Israel @73



Sunday, April 11th - 2:00 -4:00 pm

Drive through: say Hello to Beth El clergy/staff, and receive a Yom Ha'atzmaut toy/snack.

Monday, April 12th - 12:00 - 1:00 pm

Live virtual tour of Israel with Israeli tour guide Betsalel Steinhart.



Tuesday, April 13th - 12:00 - 1:30 pm

Make lunch with Israeli chef Gil Ackerman. Live over Zoom.

Wednesday, April 14th - 6:45-8:30 pm

Yom Hazikaron ceremony with transition to Yom Ha'atzmaut, with special guest: former IDF soldier Niv Levi. Live virtual concert to follow.



Thursday, April 15th - 12:00 - 1:00 pm



Catching up virtually with Rabbi Vernon and Bryna Kurtz, with a special appearance from Israeli Consul General Aviv Ezra.



Shavuot Schedule

Erev Shavuot Sunday May 16

7:48 pm: Candles
7:45 pm: Mincha/
Ma'ariv
Tikkun: Following the
service

1st day Shavuot Monday May 17

9:00 am Festival
services
8:56 pm: Candles
8:55 pm: Festival
Ma'ariv

2nd Day Shavuot Tuesday May 18

9:00 am: Festival
services
8:58 pm: Festival
ends
9:00 pm: Ma'ariv

Pesach Service Times

Thursday, March 25
Fast of the Firstborn/Bedikat Hametz

7:00 am – Morning Minyan followed by study session/Siyum Bechorim
7:30 pm – Ma'ariv (This evening search for the Hametz)

Friday, March 26 – Bi'ur Hametz (Burning of Hametz)

8:15 am Morning minyan – This morning burn the Hametz not being used for Shabbat by 11:54
6:00 pm – Kabbalat Shabbat/Ma'ariv
6:52 – Candle Lighting

Saturday, March 27 – Erev Pesach/ Pesach 1st Seder

9:00 am Shabbat Service
10:51 – Stop eating Hametz
11:53 – By this time all Hametz from Shabbat is removed from the home
7:00 pm – Ma'ariv
7:54 pm – Candle Lighting

Sunday, March 28
Pesach 1st Day/2nd Seder

9:00 am – Festival Service
7:55 pm – Candle Lighting/Ma'ariv

Monday, March 29
Pesach 2nd Day

9:00 am – Festival Service
7:56 pm – Yom Tov ends
8:00 pm – Ma'ariv

Tuesday, March 30
1st day of Hol Hamoed Pesach

7:30 am – Morning Minyan
7:30 pm – Evening Minyan

Wednesday, March 31st
2nd Day of Hol Hamoed Pesach

7:30 am – Morning Minyan
7:30 pm – Evening Minyan

Thursday, April 1
3rd Day of Hol Hamoed Pesach

7:30 am – Morning Minyan
7:30 pm – Evening Minyan

Friday April 2
4th Day of Hol Hamoed Pesach/ Erev Yom Tov

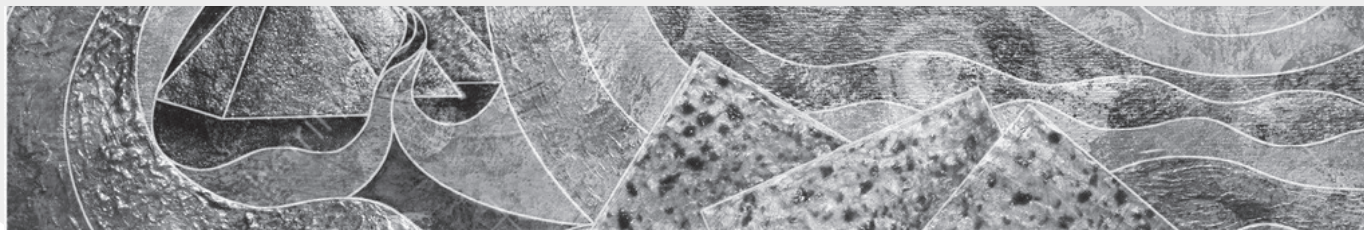
7:30 am – Morning Minyan
7:00 pm – Candle Lighting/Kabbalat Shabbat/Ma'ariv

Saturday April 3
Pesach 7th Day

9:00 am – Festival Service
8:01 pm – Candle Lighting/Ma'ariv

Sunday April 4
Pesach 8th Day/ Yizkor

9:00 am – Festival Service
8:03 pm – Yom Tov Ends
8:05 pm – Ma'ariv



Form to Sell Your Hametz

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

Detach and send to: Hazzan Barbara Barnett NSS Beth El, 1175 Sheridan Road, Highland Park, IL 60035 to arrive no later than Wednesday, March 24.

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

My home address is: _____

My office address is: _____

Signed: _____

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

Passover Virtual Programs 2021



Monday, March 15, 5:30 pm JKids Radio All-Star Musical Passover Seder

Join us for an unbelievable lineup of the very top artists in Jewish kids music including Nefesh Mountain, Rabbi Josh Warshawsky, Eliana Light, Shira Kline, Ellen Allard, Rick Recht, Joanie Leeds, and Elana Jagoda! During this highly-interactive seder experience, we'll sing traditional and contemporary songs, tell the Passover story, and explore the foods on the seder plate, the blessings, the questions, and the highlights of the Exodus - from slavery to freedom. Watch your email for registration information or contact Ali Drumm at adrumm@nssbethel.org.

Sunday, March 21, 1:00 pm "The Heroines of Passover" with Rabbi Freedman

Shifra, Puah, Bat Paroh, Yocheved, and Miriam . . . Who are these women who precede Moses and display heroic courage in Egypt, culminating in the Exodus? This text study will highlight the unique contributions of these remarkable characters. This class will make for a great conversa-

tion-starter at your Seder. Watch your email for registration information or contact Ali Drumm at adrumm@nssbethel.org.

Monday, March 22, 5:00 pm Chocolate Seder

All 2nd-7th graders are invited to a virtual Chocolate Seder! From four cups of chocolate milk to dipping strawberries in chocolate syrup, we guarantee you will be too full to eat dinner. Cost: \$18/kit (FREE for grades 8-12 who volunteer to help out). Most supplies will be delivered to you if you register by Monday, March 14! Watch your email for registration information or contact Sarah Topal at stopal@nssbethel.org to register.

Saturday, March 27 and Sunday, March 28 Let All Who Are Hungry Come and Eat

Looking to find a good seder to join? Able to bring others into your virtual seder? For First Seder, we would love to host you with a fellow Beth El congregant! Please reach out to Rabbi Freedman at afreedman@nssbethel.org to host or be hosted for a virtual first seder.

For Second Seder, we invite you to join the congregation for a community seder led by Hazzan Barbara Barnett, filled with joy, learning, many questions and Passover fun for all ages. For questions or to participate in leading, contact Hazzan Barnett bbarnett@nssbethel.org

Plus - Chef Laura will be offering Passover meals and sides to help fill your seder table and the days that follow. Watch for emails with menus and ordering information.

Wednesday, March 31, 8:00 pm Passover Treasures from the Rissman Family Kol Ami Museum

Experience a Passover "Show & Tell" after evening minyan with treasures from our Rissman Kol Ami Museum as well as congregants' own unique haggadot, seder plates, and other holiday Judaica. Contact Marcie Eskin at meskin@nssbethel.org for the Zoom link.

Ritually Speaking: Tip Top Torahs continued from page 6

By Hazzan Barbara Barnett, Ritual Director

festival of the new moon—which has its own special Torah reading whenever it comes up as well).

Rabbi Druin took over the Zell Activity Room, unrolling all the Torahs, covering tables nearly the length of the room with Torahs open to the air, partially unrolled. When I asked him why he did that, he explained that the one thing a Torah most needs for longevity is...Oxygen! First they all needed some air to breathe. Made of living material—animal hide parchment, they needed what every organic thing needs.

Some of you might have dropped by during his visit via Torah Cam to ask questions or simply observe Rabbi Druin at work. With keen eyes, a skilled hand, and years of experience Rabbi

Druin examined the Torah scrolls for their:

- Overall condition
- Readability and condition of the letters
- Cleanliness and condition of the parchment and the stitching between sections of parchment (did you know that the Torah is not one continuous piece of parchment but a series of hand-stitched-together panels?)
- The condition of our Atzei Chaim/Poles

At the end of his evaluation, Rabbi Druin left us with five usable Torahs and a game plan to continue the restoration work on the rest of the Torahs should we want to have more usable, Kosher Torahs.

Rabbi Druin's fascinating work and his wonderful explanations were documented by WGN's Mike Lowe, which aired in a segment on the news in mid-February (and which is available on our website for your viewing pleasure).

We have a great gift in our Torah, one to treasure in what it teaches us, and has taught us from the time of Sinai, the scrolls upon which the words of Torah are written must be cared for to keep them for generations to come.

Please turn to page 25 to see photos of Sofer Moshe Druin as he works on the Beth El Torahs in the Zell Activity Room.

Passover

Supplement – 2021/5781



Forbidden Foods

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

Permitted Foods

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

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

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

Dishes and Utensils

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

If you have specific questions, please contact our rabbis.

Bedikat Hametz (The Search For and Burning of Leaven)

On the evening of Thursday, March 25th, the Search for Leaven, Bedikat Hametz, is conducted. This is a ritual that symbolizes the final cleaning of the house of all Hametz. It is customary to place pieces of bread in various rooms around the house before the search begins – remember how many pieces there are and where they are hidden! The search is conducted with a candle for light and a feather and wooden spoon to collect the Hametz. The Hametz, feather and wooden spoon should be put in a bag and set aside to be burnt in the morning.

In the morning – this year on Friday, March 26 – after eating our last meal of Hametz, add any remains from breakfast to the bag of Hametz from the previous night, and burn them outside the home. This is the final act of removal of Hametz from our homes. Hametz not used on Shab-



bat should be burned by 11:54 am. The appropriate prayers for the search for and destruction of Hametz are found at the beginning of every Haggadah.

Mechirat Hametz (Sale of Hametz)

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

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

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

Please see Hazzan Barbara Barnett or use the form on page 12 to sell your Hametz. Please contact Barbara no later than Wednesday, March 24. A voluntary contribution should be made upon selling Hametz. All gifts will be added to our Maot Chitim fund.

Maot Chitim (Portions of Wheat)

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

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

Siyyum Bechorim (Fast of the Firstborn)

The ceremony of Siyyum Bechorim will take place following the morning minyan on Thursday, March 25 at 7:00 am, led by congregant Brad Pickard, who recently concluded a Tractate of Talmud. It is customary for the first-born male to fast on the day preceding Passover. In place of the fast, however, tradition developed the practice of concluding a portion of study of a Rabbinic text after which celebration and feasting takes place. The Siyyum Bechorim ceremony is the means of obviating the need for a fast. We encourage all first-born males to attend.

Membership

Engaging Members in Many of Ways

By Judy Berkeley, Membership & Development Director

As we enter March, it has now been a full year of living with the pandemic as a congregation – and as a nation, forcing us to shelter and stay apart.

We can't begin to tell you how much we've missed praying, singing, celebrating, learning and socializing together in person! We hope you have taken advantage of our online and "drive by" opportunities throughout the year, and we pray for the time

when we can be together again. In the meantime, we are trying to stay in touch with everyone as much as we can under the circumstances. Here is a recap:

During the week of Hanukkah we delivered welcome bags to twenty-five new members who have joined this past year.

We have embarked on our second Sulam engagement and leadership program, *Sulam for Purposeful Living for baby boomers*, led by Rabbi Alex Freedman and facilitated by me. Our class is 25 strong, and is being enjoyed by all. Stay tuned for more Sulam programs in the future!

We have been in touch with all of our college students as they've embarked on their second semesters. We have mailed them a Purim mishloach manot care package to let them know we're thinking of them, especially this year when many of them are feeling isolated with their continual online learning, either on campus or at home.

We also have two programs coming up this spring:

Sunday, April 11th, 9:30-10:30 am

During religious school, we will gather together all the parents and all new members who have joined us over the past three years for a check-in and

community discussion.

Sunday, May 23rd, time TBA

Join us for a community-wide walk! The entire Beth El community is invited to come for a walk around the neighborhood. Starting at Beth El, we will plant "stations" at neighborhood homes to welcome everyone on their driveways with treats! Please reach out to one of us if you live nearby and would willing to host a "station" for this special program!

Stacy Goldsmith (847)791-4887
slg724@gmail.com

Judy Berkeley (312)720-0045
jberkeley@nssbethel.org

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

Jessica Dubin & Oren Amram
Jennifer & Paul Schmidt and their children Ethan, Grayson & Jana
Bonnie Barest & Gary Miller



Sulam Zoom

A Season of Mitzvot - It's the Jewish Way

By Pam Schlosberg, Social Action

Judaism is a system of mitzvot that teach us that faith is a verb. Each mitzvah reflects an understanding of what it means to live a Jewish life.



Basic to our 613 mitzvot is the mandate of caring for one another. Rabbi Akiba said simply that all mitzvot were based on the concept of "Love your neighbor as yourself."

Responding to the needs of our community is our responsibility. It's the nurturing of compassion, caring, and sensitivity to needs of others that activates our Jewish values. Traditionally, our Beth El Community designated one day for a Mitzvah Day that focused on these basic values. We came together to work on projects that responded to the needs of our greater community

— whether making Linus blankets for children or providing gift boxes for our troops. This year, COVID-19 parameters prevent us from holding this in-person program.

Community needs, however, have no parameters or timeframes. Mitzvot teach us that Judaism is a religion of action, that what we do matters, and that we don't just contemplate truth, we live it.

So, the Social Action Committee identified a new way forward, a new vision — A Season of Mitzvot!

On Sunday, April 18, at 10:00 we will officially launch our Season of Mitzvot with an outdoor program that will be streamed as well. A panel presentation of inspiring leaders representing a wide range of agencies will share some insights on the critical needs in our greater community and how we all can

help. Rabbi Schwab will open and lead the presentation. For those attending in person, all social distancing parameters will be followed. Afterwards, we will offer the opportunity to participate in one or two projects. It's all good!

Each month thereafter, Social Action will help to focus our Beth El community on a number of opportunities where we can be of service and make a difference in the spirit reflected in words of Rabbi Jonathan Sacks (z"l), "There are those who see the world as it is and accept it...and those who see the world as it is and flee from it. But there are those who see the world as it is and change it. That is the Jewish way."

We invite you to be a part of the change — to bring your unique spirit and enthusiasm and join us as together we work to help those in need.

Mazel Tov to:

Laurel and Barry Abramowicz on the birth of their grandson, Dean Micha Gibbs and granddaughter, Maya Goldie Cahan

Sara and Steven Coven on the birth of their grandson, Noam Hillel Coven

Debby and Aaron Dworin on the birth of their granddaughter, Ella Rose Kehl

Joyce and Don Joseph on the birth of their granddaughter, Pearl Faith Joseph

Cynthia and Joseph Kaplan on the birth of their granddaughter, Scarlett Grant Kaplan

Eli Krumbein on the birth of his great-granddaughters, Ilana Nechama Siegal and Ella Rose Kehl

Ellen and Aaron Krumbein on the birth of their granddaughter, Ilana Nechama Siegal

Sheryl and Dan Perlman on the birth of their granddaughter, Willa Perl Maslan

Debbie and Oren Rasowsky on the birth of their son, Lev Gabriel Rasowsky

Merle and Sheldon Rosenfeld on the birth of their great-grandson, Noam Hillel Coven

Francine and Jonathan Sherman on the birth of their grandson, Lev Gabriel Rasowsky

Janice and Richard Small on the occasion of their 33rd wedding anniversary

Condolences to:

Deborah (Gabriel) Aizenberg on the loss of her father, Theodore Zev Weiss

Tamar, David and Benjamin Aizenberg on the loss of their grandfather, Theodore Zev Weiss

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

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

Dr. Stephen (Carol) Beckerman on the loss of his father, George Beckerman

Family of Ruth K. Belzer, beloved mother and grandmother

Scott (Carly) Bernstein, Dana (Joseph) Karmin, Mark, Michael and Adam Bernstein on the loss of their grandmother, Shirley Bernstein

Irwin (Jill) Bernstein on the loss of his mother, Shirley Bernstein

Lawrence (Abby) Block on the loss of his sister, Muriel R. Kasanov

Daniel (Honey) Bronson on the loss of his mother, Claire Bronson

Lisa (Todd) Fishbein and Brian (Melanie) Hoffman on the loss of their aunt, Judy Shulman

Family of Joan S. Groner, beloved mother and grandmother

Mindy (Jeffrey) Block Gordon, Rebecca (Dr. David) Rubin, and Andrew (Julie) Block on the loss of their aunt, Muriel R. Kasanov

Garrett and Madison Hahamy on the loss of their grandmother, Tsipora Hahamy

Ron (Deborah) Hahamy on the loss of his mother, Tsipora Hahamy

Barbara (David) Hoffman on the loss of her sister, Judy Shulman

Dana (Joseph) Karmin on the loss of her grandmother, Shirley Bernstein

Ben (Beth Shapiro) Kopin on the loss of his father, Sheldon Kopin

Joshua and Zachary Kopin on the loss of their grandfather, Sheldon Kopin

Beth S. (Steve) Leeds on the loss of her parents, Barbara Fox Malashock and Dr. Stanley J. Malashock

Rabbi David (Sharon Levin) Lerner on the loss of his father, Rabbi Stephen Lerner

Talya, Ari and Matan Lerner on the loss of their grandfather, Rabbi Stephen Lerner

Jay (Karyn) Lerner on the loss of his brother, Harvey Scott Lerner

Amy Levin and Allison (Max) Affrunti on the loss of their grandmother, Hannah Garton

Diane (Stephen) Levin on the loss of her mother, Hannah Garton

Jacklin Pinsler Levine (Jay Levine) on the loss of her father, Reuven Pinsler

Rachel and David Levine on the loss of their grandfather, Reuven Pinsler

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

Marline (Ronald) Massarik on the loss of her sister, Grace Shevel

Jeffrey (Elaine) Oberlander on the loss of his mother, Evelyn "Eva" Oberlander

Lillian Oberlander on the loss of her grandmother, Evelyn "Eva" Oberlander

Aaron (Lindy) Resnick, Elissa (Daniel) Goodman, and Rebecca Resnick on the loss of their grandfather, Ralph Ponfil

Janet (Gary) Resnick on the loss of her father, Ralph Ponfil

Daniel (Maura), Debi, and Jordan (Susan) Rosenblum on the loss of their mother, Dr. Lya Dym Rosenblum

Jonah, Cydney, Luke and Madeline Rosenblum on the loss of their grandmother, Dr. Lya Dym Rosenblum

Louis Rosenblum on the loss of his wife, Dr. Lya Dym Rosenblum

Jennifer (Douglas) Robins, Benjamin (Alison) Bronson and Sarah Bronson on the loss of their grandmother, Claire Bronson

Barbara (Michael) Salberg on the loss of her mother, Tsipora Hahamy

Maxwell Salberg on the loss of his grandmother, Tsipora Hahamy

Daniel (Jodi) Weiss on the loss of his father, Theodore Zev Weiss

Matthew, Jacob and Zoey Weiss on the loss of their grandfather, Theodore Zev Weiss

Family of Pearl White, beloved mother and grandmother

IN MEMORIAM:

Florence L. Becker

Ruth K. Belzer

Joan S. Groner

Dr. Lya Dym Rosenblum

Pearl White

Rabbi Schwab Discretionary Fund

In honor of Ben Wirth on becoming a bar mitzvah and with appreciation to Rabbi Schwab - **Michael and Jennifer Wirth**

In honor of Liana Schwab, daughter of Erica and Rabbi Michael Schwab, on becoming a bat mitzvah

- **Mark Yoskowitz and Mimi Sager Yoskowitz**

- **Karen Weiss**

In honor of Max Viner, son of Anya and Victor Viner, on becoming a bar mitzvah - **Karen Weiss**

In honor of Rabbi Michael Schwab - **Samuel and Judith Bernstein**

In honor of Rabbi Michael Schwab's installation as senior rabbi

- **Laurel and Barry Abramowicz**

- **Jay Lerner**

In honor of Sophie Ripes, daughter of Ronit and Daniel Ripes, on becoming a bat mitzvah

- **Jerome and Mary Kaltman**

- **Karen Weiss**

In honor of the birth of Fran and Jon Sherman's grandson Lev Gabriel - **Harriet and Joey Resnick**

In honor of the birth of my great-grandchild, Adam Whidbey Nole, son of Tali and Dave Nole - **Herbert Rosen**

In honor of the birth of Sara and Steve Coven's grandson, Noam Hillel Coven - **Karen Weiss**

In honor of the birth of Scot Heidi Koloms, daughter of Orli and Brandon Koloms - **Herbert Rosen**

In honor of the bris of Lev Gabriel Rasowsky and with appreciation to Rabbi Schwab - **Deborah and Oren Rasowsky**

In honor of the Schwab girls' birthdays - **Ruth Fischer**

In honor of Trevor Gross on becoming a bar mitzvah and with appreciation to Rabbi Schwab - **Lori and Dan Gross**

In memory of Arlene Feiger - **Jonathan Feiger and Nancy Laben**

In memory of Bertram Hamilton, beloved father of James Hamilton, William Hamilton and Susan Selbst - **Stuart and Rolly Cohen**

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

In memory of Claire Bronson, beloved mother of Daniel Bronson and Michael Bronson, beloved grandmother and beloved great-grandmother - **Tracey and Anton Hendler**

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

In memory of Evelyn Oberlander, beloved mother and with appreciation to Rabbi Schwab - **Jeff Oberlander and Family**

In memory of Florence Becker, beloved mother and grandmother and with appreciation to Rabbi Schwab - **Donna Becker, Michael and Dori Becker, David and Dana Becker**

In memory of Florence Becker, beloved mother of Michael Becker, Donna Becker and David Becker, beloved sister of Leon Lome and beloved grandmother

- **Ruth Fischer**

- **Ryan and Julie Mathy**

- **Karen Weiss**

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

In memory of Hannah Garton, beloved mother of Diane Levin and Sharon Finegood, beloved grandmother and great-grandmother

- **Barbara and Stuart Hochwert**

- **Karen Weiss**

In memory of Herbert Dreifuss, beloved father of Jeff Dreifuss and beloved grandfather and great-grandfather - **NSS Beth El Sisterhood**

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

- **Laurel and Barry Abramowicz**

- **Brodsky Family Foundation Inc**

- **Stuart and Rolly Cohen**

- **Andrew and Laurie Hochberg**

- **Diane and Stephen Levin**

- **Herbert Rosen**

- **Richard and Sharon Schwab**

- **Alan and Margaret Silberman**

- **Karen Weiss**

- **Dr. Ned and Cindy Zallik**

In memory of Jack Blumberg, beloved husband, father and grandfather and with appreciation to Rabbi Schwab - **Barbara, Ben, JoAnne, Paula, Melanie, Peri (Scott), Rebecca and Rena**

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

In memory of Joan Groner, beloved mother and with appreciation to Rabbi Schwab - **Judy Groner**

In memory of Joan Groner, beloved mother of Judy Groner and Jonathan Groner and beloved grandmother

- **Rose and Victor Ackerman**

- **Deborah Boxerman**

- **Cheryl and Carey Cooper**

- **Judith Groner and Dan Meyers**

- **Risa Hanau**

- **Gerry Kaplan**

- **Jill Kaplan**

- **Meritage Portfolio Management, Inc**

- **Kevin and Isanne Ossey**

- **Frances and Joel Rabinowitz**

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

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

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

In memory of Marge Birnbaum, beloved mother - **Jacalyn and Marc Birnbaum**

In memory of Marvin Bernstein, beloved husband of Adriane Bernstein and beloved brother of Joyce Bernstein - **Karen Weiss**

In memory of Marvin Bernstein, beloved husband, and with appreciation to Rabbi Schwab - **Adriane Bernstein**

In memory of Marvin Lederman, beloved father of Scott Lederman and Lynn Winston, beloved grandfather and great-grandfather

- **Susan and Mark Pollack**

- **Jeff and Lisa Rosenkranz**

In memory of Marvin Lederman, beloved father, grandfather and great-grandfather and with appreciation to Rabbi Schwab - **Scott and Jane Lederman and Family**

In memory of Maurice Sher, beloved father - **Michael and Sara Sher**

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

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

In memory of Muriel Kasanov, beloved sister of Lawrence Block, beloved mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and aunt - **Ruth Lion and David Rosenbloom**

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

In memory of Ralph Ponfil, beloved father of Janet Resnick and Jody Berman, beloved companion of Anna Mirosz and beloved grandfather and great-grandfather - **Jerome and Mary Kaltman**

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

In memory of Reuven Pinsler, beloved husband of Adrienne Pinsler, beloved father of Jacklin Levine and Igal Pinsler and beloved grandfather - **Ron and Eileen Goldberg**

In memory of Ruth Belzer and with appreciation to Rabbi Schwab - **The Family of Ruth Belzer**

In memory of Samuel Kaltman, beloved father - **Jerome and Mary Kaltman**

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

In memory of Sandra Zessar, beloved wife of Marvin Zessar and beloved mother of Bruce Zessar - **David and Francine Ephraim**

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

In memory of Sheldon Kopin, beloved husband of Dolly Kopin, beloved father of Benjamin Kopin, Jonathan Kopin and Sandra Strick and beloved grandfather - **Julie Isaacson**

In memory of Shirley Bernstein, beloved mother of Irwin Bernstein, beloved grandmother and great-grandmother - **Earl and Rochelle Rubinoff**

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

In memory of Theodore Zev Weiss, beloved husband of Alice Weiss, beloved father of Deborah Aizenberg and Daniel Weiss and beloved grandmother of Tamar, David, Ben, Matthew, Jacob and Zoey

- **Richard and Nadine Woldenberg**

- **Bruce and Lauri Zessar**

In memory of Tsipora Hahamy, beloved wife of Benny Hahamy, beloved mother of Barbara Salberg, Ron Hahamy and David Navon and beloved grandmother

- **Ron and Eileen Goldberg**

- **Harriet and Joey Resnick**

In memory of Claire Bronson, beloved mother of Daniel Bronson and Michael Bronson, beloved grandmother and beloved great-grandmother - **Susie and Mark Pollack**

In memory of Ruth Belzer - **Irvina Warren**

In memory of Sheldon Kopin, beloved husband and

father and with appreciation to Rabbi Schwab - **Shapiro Kopin Family Fund**

In memory of Sheldon Kopin, beloved husband of Dolly Kopin, beloved father of Benjamin Kopin, Jonathan Kopin and Sandra Strick and beloved grandfather. And with appreciation to Rabbi Schwab for the exemplary service he provided - **Harry and Sandy Strick**

In memory of Shirley Bernstein, beloved mother of Irwin Bernstein, beloved grandmother and great-grandmother - **Dr. Ned and Cindy Zallik**

Wishing a complete and speedy recovery to Elise Kline - **Karen Weiss**

Wishing a complete and speedy recovery to Holly Reinsdorf - **Karen Weiss**

With appreciation for a great semester of learning- we have really enjoyed your classes - **Todd and Melissa Halperin**

With appreciation for adding Marvin to the mischaberach list - **Renee and Marvin Bearack**

With appreciation to Rabbi Schwab for all he does to inform and teach us in this time of Covid - **Gloria Brooks-Shapiro**

With appreciation for Rabbi Schwab's guidance and help with Joan Levey Skurie's funeral - **Karen and Sam Skurie**

With appreciation to Rabbi Schwab for the meaningful and beautiful manner in which he co-conducted the marriage ceremony of our grandson Eric Mason to Bari Patzik, with Rabbi Wolkin - **Leonard and Phyllis Mason**

With appreciation to Merle and Steve Tavian for their kindness and generosity - **June Back Frydman**

With appreciation to Rabbi Schwab

- **Joseph and Susan Adler**

- **Avram Pachter**

With appreciation to Rabbi Schwab for assisting in the wedding of Mark Schnitzer to Jamie Cooper - **Rabbi Ora and Dr. David Schnitzer**

With appreciation to Rabbi Schwab for his constant kindness - **Sheila and Michael Small**

With appreciation to Rabbi Schwab for officiating at the bris of Lev Gabriel and for such a meaningful service - **Jonathan and Fran Sherman**

With appreciation - **Mel and Sandy Wasserman**

Rabbi Freedman Discretionary Fund

In honor of Ben Wirth on becoming a bar mitzvah and with appreciation to Rabbi Freedman - **Michael and Jennifer Wirth**

In honor of Trevor Gross on becoming a bar mitzvah and with appreciation to Rabbi Freedman - **Lori and Dan Gross**

In memory of Florence Becker, beloved mother and grandmother and with appreciation to Rabbi Freedman - **Donna Becker, Michael and Dori Becker, David and Dana Becker**

In memory of Grace Shevel, beloved sister of Marline Massarik

- **Gerald and Adrienne Lasin**

- **Bobbie and Len Tenner**

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

- **Brodsky Family Foundation Inc**

In memory of Jack Blumberg, beloved husband, father and grandfather and with appreciation to Rabbi Freedman - **Barbara, Ben, JoAnne, Paula, Melanie, Peri (Scott), Rebecca and Rena**

In memory of Leona Kalson Wilk, beloved mother - **Roger and Ronnie Wilk**

In memory of Sandra Zessar, beloved wife, mother and grandmother and with appreciation to Rabbi Freedman - **Bruce and Lauri Zessar and Family**

With appreciation for a great semester of learning- we have really enjoyed your classes - **Todd and Melissa Halperin**

With appreciation to Rabbi Freedman for all he does to inform and teach us in this time of Covid - **Gloria Brooks-Shapiro**

With appreciation to Rabbi Freedman for kindly welcoming me "home" over Chaggim - **Avram Pachter**

With appreciation to Rabbi Freedman for teaching and guiding Jacob through some of the toughest questions in life - **Allison and Adam Nemirow**

With appreciation to Rabbi Freedman for the baby naming of our daughter Eloise - **Jordan and Desiree Wilkow**

With appreciation to Rabbi Freedman for the beautiful and dignified manner in which he presided over the baby naming ceremony for our granddaughter Eloise

- **Marc Wilkow and Family**

Rabbi Kurtz Discretionary Fund

In honor of Rabbi Kurtz's 70th birthday - **Robert and Iris Center**

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

- **Cheryl and Carey Cooper**

In memory of Marcia Witzel, beloved friend - **June Back Frydman**

Hazzan Tisser Discretionary Fund

In honor of Ben Wirth on becoming a bar mitzvah and with appreciation to Hazzan Tisser - **Michael and Jennifer Wirth**

In honor of Trevor Gross on becoming a bar mitzvah and with appreciation to Hazzan Tisser - **Lori and Dan Gross**

In memory of Florence Becker, beloved mother and grandmother and with appreciation to Hazzan Tisser - **Donna Becker, Michael and Dori Becker, David and Dana Becker**

In memory of Florence Becker, beloved mother of Michael Becker, Donna Becker and David Becker, beloved sister of Leon Lome and beloved grandmother

- **Michael and Betsy Katz**

In memory of Jack Blumberg, beloved husband, father and grandfather and with appreciation to Hazzan Tisser - **Barbara, Ben, JoAnne, Paula, Melanie, Peri (Scott), Rebecca and Rena**

With appreciation to Hazzan Tisser for allowing me to share the bimah with him

- **Avram Pachter**

Ann and Jack Weinberg Holocaust Memorial Education Endowment Fund

In memory of Marvin Bernstein, beloved husband of Adriane Bernstein and beloved brother of Joyce Bernstein - **Sherry Siegal**

Ba'al Korei Fund

In memory of Florence Becker, beloved mother of Michael Becker, Donna Becker and David Becker, beloved sister of Leon Lome and beloved grandmother

- **June Back Frydman**

In memory of Greta DeBofsky, beloved mother of Mark DeBofsky - **Max Shafital**

Ben and Marion Drachler Education Endowment Fund

In memory of Bella Drachler Tesler, beloved sister - **Ferne Avery**

In memory of David Scott Drachler, beloved son - **Dr. A. Michael and Nancy Drachler**

Cal and Lana Eisenberg Halomdim Program Endowment Fund

In memory of Isadore Eisenberg, beloved father - **Cal and Lana Eisenberg**

Camp Ramah General Scholarship Endowment Fund

In honor of Arielle Levitan being honored as Kallat Bereshit for Simchat Torah

- **David Smith and Michelle Wasserman**

In memory of Judy Shulman, beloved sister of Barbara Hoffman and beloved aunt - **Burton Cohen**

Capital Improvement Fund

With appreciation for Karen and Michael Kesner's kindness towards Gabrielle Gordon and her friends - **Marilyn Hirsch and Gary Gordon Charitable Family Trust**

Edward S. Frank Israel Study Memorial Endowment Fund

In honor of Frances Rabinowitz - **Frances and Joel Rabinowitz**

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

In memory of Ruth Belzer - **Joel and Frances Rabinowitz**

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

Family Engagement Endowment Fund

In honor of Ben Wirth on becoming a bar mitzvah and with appreciation to Hazzan Barbara Barnett - **Michael and Jennifer Wirth**

In honor of Owen and Miles Schechter - Loren and Rebecca Schechter

In memory of Herbert Dreifuss, beloved father of Jeff Dreifuss and beloved grandfather and great-grandfather - Mark and Sandra Levin

In memory of Marty Horowitz, beloved father of Stacy Goldsmith and beloved grandfather of Sawyer and Ellie Goldsmith - David Smith and Michelle Wasserman

Gamze House Beautification Endowment Fund

In honor of Dr. Laurie Hochberg and her exceptional devotion to her patients

- Steve and Linda Feinstein and Family

In honor of Rabbi Vernon Kurtz's birthday - Steve and Linda Feinstein and Family

Gertrude Lederman Family Continuing Education Fund

In memory of Barbara Klein, beloved wife of Aaron Klein - Stanton and Carole Derdiger

In memory of Florence Becker, beloved mother of Michael Becker, Donna Becker and David Becker, beloved sister of Leon Lome and beloved grandmother

- Susan and Michael Millenson

- Larry Pachter and Sandy Starkman

In memory of Joan Groner, beloved mother of Judy Groner and Jonathan Groner and beloved grandmother - Cathy and Jon Levine

In memory of Marvin Bernstein, beloved husband of Adriane Bernstein and beloved brother of Joyce Bernstein - Holly Conrad

In memory of Rabbi Jonathan Sacks - Ronnie Jo Sokol

Hazak Fund

In honor of all of the hard work of the Hazak volunteers - Larry Goldsmith and Mary Ellen Bowers

In honor of Steve and Wendy Abrams' new grandchildren - Annette and Gerald Blumberg

In honor of the birth of Fran and Jon Sherman's grandson Lev Gabriel - Dan and Honey Bronson

In honor of the birth of Shoshana Miller, granddaughter of Jan and Brian Channon - Larry Pachter and Sandy Starkman

In memory of Barbara Malashock, beloved wife of Stanley Malashock and beloved mother of Beth Leeds, Neal Malashock, Larry Malashock and Kathy V. - Annette and Gerald Blumberg

In memory of Dr. Jaffe, beloved father of Karen Lygizo - Steven and Roni Weiss

In memory of Florence Becker, beloved mother of Michael Becker, Donna Becker and David Becker, beloved sister of Leon Lome and beloved grandmother

- Annette and Gerald Blumberg

- Howard Turner

In memory of Hannah Garton, beloved mother of Diane Levin and Sharon Finegood, beloved grandmother and great-grandmother - Larry Goldsmith

and Mary Ellen Bowers

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

- Todd and Melissa Halperin

- Ed and Paulette Margulies

In memory of Judy Shulman, beloved sister of Barbara Hoffman and beloved aunt - Annette and Gerald Blumberg

In memory of Pearl White, beloved mother of Debra White and Michael White, beloved grandmother and great-grandmother - Gerald and Annette Blumberg

In memory of Reuven Pinsler, beloved husband of Adrienne Pinsler, beloved father of Jacklin Levine and Igal Pinsler and beloved grandfather - Gerald and Annette Blumberg

In memory of Robert Echt, beloved husband - Rita Echt

In memory of Sheldon Kopin, beloved husband of Dolly Kopin, beloved father of Benjamin Kopin, Jonathan Kopin and Sandra Strick, beloved grandfather - Ed and Paulette Margulies

In memory of Theodore Zev Weiss, beloved husband of Alice Weiss, beloved father of Deborah Aizenberg and Daniel Weiss and beloved grandmother of Tammar, David, Ben, Matthew, Jacob and Zoey - Jackie and Michael Melinger

With appreciation for Hazak and for Cori Katz

- Frances and Joel Rabinowitz

With appreciation to Francine Ephraim and Hazak for all their help during Covid- Rita Echt

With appreciation to Hazak

- Dr. Oron and Kristen Daihes

- Philip and Doreen Feitelberg

- Daniel and Susan Hoseman

- Joyce Steinhart

- Larry Weiner

- Mayer Stiebel and Cara Medansky Stiebel

- Pearl Zaid

With appreciation to Hazak and for all they do

- Marvin and Janice Temple

With appreciation to Hazak and for caring - Margaret and Alan Silberman

With appreciation to Hazak for all their efforts - Stanton and Carole Derdiger

With appreciation to Hazak for the Thanksgiving dinner - Ramona and Brenda Choos

With appreciation to Hazak for the wonderful Shabbat dinner and all they do for the community - Judith Miller

With appreciation to Mary Ellen Bowers

- Patricia Shapiro

- Gloria Taussig

With appreciation to Sandy Starkman and the entire Hazak committee for the many kindnesses performed during this difficult time - Bobbie and Len Tenner

With appreciation to the Hazak committee

- Arthur and Judith Coren

- David Schwartz and Renee Hirsch

- Patricia Shapiro

With appreciation

- Michael and Ellyn Feinzimer

- Robert and Sydelle Reich

Horwitz Hoffman Youth Endowment Fund

In memory of Judy Shulman, beloved sister of Barbara Hoffman and beloved aunt

- Ed and Paulette Margulies

- Meryl and Ken Rubin

- Gloria Taussig and Family

- Bobbie and Len Tenner

Jack and Mildred Cohen Religious School Fund

In honor of Sophie Ripes, daughter of Ronit and Daniel Ripes, on becoming a bat mitzvah - Michael and Karen Kesner

In memory of Barbara Klein, beloved wife of Aaron Klein - Millie Weber

Joseph and Mae Gray Cultural and Learning Center Fund

In honor of Marilyn and Rodney Slutzky's special anniversary - Bev and Chip Auerbach

In memory of Dinah Posternack, beloved mother - William and Susan Posternack

In memory of Dorothy Levin, beloved mother - Donald and Suzanne Horwitz

In memory of Florence Becker, beloved mother of Michael Becker, Donna Becker and David Becker, beloved sister of Leon Lome and beloved grandmother - Beth and Bob Footlik

In memory of Hannah Garton, beloved mother of Diane Levin and Sharon Finegood, beloved grandmother and great-grandmother - Richard and Pam Schlosberg

In memory of Judy Pierce - Steven and Roni Weiss

In memory of Reuven Pinsler, beloved husband of Adrienne Pinsler, beloved father of Jacklin Levine and Igal Pinsler and beloved grandfather - Barry and Debra Kravitz

In memory of Shirley Bernstein, beloved mother of Irwin Bernstein, beloved grandmother and great-grandmother - Beth and Bob Footlik

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 Carey Cooper

With appreciation to Marcie Eskin and Rachel Kamin for their hard work during the pandemic - Michael and Karen Kesner

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

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

*In memory of Avraham Tarazi, beloved father of Etai Tarazi - **Myrna Kopin***

*In memory of Maxine Roth - **Myrna Kopin***

*In memory of Sheldon Kopin, beloved husband of Dolly Kopin, beloved father of Benjamin Kopin, Jonathan Kopin and Sandra Strick, beloved grandfather - **Myrna Kopin***

Vernon H. Kurtz Senior Rabbinic Chair Endowment Fund

*In honor of Schmu'el Binyamin, grandson of Rabbi Vernon and Bryna Kurtz, on becoming a bar mitzvah - **Michael and Karen Kesner***

*In memory of Otto Waldmann, beloved husband of Phyllis Waldmann - **Michael and Karen Kesner***

LGBTQ+ Inclusion Fund

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

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

Maxwell Abbell Library Fund

*In memory of Avra Shoshana Tovian, beloved daughter of Merle and Steven Tovian - **Larry Pachter and Sandy Starkman***

*In memory of Joan Groner, beloved mother of Judy Groner and Jonathan Groner and beloved grandmother - **Sandra Becker***

*In memory of Lee Chutkow - **Robert and JoEllen Lidov and Family***

*In memory of Lena Rabinowitz, beloved mother - **Joel and Frances Rabinowitz***

*In memory of Leo Stern, beloved father - **Arnold and Hilda Reingold***

In memory of Sheldon Kopin, beloved husband of Dolly Kopin, beloved father of Benjamin Kopin, Jonathan Kopin and Sandra Strick and beloved grandfather

*- **Ira and Elise Frost***

*- **Robert and JoEllen Lidov and Family***

Mindy and Jeffrey Gordon and Family Unrestricted Endowment Fund

*In memory of Maurice Sher, beloved father of Michael Sher - **Andrew and Gail Brown***

Minyan Service Fund

*In memory of Florence Becker, beloved mother of Michael Becker, Donna Becker and David Becker, beloved sister of Leon Lome and beloved grandmother - **Gerald and Adrienne Lasin***

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

*- **Jill and Irwin Bernstein***

*In memory of Molly Schwartz, beloved mother-in-law and Bubbe - **Toby Schwartz***

*With appreciation for allowing us to attend tonight's minyan - **Alexander Heckler***

*With appreciation to NSS Beth El and Hazzan Barnett for making the minyan service available to me - **Lawrence Domont***

*With appreciation to the NSS Beth El clergy for providing meaningful services despite the challenges of Covid - **Jeffrey Zilka and Ivy Stern***

Miriam and Bernard H. Sokol Hebrew High School

*In memory of Florence Becker, beloved mother of Michael Becker, Donna Becker and David Becker, beloved sister of Leon Lome and beloved grandmother - **Ronnie Jo Sokol***

*In honor of Francine Ephraim as the new Chicago/ North Shore Hadassah President - **Ronnie Jo Sokol***

*In memory of George Beckerman, beloved father of Dr. Stephen Beckerman and beloved grandfather of Adam, Brandon and Jacob Beckerman - **Roberta Schwartz***

*In memory of Judy Shulman, beloved sister of Barbara Hoffman and beloved aunt - **Ronnie Jo Sokol***

*In memory of Pearl White, beloved mother of Debra White and Michael White, beloved grandmother and great-grandmother - **Ronnie Jo Sokol***

Miriam and Bernard H. Sokol Hebrew High School Endowment Fund

*In memory of Miriam and Bernard H. Sokol, beloved mother and father - **Ronnie Jo Sokol***

NSS Beth El Camp Scholarship Endowment Fund

*In honor of Liana Schwab, daughter of Erica and Rabbi Michael Schwab, on becoming a bat mitzvah - **Tami and Reuben Warshawsky***

*In memory of Reuven Pinsler, beloved husband of Adrienne Pinsler, beloved father of Jacklin Levine and Igal Pinsler and beloved grandfather - **Len and Bobbie Tenner***

*With appreciation - **Jeanette Saltzberg***

NSS Beth El Special Gifts Fund

*In honor of Alice Gross on her 100th birthday - **Fern and Mitchell King***

*In honor of Dr. Steven Feinstein - **The Molever and Greenspan Families***

*In honor of Iris Center's 70th birthday - **Scott and Evie Rooth***

*In honor of the very dedicated staff and the Director of Formal Education and Religious School - **Jennifer and Todd Deutch***

*In honor of Wendy and Steve Abrams on the birth of their grandchild - **Jerome and Mary Kaltman***

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

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

*In memory of Betty Fox Jacobson Levi, beloved mother - **Gail Cooper***

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

In memory of Florence Becker, beloved mother of Michael Becker, Donna Becker and David Becker, beloved sister of Leon Lome and beloved grandmother

*- **Karen and Scott Bieber***

*- **Ron and Chantal Blaustein***

*- **The Hochberg Family Foundation***

*- **Ira and Deborah Rosenberg***

*- **Karen and Sam Skurie***

*In memory of Gene Aronin, beloved father of Jeff Aronin - **Karen and Sam Skurie***

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

In memory of Hannah Garton, beloved mother of Diane Levin and Sharon Finegood, beloved grandmother and great-grandmother

*- **Michael and Karen Kesner***

*- **Debbi and Ira Rosenberg***

*In memory of Harvey Scott Lerner, beloved father of Jessica and Jacklyn Lerner and beloved brother of Jay Lerner - **Barbara Green***

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

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

*In memory of Hyman Landow, beloved father - **Raquel Hochwert***

*In memory of Joan Holland, beloved father of Edward Holland, beloved grandmother of Lindy Resnick, Jori Leeb and Beverly Holland; beloved great-grandmother of Elliott and Vivian Resnick and Holden, Walker and Harlow Leeb - **The Goodman Family Foundation***

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

*In memory of Irwin Wygodny, beloved father of Jay Wygodny - **Avrum and Jill Miller***

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

*- **Gary T. Brown***

*- **Dr. Lewis and Beverly Feiges***

*- **Robert and Marla Ferencz***

*- **Sandy Goldberg-Kolsen***

*- **Lionel Kramer and Family***

*- **Jean and Jordan Nerenberg***

*- **James Whitman***

*- **Susan and Gary Whitman Fund***

*In memory of Lynne Silberman, beloved sister - **Sheldon and Nancy Mann***

In memory of Marvin Bernstein, beloved husband of Adrienne Bernstein and beloved brother of Joyce Bernstein

*- **Sandi Cowen***

*- **Fulton Troika, LLC - Roger Dumez***

*- **Rowan and David Harris***

*- **Ellen Hodes***

*- **Carol and Ronnie Jesselson***

*- **Larry and Anna Kaplan***

*- **Gordon Kay***

- Alan and Bobbie Newman
- Simon Pamelav
- Jim and Jill Parker
- Patty Pell
- Claudia Stender
- Wednesday Maj Group

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

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

In memory of Minna Derdiger, beloved step-mother - Stanton and Carole Derdiger

In memory of Nate Regensstreif, beloved father - Sheldon and Nancy Mann

In memory of Ralph Ponfil, beloved father of Janet Resnick and Jody Berman, beloved companion of Anna Mirosz and beloved grandfather and great-grandfather - Mark Yoskowitz and Mimi Sager Yoskowitz

In memory of Reuven Pinsler, beloved husband of Adrienne Pinsler, beloved father of Jacklin Levine and Igal Pinsler and beloved grandfather - Michael and Donna Lubow

In memory of Rose Reingold, beloved mother - Arnold and Hilda Reingold

In memory of Saundra Zessar, beloved wife of Marvin Zessar and beloved mother of Bruce Zessar

- Dennis and Amy Pessis
- Karen and Sam Skurie

In memory of Sheldon Kopin, beloved husband of Dolly Kopin, beloved father of Benjamin Kopin, Jonathan Kopin and Sandra Strick and beloved grandfather - Karen and Scott Bieber

In memory of Theodore Zev Weiss, beloved husband of Alice Weiss, beloved father of Deborah Aizenberg and Daniel Weiss and beloved grandmother of Tamar, David, Ben, Matthew, Jacob and Zoey

- Steven and Alison Dry
- Skip and Lynn Schrayner
- Karen and Sam Skurie

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

In memory of Reuven Pinsler, beloved husband of Adrienne Pinsler, beloved father of Jacklin Levine and Igal Pinsler and beloved grandfather - David and Stephanie Luger

With appreciation to NSS Beth El for letting us from the Chicago Loop Synagogue stream high holiday services - Eugene and Gail Friedman

Paul S. and Sylvia Steinberg Pre-School Fund

In memory of Marvin Bernstein, beloved husband of Adriane Bernstein and beloved brother of Joyce Bernstein - Gayle Felsenthal

Prayer Book Fund

In honor of the marriage of Sam Goldman to Alison Greenberg - Alvin and Elinor Bayliss

In memory of Florence Becker, beloved mother of Michael Becker, Donna Becker and David Becker, beloved sister of Leon Lome and beloved grand-

mother - Steven and Frances Shapiro

In memory of Hannah Garton, beloved mother of Diane Levin and Sharon Finegood, beloved grandmother and great-grandmother - Mark and Nina Gaines

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 Levin and Gigi Cohen

- Joel and Basia Retsky

- Marvin and Sara Siegel

In memory of Jack P. Frost, beloved father - Ira and Elise Frost

In memory of Jack P. Frost, beloved husband - Eenie Frost

In memory of Mabelle Schero, beloved grandmother - Ira and Elise Frost

In memory of Mabelle Schero, beloved mother - Eenie Frost

Ritual Refurbishment Endowment Fund

In honor of Arielle Levitan receiving the honor of Kallat Bereshit on Simchat Torah - Barbara and Jack z"l Blumberg and JoAnne Blumberg

In honor of Jenna Smiley on receiving the honor of Kol Ne'arm on Simchat Torah

- Barbara and Jack z"l Blumberg and JoAnne Blumberg

In honor of Michael Millenson receiving the Hatan Torah honor on Simchat Torah - Barbara and Jack z"l Blumberg and JoAnne Blumberg

In memory of Florence Becker, beloved mother of Michael Becker, Donna Becker and David Becker, beloved sister of Leon Lome and beloved grandmother

- Barbara Blumberg

In memory of Hannah Garton, beloved mother of Diane Levin and Sharon Finegood, beloved grandmother and great-grandmother - 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

- Friends and Family of Jack Blumberg

- June Back Frydman

- Brian and Bonnie Grach

- Cathy Nachman

- Holly and Jonathan Reinsdorf

- Steven and Frances Shapiro

- Shael and Myrna Siegel

- Karen and Sam Skurie

- Sheila and Michael Small

- David Smith and Michelle Wasserman

In memory of Nancy Whitman, beloved sister-in-law - Barbara Blumberg

In memory of Otto Waldmann, beloved husband of Phyllis Waldmann - Barbara Blumberg and Family

Sarah and Henry Stiebel Camp Ramah Endowment Fund

In honor of Emma Shiner, daughter of Stuart and Debbie Shiner, on becoming a bat mitzvah - Mayer Stiebel and Cara Medansky Stiebel

Social Action Fund

In memory of Louis Gross, beloved father of Dan Gross and beloved grandfather of Addysen and Trevor Gross - Steven and Frances Shapiro

In memory of Shirley Bernstein, beloved mother of Irwin Bernstein, beloved grandmother and great-grandmother - Cathy Lieberstein-Schneider

Staff Recognition Fund

In honor of Lamon Stinson, thanks and all the best to you and thanks to our other staff members - Larry Pachter and Sandy Starkman

In honor of the NSS Beth El staff - David and Jenna Smiley

In honor of the staff and clergy contributions for a wonderful high holiday experience - Marilyn Hirsch and Gary Gordon Charitable Family Trust

With appreciation to Lamon Stinson - Richard Zelin and Judith Hirsch-Zelin

With appreciation to Lamon Stinson, thank you for your service to Beth El and our country - Ron and Eileen Goldberg

With appreciation to our great staff for all they do - Ron and Eileen Goldberg

With appreciation to the NSS Beth El staff - James Nyeste and Marla Hand

With appreciation - Michael and Karen Kesner

With appreciation - Joel and Basia Retsky

Tzedakah/Pushke Fund

In memory of Allen Loren Weber, beloved son - Millie Weber

In memory of Florence Becker, beloved mother of Michael Becker, Donna Becker and David Becker, beloved sister of Leon Lome and beloved grandmother - Millie Weber

In memory of Morris Frydman, beloved husband - June Back Frydman

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

In memory of Tsipora Hahamy, beloved wife of Benny Hahamy, beloved mother of Barbara Salberg, Ron Hahamy and David Navon and beloved grandmother - Millie Weber

Youth Community Fund

In honor of Sophie Ripes, daughter of Ronit and Daniel Ripes, on becoming a bat mitzvah - Patricia Shapiro

In honor of the birth of Lilah Rose, granddaughter of Annette and Stephen Ray

- David Smith and Michelle Wasserman

In honor of Trevor Gross, son of Lori and Dan Gross, on becoming a bar mitzvah

- Mark and Devorah Richards

In memory of Claire Bronson, beloved mother of Daniel Bronson and Michael Bronson, beloved grandmother and beloved great-grandmother

- Steven and Frances Shapiro

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

- Brad and Marcie Pickard

In memory of Ralph Ponfil, beloved father of Janet Resnick and Jody Berman, beloved companion of Anna Mirosz and beloved grandfather and

great-grandfather - **Edward and Ann Dee Holland**

In memory of Theodore Zev Weiss, beloved husband of Alice Weiss, beloved father of Deborah Aizenberg and Daniel Weiss and beloved grandmother of Tamar, David, Ben, Matthew, Jacob and Zoey

- Merle and Gary Kaufman and Family

Environmental Corner

By Richard Schlosberg



Why this in a Beth El Quarterly? A Midrash says: "Do not spoil and destroy My world for if you do there would be no one to repair it". And, it's not just environmentalists speaking. July, 2020: "The climate crisis poses a systemic threat to financial markets and the real economy, with significant disruptive consequences on asset valuations and our nation's economic stability". This from financial leaders and institutes that together manage almost \$1 trillion in assets. Our goal is to raise awareness and, as we look at the complex challenges, we remember the meaning of tikun olam - Repair the World. This note talks of progress and opportunities in power generation.

Positive steps

- The United States has rejoined the Paris Accord, a voluntary agreement to try to keep global temperature rise in check. This is to help manage melting of glaciers, sea level rise, enhanced drought and wildfires, extreme weather events, etc.
- One area showing real progress is power generation. This is where wind, solar, nuclear etc, are sources that do not produce greenhouse gases and therefore don't contribute to that element of global climate change. We need more renewables making power as global total power demand continues to increase.

- A good news story is that since 2010 many coal based power plants have either closed or have transferred their energy source from coal to natural gas (which is mostly methane). When making the same amount of energy, natural gas will produce only half the greenhouse gas (carbon dioxide) as coal. US coal production is dropping and in 2019 was about one third less than the peak production in 2008. Most of the coal plants that have been shut down are older, less efficient units. All good.
- Parts of the rest of the world are not doing so well.
- Israel is a net producer of natural gas and has made big strides in converting their coal based power units to natural gas. In 2000 more than 70% of Israel's power was generated from coal plants, the rest from oil. In 2019 only 30% of Israel's power came from coal, 60+% from natural gas and a little bit from solar and oil. Great progress.... BUT total Israeli power production rose from 41 to 71 (gigawatt hours - whatever they are), so that, in fact, Israeli power generation produced more carbon dioxide in 2019 than in 2000.

- Electric vehicles are here and a tip of the hat to those with an electric vehicle and those thinking about purchasing one. Still, today in the

United States more than half of the energy used to produce electricity, the electric vehicle power supply, comes from coal and natural gas...with most of that from natural gas.

- The contributions of solar, wind, hydro and nuclear together will grow rapidly at the expense of hydrocarbons. This is a very significant move away from coal domination of the sector. Unfortunately, much of the value of going from coal to natural gas is offset today by the leakage of natural gas into the atmosphere. Leakage is reported to be between one and three per cent of the total natural gas produced. Since, for the first few years, emitted natural gas (mostly methane) is up to 80 times as powerful a greenhouse gas as is carbon dioxide, it's easy to see that we would do well to close down leakages wherever we can.

So much to be done and so much CAN be done.

Our next note will focus on opportunities in space heating/cooling.

Have ideas where Beth El can make a difference? Contact Jeff Baden (jbaden@nssbethel.org) or Richard Schlosberg (rschlosberg144@comcast.net) to share your thoughts.

HAZAK Presents: Butterly Kisses

By Jackie Melinger and Mary Ellen Bowers, HAZAK Co-Chairs

Butterflies are deep and powerful symbols. They are a metaphor for change, hope and life.

The HAZAK Committee has commissioned a local artisan to create beautiful, vibrant, whimsical butterflies which are sure to put a smile on a loved one's face. Each hand-crafted creation includes a tag with the following message:

Butterfly kisses with love from NSS
Beth El.

'Butterfly Kisses' was born out of a desire to reach out to congregants in our NSS Beth El community who reside in senior living facilities, are isolated in their homes, or just need a bit of colorful comfort during this taxing time. We want to assure our members that



Beth El is thinking of them and we miss seeing them in person.

So, how can YOU participate in this unique Beth El Campaign?

With a minimum \$36 donation to HAZAK, you can gift a butterfly to a

fellow congregant, a loved one, or yourself! Your donation includes an adorable, crocheted/sewn butterfly, a suction cup with hook for easy window display, and a HAZAK notecard identifying you as the donor. (Your gift may also be anonymous- just let us know). In addition, we will deliver it to you, or the recipient free of charge (local delivery only please).

To order, go to: www.nssbethel.org/community/hazak-senior-life/

If you have any questions, please contact either Mary Ellen Bowers (eyerishmar@comcast.net) or Jackie Melinger (JackieMelinger@gmail.com)

Love Your Neighbor as Yourself

Mary Channon & Judy Berkeley, Co-Chairs



After George Floyd was murdered, several clergy and congregants spoke about doing more to learn about racism and how they and the shul could do more to prevent it.

Mission:

The Committee's purpose is to enable Beth El – as a community and as individuals – to make a difference in social justice, inclusion, and equality for all.

Vision:

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.

Chairs: Judy Berkeley and Mary Channon

Clergy Sponsor: Rabbi Freedman

Committee:

Leah Brajer	Rachel Kamin
Rolly Cohen	Abby Lasky
Ron Goldberg	Pam Schlosberg
Marla Grossberg	Rabbi Schwab
Linda Kupfer	Fran Shapiro
Elana Lazarus	Dawn Sidney
Paulette Margulies	Sandy Starkman
Sharon Narrod	Sarah Topal

In honor of JDAAIM (Jewish Disabilities Awareness Acceptance and Inclusion Month), we held two very meaningful events:

On Sunday, February 7, Chef Laura Frankel led a no-bake chocolate interactive cooking demonstration and participatory program, in conjunction with Keshet, HUGS and our Beth El Inclusion committee. We also heard inspiring words from Jen Phillips, CEO of Keshet, during this program.

On Saturday evening, February 20, we held a special Havdalah program with Hazzan Ben Tisser & Cantor Steve Stoehr of Beth Shalom Northbrook,

with video appearances by the SELAH Choir. Also in conjunction with Keshet, HUGS and our Beth El Inclusion committee.

We have held meetings with Beth El member Skip Schroyer, who is Chair of the Board of Bright Star Community Outreach, and Pastor Chris Harris of Bright Star Church, to discuss how we might partner with them in the future, and Rabbi Schwab and Pastor Harris have also begun dialoguing to see where this can go as well.

We held a meeting in February with Carmen Patlan, the Director of the Highwood library and Community Center, to hear about their community and needs and how we might partner together.

We continue to work on defining our mission and goals and long term strategy. We hope everyone stays safe and well!



Mazel Tov to Our B’nai Mitzvah Students



Bar Mitzvah

Gabriel Leon,
son of Michelle and
Jeff Leon

Shabbat, May 1



Bar Mitzvah

Maxwell Leon,
son of Michelle and
Jeff Leon

Shabbat, May 1



Bat Mitzvah

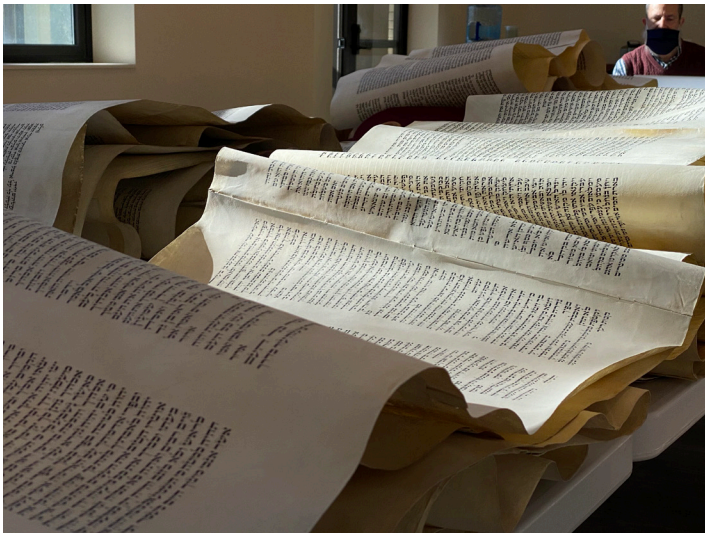
Mia Pearl,
daughter of Danielle and
Jonathan Pearl

Shabbat, May 22



Sunrise at morning minyan in winter,
captured by historian Mort Steinberg.

A Day with a Sofer - Master Sofer Moshe Druin Visits NSSBE



March/April/May Events at a Glance

Wednesdays, March 3, 17 & 31, April 14 & 28, and May 12 & 26

9:30-10:30am

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 for the Zoom link and to be added to the mailing list.

Saturday March 6

6:30-7:30 pm

Havdalah Dance Party



Dress for the weather and join us to dance and sing and celebrate the end of Shabbat and the start of a new week with glow sticks, hot chocolate, and fun! This program is intended for families with 1st graders or younger (any age sibling is also invited!) Contact Ali Drumm at adrumm@nssbethel.org

Sunday, March 7

10:00am

Family Book Club

The Sisterhood Torah Fund Book Club, the Cohen Religious School, and the Beth El Youth Community will host a special discussion of *Turtle Boy*, winner of the 2021 Sydney Taylor Book Award, with author Evan Wolkenstein. All 4th-7th graders, and adult readers of all ages, are encouraged to attend! Copies are available in our Pinsof Children's Reading Room and from local libraries. Contact rkamin@nssbethel.org for more information.



Tuesdays, (3 sessions);

March 9, 16, & 23

8:00 pm

Back to the Polls with Carl Schrag



On March 23, Israelis will vote for the fourth time in two years, choosing from dozens of political parties as they shake up the Knesset. Join former editor of The Jerusalem Post Carl Schrag as we explain

Israel's unique form of parliamentary democracy. Course includes a special post-election event, on March 23 – just hours after the polls close! Winter Quarter Fee: \$60 for Beth El members; \$125 for non-members.

Sunday, March 14

11:30 am

Virtual Tour of Mandela: Struggle for Freedom

The Men's Club, in conjunction with the Illinois Holocaust Museum, will host this virtual tour that will trace the history of the fight against apartheid in South Africa, with Nelson Mandela as one of its central figures. The exhibition replicates the eight-foot by seven-foot cell where Mandela spent 18 of his 27 years in jail, before emerging at age 71 to continue negotiating democratic change with his former enemies.



Sunday, March 14

3:00 pm

CRACK, BAM, DOT! An Afternoon of MAHJ with Sisterhood

Melissa Martens Yaverbaum, executive director of the Council of American Jewish Museums and curator of Project Mah Jongg, will share the surprising backstory of the tile game played by generations of Jewish women since the 1920s. Afterwards, all Mahj players are invited to play together at <https://realmah-jongg.com/>. For questions about post-presentation play, email rkamin@nssbethel.org. For questions regarding the presentation, email LoriStark@comcast.net.



Monday, March 15

5:30pm

JKids Radio All-Star Musical Passover Seder

Join us for an unbelievable line up of the very top artists in Jewish kids music! During this highly-interactive seder experience. For more details see page 13. Questions? Contact Ali Drumm at adrumm@nssbethel.org.

Thursday, March 18

4:00pm

Afternoon @ the Movies: Back to the Future in West Rogers Park

Join us on Zoom for a special screening of the short film *Driving West Rogers Park: Chicago's Once and Future Jewish*



Neighborhood, a spirited romp through the "golden age" of Devon Avenue, subsequent neighborhood transformations, and the changes fueled by Jewish activists today. Filmmaker Beverly Siegel will give behind-the-scenes insights and Ellen Doppelt, NSS Beth El member and executive director of the Jewish Neighborhood Development Council of Chicago, will participate in the discussion.

Sunday, March 21

1:00 pm

The Heroines of Passover: Shifra, Puah, Bat Paroh, Yocheved, and Miriam with Rabbi Freedman

Who are these women who precede Moses and display heroic courage in Egypt, culminating in the Exodus? This text study will highlight the unique contributions of these remarkable characters. This class will make for a great conversation-starter at your Seder. Free.



Monday, March 22

5:00pm

Virtual Chocolate Seder

For 2nd-7th graders. From four cups of chocolate milk to dipping strawberries in chocolate syrup, we guarantee you will be too full to eat dinner. Cost: \$18/kit (FREE for grades 8-12 who volunteer to help out). Most supplies will be delivered to you if you register by Monday, March 14! Watch your email for registration information or contact Sarah Topal at stopal@nssbethel.org to register.



Wednesday, March 31
8:00pm

Passover Treasures from the Rissman Family Kol Ami Museum

Experience a Passover "Show & Tell" after evening minyan with treasures from our Rissman Kol Ami Museum as well as congregants' own unique haggadot, seder plates, and other holiday Judaica. Contact Marcie Eskin at meskin@nssbethel.org for the Zoom link.



Wednesday, April 7
7:00 pm
Virtual Yom HaShoah

Details to follow.

Saturday evening, April 10
Sisterhood Presents "America's Jewish Women: A History from Colonial Times to Today"

Immediately following Ma'ariv and Havdalah, Pamela S. Nadell, Patrick Clendenen Chair in Women's and Gender History and Director of the Jewish Studies Program at American University, will join us for a virtual talk on the topic of her latest book. Questions can be sent to kbweiss1023@gmail.com.



Sunday, April 11
1:00pm
Sisterhood Torah Fund Book Club

Join Rachel Kamin for a discussion of *The Lost Shtetl* about a tiny Jewish shtetl that has peacefully escaped the devastations of the Holocaust and Cold War until a marriage dispute spins out of control. Author Max Gross will join us for a Q&A following the discussion. Contact rkamin@nssbethel.org for the Zoom link.



ISRAEL WEEK

See page 11 for more information

Sunday, April 11
2:00 - 4:00 pm
Yom Ha'atzmaut Drive Thru

Monday, April 12
12:00 - 1:00 pm
Virtual Tour of Israel

Tuesday, April 13
12:00 - 1:30 pm
Cook with Israeli Chef

Wednesday, April 14
6:45 pm
Yom Hazikaron Ceremony and Concert

Sunday, April 18
10:00 am
Social Action - A Season of Mitzvot

We will launch our Season of Mitzvot with a panel presentation of inspiring leaders representing a wide range of agencies that will share some insights on the critical needs in our greater community and an outdoor program to participate in at the conclusion of the panel.

Friday, April 23
Kabbalat Shabbat PLUS with Rabbi Josh Warshawsky

5:15 pm - Jammin With Rabbi Josh: Young Families Program

5:45 pm - Bo'i Kallah: Songs to welcome Shabbat, leading into our Friday night service at 6:00pm



Tuesdays, (4 sessions); April 20, 27 and May 4, May 11
11:00 am
Religious Pluralism In the Talmud and Israel Today with Rabbi Freedman

How did/do Jews reconcile their religious differences with each other in the past and present? Two classes will be led by Israelis speaking about contemporary life: the Women of the Wall (vice-chair Tammy Gottlieb) and Jerusalem (tour guide Ramah Israel Institute director Betsalel Steinhart). Sisterhood Torah Fund Class: minimum \$54 donation to attend one or ALL Torah Fund classes for the whole year.



Thursday, April 22
4:00pm
Afternoon @ the Movies: Joachim Prinz: I Shall Not be Silent

Rabbi Joachim Prinz helped organize the March on Washington in 1963, and spoke just before Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. delivered his stirring "I Have a Dream" speech. Stream the documentary at home and then zoom in for a discussion with filmmaker Rachel Fisher, co-sponsored by the JCC Chicago. Contact rkamin@nssbethel.org for the streaming link and the Zoom link.

Sunday, April 25
4:00 pm
Beth El's Annual Fundraiser: Honoring our COVID-19 Heroes!

We will honor the many individuals who have worked to support our community during this challenging year. Honorees include the Hazak Caring Community committee and volunteers, Bikkur Cholim committee and volunteers, the Medical Task Force, the Social Action committee and volunteers and Beth El's Education staff and teachers.



Thursdays, beginning April 29
9:30 am (6 sessions)
Artists Beit Midrash with Judith Joseph and Dr. Jane Shapiro -Art @ the Heart of Social Justice

We will examine texts and contemporary art to explore the issues of social and racial justice and inspire art that comes from a place of greater insight, enlightenment and justice. Spring Quarter Fee: \$60 for Beth El members; \$125 for non-members.



Sunday, May 23
10:00 am
Virtual Tour with Sisterhood of Yaacov Agam Museum of Art in Rishon LeTzion, Israel
Details to come.

Sunday, May 23
Time TBA
Member Neighborhood Walk
See page 16 for details.

Maror or Less - The Bitter Truth About Horseradish



by Chef Laura Frankel

We Jews love our food memories. We have our stand-by recipes that remind us of holidays, family, good times and bad. Horseradish is one of those foods.

Until recently, I could not even look at the root vegetable without the familiar smell taking me to Passover. I could be standing in my kitchen

at work, pulverizing the giant root in the middle of a hot summer day, and once I crack open the gnarly knob, I am back at the Seder.

It is funny, because not many foods do that to me. I can eat latkes all year round (and do!) and have occasionally snacked on an orphaned box of matzo I found in a cabinet, months after the holiday. In desperate Chocoholic moments I have greedily gobbled stray gelt and never once thought of Hanukkah.

But Horseradish is different. The pungent aroma is so unique and so.....Pesadich!

Eating a bitter herb is an iconic part of the Seder.

If food items had to win a beauty contest to gain space in your fridge, horseradish would no doubt, not be making the cut. Misshapen, dull colored and just generally unattractive horseradish is the ugly duckling of the root vegetable world. Horseradish has been demoted to condiment status for many people and likely appearing only once a year piled on top of gefilte fish.

I have had a recent awakening with the misunderstood, piquant root and have fallen hopelessly in love. Just a sprinkle of freshly grated horseradish brightens flavors and even intensifies them. Flavors become vibrant and so interesting.

Horseradish is so much better grated right at the moment you need it. The jarred stuff just doesn't cut the mustard (chuckle) and has a ho-hum flavor. The fresh stuff is exciting and lively. The challenge with the fresh stuff is that it goes from WOW to lackluster in a matter of hours. To keep the flavor going, grate fresh horseradish either with a box grater or food processor. Add a couple of tablespoons of vinegar (apple cider or white) and a couple of tablespoons of water. Seal the mixture in a container with a lid and refrigerate. This method will keep the ZING in your horseradish.



Garnishes: thinly sliced scallions, chives, crispy shallots

1. Place a large sauté pan, lightly coated with evoo, over medium heat. Add potatoes and garlic and cook until garlic is fragrant and starting to soften (about 5 minutes).
2. Add stock and cover pan. Simmer until potatoes are fork tender and most of the liquid has been absorbed. Mash potatoes with a potato masher or immersion blender until creamy.
3. Add salt, pepper, horseradish and evoo. Stir to combine. Adjust seasoning with salt and pepper.
4. Garnish and serve.

Beet and Horseradish Relish

- 1 4-inch piece of horseradish, peeled
 - 1 medium red beet, peeled
 - 1 medium carrot, peeled
 - 3 tablespoons good quality apple cider vinegar
 - 1 tablespoon honey
 - 1 teaspoon sea salt
1. Grate horseradish either in a food processor or with a box grater.
 2. Grate beet and carrot. Combine in a mixing bowl with horseradish. Add vinegar, honey and salt.
 3. Serve with raw fish, smoked fish or sprinkled over veggies, chicken, beef, salad or whatever!
 4. Horseradish is best served immediately after grating as it loses pungency. This relish can be stored for up to 1 day, covered, in the refrigerator.

Mashed Potatoes with Horseradish and Garlic

The first bite of mashed potatoes is always so great and then they kind of lose their luster. Let's face it, the creaminess is great but the flavor is boring!

A scoop of horseradish stirred in adds some KAPOW to potatoes and suddenly boring becomes brilliant.

Serves 5+

2 ½ pounds russet potatoes, peeled and cut into dice

Extra virgin olive oil

3 Cloves garlic, minced

1 ½ cups chicken stock

2 teaspoons sea salt

1 teaspoon freshly cracked black pepper

¼ cup grated horseradish

¼ cup best quality extra virgin olive oil