



We Need Your Vote for MERCAZ USA!

By Rabbi Michael Schwab

The World Zionist Congress elections have begun! This is a historic opportunity as Diaspora Jews that we have only once every 5 years to express to the Jewish people that pluralism, democracy and equality are critical to creating a strong and vibrant Israel. As Conservative Jews we need your vote for MERCAZ slate #6 to help us send a clear and undeniable message to Israeli leaders about the future of Israel as a homeland for all streams of Jews. During the election thirteen slates will be competing for delegates, for influence and most critically for their fair share of the 1 billion dollars that can be used to fund Conservative/Masorti programs and movement efforts in Israel and around the world. Rabbi Emeritus Kurtz is a former President of MERCAZ, and all of the Beth El clergy as well as many lay leaders have been supportive of this important organization. For quick inspiration to take the 5 minutes to vote, we share with you: "Why Vote MERCAZ?"

MERCAZ supports and will fight for:

1. An open, pluralistic Jewish society
2. No Jewish restrictions on the Law of Return
3. Governmental respect for Conservative and Egalitarian traditions and practices
4. Increased funding for the Conservative/Masorti Movement

Vote Slate 6 to elect NSSBE Members Rachel Russo, Alan Silberman and Sandy Starkman



5. Strengthening the ties between American Jews and Israel
6. Combating anti-Semitism and anti-Zionism
7. Achieving peace
8. Supporting Israel as a democratic ally and engaged global citizen
9. Over 80 Conservative/Masorti congregations growing and thriving in Israel
10. Over 800,000 Israelis affiliating with Masorti and liberal Judaism

Click on merc2020.org to cast your personal **vote before March 11th**, and please recruit your family and friends to #VoteMERCAZ. (Paper ballots are available from Rabbi Freedman.)

Click on <https://youtu.be/ZoVCmwdsnMU> to see a video message about MERCAZ from Rabbi Kurtz and the Beth El clergy.

With your support, and your voice, we can send a critical message that pluralism, democracy and equality are critical to creating a strong and vibrant Israel and that the right to observe Judaism is open to all.

Please note: There is a nominal fee collected to cover the cost of the election administration process (\$5.00 for those 18-25 years of age and \$7.50 for those who are 26 years of age and older).

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

What We've Learned from Community Conversations

By Ron Goldberg, NSS Beth El President



My friends,

As I have mentioned before, the Congregational Survey sent to you last spring was the first step in our Strategic Planning Process. It was designed to help us understand your views, desires and expectations for Beth El. We learned that the overwhelming majority of our congregants want to belong to a Modern yet Traditional Synagogue. The next step therefore was to understand what Modern/Traditional really means to you and how best to make it a practical reality.

Under the outstanding leadership of the Strategic Planning Committee (Arielle Levitan, Ronit Ripes, Irene Savine, Stuart Hochwert, Mark Gaines, and Lisa Rosenkranz) and in coordination with the USCJ, we continue to make good progress. Here's where we are and where we are headed.

As of this writing, we have held 11 Community Conversations with over 110 congregants participating. These discussions add context to the feedback we got through the congregation-wide survey last spring. The participants in these sessions reflect a broad section of our congregation - from young families to grandparents and from occasion-

al participants in our programming and prayer services to "regulars." Thanks to everyone who took the time to participate. Also, many thanks to our excellent facilitators - Rebecca Jacobson, Marla Grossberg, Derek Faust, Wendi Ezgur, Kim Ephraim, Mindy Gordon, Steve Abrams and Mark Gaines. The groups were very positively received and excellent feedback arose from each.

The results of these conversations truly support the concepts embodied in our Vision - A warm and joyous community where Jewish tradition meets contemporary life. I encourage everyone to visit our web site and review our Vision, Mission and Values. They are a direct outcome of the this process.

Some Insights -

- People feel most engaged and connected to BE when they're involved in some way - whether that is in a leadership role of some type; their child is becoming a bar/bat mitzvah; they are taking a class; or in times of difficulty.
- Most everyone discussed the desire for community and connection, though there were different definitions of what this means and looks like.

continued on page 9

Recent Happenings at Beth El



Beth El Hanukkah Party with Rick Recht



New Member Dinner



New Member Dinner



Tu B'Shevat in the Forest



Shabbat Schedule

Daily Service

Monday through Friday
Mornings, 7:15 am

Sunday through Thursday
Evenings, 7:30 pm

Sunday and Major Holiday
Mornings, 8:45 am

Rosh Hodesh and
Hol Hamoed Mornings,
7:00 am

Clergy:

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



Every Shabbat

8:50 am Shacharit Service

10:30 am Junior Congregation

Services for students in
2nd - 6th grade (Grossinger
Brickman).

10:45 am Tot Shabbat

Year round services for
families with children 1st grade
and younger (Room 3).

Please note:

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

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

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

March

Friday, March 6

5:29 pm Candle Lighting
6:15 pm Kabbalat Shabbat

Saturday, March 7

Shabbat Zachor
Parashat Tetzaveh
8:50 am Shabbat Service
5:15 pm Mincha/Ma'ariv
6:31 pm Shabbat Ends

Purim details pgs. 22-23.

Friday, March 13

6:15 pm Bet Shabbat Service
6:15 pm Kabbalat Shabbat
6:38 pm Candle Lighting

Saturday, March 14

Shabbat Parah
Parashat Ki Tisa
8:50 am Shabbat Service
6:30 pm Mincha/Ma'ariv
7:39 pm Shabbat Ends

Friday, March 20

5:15 pm Rinat Shabbat Reception
6:00 pm Rinat Shabbat
6:46 pm Candle Lighting

Saturday, March 21

Shabbat HaHodesh
Parashat Vayakhel-Pekudei
8:50 am Shabbat Services
6:30 pm Mincha/Ma'ariv
7:47 pm Shabbat Ends

Friday, March 27

6:15 pm Kabbalat Shabbat
6:54 pm Candle Lighting

Saturday, March 28

Ba'al Korei Shabbat
Parashat Vayikra
8:50 am Shabbat Services
6:45 pm Mincha/Ma'ariv
7:56 pm Shabbat Ends



April

Friday, April 3

6:15 pm Kabbalat Shabbat
7:01 pm Candle Lighting

Saturday, April 4

Shabbat HaGadol
Parashat Tzav
8:50 am Shabbat Service
6:45 pm Mincha/Ma'ariv
8:04 pm Shabbat Ends

Friday, April 10

Pesach 2nd Day
8:50 am Festival Service
7:00 pm Mincha/Ma'ariv
7:09 pm Candle Lighting

Saturday, April 11

Shabbat Hol Hamoed Pesach
8:50 am Shabbat Service
7:00 pm Mincha/Ma'ariv
8:13 pm Shabbat Ends

Friday, April 17

5:15 pm Rinat Shabbat Reception
6:00 pm Rinat Shabbat
7:17 pm Candle Lighting

Saturday, April 18

Parashat Shmini
8:50 am Shabbat Services
7:00 pm Mincha/Ma'ariv
8:21 pm Shabbat Ends

Friday, April 24

5:00 pm Jeans & Jammies
6:15 pm Gimmel Shabbat Service
6:15 pm Kabbalat Shabbat
7:25 pm Candle Lighting

Saturday, April 25

Rosh Hodesh Iyyar
Parashat Tazria-Metzora
8:50 am Shabbat Services
7:15 pm Mincha/Ma'ariv
8:30 pm Shabbat Ends

Please Note: for a complete
schedule of Festival Holiday
service times, please turn to
page 12 for Pesach, and page 23
for Purim and Shavuot.

May

Friday, May 1

6:15 pm Kabbalat Shabbat
7:33 pm Candle Lighting

Saturday, May 2

Education Shabbat
Parashat Acharei Mot-Kedoshim
8:50 am Shabbat Services
7:15 pm Mincha/Ma'ariv
8:39 pm Shabbat Ends

Friday, May 8

6:15 pm Gesher Service
6:15 pm Kabbalat Shabbat
7:40 pm Candle Lighting

Saturday, May 9

Parashat Emor
8:50 am Shabbat Services
7:30 pm Mincha/Ma'ariv
8:48 pm Shabbat Ends

Friday, May 15

6:15 pm Kabbalat Shabbat
7:48 pm Candle Lighting

Saturday, May 16

Parashat Behar-Bechukotai
8:50 am Shabbat Services
9:15 am Beit Midrash Minyan
7:30 pm Mincha/Ma'ariv
8:56 pm Shabbat Ends

Friday, May 22

6:15 pm Kabbalat Shabbat
7:54 pm Candle Lighting

Saturday, May 23

Parashat Bamidbar
8:50 am Shabbat Services
7:45 pm Mincha/Ma'ariv
9:04 pm Shabbat Ends

Friday, May 29

First Day of Shavuot
4:15 am Sunrise Service
8:50 am Festival Service
7:45 pm Mincha/Ma'ariv
8:01 pm Candle Lighting

Saturday, May 30

Second Day of Shavuot/Yizkor
8:50 am Festival Services
Adult B'nai Mitzvah
7:45 pm Mincha/Ma'ariv
9:11 pm Yom Tov Ends

Notes from Hazzan Tisser



We live in a complicated world. We live in a world where, on the one hand, we are expected to be very vocal about that which society has strong convictions; while at the same time we are expected to remain silent if our values do not align with what have become societal norms. We live in a world where leaders don't always feel an obligation to the same rules as we are held to; and yet they remain the leading class. We live in a world where the value of volume of work often trumps the value of quality of work, and in which gratifying our own needs for success come at the expense of the value of loyalty.

I cannot and will not make a case for one way or the other. Certainly there are merits to be found on both sides of the coin, but there are certain values which, no matter what society demands, our faith, our Torah, and our God, still expect. This is best stated in *Pirkei Avot*: "In a place where there are no [mentsches], be a [mentsch]" (the word used is *adam*, meaning a person of morals in this context).

On March 18th at 7:00pm, the music committee is very proud to present a brief theatrical piece to our community, written by my colleague **Cantor Steven Stoehr** of Congregation Beth Shalom in Northbrook. The play is entitled "**The Lost Supper**." In it, Stoehr imagines two of the greatest leaders of the American Civil Rights Movement—Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel. In the play, Heschel invites King and his family to the Heschel home for the *Pesach Seder*. During the *Seder*, they debate societal



issues and study the Passover ritual. It is a piece that teaches the audience as much about our responsibility to society as Jews, as it does about the *Pesach Seder*.

I have participated in this production at Beth Shalom and in Louisville this past year, and I must tell you that I have been moved and inspired each time. We are offering this program free of charge for the community, and I would encourage you to come and bring your children (5th grade and above) to this very important program. **We will present the program to our 5th-7th graders as part of religious school the same day.** We are most grateful to the **Rabbi Vernon Kurtz Book Fund**, which supports educational programming at the synagogue, for supporting this production.

My family joins me in wishing you, until the next bulletin, a *freylekhn Purim*, a *kosher Pesach*, and only blessings.



SAVE THE DATE: March 18 @ 7:00 pm The Lost Supper - a theatrical piece about two of the greatest leaders of the American Civil Rights Movement —Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel. In the play, Heschel invites King and his family to the Heschel home for the *Pesach Seder*.

Recent Happenings at Beth El



LBGtQIA+ 101



Visiting Author Goldie Goldbloom



Men's Club & Sisterhood Open Mic Night

Informal Education



Tracking our Jewish Journeys Together

By Ali Drumm, Director of Informal Education

What gives you energy, and what drains your energy? When and where have you felt welcomed? What are your strengths and how have you been called to share them in a leadership role? These types of questions are being contemplated by our first cohort of a project called **Sulam for Emerging Leaders** through the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism (USCJ). The Sulam (Hebrew for “ladder”) program offers curricula for various stages of life journeys, and this spring we are focusing on Emerging Leaders, in a specific demographic who are raising children in our community now. Our current lay leadership and Executive Committee have been participating in Sulam programming and have found it inspirational. We hope in the next few years to engage other cohorts of our community members in one of the five Sulam programs that USCJ offers to help us



find deeper meaning in congregational life. The nationally acclaimed Sulam programs engage participants through text study, journaling, and facilitated conversations, connecting participants’ own personal stories to those of their peers and to the larger narrative of the Jewish people.

Guided in our work by a partnership between co-chairs Rebecca Schechter and Jeff Leon, Rabbi Schwab and Rabbi Freedman, and staff liaisons Judy Berkeley, Director of Develop-

ment and Membership, and myself - we are meeting to find common ground in the areas of pride and struggle, growth and learning that will guide us forward individually and together on our Jewish path. The current Sulam participants bring a variety of personal and leadership experiences to our cohort and already are working to build a meaningful, relevant and achievable set of Jewish goals and best practices for our community.

Formal Education



Tzedakah: Teaching the Joy of Giving

By Dr. Alicia Gejman, Director of Formal Education

An overarching theme in our schools is teaching the concept of tzedakah. Throughout the year, our students collect tzedakah every time they are in the building. At the end of the year, they select two or three organizations in which to disburse their monies.

Mexico. For Mitzvah Day, our families donated and helped sort food and paper goods for the Moraine Township Food Pantry.

Our Miriam and Bernard H. Sokol Hebrew High School teenagers, through Teen Midrasha, are currently engaged in the Tzedek Philanthropy program in partnership with the Jewish United Fund. After defining philanthropy, students discussed the concept of Social Justice Giving Circles. The teens will receive real money donated by the David and Susie Sherman family as well as JUF, plus donations from our students. Students will then have an opportunity to critically evaluate the merit of 4-6 grant proposals of Jewish and non-Jewish organizations which do social justice work, specifically ones that address food insecurity and homelessness. Through a process of discussion and vetting Jewish values, and building consensus, students will choose one or two organizations

to donate the money. To anchor the learning in Jewish tradition, students studied Jewish sources. Students were surprised to learn that a Jew should reside in a city that has a charity fund for which monies are collected by two people and distributed by three, among other things (Sanhedrin 17b). Interesting discussions were held about how we should give, and whom we should help.

We are proud of our students and our families for helping us teach the value of giving from an early age and beyond.



Besides money, our students also donate goods. At the beginning of the year, our schools sent more than 100 packages of school supplies and toiletries to HIAS, for children and families of immigrants at our border with

My Family Story

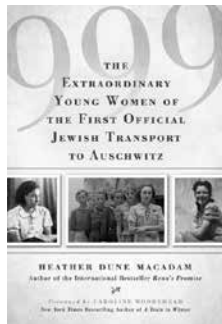
Presentations will take place on Sunday, March 15 in the Grossinger Brickman from 9:00 am to noon. All student projects will be showcased in the Rissman Kol Ami Collection through May.



Commemorating the Holocaust through Art & Literature

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

In commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz, two new books were donated to the Abbell Library. 999: *The Extraordinary Young Women of the First Official Jewish Transport to Auschwitz* by Heather Dune Macadam reveals the poignant stories of the young, unmarried women, aged 15-34, from Slovakia who were on the first official transport to Auschwitz. Drawing on extensive interviews with survivors, and consulting with historians, witnesses and relatives of those first deportees, the acclaimed author of *Rena's Promise* (also available in the Abbell Library) brings this little known story to light. The book was donated by Beth El members Dan and Lori Gross



in memory of the members of Dan's family who perished in the Holocaust including Adela Gross whose story is included in the book. Dan and Lori also donated *Flight for Life* by Lou Gross, which chronicles the life of Dan's father who was only 5-years-old when his family went into hiding to avoid capture by the Nazis. Look for both

books on the new book shelf in the Kaye Reading Room.

The newest acquisition to the Rissman Kol Ami Collection is a painting by self-taught Highland Park artist Paulette Krelman, the daughter of a Holocaust survivor. Born in Warsaw, her father served in the Polish Army in Tobruk (Libya), and lost his parents and five brothers in the Holocaust. He fled to Belgium, where Paulette was born. In this painting, yellow Jewish stars

marked with "Jude," "Jood," "Juif," or simply "J," recall the badges Nazis forced Jews to wear during World War II. Rising from darkness, the stars float up to an orange-pink sky filled with flowers and the promise of rebirth, "something good and beautiful" according to the artist. Krelman's painting is currently on display in the rotunda gallery outside the sanctuary.



Ritual Director



Ritually Speaking

By Hazzan Barbara Barnett, Ritual Director

"And now, write for yourselves this song, and teach it to the Children of Israel. Place it into their mouths, in order that this song will be for Me as a witness for the children of Israel." (Deut. 31:19) This is the final (613th) commandment in the Torah. The verse is often interpreted to mean that each of us should write for ourselves a Torah. Quite the task, eh?

Of course it is impossible for each of us to "write" an entire Torah. But each of us can take ownership of the incredible gift that God gave to humanity. To us. To each of us. To embrace, to understand. To read.

So let me extend to you an invitation. Each Saturday afternoon, and Monday, Thursday and Shabbat morning we read aloud from the Torah. A public chanting of the week's portion, enhanced by commentary (on Shabbat morning) by one of the Rabbis or from one of the members of our community.

If you are not one of our many Torah readers, I would like to invite you to become one of the Torah Reading team. There is nothing quite like standing up at the Torah, yad in hand and chanting from the scroll.

(If you are an experienced Torah reader, you can skip this paragraph—but definitely go to the next.) I realize if you took a peek at (or listened to) any Torah reading on Shabbat morning, many of you would be more than intimidated at the sheer length of each reading. But, they're not all long (some are quite manageable for an emerging or new Torah reader). We will even split a longer reading into two sections, providing anyone who desires, can read Hebrew and learn a few lines, the opportunity to dip his or her toe in the Torah reading waters.

NSS Beth El has just rolled out a new tool to make it easier for either new or experienced Torah readers to become involved in this wonderful

mitzvah. It's called WebParasha. You can find it here: **NSSBethEl.web-parasha.com**

It allows you to preview open Torah readings well in advance and select one (or more) that you would like to read. The cloud-based platform will also allow me to upload recordings as needed, allow you to communicate with me — and remind you when your reading is coming up.

The first step is to sign up for an account, and I encourage all post-b'nai mitzvah members of the NSS Beth El community to sign up for an account and fill out a profile. Interested, but have questions? Please reach out to me at BBarnett@NSSBethel.org.





Rabbi Schwab Installation Needs Your Support!

By Judy Berkeley, Membership & Development Director

We are so grateful to already have over 200 members serving on our Installation Celebration Committee. Please contact me if you haven't yet signed up to be part of this committee. Thank you once again to our Co-Chairs and Honorary Co-Chairs who are leading us in our efforts to plan the celebration for Rabbi Schwab's Installation!

Co-Chairs

Nina & Arnie Harris
Beth & Jeff Kopin
Erica & Zachary Lindon
Danielle & Jonathan Pearl

Honorary Co-Chairs

Gail & Andrew Brown
Nancy & Maury Fertig
Lisa & Jeff Rosenkranz
Lynn & Skip Schrayner

We are still nearly \$50,000 away from meeting our total fundraising goal on behalf of Rabbi Schwab's Installation. If you have not already done so, please send in your sponsorships and ads so we can meet our annual fundraising

goals and also make a nice celebration on behalf of Rabbi Schwab! Remember...this is our first Installation at Beth El in 31 years! You can just go on our website and donate here:

<https://www.nssbethel.org/donate/sponsorship/>

Under the leadership of Larry Pachter, we have embarked on a special fundraising effort to increase the number of B'Yachad donors at the \$10,000 level. As part of this effort two higher levels of annual giving have been created – The President's Circle at \$18,000 and The Rabbi's Circle at \$25,000.

Already two member families have committed to joining the President's Circle at the \$18,000 level for this fiscal year:

Cheryl & Carey Cooper and
Lynn & Skip Schrayner

We also have one member family committed to joining the Rabbi's Circle at \$25,000 this fiscal year:
Nina & Arnie Harris

And two Rabbi's Circle members committed for next year's fiscal calendar 2020-2021:
Nina & Arnie Harris and
Lynn & Skip Schrayner

And we also have four new B'Yachad members committed at the \$10,000 level for our 2019-2020 fiscal year:
Lisa Newman & David Gross
Jan Gaines & Andrew Kenoe
Sara & Michael Sher
Linda & Adrian Winick

We are so grateful to these new steadfast annual donors and also to all of our 31 B'Yachad members who are listed on our annual donor wall in the rotunda. We hope that many of you will continue joining your fellow congregants who have stepped up to the plate as our B'Yachad, President's Circle and Rabbi's Circle members on behalf of the Installation of Rabbi Michael Schwab and in support of his vision for the future of Beth El.

Pre-School



We are the Paul S. & Sylvia Steinberg Pre-School

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

We are the children...

At 6 months old, children are brought into the community with song and play with one of our most cherished teachers, Eileen Goldberg, in her Small and Tall class!

As the children grow, we offer Adult-Toddler classes for children 15 months old and our offerings continue through Pre-Kindergarten.

We are the Parents...

Our Parent Auxiliary has been very busy this year, beginning with a Welcome Back Ice Cream Social and ending our year with a Teacher Appreciation Luncheon.

In between they have been working for the school including: Take Shabbat Home, Teek Bayit (Home Baskets), Family Outreach, Art After Dark, Tu B'Shevat Forest, Shema Pajama Party and Passover Seders.

While benefiting the school and helping our children appreciate the joys of our rich Jewish heritage, we are also building a strong Jewish community.

We see firsthand every day the friendships that have developed between our families. Parents have reached out to other parents that are in need, and to teachers that have experienced illness. They are forming friendships that will last beyond their children's pre-school years.

They are teaching their children the importance of *ma'achil r'ay-vim* (feeding the hungry), *g'milut chasadim* (acts of loving kindness), *bikur cholim* (visiting the sick), *tzedakah* (justice/charity) and *tikkun olam* (repairing the world). I am so proud to be a part of this special community.

We are the teachers...

One of the most special things about

the Paul S. & Sylvia Steinberg Pre-School is our teaching staff.

Some of our teachers have been carrying on the traditions of our school for over 20 years. And, some of our teachers have recently joined our staff.

It is the magic of our staff coming together that creates the beautiful balance of honoring our traditions and infusing our curriculum with the latest ideas in Jewish early childhood education. **We are a community!**

We invite you to join us or tell your friends about us.

Registration is now underway for the 2020-21 school year and for our 8-week summer camp.

For information and to arrange a tour, please contact me at (847)926-7907 or kgoldenberg@nssbethel.org.



The Paul S. & Sylvia Steinberg
Pre-School



Jewish Summer Programs Provide Educational and Service Opportunities

By Marah Altenberg, Youth Community Director



Are you looking for an inspiring summer experience for your teen? Even if your child is still in elementary school, we recommend checking out all of the amazing possibilities offered by Jewish organizations. Jewish summer experiences range from service projects, overseas travel to Israel and Eastern Europe to rediscover Jewish roots, to summer camp and life-changing team athletics. Teen experiences shape adult Jewish lives profoundly and create lifelong memories. Summer trips and volunteer opportunities will help build your child's intellect and

confidence and aid their evolving independence. While it is not possible to cover all of the options, here are a few examples of the many opportunities available:

For eighth graders,

a great first taste of Israel is from the Chicago-based Ta'am Yisrael Program. This highly subsidized trip takes more than 250 8th grade students from Chicago to Israel for an 8-day experience with the intention of sparking a lifelong interest in our homeland. For more details go to: <https://www.juf.org/education/taam-yisrael-about.aspx>.

For high school students, a number of organizations including United Synagogue Youth (USY), offers amazing travel experiences to Israel and sometimes through various European countries as they trace Jewish migration to Israel. USY offers 4 and 6-week trips that travel around the State of Israel visiting a number of historic sites, as well as service activities, immersion with Israeli youth, Shabbat experiences, and meeting other Jewish teens from all over the United States. The variety of trips offered by USY include: Eastern Europe Israel Pilgrimage that includes travels to

Poland, Prague, Berlin and Israel; Israel Pilgrimage Poland Seminar, L'Takayn Olam- 4 weeks of service projects in Israel; and USY Israel Adventure.

USY also offers a cross-country travel experience in the United States called USY on Wheels. There are several Wheels experiences, some focusing on service projects. There is "Classic" Wheels, Wheels Pacific Northwest, Wheels East and the Dream trip, which performs volunteer service in the Dominican Republic.

To find out about USY Pilgrimage and Wheels trips go to:

<https://www.usy.org/summer/>.

For teen athletes looking for a unique sports experience, the Maccabi games are an exciting way to participate in our Jewish Community if you are athletic and enjoy competing singularly or with a team. Go to: <http://www.jccmaccabigames.org/> for more information.



USY Upcoming Events

Kadima Chocolate Seder Tuesday, March 31

6:00 - 7:00 pm

5th - 7th graders are invited to attend our Kadima Chocolate Seder in the Youth Lounge. Sweet treats and a pizza dinner are included. Cost: \$10. Bring money with you to the seder. RSVP to maltenberg@nssbethel.org.

Shalom Club Chocolate Seder Wednesday, April 1 6:00 - 7:00 pm

2nd - 4th graders are invited to our Kadima Chocolate Seder in the Youth Lounge. Sweet treats and a pizza dinner are included. Cost: \$10. Bring money with you to the seder. RSVP to maltenberg@nssbethel.org.

BEANS Escape Room Fun Sunday, April 19 1:00 - 3:30 pm

8th - 12th graders are invited to our Escape Room event. Bring your friends and your best problem-

solving skills. Look for more information in March.

Kadima Escapes to Gurnee Sunday, May 3 Noon - 2:45 pm

5th-7th graders are invited to a fun afternoon at an Escape Room with friends. Bring your best problem solving skills and invite any friends to join. Look for more information in April.

A Note from Our Youth Department

Marah Altenberg has served our Youth Community as its Director for 2 years. She truly enjoys working with our children and their parents and is deeply valued and appreciated by her colleagues. Marah works tirelessly to manage a diverse portfolio and puts her heart and soul into helping our kids develop their love of community,

of Judaism, and their commitment to Jewish leadership. She has decided to move on to another career path next year, but will continue to work on developing the vision for our youth department through the early summer.

"We are deeply grateful for Marah's hard work and efforts to grow our

Youth Community. We wish her the best of luck as she pursues her next endeavors," says Ronit Ripes, our Vice President of Education overseeing Informal Education.

The Final Touches on the South Wing

By Jeff Baden, Executive Director



Thanks to a very generous gift from the Zell Family Foundation, the Zell South Wing renovation is nearly complete. When designing the new space, the Facilities Committee, led by Rob Freeman and Seth Pines, worked closely with our Inclusion Committee, led by Audra Kaplan and Rachel Ferber, as well as our new LGBTQ Committee, led by Ellen Krumbein and Stacy Goldsmith, to design a space that we believe is both welcoming and inclusive.

When you enter the Zell South Wing, you will find a completely transformed Edith and Sidney Weiss South Reception Foyer, which includes the Paula Rebecca Anderson Infant Room, which is now large enough to accommodate families with small children as well as infants. Based upon recommendations from

our Inclusion and LGBTQ committees, we have also added a new “all-gender” wheelchair accessible restroom, which also contains an infant changing table.

Travel up to the second floor using our new elevator or staircase (being installed as of press time), and you will find the beautiful Zell Activity Center, which is 20% larger than the old Zell Lounge. This space, with its high ceilings, hardwood floors and beautiful wood accents, is suitable for meetings, lectures, film screenings and dinners for as many as 60 participants. Also on the second level are three additional all-gender restrooms, with an outer lobby area containing another infant changing table.

Take the elevator or stairs down to the lower level, and you will find a

newly renovated Horwitz-Hoffman Youth Lounge. Now with hardwood flooring and a new audio/video system, this room will not only be conducive for youth programming, but will also work well for adult classes and a variety of other family program offerings.



Zell Activity Center



Horwitz-Hoffman Youth Lounge



Paula Rebecca Anderson Infant Room



All-gender Wheelchair Accessible Restrooms

Community Conversations continued from page 2

By Ron Goldberg

- There were many opinions about our Shabbat and Minyan services but most felt that we should continue to improve the experience and the engagement in these services.
- Congregants desire continued improvement in our communications so everyone is aware of what is going on in their areas of interest.

We have not been waiting for the completion of the Strategic Planning Process to make changes. Influenced by your feedback and our Vision, Mission and Values, we have instituted new programs, services and oper-

ational items including Rinat Shabbat (which was cited frequently as a positive in the Community Conversations); increased use of video in our communications to educate and inform; improved our accessibility; began congregational LGBTQIA+ education; made changes in our Bima policies regarding B'nai Mitzvah, and more.

As next steps, we are collating the results of all of our work to date. A few Task Forces will be formed to focus on the key areas highlighted by the research. The task forces will ultimately make recommendations for strategies that address their assignments. Our goal is to complete this work around the

start of summer. After that, a full report will be prepared summarizing all this work. It will include plans to execute the strategies. Finally, the Board will determine which strategies will be accepted and implemented.

What an exciting time at Beth El! Amidst all this research and planning, we are installing Rabbi Schwab as Senior Rabbi on May 31. Won't you please join us? There is no charge to attend! We would of course be so grateful for your participation in the Ad Book in support of Rabbi Schwab and Beth El. Please go to the website for details.

Warm regards,
Ron



For this edition of the Kol Beth El, I'd like to depart a bit from my usual practice of talking up past Sisterhood successes and previewing future programming and instead share with the community (at my board's urging) some thoughts that I presented as my d'var Torah at Sisterhood's January board meeting. My theme was the beauty of the structure of the Hebrew language and how delving into just a few of its words can teach us something important about our lives as Jews and as human beings.

In my very brief presentation, I spoke first about the word "chaim" (חיים). Of course, we all hear constantly about how the number 18 "chai" (חי) -stands - in gematria - for "life," but that's not actually true. "Chai" (as in "Am Yisrael Chai") is a verb, not a noun. The word for "life" is "chaim" (חיים). However, anyone who knows Hebrew can tell you that, while "life" is a singular noun, the "im" (ים) ending in Hebrew indicates a plural noun. My conjecture is that this teaches us an important lesson. As Jews, we don't live our best lives in isolation; we

thrive only when we're part of a community. We need a minyan to pray, we join synagogues and other Jewish organizations and we instinctively seek out other Jews and Jewish communities as we travel.

The second part of my d'var Torah dealt with two Hebrew words that sound the same, but are spelled differently. "Osher" (אוישר) with an aleph (א) means happiness; "osher" (עושר) with an ayin (ע) means wealth. How can we remember which is which? In the Hebrew alphabet, aleph comes before ayin; hence, I suggest that this teaches us that in order to be truly rich, we need first to be happy within ourselves. Aleph before ayin . . . contentment precedes authentic wealth.

Sisterhood is one of the welcoming communities for all our women and getting involved in Sisterhood is one thing that can bring satisfaction to our lives. While Sisterhood was busy over the past three months offering a wonderful array of events and classes, we begin now winding down our programming year



with a number of additional offerings, including the special one below. Please check the event pages (pp. 26-27) in this bulletin to read about what we have scheduled in the coming months. We look forward to seeing you!

Chocolate Extravaganza Wednesday, April 22 @7:00 pm

Discover organic, single-source and fair trade chocolates. Educate your taste buds and learn where to shop for the best chocolates to use in your kitchen. Chef Laura Frankel will guide us through a tasting of popular chocolates. We will learn quick and easy desserts, savory uses of cacao and more.

Sisterhood Gift Shop Passover: Recall. Engage. Refresh. Celebrate!

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

If the mitzvah of Passover is to retell the story of the Exodus, then the seder table is the central physical space around which the seder unfolds. It's carefully set with Judaica and symbols to help engage, refresh, and bring the story of the Exodus alive. And every generation gathered around a seder table can use these symbols to help connect the dots of the Exodus saga and create a message that resonates anew.

So where do you begin? Perhaps you can consider adding some creative readings to enliven the ancient text of the haggadah or placing an orange on the seder plate to highlight the role of women in Jewish life, or singing a new song - or two.

You might consider placing a Miriam's Cup of *mayyim hayyim* (waters of life) alongside Elijah's Cup of wine at the Passover seder. Miriam's Cup can add a dynamic dimension to your seder discussion, for it symbolizes her role in the Exodus narrative and so much more.

In contrast to the life of Elijah, a hermit focused on the world to come who lived part of his life alone in the desert, Miriam, sister of Moses and Aaron, lived among her people in the desert encouraging them throughout their journey. She inspired a number of midrashim that honor her as a leader and protagonist. They note that Miriam was the true source of the *mayyim hayyim* in the desert. Miriam's Well provided water that kept the Israelites alive as they traveled with the Mishkan on their extraordinary desert journey. However, since the waters of this well were said to be healing and sustaining, Miriam's indomitable outreach can be a source of hope and renewal for today's generations. The memory of the spirit that filled her soul with hope, that led her to sing a new song and joyously dance after crossing the Sea of Reeds, can be a reminder of all that sustains us through our spiritual journey.

As chairs of the Gift Shop, we understand that Passover can be more than a festive meal; the seder can creatively engage the mind, heart, and soul. Our selection of merchandise reflects



this. Along with a beautiful array of Miriam cups, we have a unique selection of Passover Judaica to enhance your seder traditions. From new haggadot, matzo holders, and afikomen bags to plague puppets, jumping frogs, and wonderful books to complement the Exodus story for your youngest guests, we have it all!

We invite you to stop in or call for an appointment - Diane: 847-571-5629; Sulie: 847-558-3389; or Pam: 847-433-7546.

Special Passover Hours -
Beginning March 23 through April 3:
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday:
9:00 am - Noon
Wednesdays: 4:00 - 6:30 pm

Men's Club Corner

By Steve Coven, Men's Club President

Men's Club Man and Youth of the Year

The NSSBE Men's Club is very proud of our good friend and this year's Man of the Year honoree,

Dan Gross. Dan is Men's Club Executive Vice President and previously served as V.P. Communications. Dan coordinates the Men's Club Shabbat service program at the Lieberman Center, and heads our Yom Hashoah Yellow Candle Program. He also serves on the NSSBE Board of Directors and Board of Education. Dan is a teacher at New Trier High School working with students with learning and social emotional disabilities. Dan serves on the New Trier leadership team and is the Student Activities Director. Dan received his B.A. from University of Wisconsin (Madison) and completed his Master's degree in Educational Administration at University of Illinois.



Dan, his wife Lori and children Adysen and Trevor are fixtures at NSSBE, may it be at minyan or other activities.

We are also proud to announce that **Nathan Spellberg** has been named the NSSBE Youth of the Year honoree. Nathan is a leader in the NSSBE Youth Community, serves on the USY Chapter Board and is currently the Executive Vice President. He previously served as Kadima President. This summer Nathan will be part of Camp Ramah's Darom Leadership Institute. Nathan is a sophomore at Highland Park High School where he competes on the school's gymnastics and robotics teams, and is a member of the Israel Interest group.

The Men's Club is excited to celebrate with Dan, Nathan and their families. The award will be presented at the Annual FJMC Region



al Dinner on March 15th, at Beth Hillel Bnai Emunah in Wilmette. Tickets for joining the celebration can be purchased before March 11th (early-bird ends March 4th) at midwestregionfjmc.myshopify.com. Please contact Gordon Schwartz at gschwartz@bdo.com for more info.

Softball: Let's play 2!

Calling All Softball Players. Want to get in the game and be a part of a fun, fraternal and charitable activity? The NSS Beth El Men's Club plays in the Synagogue Men's Clubs 12 inch softball league. There are a total of 10 games played on Sundays between 10:00 am and 12:30 pm starting in late April. Games could continue into early August. Be prepared for a competitive league, and be available to play for most of the season. Subs are also desired. You must be a member of Men's Club, or be willing to join - all men 18 and over are welcome. If you are interested, please contact Michael Salberg at (847) 903-1491 or at mbsalberg@sbcglobal.net.

Photos from Annual Caveman Dinner below.



Czech Sefer Torah Scroll No. 44

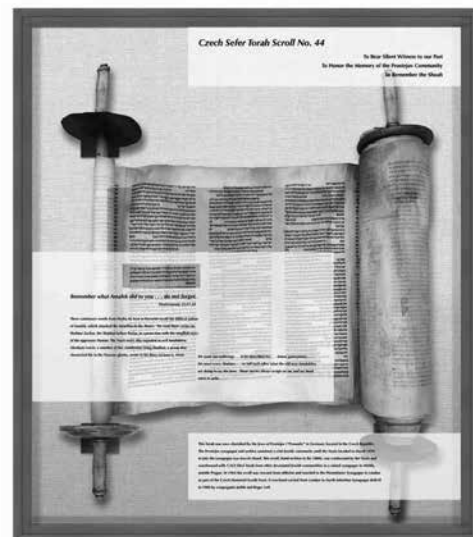
By Rachel Kamin, Joseph and Mae Gray Cultural and Learning Center Director

Czech Sefer Torah Scroll No. 44 was once cherished by the Jews of Prostějov ("Prossnitz" in German), located in the Czech Republic. The Prostějov synagogue and yeshiva sustained a vital Jewish community until the Nazis invaded in March 1939. In July the synagogue was forced closed.

The scroll, hand-written in the 1800s, was confiscated by the Nazis and warehoused with 1,563 Sifrei Torah from other devastated Jewish communities in a ruined synagogue in Michle, outside Prague. In 1964 the scroll was rescued from oblivion and traveled to the Westminster Synagogue in London as part of the Czech Memorial Scrolls Trust. It was

hand-carried from London to North Suburban Synagogue Beth El in 1980 by congregants Judith and Roger Leff.

With support from the Linch Family Holocaust Education Fund, the Anne & Jack Weinberg Holocaust Memorial Education Fund, and the Ted & Evelyn Weinstein Holocaust Memorial Fund, the Torah Scroll will be housed in a new display case, designed by Amy Reichert, who also designed the ark, reading table and ner tamid in the Sager Beit Hamidrash. The display case will be on display outside the sanctuary this spring. It represents not only the lost community of Prostějov but all those who perished in the Shoah.



Pesach Service Times

**Wednesday, April 8- Erev
Pesach/Fast of the Firstborn/
Pesach 1st Seder**

6:45 am Morning Minyan/
Siyyum Bechorim
7:00 pm Mincha/Ma'ariv
7:07 pm Candle Lighting

**Thursday, April 9
Pesach 1st Day/2nd Seder**

8:50 am Festival Service
7:00 pm Mincha/Ma'ariv
8:09 pm Candle Lighting

**Friday, April 10
Pesach 2nd Day**

8:50 am Festival Service
7:00 pm Mincha/Ma'ariv
7:09 pm Candle Lighting

**Saturday, April 11
Shabbat Hol Hamoed
Pesach 3rd Day**

8:50 am Shabbat Service
7:00 pm Mincha/Ma'ariv
8:13 pm Shabbat Ends

**Sunday, April 12
Hol Hamoed
Pesach 4th Day**

8:45 am Morning Minyan
7:30 pm Evening Minyan

**Monday, April 13
Hol Hamoed
Pesach 5th Day**

7:00 am Morning Minyan
7:30 pm Evening Minyan

**Tuesday, April 14
Hol Hamoed
Pesach 6th Day /
Erev Yom Tov**

7:00 am Morning Minyan
7:14 pm Candle Lighting
7:15 pm Mincha / Ma'ariv

**Wednesday, April 15
Pesach 7th Day**

8:50 am Festival Service
7:15 pm Mincha/Ma'ariv
8:15 pm Candle Lighting

**Thursday, April 16
Pesach 8th Day / Yizkor**

8:50 am Festival Service
7:15 pm Mincha / Ma'ariv
8:18 pm Yom Tov Ends



Form to Sell Your Hametz

Detach and send to: Hazzan Barbara Barnett NSS Beth El, 1175 Sheridan Road, Highland Park, IL 60035
no later than Tuesday, April 7.

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)

Looking for Something Fun to Brighten your Seder Table?



**Try these delicious Israeli-made matzot,
decorated with full-color holiday designs!**

Ordering is simple:

- Complete the form below and mail with your check (payable to NS Beth El Sisterhood) to: Karen Weiss c/o Sisterhood, 1175 Sheridan Road, Highland Park, IL 60035
- Your order will be shipped to Beth El for pickup before the holiday.

Name:

Phone:

boxes of 12 large matzot (\$15 each)

Total \$

boxes of 9 small matzot (\$10 each)

Total \$

Total Order \$

Out-of-Town

Delivery with your
Personal Greeting:

\$15/Large Box
\$10/Small Box
(\$30 minimum;
shipping additional)

Log on to www.matzohgram.com or
call 310-523-2743
and use **Charity
Code: CNS300.**

NS Beth El Sister-
hood will receive a
portion of all sales
placed with **Charity
Code CNS300.**

Every dollar supports
Sisterhood's ongoing
financial gifts to Beth
El. We thank you for
your support.

Order Deadline: March 30, 2020 for guaranteed delivery before the 1st Seder

Passover

Supplement – 2020/5780



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 **Tuesday, April 7**, 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 **Wednesday, April 8** – after eating our last meal of hametz, add any remains from breakfast to the bag of hametz from the previous night,

and burn them outside the home. This is the final act of removal of hametz from our homes. Hametz should be burned by **11:45 a.m.**

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 **Tuesday, April 7**. 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.

Maot Chitim Delivery

Please plan to participate with the Greater Chicago Maot Chitim in the packing of perishables and/or the delivery of packages on **Sunday, March 29**. For more details and directions, go to www.maotchitim.org, or email info@maotchitim.org.

Siyyum Bechorim (Fast of the Firstborn)

At the Minyan service **Wednesday, April 8** at 6:45 am the ceremony of siyyum bechorim will take place in the Field Family Sanctuary, led by Rabbi Michael Schwab. 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.

New Members Dinner, “Meet the Rabbis”

By Judy Berkeley, Membership & Development Director

We are so blessed to have had the opportunity to welcome one hundred and ten new member families/households into the Beth El family since July 1, 2018. Our new members represent all ages and stages of life - from newlyweds, to young families, families with children enrolling in our grade school to families with high schoolers, empty nesters, and even some seniors who were looking for a new synagogue community for themselves and their families... and they chose us. Many of these new families have already become involved and engrained in our Beth El community. It's wonderful to see so many new and friendly faces who have found a new spiritual home here at Beth El.

On Sunday, January 12th, we invited all these new members to a “Meet the Rabbis” event. The idea was to provide an intimate setting for

new member families to enjoy a casual Sunday dinner with Rabbi Schwab and Rabbi Freedman. The setting allowed for families to ask the Rabbis any questions they had, and to take photos as families and with the Rabbis. Our Membership committee was on hand to welcome everyone. Much thanks to our Membership committee for working so hard to create an inviting, inclusive, warm and friendly environ-

ment for these new member families:

Stacy Goldsmith,
VP Membership
JoAnne Blumberg
Derek Faust
Rob Freeman
Felicia Gross
Arielle Levitan
Jodie Mosk
Holly Reinsdorf

Irene Savine
Steve Sheffey
Pam Schlosberg
Gail Scully
Sandy Starkman
Yvette Stone
Mira Temkin
Tina Wolf



Check Out What's New on Our Website (nssbethel.org)

By Pam Schlosberg, Communications Chair

You might want to look at two updates that just went live. These are features that you asked for - and we listened! And yes, they definitely can make your life easier!

You Asked...



How can I connect and volunteer at Beth El?

The website now has an easy pathway.

1. Go to our website: www.nssbethel.org
2. Click on Volunteer at the top of the Home Page.
3. When you click on you will be asked to fill in your contact information: name, email, phone. Then scroll

down for a list and brief description of committees, task forces, events, one-time projects as well as affiliates you might want to consider.

4. Read through these and if anything interests you, simply check the box in front of the listing.
5. When you are finished, click Submit. You will be contacted shortly about your interests. Easy!

How can I look at a Torah Portion before committing to reading Torah?

We now have a Webparsha site! If you are a Torah reader (seasoned or just starting out), we invite you to sign up for a WebParasha account.

Here are the steps:

1. Go to our website: www.nssbethel.org
2. Click on Worship and scroll down the drop-down menu and click on The Ba'al Korei Institute. There is a link on the Ba'al Korei page under Worship. (Or go directly to www.nssbethel.org/worship/torah-reading-the-baal-korei/.)

3. Click on Webparsha. You can take a look at available Torah readings (there are always shorter readings for those who prefer) and actually see the reading as a Tikkun page in pdf form.

4. Once your account is approved, you can sign up for readings on your own (always subject to confirmation by Hazzan Barnett or Hazzan Tisser).

Additionally, there are ways to remind us of your Bar Mitzvah anniversary date and Birthday, so we can reach out to you when those approach to do Torah readings. Email Hazzan Barnett for more information. bbarnett@nssbethel.org.

The Communication Committee is committed to keeping the website refreshed, up-to-date, informative, and helpful. We invite you to check it out regularly - and keep those suggestions coming!

Mazel Tov to:

Hazzan Barbara Barnett on the occasion of her anniversary of becoming a bat mitzvah

Robert Berger on the occasion of his 65th anniversary of becoming a bar mitzvah

Jill and Irwin Bernstein on the occasion of the naming of their granddaughter, Becca Daisy Karmin

Karen Bieber on the occasion of her 70th birthday

Jori Brajer on the occasion of his 50th birthday

Jan and Brian Channon on the occasion of their 35th wedding anniversary

Deborah and Bruce Cowans on the engagement of their daughter, Deena Cowans, to Zack Slavkin

Doreen and Philip Feitelberg on the occasion of their 60th wedding anniversary

Nancy and Maury Fertig on the occasion of Maury's special birthday

Jennifer and Stewart Flink on the birth of their twin grandchildren, Zev Wallace Flink DeShields and Ruth Dahlia Flink DeShields

Beth and Robert Footlik on the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary

Nina and Mark Gaines on the birth of their granddaughter, Lital Sophia Gaines

Sara and Matthew Gaines on the birth of their daughter, Lital Sophia Gaines

Stacy and Jeffrey Goldsmith on the occasion of their 20th wedding anniversary

Linda and Leon Gottlieb on the birth of their grandson, Graham Solomon Boyman

Marc and Roz Kallish on the occasion of their daughter Stephanie stepping onto the Israel Affairs Committee of the USY International General Board

Dana and Joe Karmin on the occasion of the naming of their daughter, Becca Daisy Karmin

Jill and Bernard Kramer on the marriage of their daughter, Perri, to Bryan Donaldson

Jay and Karyn Lerner on the birth of their granddaughter, Noa McKenzie Nye

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

Lawrence Lidov on the birth of his granddaughter, Jamie Sydney Lidov

Mildred Lidov on the birth of her great-granddaughter, Jamie Sydney Lidov

Noreen Ochana on the occasion of her anniversary of becoming a bat mitzvah

Marissa and Jonathan Rosenberg on the

birth of their daughter, Golda Ayelet Rosenberg

Sheldon Rosenfeld on the occasion of his special birthday

Rochelle and Earl Rubinoff on the engagement of their daughter, Amy, to Ricky Bortz

Cindy Shekhtman on the birth of her grandson, Asher Aaron Shekhtman

Rabbi Ora and Dr. David Schnitzer on the engagement of their son, Mark, to Jamie Cooper

Rabbi Ora and Dr. David Schnitzer on the birth of their granddaughter, Quinn Millie Jones

Janice and Richard Small on the occasion of their 32nd wedding anniversary

Anita Spieler on the occasion of her 89th birthday

Lori Stark on the occasion of her retirement from Ramah Day Camp

Miriam and Morton Steinberg on the occasion of his 62nd anniversary of becoming a bar mitzvah

Hazzan Benjamin Tisser on the occasion of his marriage to Robyn Sack

Welcome to Our New Members:

Brian and Lucy Bortman, Leo and Shai

Robert and Karen Engert

Condolences to:

Sharon Burack on the loss of her father, Harold J. Lederman

Gail Cooper on the loss of her mother, Betty Fox Jacobson Levi

Dr. Jeffrey Jacobs on the loss of his mother, Doris Jacobs

Sheila Krumstok on the loss of her husband, Robert Krumstok

Gerald Lasin on the loss of his sister, Helen Lasin Simon

Jacqueline Lotzof on the loss of her grandfather, Harold J. Lederman

Alissa Neuhausen Meyers on the loss of her husband, Ron Meyers

Misha Reznik on the loss of his father, Petr Reznik

Walter Roth on the loss of his wife, Muriel Roth

Kenneth Saffir on the loss of his mother, Joyce Saffir

Audrey Silver on the loss of her brother, Robert Strickland

Nadine Woldenberg on the loss of her mother, Betty Fox Jacobson Levi

IN MEMORIAM:

Robert Krumstok

Muriel Roth

Joyce Saffir

Kiddush Sponsors:

Susan and Joseph Affrunti

Robert Berger

Jill and Irwin Bernstein

Nancy and Maury Fertig

Doreen and Philip Feitelberg

Footlik Family

Marlene and Seth Halperin

Jocelyn and Adam Hecht

Michele and Jeffery Heftman

Gerry Kaplan

Ronit and Ian Katznelson

Jill and Bernard Kramer

Diane and Stephen Levin

Erica and Zachary Lindon

North Suburban Beth El Sisterhood

NSS Beth El Men's Club

Marcie and Brad Pickard

Helen Plavnik and Igor Ayzman

Kathryn and Josh Silvers

Jenna and David Smiley

Lori Stark and David Shapiro

Miriam and Morton Steinberg

Robyn and Hazzan Benjamin Tisser

Danielle and Brian Weinstein

Rabbi Schwab Discretionary Fund

In honor of Ari Schwab, son of Erica and Rabbi Michael Schwab, and grandson of Richard and June Gross, on becoming a Bar Mitzvah - **Ira Pagachetsky**

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

- **Barry and Laurel Abramowicz**
- **Joe and Susan Adler**
- **Janice and Jeff Aronoff**
- **The Bender Family**
- **Melissa, Phil, Nathan, Rachel and Cameron Block**
- **Adrienne Eckerling**
- **Donna and Marty Field**
- **Leon and Leslie Fox**
- **Julia and Mark Gerstein**
- **The Goldsmith Family**
- **Daniel and Lori Gross**
- **Dvora Heller**
- **Brian and Melanie Hoffman**
- **Bill and Mimi Horowitz**
- **Julie Isaacson**
- **Donald and Joyce Joseph**
- **Jerome and Mary Kaltman**
- **Benjamin Kopin and Beth Shapiro Kopin**
- **Jay and Karyn Lerner**
- **Stephen and Diane Levin**
- **Terri and Michael Lipsitz**
- **Debra Rade**
- **Judith Sarnat**
- **Melissa Spellman**
- **Charles and Amy Spungen**
- **Jay and Mindy Sterns**
- **Millie Weber**

In honor of David Pickard, son of Brad and Marcie Pickard, on becoming a Bar Mitzvah

- **Ronald and Eileen Goldberg**
- **Daniel and Lori Gross**
- **Karen Weiss**

In honor of Jan Channon's Simchat Torah honor as Kol Ne'Arim - **Karen Weiss**

In honor of Rabbi Michael and Erica Schwab for being amazing friends and community leaders - **Mimi and Marc Yoskowitz**

In honor of Richard Small's Simchat Torah honor as Hatan Bereshit - **Karen Weiss**

In honor of Richard Zelin's Simchat Torah honor as Hatan Torah

- **Jerome and Mary Kaltman**
- **Karen Weiss**

In honor of Ricki Viner, daughter of Victor and Anya Viner, on becoming a Bat Mitzvah - **Karen Weiss**

In honor of Rob Freeman being named Men's Club Keeper of the Flame - **Karen Weiss**

In honor of the birth of Linda and Leon Gottlieb's grandson, Graham Solomon Boyman - **Karen Weiss**

In honor of the birth of Steve and Debbie Graham's grandson, Myles Paul Graham - **Karen Weiss**

In honor of the marriage of Ellie Sterns to Andrew Casper and with appreciation to Rabbi Schwab
- **Jay and Mindy Sterns**

In honor of the meaningful High Holiday services and with appreciation to Rabbi Schwab - **Michael and Karen Kesner**

In honor of the wedding of Nathan Finch to Stacy Smoler and with appreciation to Rabbi Schwab - **Ruth Lion, David Finch, Helen and Jeff Smoler**

In honor of Valerie Faust, daughter of Derek and Marcie Faust, on becoming a Bat Mitzvah - **Karen Weiss**

In memory of Aaron Eliot Cohen, beloved son
- **Stephen and Lynn Cohen**

In memory of Al Shapiro, beloved husband
- **Gloria Shapiro**

In memory of Alfred Feller, beloved husband, father, grandfather and uncle - **Annette Faust Feller and Family**

In memory of Andrew Alan Peterson, beloved father
- **Andrea Goldstein**

In memory of Ann Bernstein, beloved mother
- **Irwin and Sheri Mandel**

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

In memory of Bella Karp, beloved mother
- **Alice Gross**

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

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

- **Andrew and Gail Brown**
- **David and Elizabeth Copeland**
- **Julie and Steven Lewis**

In memory of Burton R. Rosenberg, beloved father
- **Scott and Maureen Chaikin**

In memory of Claire Rosenthal, beloved mother
- **Fred and Phyllis Nathan**

In memory of Debbie Bohmbach, beloved sister
- **Rochelle and Earl Rubinoff**

In memory of Diana Terr, beloved aunt - **Arthur and Lynn Cohen**

In memory of Doris Jacobs, beloved mother of Dr. Jeffrey Jacobs - **Lisa and Jeff Rosenkranz**

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

In memory of Edith H. and Sidney Weiss, beloved mother and father - **Karen Weiss**

In memory of Edward Long, beloved brother of Richard Long - **Timna and Steve Sheffey**

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

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

In memory of Ethel and Gilbert Levy, beloved mother and father - **Adrian and Linda Winick**

In memory of Felix Wolf, beloved father
- **Mark and Julia Gerstein**

In memory of Florence "Feigy" Goldberg, beloved mother - **Ronald and Eileen Goldberg**

In memory of Florence Cohen, beloved mother
- **Mark and Marla Cohen**

In memory of Frances Landsman, beloved mother
- **Lois Moss**

In memory of Gabriel William Miller, beloved son
- **Judith Miller**

In memory of Gene Igolka, beloved father - **Ellen and Steven Lasin**

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

In memory of George Dunn, beloved father
- **Wallace and Joan Dunn**

In memory of Gertrude Sher, beloved grandmother
- **Michael and Sara Sher**

In memory of Glenda Zweifler, beloved mother
- **Jodi Moll**

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

In memory of Gregory Moss, beloved husband
- **Lois Moss**

In memory of Harry Shlensky, beloved father
- **Melvin and Lenore Blum**

In memory of Helen Chapman, beloved mother of Dr. Laurie Hochberg - **Joseph and Judith Weil**

In memory of Herbert T. Gross, beloved husband
- **Alice Gross**

In memory of Herman Chudacoff, beloved father
- **Donald and Lois Chudacoff**

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

In memory of Irving Fegenhols, beloved father
- **Iris Wittenberg**

In memory of Isidor Mandel, beloved father
- **Irwin and Sheri Mandel**

In memory of Jack J. Landsman, beloved father
- **Lois Moss**

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

In memory of Joseph Brooks, beloved father
- **Donald and Lois Chudacoff**

- **Gloria Shapiro**

In memory of Joseph Nathan, beloved father
- **Fred and Phyllis Nathan**

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

In memory of Larry Becker and with appreciation to Rabbi Schwab for his guidance, support and pastoral care - **Stuart and Barbara Hochwert**

In memory of Larry Becker, beloved father of Barbara Hochwert and beloved grandfather of Michelle Newman, Pamela Hochwert and Ross Hochwert

- **Jerome and Mary Kaltman**
- **Karen Weiss**

In memory of Larry Becker, our beloved grandfather and with appreciation to Rabbi Schwab - **Michelle, Josh and Lucas Newman, Pamela Hochwert and Ross Hochwert**

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

In memory of Louis Kaplan, beloved father
- **Wallace and Joan Dunn**

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

In memory of Louis Terry, beloved father
- **Eugene and Nicole Terry**

In memory of Ludwig Blum, beloved father
- **Melvin and Lenore Blum**

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

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

In memory of Max Wittenberg, beloved father-in-law
- **Iris Wittenberg**

In memory of Miriam Galerkin, beloved mother
- **Amos and Edith Turner**

In memory of Morton Shiner, beloved father
- **Stuart and Debbie Shiner**

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

In memory of Muriel Roth, beloved wife of Walter Roth - **Ira and Elise Frost**

In memory of N. Arthur Rubinoff, beloved father-in-law - **Karen Rubinoff**

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

In memory of Newton Truger, beloved father
- **David and Julie Baum**

In memory of Reta Cohen - **Carey and Cheryl Cooper**

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

In memory of Rose and Ignacio Fried, beloved mother and father - **Sari Salinas**

In memory of Sandra Patack, beloved sister
- **Arthur and Lynn Cohen**

In memory of Shane Zien Wolf, beloved mother
- **Mark and Julia Gerstein**

In memory of Simone Sitbon, beloved sister
- **Eugene and Nicole Terry**

In memory of Sy Sterns, beloved father
- **Jay and Mindy Sterns**

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

In memory of Zelig Sered, beloved father
- **Melvin and Hedy Sered**

Wishing a complete and speedy recovery to Cara Madansky-Stiebel - **Rabbi Burton Cohen**

With appreciation to Rabbi Schwab
- **Jonathan and Marissa Rosenberg**

With appreciation to Rabbi Schwab for officiating the Shiva of my beloved mother, Doris Jacobs
- **Dr. Jeffrey M. Jacobs**

Rabbi Freedman Discretionary Fund

In honor of Brian and Jan Channon's 35th wedding anniversary - **Sandy Starkman and Larry Pachter**

In honor of David Pickard, son of Brad and Marcie Pickard, on becoming a Bar Mitzvah

- **Rebecca, Brian, Ari and Mason Jacobson**
- **Randall Iden and Gail Scully**

In honor of the meaningful High Holiday services and with appreciation to Rabbi Freedman - **Michael and Karen Kesner**

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

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

In memory of Betty Wasserman, beloved grandmother
- **Michael and Debora Pinzur**

In memory of Evelyn and Meyer Cohen, beloved mother and father - **Natalie Millman**

In memory of Helen Lasin Simon, beloved sister of Gerald Lasin - **Bobbie and Len Tenner**

In memory of Helen Lubin, Sidney L. Starkman and Mildred Lashinsky Starkman on their yahrzeits
- **Larry Pachter and Sandy Starkman**

In memory of Larry Becker and with appreciation to Rabbi Freedman for his guidance, support and pasto-

ral care - **Stuart and Barbara Hochwert**

In memory of Larry Becker, our beloved grandfather and with appreciation to Rabbi Freedman - **Michelle, Josh and Lucas Newman, Pamela Hochwert and Ross Hochwert**

In memory of Leo Farbman, beloved father
- **Mark and Laura Lieberman**

In memory of Mae Becker, beloved mother and grandmother - **Stuart and Barbara Hochwert**

In memory of Maxine Sprung and with appreciation to Rabbi Freedman - **Cindy Shekhtman**

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

In memory of Morris Hertz, beloved father
- **Sonja Shiner**

In memory of Morton Shiner, beloved husband
- **Sonja Shiner**

In memory of Muriel Roth, beloved wife and with appreciation to Rabbi Freedman - **Walter Roth**

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

In memory of Rose Becker, beloved grandmother
- **Stuart and Barbara Hochwert**

In memory of Shulamit Kahana, beloved mother
- **Dov and Eileen Kahana**

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

In memory of Sylvia Feinberg, beloved mother
- **Michael and Susan Millenson**

In memory of Taube Wainstein, beloved cousin
- **Philip and Doreen Feitelberg**

With appreciation to Rabbi Freedman
- **Gail and Andrew Brown**

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

With appreciation to Rabbi Freedman for officiating the Shiva for my beloved mother, Doris Jacobs
- **Dr. Jeffrey M. Jacobs**

With appreciation to Rabbi Freedman for our baby naming - **Mr. and Mrs. Corey Derdiger**

With appreciation to Rabbi Freedman for the assistance received for David's Bar Mitzvah
- **Brad and Marcie Pickard**

Hazzan Tisser Discretionary Fund

In honor of the meaningful High Holiday services and with appreciation to Hazzan Tisser - **Michael and Karen Kesner**

In memory of Fred Newman, beloved father - **Alan and Barbara Newman**

In memory of Joyce Speisman, beloved wife of Albert Speisman - **Gerald Frank and Pamela Chill**

In memory of Larry Becker and with appreciation to Hazzan Tisser for his guidance, support and pastoral care - **Stuart and Barbara Hochwert**

In memory of Larry Becker, our beloved grandfather and with appreciation to Hazzan Tisser - **Michelle, Josh and Lucas Newman, Pamela Hochwert and Ross Hochwert**

In memory of Marty Stern, beloved husband of Devi Stern

- **Robert and Beth Footlik**

- **Morton and Miriam Steinberg**

In memory of Otto Hammel, beloved father
- **Melvin and Hedy Sered**

With appreciation to Hazzan Ben Tisser for his mentorship of Addy Gross in her preparation for her Bat Mitzvah - **Daniel and Lori Gross**

With appreciation to Hazzan Tisser for officiating the Shiva for my beloved mother, Doris Jacobs
- **Dr. Jeffrey M. Jacobs**

With appreciation to Hazzan Tisser for the assistance received for David's Bar Mitzvah - **Brad and Marcie Pickard**

Rabbi Kurtz Discretionary Fund

In honor of our 60th wedding anniversary - **Gerald and Adrienne Lasin**

In honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Patti Shapiro's grandson, Micah Shapiro - **Harris and Sharon Goldenberg**

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

In memory of Dorothy and Benjamin Schneider, beloved mother and father - **Charlotte Tayne Avraham**

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

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

In memory of Ezra Kaplan, Bernard S. Kaplan, Jean W. Kaplan and Laurel Kaplan - **James Kaplan**

In memory of Harold Lederman, beloved father of Sharon Burack - **Ann Kearney Brennan**

In memory of Joyce Speisman, beloved wife of Albert Speisman - **David Moon**

In memory of Larry Tayne, beloved husband, father and grandfather - **Charlotte Tayne Avraham**

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

In memory of Mildred Ferst, beloved mother
- **Rivia Greenberger**

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

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

Wishing a complete and speedy recovery to Rabbi Vernon Kurtz - **Leon Zar**

With appreciation to Dr. Laurie Hochberg for the love and care of our daughters, Lauren and Rachel Ravich
- **Sara and Tim Ravich and Family**

With appreciation to Ken and Andy Saffir for hosting us warmly and welcoming - **Elaine and Neil Gross**

Andrew and Gail Brown Technology Endowment Fund

In honor of Rob Freeman being named Men's Club Keeper of the Flame - **Andrew and Gail Brown**

Ann and Jack Weinberg Holocaust Memorial Education Endowment Fund

In memory of Jack Weinberg, beloved father and Zaide - **The Kagan and Wynes Families**

Ba'al Korei Fund

In honor of Ari Schwab, son of Erica and Rabbi Michael Schwab, on becoming a Bar Mitzvah
- **Gerald and Adrienne Lasin**

In honor of Karen Bieber's 70th birthday
- **Sandy Starkman and Larry Pachter**

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

Ben and Marion Drachler Israel Scholarship Endowment Fund

In memory of Bella Drachler Tesler, beloved sister

- **Ferne Avery**
- **Dr. A. Michael and Nancy Drachler**

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

Cal and Lana Eisenberg Halomdim Program Endowment Fund

In memory of Isadore Eisenberg, beloved father

- **Calvin and Lana Eisenberg**

In memory of Jerome (Yonnie) Cohen, beloved father
- **Calvin and Lana Eisenberg**

Camp Ramah General Scholarship Endowment Fund

In honor of David Pickard, son of Brad and Marcie Pickard, on becoming a Bar Mitzvah

- **Gerry Kaplan**
- **Sandy Starkman and Larry Pachter**
- **Joel and Basia Retsky**

Capital Improvement Fund

In honor of Richard Small's Simchat Torah honor as Hatan Bereshit - **Michael and Karen Kesner**

In honor of Richard Zelin's Simchat Torah honor as Hatan Torah - **Michael and Karen Kesner**

In memory of Aaron Kesner, beloved father
- **Michael and Karen Kesner**

In memory of Abraham Mioni, beloved father-in-law
- **Joan Holland**

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

In memory of Betty Fox Jacobson Levi, beloved mother of Nadine Woldenberg and Gail Cooper
- **David Brown**

In memory of Eli Glassman, beloved husband
- **Joan Holland**

In memory of Ellen Bookman, beloved sister
- **Steven and Linda Feinstein**

In memory of Sylvia Maiman, beloved mother
- **Steven and Linda Feinstein**

With appreciation for the assistance received for David's Bar Mitzvah - **Brad and Marcie Pickard**

Fertig Family College Campus Visits Endowment Fund

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

Gertrude Lederman Family Continuing Education Fund

In honor of Dr. Steven Tovian's special birthday
- **Sandy Starkman and Larry Pachter**

In memory of Bob Weber, beloved husband of Millie Weber and beloved father of Sandy Weber
- **NSS Beth El Sisterhood**

In memory of Helen Lasin Simon, beloved sister of Gerald Lasin - **Jan and Barry Kain**

In memory of Maxine Sprung, beloved mother of Cindy Shekhtman - **Robert and Beth Footlik**

Wishing a complete and speedy recovery to Rolly Cohen
- **Paula Spitz**

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

In memory of Janet Robbin, beloved mother
- **David and Karen Benson**

Jack and Mildred Cohen Religious School Fund

In honor of Ari Schwab, son of Erica and Rabbi Michael Schwab, on becoming a Bar Mitzvah
- **Robert and Roberta Goodman**

In honor of Benjamin "Buddy" Cohen's 90th birthday
- **Jennifer Quinlan**

In honor of Ethan Grafman, son of Sarah Fox and Jordan Grafman on becoming a Bar Mitzvah
- **Robert and Beth Footlik**

In honor of Kim Ephraim - **Claire Bruetman**

In memory of Angela Saporta, beloved mother
- **Batia Eizikov**

In memory of Bernice Cohen, beloved wife of Benjamin Cohen - **Jean and Jack Barron**

In memory of Bernice Cohen, my beloved mother and Jack and Mildred Cohen, beloved grandparents
- **Michael Cohen**

In memory of Judy Strauss, beloved sister of Eileen Kahana - **Sheldon Solow and Selley Kreiter Solow**

In memory of Sheldon Brottman, beloved husband
- **Cissy Brottman**

Janger Family Haverot Endowment Fund

In memory of Lois and Richard Janger and in honor of their Hakamat Matzeiah - **Rachel, Lee, Micah and Marisa Janger**

Jean T. and Morton Bernstein Camp Ramah Scholarship Endowment Fund

In honor of Jori Brajer's special birthday - **Sandy Starkman and Larry Pachter**

In honor of Mort and Miriam Steinberg on their 45th wedding anniversary - **Emily, Adam, Max and Levi Steinberg**

Joseph and Mae Gray Cultural and Learning Center Fund

In memory of Bob Weber, beloved husband of Millie Weber and beloved father of Sandy Weber - **Debra Rade**

In honor of David Pickard, son of Brad and Marcie Pickard, on becoming a Bar Mitzvah - **Felicia Gross**

In honor of Gerald and Adrienne Lasin's 60th wedding anniversary - **Jan and Barry Kain**

In honor of Janice and Richard Small
- **Constance Yaffe**

In honor of the birth of Ellen and Larry Goldstein's granddaughter - **Pam and Richard Schlosberg**

In honor of the birth of our grandson, Graham Solomon Boyman, son of Marisa Gottlieb and Ariel Boyman - **Leon and Linda Gottlieb**

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

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

In memory of Jack Hoffman, beloved husband
- **Selma Hoffman**

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

In memory of Al Kopin on his 25th yearzeit
- **Larry Pachter and Sandy Starkman**

In memory of Irving Ginsburg, beloved uncle
- **Myrna Kopin**

In memory of Marilyn Zim - **Myrna Kopin**

LGBTQIA+ Inclusion Fund

In honor of Abby Krumbein for inspiring me to push for what is right and just - **Ellen Krumbein**

In honor of Eliza and Danya Lagos-Brown
- **Andrew and Gail Brown**

In honor of Mark Gerstein's birthday and his social justice work for so many causes through the years
- **Ellen Krumbein**

With appreciation to Ellen Krumbein for her caring, initiative, energy, and being an all-around wonderful person and friend - **Sheri Young and Neil Fialkow**

With appreciation to Rabbi Schwab for his support of LGBTQIA inclusiveness in the congregation
- **Ellen and Aaron Krumbein**

With appreciation

- **Wendy and Steven Abrams**
- **Arnold and Nina Harris**
- **Wendy and Danny Kahn**
- **Debra and Barry Kravitz**

Maxwell Abbell Library Fund

In honor of David Pickard, son of Brad and Marcie Pickard, on becoming a Bar Mitzvah - **Donald and Joyce Joseph**

In honor of Joseph Eskin, son of Marcie and Richard Eskin, on his marriage to Shani Abramowitz
- **Gerry Kaplan**

In honor of Judge Joyce Steinhardt on her 90th birthday - **Larry Pachter and Sandy Starkman**

In memory of Martin G. Brown, beloved father
- **Michael and Sara Sher**

Minyan Service Fund

In honor of Beth and Bob Footlik's 50th wedding anniversary

- **Larry Goldsmith and Mary Ellen Bowers**
- **Marlene and Seth Halpern and Family**
- **Gerald and Adrienne Lasin**

In honor of the birth of our granddaughter, Noah McKenzie Nye - **Jay and Karyn Lerner**

In memory of Alexander Turner, beloved father
- **Amos and Edith Turner**

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

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

In memory of Harold Goodman, beloved father
- **Paul and Michelle Pessis**

In memory of Harold Mason, beloved father and grandfather - **Glenda and Sanford Mason**

In memory of Helen Lasin Simon, beloved sister of Gerald Lasin - **Robert and Beth Footlik**

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

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

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 Molly Schwartz, beloved mother-in-law
- **Toby Schwartz**

In memory of Ruth Lea Dolansky, beloved mother
- **Sanford and Glenda Mason**

In memory of Sol Lerner, beloved father
- **Jay and Karyn Lerner**

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

In memory of William Schwartz, beloved father-in-law
- **Toby Schwartz**

Miriam and Bernard H. Sokol Hebrew High School Fund

In memory of Betty Fox Jacobson Levi, beloved mother of Nadine Woldenberg and Gail Cooper
- **Kathleen Roin and Julie Raynor**

In memory of Richard Berg - **Ronnie Jo Sokol**

NSS Beth El Special Gifts Fund

In honor of David Pickard, son of Brad and Marcie Pickard, on becoming a Bar Mitzvah - **Trevor and Dina Lisssoos**

In honor of the birth of Leon and Linda Gottlieb's grandson, Graham Solomon Boyman - **Robert and Roberta Goldman**

In memory of Bob Weber, beloved husband of Millie Weber and beloved father of Sandy Weber
- **Minerva Solis**

In memory of Dr. Sherwyn Warren, beloved husband of Irvina Warren - **Babs Rosenthal**

In memory of Golda Schachter, beloved mother
- **Martin and Yolanda Schachter**

In memory of Harry Weisberg, beloved father
- **Andrea Weisberg**

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

In memory of Howard Wittenberg, beloved husband
- **Iris Wittenberg**

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

In memory of Joyce Speisman, beloved wife of Albert Speisman - **Mary Barthold**

In memory of Louis Garland, beloved father-in-law - **Adrienne Garland**

In memory of Sylvia Szwager, beloved mother
- **Martin and Yolanda Schachter**

In memory of Sylvia Tovian, beloved mother, grand-mother and great-grandmother - **Tuler Family Fund**
With appreciation - **Don Zabelin and Barbara Sered-Zabelin**

Paul S. and Sylvia Steinberg Pre-School Fund

In honor of Amy Rubinoff, daughter of Earl and Rocky Rubinoff, on her engagement to Ricky Bortz
- **Cori and Steve Katz**

In honor of Ari Schwab, son of Erica and Rabbi Michael Schwab, on becoming a Bar Mitzvah
- **Cori and Steve Katz**

In honor of Jeffrey and Stacy Goldsmith's 20th wedding anniversary - **Ronald and Eileen Goldberg**

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

- **NSS Beth El Steinberg Pre-School Staff**

In honor of the engagement of Bruce and Deborah Cowans' daughter Deena Cowans to Zack Slavkin
- **Andrew and Gail Brown**

In honor of the engagement Jessie Gimbel, daughter of David and Jodi Gimbel - **Andrew and Gail Brown**

In honor of the engagement of Earl and Rocky Rubinoff's daughter Amy to Ricky Bortz
- **Andrew and Gail Brown**

In memory of David Baitcher, beloved son-in-law
- **Ira and Deborah Rosenberg**

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

In memory of Lily Rosenberg, beloved mother
- **Ira and Deborah Rosenberg**

In memory of Sylvia Lavin, beloved mother
- **Ira and Deborah Rosenberg**

With appreciation - **Dennis and Amy Pessis**

Prayer Book Fund

In honor of David Pickard, son of Brad and Marcie Pickard, on becoming a Bar Mitzvah
- **Felissa Kreindler**

In honor of the birth of Linda and Leon Gottlieb's grandson, Graham Solomon Boyman
- **Alvin and Elinor Bayliss**

In memory of Aaron M. Dlugie, beloved father
- **David and Joyce Dlugie**

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

In memory of Felicia Pikholtz, beloved mother of Tracey Hendler and beloved grandmother
- **Judy and Sam Greenberg and Family**

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

In memory of Jack P. Frost, beloved husband
- **Allene Frost**

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

In memory of Mabelle Schero, beloved mother
- **Allene Frost**

In memory of Morris Pravda of New York
- **Howard and Mindy Bain**

Wishing a complete and speedy recovery to Bruce Mondschain - **Marvin and Sara Siegel**

Wishing a complete and speedy recovery to Dr. David Pinosky - **Marvin and Sara Siegel**

With appreciation for the Yom Kippur Kohane aliyah
- **Stanton and Carole Derdiger**

Ritual Refurbishment Endowment Fund

In honor of JoAnne Blumberg's kindness
- **Anonymous**

In honor of Beth and Bob Footlik's 50th wedding anniversary - **Pam and Richard Schlosberg**

In memory of Nancy Whitman, beloved sister
- **Jack and Barbara Blumberg**

Sarah and Henry Stiebel Solomon Schechter Endowment Fund

In honor of Ari Schwab, son of Erica and Rabbi Michael Schwab, on becoming a Bar Mitzvah
- **Brad and Sherry Levin**

In honor of Beth and Bob Footlik's 50th wedding anniversary - **Larry Pachter and Sandy Starkman**

In honor of Sarah Small's 85th birthday
- **Larry Pachter and Sandy Starkman**

In memory of Shirley Levin, beloved mother
- **Sherry and Brad Levin**

Social Action Fund

In honor of David Pickard, son of Brad and Marcie Pickard, on becoming a Bar Mitzvah
- **Richard and Pamela Schlosberg**

In honor of Jan Channon's Simchat Torah honor as Kol Ne'Arim

- **Michael and Karen Kesner**

- **Pam and Richard Schlosberg**

- **Steven and Frances Shapiro**

In memory of Joyce Speisman, beloved wife of Albert Speisman - **Patricia Shapiro**

Spitz Family/Ruth and Milton Liebman Israel Scholarship Endowment Fund

In memory of Mark Spitz, beloved husband of Mae Spitz - **NSS Beth El Sisterhood**

Staff Recognition Fund

With appreciation to NSS Beth El for the wonderful High Holiday services - **Andrew and Gail Brown**

With appreciation - **Abe Rotbart**

Tzedakah/Pushke Fund

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

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

In memory of Petr Reznik, beloved father of Misha Reznik - **Laurence and Corinne Baskin**

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THE PIRATES OF PURIM

Swashbuckling Fun March 6 – 9, 2020



Friday, March 6: Jeans and Jammies Treasure Hunt

5:00 - 6:15 pm

X marks the spot for some Shabbat fun!
For families with children 1st grade and younger.
RSVP to Marcie Eskin at meskin@nssbethel.org.

Sunday, March 8: Aye! The Best Purim Carnival on the Seven Seas

11:00 am - early entrance for preschoolers and
families with children with special needs.

11:30 am - 1:30 pm - Carnival Hours
best for families with 6th graders and younger.

Pre-pay for carnival wristbands at:
<https://www.nssbethel.org/event/purim-carnival>



Monday, March 9: Comedy and Fun with the Bible Players

5:30 pm free performance and children's dinner.
For families with children 3rd grade and younger
RSVP to Marcie Eskin at meskin@nssbethel.org

Monday, March 9: Megillah Reading and Purim Seudah

6:30 pm Mincha

7:00 pm Megillah Reading w/Klezmer

8:30 pm Purim Seudah Dinner w/House Band
\$18 for the best grub and rum!

RSVP at www.nssbethel.org/event/purim-seudah
no later than March 2nd – or walk da plank!
Dress in yer pirate best or in any costume ye favor!



North Suburban Synagogue

Beth El
בית כנסת בית אל

Youth Community Fund

In honor of David Pickard, son of Brad and Marcie Pickard, on becoming a Bar Mitzvah
- **Larry and Mary Ellen Goldsmith**

In honor of Stacy and Jeffrey Goldsmith's 20th wedding anniversary - **Larry Pachter and Sandy Starkman**

Youth Community Endowment Fund

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

- **Samuel and Irene Shanes**

- **Stephanie and Michael Smerling**

In honor of David Pickard, son of Brad and Marcie Pickard, on becoming a Bar Mitzvah
- **David Fishbaum and Anne McDonagh**

In honor of Jan Channon's Simchat Torah honor as Kol Ne'Arim - **David Fishbaum and Anne McDonagh**

In honor of Richard Small's Simchat Torah honor as Hatan Bereshit - **David Fishbaum and Anne McDonagh**



Monday, March 9 - Fast of Esther / Megilah Reading

5:30 pm Families with Young Children entertainment and dinner

6:30 pm Mincha

7:00 pm Congregational Megillah Reading with Klezmer Music

8:30 pm Purim Seudah with House Band

Tuesday, March 10 - Purim

6:45 am Shacharit and Megilah Reading

7:30 pm Evening Minyan

Additional Purim information on opposite page.

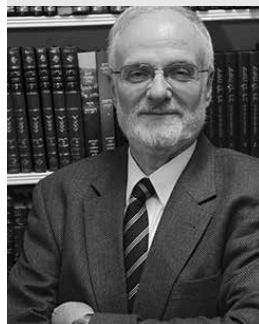


Passover April 19 - 27

For Passover Supplement with Hametz sales form and service times, please turn to pages 12-15 of this Bulletin.

Thursday, May 28 - Saturday, May 30 Tikkun Layl Shavuot/Shavuot

The Rabbi Philip Lipis Memorial Lecture
with Rabbi Joel Roth



Thursday, May 28

6:00 p.m. Pre-Shavuot dinner - \$18/person

7:00 p.m. 1st lecture with Rabbi Joel Roth (Rabbi Philip Lipis Lecture)

8:00 pm Mincha/Ma'ariv/Yom Tov candle lighting

8:30 pm 2nd lecture with Rabbi Joel Roth

9:30 pm Cheesecake and dairy desserts

10:00 pm Special Teaching with Rabbi Freedman or Rabbi Schwab

11:00 pm Pizzas

11:30 pm Begin all-night study sessions

Friday, May 29

12:00 am All night study sessions continue

4:15 am Sunrise Festival Service

8:50 am Festival Service

4:00 pm Mt. Sinai Maccabiah Games for K-6

5:30 pm Special Shavuot/Shabbat programming and dinner for families - \$18/person

7:45 pm Mincha, Kabbalat Shabbat, Ma'ariv

8:01 pm Candle Lighting

Saturday, May 30

8:50 am Shabbat morning services including Yizkor, Adult B'nai Mitzvah and a d'var Torah from Rabbi Joel Roth

7:45 pm Mincha

9:11 pm Yom Tov Ends

Generations Shabbat April 3rd-4th

By Rabbi Alex Freedman



A defining characteristic of any robust community is that it includes people of all ages. Children benefit from the leadership and wisdom of the adults. And adults gain energy and inspiration watching the kids follow in their footsteps.

One of Beth El's greatest assets is that we have members of all ages who call Beth El "home." On the Shabbat of Friday, April 3rd and Saturday, April 4th, we will formally celebrate this strength with our first ever Generations Shabbat. Members of the Hazak Senior

Life Committee and Cohen Religious School Committee, behind the leadership of Rebecca Weininger and Rabbi Freedman, have been planning this for many months. The weekend is intended to highlight the multitude of generations who comprise the Beth El community. It's also designed to put the different generations in touch with each other, to learn from each other in very direct ways.

Friday, April 3rd:

Please bring your whole family to a delicious Shabbat dinner at Beth El. (An additional reason is that this Shabbat is the last one before Passover!) Families will be encouraged to share stories across generations and get to know each other better as Beth El congregants and members of our Jewish community. We will meet each other, share family heirlooms, and celebrate our generational diversity. People of all ages are truly welcome.

This event is for all Beth El members, not just families who have been members for more than one generation.

Saturday, April 4th:

Please join us for services for a unique teaching that highlights our theme. At Tot Shabbat, the youngest children will hear a story read from a Hazak member. While at Jr. Congregation, grade-school-aged kids and their parents will hear a panel discussion by a Beth El family that comprises grandparent, parent, and child. Meanwhile, the main sanctuary will also host an intergenerational discussion in lieu of a sermon. This panel will show how one experience - like the upcoming Passover Seder - is both shared and experienced differently by members of different ages.

We are so excited to bring together the spectrum of lives that make up our wonderful congregation.



Bikkur Cholim - Support from Our Caring Community

By Pam Schlosberg, Programming VP

The Torah teaches us that we are responsible for each other. As a caring community, we celebrate the happy moments in the lives of our members and offer support during times of sadness, illness, and life-stress.

Our Bikkur Cholim Caring Community is here for our entire Beth El family. The volunteers who are committed to Bikkur Cholim are an amazing group of Beth El members, trained in the mitzvah of reaching out to those who are in need and ready to provide support.

The mitzvah is not limited to an age or stage in life. Whether it is you or your loved one who is in need, facing extensive medical challenges, facing a life-transition or are home-bound, Bikkur Cholim is your caring resource.

Acts of Bikkur Cholim may take many forms such as offering spiritual strength through our clergy, companionship through visits, connecting through a



telephone call or a card, or helping provide a meal.

We are expanding our outreach to those who are ill or their caregivers, with a Friendship Soup Kit. Launched as a Mitzvah Day project by Jackie Kott-Wolle, funded by Sisterhood, and based on a recipe provided by Chef Laura Frankel, pre-measured ingredients are beautifully packaged in a mason jar. A bit of hot water added to these ingredients transforms it into delicious soup and an easy meal.

Please contact Rabbi Alex Freedman, afreedman@nssbethel.org, if you or a family member may benefit from Bikkur Cholim assistance. Please remember that we completely understand and respect the privacy of our members struggling with any health issue. Any information that you share with us will be kept strictly confidential unless you give us permission to share the information with others.

We are continuing to explore additional ways to provide help to our Beth El community and are working with members of our Young Family Committee to coordinate some additional programs. If you are interested in joining Bikkur Cholim outreach, please contact Jackie Melinger: jackiemelinger@gmail.com or Jan Channon: janchannonflowers@gmail.com.

Mazel Tov to Our B'nai Mitzvah Students



Bat Mitzvah

Hannah Ayzman,
daughter of Helen Plavnik
and Igor Ayzman

Shabbat, March 7



Bar Mitzvah

Adam Smiley,
son of Jenna and
David Smiley

Shabbat, March 14



Bat Mitzvah

Lily Weinstein,
daughter of Danielle and
Brian Weinstein

Shabbat, May 16



Bar Mitzvah

Joseph Silvers,
Son of Kathryn and
Josh Silvers

Sunday, May 24



Bar Mitzvah

Biruk Silvers,
Son of Kathryn and
Josh Silvers

Sunday, May 24

Mitzvah Day 2020



March/April/May Events at a Glance

Saturday, March 7

12:15 pm

Sisterhood Torah Fund Book Club

All are welcome to join our discussion of *Inheritance: A Memoir of Genealogy, Paternity, and Love* by Dani Shapiro after Shabbat Kiddush. Copies of the book are available in our Abbell Library and from local libraries and booksellers. Contact Rachel Kamin at rkamin@nssbethel.org or 847/926-7902 for more information.



Friday, March 6

5:00 pm

Jeans and Jammies Treasure Hunt

Sunday, March 8

11:30 am

Purim Carnival



Monday, March 9

5:30 pm Bible Players Perform

Monday, March 9

6:30 pm Mincha

7:00 pm Megillah Reading

8:30 pm Seudah Dinner

Wednesdays, March 11, April 1 & 29,

May 13 & 27

9:30 - 11:00 am

Writer's Beit Midrash

All fiction, non-fiction, poetry, memoir, and essay writers (published or not yet published) are welcome for discussions, exercises, camaraderie, and critique every other Wednesday morning in the Abbell Library. Contact Rachel Kamin at rkamin@nssbethel.org or 847/926-7902 for more information and to be added to the mailing list.

Sunday, March 15

4:30 pm

Man and Youth of the Year Dinner FJMC Midwest Region

The NSS Beth El Men's Club is inviting the entire congregation to the Man of the Year and Youth of the Year dinner on March 15th at Beth Hillel Bnai Emunah in Wilmette. Please come



and help celebrate our Man of the Year, Dan Gross and our Youth of the Year, Nathan Spellberg. Contact Gordon Schwartz at gschwartz@bdo.com for more information.

Wednesday, March 18

7:00 pm

The Lost Supper Performance



A theatrical piece about two of the greatest leaders of the American Civil Rights Movement — Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel. In the play, Heschel invites King and his family to the Heschel home for the Pesach Seder. See page 4 for more details.

Thursday, March 19

6:30 pm - 8:00 pm

Yom Hashoah Candle Packing



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

Thursday, March 19

7:00 pm

Growing Up Jewish: Art & Storytelling



Come to the Rissman Kol Ami Museum for a wine & cheese reception in celebration of the new exhibit by artist and Beth El member, Jacqueline Kott-Wolle. Her contemporary paintings and personal narratives explore the key people, experiences, and institutions that shaped her evolving Jewish identity. Open to the community, free of charge but reservation are requested. Contact Marcie Eskin at meskin@nssbethel.org or (847)926-7903.

Friday, March 20

5:15 pm appetizers; 6:15 pm service
Rinat Shabbat

Join us for a joyous (Rina) Shabbat service where our communal prayer is vibrant and spiritually engaging.

Friday, April 3

5:45 pm

Generations Shabbat Dinner

A multi-generational Shabbat Dinner. We will meet each other, share family heirlooms, and celebrate our generational diversity. People of all ages are truly welcome. See page 24 for more details.

Sunday, April 5

8:30 am - 12:30 pm

Blood Drive



Support Beth El's annual blood drive by donating blood. Co-sponsored by Sisterhood and Men's Club. For more information contact Ben Channon at b_channon@yahoo.com.

Sunday, April 19

5:00 pm

Nesting and Connecting Dinner

Have your chicks flown the nest? It's time to connect! If your kids are gone or soon going, come share your experiences or learn from others about this life phase at a connecting dinner hosted by the Havurah Committee. RSVP by April 10. Contact Irene Savine irenesavine@me.com.

Monday, April 20

7:00 pm

Yom Hashoah Memorial Event

This year's Yom Hashoah commemoration program will include a brief evening service. Please join us for this powerful evening as we commemorate and remember. Contact Dan Gross at grossd@gmail.com for more information.

Wednesday, April 22

7:00 pm

Chocolate Extravaganza

Learn about and taste a variety of chocolate. Taught by our very own Chef Laura Frankel, sponsored by Sisterhood and Membership. \$18 per person in advance; \$20



for non-members. See page 10 for more details. or email FelissaKreindler@hotmail.com.

**Friday April 24
5-6:15 pm
Jeans and Jammies
with Pete the Cat**



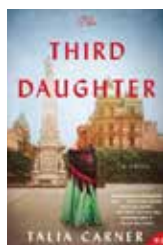
Pete the Cat and all his shoes and buttons will be with us for Shabbat! Program is geared for families with children in 1st grade and younger. Enjoy music, a free dinner for the kids, appetizers and drinks for adults, a PJ Library "Take Table" and a great Shabbat celebration! Cost: FREE but you must RSVP to meskin@nssbethel.org by April 21.

**Saturday, April 25
8:50 am services
Sisterhood Shabbat**

The entire congregation is encouraged to share in our pride as the talented women of Beth El lead us in prayer and inspiration during Shabbat morning services. If you'd like to be involved, email Karen Weiss at kbweiss1023@gmail.com.

**Saturday, April 25
12:15 pm
Sisterhood Torah Fund Book Club**

All are welcome to join our discussion of *The Third Daughter* by Talia Carner after Shabbat Kiddush (note new selection). We will also SKYPE with the author on Sunday, April 26! Copies of *The Third Daughter* are available in our Abbell Library and from local libraries and booksellers. Contact Rachel Kamin at rkamin@nssbethel.org or (847)926-7902 for more information.



**Sunday, April 26
10:00 am
Sunday Morning @ the Movies**

A special screening of the documentary film *The Impure*, which investigates a dark and almost unknown chapter in Jewish history: the institutionalization of Jewish prostitution in Argentina in the early 20th century.

Talia Carner, author of *The Third Daughter*, a fictionalized account of this history, will join us for a SKYPE discussion. Open to the community, free of charge. Sponsored by the Joseph and Mae Gray Cultural & Learning Center, the Beth El Sisterhood, and the Hazak Senior Life Committee. RSVP to Marcie Eskin at meskin@nssbethel.org or 847/926-7903.



**Sunday, April 26
7:15 pm
JUF Dessert Reception**

Keynote speaker will be Bret Stephens. Stephens is an op-ed columnist and associate editor for the *New York Times* since 2017. Before that, he spent 11 years as the author of "Global View," the foreign-affairs column of the *Wall Street Journal*, for which he was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for distinguished commentary. RSVP to Sandi Kaplan at sandikaplan@juf.org or call (312) 444-2841.



**Wednesday, April 29
7:00 pm
AIPAC Event**

The American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) is a bipartisan organization of U.S. citizens committed to strengthening, protecting and promoting the U.S.-Israel relationship. The speaker will be **Seth Siegel**, *New York Times* best selling author of *Let There Be Water*.

**Thursdays, April 30, May 7, 14,
21, 28 and June 4
9:30 am
Artists Beit
Midrash
Dr. Jane Shapiro
and Judith Joseph**



Students explore Jewish sources thematically (no Hebrew knowledge required) in six sessions taught by master educator Dr. Jane Shapiro and artist-educator Judith Joseph. Artists of all skill levels and working with any type of media – sculpture, oils, watercolors, photographs, fabrics, poetry, music, theater and dance – are invited. For registration details contact Marcie Eskin at meskin@nssbethel.org.

**Sunday, May 3
5:30 pm
Rabbi Irving and
Amy Frankel
Memorial Lecture**

David Goldenberg, Midwest Regional Director, Anti-Defamation League, will join us to speak about combating anti-Semitism, xenophobia and religious discrimination in our community. The evening will include light appetizers, lecture, and time for discussion. For questions or to RSVP, contact Marcie Eskin at meskin@nssbethel.org.



**Thursday, May 14
7:45 pm
Annual Meeting**

Everyone is invited to our Annual Meeting and encouraged to attend. Among the agenda items, we will present the "state of Beth El" including an update on our Strategic Planning Process, tease the excitement and anticipation for Rabbi Schwab's Installation, show our appreciation to our outgoing Board and Exec members, welcome our new Board and Exec Members and Trustees, and take a look ahead to the coming year.

**Thursday, May 28-
Saturday May 30
Tikkun Layl Shavuot
with Rabbi Joel Roth**

Thursday evening programing includes special learning sessions with Rabbi Roth, festival meal, special desserts, all-night study session, and a spiritual sunrise festival service. Traditional festival services follow on Friday May 29 and Shabbat May 30 including Yizkor and Adult B'nai Mitzvah. More information on pg. 23.



**Sunday, May 31
3:00 - 6:00 pm
Installation of Rabbi Michael
Schwab**

Join us as we install Rabbi Michael Schwab as our Senior Rabbi. A ceremony will take place at 3:00 pm followed by a celebratory reception with cocktails, food, and tributes. Everyone is welcome. Watch for your invitation which will arrive towards the end of March. If you would like to be a sponsor in the Ad Book, please contact Judy Berkeley at jberkeley@nssbethel.org.

Dinner Drama - No Need to Plotz

by Chef Laura Frankel



It was barely Purim and my phone was ringing off the hook with friends and clients asking questions regarding Passover. What am I making? Will I share recipes? Can I come over and cook for them? Will I come over for a meal, and help in the kitchen? (I especially love that one!)

I felt the panic creep into my normally blasé attitude toward the holiday. I made my peace with Matzo Madness years ago and have my annual game plan in place.

But the dread is contagious and I caught it.

I started digging around in cabinets. I planned my meals for the next month, all in an effort to rid my home of forbidden food items. I started my pasta scrap bag with its load of remnants of various pasta shapes. I call the dish created with it Pasta a la Odds and Ends—YUM!

As the anxiety deepened, I went through my spices and planned an alarming number of meals containing my most treasured ingredients. I love my spices and take great pride in my custom mixes. A little of this and little of that and voila, I have a masterpiece. As part of Passover prep, I fear that the delicate nuance that I try to achieve may just become a hodge-podge of global influences all in one dish with too much of this and too much of that.

Oh well, I will sleep well knowing that the spice cabinet Pesach cleanse has been schemed.

I practically freaked out when my husband brought home his favorite tortillas. I demanded an explanation for his lack of calendar sense. IT'S ALMOST PESACH!

I was really starting to fret as I was planning my menus a mere four weeks before the Seders, when I realized that I have a secret weapon for the holiday. My favorite ingredient, extra virgin olive oil, is kosher for Passover. I may have to give up my pastas, rices and spices, but I still have my extra virgin olive oil.

Here is the skinny on olive oil. You go to the grocery store and you know you should buy good quality extra virgin olive oil, but you do not know which one is the best. You look at prices, pretty labels and country of origin and then make your best guess. You are rolling the dice and plunking down good money for something that may or may not be tasty.

Or, you could taste the oil before you buy it. I am not suggesting you crack open bottles and take a swig at the local supermarket. But, what if you could taste the olive oil before you purchase it, just like you go to a wine tasting and sample wines before you buy them?

There is a terrific store in Chicago that allows just such an experience. City Olive is a store specializing in extra virgin olive oils from around the world. At the back of the clever little shop there is a tasting bar where you can slurp and savor your way through dozens of bottles of luscious fragrant oils.

On a recent trip to City Olive, I tasted but-tery oil from France that I am using for my Pesach baking. I also tasted oil from Spain that smells just like artichokes and tomatoes. I am using that oil for drizzling on finished dishes and for making pesto and vinaigrettes. I found my workhorse oil from Morocco that

will be used for just about everything. That oil is complex and fruity.

You don't have to be like me and purchase separate oils for everything. But why not? All extra virgin olive oils are kosher for Passover and year round, even without kosher supervision.

How awesome is that? We may give up our breads and cakes for eight days, but we will emerge from the holiday having feasted on foods made with delicious and healthy extra virgin olive oil. You cannot say that about Kosher for Passover oil which tends to be harsh and bitter and not healthy like extra virgin olive oil. How much cooking time and how many ingredients do you need to cover up the taste of bad oil? Here is a great site for some ideas:

<https://nymag.com/strategist/article/best-olive-oils-according-to-chefs.html>

My nerves have been calmed and I am cool as a spring day in Chicago knowing that my Passover plan has been executed. I can approach the holiday with excitement.



Chef Laura is now contributing a recipe to our weekly Thursday Kol Beth El email called "Getting Schmaltzy with Chef Laura." Make sure to scroll to the end of the email so you don't miss it!