

Purim: A Holiday of Merriment, *Menschlichkeit* and Meaning

By Rabbi Michael Schwab



Purim is coming! And with it comes the prospect of a day of merriment and frivolity, costumes and candy, graggers and games. The joyous nature of Purim is apparent in almost every element of the holiday. The Purim story is both intriguing and humorous, free of technical or legal elements. Religious services are held in a

very distinctive and festive manner. Instead of coming to synagogue in our suits and dresses, we come to synagogue in colorful costumes! These costumes bring smiles to the faces of all and give the day a spirited mystery as we attempt to figure out who is who. The costumes alone help create an atmosphere of joy and lightheartedness which distinguishes Purim from other days.

However there is more! Instead of simply listening quietly to the reading of the *megillah*, we pay careful attention to the words so that when we hear “Haman” read aloud, we can all spin our noisy graggers to drown out any mention of his name. At those moments the synagogue is transformed from a quiet sanctuary to a spirited gathering place, allowing each member to participate in the ritual regardless of one’s individual level of Jewish knowledge.

Further, it is a tradition to throw a Purim party, or *seudah*, during which we feast and eat delicious *hamantaschen* while taking part in entertainment, carnivals and Purim *Spiels* (humorous parodies). It is a time when formal convention is temporarily dismissed and joy rules the day.

Let us not forget, however, that Purim is more than just fun and games. It also has a serious theological message. In fact, in some ways Purim is the holiday most relevant to contemporary Jews. As people living in a modern society we rarely, if ever, experience direct communication with God. Yet, the stories of the Torah are filled with conversations between God and our ancestral leaders as well as with descriptions of miracles of all kinds. Today, these accounts, while still meaningful and full of wisdom, can seem fantastic and foreign to us.

In contrast, however, *Megillat Esther* does not mention God’s name once. Significantly though, the rabbis still chose to include it in the Hebrew Bible. Why? Mainly because they saw the message of the *megillah* as emphasizing that God’s presence exists in our lives even when God is not clearly visible. The mere fact of this *megillah*’s inclusion in our *Tanakh* makes clear the Jewish belief that even when God seems distant, we believe that God is always very close. What caused *Achashverosh* to wake in the middle of the night and recall *Mordechai*’s service to him? What allowed Esther to risk her life and save the day? In our lives today, we also rarely experience a miraculous or direct encounter with God. Our challenge though is to sense the presence of God in the daily workings of the world, just as the rabbis sensed the Divine in the story of Purim.

Finally, never forget that on Purim while we celebrate and make merry, we must also remember to ensure that the larger community around us is able to be joyous as well. We must be *mensches* on Purim. Thus, it is customary to do two important things. One, on Purim we are to send *mishloach manot*, a gift of foods to several other community members. The idea is that by giving gifts you will include others in the joy of the day and bring them your festive spirit. Second, and possibly more important, is to give gifts to the poor. At Beth El we take a collection at both the evening and morning *Megillah* readings. Please give generously when you attend our services or find a way to make a donation to the poor on that day.

Therefore, to me, Purim is clearly a holiday that teaches us how to live life in general. We learn from our customs that we must celebrate with great joy whenever we can. Life is too short to not appreciate the goodness in the world. However, life is not frivolous and our responsibility to provide for everyone’s happiness cannot be ignored. Happiness should be attainable for all people, no matter what their personal economic situation. Additionally, we must always keep in mind that God is eternally present, even while the Divine manifestation remains enigmatic.

So this Purim I encourage you all to participate as fully as you can in all of our Purim activities. Due to the fact that
continued on page 5

North Suburban Synagogue
Beth El
בית כנסת בית אל

BETH EL PURIM CARNIVAL



SUNDAY, MARCH 17, 2024



JOIN US FOR INFLATABLES, GAMES, MAGICIANS AND MORE!
FUN FOR ALL AGES!

9:00-10:00 am: Purim Open for Families with Young Children (ages 5 and younger)
10:00-10:30 am: Purim Shpiel (retelling the story) for everyone (including CRS)
10:30 am-noon: Purim Carnival open for all!

Thursday, March 7

Strong Women in Megillat Esther with Hazzan Jenna Greenberg

11:15 am

Join Hazzan Greenberg to explore the attributes of the women in Megillat Esther and what they can teach us today. Free; class will meet in-person after the HAZAK Fitness Class and on Zoom.

Saturday, March 16

Pre-Purim (Carnival) Lounge Night

8:00 pm

Join other 7th-12th graders as we help set up for the Purim Carnival, play (video) games, make hamantaschen, eat snacks and more. Contact Sarah Topal for more information at stopal@nssbethel.org.

Wednesday, March 20

6th & 7th Graders

Celebrate Purim with your friends!

6:00 pm

Dinner, hamantaschen making and mishloach manot decorating. Contact Sarah Topal for more information at stopal@nssbethel.org.

Saturday, March 23

Rock & Roll Purim

4:30-5:30 pm Rockin' Purim Play Date

Families with children in 1st grade and younger are invited to come in costume, participate in a Purim Scavenger Hunt, hear parts of the Megillah and eat some sweet treats!

6:45 pm Mincha

7:15 pm Seudah Shlishit

7:45 pm Ma'ariv & Havdalah

8:00 pm Megillah Reading

9:30 pm "ROCK-tail" Party featuring The Dynamix

The ultimate classics cover band playing all of your favorite songs of the 50's, 60's, 70's and 80's with vocals, keyboard, guitar, trombone, saxophone, trumpet, electric bass & drums.

Cost: \$18/person; reservations required by March 18. Costumes encouraged! Dress as your favorite rock or pop star or from your favorite decade. Wear a much loved concert or band t-shirt. Or, come in any costume you want!



Let's celebrate Purim! Scan the QR code to register for these events.



Sunday, March 24

Megillah & A Movie

8:45 am Minyan & Megillah Reading

10:30 am Brunch Seudah

11:00 am Feature Film: Live at Mister's Kelly's

This new star-studded documentary features luminaries like Barbra Streisand, Bob Newhart, Richard Pryor, Ella Fitzgerald, Bette Midler, the Smothers Brothers, Steve Martin, and Lily Tomlin to tell the story of how the celebrated Chicago nightclub, owned and operated by two Jewish brothers, changed show business and became one of American entertainment's greatest proving grounds.

The Brunch Seudah is free for Beth El members; \$10/guests. Please RSVP online by March 18. Questions? Contact Hazzan Sandler at jsandler@nssbethel.org or 847-266-1175.

The “March” from Purim to Passover

By Rabbi Alex Freedman | afreedman@nssbethel.org



What if Purim and Passover weren't two separate holidays? What if they were bookends for a single month-long process?

Rabbi David Hoffman of JTS taught me such. Notice that exactly one month separates the two holidays – Purim is on the 14th of Adar (15th in Jerusalem) while Passover is

celebrated on the 15th of Nisan.

The one-word summary of Purim is **chaos**. Life nearly ended for all the Jews, and then suddenly they were on top. Today Purim is marked by riotous, chaotic fun, costume, and shtick.

When we turn to Pesach, though, we encounter the opposite. In one word, Passover is about **order**. The holiday is

dominated by the Seder, the step-by-step dinner script whose Hebrew word means “order.” We follow time-tested processes and rules on Seder night to move us to a place where we taste slavery and freedom, literally and metaphorically.

The days that move us from Purim to Passover are themselves a step-by-step personal journey from chaos to order. How appropriate is it that this march happens during March? People can't turn from one strong emotion to another on a dime. We need time and a step-by-step process. And as the days of Passover draw nearer, we have the opportunity to prepare ourselves for the next stage of the year.

Let us enjoy these two upcoming holidays – and let us find meaning in seeing them as fundamentally connected too.

Ritual

“Devash: Because Learning Torah is Sweet!”

By Hazzan Jenna Greenberg, Ritual Director | jgreenberg@nssbethel.org



You may have noticed a sweet addition to Beth El over the past few years. Every Shabbat (and some holidays, too), we display a very special parashah magazine, called *Devash* (honey), on a table outside of the sanctuary. There are multiple copies for people to look at while they are at shul, and many congregants take it home each week, as each weekly edition is

chock full of sweet Torah learning!

You may have seen these *Devashim* and thought, “That looks like it's for kids and families.” And while that is partially correct as that was the original target audience, Hadar, the institution who created *Devash*, describes their educational goal in each edition: “By engaging directly with texts and taking kids seriously as Jews, *Devash* helps children (ages 7+) and grown-ups discover the weekly Torah portion.”

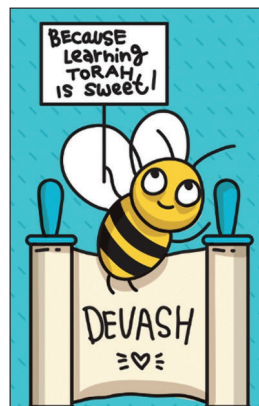
Did you notice the “and grown-ups” description? It is so true, as the content of each *Devash* is filled with so many doors into the parashah for people of all ages, for people at all levels of Jewish learning.

Each *Devash* includes many if not all of the following sections:

1. *Ma baParasha*: a summary of the weekly Torah portion
2. *Midrash* and/or *Parshanut*: interpretations by a wide variety of commentators on the Torah verses
3. *Halakhah*: explanations of how aspects of the parashah apply to practical Jewish living

4. *Daka shel Diyun*: One-Minute Debates based on a value found in the parashah
5. *Sh'eilot HaShavua*: literally questions of the week, a parashah scavenger hunt (including an answer key if you need a little help!)
6. *Dikduk*: a Hebrew grammar moment, teaching about something unique in biblical Hebrew found in the Torah portion
7. *Rega shel Ivrit*: a moment of Hebrew showing connections between biblical and modern versions of the language
8. *Tefillah*: Prayer in the Parashah, a connection showing the biblical root of various prayers we daven from our siddur

While we read the same Torah every year, each year of *Devash* has shared new content, commentaries and insights with each cycle. The learning possibilities for all ages are seemingly endless with *Devash*.



I encourage you to take a copy for yourselves to study and learn with your family and friends! I often have a few leftovers, and you can also access them online at <https://hadar.org/torah-tefillah/devash>.

The opportunities for Torah learning in each weekly edition of *Devash* are nearly endless, providing us with sweet spiritual sustenance, like honey!

Shabbat Schedule



All of the following Shabbat services meet in person and on livestream.

<https://livestream.nssbethel.org>

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

Clergy:
Rabbi Michael Schwab*
Rabbi Alex Freedman
Hazzan Jacob Sandler
Hazzan Jenna Greenberg
Rabbi Vernon H. Kurtz, Emeritus

Every Shabbat

10:30am Junior Congregation

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

11:00am Tot Shabbat

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

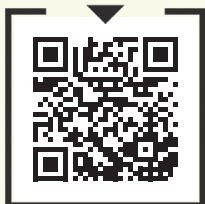
Please note:

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

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

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

Scan the QR code below to view additional Service times and dates



March

Friday, March 1

5:23pm Candle Lighting
6:00pm Kabbalat Shabbat

Saturday, March 2

Parashat Ki Tisa
9:00am Shabbat Service
5:15pm Mincha Service
6:25pm Ma'ariv Service/Havdalah
6:25pm Shabbat Ends

Friday, March 8

5:32pm Candle Lighting
6:00pm Kabbalat Shabbat

Saturday, March 9

Parashat Vayakhel Shabbat Shekalim
9:00am Shabbat Service
5:30pm Mincha Service
6:30pm Ma'ariv Service/Havdalah
6:33pm Shabbat Ends

Friday, March 15

6:00pm Kabbalat Shabbat
6:40pm Candle Lighting

Saturday, March 16

Parashat Pekudei
9:00am Shabbat Service
6:30pm Mincha Service
7:40pm Ma'ariv Service/Havdalah
7:42pm Shabbat Ends

Friday, March 22

6:00pm Kabbalat Shabbat
6:48pm Candle Lighting

Saturday, March 23 Erev Purim

Parashat Vayikra Shabbat Zachor
9:00am Shabbat Service
6:45pm Mincha Service
7:45pm Ma'ariv Service/Havdalah
7:50pm Shabbat Ends
8:00pm Megillah Reading

Friday, March 29

6:00pm Kabbalat Shabbat
6:56pm Candle Lighting

Saturday, March 30

Parashat Tzav Shabbat Parah
9:00am Shabbat Service
6:45pm Mincha Service
7:55pm Ma'ariv Service/Havdalah
7:58pm Shabbat Ends

April

Friday, April 5

6:00pm Kabbalat Shabbat
7:04pm Candle Lighting

Saturday, April 6

Parashat Shmini Shabbat HaChodesh
9:00am Shabbat Service
7:00pm Mincha Service
8:05pm Ma'ariv Service/Havdalah
8:06pm Shabbat Ends

Friday, April 12

6:00pm Kabbalat Shabbat
7:11pm Candle Lighting

Saturday, April 13

Parashat Tazria
9:00am Shabbat Service
7:00pm Mincha Service
8:15pm Ma'ariv Service/Havdalah
8:15pm Shabbat Ends

Friday, April 19

6:00pm Kabbalat Shabbat
7:19pm Candle Lighting

Saturday, April 20

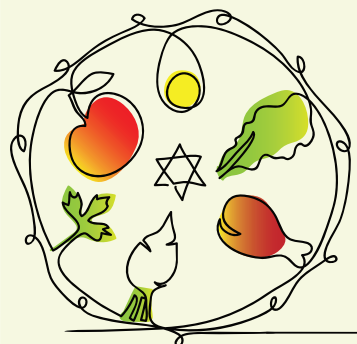
Parashat Metzora Shabbat HaGadol
9:00am Shabbat Service
7:15pm Mincha Service
8:20pm Ma'ariv Service/Havdalah
8:24pm Shabbat Ends

Friday, April 26

Fourth Day Passover
6:00pm Kabbalat Shabbat
7:27pm Candle Lighting

Saturday, April 27 Fifth Day Passover

Shabbat Chol Hamoed Pesach
9:00am Shabbat Service
7:15pm Mincha Service
8:30pm Ma'ariv Service/Havdalah
8:33pm Shabbat Ends



May

Friday, May 3

6:00pm Kabbalat Shabbat
7:00pm Sisterhood Shabbat
Congregational Dinner
7:35pm Candle Lighting

Saturday, May 4

Parashat Achrei Mot Sisterhood Shabbat
9:00am Shabbat Service
7:30pm Mincha Service
8:40pm Ma'ariv Service/Havdalah
8:42pm Shabbat Ends

Friday, May 10

6:00pm Kabbalat Shabbat
7:42pm Candle Lighting

Saturday, May 11

Parashat Kedoshim
9:00am Shabbat Service
7:30pm Mincha Service
8:50pm Ma'ariv Service/Havdalah
8:50pm Shabbat Ends

Friday, May 17

6:00pm Kabbalat Shabbat
7:50pm Candle Lighting

Saturday, May 18

Parashat Emor
9:00am Shabbat Service
7:45pm Mincha Service
8:55pm Ma'ariv Service/Havdalah
8:59pm Shabbat Ends

Friday, May 24

6:00pm Kabbalat Shabbat
7:56pm Candle Lighting

Saturday, May 25

Parashat Behar
9:00am Shabbat Service
7:45pm Mincha Service
9:05pm Ma'ariv Service/Havdalah
9:06pm Shabbat Ends

Friday, May 31

6:00pm Kabbalat Shabbat
8:02pm Candle Lighting

Saturday, June 1

Parashat Bechukotai
9:00am Shabbat Service
8:00pm Mincha Service
9:10pm Ma'ariv Service/Havdalah
9:13pm Shabbat Ends

Notes from Hazzan

Kesher L'Yisrael

By Hazzan Jacob Sandler | jsandler@nssbethel.org



I hope all of you reading this have marked your calendars for Sunday, April 7th from 5:00pm–8:00pm. It's our Annual Fundraiser, called Kesher L'Yisrael. I'm particularly excited to be bringing back our past Hazzanim Henry Rosenblum, Larry Goller and Ben Tisser. Alongside myself and our current Ritual Director Hazzan Jenna Greenberg, we make up a quintet that

represents the sounds of Beth El's past, present, and God-willing, our future.

I initially had the idea to bring in my predecessors as part of celebrating Beth El at 75. As the theme of the event shifted to supporting our beloved State of Israel, the excitement around this idea among the professional and lay team remained.

I imagine those of you who have been at Beth El for decades fondly reconnecting with the cantor who officiated a parent's funeral, or who taught your kids for B'nai Mitzvah. Perhaps this is the Cantor who elevated your prayers each Shabbat for the years they served at Beth El. And for those who have only been at Beth El a short while, I imagine you leaving inspired by the harmony and musicianship that helped shape this community over the years. I hope many of you will enjoy hearing another side of my voice, as there is a difference between my prayer and performance.

Music can connect us across the generations, and I'm truly looking forward to sharing the stage with these wonderful colleagues of mine. I hope to see you there!

President's Corner



Upcoming Holidays and Events

By Marta Grossberg, NSS Beth El President | president@nssbethel.org



Happy (almost) spring, Everyone! This bulletin is chock-full of information necessary for the spring holidays, of which there are many! Be sure to read about all the happenings for Purim, Passover, Yom Hashoah, Yom Hazikaron, Yom Haatzmaut, Lag B'Omer. The "yom" holidays commemorate the Holocaust, fallen soldiers who have defended Israel, and,

of course, Israel's independence. These holidays take on much more meaning and significance this year as they are the first since the brutal attack on October 7, 2023, and, as of the time of this writing, there are still more than 100 people held hostage in Gaza. I pray that by Yom Haatzmaut – Israel's independence day – all hostages have been released and there's peace in Israel.

At the first meeting with the current Executive Committee, I asked everyone which was their favorite Jewish holiday. The majority of the group said Passover! People commented that they love the retelling of our history, getting together with their families, and of course all of the yummy food. For me, my sister and I always had to schlep up the boxes and boxes of Kosher-for-Passover dishes, pots and pans (two sets!) and help our mom make chicken soup, peel tons of potatoes for a kugel, and more. So, Passover was never at the top of my favorite holidays. But now, I will look at this holiday with fresh eyes. I'm looking forward to a more meaningful Pesach this year!

There are two exciting happenings this Spring to which we can all look forward – Mitzvah Day on March 10 and our first fundraiser dinner since 2020. On Mitzvah Day, it's such a

wonderful sight to see so many people of all ages participate in activities which benefit our community. Giving back is one of NSSBE's and Judaism's key values and having this day devoted to it makes it easy for everyone to pay it forward. This year, the activities will be Israel-themed. If you haven't participated in the past, please keep an eye out for more information regarding this important, fun, and meaningful day.

On Sunday, April 7, we will have another Israel-theme event, our fundraiser dinner. Past Beth El Hazzanim will be returning for a special performance, there will be a "shuk" or market place, and a silent auction. Please save the date and plan to spend an evening with your Beth El friends and family.

Wishing you and your families all the best for a wonderful Spring and happy and healthy chagim. Shalom.

continued from page 1

Purim: A Holiday of Merriment, Menschlichkeit and Meaning

Purim begins late on Saturday night this year, our schedule of Purim activities will be different than usual. First, the Purim carnival is the Sunday before Purim, on March 17th. Second, the evening *Megillah* reading and Purim *Seudah*/Party will take place on Saturday night, March 23rd. Services Sunday morning will begin at 8:45am, the *Megillah* reading itself will begin at approximately 9:45am. There will be a Purim *Seudah* Brunch after the reading followed by a movie for those interested.

Have a joyous Purim and hope to see you here at Beth El over the holiday!



Signs of Our Community: Learning to Engage Everyone

By Aliza Drumm, Director of Congregational Learning | adrumm@nssbethel.org

Inclusion is such a beautiful part of Jewish education and our efforts at Beth El to be the most inclusive place possible have been significant. However, we always have more to do to see each and every person in our community as integral and essential and to continue to adjust our communal atmosphere to invite all in.

Jewish Disabilities Awareness, Acceptance, and Inclusion Month (JDAIM) is a unified effort among Jewish organizations worldwide to raise awareness and foster inclusion of people with disabilities and those who love them. JDAIM is observed each February. But the truth is, while it brings the issues of disability inclusion to the forefront, inclusion is something that we must keep focused on all year long.

In our quest to include every member of our community, we learn from ancient examples of accommodation from the beginning of the Torah where we are told that all humans are created in God's image to the story of Moses where his brother Aaron acts as a supportive interpreter. Every major holiday includes bringing diverse types together (think the lulav and etrog on Sukkot or the

four children at Pesach) and our continual efforts are guided by these and other examples as we strive to continue to open our synagogue communal tent.



Our Gertrude Lederman Family Continuing Education Department is currently offering an introduction to American Sign Language for "Shul", taught by Jack and Mildred Cohen Religious School teacher, Sari Daybook. Sari is guiding our class

with knowledge and understanding about the deaf culture and exposure to basic ASL sign language. In addition to the basics, her focus will be on Jewish communal phrases about holidays and *smachot* so that we can better welcome members of the deaf community to Beth El and learn a selection of Hebrew prayers and blessings in ASL.

Students of all ages joined the effort and I look forward to Sari's assistance in continuing to spread inclusion and welcoming for all throughout our community in this area.



Purim Celebration

By Sarah Topal, Director of Youth and Family Engagement | stopal@nssbethel.org

Purim Celebrations at NSSBE for Kids of all ages!

Purim is coming and the Youth Department is going to start the celebrations early...with a carnival! Join us on Sunday, March 17 at our Purim Carnival complete with inflatables, games, magicians, activities just for little kids, tweens and more! We'll have a space for those who wish to celebrate in a quieter and smaller way, an opportunity to hear a few lines of the Megillah, and a chance to show off your costumes the week before Purim.

9:00 - 10:00AM

Our littest friends (ages 5 and younger/pre-CRS age) are welcome to join for games and activities.

10:00 - 10:30AM

Everyone will join together (including our Cohen Religious School students) for a Purim Spiel, singing and hearing a few lines of the Megillah.

10:30AM - 12:00PM

The carnival is open for all!

The event is free and there are opportunities to purchase food and donate to Tikun Olam. Check your email for a link to register!

The celebrations will continue on Saturday, March 23 at a **Rockin' Purim Play Date** from 4:30-5:30 pm. Families with kids who aren't quite ready to stay up late for the full Purim celebrations (ages 0-7) are welcome to join (in costume) as we participate in a scavenger hunt with Esther to save the Jewish people and listen to parts of the Megillah as well as eat some sweet treats! Register today. Can't wait to celebrate with you!



Scan here to register.

Family Ties

By Anna Besser, Director of The Jack and Mildred Cohen Religious School | abesser@nssbethel.org



Jewish community doesn't happen by chance. Once upon a time, we lived close to one another and were able to easily connect, but that is no longer the case. Today, we work to create community through programs that foster relationships. This year Sarah Topal and I are working to establish grade-level family programs that aim to bridge the gap within our Jewish community. We are creating opportunities for families to "hang-out", providing the time and structure to build friendships with other Jewish families. Building this cohort provides a sense of belonging, support and guidance to our families.

Sarah and I are putting together various opportunities of engagement ranging from family game day to a parents' night out to social action to celebrating Shabbat together. This year, we kicked off our family programming with our 5th Grade cohort. In October, our families gathered for a morning of ice breakers, games, activities, and light discussion. It was a morning of low-key fun and engagement so that families could get to know one

another. As we head into the early spring, 5th Grade families will have an opportunity to participate in a community service day with Gratitude Generation. We can't wait to learn about Gratitude Generation and travel together to the grocery store to shop on a budget and donate to a local food pantry. Families will gather to engage in social action in a meaningful way, while building connections to their Beth El community.

We are also kicking off the Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten family gatherings with a social action program in February. After some get to-know-you activities, we are partnering with CJE Senior Life (Council of Jewish Elderly) to make Birthday bags that will be distributed to seniors on their birthdays.

As the year progresses, Sarah and I look forward to planning a parents' night out, a family outdoor fun day and a Shabbat celebration. We are excited for families to continue engaging beyond the "synagogue walls".



One of the programs CRS 6th Graders participate in is called My Family Story. This curriculum from ANU: The Museum of the Jewish People (located in Tel Aviv), invites students to research their family story and create an artistic representation of their heritage. This project not only tells the story of the students' personal family projects, but also tells the unique and ongoing story of the Jewish people.

As part of their family story research, the students are asked to interview family members. What is their Jewish story? How does their personal story fit into the larger story of the Jewish people? This year, in preparation, students interviewed nine Beth El members. We are grateful to the following congregants for spending a Sunday morning with us. Thank you to: *Jane Pickus, Bob Ruderman, Larry Pachter, Judy Weiss, David Weiss, Eli Krumbein, David Shapiro, Deborah Aizenberg and Sulie Holt*. Congregants came armed with artifacts. Among them: a tallis katan, a photo with David

Ben Gurion, a book from Stashov, Poland listing Jewish families from that village, most of whom were massacred by the Nazi's, entry papers to the United States, and of course, loads of family photos and other ritual objects.

It was an incredible morning of students hearing congregants' stories, asking questions, and thinking about their family interviews and what they might discover. Some impressions from the congregants were: "It was great to help launch the next generation." "I was surprised how touched I was personally to share my family story with the students." "Great program and the ending activity was fabulous to pull it all together for both the adults and the kids. Thanks for including me. Happy to come again next year!" The students were polite, mature and engaged. This intergenerational exchange between our 6th grade CRS students and congregants proved a meaningful experience for everyone involved. We can't wait for our Vav class to showcase their Family Story projects on Sunday, March 3rd.



For more information about Pre-School enrollment please contact the Paul S. and Sylvia Steinberg Preschool at 847-432-2830.

Kory Goldenberg,
kgoldenberg@nssbethel.org
Director

Staci Rosenberg,
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Assistant Director

Celebrating a Remarkable Jewish Educator

By Kory Goldenberg, Director of the Paul S. and Sylvia Steinberg Pre-School | kgoldenberg@nssbethel.org

In the heart of our Steinberg Preschool community, a beacon of light continues to shine for our youngest learners and their families.

Through her nurturing spirit, endless creativity and unwavering leadership, Erica Lindon brings so much into the lives of those around her. This article pays tribute to the profound impact Erica has had on shaping the minds of young children.

Erica cherishes her memories of her own four children's (Lorelai (16), Reese (14), Adley (10), and Tobey (9)) experiences being in the Steinberg Preschool and that's what inspired her to accept a role as a teacher where she has taught for the past 10 years. For those of you who have had the privilege to attend one of Erica's Small and Tall or Adult Toddler classes, you know just how magical of an educator she truly is. She lights up the room with her songs, stories and interactive instruction while she captivates the attention of learners of all ages. The moment Erica's families' walk through the door, Erica welcomes them in with a huge smile. She takes the time to get to know her families, she finds out what they need for their children and assures the parents/caregivers that they are an integral part to their child's learning.

Erica shared that the things that bring her the most joy about teaching her Small and Tall and Adult Toddler classes lies in the ability to witness the incredible growth and development that children experience in their early years. Seeing the children achieve milestones, develop new skills and gain confidence in their abilities is very exciting for Erica



as their teacher. Erica hopes her families leave her classes with a sense of belonging, new friendships and a love of Judaism. Erica feels strongly that the Steinberg Preschool is a way to connect families to each other and to

the congregation at large. It is a chance for parents and their children to form relationships and get comfortable with the clergy, liturgy, and religious observances of the synagogue. Erica believes if you find your Jewish peer groups through early childhood school experiences, you are more likely to be actively engaged in Jewish life in the future. Many of Erica's closest friends at NSS Beth El were formed through the Steinberg Preschool; they have gone through CRS, B'nai mitzvah and now the high school years of their own children together.

Last spring, Erica received an honor called Kol Hane'arim "Voice of the Children" which is a traditional honor given on Simchat Torah to a synagogue leader who has devoted themselves to children and family education at Beth El. We are so lucky to have Erica Lindon as part of our Steinberg Preschool staff and we hope you get to experience the magic of her classes one day. Be on the lookout for our Summer Small and Tall class schedule coming soon! Kol Ha'Kavod, Erica!



HAZAK Caring Community

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

We couldn't do it without...you! HAZAK is extremely grateful for your financial support, which along with the Diane and Leonard Sherman Family Foundation, allowed us in 2023 to provide the following services to our Beth El members and some individuals the rabbis help in time of need:

- 80 Shabbat/Yom Tov/Holiday meals (569 meals since we began!)
- 200 goody bags
- 147 lunches/brunches
- \$3,050 Jewel Gift Cards
- 16 Core, Balance & Stability classes led by Gina Hanusa, CSFT
- Various engaging and educational programming for our valued seniors
- Numerous rides to synagogue services and events, medical and physical therapy appointments, etc.

- Dozens of Refuah Shlemah cards mailed to congregants wishing them a complete recovery from illness, surgery, etc.

We thank you for your continued financial support which allows us to provide services to our members. It is truly a mitzvah to make a positive difference in someone's life. We welcome new HAZAK volunteers to help with event planning, meal and goody bag deliveries, and we especially need additional volunteer drivers. Many of us take our driving privileges for granted. However, once we can no longer drive, it becomes another worry for our seniors. Help us help our members and consider signing up at HAZAK@nssbethel.org to be a HAZAK volunteer driver. It may only be a once a month request.



THE BETH EL SOCIAL ACTION
COMMITTEE PRESENTS



NSS BETH EL'S ANNUAL MITZVAH DAY 2024

With a Focus on Israel!

**SUNDAY, MARCH 10
10:00 AM**

**SCAN
ME!**



North Suburban Synagogue
Beth El
בית כנסת בית אל

Questions? Please contact socialaction@nssbethel.org

Thank You to our Beth El Community. You are Awesome!

By Marlene Halpern

Whatever the Social Action Project, Beth El, you are always there with your amazing spirit, your generous hearts, and a commitment to help those in need. With a deep sense of tikkun olam (repairing the world) you continue to be a difference in the lives of so many. Here are some of the projects you impacted:

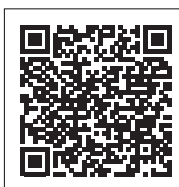
Our Thanksgiving Mitzvah Day was the most successful one yet. Together, we prepared and delivered:

- 177 baskets for the Glenwood School in Waukegan;
- 106 baskets for The Moraine Township Food Pantry.
- We also distributed donations of \$4,500 to: The Ark (\$2,500); Glenwood School (\$1,000) and Moraine Township Food Pantry (\$1,000).

Our Annual Coat Drive partnered with the Chicago Chesed Fund. Our donation bins overflowed with gently used winter outerwear. And our joy overflowed when we saw that that it took 3 cars, with 8 to 10 bags each, to deliver your donations to all of the warehouses!

Our Chai Lifeline Midwest Toy Drive

in December honored the spirit of Chanukah with toys for the Chai Lifeline, an organization that assists children and families impacted by illness and trauma. We provided toys directly through Amazon where toys were listed by price range for ease of selection and delivered directly to the Chai Lifeline. You helped bring the light of the season to many families!



→ Scan to view
Thanksgiving Mitzvah
Day Photos

Our Annual Mitzvah Day is Sunday, March 10. From 10:00 am to noon, join us as we work with several local organizations to deliver hope, support, and encouragement. This year we are shining a special light on projects that will help Israel. We're very excited about that! Project registration is now open. Check the QR code!

We work to repair the world – one project at a time!

Believe it or not, Summer is coming!

By Ben Channon, Vice President of Ritual



We need you! As Spring approaches, it's only natural to think about what comes next – Summer! What makes summer special ritually at NSSBE? Summer Shabbat Services!

As many of you know, during the summer you can lead services, deliver a D'var Torah, or lead Shabbat Shacharit or Musaf Services. You have the opportunity to do these in addition to the regular opportunities to chant haftarah or read Torah. Our Summer Services allows you take on a new challenge and expand your Jewish practice and knowledge.

Some of the Summer Services will again be held in the Blumberg auditorium in the round with Beth El's backyard and Lake Michigan as a backdrop.

All of this makes our Shabbat Services much more intimate and meaningful.

Your opportunity to lead services, give a D'var Torah, and lead Shacharit and Musaf Services, and chant a haftarah during Shabbat Services is from June 15th – August 17th. And if you need help, our clergy and Ritual Committee members are available to provide all the support that you need.

Please volunteer to be a service leader, chant a haftarah, give a d'var or lead Shabbat Services by emailing me at b_channon@yahoo.com or Steve Shapiro at steveshap24@gmail.com.

Enjoy your Spring and plan for a truly special Summer!

Men's Club Corner

Yom Hashoah - Never Again is Now

By Dan Gross



One million children! One million young souls are among the reasons the NSSBE Men's Club took upon itself, more than thirty years ago, the task, the responsibility, the commitment to remember, to never forget, to share, to educate and to maintain the legacy and the links that tie us to those children. Now, more than ever, it is critical to never forget as it feels like never again is now. Now is the time to be seen and remind the world we will not cower.

As our Men's Club has done for more than a quarter century, we will send Yom Hashoah candles to the entire NSS Beth El family. At sundown on Sunday, May 5th, please light this candle to honor all those that were murdered in the Shoah. Men's Club maintains a special Yom Hashoah fund to be spent only on events with a direct tie to the Shoah. This fund remains healthy because of your

generous donations. Please continue to support the Yom Hashoah program, by making a donation when you receive the candle.

This year we will be packing candles on March 22nd, beginning at 4:30pm until we are done. Mark your calendar and plan to join us. We need your help! With less than a one-quarter million survivors still alive, it is up to us never forget. Am Yisrael Chai!



Let's go for the repeat! Calling All Softball Players

If you'd like to play softball for your Northern Illinois Synagogue Softball League champion Men's Club team and be part of this fun fraternal and charitable activities, please contact Michael Salberg at mbsalberg@sbcglobal.net or 847-903-1491.

We play 10 games plus the playoffs starting in early May and could play into early August. We play on Sundays. Start time for our games are between 9:30 am and 12:30 pm. Contact us for more details.



Membership & Development

Thank you to those who have already donated! We still need to raise \$23,000 by the end of this fiscal year towards the Kol Nidre Appeal and Chesed Dues. If you still have not yet contributed, all you have to do is scan the QR code below.



Scan the QR code below to view photos from the White Elephant Post Chanukah Party



Development Updates

Our First Snowbird Event was a great success!

We held our first Snowbird event this year. Co-Chaired by Mildred Lidov and Marlene Kaplan, and hosted at Mildred's home in Delray Beach, Florida, they planned a beautiful and meaningful "Tea with Rabbi Michael Schwab" for Beth El snowbirds. It was wonderful to see everyone during the long winter months! For those of you who missed out this year, stay tuned for next season, as we plan to make this an annual event!

MDA Campaign

The Beth El community's response to the MDA* campaign to sponsor an ambulance in Israel was unbelievable. We ended up sponsoring two ambulances with a total of \$230,000 raised.

*American Friends of Magen David Adom

Kol Nidre Appeal, Chesed and Bonim Campaigns

Remember that these Campaigns allow Beth El to continue to provide the invaluable programs and services to our congregation and community 24/7/365, and also help those who are in need and cannot afford to remain part of our community alone to be able to do so – with your help. Help us help them!

Mitzvah613 Campaign

On Sunday, November 19, the following twelve Guardians & Chai Guardians of the Torah donors (\$100,000 and above) to our Mitzvah613 Campaign gathered for an intimate dinner as part of their benefits from donating at this level to this Campaign: Joan & Bill Brodsky • Nina & Arnie Harris • Ann Dee & Edward Holland • Laurie &



Andy Hochberg • Lynn & Skip Schrayner • Karyn & Bill Silverstein

The following couples were unable to attend, but their contributions are significant and do not go unnoticed: Barbara & Lawrence Field • Rochelle & Leonard Foxman • Cynthia & Joel Hirsch • Andrea & Kenneth Saffir

Combined, these ten couples donated a total of \$1,385,000 of our total Campaign. To say we couldn't have done this without them is an understatement! Those who could attend enjoyed a celebration dinner in their very well-deserved honor!

Membership Update

Our first annual new member post-Chanukah White-Elephant party was a huge hit! For those of you who missed it this year, you'll for sure want to make it next year!

We welcome the following 23 new member families into our Beth El community:

Meegon & Luke Butler and their son Frederick • **Kayla & Kellen Cohn and their children Emmett and Aliyah** • Carly Crane • **Courtney Anixter & Adam (AJ) Golding and their children Watts and Stiles** • Sara & Jeremy Gorsky and their son James • **Marissa & Kane Hochster and their children Ty and Brooke** • Laura & Adam Katlin and their son Ari • **Jennifer & Justin Katz and their daughter Noa** • Jessica Kaufman and her son Miles • **Jessica & Brett Kornblatt and their son Tanner** • Alex & Jared Kwait and their daughter Grey • **Alyssa & Ian Lundy and their daughter Bailey** • Blair & Michael Miller and their children Harrison, Maxwell, Graham and Isabelle • **Corey Millman** • Julia & Joey Mintz and their daughter Shay • **Lori Silverman & Vince Panozzo and their daughter Sophie** • Amy & Tyler Perlmutter and their daughter Remi • **Henry Pevitz** • Aaron Polonsky • **Erica & Shane Rachman and their son Rafael** • Jenna & Adam Silver and their children Jack and Cameron • **Ali & Lee Solomon and their son Simon** • Brooke Doppelt & Louis Terry and their daughter Leah



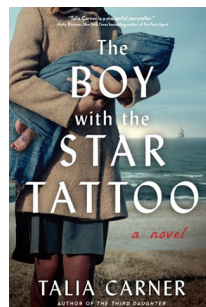
Gertrude Lederman Family Continuing Education

Continuing Education courses at North Suburban Synagogue Beth El offer a wonderful chance to deepen your understanding of Jewish thought, culture, and identity. Visit the Continuing Education page on the Beth El website and watch your email for registration information for our new spring classes beginning April 1.

How Jewish Books Are Being “Bombed”

By Rachel Kamin, Director of Lifelong Learning | rkamin@nssbethel.org

The Boy with the Star Tattoo by Talia Carner, published by HarperCollins in January, is one of the latest victims of “review-bombing,” a vicious, and sometimes viral, attempt to tank a book’s rating on Goodreads, the popular platform that millions of readers use to share ratings and reviews of their favorite books. Why is this novel by an award winning author being “bombed”? Well, the dual narrative tells the story of two little known historical events in France: the rescue of hidden Jewish orphans after World War II by the Youth Aliya movement and the daring escape of French boats, commissioned and paid for by Israel, that were blocked by a French arms embargo in 1969. Numerous 1-star reviews on GoodReads claim that the book is “Zionist propaganda,” “trash,” and “based on sheer lies.” Carner, a native Israeli who writes in



English, reported the reviews as hate speech but they remain on the site. And while many readers have flagged the most egregious of these “reviews,” hundreds of others have also responded by posting positive and supportive comments. As Talia wrote on my Facebook page, “it means so much to me when, at such a difficult time — when I’m already pained over the war in Israel and worry for the hostages — you and others are extending their warmth and support!” So much feels out of our control right now but this is one way I feel like I can help make a small difference in this little corner of the internet. I encourage you to check out *The Boy with the Star Tattoo* from our Abbell Library, as well as Carner’s previous novels, *The Third Daughter* (a past selection of the Sisterhood Torah Fund Book Club), *Hotel Moscow*, and *Jerusalem Maiden*.



Imprints with Hilda Reingold Thursday, April 11, 11:00am

Hilda Reingold, a long-time Beth El member, immigrated to the United States from Germany in 1937 when her family recognized the threat that Hitler’s Nazi Party posed to the Jews. Touching on themes of intergenerational identity, resilience, and cultural heritage, her multi-media presentation weaves threads of history and personal narrative into a unique picture of 1930’s Germany and 1940’s New York. Sponsored by the Gray Cultural & Learning Center and the Beth El Sisterhood, with a complimentary lunch provided by HAZAK. RSVP to HAZAK@nssbethel.org.

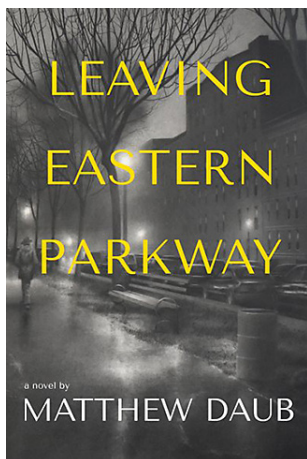
Lunch & Learn: Building Jewish Pluralism with Rabbi Michael Schwab Thursday, May 9, 12:00–1:00pm

Join Rabbi Schwab for study and discussion on pluralism as a value in Jewish life. Together, we’ll ask: How do I live a life of conviction while remaining tolerant of others? How can I emphasize what’s right for one may not be right for another without falling into relativism? How do I cultivate a sense that you don’t have to be wrong for me to be right? How do I satisfy diverging contingents within my community? What are the limits of pluralism? Class will be held in-person and on Zoom. FREE; a complimentary lunch will be served at Beth El! Register online or contact Marcie Eskin at meskin@nssbethel.org.



Sisterhood Torah Fund Book Club

Join Rachel Kamin for lively book discussions and author events. New participants are always welcome!

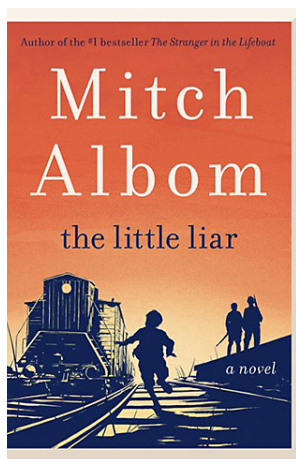


Leaving Eastern Parkway
by Matthew Daub

Saturday, March 9
12:30pm

Plus meet the author on
Zoom on Thursday, March 14
at 8:00pm.

Copies of the books are available in the Gray Cultural & Learning Center and from public libraries, as well as from local and online booksellers. Participants are encouraged to make a minimum donation of \$54 to the Torah Fund Campaign. The Book Club will continue in June. Contact Rachel at rkamin@nssbethel.org for more information.



The Little Liar
by Mitch Albom

Saturday, April 13
12:30 pm

Yom Hashoah 5784

VERSCHLEPPT:
The Carrying Off of
Markus and Anna
Mattes

Sunday, May 5,
6:00 pm



Told mostly in the written words of Markus and Anna Mattes, grandparents of Beth El member Stephen Nitekman who were murdered by the Nazis, this special multi-media, musical presentation will include slides of the family's letters, photographs, and documents as well as music from the Shoah performed by Debby Nitekman Kohl on piano and Daniel Katz, of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, on cello. Mincha, Ma'ariv, and our Yom Hashoah memorial service will follow at 7:30 pm.

The exhibit, *Witness to the Holocaust: The Mattes Family Letters*, shares the story of Markus and Anna Mattes and will be on display in our Rissman Kol Ami Museum through June. It was originally on display at the German American Heritage Center & Museum in Davenport, Iowa. A reception will be held in our museum gallery after the Yom Hashoah service.

Register online or contact Rachel Kamin at rkamin@nssbethel.org or 847-926-7902 for more information.

Save the Date:

Shavuot 5784

Tuesday, June 11 -
Thursday, June 13, 2024



Rabbi Shai Held, President and Dean of the Hadar Institute in New York City and one of the most influential Jewish thinkers and leaders in America, will deliver this year's Rabbi Philip Lipis Memorial Lectures. **NSS Beth El will also host a community program with Rabbi Held on Monday evening, June 10.** Professor Arnold Eisen, chancellor emeritus of The Jewish Theological Seminary, will join Rabbi Held for a conversation about his upcoming book, *Judaism is About Love*, which will be published by Farrar, Straus, & Giroux in March 2024. Watch your e-mail for more details.



In the Rissman Kol Ami Museum

Uncommon Challahs
by Anya Viner

Joseph's Technicolor Dreamcoat, Matzo Ball Soup, Challahkiah, designer shoes and purses... these are just a few of the "uncommon challahs" that Tigertail Bakery's Anya Viner creates. After baking more than 2,000 loaves of all kinds of challah over 16 years for her family and friends, word got out, and she has been teaching

synagogue challah bakes (including at Beth El!), Zoom classes for numerous Jewish organizations, and private clients' parties all over the north shore. Anya, a member of Beth El with her husband Victor and their children Ricki, Max and Sam, is always creating something new and delicious in the kitchen and prides herself with all the smiles people have when they see and taste her work. Check out the "uncommon challahs" on display in our museum through March.

From the Archives: Beth El's Historic Bond with Israel

BY MORTON STEINBERG



The committee planning the 1968 Israel Bonds event honoring Cantor Jordan and Marcia Cohen. Standing: Rachel Wasserman, Max Applebaum, Naomi Futorian, Robert Sklar, and Marvin Holland. Seated: Ben Sager, President; Rabbi Philip L. Lipis, Cantor Jordan Cohen, and Marcia Cohen.

Since the founding of the State of Israel, and even before, North Suburban Synagogue Beth El, its members and clergy, have maintained a close relationship with the Jewish State. Beth El was formally organized in August 1946 and its key founder, Benjamin Harris, was an ardent Zionist. For many years Harris worked nationally to help create an independent state in the Jewish homeland, and he and his wife Gertrude frequently opened their home in Glencoe to representatives of Israel on their visits to Chicago, including Abba Eban, Teddy Kollek and Golda Meir.

Israel Bonds, founded in 1951 by David Ben-Gurion, and Beth El have partnered consistently to raise funds for the purchase of Bonds. The investments in Bonds helped the State build Israel's infrastructure and institutions, and Israel has never defaulted on its obligation to repay those investments. For many years, the synagogue hosted an annual Israel Bond function, often honoring a distinguished member of the congregation or hosting a prominent speaker. One of the first such events was held at the synagogue in April 1959, when Abba Eban, then Israel's ambassador to the United

Nations and the United States, was the speaker. Among the many honorees at the synagogue's Bond functions were Sol Shapiro and Isadore Finkelstein, Cantor Jordan and Marcia Cohen, Rabbi Mordecai and Maxine Simon, Irving and Janet Robbin, Robert and Yadel Sklare, Cantor Reuven and Penina Frankel, and the Beth El Sisterhood. And among the many stalwart advocates for Bonds within the congregation were Amos Turner, Howard Kaplan, Merle Mattenson, Philip Glass, Larry Block, Harold Gorin and Sam Rade.

Shortly after the Suez Canal Crisis in October 1956, the Beth El board of directors faced a dilemma: should the synagogue encourage its members to participate in an Israel Bond event featuring Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt but being held at North Shore Congregation Israel in Glencoe? After much debate, the board reached a decision: it referred the matter to a committee. Of course, many congregants from Beth El attended that function and invested in Bonds.

In addition to regular Bond functions, Beth El held special gatherings of the congregation following times of great distress in Israel. In June 1967, the Six Day War prompted



The committee planning an Israel Bond event honoring Cantor Reuven and Penina Frankel during the 1970's. Standing: Sig Feiger, Mimi Feiger, Bernard Alpert, Al Kopin, Abby Block, and Myrna Kopin. Seated: Penina Frankel, Cantor Reuven Frankel, and Larry Block.



Beth El receiving a \$1 million loan from the First National Bank of Highland Park in 1980 for the purchase of an Israel Bond. Standing: Sam Rade, Executive Director; Rabbi William Lebeau, Marshall Goldsen, Bank Senior V.P.; Arnold Kaplan, President; and John Timmer, Bank Senior V.P.

President Ben Sager to convene an emergency meeting of the congregation to offer prayers and to demonstrate the synagogue's support for Israel. At an Israel Bond dinner held soon afterward honoring Rabbi Philip and Shoshanah Lipis, \$150,000 (equivalent to over \$1,300,000 in 2024 dollars) was raised for Bonds. Again in 1973, following the Yom Kippur War, and also in 1991, during the Persian Gulf War, funds for Israel Bonds as well as for JUF's Israel Emergency Fund were raised in record amounts, demonstrating the special place Israel was held in the hearts of Beth El's members. Perhaps most significantly, beginning in 1971, the synagogue itself, following a vote of the members of the congregation, borrowed two million dollars to purchase Israel Bonds, using the synagogue's property as collateral for the loans. This continued until 1995 when Israel no longer offered bonds of that type.

Beth El's clergy has a long history of close ties to Israel. The synagogue's first rabbi, Maurice Kliers, was born in Safad, then in British Mandate Palestine. Rabbi Lipis, a fervent Zionist, had studied in Jerusalem during the Arab riots of 1929 and spent considerable time in Israel both during his

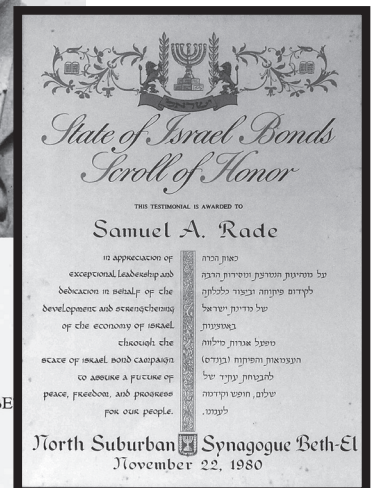
1967 sabbatical and following his retirement from Beth El in 1969. (It was Rabbi Lipis who ordered that the 1952 dedication of the school building be inscribed on Jerusalem stone shipped from Israel; the stone plaque remains visible in the school hallway.) Rabbi Lebeau was instrumental in Beth El's approval in 1985 of the SKIP program (Send a Kid to Israel Partnership) in cooperation with the Jewish Federation of Chicago. Rabbi Kurtz, who made aliyah to Israel following his retirement from Beth El in 2019, was involved with numerous organizations supporting Israel and, along with Alan Silberman, served for many years on the Board of Governors of the Jewish Agency. And of course, Rabbi Schwab is a strong advocate for Israel and has made numerous trips there, many as the leader of congregational missions.

Following the gruesome attack on Israel by Hamas terrorists on October 7, 2023, the congregation once again gathered to mourn the losses suffered and to show support for Israel. It also commenced a drive which raised over \$200,000 for the purchase of ambulances for Israel's Magen David Adom. And in the tradition of the synagogue, Beth El will again hold a special event to support Israel. On April 7, 2024, the congregation will have the opportunity to maintain its decades long relationship with Israel by participating in an Israeli themed evening by purchasing an Israel Bond. The almost eighty-year history of the bond between Beth El and the State of Israel is one of the outstanding characteristics of Beth El and one in which every member of the congregation can take special pride.



NORTH SUBURBAN SYNAGOGUE BE
and
STATE OF ISRAEL BONDS
proudly honor

Rabbi and Mrs. Mordecai Simon



LOTS OF PASTA

Congregational Pre-Pesach DAIRY Shabbat Dinner

FRIDAY, APRIL 19
7:15 PM

After weeks of preparing for Passover, why not take a break and join your Beth El Family for an amazing Pre-Pesach Shabbat Dinner. Enjoy one of our all-time best pasta dinners: a vegetarian lasagna, angel hair pasta with garlic aioli, penne pasta with marinara sauce on the side, green beans, chopped salad and the ultimate dessert, an ice cream bar with your choice of toppings. Pre-Pesach Yum!

Early Bird RSVP – before Monday, April 8: \$36 adult / \$18 children
RSVP between Monday April 8 – Monday, April 15: \$45 adult / \$25 kid
NO LATE REGISTRATION OR DAY OF WILL BE ACCEPTED



**Prepare for
Passover by
attending
one, two or all
three of these
sessions with
Rabbi Alex
Freedman:**

→ **Storytelling through
the Foods of Passover**
Thursday, March 28,
11:15 am – 12:15 pm

We're familiar with what special foods to eat at the Seder. Each one contains a story, and they all add to the grand storytelling of the Haggadah. Join us to examine these foods and the messages they convey.

→ **The Ten Plagues:
A Deeper Look**
Thursday, April 4,
11:15 am – 12:15 pm

We can't tell the story of the Exodus without mentioning the Ten Plagues. But why are these ten selected in this particular order? Come take a closer look at the symbolism of the plagues.

→ **Late-Night
Hagaddah Highlights**
Thursday, April 18,
11:15 am – 12:15 pm

We all know the songs Echad Mi Yodea (Who Knows One?) and Chad Gadya (One Little Goat). While they are fun to sing, a deeper look reveals important teachings. Let's explore these songs in detail together.

These classes will meet in-person and on Zoom immediately following the HAZAK Fitness class. Classes are free but please register online or contact Marcie Eskin at meskin@nssbethel.org.



Pesach Service Times

Sunday, April 21 – Bedikat Hametz

8:45 am – Morning Minyan
7:30 pm – Ma'ariv
8:15 pm – Should search for Hametz at nighttime after.

Monday, April 22 – Fast of the Firstborn/Erev Pesach/1st Seder

7:00 am – Morning Minyan followed by study session/
Siyyum Bechorim
10:32 am – Last time to eat Hametz
11:41 am – Burning of Hametz
6:30 pm – Mincha/Ma'ariv
7:23 pm – Candlelighting

Tuesday, April 23 – Pesach 1st day/ 2nd Seder

9:00 am – Festival Service
7:30 pm – Mincha
8:25 pm – Ma'ariv
8:28 pm – Candlelighting

Wednesday, April 24 – Pesach 2nd day

9:00 am – Festival Service
7:30 pm – Mincha
8:25 pm – Ma'ariv
7:05 pm – Candlelighting

Thursday, April 25 – 1st day of Hol Hamoed

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

Friday, April 26 – 2nd day of Hol Hamoed

7:30 am – Morning Minyan
6:00 pm – Kabbalat Shabbat Services
7:28 pm – Candle Lighting

Saturday, April 27 – 3rd day of Hol Hamoed

9:00 am – Shabbat Services
7:15 pm – Mincha
8:30 pm – Ma'ariv/Havdalah
8:33 pm – Shabbat Ends

Sunday, April 28 – 4th day of Hol Hamoed/Erev Yom Tov

8:45 am – Morning Minyan
7:30 pm – Mincha/Ma'ariv
7:30 pm – Candlelighting

Monday, April 29 – Pesach 7th day

9:00 am – Festival Service
7:30 pm – Mincha
8:35 pm – Ma'ariv
8:35 pm – Candlelighting

Tuesday, April 30 – Pesach 8th day/Yizkor

9:00 am – Festival Service
7:30 pm – Mincha
8:35 pm – Ma'ariv
8:36 pm – Yom Tov Ends

North Suburban Synagogue
Beth El
בית בנסת בית אל

Sell Your Chametz!

North Suburban Synagogue

Beth El
בית כנסת בית אל

Please fill out the form below and mail to the synagogue (attention: Hazzan Greenberg). You can also complete this electronically by scanning the QR code at the bottom. The sale of Chametz must be done by Sunday, April 21 at 9:00pm CT.

I hereby authorize Rabbi Michael Schwab to act as my agent to sell Chametz 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.

First Name

Last Name

Email

Phone

Home Address

City

Zip Code

Business Address

If you would like to make a donation, please attach a check payable to "NSS Beth El" and submit with this form.

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

Date: _____

If you want to complete this form online,
please scan the QR code with your phone.

SCAN ME



Supplement – 2024/5784



Permitted Foods

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

Dishes and Utensils

Utensils used for baking during the year cannot be used for Passover. Earthenware, enamelware and porcelain utensils used during the year may not be

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 Sunday, April 21st, 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 Monday, April 22nd – 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 11:41 am. The appropriate prayers for the search for and destruction of Chametz are found at the beginning of every Haggadah.

Mechirat Hametz (Sale of Hametz)

In addition to the thorough cleaning of the house before Pesach, we are



commanded to completely free ourselves of leavened products. Anything made from wheat, barley, oats, rye or spelt, which had a chance to leaven (rise or ferment), must be destroyed. Today a simple but meaningful tradition is followed:

- Each Jewish home must be cleaned before Pesach.
- The Rabbi contractually arranges for the sale of the Hametz to a non-Jew so that it will, technically, be out of Jewish possession during Pesach.
- At the end of Pesach, everything in your stored-up area will be repurchased for your immediate use.

Please see Hazzan Jenna Greenberg or use the QR code on the form on page 17 to sell your Hametz. Please contact her no later than Sunday, April 21st at 9:00pm. A voluntary contribution should be made upon selling Hametz. All gifts will be added to our Maot Chitim fund.

Maot Chitim (Portions of Wheat)

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

Siyyum Bechorim (Fast of the Firstborn)

The ceremony of Siyyum Bechorim will take place following the morning minyan on Monday, April 22nd at 7:00am. 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.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Sisterhood Shabbat May 3-4

Upon a child's arrival home from summer camp the natural question is, "How was camp?" It's such a far encompassing, impactful experience that any response feels shallow. That's how I felt when I walked through the door and my husband asked me, "How was the *Nashim B'Yachad* retreat?" For seventeen hours forty women gathered in community immersed in learning, playing, and conversation. Judy Hirsch, recently back from volunteering in Israel, reflected on that experience. Her message was clear, "If you can go to Israel, go!" Hazzan Greenberg beautifully led Havdalah. Marla Hand gave a terrific session where one of the highlights was showing us the beautiful Torah cover which dresses our Mitvah613 Torah. Participants shared stories behind the ritual objects they brought. Listen Up! provided a spirited and lively a capella concert. Night owls had the opportunity to watch a food program

from Chaiflicks, while early morning risers stretched and mediated on yoga mats. The room immediately transformed into our *beit tefilah* where the power of women's voices rising together in prayer lifted us up. Art, dance and Jewish learning were the activity choices. Our closing session where we discussed values, priorities, and a direction to lead Sisterhood into the future left people leaving with a feeling of optimism and connection. How was the retreat? You had to be there to understand. I hope you'll join us the next time around. We're grateful for the Dare to Dream grant which helped make *Nashim B'Yachad* possible.



Sisterhood Gift Shop News

By Sulie Holt and Judy Hirsch | suliekaroholt@gmail.com, judyhirsch724@gmail.com

Immerse yourself in the beauty of Israeli craftsmanship as you explore our latest arrivals from the Holy Land. Your Beth El Gift Shop has always supported Israeli artists but never more than now. See the beautiful works of artists such as Agayof, Gabrielli, Metalace, Nadav Arts and many more. We have beautiful items from the Israel Museum in Jerusalem which supports many Israeli artists.

Discover the unique treasures that help celebrate our rich heritage, Seder plates, matzo covers, matzo plates, kiddush cups, candlesticks, challah boards, jewelry, we have it all. From ritual items to decorative touches our shop has everything you need to enhance your Jewish life and home. If you will be celebrating a wedding or B'nai Mitzvah our registry will help your friends and family purchase wonderful gifts that will make your special moments even more memorable.

Visit the Beth El Gift Shop. Your presence and purchases strengthen our community as our proceeds go to help our wonderful synagogue all while helping Israeli artists who need our support. A gift for you or someone else, It's a Win Win!

Gift Shop hours are by appointment and on Sundays 9:00am-12:00pm when school is in session.

It's All in the Beth El Family

Mazel Tov to:

Steve and Wendy Abrams
On the birth of their grandson Noah Gabriel.
Proud parents are Josh and Gabi Abrams.

Abby and Larry Block
On the birth of their great-grandchild,
Eden Rayah

Jerry and Annette Blumberg
On their 50th wedding anniversary

Dr. Alexis Braverman and Charlie Gandelman
On the birth of their son

Ellen and Bob Doppelt
On the birth of their granddaughter,
Eden Rayah

Nina and Mark Gaines
On the baby naming of their granddaughter,
Tamara Meg Friedman

Alan Gandelman
On the birth of his grandson

Mindy and Jeff Gordon
On the birth of their granddaughter,
Eden Rayah

Hazzan Jenna Greenberg
On her birthday

Barbara and Stuart Hochwert
On the engagement of their daughter Pamela to

Michael Schultz, son of Ruth Pearl and Arthur
Schultz. Racquel Hochwert, grandmother.

Marla Hand and James Nyeste
On their 40th wedding anniversary

Mitchell and Karen Kopin
On the birth of their granddaughter, Dara

Myrna Kopin
On the birth of her great-grandchild, Dara

Rachel Leibowitz and Howard Foster
On the baby naming of their daughter,
Aviva Hope Foster

James Nyeste
On his 68th birthday

Sid Pachter
On his 92nd birthday

Matt Pestine and Jamie Glass-Pestine
On the engagement of their daughter Sidney
Glass to Scott Krugel, son of Erica and Gary Krugel

Yael Rajstein and Scott Drucker
On the birth of their son, Liam Jose Drucker

Sheldon and Merle Rosenfield
On their 27th wedding anniversary

Sheldon Rosenfield
On his 89th birthday

Dr. David and Rabbi Ora Schnitzer
On the birth of their granddaughter, Mila Rose

Sam Shanes
On his 80th birthday

Susan and Lawrence Silberman
On the birth of their grandson, Reid Shane
Silberman

Richard and Janice Small
On their 36th wedding anniversary

Barbara Stern
On the birth of her great-grandson,
Yakir Dov Stern

Darryl Temkin
On his 75th birthday

Bobbie and Len Tenner
On their 85th birthdays

Merle and Steve Tovian
On the birth of their granddaughter,
Emma Shayna

Elizabeth Ury
On her 62nd birthday

Zachary Warren and Danielle Parmacek
On their marriage

Condolences to:

Shirley Bornstein and family
On the passing of her husband, Ian Bornstein

Mary Channon
On the passing of her mother and father,
Barrie and William Hibdon

Julie Dann
On the passing of her sister, Debra Dann Kay

Maryl Dayan
On the passing of her father, Wallace Ginsberg

Judith Dolins
On the passing of her sister, Ruth Colby

Mark Fine
On the passing of his father, Albert Fine

Amy Gerstein
On the passing of her sister, Cathy Kahn

Adam Guetzow
On the passing of his father, Eugene Guetzow

Steve Naumann
On the passing of his brother, Michael
Naumann

Sandra Raizes
On the passing of her brother, George Cohon

Basia Retsky
On the passing of her mother, Bernice Oliff

Dr. Joel Retsky
On the passing of his mother, Batya Retsky

Regina Rosenstein
On the passing of her husband, Dr. Sheldon
Rosenstein

Dr. Robyn Rosenstein
On the passing of her father, Dr. Sheldon
Rosenstein

Ruth Stern
On the passing of her husband, Frank Stern

Lisa Warren
On the passing of her father, Marvin Bilfeld

IN MEMORIAM:

Frances Altman
Elaine Berger
Ian Bornstein
Joyce Pollack
Batya Retsky
Dr. Sheldon Rosenstein
Frank Stern

Kiddush Co-Sponsors:

Alan Blum
Lenore Blum
Annette and Jerry Blumberg
Wendy and Ben Chiswick
Deborah and Rabbi Charles Dobrusin
Marni Futterman
Nina and Mark Gaines
Fred and Debbie Goldenberg
Nami and David Goldenberg

Marla Hand and James Nyeste
Janet and Bill Kohn
Evan Meyers
Allison and Adam Nemirow
NSS Beth El Men's Club
NSS Beth El Sisterhood
Jacki and Eric Parmacek
Helene Phillips
Ronit and Daniel Ripes

Merle and Sheldon Rosenfield
Janice and Richard Small
Lisa and Danny Srour
Kathy and Michael Teich
Bobbie and Len Tenner
Lisa and Todd Warren
Michelle Wasserman and David Smith

Rabbi Schwab Discretionary Fund

In honor of Darryl Temkin's birthday - Ron and Eileen Goldberg

In honor of our wedding and with appreciation to Rabbi Schwab - Andrew Freeman and Joelle Swatez

In honor of Philip Glass on his 90th birthday - Stuart and Barbara Hochwert

In honor of Rabbi Michael and Erica Schwab for their incredible leadership, menschlichkeit and friendship - Marc and Mimi Yoskowitz

In honor of Rabbi Schwab's 20th year at NSS Beth El - Daniel and Honey Bronson

- Arthur and Lynn Cohen
- Terry and Sheryl Friedman
- Michael Gurtman and Lois Lourie
- Daniel and Wendy Kahn
- David and Barbara Lansing
- Steve and Ellen Lasin
- Gary and Debbie Lindon
- Andrew and Allyson Marcus
- Ed and Paulette Margulies
- Jim Nyeste and Marla Hand
- Ira and Debby Rosenberg
- Rabbi David and Judith Weiss

In honor of the marriage of David and Nicole Bilfeld - Todd and Lisa Warren

In memory of Albert Fine, beloved father of Marc (Nan) Fine, beloved grandfather and great-grandfather - Mark and Lael Edelstein
- Jerome and Mary Kaltman

In memory of Avram Kraft and with appreciation to Rabbi Schwab - Kerana Kraft and Family

In memory of Barrie Rhea Hibdon, beloved mother of Mary (Ben) Channon and beloved grandfather of Jack and Mayer Channon - Brian and Jan Channon

In memory of Batya Retsky, beloved mother of Joel (Basia) Retsky and Jonathan Retsky, beloved grandmother and sister

- Allene Frost
- Ira and Elise Frost
- Ron and Eileen Goldberg
- Anton and Tracey Hendler
- Stuart and Barbara Hochwert
- Steven and Ellen Lasin
- Benjamin and Andrea Leshem
- Fred and Maureen Sechan

In memory of Bernice Oliff, beloved mother of Basia (Joel) Retsky, Ira (Irma) Oliff and beloved grandmother

- Anton and Tracey Hendler
- Matt Pestine and Jamie Glass Pestine

In memory of Debra Dann Kay and with appreciation to Rabbi Schwab - Julie Dann and Brad Schneider

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

In memory of Joyce Pollack and with appreciation to Rabbi Schwab - The Pollack Family

In memory of Marvin Bilfeld and with appreciation to Rabbi Schwab - Todd and Lisa Warren

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

In memory of Renee Hirsch, beloved wife of David Schwartz, beloved mother, grandmother and great-grandmother - Stephen and Carol Weiss

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

In memory of Sheldon Rosenstein and with appreciation to Rabbi Schwab - The Rosenstein and Silberstein Families

In memory of Sidney Feitelberg, beloved brother - Philip and Doreen Feitelberg

In memory of William Gerard Hibdon, beloved father of Mary (Ben) Channon, beloved grandfather of Jack and Mayer Channon - Brian and Jan Channon
- Ron and Eileen Goldberg
- Stuart and Barbara Hochwert

Wishing a complete and speedy recovery to Marc Siegel - Marvin and Sara Siegel

With appreciation for all of Rabbi Schwab's support for Ari's Bar Mitzvah - David Smith and Michelle Wasserman

With appreciation for G-d's blessings - Ron and Eileen Goldberg

With appreciation for Rabbi Schwab's help after the death of Judith's sister, Ruth Colby - Steven and Judith Dolins

With appreciation for the clergy's support and care in response to the passing of my parents, William and Barrie Hibdon - Ben and Mary Channon

With appreciation to Rabbi Schwab - Richard and Sharon Schwab

With appreciation to Rabbi Schwab for helping make the process of Rebekah becoming a Bat Mitzvah both meaningful and joyful - Adam and Allison Nemirow

With appreciation

- Sally Aaron
- Carey and Cheryl Cooper
- Mitchell and Karen Kopin
- Steven and Nicole Putzel

Rabbi Freedman Discretionary Fund

In honor of Molly's Torah reading and Steve's Aliyah - Steven and Sharon Narrod

In honor of our son Ari's bris and with appreciation to Rabbi Freedman - Oren and Deborah Rasowsky

In honor of Rabbi Freedman and with appreciation for officiating at Eden Rayah's Simchat bat - The Gordon and Doppelt Families

In honor of the baby naming of our grandson Ariel Benjamin and with appreciation to Rabbi Freedman - Jonathan and Fran Sherman

In memory of Aaron Marcus, beloved grandfather - Cindy Shekhtman

In memory of Abe Sprung, beloved grandfather - Cindy Shekhtman

In memory of Elaine Berger and with appreciation to Rabbi Freedman - The Family of Elaine Berger

In memory of Frances Altman and with appreciation to Rabbi Freedman - Family of Frances Altman

In memory of Frank Stern and with appreciation to Rabbi Freedman - Ruth Stern and Family

In memory of Frank Stern, beloved husband of Ruth Stern, beloved father and grandfather - Andrew and Gail Brown

In memory of Gerald Goodman and with appreciation to Rabbi Freedman - The Family of Gerald Goodman

In memory of Ian Bornstein and with appreciation to Rabbi Freedman - Shirley Bornstein and Family

In memory of Sheldon Rosenstein and with appreciation to Rabbi Freedman - The Rosenstein and Silberstein Families

In memory of William Gerard Hibdon, beloved father of Mary (Ben) Channon, beloved grandfather of Jack and Mayer Channon - Matt Pestine and Jamie Glass Pestine

With appreciation for all your support for Ari's Bar Mitzvah - David Smith and Michelle Wasserman

With appreciation for the clergy's support and care in response to the passing of my parents, William and Barrie Hibdon - Ben and Mary Channon

With appreciation to Rabbi Freedman on the bris of Nathan Gandelman - Charles Gandelman and Alexis Braverman

With appreciation to Rabbi Freedman for his guidance and support in helping Rebekah become a Bat Mitzvah - Adam and Allison Nemirow

With appreciation to Rabbi Freedman's insights and time - Corey and Rebecca Derdiger

With appreciation to Steve and Linda Kupfer for hosting Shabbat dinner - Lee and Margaret Cohn

Rabbi Kurtz Discretionary Fund

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

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

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

Hazzan Sandler Discretionary Fund

In honor of a most generous and kind cantor extraordinaire - Gedalia Penner-Robinson

In memory of Batya Retsky, beloved mother of Joel (Basia) Retsky and Jonathan Retsky, beloved grandmother and sister - Matt Pestine and Jamie Glass Pestine

In memory of Eileen Kahana, beloved wife of Dov Kahana, beloved mother of Jacob (Lauren Reinfeld) and Jordon Kahana, beloved grandmother and sister - June Back Frydman

In memory of Sheldon Rosenstein and with appreciation to Hazzan Sandler - The Rosenstein and Silberstein Families

With appreciation for all your support for Ari's Bar Mitzvah - David Smith and Michelle Wasserman

With appreciation for the clergy's support and care in response to the passing of my parents, William and Barrie Hibdon - Ben and Mary Channon

With appreciation to Hazzan Sandler for helping Rebekah prepare and shine as she became a Bat Mitzvah - Adam and Allison Nemirow

Hazzan Greenberg Discretionary Fund

With appreciation for all of Hazzan Greenberg's support for Ari's Bar Mitzvah - David Smith and Michelle Wasserman

With appreciation for leading an excellent Torah trope class - Daniel and Wendy Kahn

With appreciation for the clergy's support and care in response to the passing of my parents, William and Barrie Hibdon - Ben and Mary Channon

With appreciation to Hazzan Greenberg for her support and guidance preparing Rebekah to become a Bat Mitzvah - Adam and Allison Nemirow

Ann and Jack Weinberg Holocaust Memorial Education Endowment Fund

In memory of Frank Stern, beloved husband of Ruth Stern, beloved father and grandfather - Rodney and Marilyn Slutzky - Sandy Starkman and Larry Pachter

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

Ben and Marion Drachler Education Endowment Fund

In memory of Bella Drachler Tesler, beloved sister - A. Michael and Nancy Drachler

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

In memory of Julian Adams, beloved father of Nancy Adams - A. Michael and Nancy Drachler

Calvin and Lana Eisenberg Halomdim Program Endowment Fund

In memory of Charles Share - Calvin Eisenberg

Family Engagement Fund

In memory of William Gerard Hibdon, beloved father of Mary (Ben) Channon, beloved grandfather of Jack and Mayer Channon - Michael and Jackie Melinger - Adam and Allison Nemirow

General Israel Scholarship Endowment Fund

In memory of Batya Retsky, beloved mother of Joel (Basia) Retsky and Jonathan Retsky, beloved grandmother and sister - Stefanie and Daniel Cohen

Gertrude Lederman Family Continuing Education Fund

In honor of Sheldon Rosenfeld's birthday - Ed and Paulette Margulies

In memory of Batya Retsky, beloved mother of Joel (Basia) Retsky and Jonathan Retsky, beloved grandmother and sister - Jane Pickus

In memory of Bernice Oliff, beloved mother of Basia (Joel) Retsky and Ira (Irma) Oliff and beloved grandmother - Ed and Paulette Margulies

In memory of Frank Stern, beloved husband, father and grandfather - Ruth Stern and Family

In memory of Frank Stern, beloved husband of Ruth Stern, beloved father and grandfather - Ed and Paulette Margulies - Steve and Frances Shapiro - Millie Weber

HAZAK Fund

In honor of Abigail Silberman, daughter of Jodie and Mark Silberman, on becoming a Bat Mitzvah - Jonathan and Holly Reinsdorf

In honor of Galit Goldenberg, daughter of Nami and David Goldenberg, on becoming a Bat Mitzvah - Jonathan and Holly Reinsdorf

In honor of Noah Ripes, son of Ronit and Daniel Ripes, on becoming a Bar Mitzvah - Jonathan and Holly Reinsdorf

In honor of Rebekah Nemirow, daughter of Allison and Adam Nemirow, on becoming a Bat Mitzvah - Jonathan and Holly Reinsdorf

In honor of the marriage of Lynn and Arthur Cohen's son, Michael Cohen - Patricia Shapiro

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

In memory of Batya Retsky, beloved mother of Joel (Basia) Retsky and Jonathan Retsky, beloved grandmother and sister - Ken and Marcy Levin - Michael and Jackie Melinger

In memory of Bernice Oliff, beloved mother of Basia (Joel) Retsky and Ira (Irma) Oliff and beloved grandmother - Larry Goldsmith and Mary Ellen Bowers

In memory of Debra Dann Kay, beloved sister of Julie Dann (Brad Schneider), beloved wife, mother and grandmother - Daniel and Honey Bronson

In memory of Frank Stern, beloved husband of Ruth Stern, beloved father and grandfather - Larry Goldsmith and Mary Ellen Bowers - Ken and Marcy Levin - Fran Rabinowitz

In memory of Frank Stern, beloved husband, father and grandfather - Ruth Stern and Family

In memory of Wallace Ginsberg, beloved father of Mary (Medwin) Dayan, beloved husband and grandfather - Larry Goldsmith and Mary Ellen Bowers

In memory of William Gerard Hibdon, beloved father of Mary (Ben) Channon, beloved grandfather of Jack and Mayer Channon - Jerry and Annette Blumberg - Jonathan and Holly Reinsdorf

With appreciation for Shabbat dinner - Barbara Freeman

With appreciation to Hazak - Barbara Blumberg - Ruth Fischer - Cecille Silver - Mayer Stiebel - Pearl Zaid

Holocaust Memorial Endowment Fund

In memory of Frank Stern, beloved husband of Ruth Stern, beloved father and grandfather - David Shapiro and Lori Stark

Jack and Mildred Cohen Religious School Fund

In honor of Len and Bobbie Tenner's special birthdays - Ronald and Paula Domskey

In honor of the baby naming of Aviva Hope Foster, daughter of Rachel Leibowitz and Howard Foster - Patricia Shapiro

In memory of Debra Dann Kay, beloved sister of Julie Dann (Brad Schneider), beloved wife, mother and grandmother - Adam and Allison Nemirow

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

In memory of William Gerard Hibdon, beloved father of Mary (Ben) Channon, beloved grandfather of Jack and Mayer Channon - Rodney and Marilyn Slutzky

With appreciation to Ali Drumm for her endless support in the years leading up to Rebekah becoming a Bat Mitzvah - Adam and Allison Nemirow

With appreciation to Anna Besser for the endless support in the years leading up to Rebekah becoming a Bat Mitzvah and with appreciation for making CRS a warm and kind place - Adam and Allison Nemirow

With appreciation - Donald Ephraim Family Foundation

Joseph and Mae Gray Cultural and Learning Center Fund

In honor of Gail and Andrew Brown - Jonathan Brown

In honor of Jerry and Annette Blumberg's 50th wedding anniversary - Ron and Phyllis Chess

In honor of Rachel Kamin - Daniel and Wendy Kahn

In honor of the birth of Steve and Merle Tavian's granddaughter, Emma Shayna - Richard and Pam Schlosberg

In memory of Batya Retsky, beloved mother of Joel (Basia) Retsky and Jonathan Retsky, beloved grandmother and sister - James Nyeste and Marla Hand

In memory of Frances Louise Fox, beloved mother, grandmother and great-grandmother - Jeff and Elaine Oberlander

Kopin Family Children's T'filot Endowment Fund

In memory of Albert Kopin - Sandy Starkman and Larry Pachter

Maxwell Abbell Library Fund

In honor of Marla Hand and Jim Nyeste's 40th wedding anniversary - Sandy Starkman and Larry Pachter

In honor of Ruby Goldstein becoming a Bat Mitzvah - Jeffrey and Michele Glass

In honor of the birth of Merle and Steve Tavian's granddaughter, Emma Shayna - Sandy Starkman and Larry Pachter

In honor of the birth of Steve and Wendy Abrams' grandson, Noah Gabriel - Sandy Starkman and Larry Pachter

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

Maxwell Abbell Library Fund (continued)

*In memory of Batya Retsky, beloved mother of Joel (Basia) Retsky and Jonathan Retsky, beloved grandmother and sister - **Robert Berger***

In memory of Frank Stern, beloved husband of Ruth Stern, beloved father and grandfather

- **Robert Berger**

- **Gerry Kaplan**

*In memory of Frank Stern, beloved husband, father and grandfather - **Ruth Stern and Family***

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

*In memory of Rose Reingold, beloved mother-in-law - **Hilda Reingold***

*With appreciation - **Shael and Myrna Siegel***

Minyan Service Fund

*In honor of Jerry and Annette Blumberg's 50th wedding anniversary - **Bill and Sharon Gertz***

*In memory of Batya Retsky, beloved mother of Joel (Basia) Retsky and Jonathan Retsky, beloved grandmother and sister - **Joseph and Susan Ament***

*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 Eli Barry Blaustein, beloved brother - **David Haskel Blaustein***

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

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

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

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

*In memory of William Gerard Hibdon, beloved father of Mary (Ben) Channon, beloved grandfather of Jack and Mayer Channon - **Jane Pickus***

Miriam and Bernard H. Sokol Hebrew High School Fund

*In memory of Batya Retsky, beloved mother of Joel (Basia) Retsky and Jonathan Retsky, beloved grandmother and sister - **Ronnie Jo Sokol***

*In memory of Frank Stern, beloved husband of Ruth Stern, beloved father and grandfather - **Ronnie Jo Sokol***

Music Fund

*In honor of Len and Bobbie Tenner's special birthdays - **Larry and Abby Block***

*In honor of the birth of Ellen and Bob Doppelt's granddaughter, Eden Rayah Gordon - **Larry and Abby Block***

In honor of the birth of Fran and Jon Sherman's grandson, Ariel Benjamin

- **Steve and Wendy Abrams**

- **Larry and Abby Block**

*In honor of the birth of Mindy and Jeff Gordon's granddaughter, Eden Rayah Gordon - **Larry and Abby Block***

*In memory of Frank Stern, beloved husband of Ruth Stern, beloved father and grandfather - **Larry and Abby Block***

In memory of Batya Retsky, beloved mother of Joel (Basia) Retsky and Jonathan Retsky, beloved grandmother and sister

- **Ed and Paulette Margulies**

- **Michael and Susan Millenson**

- **Rodney and Marilyn Slutzky**

In memory of Gerald Goodman, beloved father, grandfather and great-grandfather

- **Allene Frost**

- **Ira and Elise Frost**

*In memory of Sheldon Rosenstein, beloved husband of Regina Rosenstein, beloved father of Robyn Silberstein, Byron Rosenstein, Donald Rosenstein and beloved grandfather - **Larry and Abby Block***

*With appreciation to Rabbi Freedman for the baby naming of our great-granddaughter, Eden Rayah Gordon - **Larry and Abby Block***

NSS Beth El Camp Scholarship Fund

*In memory of Elizabeth "Libby" Goldenberg, beloved mother - **Harris and Sharon Goldenberg***

NSS Beth El Sisterhood Special Gifts Fund

In memory of Batya Retsky, beloved mother of Joel (Basia) Retsky and Jonathan Retsky, beloved grandmother and sister

- **Larry Goldsmith and Mary Ellen Bowers**

- **Sulie Holt**

- **Stephen Levin**

*In memory of Diane Levin, beloved wife - **Stephen Levin***

*In memory of Vicki Graham, beloved sister-in-law of Pam Schlosberg - **Sandy Starkman and Larry Pachter***

*In memory of William Gerard Hibdon, beloved father of Mary (Ben) Channon, beloved grandfather of Jack and Mayer Channon - **Sulie Holt***

*With appreciation for helping find tallitot for great-grandchildren - **Edna Auerbach***

*With appreciation - **Aaron and Ellen Krumbein***

NSS Beth El Special Gifts Fund

*In honor of Ari Smith becoming a Bar Mitzvah - **Melvyn and Sandra Wasserman***

*In honor of Dylan Isaacson - **Brendan and Erika Isaacson***

In honor of Len and Bobbie Tenner's special birthdays

- **Michael and Karen Kesner**

- **Burt and Carole Schmarak**

In honor of the birth of Fran and Jon Sherman's grandson, Ariel Benjamin

- **Larry and Abby Block**

- **Robert and Ellen Doppelt**

*In honor of the birth of Mark and Donna Chudacoff's grandson, Noah - **Richard and Joan Shapiro***

In memory of Batya Retsky, beloved mother of Joel (Basia) Retsky, Jonathan Retsky and beloved grandmother and sister

- **Benjamin and Wendy Frank**

- **Gary and Merle Kaufman**

- **Michael and Myrna Retsky**

- **Gary and Marilyn Rubin**

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

*In memory of Bernice Oliff, beloved mother of Basia (Joel) Retsky and Ira (Irma) Oliff and beloved grandmother - **Skip and Lynne Schrayner***

*In memory of Daniel Ehrlich, beloved father - **Pearl Zaid***

*In memory of Eugene Guetzow, beloved father of Adam (Dana) Guetzow, beloved husband and beloved grandfather - **Adam and Melissa Reich***

In memory of Frank Stern, beloved husband of Ruth Stern, beloved father and grandfather

- **Eliezer Krumbein**

- **Jay and Sara Leopold**

- **Douglas and Wendy Stern**

*In memory of Frank Stern, beloved husband, father and grandfather - **Ruth Stern and Family***

*In memory of George Cohon, beloved brother of Sandra Raizes - **Fran Rabinowitz***

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

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

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

*In memory of Margaret "Midge" Saltzman, beloved mother of Amy Yaffe - **Peter Yaffe and Carol Steinberg***

*In memory of Myra Halfin, beloved mother of Simon Halfin - **Dorothy Robert and Susan Abrams***

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

*In memory of William Gerard Hibdon, beloved father of Mary (Ben) Channon, beloved grandfather of Jack and Mayer Channon - **Michael and Karen Kesner***

*Wishing a complete and speedy recovery to JoAnne Blumberg - **Laeh Grant***

*With appreciation to NSS Beth El for Rosh Hashanah high holidays and to be able to hear our brother Billy Weisel sing and with appreciation to the Schwab family - **Rebecca Lynn and Ira Wachtel***

*With appreciation - **Samuel and Melany Gurtman***

Paul S. and Sylvia Steinberg Pre-School Fund

*In honor of Amy Feldman becoming a grandmother - **Steinberg Pre-School Staff***

*In honor of Mort and Miriam Steinberg's granddaughter Naama's Bat Mitzvah - **Harris and Sharon Goldenberg***

*In honor of Mort Steinberg's Bar Mitzvah anniversary - **Dr. David and Karen Benson***

*In honor of Robin Zacharias becoming a grandmother - **Steinberg Pre-School Staff***

*In honor of the birth of our grandson Reid Shane Silberman, son of Daryl and Kyle Silberman - **Lawrence and Susan Silberman***

*In memory of Albert Fine, beloved father of Marc (Nan) Fine, beloved grandfather and great-grandfather - **Michael Gurtman and Lois Lourie***

*In memory of Batya Retsky, beloved mother of Joel (Basia) Retsky, Jonathan Retsky and beloved grandmother and sister - **Steven and Linda Feinstein***

In memory of Howard Ruskin, beloved uncle of Mally Rutkoff

- **Jerry and Annette Blumberg**

- **Michael and Karen Kesner**

*In memory of Ruth Jacobson Stern, beloved mother and grandmother - **Ira and Elise Frost***
*With appreciation for the Kohen Aliyah on Yom Kippur - **Eric and Rinna Maletsky***

Prayer Book Fund

*In memory of Avram Kraft, beloved husband of Kerana Kraft, beloved father of Rachel and Adam Kraft, beloved grandfather and great-grandfather - **Stephen and Carol Weiss***

*In memory of Batya Retsky, beloved mother of Joel (Basia) Retsky and Jonathan Retsky, beloved grandmother and sister - **Steve and Frances Shapiro***
*Wishing a complete and speedy recovery to Sue Pinsky Gardner - **Marvin and Sara Siegel***

Rabbi Irving and Amy Frankel Lecture Endowment Fund

*In honor of Herman Wexler's 100th birthday - **Matt Pestine and Jamie Glass Pestine***

Ritual Refurbishment Endowment Fund

*In memory of Frank Stern, beloved husband of Ruth Stern, beloved father and grandfather - **Barbara Blumberg***

Sarah and Henry Stiebel Solomon Schechter Endowment Fund

*In honor of Richard and Janice Small's 36 wedding anniversary - **Sandy Starkman and Larry Pachter***

*In honor of the birth of Rabbi Josh Warshawsky's and Adina Allen's baby boy. Proud grandparents are Reuben and Tami Warshawsky - **Sandy Starkman and Larry Pachter***

*In memory of Batya Retsky, beloved mother of Joel (Basia) Retsky, Jonathan Retsky, beloved grandmother and sister - **Sandy Starkman and Larry Pachter***
*- **Karen Weiss***

*In memory of Bernice Oliff, beloved mother of Basia (Joel) Retsky and Ira (Irma) Oliff and beloved grandmother - **Sandy Starkman and Larry Pachter***

Sherman Family Camp Ramah Endowment Fund

*In honor of the birth of Noah Gabriel, grandson of Steve and Wendy Abrams - **Jonathan and Fran Sherman***

Solomon Schechter Fund

*In memory of William Gerard Hibdon, beloved father of Mary (Ben) Channon, beloved grandfather of Jack and Mayer Channon - **Larry Goldsmith and Mary Ellen Bowers***
*With appreciation - **Leon and Wendy Zar***

Team Torah Fund

*In honor of Noreen Ohcana for her exceptional Torah and Haftorah tutoring for Ari's Bar Mitzvah - **David Smith and Michelle Wasserman***

*In memory of Batya Retsky, beloved mother of Joel (Basia) Retsky and Jonathan Retsky, beloved grandmother and sister - **David and Brenda Jackson***
*- **Gerald and Adrienne Lasin***

Tzedakah/Pushke Fund

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

*In memory of Batya Retsky, beloved mother of Joel (Basia) Retsky and Jonathan Retsky, beloved grandmother and sister - **Jerome and Mary Kaltman***
*- **Jeffrey and Harriet Nemetz***
*- **Loren Silvers***

*In memory of Debra Dann Kay, beloved sister of Julie Dann (Brad Schneider), beloved wife, mother and grandmother - **Rodney and Marilyn Slutzky***

*In memory of Bernice Oliff, beloved mother of Basia (Joel) Retsky and Ira (Irma) Oliff and beloved grandmother - **Jerome and Mary Kaltman***
*- **Josh and Katy Silvers***
*- **Loren Silvers***

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

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

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

*In memory of Ruth Jacobson Stern, beloved mother and grandmother - **Millie Weber***

*With appreciation - **Martin and Donna Field***

Willard and Sally Aaron Camp Ramah Endowment Fund

*With appreciation - **Sally Aaron***

Youth Community Fund

*In honor of Erica Lindon for contributing her time to the synagogue and the Jewish community - **Harry and Wendy Lessig***

*In honor of Noah Ripes, son of Ronit and Daniel Ripes, on becoming a Bar Mitzvah - **Patricia Shapiro***

*In memory of Barrie Rhea Hibdon, beloved mother of Mary (Ben) Channon and beloved grandfather of Jack and Mayer Channon - **Steve and Frances Shapiro***

*In memory of Debra Dann Kay, beloved sister of Julie Dann (Brad Schneider), beloved wife, mother and grandmother - **Gary and Debbie Lindon***

*In memory of William Gerard Hibdon, beloved father of Mary (Ben) Channon, beloved grandfather of Jack and Mayer Channon - **Steven and Fran Shapiro***

*With appreciation - **Gary and Debbie Lindon***

Recent Happenings: Snowbird Event in Delray Beach



Recent Happenings

Used Book Sale



Jewish Values for Positive Aging



Scan to view the most recent happenings at NSSBE.

The Art of Illustration



Tu B'Shevat Paint & Sip Workshop



Mazel Tov to Our B'nai Mitzvah Students



BAT MITZVAH

Eliana Humes
daughter of
Carly and Jefford Humes
Shabbat, March 2



BAR MITZVAH

Dylan Weininger
son of
Jennifer and Noah Weininger
Shabbat, March 9



BAT MITZVAH

Andie Lawrence
daughter of
Samantha Amdursky and
Marc Lawrence
Shabbat, March 16



BAT MITZVAH

Emma Arnold
daughter of
Candace and Daniel Arnold
Shabbat, March 23



BAT MITZVAH

Sadie Sher
daughter of
Heather and Benjamin Sher
Shabbat, April 6



BAT MITZVAH

Maya Good
daughter of
Yael Rajstein and Seth Good
Shabbat, May 11



BAR MITZVAH

Dylan Buzin
son of
Melissa and Samuel Buzin
Shabbat, May 18



BAR MITZVAH

Jacob Drumm
son of
Aliza and Michael Drumm
Shabbat, May 25

Picture your event here!

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If you are hosting a wedding or planning an event, we invite you to consider our architecturally beautiful building and stunning grounds looking out at Lake Michigan. We offer a variety of event spaces from traditional to modern, each with endless options to personalize. Check out our website for more details.

North Suburban Synagogue
Beth El
בית כנסת בית אל



North Suburban Synagogue

Beth El
בית כנסת בית אל

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Prepare meals for soldiers

Volunteer in the fields

Visit Kikar HaHatufim "Hostages Square"

Visit the Nova Music Festival memorial

Shabbat in Jerusalem

Israel needs you right now. There is enormous volunteer work to be done in the fields, rebuilding homes, and working with displaced families. We hope you will consider joining your fellow community members on one of our upcoming solidarity and service missions. This is your opportunity to be counted and to let our family in Israel know that we stand alongside them.

North Suburban Synagogue
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בית כנסת בית אל

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Camping Movement

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NSSBE 2024 Annual Fundraiser

KESHER L'YISRAEL

A Connection to Israel קשר לישראל

Sunday, April 7, 2024
5:00-8:00pm



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Ticket price is \$118/per person
as either a donated Israeli bond
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website for more details.

