

Chanukah 5785 – Jews Fight with Light

By Rabbi Alex Freedman



We think of Chanukah weather as cold, and that’s true. But let’s also remember the deep darkness of those days, when the sun goes down long before dinner. The darkness then accentuates the Chanukah lights. During the darkest part of the day on the coldest, darkest days of the year, we light the holiday candles to combat darkness with light. We add holiday candles, one by one, until the whole room glows. The dark room stands for something greater: antisemitism, hate, injustice, fear. But the light of the flickering flame also tells a story: love, justice, Mitzvot, Torah...joy.

Years ago I saw an inspiring video produced by Aish with Charlie Harary. He quoted his grandparents, Holocaust survivors who said, *“A Jew never fights with the sword. He defends with the sword. But a Jew fights with light. We’re the nation that brings light, that brings morality and ethics, that defends the vulnerable, that helps the poor, that heals the sick, that rebuilds from tragedy. That looks at darkness, and lights a candle.”*

Since October 7th, 2023, the world has been darker for Jews than it has in decades. But when I see an “Am Yisrael Chai” yard sign by a house, I see a candle illuminating a dark room. When I see someone wearing a “Bring them home now” necklace, another candle shines brightly. When I see children wearing blue and white at an Israel gathering, there’s another candle. The world remains a dangerous place for Jews these days, I’m sorry to say. But it gives me so much energy to see the indomitable spirit of the Maccabees of old shine bright in the small acts of Jewish pride we take every day. Even one candle lights up the room.

Get Ready to Shop! Beth El Sisterhood Brings Back the Art Festival in February!

By Tami Warshawsky, Beth El Member

Did you know that Beth El Sisterhood held its first “Festival of the Arts and Crafts” in 1960 under the leadership of Pearl White? It was the successor to the annual Selling Bee, according to Morton Steinberg, resident historian.

After a 20-year hiatus, Beth El Sisterhood is bringing back the festival on February 22 and 23. The community-wide event will feature an array of Jewish artists from Israel and the United States, showcasing their unique creations in jewelry, ritual Judaica, wall art, woodwork, glass, photography, home decor, and more.

“Jewish artists in Israel and America need our support,” said Lori Stark, Beth El Sisterhood President. “We are thrilled to provide them with this platform to sell their work. Additionally, hosting the art fair gives us a fabulous opportunity to involve our entire Beth El community and raise funds for a special synagogue enhancement project.”

(continued on page 20)

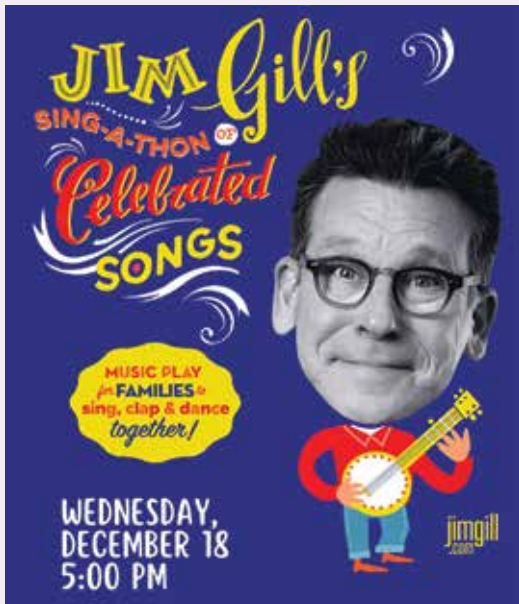




Celebrate Chanukah with Us – Menorah Lighting Every Night!

Let's celebrate Chanukah together! Join us for the lighting of the Chanukiah every night from the evening of Wednesday, December 25, 2024, through Thursday, January 2, 2025, at minyan.

We'll also have a special Chanukah Kiddush on Saturday, December 28 after Shabbat services. Looking forward to celebrating with you!



Chanukah Celebration and Sing-A-Thon with Jim Gill

Sponsored by the Steinberg Preschool and Young Family Programming

Get ready to sing, clap, dance and spin like a dreidel with award-winning musician and author Jim Gill. Plus, dinner, snacks, Chanukah games and more for families with children ages 0-7.

The event is free but you must scan the QR code above to register!



4:30 pm Doors Open/Set-Up Your Chanukiyah
Bring your own Chanukah menorah and candles to light together as a community.

5:00 pm Movie Screening: iMordecai starring Judd Hirsch, Carol Kane and Sean Astin

6:45 pm Candle Lighting & Chanukah Songs with Hazzan Sandler. Kosher Chinese Dinner catered by Yoko Chicago.

7:30 pm Evening Minyan

\$36/person; register online by December 20.
Questions? Contact Rachel Kamin at rkamin@nssbethel.org or 847-926-7902.



Scan the QR code and listen to the Chanukah Songbook compiled by Hazzan Jacob Sandler.



President's Corner

Attitude of Gratitude

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



Shalom! I hope this newsletter finds you well and that your Jewish new year is off to a great start. It's hard to believe but I'm heading into the last six months of my term as President. I'd like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to members of the Executive Committee. Gratitude is a fundamental concept in Judaism, tied into the Jewish value of "*hakarat hatov*", "appreciating the good". I think Eli Wiesel says it well: "For me every hour is grace. And I feel gratitude in my heart every time I can meet someone and look at his or her smile."

I am so grateful to these wonderful people who have stepped up, smiles on their faces, and done the hard work to ensure Beth El remains a thriving synagogue. We have met or exceeded our goals we set for our term. The Executive Board is a pleasure to work with and they have enriched my experience as President. We are so blessed to have such a dedicated, committed, talented group of lay leaders in our community.

Todah rabah, sincere thanks, to the following people who have shared so much of themselves and of their time for Beth El:

Current Executive Board: Benjamin Channon, VP Ritual • Kim Ephraim, Financial Secretary • Steve Glover, VP Finance • Stuart Hochwert, ex officio, immediate past president and chairman of the board of trustees • Rebecca Jacobson, VP Education • Audra Kaplan, VP Development • Michael Levin, VP Administration • Jackie Melinger, Financial Secretary • Allison Nemirow, VP Programming • Holly Reinsdorf, Secretary • Irene Savine, VP Membership • Rebecca Weininger, VP Education

Former Members of the Executive Board: Leah Brajer, former VP Programming (first year of my term) • Allison Nemirow, VP Education (first year of my term) • Jonathan Yaffe, former Financial Secretary (first year of my term)

If you see them around town or in the synagogue, please be sure to thank them!

Notes from Hazzan

By Hazzan Jacob Sandler | jsandler@nssbethel.org



Here's a riddle: A Hazzan goes to synagogue every Friday night for a month. He arrives on time. Yet, he doesn't hear Lecha Dodi even once. How?

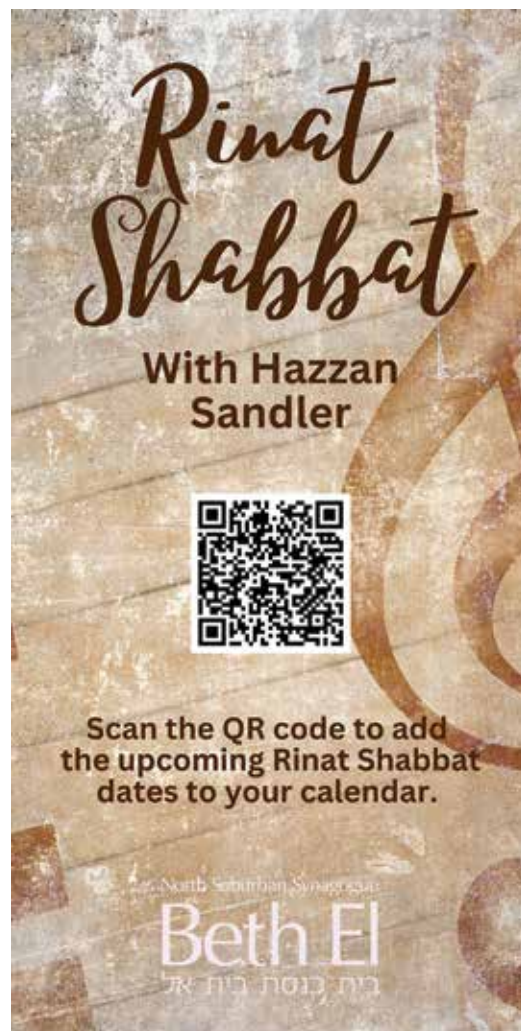
The answer: This past Tishrei, the way the holidays fell, we did the abridged Kabbalat Shabbat starting only with the two psalms after Lecha Dodi. This is because when we are in the holiday mode, including Hol HaMoed, when

Shabbat arrives, we don't need as much spiritual preparation to feel the special shabbat feeling. We're already elevated by the special holiday feeling.

Oh, how I've missed Yedid Nefesh, and the 6 Psalms of Kabbalat Shabbat that culminate in that masterful poem that is Lecha Dodi. I love the melodies, the texts, and the imagery. Kabbalat Shabbat is a beautiful centerpiece that adorns my week. The joy and the song are completely unified. In Hebrew, the word is "Rina." That's where we got the name for Rinat Shabbat - the songful joy of Shabbat.

As the days get shorter and we all could use that extra spark of joy and song in our lives, I hope you'll consider joining in for Rinat Shabbat throughout the year. Add these dates (below) to your calendar! Or hang this on your fridge! And reach out to me at jsandler@nssbethel.org if you want to add your voice to the Davening Team! Will I see you at the next one?

Rinat Shabbat Schedule: December 13, 2024; February 7, 2025; March 21, 2025; April 25, 2025; and May 16, 2025.



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



December

Friday, December 6

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

Saturday, December 7

Parashat Vayetzi
9:00 am Shabbat Service
4:00 pm Mincha Service
5:05 pm Ma'ariv Service/Havdalah
5:06 pm Shabbat Ends

Friday, December 13

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

Saturday, December 14

Parashat Vayishlach
9:00 am Shabbat Service
4:00 pm Mincha Service
5:05 pm Ma'ariv Service/Havdalah
5:07 pm Shabbat Ends

Friday, December 20

4:04 pm Candle Lighting
6:00 pm Kabbalat Shabbat

Saturday, December 21

Parashat Vayeishev
9:00 am Shabbat Service
4:00 pm Mincha Service
5:10 pm Ma'ariv Service/Havdalah
5:10 pm Shabbat Ends

Friday, December 27

4:08 pm Candle Lighting
6:00 pm Kabbalat Shabbat

Saturday, December 28

Parashat Miketz
Shabbat Chanukah
9:00 am Shabbat Service
4:00 pm Mincha Service
5:10 pm Ma'ariv Service/Havdalah
5:14 pm Shabbat Ends

January

Friday, January 3

4:14 pm Candle Lighting
6:00 pm Kabbalat Shabbat

Saturday, January 4

Parashat Vayigash
9:00 am Shabbat Service
4:00 pm Mincha Service
5:20 pm Ma'ariv Service/Havdalah
5:20 pm Shabbat Ends

Friday, January 10

4:21 pm Candle Lighting
6:00 pm Kabbalat Shabbat

Saturday, January 11

Parashat Vayechi
9:00 am Shabbat Service
4:15 pm Mincha Service
5:25 pm Ma'ariv Service/Havdalah
5:27 pm Shabbat Ends

Friday, January 17

4:29 pm Candle Lighting
6:00 pm Kabbalat Shabbat

Saturday, January 18

Parashat Shemot
9:00 am Shabbat Service
4:15 pm Mincha Service
5:30 pm Ma'ariv Service/Havdalah
5:34 pm Shabbat Ends

Friday, January 24

4:37 pm Candle Lighting
6:00 pm Kabbalat Shabbat

Saturday, January 25

Parashat Vaeira
9:00 am Shabbat Service
4:30 pm Mincha Service
5:40 pm Ma'ariv Service/Havdalah
5:42 pm Shabbat Ends

Friday, January 31

4:46 pm Candle Lighting
6:00 pm Kabbalat Shabbat

February

Saturday, February 1

Parashat Bo
9:00 am Shabbat Service
4:45 pm Mincha Service
5:50 pm Ma'ariv Service/Havdalah
5:50 pm Shabbat Ends

Friday, February 7

4:55 pm Candle Lighting
6:00 pm Kabbalat Shabbat

Saturday, February 8

Parashat Beshalach
Shabbat Shirah
9:00 am Shabbat Service
4:45 pm Mincha Service
5:55 pm Ma'ariv Service/Havdalah
5:59 pm Shabbat Ends

Friday, February 14

5:05 pm Candle Lighting
6:00 pm Kabbalat Shabbat

Saturday, February 15

Parashat Yitro
9:00 am Shabbat Service
5:00 pm Mincha Service
6:05 pm Ma'ariv Service/Havdalah
6:07 pm Shabbat Ends

Friday, February 21

5:13 pm Candle Lighting
6:00 pm Kabbalat Shabbat

Saturday, February 22

Parashat Mishpatim
9:00 am Shabbat Service
5:00 pm Mincha Service
6:15 pm Ma'ariv Service/Havdalah
6:16 pm Shabbat Ends

Friday, February 28

5:22 pm Candle Lighting
6:00 pm Kabbalat Shabbat

Saturday, March 1

Parashat Trumah
9:00 am Shabbat Service
5:15 pm Mincha Service
6:20 pm Ma'ariv Service/Havdalah
6:24 pm Shabbat Ends

CONTACT US

www.nssbethel.org
nssbe@nssbethel.org
(847) 432-8900

Shabbat is Gr-r-reat!

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



We have a wonderful Shabbat program at Beth El, as many of you already know, where our kids can enhance their synagogue skills at Junior Congregation! At 10:30am each Shabbat (and holiday) morning, please join us in the Sager Beit Midrash, as we celebrate this year's theme together each week: "Shabbat is Gr-r-reat!"

All NSS Beth El kids are invited (CRS and Day School students): grades 2 through 6!

- Attend 4 times: earn a box of Frosted Flakes
- Attend 8 times: earn wolf figurines
- Attend 12 times: earn a lodge-ic fidget
- Attend 18 times: That's Chai: Live it up at Great Wolf Lodge on Sunday, May 4th, 12-2:30 (Lunch included! More details to come...)

You will have opportunities to **lead parts of the Shabbat service** and even to **read from the Torah**...earning even our youngest readers a delicious Team Torah cookie!

If you are a **day school student with a weekday portion** you

have been learning, please let me know if you are available to read the Shabbat following your reading at school.

If you are a **CRS student who would like to take on a Torah reading**, please reach out and I would be more than happy to prepare materials and work with you!!

In November, we launched our 2nd year of "**Junior Team Torah: Little League Edition**," a class where several of our 4th through 6th graders, CRS and Day School students alike, are learning how to chant Torah. What a great skill to bring to Junior Congregation, their B'nai Mitzvah, and beyond!

New This Year: Every Shabbat and holiday we will have a Madrich/teen leader helping out as needed, allowing parents to either join their children at Junior Congregation or drop their kids off and attend the sanctuary service. If you have **high school teens** who are interested, please reach out to me!



Ritual

Less Visible Mitzvot

By Ben Channon, VP Ritual | b_channon@yahoo.com

Join the Beth El Minyan Makers WhatsApp Group and help us make a minyan!

Scan the QR code below to sign up.



As you read this article, you are likely preparing for the upcoming holiday of Chanukah. Chanukah, of course, is unique from our other holidays because the rituals around the holiday are primarily performed at home and a minyan is not required. As I thought about this, I thought about the other rituals and mitzvot that are less publicly visible. As Jewish people, we have traditions and values that we are commanded to follow that are less visible. As a father, I know one of the mitzvot that I am motivated to follow is to demonstrate and teach my children

how to lead a good life rich in both Judaism and our family's traditions. Fortunately, Beth El gives me and my wife plenty of opportunities to perform these less traditionally ritual mitzvot.

Some of the mitzvot we believe are just as important as attending services, such as performing acts of social action and donating our time to initiatives that benefit the community. This includes our Thanksgiving Day Mitzvah project, regular blood drives, but also even less visible mitzvot of volunteering to help with small projects or tasks around the synagogue when asked. This can include volunteering to help distribute lulavim and etrogim before Sukkot, ushering during the high holidays, being the 10th at minyan, helping a Hazak member come to services because they can't drive anymore to name a few.

If you are interested in learning more about the ways that you can perform these "less visible" mitzvot, feel free to ask any member of the Board regarding upcoming opportunities.



Congregational Learning



Scan the QR code below to register for the Israel Course for High School students.



The Honor of Our Students, Our Colleagues and Our Teachers

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

26 teachers from our Steinberg Preschool and Cohen Religious School are coming together for an intensive learning experience this year. Initially propelled by the Jewish Education Innovation Fund: Shifting the Paradigm grant from Jewish United Fund, our teachers are studying the Melton Foundations of Jewish Family Living curriculum over the course of the school year. Together with myself and our rabbis, our teachers will learn by engaging with our texts and their colleagues, and enrich their Jewish understanding and personal Jewish knowledge. A core component

of this learning will be how to bring it back to our classrooms, and apply their new levels of understanding to their teaching.

Our dedicated teaching staff through this class have a new opportunity for cross-pollination and discussion of Judaic knowledge and childhood development and a sharing of classroom resources. Additionally, this initiative aims to provide our teachers with an opportunity to further develop their own Jewish knowledge and literacy.



CRS Melton Class

By embarking on this intensive learning together, we hope that our preschool and religious school teachers will feel more confident in their Jewish knowledge and feel how much our community is invested in their success. We hope that, through studying together, our teachers will get to know each other better, leading to more collaboration across the grade levels. We hope that they will be motivated to continue their own Jewish education through continuing education experiences available in our community.

Religious School



What is Strength?

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

What is Strength? Strength is the capacity for endurance. It is support, firmness and the power to resist force. While physical strength seems easy to measure and quantify, there are other types of strength we should explore.

There are times in our lives when we need to access different types of strength. **Inner Strength** serves as a grounding force, providing stability when external circumstances threaten to upend us. It is the unwavering belief in oneself when the world offers little support. **Emotional Strength** helps us to express viewpoints and show vulnerability. It allows us to cope with stress, maintain a positive outlook, and express genuine feelings. Expressing our viewpoints and showing vulnerability can lead to deeper connections between individuals.

Physical Strength allows us to help those around us – moving and doing what others may not be able to do.

The Chanukah story provides us with different understandings of what strength might mean: the

physical strength of the Maccabees and the inner strength and resilience of those who stayed true to their convictions in the face of Hellenism. It's also about:

- **Strength of Faith:** Chanukah celebrates the Maccabean Revolt. The Maccabees had neither weapons, numbers, nor might, but they had a strong Jewish spirit and were prepared to fight for freedom.
- **Strength in Unity:** The rededication of the Temple saw the Jewish people reunite. When the Jewish people unite, they are the strongest.
- **Strength of Light:** Chanukah is a celebration of light over darkness, and lighting a chanukiah is a statement of resilience. It is a reminder that hope and faith can inspire a source of light within each person.

So what does Chanukah mean for us today? What models of strength in the story do you connect with? What type of strength is important for you? And lastly, who will show their strength today?

Steinberg Preschool Teachers Professional Development

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



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

Staci Rosenberg,
srosenberg@nssbethel.org
Assistant Director

Teachers play an essential role in shaping the early learning experiences of young children. Nowhere is this more evident than in Jewish preschool education, where the foundations for lifelong Jewish learning are established. A critical element of this success is the continuous professional development that teachers engage in, reflecting their dedication to improving and evolving their teaching practices. The teachers at the Steinberg Preschool are a part of many different professional development opportunities this year. We are thrilled to recognize all of the lifelong learning happening in our community of educators.

Many of our preschool educators, including Kory Goldenberg, Kathy Keyser, Amy Feldman, Jill Lipkin, Lauren Levy, Lauren Weitzman, Sarah Chupack, Jenna Smiley, and Terri Cohen, are participating in the Melton Foundations of Jewish Family Living course (see Ali's article on page 6 for more information). We are also taking advantage of the many professional development opportunities through The Orchard, a partnership between twenty-five organizations from around North America that advances the professional learning of educators in Jewish early childhood centers.

Carly Linton is participating in The Orchard's Nature Educators Cohort and will explore what spirituality looks like in young children to help make a spiritual connection to their environment. Lauren Levy and Terri Cohen will



Preschool 4's Bake Sale

be traveling to Reggio Emilia, Italy this winter to immerse themselves in the Reggio Emilia method of teaching.

Betina Beigel, Sarah Chupack and Carly Linton all are participating in JUF's ElevatEd Mentorship Program. Mentoring is a critical element to support the development of the field of early childhood Jewish education. These Educators will take part in a serious, year-long professional development program to help them grow as reflective practitioners, deep-listeners, and educative coaches. Each mentor will work with one to two mentees in their own school and develop as a Teacher-leader.

Let's honor our fantastic preschool teachers for their tireless commitment to self-improvement and their passion for making lasting differences in the lives of our Steinberg Preschool young learners!

Recent Happenings: SPS Ice Cream Social September 2024





Save the Date! Annual Fundraiser featuring David Broza May 15, 2025

We're thrilled to announce that our Annual Fundraiser will take place on May 15, 2025. This event will feature a special concert by internationally renowned Israeli singer-songwriter, David Broza and pre-concert sponsorship reception. Coinciding with Lag B'Omer, we look forward to including elements to celebrate this.

Sponsorship opportunities are currently available for the event. Those sponsoring at \$1,000 and up will be invited to a pre-event reception and receive VIP seating for the concert—and have the great feeling that they are doing more to support our community, our educators, and our programming. For more information, please reach out to Audra Kaplan, VP of Development at VPDevelopment@nssbethel.org.

Sponsorship levels are:

\$10,000 – Sapphire

Pre-concert reception invitation for 20
VIP concert seating for 20
Recognition on onsite event signage
Recognition on all pre-event materials

\$5,000 – Diamond

Pre-concert reception invitation for 10
VIP concert seating for 10
Recognition on onsite event signage
Recognition on all pre-event materials

\$3,600 – Platinum

Pre-concert reception invitation for 8
VIP concert seating for 8
Recognition on onsite event signage
Recognition on all pre-event materials

\$2,500 – Gold

Pre-concert reception invitation for 6
VIP concert seating for 6
Recognition on onsite event signage
Recognition on all pre-event materials

\$1,000 – Supporters

Pre-concert reception invitation for 3
VIP concert seating for 3
Recognition on onsite event signage
Recognition on all pre-event materials

\$500 – Contributors

VIP concert seating for 2
Recognition on onsite event signage
Recognition on all pre-event materials

\$360 – Double Chai Contributors

Priority concert admission for 2
Recognition on onsite event signage
Recognition on pre-event digital materials

\$180 – Chai Contributors

Priority concert admission for 1
Recognition on onsite event signage
Recognition on pre-event digital materials

Kol Nidre Appeal

Our Beth El community is strong, vibrant, robust, and supportive. We've seen that demonstrated time and time again over the past year as we've gathered together in moments of joy, mourning, and processing. And we see it now in the progress of our Kol Nidre Appeal. During Yom Kippur you heard from our speakers as they gave incredible accounts of what Beth El meant to them over the past year and why they support the organization. Nami Goldenberg reminded us that "as we all navigate, in our own personal ways, the aftershocks of October 7th, 2023, Beth El has been and will continue to be steadfast and strong, and here for all of us." And Ellen Krumbein said, "I know we are all pulled in so many directions for giving right now... probably more ever...but the centrality of this congregation to help us make sense of all that is happening around us in these uncertain times, makes it a worthwhile investment." A sincere "thank you" to those who have supported the campaign this year—with you by our side we've secured over \$156,000 (85% to our goal). As we enter the time of calendar year end reflection, think about all the moments that Beth El was not just your shelter, but your home this past year. Please consider helping us sustain our strong progress as we continue fundraising through the end of the calendar year. You may learn more and make your gift at www.nssbethel.org/kol-nidre-appeal.



Scan the QR code
to make your
Kol Nidre appeal.

The Membership Committee is thrilled to welcome the following new members:

Sam and Agnes Becker and Family
Marissa and Paul Been and Family
Ross and Marissa Bennett and Family
Scott and Carly Bernstein and Family
Shaina and Andrew Bloom
Melissa and Cody Chandler
Zachary Cohen and Sarah Shanes
Matthew and Katie Doscher and Family
Frederick Frankel
Stuart and Kimberly Frankenthal and Family
Max Freedman and Jennifer Aronsohn
Annie Glasser and Steven Sacks

Ian and Janet Grable
Miriam Kohn
Karen Libman
Michael Poupko
Jaclyn Rubinoff and Harry Orenstein
Robert Schnitzer and Sarah Cohen
Benjamin and Shellie Schwartz
Sarah and Zachary Spellman and Family
Ari Spellman and Dani Lewittes
Daniel Struck
Steven and Leslie Swibel
Douglas Weinberg and Marcia Zakroff and Family

Thank you to our congregants who have referred new members to Beth El. We are grateful for you!

» January Highlights: Two Key Events You Can't Miss!



Scan the
QR code
to register.

Meet Giora Levi
in partnership with the Consul General's Office
Monday, January 13, 7:30 pm
(Speaking session followed by a Q&A)

Giora Levi spent over two decades as a ranking office in Sayeret Matkal, Israel's elite commando unit, and was commander of both former Prime Minister Naftali Bennett and Emmanuel Moreno z"l.

Giora Levi founded the Migdalor Pre-Military Mechina. The mechina works with kids from very marginalized backgrounds, transforming them into leaders—not only for the Army but also in their civilian lives after service.

Join us for an informative presentation followed by Q&A.



Meet Judith Raanan
Thursday, January 30, 11:00 am

Judith Raanan, who lives in Evanston, was kidnapped by Hamas on October 7, 2023 along with her daughter Natalie, a recent Deerfield High School graduate. They were among the first hostages released.

Judith will share her story and her inspiring artwork in person at Beth El, co-sponsored by the Gray Cultural & Learning Center, Sisterhood and HAZAK. Open to the community, free of charge; refreshments will be served. A zoom link will be available as well.

Register online or contact Rachel Kamin at rkamin@nssbethel.org.

For more information, please contact Sarah Topal at stopal@nssbethel.org.

Our Library Support Team

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



Gertrude Lederman
Family Continuing Education

Joseph and Mae Gray Cultural & Learning Center

Rissman Kol Ami Museum

In the past year, more than 1,800 books were checked out from our Maxwell Abbell Library and our Pinsof Children's Reading Room by Beth El members, staff, teachers, preschool and religious school students, and non-members. The most circulated title was *The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store* by James McBride which was checked out 29 times! *Engineer Ari and the Rosh Hashanah Ride*, *The Shabbat Princess*, and *Sammy Spider's First Rosh Hashanah* were the most circulated children's books. We added over 360 new books to the library collection which now totals 22,850 items, making it one of the largest synagogue libraries in the country. In order maintain our Library we rely on an amazing team of volunteers and teen aides. Ally McAleer has been volunteering in the Library every week for the past 10 years, emptying the return box and checking in books. Estelle Asherson also volunteers every Tuesday morning. As she explains: "I enjoy reading and when a volunteer opportunity came up in the Library, I was happy to pitch in and give something back to Beth El." Estelle helps out with whatever is needed but mostly processes the new books with barcode and spine labels and wraps them with protective covers. We also have two teen aides who work in the Library during Religious School hours. 10th grader Zachary Natenshon works on Sunday mornings and thinks it's his perfect first job: "It's an



Zachary Natenshon, Estelle Asherson and Serena Savine, working in the library.

amazing working environment, and I so value the opportunity to contribute to a resource available to, and used by the whole Beth El community; from preschoolers to adults, students to educators." 9th grader Serena Savine started volunteering in the Library this past summer and now helps out during Hebrew School on Tuesday afternoons. She has been instrumental in keeping our PJ Library closet neat and organized. We are the People of the Book and as Rabbi Kurtz always said, the Library is truly the jewel in Beth El's crown. Our team of volunteers and support staff help to insure that our jewel of a library continues to shine.

Upcoming Classes & Events



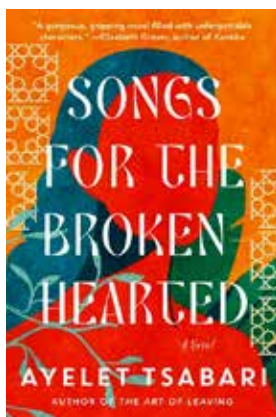
Over three sessions, we will discuss a selection of primary sources from the *Melton Beyond Borders* textbook to enhance our understanding of the roots of the conflict between Jews and Arabs over the modern State of Israel. Students who took the Melton class last year now have an opportunity to discuss the issues more deeply with both Carl Schrag and Rabbi Schwab. New students are welcome too. Class will meet in person. FREE – register online or contact Marcie at meskin@nssbethel.org.



Using Hadar's Project Zug curriculum, we will explore the theoretical and the practical of keeping Kosher in an overwhelmingly non-Kosher world. This free study session will meet in-person and on Zoom. A complimentary lunch from Shaevitz Uptown BBQ will be served at Beth El! Reservations are required by December 1. Contact Rachel Kamin at rkamin@nssbethel.org for more information.

Sisterhood Torah Fund Book Club

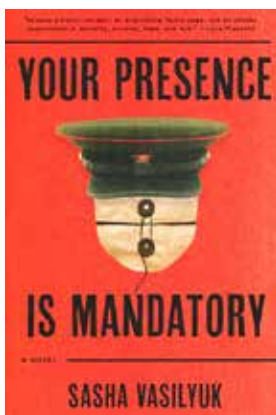
Join Rachel Kamin, Director of Lifelong Learning, for lively book discussions and author events. New participants are always welcome!



Songs for the Brokenhearted by Ayelet Tsabari

Saturday, January 18, 12:30 pm

In 1995, a young Israeli-American returns to Israel for her mother's funeral and finds herself on an unexpected path that leads to shocking truths about her Yemini family, forcing her to question everything she thought she knew about her parents, her heritage and her own future.



Your Presence Is Mandatory by Sasha Vasilyuk

Saturday, March 8, 12:30 pm

In 2007 Ukraine, after Yefim Shulman, beloved husband, grandfather and World War II veteran, passes away, his widow Nina finds a letter to the KGB in his briefcase that reveals his lifelong secret, which forces them to reassess the man they thought they knew and the country he defended.

Participants are encouraged to make a minimum donation of \$54 to the Torah Fund Campaign. The Book Club will continue in May. Contact Rachel Kamin at rkamin@nssbethel.org for more details.



TAKE A CLASS THIS WINTER!

The Gertrude Lederman Family Continuing Education courses at North Suburban Synagogue Beth El offer a wonderful chance to deepen your understanding of Jewish thought, culture, and identity. The new winter quarter will run January 6–March 21, 2025. Visit the Continuing Education page on the Beth El website for more information about all of our offerings. With more than a dozen classes, plus numerous special events and programs, offered in the mornings, afternoons, and evenings, both in-person and on Zoom, there's something for everyone this winter! Questions? Contact Marcie Eskin at meskin@nssbethel.org or 847-926-7903.



Family Book Club

Sponsored by the Sisterhood Torah Fund Book Club and the Beth El Youth Community

All 3rd–6th graders, and adult readers of all ages, are invited to participate in our 9th annual Family Book Club on Sunday, February 2, right after Religious School at 12:00 pm.

After lunch, we'll discuss *The Six-Day Hero* and meet the author, Tammar Stein, in person! Twelve-year-old Motti discovers that there are many types of heroes as his tiny young nation of Israel fights for survival in the Six-Day War of 1967.

Every 3rd–6th grade family who RSVPs will receive a free copy of *The Six-Day Hero* while supplies last! Contact Rachel Kamin at rkamin@nssbethel.org to reserve your copy.

NSS Beth El Annual Used Book Sale February 23 – March 2, 2025

Drop off like new and gently used hardcovers or paperbacks — secular and Judaic, adult and children's fiction and non-fiction — in a clearly marked, sturdy box or bag **between January 1 – February 20, 2025**. **Note:** Donations received before January 1 may be discarded.

Please refrain from donating textbooks, “how-to” & technology guides (unless they are brand new!), old travel guides, calendars, dated reference books, and test preparation resources. Dirty, moldy, and damaged books belong in the recycle bin or trash can! Do not waste our volunteers' time and our maintenance crew's efforts by donating these unsellable books.

If you have old, worn out siddurim, chumashim, or other holy books, please place them in our Genizah box right inside the office doors. Questions about what needs to go in the Genizah? Contact Hazzan Jenna Greenberg at jgreenberg@nssbethel.org.

Volunteers are needed to help set-up the sale on **Thursday, February 20 between 4:00-7:30 pm** (pizza will be served!) as well as during the book sale and with close-down. Bar/Bat Mitzvah and high school student volunteers are welcome! Contact Marcie Eskin at meskin@nssbethel.org or 847-926-7903 for the volunteer sign-up.



Bikkur Cholim – A Mitzvah You Can Do

By Mary Ellen Bowers and Jackie Melinger, Co-Chairs HAZAK Caring Community | HAZAK@nssbethel.org

Scan the QR code below for future dates of HAZAK: Core, Balance and Stability classes.



Physically being present in the lives of those who are ill, injured, undergoing rehabilitation, in hospice, or just not feeling 100% is an act of selflessness. Bikkur Cholim is the Mitzvah of visiting the sick and at its core, is one way to provide chesed (loving kindness) to others.

When Beth El members are hospitalized or residing in rehabilitation facilities for physical or occupational therapy prior to discharge, it can be a lonely and sometimes frightening experience. Not everyone is fortunate enough to have family nearby. A short, personal visit from a friendly volunteer with a simple message “I came to wish you well” can have a meaningful impact on a congregant’s day.

If you have been the recipient of a Bikkur Cholim visit from one of our Beth El clergy, or our volunteers, you know how special that interaction, phone call or home cooked meal meant at that moment in time. Hopefully, you felt the love of our community and our deep concern for your wellbeing.

As Jews, we search for ways to add goodness to our lives. Instead of focusing on the world at large, we can begin closer to home, by visiting those in our own community who can use our support. Fulfilling this important work is one way of adding holiness to the world.

If you are interested in learning more about this wonderful Mitzvah, contact our Bikkur Cholim co-chairs Barbara Hochwert at Barbara.Hochwert@gmail.com or Basia Retsky BRetsky@sbcglobal.net.



HAZAK: Core, Balance and Stability
Thursdays at 10:00 am



Looking for ways to strengthen your core, increase your balance and maintain stability? Join the HAZAK fitness class on scheduled Thursdays. Gina Hanusa, Certified Senior Fitness Specialist instructs us on various ways to remain strong as we age. Modifications are always available and you can participate at your comfort level. It’s a fun, invigorating way to spend a quick hour.

This program is made possible by the Diane and Leonard Sherman Family Foundation. Check the BE website, Kol Beth El email or scan the QR code on this page for future dates.

Sukkot Afternoon @ the Movies October 2024



Men's Club Kicks Off the Season with Exciting Events!

By Jori Brajer, Men's Club President | jbrajer@gmail.com

Men's Club kicked off the season with our Annual Steak and Scotch event, with over 100 men attending. Thank you to everyone who helped to make this such a successful event. We continued with our annual Pizza in the Hut, Monday Night Football watch party in the Sukkah. The weather cooperated as over 40 of us, including many new faces, enjoyed pizza and camaraderie as we watched a doubleheader of football games. As we look forward into the Fall and Winter, we have several Bagels for Your Brains programs scheduled. Men's Club Shabbat weekend was in November this year but we have many Winter activities including trivia and game nights with the Sisterhood. Please join us on Super Bowl Sunday, February 9 for Worldwide Wrap XXIV followed by a Torah Study. Keep an eye out for more information on upcoming events in the Men's Club weekly email.

If you are interested in finding out more about the Men's Club or have program ideas, please contact Jori Brajer at jbrajer@gmail.com, Dan Gross at grossd@gmail.com, or any of the Men's Club Board members.



Swinging for Success: N.S.S Men's Club Softball Team Crowned Co-Champs

The NSS Men's Club softball team completed another successful season as regular season Co-Champs of The Northern Illinois Synagogue Softball League. The team regulars are- Captain Michael Salberg, Noah Weinger, Josh Atlas, Brian Cohen, Pere Berkowitz, Sam Alex, Oren Rasowsky, Ari Silver, Bob Doppelt, Daniel Ripes and Daniel Mesa. Next season we are hoping to have 2 teams in the league. If you are interested in playing, reach out to Michael Salberg, mbsalberg@sbcglobal.net.

Recent Happenings: Men's Club Steak and Scotch August 2024



From the Archives: Beth El's Senior Rabbis By Morton Steinberg

Note: This is the first in a series of mini-biographies of the six individuals who have served as senior rabbi at North Suburban Synagogue Beth El: Maurice I. Kliers, Philip L. Lipis, Samuel H. Dresner, William H. Lebeau, Vernon H. Kurtz and Michael Schwab. However, the first person actually retained to serve in that capacity was Rabbi Samuel S. Ruderman.



Rabbi Ruderman was born in Massachusetts in 1907. He graduated from Harvard University in 1928 and was ordained by the Jewish Theological Seminary in 1932. He became the senior rabbi at Temple Beth El in Fall River, Massachusetts in 1941. During WWII Rabbi Ruderman served as a chaplain in the US Navy and from 1943 to 1945 was stationed at Great Lakes Naval Base in North Chicago. During that period he resided in a private home in Glencoe

and became known to several people who would later be among the founders of Beth El.

After the war, Ruderman was invited back to Chicago and on Friday, March 28, 1947, he spoke at the Shabbat evening services of Beth El, then held at the Winnetka Women's Club located at the southeast corner of Oak and Maple Streets in Winnetka. It was likely that he was offered the position of rabbi of the newly formed congregation on that occasion and he quickly accepted the offer. However, when he returned to Fall River, his wife, Tillie, objected to moving to the Midwest. Ruderman reluctantly withdrew his acceptance and remained at Temple Beth El in Fall River where he continued as its beloved spiritual leader until his death in 1968.



MAURICE I. KLIER (1948-1950)

Beth El's first senior rabbi, Maurice (Moshe) I. Kliers, was born in 1913 in Safed, Palestine. When he was four his family moved to Chicago, where Kliers grew up on the Jewish West Side near Douglas Boulevard. He attended B'nai Reuben Talmud Torah, was active in Young Judea and enjoyed both tennis and chess. After graduating Phi Beta Kappa from the University of Chicago, he attended

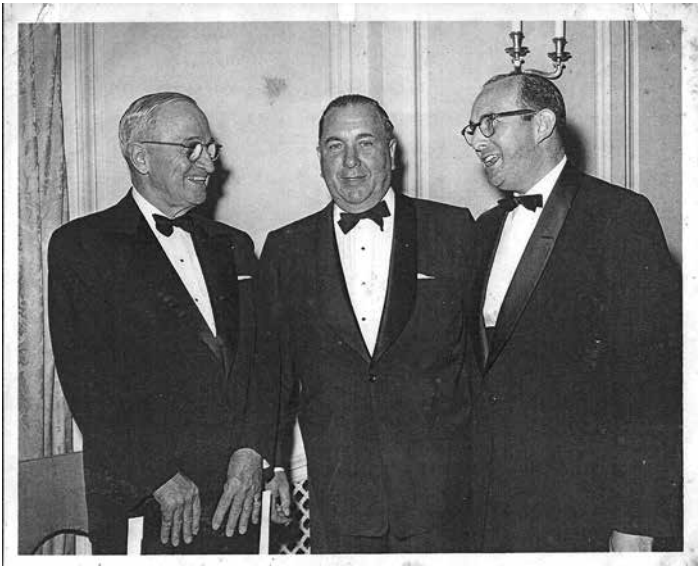
Chicago Theological College, pursuing his goal to become a rabbi. However he soon switched to the Jewish Theological

Seminary in New York, where he excelled in his studies and was awarded the Lehman Prize in Public Speaking. While in New York in 1937 he married Florence Bloom, who would be by his side for the ensuing thirty-three years.

After his ordination by the Seminary in 1940, Kliers served for two years as rabbi at Congregation Adath Israel in Middleton, Connecticut. In 1942 he became rabbi of Temple Sholom in Philadelphia, during which time he earned a PhD in Jewish Education at Dropsie College. When the young North Suburban Synagogue Beth El sought a full time rabbi in 1948, Kliers applied for the position and joined Beth El in June of that year. Kliers had a vision for the growth of the new congregation, especially after the Price Estate in Highland Park was acquired as the synagogue's permanent home in August, 1948. In the first annual report of Beth El, he wrote that the aim of Beth El was "to build an American Jewish community that is vital, dynamic, rich and meaningful. We want to integrate the highest ideals of Judaism with the best ideals of Americanism; to link the past with the present in order to make possible the future."

However the relationship between Rabbi Kliers and Beth El's leadership did not go smoothly. The rabbi was dissatisfied with the housing provided to him, his wife, and their two children, Rananah and Hillel. Initially the family resided in the second floor apartment above the garage building on the Price Estate. In the fall of 1949, the family relocated to the coach house. Neither location was acceptable to the rabbi. The tension between Kliers and the congregation was intensified by friction between the rabbi and Meyer Shisler, Beth El's well regarded first Director of Schools. This situation led Shisler to leave Beth El in June, 1949. He soon assumed a position at North Shore Congregation Israel in Glencoe, followed by many Beth El families.

By the spring of 1950, the Beth El board of directors had voted not to renew the contract of Rabbi Kliers. The rabbi departed Beth El at the end of June to take the position of assistant rabbi at South Side Hebrew Congregation in Chicago. Within a few years, he succeeded Rabbi Morris Teller as senior rabbi of that congregation. During his tenure at South Side Hebrew, Kliers became well known in the Chicago Jewish community. He was often a speaker at civic as well as religious events, he led several congregational trips to Israel, and he was active in Zionist causes. In 1956 he was elected president of the Chicago Region of the Rabbinical Assembly. Rabbi Kliers passed away at the young age of 58 in 1972.



President Harry S. Truman, Mayor Richard J. Daley, and Rabbi Kliers (circa 1960).



Beth El's 1st Annual Report (1949)



Rabbi Kliers (far left) with the NSS Beth El nursery school class (1949).



It's All in the Beth El Family

Mazel Tov to:

Laurel and Barry Abramowicz

On the birth of their granddaughter Leia Esther Gibbs

Gail and Andrew Brown

On the birth of their granddaughter, Rafaela Hadvá Lagos-Brown

Jan and Brian Channon

On their 40th wedding anniversary

Ben Channon

On the 27th anniversary of his Bar Mitzvah

Mary Channon

On her 40th birthday

Mary and Ben Channon

On their 15th wedding anniversary

Marcy Freeman

On her 60th birthday

Allene Frost

On the birth of her great-grandson, Franklin Werner Santana

Elise and Ira Frost

On the birth of their grandson, Franklin Werner Santana

Jodi and David Gimbel

On the baby naming of their granddaughter, Nora Elle Kapadia

Matan Ginsberg

On his 10th birthday

Marlene and Seth Halpern

On the birth of their granddaughter, Joni Maya Caminer

Rachel Kamin

On her 50th birthday

Michael Katz

On his 82nd birthday

Beth and Jeff Kopin

On the birth of their granddaughter, Dahlia Meira

Myrna Kopin

On the birth of her great-granddaughter, Dahlia Meira

Ken Levin

On his 87th birthday

Michael Millenson

On the 58th anniversary of his Bar Mitzvah

Mark Mosk

On the 55th anniversary of his Bar Mitzvah

Adam Natenshon

On the 35th anniversary of his Bar Mitzvah

Gabi Natenshon

On his high school graduation and 5th anniversary of his Bar Mitzvah

Micah Natenshon

Son of Debra and Adam Natenshon, on becoming a Bar Mitzvah

Sid (z"l) and Sylvia Pachter

On their 72nd wedding anniversary

Dylan Poll

Son of Allyson and Ryan Poll, on becoming a Bar Mitzvah

Jackie Rubinoff and Harry Orenstein

Daughter of Rochelle and Earl Rubinoff, son of Leslie and David Orenstein, on their wedding

Rochelle and Earl Rubinoff

On their 36th wedding anniversary

Sam Shanes

On the baby naming of his grandchild

Sarah Shanes and Zachary Cohem

Daughter of Diane and Daniel Shanes, son of Anita and Steven Cohen (z"l), on their wedding

Sam Smiley

Son of Jill and Jeremy Smiley, on becoming a Bar Mitzvah

Micah Steinberg

Son of Laura Patterson and Joel Steinberg, on becoming a Bar Mitzvah

Mort and Miriam Steinberg

On their 50th wedding anniversary

Mira Temkin

On her 73rd birthday

Condolences to:

Rita Buckman

On the passing of her husband, Gerald Buckman

Dr. Robert Greenstein

On the passing of his wife, Maxine Greenstein

Josh Herz

On the passing of his father, Thomas Herz

Nehama Levy-Weller

On the passing of her father, Sandy Weller

The Patterson and Steinberg Family

On the passing of their sister-in-law, Jennifer Manzelli Patterson

Suzanne Pinzur

On the passing of her husband, Robert Pinzur

Dr. Robert Ruderman

On the passing of his mother, Lois May Ruderman

Sheila Small

On the passing of her sister, Lori Bacalar

Joel Steinberg

On the passing of his father, Neil Steinberg

IN MEMORIAM:

Glen Bernfield
Sondra Bernfield
Gerald Buckman
Phyllis Silverman
Pearl Zaid

Kiddush Co-Sponsors:

Joyce and Alan Brodsky

Jan and Brian Channon

Marcy and Rob Freeman

Jodi and David Gimbel

Rachel and Michael Kamin

Anne McDonagh and David Fishbaum

Jodie and Mark Mosk

Abigail and Louis Natenshon

Debra and Adam Natenshon

NSS Beth El Men's Club

NSS Beth El Sisterhood

Maxine and Don Patterson

Allyson and Ryan Poll

Rochelle and Earl Rubinoff

Jill and Jeremy Smiley

Mort and Miriam Steinberg

The Winton Family

Rabbi Schwab Discretionary Fund

*In honor of Bob and Ellen Doppelt's baby naming of their granddaughter, Bea - **Stuart and Barbara Hochwert***

*In honor of Bob Doppelt's birthday - **Stuart and Barbara Hochwert***

*In honor of Micah Steinberg, son of Laura Patterson and Joel Steinberg, on becoming a Bar Mitzvah - **Barbara Berger***

*In honor of Jay and Jackie Levine's 45th wedding anniversary - **Stuart and Barbara Hochwert***

*In honor of our daughter Malka Hadassah Rosenberg's Simchat Bat - **Jonathan and Marissa Rosenberg***

*In honor of Rabbi Michael and Erica Schwab - **Michael and Terri Lipsitz***

*In honor of the baby naming of my granddaughter, Aviva Hope and with appreciation to Rabbi Schwab - **Teri Leibowitz***

*In honor of the baby naming of our granddaughter Bea Doppelt and with appreciation to Rabbi Schwab - **Robert and Ellen Doppelt***

*In honor of the birth of JoAnne Blumberg's granddaughter - **Stuart and Barbara Hochwert***

*In honor of the birth of our granddaughter Leia Esther, daughter of Ashley and Joshua Gibbs - **Barry and Laurel Abramowicz***

*In honor of the engagement of Roberta and Steve Goodman's son Willie to Emily Jones - **Stuart and Barbara Hochwert***

*In honor of the wedding of Sydney Glass and Scott Krugel and with appreciation to Rabbi Schwab - **Matt and Jamie Pestine***

*In memory of David Schwab, beloved grandson - **Laeh Grant***

*In memory of Dr. Arthur Grant, beloved husband - **Laeh Grant***

*In memory of Frieda Rosen, beloved sister - **Leonard and Rochelle Foxman***

*In memory of Gerald Buckman, beloved husband of Rita Buckman - **Adrienne Eckerling**
- **The Schechter and Bernat Families***

*In memory of Glen Bernfield, beloved father, grandfather and great-grandfather - **Allene Frost**
- **Ira and Elise Frost***

*In memory of Joan Hanfling and with appreciation to Rabbi Schwab - **Family of Joan Hanfling***

*In memory of Lawrence Field and with appreciation to Rabbi Schwab - **Barbara Field and Family***

*In memory of Lawrence Field, beloved husband of Barbara Field, beloved father of Michelle Field (Frank Yanez), Cindy (Joe) Kaplan and Rachel Field, beloved grandfather, great-grandfather and brother - **Irwin and Jill Bernstein**
- **Caroll, Steven and Helen Edelson**
- **Roger and Ronnie Wilk***

*In memory of Lori Bacalar, beloved sister of Sheila (Michael) Small - **Andy Kenoe and Jan Gaines***

*In memory of Marla Dawn Sklar, beloved daughter - **Marvin and Sara Siegel***

*In memory of Maxine Greenstein, beloved wife of Dr. Robert Greenstein - **Shael and Myrna Siegel***

*In memory of Phyllis Silverman - **Gerald and Adrienne Lasin***

*In memory of Ralph J. and Berenice Epstein, beloved father-in-law and mother-in-law - **Samuel Shanes***

*In memory of Randall Horwitz, beloved father - **Jori, Leah and Zachary Brajer***

*In memory of Roslyn Dobkin and with appreciation to Rabbi Schwab for the stone dedication - **Janice and David Lasky***

*In memory of Thomas Herz, beloved father of Joshua (Jennifer) Herz - **Stuart and Barbara Hochwert***

*In memory of Tillie L. and Abraham Shanes, beloved mother and father - **Samuel Shanes***

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

*With appreciation to NSS Beth El - **Daniel Blumenthal***

*With appreciation to Rabbi Schwab - **Dr. Joshua Levin***

*With appreciation to Rabbi Schwab for all his help and support for Harrison and Anna Freeman in preparation for their wedding - **Rob and Marcy Freeman***

*With appreciation to Rabbi Schwab for his spirit, joy and support surrounding Jackie and Harry's wedding - **Earl and Rochelle Rubinoff***

Rabbi Freedman Discretionary Fund

*In honor of Brooke Ostrow and with appreciation to Rabbi Freedman - **Jonathan and Tobye Ostrow***

*In honor of the baby naming of my daughter Chloe Gandelman and with appreciation to Rabbi Freedman - **Edward Gandelman***

*In honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Steve and Fran Shapiro's grandson - **Sonya Frazin***

*In honor of the birth of our granddaughter Leia Esther, daughter of Ashley and Joshua Gibbs - **Barry and Laurel Abramowicz***

*In memory of Betty Lichter and with appreciation to Rabbi Freedman - **The Family of Betty Lichter***

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

*In memory of Irwin Veit, beloved husband of Alice Veit - **Sandy Starkman and Larry Pachter***

*In memory of Lawrence Field and with appreciation to Rabbi Freedman - **Barbara Field and Family***

*In memory of Marla Dawn Sklar, beloved daughter - **Marvin and Sara Siegel***

*In memory of Mel Seidenberg and with all the help and support we have received - **James and Michelle Seidenberg***

*In memory of Mel Seidenberg, beloved father of James (Michelle) Seidenberg, Steven (Samantha) Seidenberg and Sandra (Barry) Reiner, beloved grandfather of Laura (Rabbi Alex) Freedman, Lindsay, Adam (Naomi) Seidenberg, Hannah (Ilan) Cohn and David, Jacob and Annette Reiner and beloved great-grandfather - **Sue Cohen**
- **Stuart and Barbara Hochwert**
- **Michael and Karen Kesner***

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

*In memory of Shirlee Bloom, beloved aunt and with appreciation to Rabbi Freedman - **Michael and Jackie Melinger***

*Wishing a complete and speedy recovery to Dr. Arthur Pober - **Marvin and Sara Siegel***

*With appreciation to Rabbi Freedman - **Patricia Shapiro**
- **Steve and Roni Weiss***

*With appreciation to Rabbi Freedman for Nancy's stone unveiling - **Alan Gandelman***

*With appreciation to Rabbi Freedman for our daughter's baby naming - **Jonathan, Marissa, Golda, Zeld, and Malka Rosenberg***

*With appreciation to Rabbi Freedman for Sandra Rubin's unveiling - **Gary Rubin***

Hazzan Sandler Discretionary Fund

*In honor of the wedding of Sydney Glass and Scott Krugel and with appreciation to Hazzan Sandler - **Matt and Jamie Pestine***

*In memory of Lawrence Field and with appreciation to Hazzan Sandler - **Barbara Field and Family**
With appreciation to Hazzan Sandler for all he does - **Jori and Leah Brajer***

*With appreciation to Hazzan Sandler for his help and participation at Harrison and Anna Freeman's wedding - **Rob and Marcy Freeman***

Hazzan Greenberg Discretionary Fund

*In honor of the adult Trope class and with appreciation to Hazzan Greenberg - **Matt and Jamie Pestine***

*With appreciation to Hazzan Greenberg for her smiling face every day - **Bob and Beth Footlik***

Rabbi Kurtz Discretionary Fund

*In memory of Maxine Greenstein, beloved wife of Dr. Robert Greenstein - **Gerald and Adrienne Lasin***

Cal and Lana Eisenberg Halomdim Program Endowment Fund

*In memory of Gerald Buckman, beloved husband of Rita Buckman - **Cal Eisenberg***

*In memory of Lawrence Field, beloved husband of Barbara Field, beloved father of Michelle Field (Frank Yanez), Cindy (Joe) Kaplan and Rachel Field, beloved grandfather, great-grandfather and brother - **Cal Eisenberg***

Camp Ramah Endowment Fund

*With appreciation to NSS Beth El - **David and Judith Fivel***

Family Engagement Fund

*In memory of Lawrence Field, beloved husband of Barbara Field, beloved father of Michelle Field (Frank Yanez), Cindy (Joe) Kaplan and Rachel Field, beloved grandfather, great-grandfather and brother - **Len and Bobbie Tenner***

*In honor of the marriage of Jessica Dlugie to Nate Wellek - **Michael and Joyce Fox***

General Endowment Fund

*In memory of Ronald Sharlach, beloved father, grandfather and brother - **Sheldon Ezring***

Gertrude Lederman Family Continuing Education Fund

*In honor of the adult education activities - **Brad Axelrod***

*In honor of Ken Saffir's 75th birthday - **Daniel and Wendy Kahn***

*In honor of Michael Katz on his 82nd birthday - **Sandy Starkman and Larry Pachter***

*In honor of the marriage of Jackie Rubinoff, daughter of Rochelle and Earl Rubinoff, to Harry Orenstein, son of Leslie and David Orenstein - **Daniel and Honey Bronson***

In memory of Anna Helen Blumenthal, beloved mother - **Dr. Robert Blumenthal**

In memory of Gerald Buckman, beloved husband of Rita Buckman
- **Dr. Gary and Merle Kaufman**
- **Ed and Paulette Margulies**

In memory of Maxine Greenstein, beloved wife of Dr. Robert Greenstein - **Ed and Paulette Margulies**

In memory of Pearl Zaid, beloved mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and sister
- **Ellen Lavin**
- **Fred and Maureen Sechan**
- **Rodney and Marilyn Slutzky**

In memory of Sidney L. Starkman, Mildred Lashinsky Starkman and all our friends and family on Yizkor - **Sandy Starkman and Larry Pachter**

In memory of William Shapiro, beloved brother of Ellen Lavin - **Ed and Paulette Margulies**

Glass Family Music Endowment Fund

In memory of Maxine Greenstein, beloved wife of Dr. Robert Greenstein - **Bradley and Martha Glass**

HAZAK Fund

In honor of Jan and Brian Channon's 40th wedding anniversary - **Sandy Starkman and Larry Pachter**

In honor of Mary Ellen Bowers - **Patricia Shapiro**
In honor of Sandy Starkman on her birthday - **Debra Rade**

In honor of the marriage of Jackie Rubinoff, daughter of Rochelle and Earl Rubinoff, to Harry Orenstein, son of Leslie and David Orenstein
- **Daniel and Honey Bronson**
- **Barbara Pollack**

In honor of the marriage of Ross Hochwert and Sonali Salgado - **Daniel and Honey Bronson**

In memory of Barbara Samson - **Patricia Shapiro**

In memory of Gerald Buckman, beloved husband of Rita Buckman - **Rodney and Marilyn Slutzky**

In memory of Glen Bernfield, beloved father, grandfather and great-grandfather - **Debra Rade**

In memory of Pearl Zaid, beloved mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and sister
- **Larry Goldsmith and Mary Ellen Bowers**
- **Michael and Karen Kesner**
- **Patricia Shapiro**

In memory of the mother of Marcia Pittleman - **Patricia Shapiro**

In memory of Todd Padnos, beloved son of Felice Padnos - **Patricia Shapiro**

With appreciation to Dr. Harris and Sharon Goldenberg - **Patricia Shapiro**

With appreciation to Hazak
- **Laeh Grant**
- **Ruth Fischer**

With appreciation to Hazak for their event - **Julie Bensen Brook and Skookie Katz Bensen**

Israel Scholarship Endowment Fund

In honor of the birth of Jennifer and Stewart Flink's granddaughter, Eden Tamar Platt - **Sandy Starkman and Larry Pachter**

In memory of Pearl Zaid, beloved mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and sister - **Sandy Starkman and Larry Pachter**

Jack and Mildred Cohen Religious School Fund

In honor of the birthday of Dr. Michelle Field-Chez - **Cynde Munzer**

In memory of David Levinson, beloved father - **David and Pam Hirschfield**

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

In memory of Lois Hirschfield, beloved mother - **David and Pam Hirschfield**

In memory of Sylvia Levinson, beloved mother - **David and Pam Hirschfield**

Joseph and Mae Gray Cultural and Learning Center Fund

In honor of Ken Saffir and David Eisenberg's 75th birthdays - **Mark Daskin and Babette Levy**

In honor of the marriage of Stuart and Barbara Hochwert's son Ross to Sonali - **Richard and Pam Schlosberg**

Kopin Family Children's T'filot Endowment Fund

In memory of Maxine Greenstein, beloved wife of Dr. Robert Greenstein - **Myrna Kopin**

Maxwell Abbell Library Fund

In honor of Rabbi Shai Held - **Anonymous**

In honor of Rochelle and Earl Rubinoff's 36th wedding anniversary and marriage of Jackie Rubinoff to Harry Orenstein - **Sandy Starkman and Larry Pachter**

In honor of Tali Shapiro, daughter of Lori Stark and David Shapiro on her graduation and MSW - **Sandy Starkman and Larry Pachter**

With appreciation to Rachel Kamin for her assistance and wisdom in recommending books for Micah's Bar Mitzvah - **Adam and Debra Natenshon**

Minyan Fund

In memory of Martin Levy and with appreciation to NSS Beth El and Hazzan Jenna Greenberg for their compassion and warm inclusion - **Karen and Mortin Levy**

In memory of Maxine Greenstein, beloved wife of Dr. Robert Greenstein - **Sally Schechter**

With appreciation to NSS Beth El - **Linda Jean Versman**

Miriam and Bernard H. Sokol Hebrew High School Fund

In memory of Pearl Zaid, beloved mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and sister - **Ronnie Jo Sokol**

In memory of Sandy Weller, beloved father of Nehama Levy-Weller - **Ronnie Jo Sokol**

Music Fund

In honor of the birth of Andy and Gail Brown's granddaughter, Rafaela Hedva - **Lawrence and Abby Block**

In honor of the wedding of Jackie Rubinoff, daughter of Rochelle and Earl Rubinoff, to Harry Orenstein - **Lawrence and Abby Block**

In memory of Gerald Buckman, beloved husband of Rita Buckman - **Larry and Abby Block**

In memory of Sondra Bernfield, beloved wife of Glen Bernfield (z"l), beloved mother, grandmother and great-grandmother - **Larry and Abby Block**

NSS Beth El Camp Scholarship Fund

In honor of the marriage of Stuart and Barbara Hochwert's on Ross to Sonali - **Marlene and David Kerstein**

NSS Beth El Men's Club Special Gifts Fund

In honor of Hal Sider - **Sanford Glass**

NSS Beth El Sisterhood Special Gifts Fund

In honor of the birth of Steve and Sara Coven's grandchild, Yakira Lev - **Karen Weiss**

NSS Beth El Special Gifts Fund

In honor of Ellen Lavin's birthday - **Cara Becker and Family**

In honor of Ken Saffir's 75th birthday - **Michael and Karen Kesner**

In honor of the Bat Mitzvah of June and Richard Gross' granddaughter, Brynn Marcus - **Brian and Rose Dubin**

In honor of the birth of Andrew and Joelle Freeman's baby girl, our granddaughter and great-granddaughter of Barbara Freeman - **Rob and Marcly Freeman**

In honor of the birth of Elise and Ira Frost's grandson, Franklin Werner Santana - **Michael and Karen Kesner**

In honor of the marriage of Stuart and Barbara Hochwert's son Ross to Sonali - **Ira and Debbi Rosenberg**

In honor of the Mateh Asher Regional Council Girls Soccer Team - **Mitch and Sari Kovitz**

In honor of the wedding of Jackie Rubinoff, daughter of Rochelle and Earl Rubinoff, to Harry Orenstein - **Ira and Debbi Rosenberg**

In memory of Alan and Rose Ander, beloved father and mother - **Ron and Carol Jesselson**

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

In memory of Deborah Glazer, beloved mother of Adam (Leslie) Glazer and beloved grandmother - **Sue Cohen**

In memory of Eleanor Goldstein, beloved mother - **Phyllis Fischel**

In memory of Gerald Buckman, beloved husband of Rita Buckman
- **Allene Frost**
- **Ira and Elise Frost**

In memory of Lance Choos, beloved son of Ramona Choos - **Sue Cohen**

In memory of Lawrence Field, beloved husband of Barbara Field, beloved father of Michelle Field (Frank Yanez), Cindy (Joe) Kaplan and Rachel Field, beloved grandfather, great-grandfather and brother
- **Tracy Fisher and Jesse Rogers**
- **Robert and Linda Friedman**
- **Allene Frost**
- **Ira and Elise Frost**

In memory of Lori Bacalar, beloved sister of Sheila (Michael) Small - **Marc and Nan Fine**

In memory of Marvin Bilfield, beloved father of Lisa (Todd) Warren, beloved grandfather and husband - **Sue Cohen**

In memory of Maxine Greenstein, beloved wife of Dr. Robert Greenstein - **Allene Frost**

In memory of Merle Friedman, mother of Marla (Terry) Grossberg and Michele (Brian) Rubin, beloved grandmother, great-grandmother and sister - **Todd and Jennifer Deutch**

In memory of Norman Mizel, beloved brother - **Gerald and Liora Mizel**

In memory of Pearl Zaid, beloved mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and sister - **Froedtert South Inc.**
- **Cynthia Genteman**
- **Vicki Malina**

In memory of Robert Versman - **Linda Jean Versman**

In memory of Roberta Steinhardt, beloved daughter - **Joyce Steinhardt**

Paul S. and Sylvia Steinberg Pre-School Fund

In honor of Mort and Miriam Steinberg's 50th wedding anniversary - **Patricia Shapiro**

In memory of Caron Knopoff, beloved aunt - **Jori, Leah and Zachary Brajer**

Rissman Kol Ami Collection Endowment Fund

In honor of Ken Saffir and David Eisenberg's 75th birthdays - **Jim Nyeste and Marla Hand**

Ritual Refurbishment Endowment Fund

In honor of Eli Krumbain's 98th birthday - **Barbara Blumberg**

In honor of Mort and Miriam Steinberg's 50th wedding anniversary - **Barbara Blumberg**

In honor of Rochelle and Earl Rubinoff's 36th wedding anniversary - **Patricia Shapiro**

In memory of Gerald Buckman, beloved husband of Rita Buckman - **Barbara Blumberg**

Sarah and Henry Stiebel Camp Ramah Endowment Fund

In honor of Mayer Stiebel's special birthday - **Sandy Starkman and Larry Pachter**

Sherman Family Camp Ramah Endowment Fund

In honor of Mort and Miriam Steinberg's 50th wedding anniversary - **Sandy Starkman and Larry Pachter**

Tzedakah/Pushke Fund

In honor of Lois Chudacoff's birthday - **Jeffrey and Debra Crane**

In honor of the marriage of Jackie Rubinoff, daughter of Rochelle and Earl Rubinoff, to Harry Orenstein, son of Leslie and David Orenstein - **Patricia Shapiro**
- **Sharon Stein**

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

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

In memory of Jon Cowans - **Jerry Wolf**

In memory of Pearl Zaid, beloved mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and sister - **Deborah Frosch**

In memory of Rodney Richter, beloved brother of Harriet (Joey) Resnick, beloved husband, father, son and uncle - **Sydney Roth**
- **Sharon Schatz**

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

With appreciation to Marcy and Rob Freeman - **Ellie Goldsmith**

Willard and Sally Aaron Camp Ramah Endowment Fund

In memory of Willard Aaron, beloved husband - **Sally Aaron**

Youth Community Fund

In honor of Steve and Fran Shapiro's grandson, Jonah, becoming a Bar Mitzvah - **Daniel and Honey Bronson**

In honor of the birth of Marcy and Rob Freeman's granddaughter, Mira Ashira - **Karen Weiss**



Social Action Committee

By Marlene Halpern | socialaction@nssbethel.org

Take action with us: Social Action Committee updates!

Thank you to everyone for making SAC's Fall 2024 initiatives a huge success! We had a busy Fall with the following SAC sponsored initiatives:

Faith & Blue Canned Food Drive hosted by the Highland Park Police Department. SPS & CRS classes collected canned foods to donate to the HP Police Department's collection efforts.

Pack the Pantry to benefit The Ark. The POD was filled with generous donations of kosher food, household essentials, and personal care items. You helped countless people in the Chicagoland Jewish community.

Thanksgiving Mitzvah Project was widely successful thanks to Beth El members of all ages who shopped for, made, and donated beautiful Thanksgiving baskets to benefit families from Glenwood School in Waukegan and Moraine Township Food Pantry.

Chesed Coat Drive. Once again, the Beth El community overfilled the bins with gently used winter coats and outerwear to benefit Chicago Chesed Fund.

SAC is busy planning for our annual Spring Mitzvah Day.



**Annual Mitzvah Day
Sunday, March 2, 2025
9:00 am - Noon**

Join your Beth El family and friends for a day dedicated to giving and doing and getting so much more in return! We will partner with local and global organizations to make blankets for children, sleeping mats for the homeless, and there will be many other collections and projects to choose from. Stay tuned for more details and opportunities to get involved.

We're always looking for volunteers. Interested in joining the Social Action Committee? Email Marlene Halpern at socialaction@nssbethel.org.



מה יפה ירושתנו



Interested in volunteering or hosting an artist? Scan the QR code.

North Suburban Synagogue Beth El Sisterhood

Art Festival 2025

February 22 & 23, 2025

Saturday, February 22 | 8:30 PM-11:30 PM
 Sponsor Preview Event: 7:30 PM-8:30 PM
 General Admission: 8:30 PM-11:30 PM

Sunday, February 23 | 9:00 AM-7:00 PM

\$10 General Admission Fee






Featuring 35+ Jewish artists from Israel* and the United States

Showcasing their jewelry, ritual Judaica, wall art, wood, glass, photography, home decor, and more!

*More than two-thirds of the artists are from Israel

Featured Artists: Frann Addison • Chantal Blaustein • Keith Camus • Jackie Cohen • Helene Davitz • Ori Gabrielli Art • Ori Gabrielli Handweaving • Alice Gerber • Shulli Goitein • Bryan Goldfeder • Mary Goldmintz • Noa Goen • Jared Green • Or Israel Judaica • Amy Kanarek • Robert Kleiman • Michelle Levi • Talma Liran • Eli Ben Lulu • Tamar Messer • Carol Neiger • Gil Paishut • Yehoshua Pineles • Mario Pomerantz • Avi Rubinstein (Israel Museum) • Yafa Segev • David Shamay • Sherman Art Work • Roslyne Smith • Judy Solomon • Ravit Stoltz • Sharon Vaizer • Jean Pierre Weill • James Wilbat

(continued from page 1)

Thank you to Francine Ephraim, June Gross, Judy Hirsch, and Sulie Holt for co-chairing the festival and enlisting a team of volunteers to ensure a fun, successful, and profitable event for our artists and North Suburban Synagogue Beth El.

There are sponsorship opportunities for local businesses and numerous ways for community members to participate – home hospitality, assisting with artist setup and teardown, volunteering at the festival, and more.

Don't miss this chance to support talented Jewish artists and reconnect with our community. Mark your calendars and join us for a weekend of art, culture, and fun.

For sponsorship and volunteer opportunities or to learn more, contact: nssbeartfestival@gmail.com.



We Bought It...We Got It...Come See It!

Sisterhood Gift Shop – your resource for all your Judaica. Made in Israel.

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

New arrivals straight from the New York Gift Show are here! We're excited to showcase beautiful, one-of-a-kind Judaica pieces, including contemporary creations by renowned blackthorn forge artist Steven Bronstein. His fresh take on timeless traditions will add a modern touch to any collection.

Visit us in the shop to explore these stunning new items, along with our full selection of unique merchandise. We're here for you on Sundays from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm (when school is in session) and by appointment. Looking forward to seeing you!

Recent Happenings: Jeans and Jammies August 2024



Recent Happenings: Sisterhood Rosh Hashanah Program September 2024



Mazel Tov to Our B'nai Mitzvah Students



BAT MITZVAH
Hazel Lynn
daughter of
Tracy and Eric Lynn
Shabbat, December 7



BAR MITZVAH
Leo Cohen
son of
Lindsay and Brian Cohen
Shabbat, January 11



BAR MITZVAH
Isaac Wynes
son of
Lesley and Jeremy Wynes
Shabbat, February 8



BAT MITZVAH
Lyla Gray
daughter of
Laura and Matthew Gray
Shabbat, February 15

The Story of Our New 10/7 Torah Cover: Dancing Through Tears

By Allison Nemirow, VP Programming | allison.nemirow@gmail.com

This year, Beth El faced an impossible challenge: How will we celebrate Simchat Torah, one of the happiest holidays of the year, while simultaneously commemorating the yahrzeit of one of the saddest moments in Jewish history?

Fortunately, congregant Marissa Rosenberg presented us with a solution: The Simchat Torah Project. Together with synagogues across the globe, Beth El sponsored a *Me'il* (Torah cover) with the name of one of the *Kedoshim* (Martyrs) who was killed on October 7th. After touring Israel on a special trip and bearing witness to the atrocities, I represented Beth El and collected the *Me'il* in a ceremony next to the Kotel. I also shared the love and support from Beth El at each site I visited, including the Shiva home of Hersh Goldberg-Polin, z"l.

Our newly robed Torah scroll will serve as a permanent reminder of Kohellet's (Ecclesiastes') teaching "*Et Sfod V'et Rkod*" (A time to mourn; A time to dance), as it states on the front of the cover.

The reverse side of the cover is embroidered with the name of a true *Kaddosh*: **Sergeant Aner Alyakim Shapira**, 22, who heroically died while saving lives by tossing back 7 grenades with his bare hands.

On Simchat Torah, we shared Aner's heroic story and held the Torah high for all to admire. We pray that Aner's memory will be a blessing and inspiration for generations to come.

The Torah cover is now on display in our Rissman Kol Ami Museum at the front entrance of the synagogue.



Allison Nemirow



Aner Alyakim Shapira



Scan the QR code to learn more about Anser's heroic story.

Recent Happenings: Challah Braiding Workshop with Anya Viner Fall 2024



More Happenings at Beth El

► Scan the QR code to see more photos.



YFP and SPS Sukkot Program October 2024



CHUSY Sushi in the Sukkah October 2024



Sisterhood in the Sukkah October 2024



Men's Club Pizza in the Hut October 2024



North Suburban Synagogue

Beth El
בית כנסת בית אל

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Highland Park, IL 60035

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Sponsored in part by the Glass Family Foundation



DAVID BROZA

Thursday, May 15, 2025

Lag B'Omer 5785

Israeli music legend David Broza live in concert at Beth El!

For sponsorship opportunities contact vpdevelopment@nssbethel.org

www.nssbethel.org