

## The Stranger is Me: A Passover Lesson in Our Personal Role in Combatting Hatred

By Rabbi Michael Schwab



Our identity as Jews is clearly bound up in our origins as a people made up of a nation of former slaves. The Torah reminds us that we were once slaves in Egypt at least 36 times. Almost no other concept, outside of the primacy

of monotheism, is repeated this often in the Torah. What are we to make of the Torah's emphasis on this fact? Clearly, the Torah and our tradition that follows after, is asking us to be extremely sensitive to the "stranger" in our midst, those at the periphery of society who are being persecuted in one way or another. It is a reminder that we must learn from both our collective, and personal, experiences to become wiser and more righteous in how we treat others. Thus, during our Passover seders (which will happen sooner than we think), as part of the ritual, we remind ourselves about the hardships of slavery and then celebrate our redemption. Explicitly the Haggadah follows a course from the degradation of our people to the liberation of our people. Yet the retelling of this story in this way is clearly not simply a history lesson. It is a call to be the people whom G-d envisioned: the people who learned and grew from their time as slaves. We are therefore obligated to ask ourselves each year, each day: What are the responsibilities that come with freedom and with the profound history that led to our freedom? When we read at the seder, "Remember you were once strangers in the land of Egypt," what does that mean to us in our day, and in our lives?

One important lesson is articulated by the great Rabbi Jonathan Sacks, z"l, who wrote: "It is terrifying in retrospect to grasp how seriously the Torah took the phenomenon of xenophobia, hatred of the stranger. It is as if

the Torah were saying with the utmost clarity: reason is insufficient. Sympathy is inadequate. Only the force of history and memory is strong enough to form a counterweight to hate. Why should you not hate the stranger? — asks the Torah. Because you once stood where he stands now. You know the heart of the stranger because you were once a stranger in the land of Egypt. If you are human, so is he. If he is less than human, so are you. You must fight the hatred in your heart as I once fought the greatest ruler and the strongest empire in the ancient world on your behalf. I made you into the world's archetypal strangers so that you would fight for the rights of strangers — for your own and those of others, wherever they are, whoever they are, whatever the color of their skin or the nature of their culture, because though they are not in your (human) image — says G-d — they are nonetheless in Mine. There is only one reply strong enough to answer the question: Why should I not hate the stranger? Because the stranger is me."

Sadly, today, we Jews are experiencing being treated as the stranger by growing numbers of people in our society. We must learn from our history the urgency and importance of resisting these forces both for the sake of our own people and for the sake of others who are being maligned and mistreated. Jews must stand for themselves and we must also stand for all who are oppressed. It is a weighty task but one bestowed upon us by G-d and the Torah. And it is a mission I know we can undertake together. Through activities at Beth El, in the larger Jewish community or through other avenues in society we must recall the lesson of our Torah amplified during the Passover holiday to fight injustice, persecution and baseless hatred. May this Passover instead bring freedom, redemption and joy to our people and to all of humanity. Amen.

Chag Pesach Sameach!  
חג פסח שמח!



PURIM 5786

# THE BETH EL GAMES



MARCH 1-3, 2026

## Sunday, March 1:

9:00 am Purim Carnival [for children 5 and under]  
9:30 am Opening Program and Mini-Spiel  
10:00 am Purim Carnival [open for all ages]

## Monday, March 2:

4:45 pm *Stages Chicago* Show & Dinner [for young families]  
5:30 pm Mincha/Ma'ariv  
★ 6:00 pm Megillah Reading  
★ 7:15 pm Olympic-Themed Seudah and Games

## Tuesday, March 3:

7:30 am Minyan and Megillah Reading  
9:00 am Breakfast Seudah



Scan QR code  
to register for any event.

RSVP deadline Monday,  
February 23.





## Daily Minyan – The Heart of Beth El

By Larry Pachter, President of Beth El | [president@nssbethel.org](mailto:president@nssbethel.org)



There are many reasons why our members come to daily minyan — some for daily prayer, some to see friends and acquaintances, and some because they are obligated to recite the Mourner's Kaddish. Whether mourning a parent or other close relative following their death, or marking the yahrzeit (anniversary of death) of a close relative, our

members need a minyan (quorum of 10 Jewish adults) in order to fulfill this obligation. Beth El meets this need by holding services every morning and evening of each day during the year. Every day of the year at least one Beth El member is obligated to recite Mourner's Kaddish.

All of us, including you, can help support the minyan and assure that there will be 10 adults at every service we hold. Weekdays require only 30-45 minutes in the morning, and only 20-30 minutes in the evening. Our community does many wonderful things, but nothing makes me prouder of Beth El than knowing that we support a minyan 2 times every day of the year.

If you currently attend minyan, regularly or just once in a



while, we thank you. If you don't, please consider making a commitment to attend — even 1 service per week will make a huge impact. It is a wonderful way to “pay it forward” — you help with minyan when someone else needs it, and then when the day comes that you need it, minyan will be there for you.

HAZZAN  
JACOB SANDLER  
AND FRIENDS  
**IN CONCERT**  
CELEBRATING 5 YEARS  
AT BETH EL!  
SUNDAY,  
MARCH  
**15**  
4 PM

## Hazzan Jacob Sandler and Friends: Celebrating 5 Years at Beth El

By Hazzan Jacob Sandler | [jsandler@nssbethel.org](mailto:jsandler@nssbethel.org)

Five years into the cantorate, many people ask how it is I got here. My journey to becoming a Hazzan started in a Jewish home that loved good music. My dad was keen on passing on a love of the Beatles and my mom introduced me to Broadway. My older sister encouraged me to do the school musicals throughout middle and high school.

In college I was exposed to the world of classical vocal repertoire. I got to sing pieces in English, Italian, French and German. I spent summers at Camp Ramah in the Berkshires where I discovered the joy of songleading and Jewish American folk/rock music. I had to stay up to date on Israeli pop music for Zimriyah, the camp-wide evening of singing. At JTS, I fell in love with Hazzanut, Jewish Art Song, and Yiddish music. Living in NYC, I sang in a few a cappella groups that entertained at B'nai Mitzvah. I also honed my skills on guitar and drums during that time.

I've been at Beth El since I graduated and have loved shaping the music and prayer culture here. I've had the pleasure of putting on concerts with artists like Achinoam Nini, David Broza, Six13, The Shul Sisters to name a few.

On Sunday March 15 at 4:00 pm, I'm excited to put on a concert entitled, “Hazzan Jacob Sandler and Friends.” This concert will take us through my life of loving music, showcasing those diverse influences and pivotal moments highlighted above. The opportunity to share my story in song alongside my incredibly talented friends is such a privilege. Even moreso, because I get to share it with this beloved community.

# 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 Haftarah 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 6

5:29 pm Candle Lighting  
6:00 pm Kabbalat Shabbat

### Saturday, March 7

*Parashat Ki Tisa  
Shabbat Parah*  
9:00 am Shabbat Service  
5:15 pm Mincha Service  
6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service/Havdalah  
6:31 pm Shabbat Ends

### Friday, March 13

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

### Saturday, March 14

*Parashat Vayakhel-Pekudei  
Shabbat HaChodesh*  
9:00 am Shabbat Service  
6:30 pm Mincha Service  
7:35 pm Ma'ariv Service/Havdalah  
7:39 pm Shabbat Ends

### Friday, March 20

6:00 pm Kabbalat Shabbat  
6:45 pm Candle Lighting

### Saturday, March 21

*Parashat Vayikra*  
9:00 am Shabbat Service  
6:45 pm Mincha Service  
7:45 pm Ma'ariv Service/Havdalah  
7:47 pm Shabbat Ends

### Friday, March 27

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

### Saturday, March 28

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

## April

### Friday, April 3

6:00 pm Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat/  
Ma'ariv  
7:01 pm Candle Lighting

### Saturday, April 4 Third Day Passover

*Shabbat Chol Hamoed Pesach*  
9:00 am Shabbat Service  
6:45 pm Mincha Service  
8:00 pm Ma'ariv Service/Havdalah  
8:03 pm Shabbat Ends

### Friday, April 10

6:00 pm Kabbalat Shabbat  
7:09 pm Candle Lighting

### Saturday, April 11

*Parashat Shmini*  
9:00 am Shabbat Service  
7:00 pm Mincha Service  
8:10 pm Ma'ariv Service/Havdalah  
8:12 pm Shabbat Ends

### Friday, April 17

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

### Saturday, April 18

*Parashat Tazria-Metzora*  
9:00 am Shabbat Service  
7:15 pm Mincha Service  
8:20 pm Ma'ariv Service/Havdalah  
8:21 pm Shabbat Ends

### Friday, April 24

6:00 pm Kabbalat Shabbat  
7:24 pm Candle Lighting

### Saturday, April 25

*Parashat Achrei Mot-Kedoshim*  
9:00 am Shabbat Service  
7:15 pm Mincha Service  
8:25 pm Ma'ariv Service/Havdalah  
8:29 pm Shabbat Ends

## May

### Friday, May 1

6:00 pm Kabbalat Shabbat  
7:32 pm Candle Lighting

### Saturday, May 2

*Parashat Emor*  
9:00 am Shabbat Service  
7:30 pm Mincha Service  
8:35 pm Ma'ariv Service/Havdalah  
8:38 pm Shabbat Ends

### Friday, May 8

6:00 pm Kabbalat Shabbat  
7:40 pm Candle Lighting

### Saturday, May 9

*Parashat Behar-Bechukotai*  
9:00 am Shabbat Service  
7:30 pm Mincha Service  
8:45 pm Ma'ariv Service/Havdalah  
8:47 pm Shabbat Ends

### Friday, May 15

6:00 pm Kabbalat Shabbat  
7:47 pm Candle Lighting

### Saturday, May 16

*Parashat Bamidbar*  
9:00 am Shabbat Service  
7:45 pm Mincha Service  
8:55 pm Ma'ariv Service/Havdalah  
8:56 pm Shabbat Ends

### Friday, May 22

6:00 pm Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat/  
Ma'ariv  
7:54 pm Candle Lighting

### Saturday, May 23

**Second Day Shavuot/Yizkor**  
9:00 am Festival Service  
7:00 pm Mincha Service  
9:00 pm Ma'ariv Service/Havdalah  
9:04 pm Shabbat Ends

### Friday, May 29

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

### Saturday, May 30

*Parashat Nasso*  
9:00 am Shabbat Service  
8:00 pm Mincha Service  
9:10 pm Ma'ariv Service/Havdalah  
9:11 pm Shabbat Ends

## CONTACT US

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## Adult B'not Mitzvah: Shabbat Shavuot Day 2

By Hazzan Jenna Greenberg, Ritual Director | [jgreenberg@nssbethel.org](mailto:jgreenberg@nssbethel.org)



As I write this update, twelve Beth El women have been on a special journey, preparing for their Adult B'not Mitzvah since the end of October. This amazing and diverse group of ladies has been studying Jewish texts, including deep dives

into the Chumash with Rabbi Freedman and into the Siddur with Rabbi Schwab. I have been working with them on bima skills, with a focus on learning how to chant from the Torah, a really special addition to their Jewish "toolbox." They will have the opportunity to share what they've learned with the congregation on the second day of Shavuot, when we celebrate with them as a whole congregation, on the very holiday during which we recall *Z'man Matan Torateinu*, the Season of the Giving of our Torah.

We have been studying Torah in the literal sense, the ins and outs of Torah trope, how to learn to

chant from the scroll. We are studying Torah more broadly as well. In the bigger definition of Jewish learning, these women have grown in their Jewish literacy, understanding more about our traditions than they knew prior to this class. And I am learning with the passing of each session, how much there is to learn from one another as well. They have all come in with different life experiences, various strengths that allow us to glean something from one another over the course of this year.

We invite you to join us as we not only celebrate the festival of Shavuot, but we celebrate the Torah that these B'not Mitzvah have learned throughout this year. May they go from strength to strength as we wish them a huge *Yashar Koach* on their achievements and knowledge gained through this very special experience.

Please join us throughout the holiday, as we celebrate *Z'man Matan Torateinu* over Memorial Day Weekend, Thursday evening May 21 through Saturday evening May 23.

## Shavuot Service Times

### Thursday, May 21 Erev Shavuot

7:45 pm Mincha/Ma'ariv Service  
7:53 pm Candle Lighting

### Friday, May 22 Shavuot Day 1

4:30 am Sunrise Service  
9:00 am Festival Service  
7:00 pm Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat/Ma'ariv Service  
7:54 pm Candle Lighting

### Saturday, May 23 Shavuot Day 2/Yizkor

9:00 am Festival Service  
7:00 pm Mincha Service  
9:00 pm Ma'ariv Service  
9:04 pm Shabbat/  
Yom Tov Ends



## RITUAL

By Ben Channon, VP Ritual | [b\\_channon@yahoo.com](mailto:b_channon@yahoo.com)



## Embarrassment of Riches

This will be my last article as the VP of Ritual for Beth El. A position I viewed as a stewardship and supportive of a great community as it relates to Ritual observance. It is easy to take for granted, but we truly have a special group of clergy that lead with humility. Happy to share their knowledge and

support while leading our services and collaborating so well with each other and the community. Even more than our clergy, we should be mindful of our incredible lay community that is also very knowledgeable. A recent Thursday Thought by Rabbi Freedman encouraged the reader to seek out a synagogue service when traveling; I do this frequently. While I am performing the mitzvah of praying with and making a minyan, I also become aware of how special Beth El truly is.

We have a growing group of people capable of leading just about any prayer service and read Torah, Megillah, Haftarah with proficiency. We should be incredibly proud of our 200+ Torah readers we have had year after year with the Team Torah program. In addition, as many know, the congregation



takes over Summer Services for 9-10 weeks every summer. This has been a practice which has been in place for decades, where the congregation can lead davening, lead the

service, and deliver a D'var Torah. All of these are supported with help from our clergy and the Ritual Committee as needed.

As you are reading this article, the Summer Services are being coordinated, and this is your time to sign up to lead or deliver a D'var Torah. I assure you, this will be a rewarding experience.

If you are interested, please reach out to me at [b\\_channon@yahoo.com](mailto:b_channon@yahoo.com) or Steve Shapiro at [steveshap24@gmail.com](mailto:steveshap24@gmail.com).

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## CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

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By Rabbi Benjamin Azriel, Executive Director | bazriel@nssbethel.org

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### Building the Future: Progress on the Benjamin and Bernice Cohen Pavilion



New rooftop heating units being delivered by helicopter.

The new Benjamin and Bernice Cohen Pavilion continues to move forward with great momentum and optimism. Despite the challenges that come with any major building project, we are pleased to share that our new secure entrance and welcoming center are nearing completion! Our dedicated teams have been hard at work, and the vision for our new welcoming space is genuinely coming to life.

Recent weeks have brought exciting milestones. The helicopter delivery of our new rooftop HVAC units was a sight to behold, marking a significant step toward a comfortable and energy-efficient building. From concrete to steel, masonry to windows, tiling to landscape, electric to plumbing, and all trades in between, we continue to push forward to create an amazing space.

Inside, preparations for the new Cohen Pavilion are progressing, with security upgrades and access controls taking shape. Our project partners, architects, and contractors have been working collaboratively to resolve any issues as they arise, always with a focus on quality and long-term durability.

We are grateful for the patience and support of our community throughout this journey. As we look ahead to a projected completion, we are filled with excitement for the vibrant, welcoming, and modernized spaces that will soon serve our congregation. Thank you for being part of this transformation — together, we are building a bright future for Beth El.

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## CONGREGATIONAL LEARNING

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

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### Caring for Creation: A Commitment to Sustainability

Conservative Judaism teaches that tradition and change exist in dynamic partnership. Guided by *halakhah* and responsive to contemporary moral challenges, our movement calls us

to meet the needs of the moment while remaining rooted in Torah. One such challenge is caring responsibly for God's creation.

As we read in Kohelet Rabbah, *“Be careful not to ruin or destroy My world, for if you do, there will be no one after you to repair it.”* This teaching resonates strongly today amid rising environmental concerns and the need for knowledge that protects the wellbeing of our planet and its inhabitants.

Our congregation is beginning a new effort toward environmental sustainability, grounded in Jewish law and values. The principle of *bal tashchit* — the prohibition against needless waste — extends beyond wartime origins to everyday life. The Conservative movement has consistently

interpreted this value to include modern concerns such as energy consumption, waste reduction, and environmental impact. Ellen Krumbein and I participated in trainings as part of the Jewish Climate Leadership Coalition through Adamah and the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism. We will be developing, along with interested lay leaders and staff, a Climate Action Plan and working on setting up our communal practices for environmental sustainability.

Our initiative will focus on education and practical, achievable steps: reducing waste at synagogue events, strengthening recycling and composting practices, evaluating our congregation's carbon footprint, being careful stewards of the land the synagogue owns, and encouraging sustainable choices around food and celebrations. These efforts reflect the belief that communal norms shape individual behavior — and that shared action magnifies impact.

Pirkei Avot reminds us, *“It is not upon you to finish the work, but neither are you free to desist from it.”* We may not solve every environmental challenge, but we are obligated to act. By embracing sustainability, we affirm our role as *shomrei adamah* — guardians of the earth — and honor our sacred responsibility to future generations.



## Creating, Singing and Growing Together in the Steinberg Preschool

As we began the 2025–2026 Steinberg Preschool school year this past September, we were excited to introduce two new programs that beautifully support our mission of Jewish early childhood education — nurturing the whole child through

joy, creativity, and meaningful experiences.

### Music with Jamberry Music & Ms. Ayana

Our new music program, in partnership with Jamberry Music and led by Ms. Ayana, has already been filling our classrooms with song, movement, and ruach (spirit). Through interactive music-making, children sing, dance, and play instruments while developing language, coordination, and social-emotional skills. Music is a powerful way for young children to connect, and it also supports Jewish learning by building community, encouraging joyful participation, and laying the foundation for rhythm and ritual they will encounter throughout Jewish life.

### Art with Ms. Malka Wolman

We are also proud to share our newly modified art program led by Ms. Malka Wolman, one of our dedicated preschool teachers. Inspired by Reggio Emilia principles, this program views children as capable, creative thinkers and art as one of the “hundred languages” through which they express their ideas and understand the world.

Rather than focusing on a final product, children are invited into open-ended exploration with a variety of materials, tools, and techniques. Ms. Malka thoughtfully observes and supports each child’s process, encouraging experimentation, problem-solving, and collaboration. This approach honors the Jewish value of *b’tzelem Elohim*, recognizing every child as a unique creator with their own voice and perspective.

Together, these music and art programs enrich our learning environment and deepen our commitment to developmentally appropriate, values-based Jewish education. We are grateful to share this creative journey with your children and look forward to a year filled with song, discovery, and meaningful expression.



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## COHEN RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

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By Anna Besser, Director of the Jack and Mildred Cohen Religious School | [abesser@nssbethel.org](mailto:abesser@nssbethel.org)

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### Two Steps Forward: Growth, Reflection, and the Omer

As we return from Spring Break and Pesach, we begin the countdown to the end of the school year. We look back with pride at the growth our students have made — academically, socially, and spiritually — and we mark

these milestones with joy, celebration, and shared moments of gratitude. This time of year aligns with the seven weeks between Pesach and Shavuot, known as the Omer, a period that represents a journey from physical freedom to spiritual purpose.

Pesach celebrates freedom — the beginning of our journey as a people. The counting of the Omer reminds us that what we do with freedom matters. Each day counted is a step toward Shavuot, when freedom is transformed into responsibility, values, and meaning through the receiving of the Torah.

The Omer teaches that growth does not happen all at once; it is shaped by effort, patience, and reflection, often following the familiar rhythm of two steps forward and one step back.



This journey closely mirrors the arc of a school year. Our students begin the year full of potential, and through learning, questioning, and discovery, they grow into more confident, capable, and thoughtful learners. Along the way, they develop not only academic skills, but also social-emotional skills — learning how to collaborate, reflect, be resilient, and care for one another. Like the Omer, this growth happens day by day and is mainly visible when we pause to look back.

As we approach the end of the year, we celebrate progress while honoring the process — recognizing that true learning is a journey, and that each step along the way matters. This growth is made possible through the partnership and dedication of our entire CRS community.

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## YOUNG FAMILY PROGRAMMING

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By Maxine Handelman, Director of Young Family Programming | [mhandelman@nssbethel.org](mailto:mhandelman@nssbethel.org)

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### Immersing in Joy

Abraham Joshua Heschel wrote “Our goal should be to live life in radical amazement...get up in the morning and look at the world in a way that takes nothing for granted. Everything is phenomenal; everything is incredible; never treat life casually. To be spiritual is to be amazed.” The world we are

currently living in implores us to seek out radical amazement. Nothing can be taken for granted. Fortunately, the Spring holidays – Purim, Passover, even Shavuot – give us ample opportunities to dive into amazing experiences with our children, introduce them to new traditions and notice with them the incredibility of things they experienced last year.

If you’ve never made hamantaschen for Purim, email me for my delicious recipe and reserve an afternoon for wonder. As you roll out the dough and fill hamantaschen with your kids, savor the sticky giggles and creative filling mixtures. Experiment with moistening the edges of each circle with orange juice or adding chocolate chips to different fillings.

Mix the Purim story into your hamantaschen making. Debate the source of Esther’s bravery. For maximum radical amazement, bring some hamantaschen to someone who might not otherwise get to enjoy any this year.

For each seder food on Passover, ask one simple question:

- Maror: “What makes your face scrunch up?”
- Charoset: “What makes hard things sweeter?” For your children, let awe emerge through taste.

When it is time to open the door for Elijah, invite the children to step outside. The moon is always full on seder nights and loves nothing more than being serenaded with “Eliyahu HaNavi.”

On Shavuot, as we recall receiving the Torah at Mount Sinai, build this place of amazement. Pile up pillows, blankets or blocks. Sit on or around the mountain and wonder with your kids, “What would you want God to tell kids?” Notice the radical amazement as your kids come to understand that their voices belong at Sinai. They are part of the Jewish story.

This spring, savor your child’s questions, join in their wonder, share the radical amazement of joyful Jewish life.

## YOUTH COMMUNITY

By Stacy La Mell, Director of Youth Community | slamell@nssbethel.org



### Spring Forward: Exciting Youth Programs and Israel Adventures

This spring builds on a meaningful winter break experience rooted in Jewish learning and connection to Israel. During winter break, I participated in the **Tevet Winter**

**Intensive** at the Fuchsberg Center in Jerusalem, located within walking distance of the Kotel. Over ten days of learning, prayer, and community with a diverse cohort, the experience underscored the impact that immersive Israel experiences can have on Jewish identity, leadership, and connection.

Experiences like Tevet shape how we think about engagement at every stage, and we encourage teens and families to explore upcoming Israel travel opportunities. These include teen programs as well as the **Beth El Family Mission to Israel**, led by Rabbi Alex Freedman, Talia Derman, and families, scheduled for next winter break. Families should also note that **Beth El's Israel Scholarship** is available to support teen and young adult travel through age 26, making these experiences more accessible.

Here at Beth El, those same values of leadership and participation were reflected in Youth Shabbat on February 7, when members of our youth community helped lead the Shabbat morning service with prayers, readings, and other honors. Youth Shabbat continues to be a powerful reminder of the preparation, confidence, and care our teens bring to synagogue life.

As we look ahead to Purim, our youth community will join the wider congregation at the Purim Carnival, an all-ages event featuring costumes, games, and this year's "Beth El Games" theme inspired by the Olympics. The Carnival offers a spirited day of fun and connection for our community.

Our next Coffee BEANS Lounge Night will take place on Wednesday, March 11 from 6:30 – 8:30 pm, featuring a Tisch-style evening of song and snacks, creating space for teens to gather, sing, and connect.

We look forward to a meaningful and engaging spring with our youth community.

Scan the QR code to learn more about our Youth Community.



Stacy participating in the Tevet Winter Intensive in Israel

## DEVELOPMENT

By Jacob Markey, Director of Development | [jmarkey@nssbethel.org](mailto:jmarkey@nssbethel.org)



***“Just as my ancestors planted for me, I too am planting for my descendants.”***

(Talmud, Taanit 23a)

The Ner Tamid Society is Beth El's legacy giving society. By including Beth El in your will or estate plans, you strengthen the synagogue and ensure that your legacy remains for generations to come. Below, Barbara and JoAnne Blumberg share why they joined Ner Tamid Society.



JoAnne, Barbara and Jack (z"l) Blumberg

**Why did you decide to join Ner Tamid Society and leave a legacy gift specifically to Beth El?**

In 1989, I (Barbara) and my husband Jack (z"l) Blumberg moved to Highland Park, and our entire family joined Beth El. At the time, JoAnne was expecting her first child, Melanie Axelrod, now a third-generation member. For nearly four decades, Beth El has been our second home for our family, a place

of learning, life cycles, and community. We want this legacy to continue for other families.

**How was the process of joining Ner Tamid Society?**

The process was seamless. When the program was introduced to the board, it resonated immediately. Signing up felt natural, knowing details could be finalized later. Both of our households signed up after the initial presentation.

**What have been the benefits to you for joining Ner Tamid Society?**

Joining the Ner Tamid Society ensures Beth El remains central in our legacy planning. It offers flexibility by allowing members to pledge at a level that feels comfortable; the only requirement is that Beth El is included. This commitment deepens our connection and empowers us to help sustain the congregation's future.

**Why is it important for congregants to join Ner Tamid Society?**

We encourage others to join Ner Tamid. Doing so guarantees that Beth El's vibrancy and values endure for generations, supporting programs and initiatives that enrich our community. Together, we can ensure that Beth El continues to be a spiritual home for all who seek it.

For more information about Ner Tamid Society or to join, please contact Jacob Markey, Beth El's Director of Development, at [jmarkey@nssbethel.org](mailto:jmarkey@nssbethel.org).



**Join us for Beth El's  
2026 Annual Event  
Michael Rapaport LIVE!  
Thursday, May 7**

**Co-chairs:**  
Beth Shapiro Kopin & Benjamin Kopin  
and Chari & Aaron Shifrin

Early bird tickets are \$54 through  
March 8 and \$72 thereafter.

Sponsorship opportunities are  
available. Scan the QR code for  
ticket and sponsorship information.

## MEMBERSHIP & ENGAGEMENT

By Hillary Wenk, Director of Engagement | hwenk@nssbethel.org



### Building Belonging at Beth El: A Year of Connection

I have just completed my first full year as Engagement Director of Beth El. I am filled with gratitude and excitement. This year has been about learning how the synagogue works and building connections—between members,

professional staff, traditions, and new ideas. Together, we have launched programs that foster community including the Eden Golan conversation & performance, the Ruhama Shitrit cooking demo and the Six13 Chanukah concert. We have celebrated holidays with a thoughtful perspective and created spaces where every voice feels heard.

I have appreciated seeing relationships grow—newcomers forming connections and long-time members finding new ways to participate. Our shared commitment to Jewish life inspires me daily, reminding me that engagement is not just about events, but about belonging.

Your involvement keeps our synagogue strong. Consider joining the programming committee to help with a Shabbat or holiday dinner, plan Mimouna (a Moroccan celebration marking the end of Passover), support our social action committee by getting involved with Mitzvah Day on April 19, or help organize our annual event with Michael Rapaport on May 7.

Looking ahead, I am eager to continue strengthening bonds, meeting more members, and exploring innovative ways to bring meaning and joy to our community. Thank you to everyone who has welcomed me, shared feedback, and partnered in this journey. Here's to another year of connection, growth, and vibrant Jewish life— together.

### Beth El Event Showcase November 2025: Ruhama Shitrit Cooking Demo



### Beth El Event Showcase December 2025: Six13 Chanukah Concert



## SOCIAL ACTION

By Marlene Halpern, Social Action Committee | [socialaction@nssbethel.org](mailto:socialaction@nssbethel.org)



### ***Be a Mensch, Do a Mitzvah!*** **Social Action Committee Updates.**

#### **Thanksgiving Mitzvah Project 2025: Here's the recap!**

Wow! We broke our record and exceeded expectations! Together we provided: 201 baskets for Glenwood School in Waukegan, 102 baskets for Moraine Township Food Pantry, 100+ individual bags of fruit to Glenwood School and Moraine Township, distributed extra cans of food, paper bags and aluminum roasters to Moraine Township, extra desserts to Glenwood School, which were graciously collected and donated by the Steinberg Preschool and Cohen Religious School families, and a \$2,000 donation to The Ark. We couldn't have done it without the incredible support of Golan Mor and family and Garden Fresh Market who generously donated 100 baskets to TMP. Special thanks to: Jeff Pine for coordinating all the loaders and drivers for a seamless and smooth delivery process, our maintenance crew for set up

and clean up and everything in between, our security team for keeping us safe and protected, and you...for your kind donations, participation, and giving spirit this year!

**SAVE  
THE  
DATE**

#### **Mitzvah Day April 19**

Our annual Mitzvah Day is always a wonderful opportunity to join your fellow Beth El congregants for a fun and fulfilling day doing mitzvot together! This year we will be helping a number of organizations with hands-on projects and collections.

Pick a project... or two or three. Scan the QR code below to register.

If you'd like to join SAC or get more involved, scan the QR code or contact Marlene Halpern at [socialaction@nssbethel.org](mailto:socialaction@nssbethel.org).



### **A heartfelt thank you to all who generously contributed to our Annual Coat Drive.**

Thanks to the generosity of Beth El members, we delivered two carloads of winter coats and gear to Chesed Chicago in December, helping keep members of our community warm throughout the winter season. Special thanks to Mira and Darryl Temkin for their help in organizing and collecting donations.



Beth El Event Showcase November 2025: Thanksgiving Mitzvah Project



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



## Chutzpah Girls is Coming to Beth El!

NSS Beth El is excited to be one of the hosts for Chutzpah Girls, a travelling exhibit sponsored by JCC Chicago and based on the book *Chutzpah Girls: 100 Tales of Daring Jewish Women* by Julie Esther Silverstein and Tami Schlossberg Pruwer.

Through the display in our Rissman Kol Ami Museum gallery, February – May 2026, our students and congregants will step into a world of courage and creativity, experiencing the inspiring stories of Jewish heroines from ancient history to today. Each piece in the exhibit, featuring original portraits by renowned Jewish female artists from around the world, will invite viewers to stand firm against hate, discover new role models, and tap into their own grit, resilience, and unmistakable chutzpah.



## Sisterhood Torah Fund



**Rules for Ghosting by Shelly Jay Shore**  
Saturday, March 14  
12:30 pm

While trying to save his family's funeral home from financial ruin, Ezra, who can see ghosts, is haunted by his crush Jonathan's gone-too-soon husband. The Association of Jewish Libraries 2025 Jewish Fiction Honor Award Winner, Rachel Kamin will facilitate the discussion joined by Jackie Maris, the Chicago Education & Training Manager for Keshet. The Book Club will continue on May 9. Contact Rachel Kamin at rkamin@nssbethel.org for more details.



**Open Play: Mahjong & Canasta**  
Mondays, March 9 and April 20  
10:00 am – 12:00 pm  
Join the Sisterhood for open play of mahjong or canasta, your choice!

Participants in the Book Club and Open Play Mahjong & Canasta are encouraged to make a minimum annual donation of \$54 to the Torah Fund Campaign. Questions? Contact Maria Ponsillo, Torah Fund VP, at Maria.Ponsillo@gmail.com.



### TAKE A CLASS THIS SPRING!

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. New spring classes will start after Pesach.

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 spring!

Questions? Contact Marcie Eskin at meskin@nssbethel.org or 847-926-7903. Scan the QR code above to register for spring classes.

## Yom HaShoah



### The Hidden Story of Nuremberg: A Daughter's Discovery with Laurie Pasler

Tuesday, April 4  
1:00 pm

What if your father left you the keys to one of history's most defining moments? That's the question Laurie Pasler confronted after inheriting her dad's hidden World War II memorabilia from his service at the Nuremberg war crimes trials. An award-winning creative director and producer based in Chicago, Laurie spent a decade piecing together the story through original artifacts, documents, and archival research. This journey of inquiry led to Courtroom 600, a pioneering curriculum that teaches WWII through the lens of Nuremberg's irrefutable evidence—and offers a different angle for confronting antisemitism and hate in today's classrooms. Laurie is also the founder of Descendants Media Group, a Chicago based 501(c)(3) nonprofit carrying forward this mission at a pivotal moment: the 80th anniversary of the Nuremberg Trials. FREE – register online or contact Marcie Eskin at [meskin@nssbethel.org](mailto:meskin@nssbethel.org).

## Pre-Shavuot Workshop



### Who Has Not Forsaken His Kindness: Exploring Chesed in Megillat Ruth with Rabbi Miriam Lichtenberg

Tuesdays, April 28, May 12 and May 19  
6:15–7:30 pm

The Rabbis prominently paired the Book of Ruth with the holiday of Shavuot. But what drove this decision? More specifically, what does the story of a Moabite woman have to do with the giving and receiving of Torah? What is this book really about? Join Miriam Lichtenberg, Rabbi at Rochelle Zell Jewish High School, for three sessions between Pesach and Shavuot to explore these questions. The class will end in time for evening Minyan. Register online or contact Marcie Eskin at [meskin@nssbethel.org](mailto:meskin@nssbethel.org).

## Thursdays @ Beth El

These programs will meet in person at Beth El after HAZAK Fitness and on Zoom. Register online or contact Marcie Eskin at [meskin@nssbethel.org](mailto:meskin@nssbethel.org).



### Catching Up with the Kurtzes Thursday, April 16

11:15 am

Check in with Rabbi Vernon and Bryna Kurtz in Israel for a special Zoom conversation. Join us at Beth El (after the HAZAK Fitness class) or log in from home.



### Remembering a Family's Jewish History in Germany Thursday, April 23

11:15 am

Beth El member Judy Farby and her brother Jack Bierig recently returned from Germany, where they retraced their parents' roots in Flehingen and Cologne and reflected on their family's escape from Nazi Germany. They will share stories from their trip, their parents' remarkable survival, and how they succeeded in laying Stolpersteine to honor their family. Refreshments will be served.



### Summer Reading Round-Up & HAZAK Luncheon Thursday, May 14

11:15 am

Rena Citrin, Marcie Eskin and Rachel Kamin will discuss new and noteworthy Jewish books to add to your summer reading list. A complimentary lunch, sponsored by HAZAK, will be served after the presentation. Register online by May 8 or contact [HAZAK@nssbethel.org](mailto:HAZAK@nssbethel.org).



### Polarized: Why American Jews Are Divided and What to Do About It Thursday, May 28

11:15 am

Beth El member and DePaul University College of Law Professor Bobbi Kwall has written what promises to be one of the most important Jewish-themed books of the year. In advance of its publication in October, she will be in conversation with Rabbi Kurtz to discuss some of the book's highlights and themes. Bobbi will join us in person at Beth El; Rabbi Kurtz will Zoom in from Israel. Refreshments will be served!

# Chag Pesach Sameach!

## חג פסח שמח!

Pesach Supplement  
2026/5786

### **Bedikat Chametz (Search for Chametz)**

**Tuesday, March 31 after 7:45 pm**

The Search for Chametz is the ritual cleansing of the house. After the house is thoroughly cleaned of crumbs and Chametz, a few pieces of bread are placed in different rooms and then collected after dark following a blessing. The search is conducted with a candle/flashlight for light and a feather/wooden spoon to collect the crumbs.

### **Mechirat Chametz (Sale of Chametz)**

**Deadline: Tuesday, March 31 at 9:00 pm**

To fully rid our homes of Chametz ownership, we set it aside and sell it to a non-Jew for the duration of Pesach. Please contact Hazzan Jenna Greenberg or use the QR code on page 17 to arrange for Rabbi Schwab to be the agent to sell our community's Chametz to a non-Jew. The deadline is Tuesday, March 31 at 9:00 pm. It is traditional to make a voluntary contribution at the time of the sale to benefit the Maot Chitim fund.

### **Maot Chitim (Portions of Wheat)**

It's customary to support less-fortunate Jewish families during Pesach. Contributions to Maot Chitim help provide Pesach food to those in need. Donations are often made when one sells their Chametz at the synagogue.

### **Siyyum Bechorim**

**("Fast of the Firstborn" Study Session and Meal)**

**Wednesday, April 1 at 7:00 am**

The Siyyum Bechorim will take place following morning Minyan, which begins at 7:00 am. First-born males traditionally fast on the day before Passover, but this fast can be waived by attending the Siyyum Bechorim study session to begin at 7:45 am. A celebratory meal follows around 8:15 am.

### **Biyyur Chametz (Burning of Chametz)**

**Wednesday, April 1 before 11:51 am**

The crumbs and pieces of bread collected during Bedikat Chametz are burned or permanently disposed of.

### **Eruv Tavshilin (Mixing of Cooked Foods)**

**Wednesday, April 1 before 6:59 pm**

Before Pesach begins on Wednesday night, April 1, one should prepare one cooked item and one baked item to be set aside for Shabbat on Friday night, April 3, allowing for additional food to be cooked during the day on Friday for Shabbat. It only permits cooking on Friday for Shabbat; it does not allow cooking on Thursday for Friday. It is important to complete preparations early on Friday afternoon to ensure all food is ready before Shabbat. The blessing and ritual can be found in Siddur Lev Shalem on page 78.

# 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 Tuesday, March 31 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.



## Pesach Service Times

### Wednesday, April 1

#### Fast of the Firstborn / Erev Pesach / 1st Seder

7:00 am – Morning Minyan/Siyyum Bechorim

10:48 am – Last time to eat Chametz

11:51 am – Biyyur Chametz

6:00 pm – Mincha/Ma'ariv

6:59 pm – Festival Candle Lighting

### Thursday, April 2

#### Pesach 1st day / 2nd Seder

9:00 am – Festival Service

7:00 pm – Mincha

8:00 pm – Ma'ariv

8:00 pm – Candle Lighting

### Friday, April 3 – Pesach 2nd day

9:00 am – Festival Service

6:00 pm – Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat/Ma'ariv

7:01 pm – Yom Tov Ends/Shabbat Candle Lighting

### Saturday, April 4

#### Shabbat Chol Hamoed Pesach

9:00 am – Festival Service

6:45 pm – Mincha

8:00 pm – Ma'ariv/Havdalah

8:03 pm – Shabbat Ends

### Sunday, April 5

#### 1st day of Chol Hamoed

8:45 am – Morning Minyan

7:30 pm – Evening Minyan

### Monday, April 6

#### 2nd day of Chol Hamoed

7:30 am – Morning Minyan

7:30 pm – Evening Minyan

### Tuesday, April 7

#### 3rd day of Chol Hamoed / Erev Yom Tov

7:30 am – Morning Minyan

6:30 pm – Mincha/Ma'ariv

7:05 pm – Candle Lighting

### Wednesday, April 8

#### Pesach 7th day

9:00 am – Festival Service

7:00 pm – Mincha

8:05 pm – Ma'ariv

8:08 pm – Festival Candle Lighting

### Thursday, April 9

#### Pesach 8th day/Yizkor

9:00 am – Festival Service

7:00 pm – Mincha

8:05 pm – Ma'ariv

8:09 pm – Yom Tov Ends

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

This is the sixth and last in a series of mini-biographies of the individuals who have served as senior rabbi at North Suburban Synagogue Beth El.



### Michael Schwab (2019–present)

Michael Ephram Schwab was born in Philadelphia in 1976. Growing up with his observant Jewish family in Haddonfield, New Jersey, he attended elementary school at the Kellman Academy, a Solomon Schechter day school. As a student at Haddonfield Memorial High School, he excelled in athletics on the basketball team and as captain

of the track team. The Schwab family was active first at Temple Beth Shalom and then at Congregation Beth El, both prominent Conservative congregations in the Cherry Hill community of South Jersey.

As a teenager, Schwab participated in Kadima and USY programs. He was a camper at Camp Ramah in the Poconos, participating in the Ramah Israel Seminar in 1993, and he continued to serve the camp in the following years as a junior counselor, counselor, Rosh Edah (Division Head), mashgiach and Judaics teacher.



Rabbi Schwab and Rabbi Kurtz, Purim 2006.

Schwab attended Rutgers University, graduating in 1998 with a B.A. degree in History and Jewish Studies. While in college, he staffed United Synagogue's USY On Wheels program and later the USY Pilgrimage to Poland and Israel.

Following graduation, he was a senior staff member of the USY Nativ program in Israel where he also studied at the Conservative Yeshiva in Jerusalem. While in Israel, Schwab applied to the Rabbinical School at the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York and later spent his third and fourth year of Rabbinical School in Israel, studying at the Schechter Institute, at the Conservative Yeshiva with Rabbi Joel Roth, and at Hebrew University. In 2004 he was awarded a master's degree in Jewish Education by the Davidson Graduate School of Education and he received rabbinic ordination from JTS. And on July 4th of that year

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***Rabbi Schwab's enthusiasm for his profession is evident in all of his activities. He is devoted to growing the membership of the synagogue and to assuring Beth El continues to serve as a vibrant second home to all of its congregants.***

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he married Erica Gross. He also applied to the US Navy for a commission as a chaplain, but he was turned down due to the Navy's stated concern with his childhood asthma.

2004 was also the year Rabbi Schwab was invited to serve as the assistant rabbi at Beth El and that summer he and Erica moved to Highland Park. Working closely with then senior rabbi Vernon Kurtz, Schwab eventually became Associate Rabbi in 2007. Two years later he accepted the invitation of Beth El President Lynn Schroyer to remain a member of the clergy at Beth El, where he eventually undertook supervisory responsibility for both the formal and informal educational programs at the synagogue. Over the next twelve years, Schwab introduced innovative programs at the synagogue, and he and Rabbi Kurtz continued to serve the religious needs of the congregation. The Schwab family, by then with children Ari, Liana, Noa and Miri, developed a close attachment and warm friendships with the Highland Park community. Following the retirement of Rabbi Kurtz in 2019, Rabbi Schwab was unanimously approved by the synagogue's board of directors to serve as the sixth senior rabbi of the congregation, and he now occupies the Vernon H. Kurtz Senior Rabbinic Chair at Beth El.

Rabbi Schwab is devoted to community service. He is the immediate past president of the Chicago Board of Rabbis and currently serves as a member of the Jewish Federation of Chicago board of directors and as a Shalom

## Beth El Event Showcase November 2025: Frankel Scholar in Residence Lecture



Rabbi Schwab and his family prepare for Mitzvah Day, 2019.



Rabbi Schwab and Erica Schwab at Beth El's 60th Anniversary, 2008.

Hartman Institute Rabbinic Leadership Fellow. He is a past president of the Chicagoland Rabbinic Assembly and previously served on the board of the Solomon Schechter Day School. He participated in Northwestern University's Kellogg Education Management Program and is now a member of Kellogg's Jewish Leaders Circle. He was among those selected to participate in the Hebrew University's Melton Center Senior Educators Program for Outstanding Diaspora Educators.

Rabbi Schwab's enthusiasm for his profession is evident in all of his activities. He is devoted to growing the membership of the synagogue and to assuring Beth El continues to serve as a vibrant second home to all of its congregants. He is committed to strengthening the congregation's bond with Israel and to maintaining Beth El as a house of community assembly and celebration, a house of study and education, and a house of meaningful prayer. Looking back at his lifelong affiliation with United Synagogue, Ramah, JTS, and Masorti Judaism in Israel, Rabbi Schwab at times sees himself as a poster child for the Conservative movement. And he continues to promote the goals and aspirations of the movement as he leads Beth El into the future.





## Beth El Rabbis Visit Gidwitz to Stay in Touch with Seniors

We are fortunate to have senior Jewish living residences relatively close to Highland Park. Both Gidwitz and Tamarisk are in Deerfield, and over time more of our senior congregants have moved there. While there are times our members are able to catch a ride to Shabbat services and programs at the shul, sometimes that is not possible.

With the encouragement of the HAZAK Committee, over the past few months our rabbis have made several visits to see our Beth El friends where they live. Gidwitz is kind enough to give us space to meet, and some Tamarisk friends cross the street to join us. In these conversations, we catch up on what is happening in our lives, what is new with the synagogue, and something current. At times this has been a conversation about current events in Israel, or a discussion

about the meaning of lighting Chanukah candles.

For one really enjoy seeing these familiar faces, who spent many decades leading and participating in Beth El life. Importantly, there are also people there who have been connected to our synagogue for just a year or two. It is good for the synagogue to stay in touch with all our members, specifically meeting people where they are. And it's good for our seniors to reconnect with each other and feel Beth El is always there for them, at every stage of life.

If you have a loved one at Gidwitz or Tamarisk, please be in touch with our assistant Lori Solomon ([lsolomon@nssbethel.org](mailto:lsolomon@nssbethel.org)) and we will reach out when it's time for our next visit to Deerfield.

## Shavuot 5786 with Rabbi David Kasher

THURSDAY, MAY 21 – SATURDAY, MAY 23

Rabbi David Kasher, the Director of Hadar West Coast, will deliver this year's Rabbi Philip Lipis Memorial Lectures during Beth El's Shavuot festivities, which will include dinner on Erev Shavuot, all-night Tikun Layl Shavuot study sessions, a Sunrise Shacharit Service, Festival Services and Kiddush plus the celebration of our Adult B'nai Mitzvah. Of course, there will be plenty of cheesecake, blinzes and other yummy treats! Watch for more information online and in your inbox or contact Rachel Kamin at [rkamin@nssbethel.org](mailto:rkamin@nssbethel.org).



# It's All in the Beth El Family

## Mazel Tov to:

**Laurel and Barry Abramowicz**  
On the birth of their granddaughter,  
Gabriella Gayla Cahan. Proud  
parents are Brittny and Josh Cahan

**Eleanor Arnold, daughter of Sally  
and Paul Arnold**  
On becoming a Bat Mitzvah

**Miles Atlas, son of Dana and  
Joshua Atlas**  
On becoming a Bar Mitzvah

**Max Berke, son of Lisa Cooper  
and Michael Berke**  
On becoming a Bar Mitzvah

**Zachary Brajer**  
On the 3rd anniversary of his  
Bar Mitzvah

**Honey and Daniel Bronson**  
On the engagement of their daughter  
Sarah Bronson, to Alex Lipnick, son  
of Paula and Danny Lipnick

**Jack Channon, son of Mary and  
Ben Channon**  
On becoming a Bar Mitzvah

**Margaret and Lee Cohn**  
On the birth of their grandson, Shai  
Jordan Rosen. Proud parents are  
Rebecca and Aaron Rosen

**David Cook**  
On the anniversary of his Bar Mitzvah

**Daniel Dlugie, son of Joyce and  
David Dlugie and Tyler Froelich,  
daughter of Katy Froelich and  
Brian Saltzman**  
On their wedding

**Beverly Dratler**  
On the 75th anniversary of the first  
Bat Mitzvah at NSS Beth El

**Doreen and Phil Feitelberg**  
On the wedding of their grandson,  
Elliott Rock to Rachel Koppel

**Phil Feitelberg**  
On his 90th birthday

**Harrison Goldstein, son of  
Stephanie and Jordan Goldstein,**  
On becoming a Bar Mitzvah

**David Gordon, son of Marilyn  
Hirsch and Gary Gordon**  
On his marriage to Samantha  
Brooks, daughter of Leslie and  
Martin Brooks

**Danny Grossberg, son of Marla and  
Terry Grossberg and Hannah Landau,  
daughter of Beth and Josh Landau**  
On their wedding

**Ben Henoah, son of Jeri and  
Andrew Henoah**  
On becoming a Bar Mitzvah

**Andy Hochberg**  
On the 50th anniversary of his  
Bar Mitzvah

**Leah Levine, daughter of Luba  
and Marc Levine**  
On becoming a Bat Mitzvah

**Karen Lobl and David Eisenberg**  
On their 40th wedding anniversary

**Jay Prystowsky**  
On the anniversary of his Bar Mitzvah

**Daniel Richman, son of Rebecca  
and Chad Richman**  
On becoming a Bar Mitzvah

**Sheldon Rosenfeld**  
On his 91st birthday

**Rocky and Earl Rubinoff**  
On the engagement of their daughter  
Tracy Rubinoff to Bobby Borovsky,  
son of Emily and Jim Borovsky

**Rabbi Ora and Dr. David Schnitzer**  
On the birth of their granddaughter.  
Proud parents are Robert Schnitzer  
and Sarah Cohen

**Erica Schwab**  
On the anniversary of her Bat Mitzvah

**Carly Senescu**  
On her 44th birthday

**Reid Senescu**  
On his 47th birthday

**Sam Shanes**  
On his 82nd birthday

**Emily Silberman, daughter of Jodi  
and Mark Silberman**  
On becoming a Bat Mitzvah

**Janice and Richard Small**  
On their 38th wedding anniversary

**Ari Smith**  
On the 2nd anniversary of his  
Bar Mitzvah

## Condolences to:

**Cheryl Banks**  
On the loss of her mother, the  
Honorable Joyce Steinhart

**Scott Bornstein**  
On the loss of his mother,  
Shirley Bornstein

**Brenda Choos, Raul Choos, Lance  
Choos z"l and Syrene Robbins**  
On the loss of their mother,  
Ramona Choos

**Bruce Cowans**  
On the loss of his mother,  
Diana Weill Cowans

**Talia Derman**  
On the loss of her father,  
Bernie Goldblatt

**Ronald and Paula Domsky**  
On the loss of their grandson,  
Aaron Domsky

**Amy Gerstein**  
On the loss of her mother,  
Elinor Platt Laupheimer

**Jeff Goldsmith**  
On the loss of his mother,  
Sandy Goldsmith

**Gary Gordon**  
On the loss of his sister,  
Gail Freedman

**Linda Harris**  
On the loss of her husband,  
Dr. Alan Harris

**Betsy Katz and Miriam Kohn**  
On the loss of their sister, Erica  
"Ricki" Lynn Dolgin

**Barby Loeb**  
On the loss of her husband,  
William Loeb

**Dina Luke**  
On the loss of her mother,  
Aviva Luke

**Jane Pickus**  
On the loss of her sister-in-law,  
Jackie Pickus

**Martin Pinsky**  
On the loss of his mother, Helen  
Cecilia Pinsky

**Michael Rosenberg**  
On the loss of his mother,  
Elaine Rosenberg

**Jules Pomerantz**  
On the loss of his brother,  
Mitchell Paul Pomerantz

**Marty Rosenthal**  
On the loss of his mother,  
Babette Hess Rosenthal

**Carl Schrag**  
On the loss of his father, Morton Schrag

**Sam Shanes**  
On the loss of his sister, Rivka Taub

**Judith Siskel**  
On the loss of her husband,  
William Siskel

**Amy Spungen**  
On the loss of her father, Marvin  
"Mike" Heiningger

**Roni Weiss**  
On the loss of her mother,  
Norma Rosen

**Phil Wolgel**  
On the loss of his sister, Sari Shifrin

**Sheri Zuckerman**  
On the loss of her husband,  
Sherwin Zuckerman

**Sandra Zussman**  
On the loss of her father-in-law,  
Jack Zussman

### IN MEMORIAM:

**Shirley Bornstein  
Ramona Choos  
Dr. Alan Harris  
William Loeb  
William Siskel  
Honorable Joyce Steinhart  
Sherwin Zuckerman**

## Kiddush Co-Sponsors:

**Vera and Gennady Aginsky  
Sally and Paul Arnold  
Dana and Joshua Atlas  
Alan Blum  
Lenore Blum  
Leslie and Martin Brooks**

**Mary and Ben Channon  
Lisa Cooper and Michael Berke  
Joyce and David Dlugie  
Doreen and Phil Feitelberg  
Gary Gordon and Marilyn Hirsch  
Marla and Terry Grossberg**

**Jeri and Andrew Henoah  
Janet Blum Kohn  
Beth and Josh Landau  
Bev and Joel Levine  
Luba and Marc Levine  
Karen Lobl and David Eisenberg**

**NSS Beth El Men's Club  
NSS Beth El Sisterhood  
Rebecca and Chad Richman  
Jodie and Mark Silberman  
Kathy Blum Teich**

**Rabbi Schwab Discretionary Fund**

*In honor of Hannah Drumm, daughter of Aliza and Michael Drumm, on becoming a Bat Mitzvah – Steve and Wendy Abrams*

*In honor of Jack Channon, son of Mary and Ben Channon, on becoming a Bar Mitzvah – Steve and Wendy Abrams*

*In honor of Marlene Halpern on her Kallat Bereshit Simchat Torah honor – Karen Weiss*

*In honor of Naomi Pierce – Laeh Grant*

*In honor of Rabbi Schwab*

- Andrea Goldstein
- Michael and Karen Kesner

*In honor of Rabbi Schwab and with appreciation – Richard and Sharon Schwab*

*In honor of Rebecca Figg Frankel – Frederick Frankel*

*In honor of Ron and Eileen Goldberg at Chanukah – Anonymous*

*In honor of Stuart Hochwert on his Hatan Torah Simchat Torah honor – Karen Weiss*

*In honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Ben Henoch, son of Andrew and Jeri Henoch – Lawrence and Elyse Block*

*In honor of the birth of Gabriella Gayla to parents Brittany and Joshua Cahan and grandparents Barry and Laurel Abramowicz – Barry and Laurel Abramowicz*

*In memory of Diana Weill Cowans, beloved mother of Bruce Cowans and beloved grandmother*

- Ron and Eileen Goldberg
- Stuart and Barbara Hochwert

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

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

*In memory of Goldy Vishny, beloved grandmother – Richard and Karen Reisin*

*In memory of Helen Cecilia Pinsky and with appreciation to Rabbi Schwab – The Pinsky Family*

*In memory of the Honorable Joyce Steinhardt, beloved mother of Cheryl (Ted) Banks, beloved grandmother, great-grandmother and beloved sister – Alvin and Elinor Bayliss*

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

*In memory of Laurie Ford, beloved mother of Sara Channon – Ira and Elise Frost*

*In memory of Leon Gurny, beloved father, on his yahrzeit – Michael and Carol Rosenberg*

*In memory of Marvin “Mike” Heining, beloved father of Amy (Charles) Spungen, beloved husband, grandfather and great-grandfather – Ron and Eileen Goldberg*

*In memory of Marvin Bernstein on his yahrzeit and with appreciation to Rabbi Schwab – Adriane Bernstein*

*In memory of Muriel Kushner, beloved mother – Mark and Susan Pollack*

*In memory of Ramona Choos, beloved mother of Brenda Choos, Syrene (Bradd) Robbins, Raul Choos and Lance Choos z”l, beloved grandmother and sister*

- Ilana Cohen
- David and Francie Ephriam
- Ira and Elise Frost
- Ron and Eileen Goldberg
- Terry and Marla Grossberg
- Stuart and Barbara Hochwert
- Gregg and Rebecca Simon
- Karen Weiss

*In memory of Rivka Taub, beloved sister of Sam Shanes, beloved mother, grandmother and great-grandmother*

- Michael and Betsy Katz
- Matt and Jamie Pestine

*In memory of Sandy Goldsmith, beloved mother of Jeffrey (Stacy) Goldsmith and beloved grandmother of Sawyer and Ellie Goldsmith – Matt and Jamie Pestine*

*In memory of William Siskel, beloved husband of Judith Siskel, beloved father, grandfather and brother*

- Robert and Sharon Abrams
- Roger and Ronnie Wilk

*In memory of William Siskel, beloved husband and with appreciation to Rabbi Schwab – Judith Siskel*

*Wishing a complete and speedy recovery to Rabbi Schwab*

- Barry and Laurel Abramowicz
- Bob and Beth Footlik
- June Back Frydman
- Steven Schoenberger
- Jonathan and Fran Sherman

*With appreciation to Rabbi Schwab*

- Theodore and Cheryl Banks
- Scott and Ruth Bornstein
- Cohen Religious School Families
- Jordan and Margalit Feiger
- Steven and Adrienne Naumann
- Bruce and Lauri Zessar

*With appreciation to Rabbi Schwab for a beautiful baby naming for our daughter, Talia – Steven and Rachel Markowitz*

*With appreciation to Rabbi Schwab for being so welcoming at our son’s Auf Ruf – Gary Gordon and Marilyn Hirsch*

*With appreciation to Rabbi Schwab for presiding at the Jonah Gurtman baby naming – Michael Gurtman and Lois Lourie*

*With appreciation to Rabbi Schwab for the wedding of Eli Mordini and Ali Jacobs – Jane Mordini*

**Rabbi Freedman Discretionary Fund**

*In honor of Rabbi Freedman – Michael and Karen Kesner*

*In honor of the birth of Gabriella Gayla to parents Brittany and Joshua Cahan and grandparents Barry and Laurel Abramowicz – Barry and Laurel Abramowicz*

*In honor of the birth of Hal and Karen Sider’s grandson, Solomon – Andy Kenoe and Jan Gaines*

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

*In memory of Abe Sprung, beloved father – Cindy Shekhtman*

*In memory of Bernie Goldblatt, beloved father of Talia (Aryeh) Derman, beloved husband and grandfather – James and Michelle Seidenberg*

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

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

*In memory of Morton Schrag, beloved father of Carl (Lilach) Schrag, beloved husband, grandfather and great-grandfather – Linda Magad*

*In memory of Sidney Feitelberg, beloved brother – Phil and Doreen Feitelberg*

*In memory of Taube Wainstein, beloved cousin and Sarah Bichunsky, beloved mother – Phil and Doreen Feitelberg*

*With appreciation to Bruce Cowans for graciously serving as the kohen at the pidyon Jaben of our grandson, Solomon Reuben Glass – Hal and Karen Sider*

*With appreciation to Rabbi Freedman*

- Scott and Ruth Bornstein
- Cohen Religious School Families
- Bob and Beth Footlik
- Edith and Helene Turner

*With appreciation to Rabbi Freedman for helping Harrison Goldstein on his D’var Torah – Jordan and Stephanie Goldstein*

*With appreciation to Rabbi Freedman for his compassion – Carl and Lilach Schrag*

*With appreciation to Rabbi Freedman for his thoughtfulness at a difficult time – Charles and Amy Spungen*

**Rabbi Kurtz Discretionary Fund**

*In memory of Eva Hofman, beloved mother, and Barbara Sporn, beloved sister – Gary and Debbie Lindon*

**Hazzan Sandler Discretionary Fund**

*In honor of Hazzan Sandler – Michael and Karen Kesner*

*In honor of Jack Channon, son of Mary and Ben Channon, on becoming a Bar Mitzvah – Jori and Leah Brajer*

*In memory of Myrna Siegel and with appreciation to Hazzan Sandler – The Family of Myrna Siegel*

*Wishing a complete and speedy recovery to Hazzan Sandler*

- Bob and Beth Footlik
- June Back Frydman

*With appreciation to Hazzan Sandler for being so welcoming at our son’s Auf Ruf – Gary Gordon and Marilyn Hirsch*

*With appreciation to Hazzan Sandler for his assistance with Harrison’s Bar Mitzvah tutoring – Jordan and Stephanie Goldstein*

*With appreciation to Hazzan Sandler for preparing Jack for his Bar Mitzvah and being an incredible role model – Ben and Mary Channon*

*With appreciation – Cohen Religious School Families*

**Hazzan Greenberg Discretionary Fund**

*In honor of Harper Buzin reading Torah at Junior Congregation – Samuel and Melissa Buzin*

*In honor of Hazzan Greenberg – Michael and Karen Kesner*

*In memory of Jeremy Greenberg, beloved brother of Hazzan Jenna Greenberg (Rabbi Joshua Ginsberg), beloved son of James Greenberg, beloved husband of Leslie Greenberg, beloved father of Raya and Clyde and beloved uncle*

- Barry and Laurel Abramowicz
- Andrew and Gail Brown
- Bob and Beth Footlik
- June Back Frydman
- Bruce and Gail Greenspahn
- Ken and Marcy Levin
- Paulette Margulies
- James Nyeste and Marla Hand
- Jonathan and Fran Sherman
- Nancy Thomadsen

*With appreciation to Hazzan Greenberg for her help with Eleanor on her Bat Mitzvah – Paul and Sally Arnold*

With appreciation to Hazzan Greenberg for her help with my Torah portion for Jack Channon's Bar Mitzvah – **Ben and Mary Channon**

With appreciation – **Cohen Religious School Families**

**Andrew and Gail Brown Technology Endowment Fund**

In memory of Ramona Choos, beloved mother of Brenda Choos, Syrene (Bradd) Robbins, Raul Choos and Lance Choos, z"l, beloved grandmother and sister – **Andrew and Gail Brown**

**Ann and Jack Weinberg Holocaust Memorial Education Endowment Fund**

In memory of Jack Weinberg, beloved father and Zaide – **Pearl and Joel Kagan**

**Ben and Marion Drachler Education Endowment Fund**

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

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

**Camp Ramah General Scholarship Endowment Fund**

In honor of Jack Channon, son of Mary and Ben Channon, on becoming a Bar Mitzvah – **Benjamin Kopin and Beth Shapiro Kopin**

In memory of Diana Weill Cowans, beloved mother of Bruce Cowans and beloved grandmother – **Steven and Roni Weiss**

In memory of the Honorable Joyce Steinhart, beloved mother of Cheryl (Ted) Banks, beloved grandmother, great-grandmother and beloved sister – **Robbie Schreiber**

**Capital Improvement Fund**

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

With appreciation to NSS Beth El – **Lawrence Carter**

**Gertrude Lederman Family Continuing Education Fund**

In honor of Marvin and Sara Siegel's 50th wedding anniversary – **Paulette Margulies**

In honor of our exceptional Lunch and Learn sessions – **Karen Weiss**

In memory of Aaron Domsky, beloved grandson of Ronald and Paula Domsky, beloved son, brother and nephew – **Paulette Margulies**

In memory of Diana Weill Cowans, beloved mother of Bruce Cowans and beloved grandmother – **Ellen Lavin**

In memory of Erica Lynn Dolgin, beloved sister of Betsy (Michael) Katz, Miriam (Nathan) Kohn, beloved aunt and great-aunt

– **Madeleine Solomon**  
– **Gloria Taussig**

In memory of Jackie Pickus, beloved sister-in-law of Jane Pickus – **Michael and Debra Pinzur**

In memory of Joyce Brodsky, beloved mother of Debra (Adam) Natenshon, beloved grandmother and beloved sister – **Daniel and Wendy Kahn**

In memory of Morton Schrag, beloved father of Carl (Lilach) Schrag, beloved husband, grandfather and great-grandfather

- **Donna Becker**
- **Trudy Isbitz Brodsky**
- **Daniel and Honey Bronson**
- **Jeffrey and Judy Goldman**
- **Gary Gordon and Marilyn Hirsch**
- **David Gross and Lisa Newman**
- **Donald and Joyce Joseph**
- **Daniel and Wendy Kahn**
- **Gerry Kaplan**
- **Barry and Debra Kravitz**
- **Paulette Margulies**
- **James Nyeste and Marla Hand**
- **Barbara Stern**
- **Nancy Thomadsen**
- **Anya and Victor Viner**
- **Karen Weiss**

In memory of Ramona Choos, beloved mother of Brenda Choos, Syrene (Bradd) Robbins, Raul Choos and Lance Choos, z"l, beloved grandmother and sister – **Simone Horvitz**

In memory of Shirley Bornstein, beloved mother of Scott (Ruth) Bornstein, beloved grandmother and great-grandmother

- **Gary and Merle Kaufman**
- **Bruce and Lauri Zessar**

With appreciation

- **Mark Edelstein**
- **Linda Kupfer**
- **Amanda Schallman**
- **Karen Weiss**

**HAZAK Fund**

In honor of Mary Ellen Bowers – **Diane Roodman**

In honor of Sharon Abram's 90th birthday – **Daniel and Honey Bronson**

In memory of Aaron Domsky, beloved grandson of Ronald and Paula Domsky, beloved son, brother and nephew – **Gloria Taussig**

In memory of Diana Weill Cowans, beloved mother of Bruce Cowans and beloved grandmother

- **Jerry and Annette Blumberg**
- **Ken and Marcy Levin**

In memory of Dr. Robert Parr, beloved husband of Randi Newman, beloved father and grandfather – **Ken and Marcy Levin**

In memory of Erica Lynn Dolgin, beloved sister of Betsy (Michael) Katz, Miriam (Nathan) Kohn, beloved aunt and great-aunt

- **Gerald and Annette Blumberg**
- **Larry Goldsmith and Mary Ellen Bowers**

In memory of Gail Freedman, beloved sister of Gary Gordon (Marilyn Hirsch), beloved mother and grandmother – **Jerry and Annette Blumberg**

In memory of Henry Elias Green, beloved uncle – **Patricia Shapiro**

In memory of the Honorable Joyce Steinhart, beloved mother of Cheryl (Ted) Banks, beloved grandmother, great-grandmother and beloved sister – **Jerry and Annette Blumberg**

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

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

In memory of Myrna Siegel, beloved mother and grandmother – **Ken and Marcy Levin**

In memory of Randi Kaplan, beloved daughter-in-law of Gerry Kaplan and beloved wife of Daniel Kaplan – **Paulette Margulies**

In memory of William Siskel, beloved husband of Judith Siskel, beloved father, grandfather and brother

- **Gary and Susan Gurvey**
- **Daniel and Jody Weiss**

With appreciation to Hazak

- **Lawrence and Abby Block**
- **Sulie Holt**
- **Susan Hoseman**
- **Gerry Kaplan**
- **Gloria Taussig**
- **Marvin and Janice Temple**

With appreciation to Mary Ellen Bowers for her hard work and organizing the Nova trip – **Lawrence and Abby Block**

**Horwitz-Hoffman Youth Lounge Maintenance Endowment Fund**

In memory of David Hoffman, beloved husband of Barbara Hoffman, beloved father of Brian (Melanie) Hoffman, Lisa (Todd) Fishbein, Devorah Sarah, grandfather and brother – **Alliant Insurance**

In memory of Jeremy Greenberg, beloved brother of Hazzan Jenna Greenberg (Rabbi Joshua Ginsberg), beloved son of James Greenberg, beloved husband of Leslie Greenberg, beloved father of Raya and Clyde and beloved uncle – **Barbara Hoffman**

In memory of Kayla Fishbein, beloved child of Todd and Lisa Fishbein, beloved sibling of Talia, Sarah and Emma and beloved grandchild of Barbara Hoffman – **Paulette Margulies**

**Jack and Mildred Cohen Religious School Endowment Fund**

In honor of Fran Shapiro on her recognition with the Israel Link Educator Award

- **Brian and Jan Channon**
- **Daniel and Wendy Kahn**

In honor of Lev Riley Barrish – **Susan Rappaport**

In memory of Howard Hirschfield, beloved father – **David and Pamela Hirschfield**

In memory of Jack Zussman, beloved father of Corey (Sandra) Zussman, beloved husband, grandfather and brother

- **NSS Beth El Staff**
- **Susan Stouber**
- **Brian and Hillary Wenk**

In memory of Ramona Choos, beloved mother of Brenda Choos, Syrene (Bradd) Robbins, Raul Choos and Lance Choos, z"l, beloved grandmother and sister

- **Ken and Marcy Levin**
- **Harriett Robbins**

In memory of Shirley Bornstein, beloved mother of Scott (Ruth) Bornstein, beloved grandmother and great-grandmother – **Steve and Wendy Abrams**

In memory of Yerucham Kleinman, beloved father – **Moshe and Shoshana Konstantin**

With appreciation to Cohen Religious School – **Gary and Debbie Lindon**

With appreciation

- **Donald Ephraim Family Foundation**
- **Mayer Stiebel**

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

*In honor of* Marcie Eskin and Rachel Kamin – **Carl and Lilach Schrag**

*In honor of* Rachel Kamin and for all the events at NSS Beth El – **Ron and Phyllis Chess**

*In honor of* the birth of Marcie and Rick Eskin's granddaughter, Avigayil Devorah Eskin – **Brian and Hillary Wenk**

*In memory of* Gail Freedman, beloved sister of Gary Gordon (Marilyn Hirsh), beloved mother and grandmother

- **Michael and Karen Kesner**
- **Richard and Judith Zelin**

*In memory of* the Honorable Joyce Steinhardt, beloved mother of Cheryl (Ted) Banks, beloved grandmother, great-grandmother and beloved sister

- **Donald and Joyce Joseph**
- **Benjamin Kopin and Beth Shapiro Kopin**
- **Michael and Barbara Salberg**
- **Karen Weiss**

*In memory of* Sherwin Zuckerman, beloved husband of Sheri Zuckerman, beloved father, grandfather and brother – **Andrew and Gail Brown**

*In memory of* William Siskel, beloved husband of Judith Siskel, beloved father, grandfather and brother

- **Harvey and Jaqueline Barnett**
- **Andrew and Gail Brown**
- **Mary Freeman**
- **Roberta Gray Katz**
- **Gerald and Adrienne Lasin**
- **Debra Rade**
- **David Rosenbloom and Ruth Lion**
- **Marty and Marla Schomo**
- **Robbie Schreiber**
- **Alyson Singer**

**Judith A. Heyman Innovating Programming Endowment Fund**

*In memory of* Amos Turner, beloved husband and father – **Edith and Helene Turner**

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

*In memory of* Al Kopin – **Sandy Starkman and Larry Pachter**

**Maxwell Abbell Library Fund**

*In honor of* Phil Feitelberg on his 90th birthday – **Sandy Starkman and Larry Pachter**

*In honor of* the birth of Marcie and Rick Eskin's granddaughter, Avigayil Devorah Eskin – **Gerry Kaplan**

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

*In memory of* Erica Lynn Dolgin, beloved sister of Betsy (Michael) Katz, Miriam (Nathan) Kohn, beloved aunt and great-aunt – **Paulette Margulies**

*In memory of* the Honorable Joyce Steinhardt, beloved mother of Cheryl (Ted) Banks, beloved grandmother, great-grandmother and beloved sister

- **Ira and Elise Frost**
- **William and Wendy Lipsman**
- **Richard and Pam Schlosberg**

*In memory of* Sidney Pachter on his first yearzeit – **Sandy Starkman and Larry Pachter**

*In memory of* William Siskel, beloved husband of Judith Siskel, beloved father, grandfather and brother – **Sandy Starkman and Larry Pachter**

*With appreciation for* all the wonderful work Rachel Kamin does – **Steven and Fran Shapiro**

**Minyan Fund**

*In honor of* Karen Weiss and her Simchat Torah honor – **Leon and Leslie Fox**

*In memory of* Arthur DeBofsky, beloved father – **Mark DeBofsky**

*In memory of* Bernie Goldblatt, beloved father of Talia (Aryeh) Derman, beloved husband and grandfather – **Skip and Lynn Schraye**

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

*In memory of* Diana Weill Cowans, beloved mother of Bruce Cowans and beloved grandmother – **Skip and Lynn Schraye**

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

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

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

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

*In memory of* Mort Bloomberg, beloved father – **Stanton and Carole Derdiger**

*In memory of* Rhonda Arndt, beloved niece – **Stanton and Carole Derdiger**

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

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

*In memory of* Dr. Robert Parr, beloved husband of Randi Newman, beloved father and grandfather – **Ronnie Jo Sokol**

*In memory of* Erica Lynn Dolgin, beloved sister of Betsy (Michael) Katz, Miriam (Nathan) Kohn, beloved aunt and great-aunt – **Ronnie Jo Sokol**

*In memory of* Helen Cecilia Pinsky, beloved mother of Martin Pinsky (Cynthia), beloved grandmother and great-grandmother – **Ronnie Jo Sokol**

*In memory of* Ramona Choos, beloved mother of Brenda Choos, Syrene (Bradd) Robbins, Raul Choos and Lance Choos, z"l, beloved grandmother and sister – **Ronnie Jo Sokol**

*In memory of* Rivka Taub, beloved sister of Sam Shanes, beloved mother, grandmother and great-grandmother – **Ronnie Jo Sokol**

*In memory of* Sari Shifrin, beloved sister of Philip (Dori) Wolgel, beloved mother and grandmother – **Ronnie Jo Sokol**

**Music Fund**

*In honor of* Noa Pearl, granddaughter of Phil and Carol Lazarus, on becoming a Bat Mitzvah – **Larry and Abby Block**

*In memory of* Myrna Siegel, beloved mother and grandmother – **Larry and Abby Block**

**NSS Beth El Camp Scholarship Fund**

*In honor of* the birth of our granddaughter, Tamara Sally Dexter – **David and Judy Fivel**

*In memory of* Ramona Choos, beloved mother of Brenda Choos, Syrene (Bradd) Robbins, Raul Choos and Lance Choos, z"l, beloved grandmother and sister – **Len and Bobbie Tenner**

*In memory of* Sherwin Zuckerman, beloved husband of Sheri Zuckerman, beloved father, grandfather and brother – **Debra Rade**

**NSS Beth El Men's Club Special Gifts Fund**

*With appreciation for* Bagels for your Brains – **Ron and Chantal Blaustein**

**NSS Beth El Sisterhood Special Gifts Fund**

*In honor of* Karen Weiss – **Sally Aaron**

*In honor of* Karen Weiss on her Kol Ne'arim Simchat Torah honor – **Stephen Levin**

*In memory of* Jeremy Greenberg, beloved brother of Hazzan Jenna Greenberg (Rabbi Joshua Ginsberg), beloved son of James Greenberg, beloved husband of Leslie Greenberg, beloved father of Raya and Clyde and beloved uncle – **Sulie Holt**

*In memory of* Ramona Choos, beloved mother of Brenda Choos, Syrene (Bradd) Robbins, Raul Choos and Lance Choos, z"l, beloved grandmother and sister – **Ilyse Robbins Mohr**

*With appreciation for* the Mazel Mail – **Andrew and Gail Brown**

**NSS Beth El Special Gifts Fund**

*In honor of* Erica Lindon – **Rich Magid**

*In honor of* Fran Shapiro on her recognition with the Israel Link Educator Award – **Linda Muskin and John Cody**

*In honor of* Jack Channon, son of Mary and Ben Channon, on becoming a Bar Mitzvah – **Ira and Debbi Rosenberg**

*In honor of* Steven Feinstein on his 75th birthday – **Judy Glotzer**  
– **Paul and Bonnie Gordon**

*In honor of* Stuart Hochwert on his Hatana Torah Simchat Torah honor – **Arthur and Lynn Cohen**  
– **Stephen Levin**

*In honor of* the baby naming of our granddaughter – **Robert and Carol Ruderman**

*In memory of* Andrea "Andy" Saffir, beloved wife of Ken Saffir, beloved mother, grandmother and sister – **James Nyeste and Marla Hand**

*In memory of* Babette "Babs" Hess Rosenthal, beloved mother of Marty Rosenthal (Robyn Newman) and beloved grandmother – **Diane Roodman**

*In memory of* Bernie Goldblatt, beloved father of Talia (Aryeh) Derman, beloved husband and grandfather – **Moshe and Shoshana Konstantin**

*In memory of* Dr. Alan Harris, beloved husband of Linda Harris, beloved brother, son and uncle – **Steven and Linda Feinstein**

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

*In memory of* Gail Freedman, beloved sister of Gary Gordon (Marilyn Hirsh), beloved mother and grandmother – **Michael Gurtman and Lois Lourie**

*In memory of* Jackie Pickus, beloved sister-in-law of Jane Pickus – **Ben and Wendy Frank**

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

*In memory of Marvin “Mike” Heininger, beloved father of Amy (Charles) Spungen, beloved husband, grandfather and great-grandfather –  
**Brian and Jan Channon***

*In memory of Mitch Pomerantz – **Michael and Karen Kesner***

*In memory of Mitchell Weisberg, beloved brother –  
**Michael and Karen Kesner***

*In memory of Myrna Siegel, beloved mother and grandmother – **Sally Aaron***

*In memory of Ramona Choos, beloved mother of Brenda Choos, Syrene (Bradd) Robbins, Raul Choos and Lance Choos, z”l, beloved grandmother and sister*

- **Ruth Berman**
- **Robert Joseph**
- **Joyce Kamen and Benjamin Abraham**
- **Alan and Marcia Kaplin**
- **Michael and Karen Kesner**
- **The Shear Family**

*In memory of Reuben R. Stein, beloved father –  
**Angela Vincenzi***

*In memory of Sandy Goldsmith, beloved mother of Jeffrey (Stacy) Goldsmith and beloved grandmother of Sawyer and Ellie Goldsmith –  
**Neil Wyant and Adina Gwartzman***

*In memory of Sherwin Zuckerman, beloved husband of Sheri Zuckerman, beloved father, grandfather and brother – **Michael and Karen Kesner***

*In memory of William Siskel, beloved husband of Judith Siskel, beloved father, grandfather and brother*

- **Steve Berger**
- **Jonathan Feiger and Nancy Laben**
- **Ellen Sider Greengoss**

*With appreciation to NSS Beth El*

- **Isabell Mann**
- **Nancy Thomadsen**

*With appreciation – **Eugene and Nicole Terry***

### **Paul S. and Sylvia Steinberg Preschool Fund**

*In memory of Diana Weill Cowans, beloved mother of Bruce Cowans and beloved grandmother –  
**Susan Silver***

*In memory of the Honorable Joyce Steinhardt, beloved mother of Cheryl (Ted) Banks, beloved grandmother, great-grandmother and beloved sister – **Georgann Humphrey***

*In memory of Myrna Siegel, beloved mother and grandmother – **Mort and Miriam Steinberg***

*In memory of Ramona Choos, beloved mother of Brenda Choos, Syrene (Bradd) Robbins, Raul Choos and Lance Choos, z”l, beloved grandmother and sister – **Eli Krumbein***

*In memory of Reuben Pinsler, beloved father – **Jay and Jacklin Levine***

### **Prayer Book Fund**

*In honor of Noah Weil, son of Sarah and Jason Weil, on becoming a Bar Mitzvah – **Steven and Fran Shapiro***

*In memory of Alex Daflos – **Marvin and Sara Siegel***

*In memory of Diana Weill Cowans, beloved mother of Bruce Cowans and beloved grandmother*

- **Andrew and Gail Brown**
- **Steven and Fran Shapiro**

*In memory of Jeremy Greenberg, beloved brother of Hazzan Jenna Greenberg (Rabbi Joshua Ginsberg), beloved son of James Greenberg, beloved husband of Leslie Greenberg, beloved father of Raya and Clyde and beloved uncle –  
**Steven and Fran Shapiro***

*In memory of Mariassa Schaffel, beloved grandmother – **Marvin and Sara Siegel***

*In memory of Miriam Rothen Faust, beloved mother – **Annette Feller and Family***

*Wishing a complete and speedy recovery to Sheldon Rosenfeld – **Marvin and Sara Siegel***

### **Ritual Refurbishment Endowment Fund**

*In honor of Jack Channon, son of Mary and Ben Channon, on becoming a Bar Mitzvah – **Rob and Marcy Freeman***

*In memory of Myrna Siegel, beloved mother and grandmother – **Barbara Blumberg***

*In memory of Ramona Choos, beloved mother of Brenda Choos, Syrene (Bradd) Robbins, Raul Choos and Lance Choos, z”l, beloved grandmother and sister – **Barbara Blumberg***

### **Sarah and Henry Stiebel Schechter Endowment Fund**

*In memory of Jackie Pickus, beloved sister-in-law of Jane Pickus – **Sandy Starkman and Larry Pachter***

### **Sherman Family Camp Ramah Endowment Fund**

*In honor of Lila Derman, daughter of Ari and Talia Derman, on becoming a Bar Mitzvah – **Sandy Starkman and Larry Pachter***

*In memory of Bernie Goldblatt, beloved father of Talia (Aryeh) Derman, beloved husband and grandfather – **Sandy Starkman and Larry Pachter***

### **Solomon Schechter Fund**

*In honor of Jack Channon, son of Mary and Ben Channon, on becoming a Bar Mitzvah – **Larry Goldsmith and Mary Ellen Bowers***

### **Staff Recognition Fund**

*In honor of the marriage of Danny Grossberg, son of Marla and Terry Grossberg, to Hannah Landau – **Sandy Starkman and Larry Pachter***

*With appreciation to Felicia Gross for being so welcome at the evening Minyan – **Gary Gordon and Marilyn Hirsch***

*With appreciation to Michael Fetea for being so helpful with the kiddush for our son’s Auf Ruf – **Gary Gordon and Marilyn Hirsch***

### **Tzedakah/Pushke Fund**

*In honor of Marilyn Hirsch and Gary Gordon on the marriage of their son David to Samantha Brooks – **Jerome and Mary Kaltman***

*In honor of Randall and Elyse Block and Family – **Eileen Wasserman***

*In memory of Aaron Domsky, beloved grandson of Ronald and Paula Domsky, beloved son, brother and nephew – **Deborah Jacoby***

*In memory of Diana Weill Cowans, beloved mother of Bruce Cowans and beloved grandmother*

- **Ruth Freedman and Dan Wander**
- **Beth Shulman**

*In memory of Gail Freedman, beloved sister of Gary Gordon (Marilyn Hirsh), beloved mother and grandmother – **Michael and Susan Millenson***

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

*In memory of Morton Schrag, beloved father of Carl (Lilach) Schrag, beloved husband, grandfather and great-grandfather – **Maurice and Deanna Sable***

*In memory of Ramona Choos, beloved mother of Brenda Choos, Syrene (Bradd) Robbins, Raul Choos and Lance Choos, z”l, beloved grandmother and sister*

- **Steven and Natalie Fried**
- **Jon and Joy Skiest**

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

*In memory of Shirley Bornstein, beloved mother of Scott (Ruth) Bornstein, beloved grandmother and great-grandmother – **David Eisenberg and Karen Lobl***

*In memory of William Siskel, beloved husband of Judith Siskel, beloved father, grandfather and brother – **Judy Isenberg***

*With appreciation – **Patricia Shapiro***

### **Youth Community Fund**

*In honor of Hannah Drumm, daughter of Aliza and Michael Drumm, on becoming a Bat Mitzvah – **Patricia Shapiro***

*In honor of Jack Channon, son of Mary and Ben Channon, on becoming a Bar Mitzvah*

- **Matt and Jamie Pestine**
- **Jonathan and Holly Reinsdorf**
- **Patricia Shapiro**

*In honor of Miles Atlas, son of Dana and Joshua Atlas, on becoming a Bar Mitzvah – **Patricia Shapiro***

*In memory of Aaron Domsky, beloved grandson of Ronald and Paula Domsky, beloved son, brother and nephew – **Steven and Jill Hoffman***

*In memory of Sandy Goldsmith, beloved mother of Jeffrey (Stacy) Goldsmith and beloved grandmother of Sawyer and Ellie Goldsmith – **Benjamin Kopin and Beth Shapiro Kopin***

*With appreciation to Beth El for hosting USY on Wheels this summer – **United Synagogue Youth***

Beth El Event Showcase December 2025: Challokiah with Anya Viner



Beth El Event Showcase February 2026: Shuk Comes to BEANS



Beth El Event Showcase February 2026: Tu B'Shevat Seder





## SISTERHOOD

By Jamie Pestine and Elizabeth Ury, Sisterhood Co-Presidents

### Your Place in Sisterhood

We are grateful to everyone who has participated in Sisterhood events, served on committees, taken on board roles, or joined with plans to engage this year. Your involvement makes everything possible!

Sisterhood continues to grow and fulfill its mission: to strengthen and unite the women of our synagogue, promote Conservative/Masorti Judaism and Jewish culture in our homes and community, support the synagogue, and reinforce bonds with each other, Israel, and Jews worldwide.

We cherish the friendships, laughter, and meaningful conversations—yes, even when opinions differ! To keep thriving, we need diversity in age and life stages. Whether you're married or single, with or without children, working or retired—we need you! Fresh ideas and energy keep Sisterhood vibrant.

Life is busy, but Sisterhood offers a space to lean on each other, find joy, and breathe in this hectic world. We ask every member to invite someone from another generation to an event. If you're not yet a member, try one event this year—you might be surprised how much fun you'll have!

Together, let's carry the torch and keep Sisterhood strong. Scan the QR code to learn more about us.



### Beth El Event Showcase November 2025: Comedy Night



### Celebrate the Season: Passover Preparations & Mother's Day Treasures

Your resource for all your Judaica. Made in Israel.

By Sulie Holt and Judy Hirsch | [suliekaroholt@gmail.com](mailto:suliekaroholt@gmail.com), [judyhirsch724@gmail.com](mailto:judyhirsch724@gmail.com)

As Passover approaches, the Sisterhood Gift Shop invites you to prepare your Seder table with beautiful, meaningful items that honor tradition and bring warmth to your home. From exquisite ritual pieces to elegant décor, we have everything you need to make this Passover unforgettable.

And just in time for spring, discover our stunning new collection of jewelry from Israel—the perfect gift to celebrate Mother's Day. Whether for your mom, grandmother, or a special woman in your life, these unique treasures will brighten her day and your heart. Don't forget your Shabbat essentials! Our carefully curated selection includes candlesticks, candles, kiddush cups, challah boards, and knives—everything to elevate your weekly celebration.

**Visit us:** Open every Sunday when school is in session, 9:00 am to 12:00 pm, and available by appointment.

**Contact:** Judy Hirsch: 847-962-8121 or Sulie Holt: 847-558-3389

Come browse, find the perfect gift, and celebrate the joy of tradition and family this season.

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## MEN'S CLUB CORNER

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By Aaron Krumbain, Men's Club President | mensclub@nssbethel.org

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### Calling All Softball Players!

Would you like to be a part of fun fraternal and charitable activity? Your N.S.S. Beth El Men's Club plays in the Northern Illinois Synagogue Men's Clubs 12inch softball league. This year we are seeking more active participants and hoping to have 2 teams. We play 10 games plus the playoffs starting in early May and can play into early August. Games are on Sundays between 9:30 am and 12:30 pm. You need to be in shape to play as this is a somewhat competitive league. There are patched umpires officiating. This program is a lot of fun and many of our players bring their kids out to watch and even help out in the dugout.

To be on the main roster, you must be willing to commit to playing most of the season and be a member of or willing to join the Men's Club to play. If you like, you could also become a member of the extended roster, playing when needed.

If you are interested, please contact Michael Salberg at [mbsalberg@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mbsalberg@sbcglobal.net).

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### Beth El Event Showcase January 2026: Family Book Club





# Mazel Tov to Our B'nai Mitzvah Students



**BAR MITZVAH**

Avi Freedman  
son of  
Laura and Rabbi Alex Freedman  
**Shabbat, April 25**



**BAT MITZVAH**

Lexee Vainstock  
daughter of  
Victoria and Gregory Vainstock  
**Shabbat, May 2**



**BAT MITZVAH**

Nora Holt  
daughter of  
Mia and Jonathan Holt  
**Shabbat, May 9**



**BAT MITZVAH**

Ziva Kirsche  
daughter of  
Catherine and Dan Kirsche  
**Monday, May 25**



**BAR MITZVAH**

Nathan Block  
son of  
Melissa and Phillip Block  
**Shabbat, May 30**



**BAT MITZVAH**

Rachel Block  
daughter of  
Melissa and Phillip Block  
**Shabbat, May 30**

## 2026 FJMC Midwest Region Man and Youth of the Year Ceremony

Sunday, March 15, 2026

Beth Hillel Bnai Emunah  
3220 Big Tree Lane, Wilmette, IL  
Appetizers: 4:00 pm  
Event: 4:30 pm



**MAN OF THE YEAR**  
Greg Pestine



**YOUTH OF THE YEAR**  
Reese Lindon

Scan the QR code below  
to register and purchase  
a tribute ad.



Beth El Event Showcase November 2025: Grandparents and Special Friends Shabbat



North Suburban Synagogue

**Beth El**  
בית כנסת בית אל

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**BE A MENSCH &  
DO A MITZVAH!**

**SAVE THE  
DATE**

# MITZVAH DAY

Discover a variety of meaningful mitzvah projects supporting great causes!

**SUNDAY, APRIL 19, 2026**

**10:30 AM**



**SCAN TO  
REGISTER**