

# Kol Beth El

North Suburban Synagogue

**Beth El**  
בית כנסת בית אל

JUNE/JULY/AUGUST 2026

SIVAN – ELUL 5786

**COMMUNITY.  
CONNECTION.  
CONTINUITY.**

## This Summer, Find a Time to Pray Outdoors

By Rabbi Alex Freedman



Where do Jews pray? In a synagogue, of course. Alternatively, when someone loses a loved one, the Minyan moves into their home.

But let's not forget that Jewish prayer can happen outside too.

There's a wonderful story in which a man leaves his shul Minyan to go pray in the woods. Mystified, the rabbi urges him to return to the synagogue: "G-d is the same everywhere, so please rejoin us." The man explains what draws him outdoors: "G-d is the same everywhere, but I am not." Indeed, when we change our surroundings, we change our perspective.

Going outside during these warm summer months enables us to connect more directly to G-d's beautiful world. Instead of reading in the Siddur about G-d renewing the act of creation every day, we can actually pray those words as we see the sunset in front of us.

Outdoor prayer can be done individually, and as a community. At Beth El, we have several Kabbalat Shabbat services planned for the backyard under the tent. It is truly a special

event to sing *Lecha Dodi* and welcome the Shabbat Bride as we see the sky changing color in front of us. Please join us for Shabbat Outdoors on Friday nights throughout the summer to see what I mean.

Even when Jews pray inside, we are called to look beyond the sanctuary walls. That our sanctuary has windows facing outward is no accident. Jewish Law mandates that synagogues have windows. Rashi says we do

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**Going outside during these warm summer months enables us to connect more directly to G-d's beautiful world.**

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this because windows expose the sky, reminding us of Heaven. Windows can assist with concentration, as we might look upward during prayer. I will add another thought: Windows in shul remind us that we are not isolated in the room, but connected to the world around us. We gain inspiration from the beauty of the natural world. And we are called to channel our best selves, forged by our prayers, out into the world at large. If windows are favorable, perhaps praying outside is superior.

CELEBRATE  
**Shabbat Outdoors**  
FRIDAY NIGHTS 2026

JUN  
12\*

JUN  
26

JUL  
10

JUL  
31

AUG  
21\*

\* Shabbat on the Lake

**Shabbat On The Lake**  
**Friday, June 12**

5:30pm Lakeside Appetizers  
6:00pm Kabbalat Shabbat Service

**RSVP BY JUNE 5 AT 12:00 PM**



## President's Corner

## הכרת הטוב (*Hakarat HaTov*) – The Jewish Value of Gratitude

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



As the first year of my presidency at Beth El comes to a close, I marvel at the wide range of activities that have occurred throughout the year. Hopefully you and your family have had the opportunity to participate in, and benefit from, the many classes, services, lectures, concerts, holiday celebrations and memorials presented at Beth El — something

happens every day of the year.

While it is easy to take for granted the quality of what is presented for us and the comfort and joy that we find in our synagogue community, I want to take this opportunity to recognize the efforts of our outstanding clergy team led by Senior Rabbi Michael Schwab and the many professionals

on our staff led by Executive Director Rabbi Ben Azriel. Nothing happens by itself — our schools, our religious services, even this Bulletin that you are reading now — all represent the excellence that comes from the hard work and dedication of our professionals.

I also want to acknowledge all of the volunteers and donors who give of their time, talent and treasury to help keep Beth El on track, respecting the past and building a platform for continued excellence well into the future. At our Annual Meeting of the Congregation, we recognized the officers and directors who have ended their terms this May and those who are starting anew or will continue to serve us all.

We are truly blessed to have such an exceptional team — please take a moment to thank them when you see them.

### Beth El Event Showcase March 2026: 5 Years of Hazzan Sandler at Beth El



## TISHA B'AV

### A TIME TO MOURN

#### Tisha B'Av Schedule 5786

##### WEDNESDAY, JULY 22

8:00 pm Mincha (outdoors/Zoom)  
8:15 pm Ma'ariv/Eicha/Kinot Readings  
(outdoors/Zoom)  
8:20 pm Fast Begins

##### THURSDAY, JULY 23

7:30 am Shacharit/Eicha (in-person/Zoom)  
1:45 pm Mincha (in-person/Zoom)  
8:50 pm Ma'ariv (in-person/Zoom)  
8:55 pm Fast Ends



# 17 Tammuz and Tisha B'Av

By Hazzan Jacob Sandler | jsandler@nssbethel.org



“Summertime and the livin’ is easy” as the famous Gershwin lyric goes. And what makes summertime so ‘easy’? At the synagogue, it’s the combination of no school and no holidays. The High Holidays and Sukkot dominate the autumn. Chanukah, Tu B'Shevat and Purim frame the winter. Passover brings in the spring, which is peppered with

Israeli civic commemorations and holidays until, finally, Shavuot. But summer? It's just 17 Tammuz and Tisha B'Av — two fast days. How did the summer season become the Jewish bumper season?

There's the historical reality. 17 Tammuz was the siege in Jerusalem that culminated in the destruction of the Temple on Tisha B'Av, and subsequent exiling of our people from the land. According to tradition, both Temples were destroyed on Tisha B'Av. Another explanation can be found in the Exodus narrative. We left Egypt on Passover. We cross the sea on the 7th day, and in another 6 weeks we experience revelation at Sinai. Sinai was so overwhelming, Moses ascended for 40 days. That brings us to... 17 Tammuz: the

day Moses came back, saw the Golden Calf and shattered the first set of tablets. Long before the minor fast was established, it carried the spiritual quality of brokenness.

Moses then ascended the mountain for 40 days (until Rosh Chodesh Elul) to plead for forgiveness from God. Finally, 40 more days to receive the second set of Tablets, which takes us to 10 Tishrei — Yom Kippur. The original day of Atonement marks the anniversary of God forgiving Israel's first major sin after the Exodus.

The summer months aren't really a break from the holidays that tell our history. Rather, they're a chance to reflect on how we got from the highs of Passover and Shavuot to the lows of 17 Tammuz, and Tisha B'Av. Then, the 7 Haftarat of consolation guide us from despair back to the lofty heights of Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur and the unparalleled joy of Sukkot.

## THE JEWISH YEAR

*A journey through our holidays*



### AUTUMN

A time of awe, gratitude and gathering



### WINTER

A season of light, growth and celebration



### SPRING

A season of freedom, renewal and revelation



### SUMMER

A season of reflection, memory and hope

*From the highs of our holy days  
to the fast days of summer—  
we remember, reflect and look forward.*

# 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



## June

### Friday, June 5

6:00 pm Kabbalat Shabbat  
8:05 pm Candle Lighting

### Saturday, June 6

*Parashat Beha'alotcha*  
9:00 am Shabbat Service  
8:00 pm Mincha Service  
9:15 pm Ma'ariv Service/Havdalah  
9:17 pm Shabbat Ends

### Friday, June 12

6:00 pm Kabbalat Shabbat  
8:09 pm Candle Lighting

### Saturday, June 13

*Parashat Sh'lach*  
9:00 am Shabbat Service  
8:00 pm Mincha Service  
9:20 pm Ma'ariv Service/Havdalah  
9:21 pm Shabbat Ends

### Friday, June 19

6:00 pm Kabbalat Shabbat  
8:12 pm Candle Lighting

### Saturday, June 20

*Parashat Korach*  
9:00 am Shabbat Service  
8:00 pm Mincha Service  
9:20 pm Ma'ariv Service/Havdalah  
9:24 pm Shabbat Ends

### Friday, June 26

6:00 pm Kabbalat Shabbat  
8:13 pm Candle Lighting

### Saturday, June 27

*Parashat Chukat-Balak*  
9:00 am Shabbat Service  
8:00 pm Mincha Service  
9:20 pm Ma'ariv Service/Havdalah  
9:24 pm Shabbat Ends

## July

### Friday, July 3

6:00 pm Kabbalat Shabbat  
8:12 pm Candle Lighting

### Saturday, July 4

*Parashat Pinchas*  
9:00 am Shabbat Service  
8:00 pm Mincha Service  
9:20 pm Ma'ariv Service/Havdalah  
9:23 pm Shabbat Ends

### Friday, July 10

6:00 pm Kabbalat Shabbat  
8:10 pm Candle Lighting

### Saturday, July 11

*Parashat Matot-Masei*  
9:00 am Shabbat Service  
8:00 pm Mincha Service  
9:15 pm Ma'ariv Service/Havdalah  
9:19 pm Shabbat Ends

### Friday, July 17

6:00 pm Kabbalat Shabbat  
8:06 pm Candle Lighting

### Saturday, July 18

*Shabbat Chazon*  
*Parashat Devarim*  
9:00 am Shabbat Service  
8:00 pm Mincha Service  
9:10 pm Ma'ariv Service/Havdalah  
9:14 pm Shabbat Ends

### Friday, July 24

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

### Saturday, July 25

*Shabbat Nachamu*  
*Parashat Vaetchanan*  
9:00 am Shabbat Service  
7:45 pm Mincha Service  
9:05 pm Ma'ariv Service/Havdalah  
9:07 pm Shabbat Ends

### Friday, July 31

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

## August

### Saturday, August 1

*Parashat Eikev*  
9:00 am Shabbat Service  
7:45 pm Mincha Service  
8:55 pm Ma'ariv Service/Havdalah  
8:58 pm Shabbat Ends

### Friday, August 7

6:00 pm Kabbalat Shabbat  
7:44 pm Candle Lighting

### Saturday, August 8

*Parashat Re'eh*  
9:00 am Shabbat Service  
7:30 pm Mincha Service  
8:45 pm Ma'ariv Service/Havdalah  
8:48 pm Shabbat Ends

### Friday, August 14

6:00 pm Kabbalat Shabbat  
7:35 pm Candle Lighting

### Saturday, August 15

*Parashat Shoftim*  
9:00 am Shabbat Service  
7:30 pm Mincha Service  
8:35 pm Ma'ariv Service/Havdalah  
8:37 pm Shabbat Ends

### Friday, August 21

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

### Saturday, August 22

*Parashat Ki Teitzei*  
9:00 am Shabbat Service  
7:15 pm Mincha Service  
8:25 pm Ma'ariv Service/Havdalah  
8:26 pm Shabbat Ends

### Friday, August 28

6:00 pm Kabbalat Shabbat  
7:13 pm Candle Lighting

### Saturday, August 29

*Parashat Ki Tavo*  
9:00 am Shabbat Service  
7:00 pm Mincha Service  
8:10 pm Ma'ariv Service/Havdalah  
8:14 pm Shabbat Ends

## CONTACT US

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☎ 847-432-8900

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📷 @nssbethel

## Make Sweet, We Pray...The Words of Your Torah in Our Mouths

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



Grateful for the gift of Torah, these words above are from our daily morning liturgy, emphasizing our gratitude for the sweet gift of Torah.

We here at Beth El know that Torah is sweet! Every week, we share the Hadar Institute's weekly parashah magazine. And with a title like *Devash*, meaning "honey," how sweet it is to learn Torah,

and for all ages, too. Don't let the illustrations fool you, these are sophisticated and thoughtful resources for studying each Torah portion individually, as a family, or in communal settings as well.

We also offer opportunities for individuals of all ages to learn how to chant from the Torah (and what a beautiful new Torah it is, only 3 years in and hundreds of members have already read from it!). I have had the pleasure to teach a dozen women the

ins and outs of how to read Torah for their Adult B'not Mitzvah this past May. I look forward to resuming teaching Adult Torah Trope classes this summer (please let me know if you are interested in joining our class!) and, in the fall, we will once again resume Torah trope classes for 4th through 6th graders.

And unique to Beth El, we have a very sweet tradition of giving each reader a special Team Torah cookie upon their first Torah reading of the Jewish year. As of my writing this article, we have already had 127 B'nai Mitzvah-aged and up read Torah, as well as 45 kids in Junior Congregation! And this custom has just gotten even sweeter! We are now trying out a different bakery for a delicious new option. And believe it or not, if you have not yet read Torah in 5786, you have until Saturday, September 5 to get your new and improved Team Torah cookie!

Torah is sweet, both literally and figuratively! So join our Team, get your name on the Team Torah Poster, and enjoy a sweet new cookie..they are all the rage!

### RITUAL

By Leah Brajer, VP Ritual | lbrajer@gmail.com

## More Than the Pink Hat

For those of you who may know me only as the woman who zips around the shul on the High Holidays in the pink hat, I'd love to properly introduce myself. My name is Leah Brajer, and I'm truly honored to serve as your next Ritual Vice President. I'm a proud wife to my husband, Jori Brajer, and mom to my wonderful son, Zachary — family is at the heart of everything I do. As a third-generation member of Beth El, this community holds a deeply special place in my life. I feel strongly connected to our traditions and to the relationships built here over the years, and I'm excited to be part of your ritual journey.

Before sharing more, I want to offer a heartfelt *todah rabbah* to Ben Channon for his dedicated service as Ritual Vice President. His leadership has helped shape so much of what we continue to build.

My connection to ritual life at Beth El has grown over many years through the ritual committee, the High Holiday task force, and as B'nai Mitzvah liaison chair. I've come to believe that ritual is a core part of who we are — bringing us together in moments of joy and supporting us in more difficult times.

I step into this role with a genuine desire to strengthen those connections for today and for future generations. I would truly love to hear from you — your questions, ideas, and hopes. Together, we can continue creating meaningful experiences for our Beth El family.

### Beth El Event Showcase May 2026: Jeans and Jammies



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## CONGREGATIONAL LEARNING

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By Aliza Drumm, Director of Congregational Learning | [adrumm@nssbethel.org](mailto:adrumm@nssbethel.org)

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### Children's High Holiday Services Create Meaningful Opportunities for Engagement

We take great pride in having vibrant and age-appropriate children's services every Shabbat and throughout the holidays for babies through 6th graders.

During the High Holidays in particular, these thoughtfully designed experiences create meaningful opportunities for every child — and every family — to engage in ways that are both accessible and inspiring.

Our children's services are more than just parallel programming; they are an entry point into Jewish life, helping young people connect with the rhythms, melodies, and messages of the season at a level that speaks to them. Whether through song, storytelling, or interactive learning, each experience is designed to foster a sense of belonging and spiritual connection.

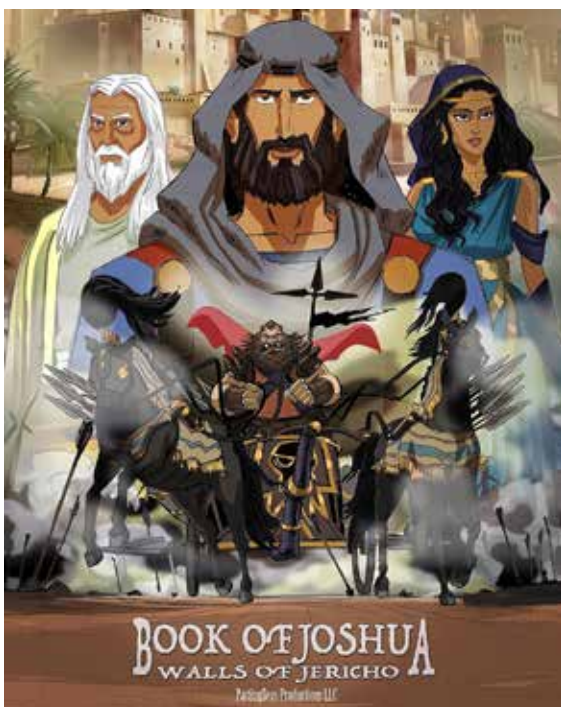
Returning this year, we are pleased to offer our Preschool Family Services for babies through 1st graders and their families. These 45-minute services will take place on Rosh Hashanah Day 1 from 9:15 to 10:00 am and on Yom Kippur from 9:45 to 10:30 am. These gatherings provide a warm and

welcoming introduction to the High Holidays and serve as a wonderful opportunity for both current and prospective members to experience the spirit of our congregation.

For our member families, we will also offer drop-off programming for all ages through 7th grade from 10:15 am to 12:15 pm on both days of Rosh Hashanah and from 10:45 am to 12:45 pm on Yom Kippur. These engaging programs allow children to participate in meaningful holiday experiences while giving parents the opportunity to attend our regular congregational services — hearing inspiring sermons from our clergy and beautifully read Torah and inspiring prayers.

Additionally, families with children in grades 2–6 can choose to join our Junior Congregation Family Service on the first day of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, held during the drop-off times. This family learner's Minyan offers a special opportunity to experience prayer and learning together in a way that is interactive, educational, and spiritually enriching.

We look forward to sharing these special moments with our families and helping create lasting High Holiday memories for all. Registration for our children's programming accompanies High Holiday registration on its own form. Make sure you receive this form and register for your children to participate. If you have any questions about Children's High Holiday Programming, please contact me at [adrumm@nssbethel.org](mailto:adrumm@nssbethel.org).



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### Congregational Pride: Celebrating a Creative Achievement

We are delighted to share a special note of pride within our synagogue family. Congratulations to Amir Kovacs, the son-in-law of our congregants, the Honorable Renee and Eugene Goldfarb, on the production of his animated film, *The Book of Joshua: Walls of Jericho*.

Set in the period following the death of Moses, the film brings to life the story of Joshua as he leads the Israelites into a weakened Canaan. This first installment in a planned trilogy focuses on the dramatic military campaign against the fortress city of Jericho, highlighting themes of leadership, strategy, and faith. Through elements of espionage and careful reconnaissance, the film portrays Joshua's role in guiding the Israelites through their early challenges in the central highlands of Israel.

*The Book of Joshua: Walls of Jericho* has already garnered notable recognition, including a Silver Medal for Best Children's Film at the ICVM Crown Awards.

We extend our warmest congratulations to Amir Kovacs and to the Goldfarb family on this wonderful accomplishment. We look forward to seeing the continued success of this meaningful and inspiring project.



## Reflections and New Beginnings

It's hard to believe that the 2025–2026 Paul S. and Sylvia Steinberg Preschool year has come to a close. As we finished our final weeks looking down our hallways, we saw more than just classrooms — we saw a thriving community that continues to

grow every single day.

We are deeply honored that our families choose Steinberg Preschool for their children's first steps in Jewish education. This time of year always brings a moment of reflection: seeing how much our students have blossomed and recognizing the incredible impact of our educators. Our teachers don't just teach; they weave Jewish values, customs, and traditions into the very fabric of daily life, preparing the next generation of Jewish leaders to take on the world.

We are bursting with pride for our exceptional four-year-old students. They are leaving us with a rock-solid Jewish foundation, and we can't wait to see the amazing things they'll achieve in the years to come.

To celebrate their journey, we honored our graduates and their families at their Final Shabbat Dinner on Friday, May 15. While we will miss those bright smiles in our halls, we hope they carry their Steinberg memories in their hearts forever.

### A HEARTFELT "KOL HAKAVOD!" TO OUR STEINBERG PRESCHOOL GRADUATES:

Savannah Berk, Archie Berman, Eden Bernstein, Freddie Butler, Evelyn Charous, Max Chudacoff, Remi Edwards, Max Glazer, Emma Gliksberg, Teddi Greenebaum, Harper Gross, Kameron Gutman, Zoie Gutwirth, Chloe Helberg, Ari Katlin, Donovan Kobesky, Remi Konstantin, Tanner Kornblatt, AJ Levy, Dylan Liebovich, Drew Lucterhand, Daphne Matthew, Gabe Plotkin, Jonah Plotkin, Reid Rosenberg, Brody Ross, Ellie Roter, Joey Rotter, Eden Swilky, Charles Warther, and Zoey Zider.

Mazel Tov to our stellar teachers who made it all possible: Amy Berk, Terri Cohen, Stacy Epstein, Jenna Smiley, Sara Grossmann and Kathy Keyser.

### SUMMER FUN & NEW BEGINNINGS

The fun doesn't stop here! We are gearing up for eight weeks of summer camp, which begins on Wednesday, June 10 — filled with sun, play, and discovery. We are also thrilled to welcome many new faces joining the Steinberg family for the 2026–2027 school year.

To our graduates: "L'hitraot"—until we see you again! Please come back and visit us often.



To help our graduates continue their journey, the Cohen Religious School (CRS) is providing each child with a \$100 gift certificate toward their CRS education.



Special moments from another wonderful day in Preschool.

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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

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### Today and Every Day, We Are Grateful for Our Jewish Educators

As another meaningful year at CRS comes to a close, we pause to recognize the people who bring our classrooms to life each week: our teachers, tutors, and *madrichim*. Their impact goes far beyond lessons; they help shape identity, belonging, and connection. This year, learning rooted in *Torah*, *Tefillah*, *Middot*, and Israel came alive because of them.

Our educators truly know their students, what excites them, what challenges them, and how to help them grow. They create a sense of *kehillah kedoshah* (sacred community) in their classrooms, where every child feels seen, valued, and connected, and where relationships are at the heart of learning.

Through creativity and intention, our teachers bring Judaism

to life. From exploring *Torah* stories to engaging in hands-on holiday experiences, learning becomes dynamic and meaningful. Whether practicing Hebrew through *Tefillah*, creating art, or living our traditions, students experience Judaism as something vibrant, relevant, and deeply personal.

At the same time, our educators nurture a meaningful connection to Israel and the Jewish people. They help students build relationships with Israel rooted in pride, curiosity, and thoughtful engagement. They guide students to see themselves as part of an ongoing Jewish story.

Just as importantly, our educators model the values we hope to instill. They don't just teach *middot* like *chesed* (kindness), *achrayut* (responsibility), and *kavod* (respect), they embody them in the way they teach, guide, and care for their students each day.

We are deeply grateful for the dedication, creativity, and heart our educators bring to CRS. Because of them, our students don't just learn Judaism, they live it, feel it, and carry it forward. *Todah rabbah* for an incredible year of learning!



CRS Teachers, Tutors and Madrichim

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## YOUNG FAMILY PROGRAMMING

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By Maxine Handelman, Director of Young Family Programming | mhandelman@nssbethel.org

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### A Little Love This Summer

Tu B'Av is a little like the Jewish Valentine's Day. Really it's more of a Sadie Hawkins vibe. And it's a great holiday to celebrate with your kids.

Tu B'Av dates back to the ancient days of the Temple in Jerusalem, as mentioned in the Talmud ([Taanit 30b](#)).

Each year on the 15th of the Hebrew month of Av ("Tu," or 15, represents the number 15 in Hebrew), a matchmaking festival was held in the vineyards of Israel.

Young women would dress in white and dance in the vineyards, while the unmarried men would go there to find a wife.

Interestingly, each woman borrowed a white dress, so as not to embarrass any family who could not afford fancy clothing.

Even though you may not be ready to marry off your kids, Tu B'Av still has all the trappings of a great family celebration. Dancing together in your kitchen makes for fabulous childhood memories, so put on your favorite love song playlist and jam as a family. Thinking about borrowed clothes might lead you to bag up some clothes to hand down, or maybe inspire you to go poke around the local thrift store for some new-to-you fun finds. Love is sweet. Consider assembling a small bag of your child's favorite treats and putting it in their room to wake up to on Tu B'Av. This summer, Tu B'Av is Wednesday, July 29. Put on your dancing shoes and make it the beginning of a lovely new family tradition.

## YOUTH COMMUNITY

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



### Building Community Through *Areyvut*

As we move into the summer months, our BEANS community continues to grow — not just through programs, but through the way we show up for one another.

At the heart of everything we do is the Jewish value of *areyvut* (עִרְבוּת)—the idea that we are responsible for each other. It's what transforms a group of individuals into a true community. Whether it's welcoming someone new, checking in on a friend, or stepping into a leadership role, these moments of connection define who we are.

We see this in action throughout the year—in our Tisch-style lounge nights filled with music and conversation, in the energy of our monthly lounge gatherings, and in the thoughtful work of our Teen Leadership Board as they help shape programs and recognize one another's contributions. These aren't just events; they are spaces where teens build trust, friendship, and a sense of belonging.

That sense of community doesn't pause over the summer. It continues through camp experiences, friendships that carry across spaces, and the anticipation of what's ahead.

Looking forward, we're excited to build on this foundation with expanded BEANS programming, new leadership opportunities, and continued connection through USY and beyond. More details will be shared over the summer as we prepare for another meaningful year together.

Community doesn't happen by accident—it's something we build together.

Wishing everyone a meaningful and connected summer!

### Beth El Event Showcase April 2026: Lounge Night Tish



### Beth El Event Showcase May 2026: BEANS Youth Awards



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## DEVELOPMENT

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By Audra Kaplan, VP Development | audrakaplan@gmail.com

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### Reflections on Generosity and Community

*“Charity can be accomplished only with money; deeds of loving-kindness can be accomplished through personal involvement, as well as with money.” (Sukkah 49-b)*

As I come to the end of my three-year term as Vice President of Fundraising and Development at NSS Beth El, I find myself reflecting not on amounts raised, but rather on the personal devotion and commitment underlying each gift.

Serving in this role during what has been a challenging time has left a deep impression on me. In moments of uncertainty, fear, and grief, I have witnessed our community respond not by turning inward, but by showing up with compassion, with commitment, and with open hearts.

In the days and months following October 7th, that generosity was especially visible. Our community mobilized quickly, supporting causes far beyond our synagogue walls, including Magen David Adom, JUF Emergency Fund, JNF, and here in Chicago, with organizations like Maot Chitim and the Ark. Many of us found ways to visit and connect to Israel and the Jewish community. There was a shared understanding that we are part of something larger, that our responsibility extends to Jews everywhere.

At the same time, I have been equally moved by the recognition that we must also care for our own בית, our home. Through the support of our capital campaign, our generous Bonim benefactors, and the Kol Nidre Appeal, this community has demonstrated a deep commitment to sustaining and strengthening Beth El.

In many personal conversations, I have heard something that has stayed with me — people consider Beth El as their “second home.” That sentiment speaks volumes. It reflects not just what happens within our walls, but how people feel connected to Beth El.

We showed up for the broader Jewish community, and we invested in building a strong, vibrant community at home. I saw generosity that is quiet, consistent, and deeply rooted in care for one another, for our shared future, and for the values that bind us together.

Being part of this work has been an honor. Thank you for allowing me to serve and for reminding me what it means to be part of a truly special Jewish community.

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## MEMBERSHIP & ENGAGEMENT

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

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### The Power of Showing Up

A vibrant synagogue is built not only on meaningful services and joyful holiday celebrations, but on the people who choose to show up, connect, and support one another. Every program we attend, every conversation we share, and every hour we volunteer strengthens our Beth El

*mishpacha* — our family.

Shabbat and holiday dinners provide more than a delicious meal. They create space to pause, connect, and build relationships that make our community feel warm and welcoming.

Getting involved — whether through committees, event planning, Sisterhood, Men’s Club, or other groups — allows

each of us to shape the programs and inclusive spirit that define our congregation. Our Social Action Committee extends our values beyond our walls through acts of service, justice, and mitzvah projects, always grateful for new hands and open hearts.

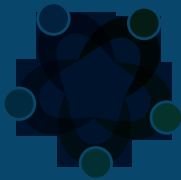
The Torah commands us 36 times to welcome the stranger. Sometimes that begins with a simple smile, a warm introduction, or offering a seat at Kiddush. These small gestures can turn a first visit into a lasting connection. If you are looking for a meaningful way to fulfill this mitzvah, join us in welcoming a group of Israeli teens for Shabbat services on Saturday, July 4 as part of their B’nai Mitzvah trip.

There is a place here for everyone. **If you have been thinking about getting more involved, consider this your invitation.** Join us for dinner, volunteering, or reaching out to someone new. Together, we create the community we want to belong to.

# BUILD OUR COMMUNITY TOGETHER

## WHY BECOME A BONIM BENEFACTOR?

- Simplify your giving with an all-inclusive gift that covers dues, extra High Holiday tickets, Kol Nidre Appeal donation, and more
- Strengthen Jewish life on Chicago's North Shore and show your commitment to Beth El and our community
- Support what matters most: Dues assistance, facility needs, ritual connection, programming, education, and security
- Join 110+ families and lead by example as a Bonim Benefactor



### BONIM BENEFACTOR LEVELS AND BENEFITS 2026-2027

Double Chai \$36,000+	Rabbi's Circle \$25,000-\$35,999	President's Circle \$18,000-\$24,999	B'Yachad \$10,000-\$17,999	Sustainer \$6,500-\$9,999
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#### Membership & Dues

Synagogue Dues (\$4,120)	●	●	●	●	●
Security Fee (\$360)	●	●	●	●	●
Men's Club & Sisterhood Dues (\$40 each)	●	●	●	●	●

#### High Holidays

Extra High Holiday Tickets	+8 (10 Total)	+6 (8 Total)	+5 (7 Total)	+4 (6 Total)	+2 (4 Total)
Kol Nidre Appeal Participation	●	●	●	●	●

#### Recognition & Events

Donor Recognition	●	●	●	●	●
Memorial Book Entry	●	●	●	●	-
Annual Event Tickets	6	4	2	2	-
Complimentary Continuing Education Classes	●	●	●	●	-
Exclusive Donor-Level Events	●	●	●	-	-
2 Memorial Plaques	●	-	-	-	-

For more information about Bonim or to join a Bonim level, please contact Jacob Markey at [jmarkey@nssbethel.org](mailto:jmarkey@nssbethel.org) or 847-432-1024.

## 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.*

#### **Mitzvot by Mitzvot: Our Year of Good Deeds!**

The Social Action Committee is grateful for and energized by the amazing support from everyone at Beth El. You helped make this year a success! It was a year of meaningful action, deep generosity, and renewed commitment to one another and the wider world. We count on you to participate, donate, create, and volunteer and each year you come out strong and do your part. Thank you for helping us collect for The Ark's food pantry over the high holidays, for showing up in huge numbers to shop for, create, and donate Thanksgiving baskets to our friends at

Glenwood School in Waukegan and The Moraine Township Food Pantry, for donating gently used warm weather items for our winter annual coat drive to benefit Chicago Chesed Fund, and for enthusiastically participating in the many projects offered at our spring Mitzvah Day to support various local organizations. No act of kindness was too small — every contribution added up to something truly significant.

We are always looking for new ideas to help others in our community or the greater Chicagoland community. We welcome you to join SAC! Contact Marlene Halpern at [socialaction@nssbethel.org](mailto:socialaction@nssbethel.org).

### Beth El Event Showcase April 2026: Mitzvah Day



Beth El Event Showcase February 2026: CRS My Family Story Presentation



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



## Summer Reading Recommendations

Whether you're in the mood for something lighthearted and entertaining or challenging and thought-provoking, here are four very different

books that offer insights into what it means to live, question, and connect as Jews today.

***Soon by You* by Dahlia Adler** is a spicy opposites attract rom-com featuring fun, relatable modern Orthodox characters in New York City. Super enjoyable and heartwarming plus very steamy!

Dara Horn blurbed on the book jacket of ***As a Jew* by Sarah Hurwitz**: "If you want to understand the situation American Jews find themselves in right now — not just the bewildering hatred, but the many internal and external forces preventing us from understanding it — stop whatever you're doing and read this book."

Even though it seems like a lifetime ago that I was reading aloud to my boys, I thoroughly enjoyed ***Children of the Book* by Ilana Kurshan**. I loved how she connected beloved secular children's books to the stories of the Torah and Jewish values. Anyone who devoured Judy Blume, *Little House on the Prairie*, and *All of a Kind Family* as a kid will appreciate this love letter to reading.

***Theo of Golden* by Allen Levi** is tagged as "Christian literature" but it's overflowing with Jewish – and universal – values: *Tikkun Olam* (repairing the world), *Gemilut Hasidim* (acts of loving kindness), *B'tzelem Elohim* (we are all created in God's image), *Mitzvah Goreret Mitzvah* (one good deed leads to another) and more. Without being didactic or preachy, Theo illustrates that one person can make a difference and even the smallest acts of kindness can change the world.

Stop by if you'd like to borrow one of these books from the Abbell Library. And, I'd love to know what you're reading this summer!



# GERTRUDE LEDERMAN FAMILY CONTINUING EDUCATION

## SUMMER COURSES 5786

Visit the website to register for these summer classes from the Gertrude Lederman Family Continuing Education Program:



**Lunch & Learn**  
with Rabbi Michael Schwab

Thursdays, 12:00–1:00pm  
June 4



**Adult Torah Trope**  
with Hazzan Jenna Greenberg

Sundays, 9:45–10:45am  
June 28–August 16



**Breaking Jewish News and Views**  
with Carl Schrag

Wednesdays, 9:45–11:00am  
July 8–August 26



**Summer Thursdays**  
@ Beth El

Thursdays, 11:15am–12:15pm  
July 9, 16 & 30 and August 6 & 13



**Summer Stories**  
with Rachel Kamin

Saturday, 12:30pm  
July 11



**High Holiday Boot Camp**

Thursdays, 11:15am–12:15pm  
August 27 and September 3



## Writer's Beit Midrash

**SUMMER MEETING DATES: JUNE 10 & 24, JULY 8 & 22 AND AUGUST 5 & 19**

Since 2012, a group of talented writers has been meeting to share their prose and poetry every other Wednesday morning in the Maxwell Abbell Library. While writing can be a solitary occupation, it helps a lot to have others who lend their ears and ideas to your hard work. New participants are always welcome!

Plus, members of the group will share a selection of their poetry and short prose during **a special program on Saturday, August 15 after Shabbat Kiddush**. Contact Rachel at [rkamin@nssbethel.org](mailto:rkamin@nssbethel.org) for more information.

# From the Archives: June 9, 1961

By Morton Steinberg

Much excitement and anticipation was evident at Beth El in the spring of 1961: the construction of the new Sanctuary, the last phase of the three-phase building program approved in 1951, was about to begin. The gala ground breaking ceremony featuring US Senator Everett Dirksen and other notables was scheduled to occur on June 11. And in addition, Rabbi Philip and Shoshanah Lipis were celebrating their 25th wedding anniversary. The following articles appeared in the Beth El Bulletin of June 9, 1961:

## CAPITAL FUNDS REPORT

### *Ground Breaking Ceremonies*

*At last the day has arrived, that will see the start of the fulfillment of a program that has been near to the hearts of all of us. Sod in front of the Synagogue will be turned to indicate the beginning of our construction of the new Sanctuary. It will be a gala event with a huge assembly of congregants participating. Federal, state and local legislators, renowned rabbis, and distinguished members of Beth El, will be present. The Children's choir, instructed by and led by Cantor Cohen and Arnold Miller, will sing and the Cantor will deliver a number of songs. 800 children will be given flags and buttons: a platform is being erected to accommodate the speakers of the day, and we look forward to a thrilling day. All congregants and members of the community are invited to share this day with us.*

## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

### *A Dream Come True*

*On Sunday, June 11, 1961 at 11:00 am, the final step towards fulfillment of a 13 year old dream will come true. On that day, a spade of earth will be turned, signifying the start of construction of the third phase of our Building Program, OUR SANCTUARY. My friends, I believe that a synagogue is a mere shell without a House of Worship that symbolizes our Tradition and Faith...Religion and prayer are two qualities that you cannot reach out and touch... and one has to be in the proper environment to develop a feeling of closeness to God...Where else but in a sanctuary with the proper adornments can we best create that feeling? I feel blessed and indeed fortunate to be able to participate in a ceremony of ground breaking for a Sanctuary for the first time in my lifetime. I am looking forward to this experience with pleasure and gratitude. Won't you all please join me on this very happy occasion? Thank you.*

*Eli Field*

## RABBI'S CHAT

*The approach of our Silver Wedding Anniversary, which, God willing, we will be privileged to celebrate with the congregation and personal friends at the Sabbath morning services of June 10th, serves as a happy occasion to cast a glance backward and forward. Eight and one-half of these 25 years were spent in Camden, New Jersey, three in military service during World War II, three in Oakland, California, and ten and one-half years in Highland Park. So, you see that the longest continuous period during these two and one-half decades found us right here in Highland Park. This should be some indication of the depth of our affection and regard for the people of the congregation and the community and of our attachment to the common endeavors in which we have engaged in translating sacred ideals into active ways of living. While the past is clear and vivid, the future is clouded and uncertain. What's in store in the days to come is a veiled mystery in the keeping of God. Will you do us the honor of joining us in the worship on the Sabbath morning of June 10 and of sharing with us a cup of cheer when services are over?*

*Philip L. Lipis, Rabbi*

NORTH SUBURBAN SYNAGOGUE

# Beth El Bulletin

Vol. V, No. 19

June 9, 1961



RABBI PHILIP L. LIPIS

CANTOR: JORDAN H. COHEN



Sanctuary under construction in late 1961



L to R: Harold Blumberg, Eli Field, Albert Dolin and Edward Glazier



Rabbi Lipis and U.S. Senator Everett Dirksen

## Quiet Acts of Caring: The Heart of HAZAK



Much of HAZAK's most meaningful work happens quietly, without fanfare or recognition. It is grounded in careful listening, thoughtful response, and deep compassion for members of our synagogue community—especially those who may be feeling lonely or vulnerable.

Recently, HAZAK received a call from a family member who lives out of state and was concerned about her parent, a longtime synagogue member experiencing a bout of loneliness. The call was not made out of urgency, but out of love—and trust; trust that our community would respond with sensitivity and care. HAZAK did exactly that.

With discretion and respect for privacy, the committee arranged for a valued volunteer to visit the member and deliver a small gift. It was a simple gesture, yet one filled with meaning: a reminder that our congregant is remembered, valued, and connected to a caring community. For the

daughter who reached out, it provided reassurance that her loved one was not alone. For the volunteer, it was an opportunity to offer kindness through her physical presence.

HAZAK's work often begins by listening—to members, to families, and to needs that may go unspoken. Our initiative continues through quiet acts that preserve dignity and build connection. Whether offering comfort to an individual or reassurance to loved ones from afar, HAZAK serves as a bridge between concern and care.

This quiet act of kindness is just one example of how the HAZAK Committee works every day—listening, responding, and reminding our members that they are seen, valued, and never alone.

If you know of someone in need of a quiet act of caring, please let us know: [HAZAK@nssbethel.org](mailto:HAZAK@nssbethel.org).

### Beth El Event Showcase February 2026: CRS Annual Fundraiser



# It's All in the Beth El Family

## Mazel Tov to:

**Jori Brajer**  
On his 56th birthday

**Leah Brajer**  
On her 50th birthday

**Sara and Steve Coven**  
On the birth of their granddaughter

**Lila Derman, daughter of Talia and Ari Derman**  
On becoming a Bat Mitzvah

**Hannah Drumm, daughter of Aliza and Michael Drumm**  
On becoming a Bat Mitzvah

**Sam Iden, son of Gail Scully and Randall Iden, and Arielle Lawlor, daughter of Ronit and Steve Lawlor**  
On their wedding

**Rebecca Fivel and Daniel Dexter**  
On the baby naming of their daughter Tamara Sally Dexter

**Jonathan Friedman**  
On his 81st birthday

**Jeff Gordon**  
On the 55th anniversary of his Bar Mitzvah

**Kooper Halperin, son of Melissa and Todd Halperin**  
On becoming a Bar Mitzvah

**Brian Jacobson**  
On the 40th anniversary of his Bar Mitzvah

**Bobbi and Jeff Kwall**  
On the birth of their grandson

**Benjamin Lampert, son of Suzie and Mark Lampert, and Lauren Ship, daughter of Andrea and Stuart Ship**  
On their wedding

**Barbara and David Lansing**  
On the birth of their granddaughter, Isabelle Jade Cohen

**Raizel Lieberman, daughter of Alicia and Lawrence Frank Lieberman**  
On her engagement to Jonah Sugarman, son of Jenny and Richard Sugarman

**Herbert Lippitz**  
On his 96th birthday

**Daniel Millenson, son of Susan and Michael Millenson, and Lauren Silver, daughter of Esther and Louis Silver**  
On their wedding

**Eli Mordini, son of Jane and Mark Mordini, and Allyson Jacobs, daughter of Jan and Richard Jacobs**  
On their wedding

**Gabrielle Pascal, daughter of Deena and Keith Pascal, and Michael Nussbaum, son of Susan and Steve Nussbaum**  
On their wedding

**Perry Rabin, son of Debbie and David Rabin and Emily Rubin, daughter of Roberta and Derrick Rubin**  
On their wedding

**Merle and Sheldon Rosenfeld**  
On the birth of their great-granddaughter

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

**Miriam and Michael Rudolph**  
On the birth of their granddaughter, Orli Rudolph

**Eli Schraye, son of Lynn and Skip Schraye, and Danielle Epstein, daughter of Linda and Michael Epstein**  
On their wedding

**Fran and Jonathan Sherman**  
On the birth of their grandson, Emmett Aviv Sherman

**Marilyn and Rod Slutzky**  
On their 45th wedding anniversary

**Alex Srour, son of Lisa and Daniel Srour**  
On becoming a Bar Mitzvah

**Aaron Strauss, son of Debby and Dale Strauss, and Emily Young, daughter of Mindy and Joel Young**  
On their wedding.

**Mira and Darryl Temkin**  
On their 50th wedding anniversary

**Mila Unruch, daughter of Alisa and Joel Unruch**  
On becoming a Bat Mitzvah

**Gabe Zallik, son of Cindy and Dr. Ned Zallik, and Casey Klein, daughter of Elaine and Jim Klein**  
On their wedding

## Condolences to:

**Barbara Birnberg**  
On the loss of her husband, Nathan Birnberg

**David Bloom**  
On the loss of his father, Wolfie Bloom

**Gila Bronner**  
On the loss of her mother, Nancy Kahn

**Lindsay Cohen**  
On the loss of her father, Ronald Martin

**Lynn Cohen**  
On the loss of her mother, Roslyn Feinstein

**Carol Derdiger**  
On the loss of her sister, Renee Halperin

**Ellen Hirsch Kardon**  
On the loss of her father, Leroy Hirsch

**Barry Kravitz**  
On the loss of his sister, Susan Kravitz

**Kim Levy**  
On the loss of her mother

**Robynn Medansky**  
On the loss of her father, Ronald Lobert

**Mike Rudolph**  
On the loss of his sister, Sandra Rudolph Hanrahan

**Barry Shapiro**  
On the loss of his wife, Gayle Shapiro

**Leslie Swibel**  
On the loss of her sister, Carol Sue Cohen

**Nicole Terry**  
On the loss of her husband, Eugene Terry

**Judy Hirsch Zelin**  
On the loss of her father, Leroy Hirsch

### IN MEMORIAM:

**Sandra Cohn Becker  
Nathan Birnberg  
Phyllis Lapin  
Gloria Brooks-Shapiro  
Gayle Shapiro  
Adrian Solovy  
Eugene Terry  
Edith Turner**

## Kiddush Co-Sponsors:

**Talia and Ari Derman  
Aliza and Michael Drumm  
Rebecca Fivel and Daniel Dexter  
Melissa and Todd Halperin  
Gerry Kaplan  
Eli Krumbein**

**Susie and Mark Lampert  
Ronit and Steve Lawlor  
The Mordini Family  
NSS Beth El Men's Club  
NSS Beth El Sisterhood  
Susan and Steve Nussbaum**

**Deena and Keith Pascal  
Debbie and David Rabin  
Roberta and Derrick Rubin  
Lynn and Skip Schraye  
Gail Scully and Randall Iden  
Marilyn and Rod Slutzky**

**Andrea and Stuart Ship  
Lisa and Daniel Srour  
Debby and Dale Strauss  
Mira and Darryl Temkin  
Alisa and Joel Unruch  
Cindy and Dr. Ned Zallik**

**Rabbi Schwab Discretionary Fund**

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

*In honor of* Lexee Vainstock becoming a Bat Mitzvah – **Ina Schaffer**

*In honor of* my Aliyah to the Torah and with appreciation to Rabbi Schwab – **Shuly Rubin Schwartz**

*In honor of* the birth of our granddaughter, Isabelle Jade Cohen – **David and Barbara Lansing**

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

*In memory of* Dr. Leroy “Lee” Hirsch, beloved father of Judy Hirsch Zelin (Richard Zelin) and Ellen Hirsch Kardon (Mark Kardon) and beloved grandfather

– **David and Francine Ephraim**  
– **Ira and Elise Frost**

*In memory of* Eugene Terry, beloved husband of Nicole Terry, beloved father of Chantal Blaustein, beloved grandfather and brother – **David and Francine Ephraim**

*In memory of* Frank Pollack, beloved father – **Mark and Susan Pollack**

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

*In memory of* Gayle Shapiro, beloved wife of Barry Shapiro, beloved mother and grandmother – **Ron and Eileen Goldberg**

*In memory of* Helen Rosenberg, beloved mother – **Paul and Marla Chaiken**

*In memory of* Irene Shanes, beloved wife, on her third yearzeit – **Sam Shanes**

*In memory of* Irving Kushner, beloved father – **Mark and Susan Pollack**

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

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

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

*In memory of* Leonard Birnbaum, beloved father – **Marc and Jacalyn Birnbaum**

*In memory of* Ludwig Blum, beloved father-in-law – **Lenore Blum**

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

*In memory of* Melvin Blum, beloved husband – **Lenore Blum**

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

*In memory of* Norma Rosen, beloved mother of Roni (Steven) Weiss and beloved grandmother – **Michael and Terri Lipsitz**

*In memory of* Ronald Lobert, beloved father – **Keith and Robynn Medansky**

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

*In memory of* Susan Kravitz and with appreciation to Rabbi Schwab – **Barry and Debra Kravitz**

*In memory of* Susan Kravitz, beloved sister of Barry (Debbie) Kravitz and beloved daughter – **Ron and Eileen Goldberg**

*In memory of* Wolfie Bloom, beloved father of David (Simone) Bloom, beloved husband, grandfather and great-grandfather – **Earl and Rochelle Rubinoff**

*With appreciation to* the Schwabs for hosting Lita – **Michael Anderson**

*With appreciation to* Rabbi Schwab for wedding preparations for Danny and Hannah – **Terry and Marla Grossberg**

*With appreciation to* – **Nancy Thomadsen**

**Rabbi Freedman Discretionary Fund**

*In honor of* Avi Freedman, son of Laura and Rabbi Alex Freedman, on becoming a Bar Mitzvah

– **Sally Aaron**  
– **Earl and Rocky Rubinoff**  
– **Patricia Shapiro**  
– **Cindy Shekhtman**  
– **Karen Weiss**

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

*In memory of* Dorothy Magad, beloved mother-in-law – **Linda Magad**

*In memory of* Esther and Harry Shlensky, beloved mother and father – **Lenore Blum**

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

*In memory of* Helen Sprung, beloved grandmother – **Cindy Shekhtman**

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

*In memory of* Irwin Magad, beloved husband, father and grandfather, and *with appreciation to* Rabbi Freedman for all his support – **Linda Magad**

*In memory of* Max Smiley, beloved father – **Stephen and Judy Smiley**

*In memory of* Michael Wainstein and Jordan Wainstein, beloved cousins – **Phil and Doreen Feitelberg**

*In memory of* Roslyn Feinstein, beloved mother of Lynn (Arthur) Cohen and Karen (William) Ross, beloved grandmother and great-grandmother – **Len and Bobbie Tenner**

*In memory of* Sandra Cohn Becker, beloved mother and with appreciation to Rabbi Freedman – **The Becker Family**

*In memory of* Susan Kravitz, beloved sister of Barry (Debbie) Kravitz and beloved daughter – **Matt and Jamie Pestine**

*With appreciation for* Rabbi Freedman’s work in Beth El’s Holocaust commemoration – **Jerome and Mary Kaltman**

*With appreciation to* Rabbi Freedman for his support – **Barry and Debra Kravitz**

*With appreciation to* Rabbi Freedman for the Beit din of Liora and Max – **Melissa Cannata**

**Rabbi Kurtz Discretionary Fund**

*In memory of* Alan Sporn, beloved brother-in-law – **Gary and Debbie Lindon**

*In memory of* Joseph Ament, beloved father – **Jeremy Ament**

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

**Hazzan Sandler Discretionary Fund**

*In honor of* Mira and Darryl Temkin’s 50th wedding anniversary – **Matt and Jamie Pestine**

*In memory of* Susan Kravitz and with appreciation to Hazzan Sandler – **Barry and Debra Kravitz**

*With appreciation for* Hazzan Sandler’s 5th anniversary concert

– **David Afra**  
– **Cara Becker**  
– **Barbara Berger**  
– **Michael Berke and Lisa Cooper**  
– **Sonya Berk**  
– **Steven Blitzstein and Dana Fine**  
– **Jerry and Annette Blumberg**  
– **Rachel Brook**  
– **Andrew and Gail Brown**  
– **Linda Clark and David Samburg**  
– **Yehuda and Ellen Cohen**  
– **Mark and Lael Edelstein**  
– **David and Francine Ephraim**  
– **Phil and Doreen Feitelberg**  
– **Mark and Julie Filler**  
– **Rob and Marcy Freeman**  
– **Mark and Nina Gaines**  
– **Charles Gandelman and Alexis Braverman**  
– **Jeff and Beth Grafstein**  
– **Matthew and Laura Gray**  
– **Bruce and Gail Greenspahn**  
– **Terry and Marla Grossberg**  
– **Sam and Melany Gurtman**  
– **Anton and Tracey Hendler**  
– **Randi Heichman**  
– **Jacki Honig and Elisa Rotman**  
– **Randy Iden and Gail Scully**  
– **Brian and Rebecca Jacobson**  
– **Danny and Wendy Kahn**  
– **Joyce Kamen and Benjamin Abraham**  
– **Jerome and Mary Kaltman**  
– **Michael and Karen Kesner**  
– **Benjamin Kopin and Beth Shapiro Kopin**  
– **Stuart and Linda Kupfer**  
– **Ellen Lavin**  
– **Brad and Sherry Levin**  
– **Robert and Laurie Levin**  
– **Marc and Luba Levine**  
– **Mark and Fran Levy**  
– **Mark and Laura Lieberman**  
– **Richard and Sarah Liebman**  
– **Cantor Riki Lippitz**  
– **Michael and Jackie Melinger**  
– **Michael and Laura Minkus**  
– **Adam and Debra Natenshon**  
– **Adam and Allison Nemirow**  
– **Jim Nyeste and Marla Hand**  
– **Jeff and Elaine Oberlander**  
– **David and Noreen Ohcana**  
– **Sara Reid**  
– **Chad and Rebecca Richman**  
– **Ira and Debbi Rosenberg**  
– **Dara Rosenblatt**  
– **Carl and Lilach Schrag**  
– **Ralph Schwartz and Marci Dickman**  
– **David Shapiro and Lori Stark**  
– **Cindy Shekhtman**  
– **Sam Shanes**  
– **Patricia Shapiro**  
– **Steven and Fran Shapiro**  
– **Michael and Robin Shartiag**  
– **Benjamin and Heather Sher**  
– **Michael and Sara Sher**  
– **Alan and Margaret Silberman**  
– **Yonatan and Samantha Silverman**  
– **Rod and Marilyn Slutzky**  
– **Michael and Sheila Small**  
– **David and Jenna Smiley**  
– **Ronnie Jo Sokol**  
– **Alan Spellberg and Audra Kaplan**  
– **Danny and Lisa Srou**  
– **Joel Steinberg and Laura Patterson**  
– **Barbara Stern**

- Nancy Thomadsen
- Scott and Sara Topal
- Elizabeth Ury
- Charles and Paula Vogel
- Reuben and Tami Warshawsky
- Rabbi David and Judy Weiss
- Karen Weiss
- Cantor Ross Wolman

With appreciation to Hazzan Sandler for leading a joyous Tish for Danny and Hannah – **Terry and Marla Grossberg**

### **Hazzan Greenberg Discretionary Fund**

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 – **Elie Krumbein**

In memory of Susan Kravitz and with appreciation to Hazzan Greenberg – **Barry and Debra Kravitz**

With appreciation to Hazzan Greenberg for all she does for the community – **Alan Spellberg and Audra Kaplan**

### **Andrew and Gail Brown Technology Endowment Fund**

In honor of Eli Schray, son of Lynn and Skip Schray, and Danielle Epstein on their Auf Ruf – **Andrew and Gail Brown**

In memory of Wolfie Bloom, beloved father of David (Simone) Bloom, beloved husband, grandfather and great-grandfather – **Andrew and Gail Brown**

### **Ben and Marion Drachler Education Endowment Fund**

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

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

In memory of Jeanette “Peppi” Adams, beloved mother – **A. Michael and Nancy Drachler**

### **Cal and Lana Eisenberg Halomdim Endowment Fund**

In memory of Howard Adler – **Cal Eisenberg**

In memory of Leo Eisenberg – **Cal Eisenberg**

### **Camp Ramah General Scholarship Endowment Fund**

In memory of Sandra “Suri” Rudolph Hanrahan, beloved sister of Mike (Miriam) Rudolph, beloved aunt and great-aunt – **David and Francine Ephraim**

### **Capital Improvement Fund**

In memory of Jackie Pickus, beloved sister-in-law of Jane Pickus – **Mary Kay Brunner**

In memory of Susan Kravitz, beloved sister of Barry (Debbie) Kravitz and beloved daughter – **Andrew and Gail Brown**

### **Family Engagement Fund**

In honor of Hannah Drumm, daughter of Aliza and Michael Drumm, on becoming a Bat Mitzvah – **Andrew and Gail Brown**

### **General Israel Scholarship Fund**

In memory of Eugene Terry, beloved husband of Nicole Terry, beloved father of Chantal Blaustein, beloved grandfather and brother – **Cindy Shekhtman**

### **Gertrude Lederman Family Continuing Education Fund**

In memory of Morton Schrag, beloved father of Carl Schrag – **Daniel and Honey Bronson**

In memory of Susan Kravitz, beloved sister – **Barry and Debra Kravitz**

In memory of Susan Kravitz, beloved sister of Barry (Debbie) Kravitz and beloved daughter

- **Terry and Marla Grossberg**
- **Donald and Joyce Joseph**
- **Daniel and Wendy Kahn**
- **James Nyeste and Marla Hand**
- **Sandy Starkman and Larry Pachter**

With appreciation

- **David and Beth Cook**
- **Reni Dickman**
- **Jeffrey and Judy Goldman**
- **Mark and Laura Lieberman**
- **David Gross and Lisa Newman**

### **HAZAK Fund**

In honor of Gloria Taussig’s special birthday – **Paulette Margulies**

In honor of Tracy Rubinoff, daughter of Rocky and Earl Rubinoff, on her engagement to Bobby Brovosky – **Daniel and Honey Bronson**

In memory of Bertram Joseph Green, beloved father – **Patricia Shapiro**

In memory of Eugene Terry, beloved husband of Nicole Terry, beloved father of Chantal Blaustein, beloved grandfather and brother – **Patricia Shapiro**

In memory of Ida Stern Cohen, beloved aunt – **Patricia Shapiro**

In memory of Jane Rubinstein Shapiro – **Patricia Shapiro**

In memory of Martha Stern Green, beloved mother – **Patricia Shapiro**

In memory of Roslyn Feinstein, beloved mother of Lynn (Arthur) Cohen and Karen (William) Ross, beloved grandmother and great-grandmother – **Patricia Shapiro**

In memory of Sally Levin Lerner, beloved mother – **Kenneth and Marcy Levin**

In memory of Samuel B. Cohen, beloved uncle – **Patricia Shapiro**

With appreciation to HAZAK

- **Anne Bassi**
- **Frederick Frankel and Rebecca Figg**

With appreciation to HAZAK for the Purim bag – **Laeh Grant**

### **Israel Scholarship Endowment Fund**

In memory of Edith Turner, beloved mother – **Helene Turner**

In memory of Wolfie Bloom, beloved father of David (Simone) Bloom, beloved husband, grandfather and great-grandfather – **Dr. David and Rabbi Ora Schnitzer**

With appreciation to NSS Beth El – **Helene Turner**

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

In honor of Marla Hand and Jim Nyeste – **Edith and Helen Turner**

In honor of Mildred Lidov’s special birthday – **Sharon Stein**

In memory of Jack Hirschfield, beloved brother – **David Hirschfield**

In memory of Sari Shifrin, beloved sister of Philip (Dori) Wolgel, beloved mother and grandmother – **Steven and Fran Shapiro**

In memory of Susan Konicov Weinberg – **Joseph and Susan Adler**

With appreciation

- **Jeff and Bobbi Kwall**
- **Michael and Amanda Schallman**
- **Steve Schwartz and Lisa Colbert Schwartz**
- **Maria Shvaikovsky**

### **Jean T. and Morton Bernstein Camp Ramah Endowment Fund**

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

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

In honor of Mira and Darryl Temkin’s 50th wedding anniversary – **Michael and Barbara Salberg**

In honor of Phil Feitelberg’s 90th birthday – **Neil and Rachel Greenbaum**

In memory of Gayle Shapiro, beloved wife of Barry Shapiro, beloved mother and grandmother – **Fred and Maureen Sechan**

In memory of Kasiel Steinhardt, beloved father, grandfather and great-grandfather – **Ted and Cheryl Banks**

In memory of Nancy Kahn – **Michael and Susan Millenson**

In memory of Selma Hoffman, beloved mother – **Robbie Schreiber**

In memory of Susan Kravitz, beloved sister – **Barry and Debra Kravitz**

In memory of Susan Kravitz, beloved sister of Barry (Debbie) Kravitz and beloved daughter

- **Ellen Lavin**
- **Fred and Maureen Sechan**

In memory of William Siskel, beloved husband of Judith Siskel, beloved father, grandfather and brother – **Bill and Jan Lorenz**

In memory of Wolfie Bloom, beloved father of David (Simone) Bloom, beloved husband, grandfather and great-grandfather – **Michael and Barbara Salberg**

With appreciation to Marcie Eskin and Rachel Kamin – **Nancy Thomadsen**

### **Maxwell Abbell Library Fund**

In honor of Avi Freedman, son of Laura and Rabbi Alex Freedman, on becoming a Bar Mitzvah – **Gerry Kaplan**

In honor of Rachel Kamin – **Karen Weiss**

In memory of Susan Kravitz, beloved sister of Barry (Debbie) Kravitz and beloved daughter – **Michael and Barbara Salberg**

**Maxwell Abbell Library Fund (continued)**

*In memory of* Wolfie Bloom, beloved father of David (Simone) Bloom, beloved husband, grandfather and great-grandfather – **Daniel and Ronit Ripes**

*With appreciation* – **Iris Schwartz**

**Minyan Service Fund**

*In memory of* Edith Turner, beloved mother of Helene Turner, Nancy (David) Jacobson, David (Christina) Turner, beloved grandmother and great-grandmother – **Adrienne Eckerling**

*In memory of* Edward Margulies, beloved husband – **Paulette Margulies**

*In memory of* Nachum Levi Alter ben Avraham Yosef Chaim v'Neche – **Matthew Harrison**

*In memory of* Susan Kravitz, beloved sister of Barry (Debbie) Kravitz and beloved daughter – **David and Barbara Lansing**

*In memory of* Sylvia Wishnick, beloved mother – **Adrienne Eckerling**

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

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

*With appreciation* – **Ronnie Jo Sokol**

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

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

*In memory of* Adrian Solovy, beloved mother, grandmother and great-grandmother – **Ronnie Jo Sokol**

*In memory of* Dr. Leroy "Lee" Hirsch, beloved father of Judy Hirsch Zelin (Richard Zelin) and Ellen Hirsch Kardon (Mark Kardon) and beloved grandfather – **Ronnie Jo Sokol**

**Music Fund**

*In memory of* Edith Hymanson Weiss, beloved mother – **Karen Weiss**

*In memory of* Eugene Terry, beloved husband of Nicole Terry, beloved father of Chantal Blaustein, beloved grandfather and brother – **Larry and Abby Block**

*Wishing a complete and speedy recovery to* Anne McDonagh – **Larry and Abby Block**

**NSS Beth El Camp Scholarship Fund**

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

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

*In honor of* Greg Pestine as Men's Club Man of the Year

- **Andrew and Gail Brown**
- **Robert and Marcy Freeman**
- **Ira and Elise Frost**
- **Larry Goldsmith and Mary Ellen Bowers**

- **Dr. David and Rabbi Ora Schnitzer**
- **David Shapiro and Lori Stark**
- **Sandy Starkman and Larry Pachter**

*In memory of* Susan Kravitz, beloved sister of Barry (Debbie) Kravitz and beloved daughter – **Rob and Marcy Freeman**

**NSS Beth El Sisterhood Special Gifts Fund**

*In honor of* Benjamin Lampert, son of Suzie and Mark Lampert, and Lauren Ship, on their Auf Ruf – **Andrew and Gail Brown**

*In honor of* my birthday mazel – **Reuben and Tami Warshawsky**

*In honor of* the birth of baby girl Ostrow, granddaughter of Sara and Steve Coven – **Karen Weiss**

*In memory of* Diane Levin, beloved wife and mother, on her 5th yearzeit – **Stephen Levin and Family**

*In memory of* Dr. Leroy "Lee" Hirsch, beloved father of Judy Hirsch Zelin (Richard Zelin) and Ellen Hirsch (Mark Kardon) and beloved grandfather

- **Matt and Jamie Pestine**
- **Brian and Hillary Wenk**

*In memory of* Eugene Terry, beloved husband of Nicole Terry, beloved father of Chantal Blaustein, beloved grandfather and brother – **Matt and Jamie Pestine**

*In memory of* Ramona Choos, beloved mother of Brenda Choos, Syrene (Bradd) Robbins, Raoul Choos and Lance Choos z"l, beloved grandmother and sister – **David Shapiro and Lori Stark**

*With appreciation for* sending birthday greetings – **Richard and Sarah Liebman**

**NSS Beth El Special Gifts Fund**

*In honor of* Diane Levin and Aaron Zell on their marriage – **Mitchell Levin**

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

*In honor of* Jacob Nemirow, son of Allison and Adam Nemirow, on becoming a Bar Mitzvah – **Greg and Sara Block**

*In honor of* Robert Berger's birthday – **Sonya Frazin**

*In honor of* Rod and Marilyn Slutzky's 45th wedding anniversary – **Sandy Schwarz**

*In honor of* the birth of Samantha Zell, granddaughter of Michael Levin and Gigi Cohen – **Mark and Nina Gaines**

*In honor of* the marriage of Danny Dlugie to Tyler Froelich – **Caryn Altman**

*In honor of* Uncle Ben Abraham on his 89th birthday – **Mark and Mindy Botbol**

*In memory of* Albert Wishnick, beloved father – **Adrienne Eckerling**

*In memory of* Dr. Leroy "Lee" Hirsch, beloved father of Judy Hirsch Zelin (Richard Zelin) and Ellen Hirsch (Mark Kardon) and beloved grandfather – **Larry Cohen**

*In memory of* Edith Turner, beloved mother of Helene Turner, Nancy (David) Jacobson and David (Christina) Turner, beloved grandmother and great-grandmother

- **Steve and Wendy Abrams**
- **Brian and Jan Channon**

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

*In memory of* Eugene Terry, beloved husband of Nicole Terry, beloved father of Chantal Blaustein, beloved grandfather and brother – **Brian and Hillary Wenk**

*In memory of* Janice Paul – **Phylis Frankel**

*In memory of* Joel Honigberg, beloved husband – **Carol Honigberg**

*In memory of* Joseph Ament, beloved husband of Susan Ament – **Karyn Goldstein**

*In memory of* Judy, beloved aunt of Sara Ravich – **Adam and Melissa Reich**

*In memory of* Manny Marczak, beloved husband – **Kathryn Marczak**

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

*In memory of* Morrie Schaffer, beloved husband – **Ina Schaffer**

*In memory of* Naoma Cahr, beloved wife – **Michael Cahr**

*In memory of* Roslyn Feinstein, beloved mother of Lynn (Arthur) Cohen and Karen (William) Ross, beloved grandmother and great-grandmother – **Barbara Berger**  
– **Michael and Karen Kesner**

*In memory of* Sandra "Suri" Rudolph Hanrahan, beloved sister of Mike (Miriam) Rudolph, beloved aunt and great-aunt – **Richard and Lori Rabinowitz**

*In memory of* Sandra Cohn Becker, beloved mother, grandmother and sister

- **Corinne Granof**
- **Naomi Hershman**
- **Joy Horwich**

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

*In memory of* Susan Kravitz, beloved sister of Barry (Debbie) Kravitz and beloved daughter – **Gary and Merle Kaufman**

*In memory of* Susan Kravitz, beloved sister of Barry (Debbie) Kravitz and beloved daughter – **Marc and Deborah Richards**

*In memory of* Suzanne Kulliver, beloved sister and aunt – **Brian and Hillary Wenk**

*With appreciation to* Bobbie and Alan Newman for opening their home and hearts to me in their family celebrations – **James O'Toole**

*With appreciation to* NSS Beth El – **Shoshana Winton**

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

*In memory of* Sandra Cohn Becker, beloved mother, grandmother and sister – **Sybil Price**

*With appreciation to* the Steinberg Preschool – **Allison Kind**

**Prayer Book Fund**

*In honor of* the 50th wedding anniversary of Mira and Darryl Temkin – **Sandy Starkman and Larry Pachter**

*In memory of* Dr. Leroy "Lee" Hirsch, beloved father of Judy Hirsch Zelin (Richard Zelin) and Ellen Hirsch (Mark Kardon) and beloved grandfather – **Steven and Fran Shapiro**

*In memory of* Susan Kravitz, beloved sister of Barry (Debbie) Kravitz and beloved daughter – **Steven and Fran Shapiro**

**Ritual Refurbishment Endowment Fund**

*In memory of Linda Blumberg – Barbara Blumberg*  
*In memory of William Loeb, beloved husband of Barby Loeb – Barbara Blumberg*

**Sarah and Henry Stiebel Schechter Endowment Fund**

*In honor of Jack Channon, son of Mary and Ben Channon, on becoming a Bar Mitzvah – Karen Weiss*  
*In memory of Edith H. and Sidney Weiss, beloved parents – Karen Weiss*

**Sherman Family Camp Ramah Endowment Fund**

*In honor of Marc Sacks on his special birthday – Sandy Starkman and Larry Pachter*  
*In honor of the Bat Mitzvah of Lila Derman, daughter of Talia and Ari Derman – Sandy Starkman and Larry Pachter*  
*In memory of Norma Rosen, beloved mother of Roni (Steven) Weiss and beloved grandmother – Sandy Starkman and Larry Pachter*

**Staff Recognition Fund**

*In memory of Bernard Stauber, beloved father – Brian and Hillary Wenk*  
*In memory of Jackie Pickus, beloved sister-in-law of Jane Pickus – Helene Turner*

**Team Torah Fund**

*In memory of Mildred Lashinsky Starkman, Sidney Starkman, Bessie Lashinsky, Rose Lashinsky and Helen Rogers Lubin on their yearzeits – Sandy Starkman and Larry Pachter*

**Tzedakah/Pushke Fund**

*In honor of Greg Pestine as Men's Club Man of the Year*  
 – Ruth Freedman  
 – Daniel Wander and Ruth Ann Freedman  
*In honor of Jack Channon, son of Mary and Ben Channon, on becoming a Bar Mitzvah – Michael and Stephanie Smerling*  
*In honor of Jacob Nemirow, son of Allison and Adam Nemirow, on becoming a Bar Mitzvah*  
 – Terry and Marla Grossberg  
 – James and Michelle Seidenberg  
*In honor of Phil Feitelberg's 90th birthday – Seth and Marlene Halpern*  
*In memory of Abe Frydman, beloved father-in-law – June Back Frydman*  
*In memory of Benjamin Burton – Clif and Barb Saper*  
*In memory of Rachel Frydman, beloved mother-in-law – June Back Frydman*  
*In memory of Susan Kravitz, beloved sister of Barry (Debbie) Kravitz and beloved daughter – Michael and Stephanie Smerling*  
*In memory of Wolfie Bloom, beloved father of David (Simone) Bloom, beloved husband, grandfather and great-grandfather – Bradley and Sherry Levin*

*With appreciation to Marcie and Brad Pickard for their hospitality – Patricia Shapiro*

**Vernon H. Kurtz Senior Rabbinic Chair Endowment Fund**

*In honor of Mira and Darryl Temkin's 50th wedding anniversary – Marc Berkson*

**Youth Community Fund**

*In honor of a meaningful and warm Youth Shabbat – Daniel and Ronit Ripes*  
*In honor of Hannah Drumm, daughter of Aliza and Michael Drumm, on becoming a Bat Mitzvah*  
 – Jeff and Stacy Goldsmith  
 – Terry and Marla Grossberg  
 – Benjamin Kopin and Beth Shapiro Kopin  
*In honor of Jack Channon, son of Mary and Ben Channon, on becoming a Bar Mitzvah – Jeff and Stacy Goldsmith*  
*In honor of Jacob Nemirow, son of Allison and Adam Nemirow, on becoming a Bar Mitzvah – Patricia Shapiro*

**Beth El Event Showcase March 2026: Purim**





מה יפה ירושתנו

## SISTERHOOD

By Jamie Pestine and Elizabeth Ury, Sisterhood Co-Presidents

### This Wasn't Just a Busy Year — It Was a Meaningful One

It has been quite a year for us, Jamie Pestine and Elizabeth Ury, as Co-Presidents — and for Sisterhood as a whole.

We began with a relatively new board that quickly grew into a cohesive, capable, and enthusiastic group of women dedicated to keeping Sisterhood vibrant and relevant. We are deeply grateful for their commitment, as well as for the friendship and support of our entire community. Throughout the year, we focused on engaging multiple generations and giving back through meaningful programming.

Over the summer, we hosted Mahjong and Canasta on the Lake, bringing people together while supporting Torah Fund. In September, our “Refresh” kickoff welcomed 70 women of all ages and included donations to the Highwood Library and Community Center. October brought a joyful, music-filled gathering in the Sukkah, where members sang, danced, and created cards for IDF soldiers, delivered personally to Israel.

In November, we partnered with Men's Club for a lively evening at the Beth El Comedy Club, drawing over 120 attendees. January included a meaningful MLK Day program at Arbor Terrace, where we decorated pillowcases for women and children in shelters through Luggage for Freedom, as well as a fun, intergenerational ballroom dancing event.

February's Vashti Night featured belly dancing, henna, shopping, and Mediterranean treats, along with continued support for Luggage for Freedom. Our Rosh Chodesh programs throughout the year fostered connection and thoughtful discussion.

We look forward to another year of engaging programming and invite you to join our warm and welcoming Sisterhood community.

#### UPCOMING JUNE SISTERHOOD EVENTS:

<p>JUN <b>5</b></p>	<p>SISTERHOOD Shabbat Dinner</p>	<p>JUN <b>13</b></p>	 <p>SISTERHOOD Rosh Choesh Group &amp; SISTERHOOD Installation</p>
<p>JUN <b>6</b></p>	<p>SISTERHOOD Shabbat</p>		

### Beth El Event Showcase January 2026: Ballroom Dancing



### Beth El Event Showcase February 2026: Vashti Night



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## MEN'S CLUB CORNER

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

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### Bagels, Birdies & Brotherhood

The Men's Club has been busy with winter and spring programming—and we wouldn't have it any other way.

On the heels of our most successful Ballroom Dancing event—yes, really—where Men's Club and Sisterhood attendees showed off some impressive moves, our Club joined the nation for World Wide Wrap. More than 30 members participated alongside others across the country for a Sunday minyan and Tefillin-a-thon.

April brought Men's Club Shabbat, kicking off with a fantastic dinner for about 60 attendees. As always, our members led the Shabbat service from start to finish—taking on davening, Torah reading, and all bimah duties—capped off by a thoughtful D'var Torah from our Club President.

Our Bagels for Your Brain series has been going strong, featuring Beni Gliksberg of Shaevitz Market, Michael Small leading a Torah study session, Neil Greenblum discussing Jewish Free Loans, and David Fishbaum sharing his journey of earning his law degree later in life. Good food, great conversations—just how we like it.

By the time you're reading this, our First Annual Men's Club Golf Outing is in the books. Whether you came for the golf, the camaraderie, or just to enjoy a day out, we hope you had a great time—thank you for being part of it.

Looking ahead, we're gearing up for our summer Blood Drive and our always-anticipated Steak & Scotch kickoff event at the end of



Men's Club Shabbat Dinner

the summer—one you won't want to miss. Stay tuned for more, and as always, feel free to reach out to Aaron Krumbein, Club President, with any questions.

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### The Gift Shop: Open for You All Summer Long

*Your resource for all your Judaica. Made in Israel.*

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

With the school year coming to a close, the Gift Shop will no longer maintain regular hours—but that doesn't mean we're closed. We are always happy to welcome you by appointment.

Summer is a season of celebration, especially weddings. If you are searching for a meaningful gift rooted in tradition, we offer a beautiful selection to help couples begin or grow their Judaica collections. From seder plates and menorahs to mezuzahs, kiddush cups, and candlesticks, you'll find something special for every Jewish home.

Please reach out—we are here when you need us and happy to open the shop just for you. To schedule an appointment, please contact Sulie Holt at 847-558-3389 or Judy Hirsch at 847-962-8121.





# Mazel Tov to Our B'nai Mitzvah Students



**BAR MITZVAH**

Gabriel Desser  
son of  
Jennifer Desser  
**Shabbat, June 13**



**BAT MITZVAH**

Samantha Desser  
daughter of  
Jennifer Desser  
**Shabbat, June 13**



**BAT MITZVAH**

Laney Newman  
daughter of  
Colleen McCready and Mark Newman  
**Shabbat, June 27**



**BAR MITZVAH**

Grayson King  
son of  
Sara and Scott King  
**Shabbat, August 29**

## Beth El Event Showcase April 2026: Sisterhood Israel Museum Trunk Show



## Beth El Event Showcase April 2026: Yom HaShoah



Beth El Event Showcase April 2026: Yom HaZikaron



Beth El Event Showcase April 2026: Yom Ha'Atzmaut



North Suburban Synagogue

**Beth El**  
בית כנסת בית אל

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Highland Park, IL 60035

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As we enjoy the summer, we also  
begin preparing for a meaningful  
new year together!

## HIGH HOLIDAYS ARE APPROACHING

**Erev Rosh Hashanah: September 11**

**Erev Yom Kippur: September 20**

Don't forget to complete your 2026 High  
Holiday Seating Request Form and Children's  
High Holiday Service Form.

**The deadline for submission is Wednesday,  
July 1, 2026.**

If you have any questions, please contact  
Kathy Stinson at [kstinson@nssbethel.org](mailto:kstinson@nssbethel.org)

[www.nssbethel.org](http://www.nssbethel.org)