



Kol Beth El

North Suburban Synagogue

Beth El
בית כנסת בית אל

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2026

ELUL 5786-KISLEV 5787

Living with Intention

By Rabbi Michael Schwab



As the High Holidays approach, many of us begin the familiar work of *Cheshbon Hanefesh*—an accounting of the soul. We examine where we have fallen short, seek forgiveness, and ask how we might become more patient, more generous, and more

faithful versions of ourselves. But perhaps the greatest gift of this sacred season is not simply that it calls us to reflect once a year. Rather, it reminds us that Judaism envisions a life in which awareness itself becomes a daily spiritual practice.

Rabbi Alan Lew, of blessed memory, whose teachings have inspired so much of today's Jewish mindfulness movement, wrote that the sound of the shofar is meant to awaken us from the sleep of ordinary life. Much of the year we move from one obligation to the next, often unaware of our thoughts, our habits, or the sacred moments unfolding around us. The High Holidays interrupt that routine. They remind us to become fully present—to ourselves, to one another, and to God. As the Psalmist prays, "Teach us to number our days that we may attain a heart of wisdom" (Psalm 90:12). Wisdom begins not with having all the answers, but with learning to pay attention to the experiences of our lives each and every day.

This past year I have had the privilege of participating in a clergy mindfulness cohort through the Institute for Jewish Spirituality. Together with colleagues, I have been rediscovering what our tradition has long known: prayer, meditation, and quietude are not escapes from life; they are pathways into it. Mindfulness is not about emptying the mind, but ultimately about opening the heart and creating clarity of consciousness. It allows us to notice

our reactions before they become actions, to encounter others with greater compassion, and to become more aware of the divine image in ourselves and in those around us.

The High Holiday liturgy captures this aspiration beautifully. In the *Unetaneh Tokef* prayer we proclaim, "*U'teshuvah, u'tefillah, u'tzedakah ma'avirin et ro'a hagezeirah*—Repentance, prayer, and acts of righteousness have the power to transform the severity of the decree." These

Judaism envisions a life in which awareness itself becomes a daily spiritual practice.

are not merely rituals reserved for the Days of Awe. They are enduring disciplines that shape our awareness throughout the year. Teshuvah asks us to honestly examine ourselves. Tefillah teaches us to pause, listen, and open our hearts to God. Tzedakah directs our attention away from ourselves toward the needs of others. Together, they help us live more consciously and intentionally.

In fact, the Torah portion we read on Rosh Hashanah tells the story of Hagar, alone and frightened in the wilderness. At her moment of deepest despair, "God opened her eyes, and she saw a well of water" (Genesis 21:19). The well had apparently been there all along; what changed was her ability to see it. Perhaps that is one of the central messages of this season. The blessings, opportunities, and sacred responsibilities of our lives often stand before us waiting to be noticed. As Maimonides writes in his *Laws of Repentance* (3:4), the shofar calls out, "Awake, sleepers, from your sleep... Search your deeds and return in repentance." May the sound of the shofar awaken us not only for these holy days, but throughout the year, so that we live with greater intention, deeper gratitude, and hearts that are truly open to God's presence.



L'SHANAH
TOVAH

לשנה טובה

HAPPY
NEW YEAR

5787





High Holiday and Festival Service Schedule 5787

All services and programs will take place at NSS Beth El.
Services that will also take place at Highland Park High School are indicated.

Selichot

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

6:45 pm – Mincha
8:00 pm – Ma'ariv/Havdalah
9:30 pm – Havdalah and Dessert Reception
10:00 pm – Study Session with Dr. David Shyovitz
11:00 pm – Selichot Service

Erev Rosh Hashanah

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

6:00 pm – Mincha/Ma'ariv
6:49 pm – Candlelighting

Rosh Hashanah – Day 1

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

8:15 am – Shacharit Service (NSSBE/HPHS)
9:15 am – Preschool Family Service
10:15 am – Jr. Congregation Family Service
10:15 am – Drop Off for Children's Services (NSSBE/HPHS)
6:45 pm – Mincha
7:45 pm – Ma'ariv
7:48 pm – Candlelighting

Rosh Hashanah – Day 2

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

8:15 am – Shacharit Service
10:15 am – Drop Off for Children's Services
6:00 pm – Tashlich
6:45 pm – Mincha
7:45 pm – Ma'ariv
7:46 pm – Holiday Ends

Erev Yom Kippur/Kol Nidre

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

6:00 pm – Mincha (NSSBE/HPHS)
6:15 pm – Kol Nidre Service (NSSBE/HPHS)
6:34 pm – Candlelighting

Yom Kippur

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

9:00 am – Shacharit Service with Yizkor (NSSBE/HPHS)
9:45 am – Preschool Family Service
10:45 am – Jr. Congregation Family Service
10:45 am – Drop Off for Children's Services (NSSBE/HPHS)
5:00 pm – Mincha
6:20 pm – Neilah
7:32 pm – Ma'ariv/Holiday Ends
7:45 pm – Final Shofar Blowing

Erev Sukkot

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

6:00 pm – Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat/Ma'ariv
6:24 pm – Candlelighting
6:45 pm – Congregational Shabbat Dinner in the Sukkah

Sukkot – Day 1

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

9:00 am – Festival Service
10:30 am – Jr. Congregation
11:00 am – Tot Shabbat
6:15 pm – Mincha
7:20 pm – Ma'ariv
7:23 pm – Candlelighting

Sukkot – Day 2

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

9:00 am – Festival Service in the Sukkah
10:30 am – Jr. Congregation
11:00 am – Sukkot Pray and Play
6:15 pm – Mincha
7:20 pm – Ma'ariv
7:21 pm – Holiday Ends

Hoshana Rabbah/Erev Shemini Atzeret

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2

7:00 am – Hoshana Rabbah Morning Service
6:00 pm – Mincha/Ma'ariv
6:12 pm – Candlelighting

Shemini Atzeret/Erev Simchat Torah

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3

9:00 am – Festival Service with Yizkor
10:30 am – Jr. Congregation
11:00 am – Tot Shabbat
6:00 pm – Mincha
6:45 pm – Young Family Simchat Torah Celebration
7:10 pm – Ma'ariv/Hakafot/Simchat Torah Celebration
7:11 pm – Candlelighting

Simchat Torah

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4

9:00 am – Festival Service
10:00 am – Hakafot Service with Special Honors
10:45 am – Joint Tot Simchat Torah/Jr. Congregation
6:00 pm – Mincha
7:05 pm – Ma'ariv
7:09 pm – Holiday Ends

Introducing the 5787 Beth El SIMCHAT TORAH HONOREES!

Michael Levin



♥ Hatan Torah

Jackie Melinger



♥ Kallat Bereshit

Allison Nemirow



♥ Kol Ne'arim

Join us as we celebrate
Simchat Torah and honor
this year's special recipients!

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2026

SIMCHAT TORAH SERVICES

9:00 am Festival Services
10:00 am Hakafot Service with Special Honors
10:45 am Tot Simchat Torah/Jr. Congregation
12:30 pm Special Kiddush (sponsored by the Ritual Committee)

President's Corner

Looking Ahead with Purpose

By Larry Pachter, President of Beth El | president@nssbethel.org



As we approach Beth El's 80th anniversary, we have an opportunity not only to celebrate our rich history but also to plan for our future. We are blessed to have fourth-generation families among us. Whether you are one of our longtime families, have recently joined our community, or fit somewhere in between, we are so glad that you are here!

As we enter the new Jewish year of 5787, the Board of Directors and its committees are busy making plans to provide the resources needed to keep Beth El as strong and vibrant over the next eighty years as it is today. These plans include a capital reserve study to help ensure adequate funding to keep our facilities in excellent condition, as well as a review of our staffing and clergy to ensure we are well positioned to meet the evolving needs of our community. A major part of our planning is to increase participation in our Ner Tamid Society and to grow our Endowment. For more than 20 years, Beth El members have supported our synagogue through legacy gifts made in estate planning documents or through life insurance policies. Please consider joining the Ner Tamid Society, or updating your existing participation, as we continue to strengthen Beth El for future generations.

Interested in learning more? Please reach out to me or contact our Director of Development, Jacob Markey, at jmarkey@nssbethel.org.

On behalf of all of our volunteers and staff, I wish you a peaceful and meaningful New Year. *L'Shanah Tovah Tikateivu.*

Selichot at Beth El

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 5



9:30 PM
Havdalah & Dessert Reception

10:00 PM
Study Session: "Are Sins of the Parents Visited on their Children?" with Dr. David Shyovitz, Associate Professor of History and Director of Northwestern's Crown Family Center for Jewish and Israel Studies

11:00 PM
Selichot Service

RITUAL

By Hazzan Jenna Greenberg, Ritual Director | jgreenberg@nssbethel.org and Leah Brajer, VP Ritual | lbajer@gmail.com



It Doesn't Happen Without You!

Beth El is a special place because of the strong partnership between our professional staff and our lay leadership. Our volunteers take on an extraordinary level

of responsibility, and we truly cherish their dedication. Simply put—it doesn't happen without you.

You may be a regular at Shabbat services, but there is so much that happens behind the scenes to prepare for each Shabbat, our many programs, and especially the Tishrei holidays.

We take great pride in creating meaningful, well-organized services, but making that happen requires months of planning. From sending out High Holy Day ticket request forms around Pesach, to assigning Torah readings in the spring, to volunteers beginning honor calls in early summer—and so much more—countless hours go into preparing for the season.

This year, the Ritual Committee is excited to introduce a SignUpGenius for volunteer opportunities. Whether you can give an hour or several, every contribution makes a difference.

Even the smallest amount of time is a tremendous help. Volunteering is about more than completing a task—it builds community and creates meaningful relationships. It's a wonderful way to meet congregants of all ages whom you might not otherwise get to know.

There are many ways to get involved this fall, including rolling Torah scrolls for Rosh Hashanah, assisting with turning on the memorial board lights for Yom Kippur, helping distribute lulavim and s'chach, decorating the sukkah, and much more. Scan the QR code below to find an opportunity that fits your schedule. Together, we can make this season welcoming, meaningful, and successful for our entire congregation.

As the Talmud teaches, *Kol Yisrael arevim zeh bazeh*—"All of Israel is responsible for one another." As one Beth El family, we each have a role to play. We hope you'll join us in making this High Holy Day season a success.

Wishing you and your family a Shanah Tovah!



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



September

Friday, September 4

6:00 pm Kabbalat Shabbat
7:01 pm Candlelighting

Saturday, September 5

Selichot

Parashat Nitzavim-Vayeilech
9:00 am Shabbat Service
6:45 pm Mincha Service
8:00 pm Ma'ariv Service/Havdalah
8:01 pm Shabbat Ends
9:30 pm Havdalah and Dessert Reception
10:00 pm Study Session with Dr. David Shyovitz
11:00 pm Selichot Service

Friday, September 11

Erev Rosh Hashanah
6:00 pm Festival Service
6:49 pm Candlelighting

Saturday, September 12

Rosh Hashanah Day 1
8:15 am Shacharit Service
9:15 am Preschool Family Service
10:15 am Jr. Congregation Family Service
10:15 am Children's Services
6:45 pm Mincha Service
7:45 pm Ma'ariv Service
7:48 pm Candlelighting

Friday, September 18

6:00 pm Kabbalat Shabbat
6:37 pm Candlelighting

Saturday, September 19

Parashat Ha'Azinu
9:00 am Shabbat Service
6:30 pm Mincha Service
7:35 pm Ma'ariv Service/Havdalah
7:36 pm Shabbat Ends

Friday, September 25

Erev Sukkot
6:00 pm Festival Service
6:24 pm Candlelighting
6:45 pm Congregational Shabbat Dinner in the Sukkah

Saturday, September 26

Sukkot Day 1
9:00 am Festival Service
10:30 am Jr. Congregation
11:00 am Tot Shabbat
6:15 pm Mincha Service
7:20 pm Ma'ariv Service
7:23 pm Candlelighting

October

Friday, October 2

Hoshana Rabbah
Erev Shemini Atzeret
7:00 am Hoshana Rabbah Morning Service
6:00 pm Festival Service
6:12 pm Candlelighting

Saturday, October 3

Shemini Atzeret
Erev Simchat Torah
9:00 am Festival Service with Yizkor
10:30 am Jr. Congregation
11:00 am Tot Shabbat
6:00 pm Mincha Service
6:45 pm Young Family Simchat Torah Celebration
7:10 pm Ma'ariv/Hakafot/Simchat Torah Celebration
7:11 pm Candlelighting

Friday, October 9

6:00 pm Kabbalat Shabbat
6:00 pm Candlelighting

Saturday, October 10

Parashat Bereshit
9:00 am Shabbat Service
6:00 pm Mincha Service
6:55 pm Ma'ariv Service/Havdalah
6:59 pm Shabbat Ends

Friday, October 16

5:49 pm Candlelighting
6:00 pm Kabbalat Shabbat

Saturday, October 17

Parashat Noach
9:00 am Shabbat Service
5:45 pm Mincha Service
6:45 pm Ma'ariv Service/Havdalah
6:48 pm Shabbat Ends

Friday, October 23

5:39 pm Candlelighting
6:00 pm Kabbalat Shabbat

Saturday, October 24

Parashat Lech Lecha
9:00 am Shabbat Service
5:30 pm Mincha Service
6:35 pm Ma'ariv Service/Havdalah
6:38 pm Shabbat Ends

Friday, October 30

5:29 pm Candlelighting
6:00 pm Kabbalat Shabbat

Saturday, October 31

Parashat Vayera
9:00 am Shabbat Service
5:15 pm Mincha Service
6:25 pm Ma'ariv Service/Havdalah
6:29 pm Shabbat Ends

November

Friday, November 6

4:20 pm Candlelighting
6:00 pm Kabbalat Shabbat

Saturday, November 7

Parashat Chayei Sara
9:00 am Shabbat Service
4:15 pm Mincha Service
5:20 pm Ma'ariv Service/Havdalah
5:22 pm Shabbat Ends

Friday, November 13

4:13 pm Candlelighting
6:00 pm Kabbalat Shabbat

Saturday, November 14

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

Friday, November 20

4:07 pm Candlelighting
6:00 pm Kabbalat Shabbat

Saturday, November 21

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

Friday, November 27

4:03 pm Candlelighting
6:00 pm Kabbalat Shabbat

Saturday, November 28

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

CONTACT US

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☎ 847-432-8900

Discover more on our socials!

📘 www.facebook.com/NSSBE
📷 @nssbethel



Bringing Camp Home This Year

By Hazzan Jacob Sandler | jsandler@nssbethel.org



Fall means back to school for our kids, and for many that also means back from camp. This past summer, I had the privilege of spending some time at various camps. I experienced a wonderful *Zimriyah* (camp-wide singing event) at Ramah Day Camp. Hazzan Greenberg and I took a lovely tour of Beber camp. And I was delighted to spend nearly two full

weeks at Ramah in Wisconsin.

The best part of all my camp visits was seeing the smiles from our Beth El community. At Ramah, I taught some *yehadut* (Judaics) classes, led musical *tefillot* (prayers), helped set the mood for Tisha B'Av, and co-hosted a delicious Shabbat Kiddush with Stacy La Mell. Watching our campers immerse in Jewish life on the basketball court, on stage and in *tefillot* gives me great joy and hope for our Jewish future. It's no secret that Jewish camping was a pivotal part of how I became a Hazzan.

As a Hazzan, one of my main goals was to bring the spirit of camp back home. (I like to joke that with our view of the lake, we're already half way there!) Whether I'm teaching, leading services, songleading or performing, I always try to bring *ruach* (energy) to the Jewish life at Beth El for all ages. Though I don't think we're going to start our own Maccabiah (Color War) here at the synagogue, I always love to hear about the camp traditions that were meaningful to you, or to your kids. How can we work together to recreate or adapt them to the rest of our year? Because we don't have to wait until summer to make Jewish life full of joy!



Beth El Event Showcase May 2026: Jewish Rock Radio Concert



CONGREGATIONAL LEARNING

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



Fall Classes in the Sokol Hebrew High School

Resilience Rising: Building Confidence in Challenging Times

Jewish teens today often encounter antisemitism in ways that can be subtle, personal, and difficult to navigate. *Resilience Rising* is a three-session course led by trained educators from No Shame On U, in consultation

with the Spertus Institute for Jewish Learning and Leadership. Through honest conversations and practical skill-building, students will learn to recognize antisemitism, understand its impact on belonging and mental well-being, develop healthy coping strategies, and gain confidence in responding thoughtfully while strengthening their connection to Jewish identity and community.



Learn "Shrek" Trope with Hazzan Jacob Sandler October 21, 28 and November 4 | 7:00–8:30 pm

Join Hazzan Jacob Sandler to learn the cantillation (trope) for *Shir HaShirim* (Song of Songs), *Ruth*, and *Kohelet* (Ecclesiastes)—affectionately known as the "Shrek" trope. Whether students hope to lead Megillah readings, expand their musical skills, or simply explore a new area of Jewish learning, this course offers an engaging introduction to these beautiful melodies. Students will build confidence in chanting from the Megillot while gaining a deeper appreciation for the role of music and tradition in Jewish life.

For details about Sokol Hebrew High School, and these and other classes, contact me at adrumm@nssbethel.org.

STEINBERG PRESCHOOL

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



Expanding Opportunities for Our Youngest Learners

As summer draws to a close, we eagerly prepare to welcome another exciting school year at the Paul S. and Sylvia Steinberg Preschool at NSS Beth El. There is something truly special about the beginning of a

new year—a time filled with anticipation, discovery, and the joy of watching children grow. This year, that sense of new beginnings feels even more meaningful as it coincides with the approach of **Rosh Hashanah**, the Jewish New Year.

Rosh Hashanah reminds us that every new beginning is an opportunity for growth, reflection, and hope. In our preschool, these values come to life each day as our youngest learners explore the world around them, build friendships, celebrate Jewish traditions, and develop a lifelong love of learning in a warm and nurturing environment.

This year also marks an exciting milestone for our preschool community. Thanks to the generous support of the **Jewish United Fund (JUF) Expanding Capacity Grant**, we have expanded our early childhood program with the addition of a fourth two-year-old classroom. The grant provides funding for classroom materials, storage, and enhanced security, allowing us to continue creating a safe, engaging, and

enriching environment for our youngest students.

The expansion to four thriving "twos" classrooms reflects the growing demand for high-quality Jewish early childhood education and our community's commitment to investing in young families. We are honored that JUF recognized the importance of expanding opportunities for our youngest learners, and we are grateful for their partnership in helping us serve more children during these formative years.



Sweet Moments at Beth El!

As we open our doors for the new school year and prepare our hearts for the High Holy Days, we celebrate not only the growth of our preschool but also the vibrant future of our Jewish community. Every child who walks

through our doors brings new energy, curiosity, and possibility, and we are excited to embark on another year of learning, laughter, and meaningful Jewish experiences together.

From all of us at NSS Beth El Preschool, we wish our families and the entire community a sweet, healthy, and joyful New Year. Shanah Tovah!



Building Community Under the Sukkah

As we begin a new school year at CRS, we are excited to welcome our learners and their families into our community. This year, our Ganon, Gan, and Alef students will begin classes after Simchat Torah, making for a later start

to the school year. To help build relationships before classes begin, we have chosen to gather during Sukkot, inviting all of our Ganon, Gan, and Alef families to a special Sukkot program where students can meet their teachers, make new friends, and begin creating connections with one another.

Sukkot is the ultimate opportunity to engage in the mitzvah of *hachnasat orchim*—welcoming guests. We invite family, friends, and neighbors into our sukkah, creating a space where relationships can grow and connections can deepen.

The sukkah itself teaches us that community is built by the people who gather within it.

In *Bereshit*, we learn that Abraham and Sarah kept their tent open on all sides so that guests could enter from any direction. They would run out to greet visitors, inviting them into the shade of their tent for food, rest, and conversation. Their example teaches us that welcoming others is not simply a kind gesture, it is a sacred responsibility. As we welcome new families into CRS, we are called to create spaces where everyone feels seen, supported, and connected to Jewish life.

We hope our youngest learners experience the same warmth and sense of belonging that a sukkah provides. Whether it is walking into a classroom for the first time or meeting new friends, every interaction helps build a welcoming community. May this new year be filled with friendship, learning, and joyful experiences as we welcome them into the CRS community.

GANON-ALEF SUKKOT CELEBRATION

Wednesday, September 30 | 5:00–6:15 pm

We invite SPS and CRS families
(Ganon–Alef) to celebrate
together in the Sukkah!

CRS families will have an opportunity to meet
their teachers. Scan the QR code to register.



RSVP BY SEPTEMBER 23



YOUTH COMMUNITY

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



Helping Our Youth Lead the Way

Each fall, the Jewish calendar invites us into a journey of reflection, celebration, gratitude, and joy. As we welcome a new year together, our Youth

Community is excited to help our children and teens experience these timeless values—not only through learning, but by living them.

We begin with the High Holy Days, embracing *teshuvah* (return and renewal) and *kehillah* (community) as we gather for our annual **Dessert Hop** and our teen-led **Tashlich**, where our teens create a meaningful opportunity to reflect, connect, and begin the year with intention.

As we celebrate **Sukkot**, we remember the importance of gratitude, resilience, and *hachnasat orchim* (welcoming others). Our **Sushi in the Sukkah** brings these values to life as friends gather under the sukkah to celebrate together.

This year, we're especially excited to deepen our community's celebration of **Simchat Torah**. Along with our annual Ice Cream Social, our teens will take an active role in one of the congregation's *hakafot*, helping lead our celebration as we dance with the Torah and rejoice in beginning the cycle anew. It's a beautiful expression of *l'dor v'dor*—passing our traditions from generation to generation—not simply by teaching our young people, but by inviting them to help lead.

That spirit of leadership continues throughout the year through our reimagined **BEANS** leadership program, where teens will have new opportunities to shape programs, build meaningful relationships, and strengthen our Jewish community together.

Whether your family is joining us for the first time or has been part of Beth El for generations, we hope you'll join us this fall as we build friendships, deepen Jewish learning, and celebrate the joy of being together.

We can't wait to share an inspiring new year with you!

Beth El Event Showcase May 2026: CRS End of Year Bash



COMMUNICATIONS

By Daniela Magnifico, Communications & Marketing Manager | dmagnifico@nssbethel.org

How Do More Than 1,000 Families Stay Connected as One Community?

There isn't a single answer. But communication is an important part of it. Our congregation is called **Beth El**, which means House of G-d. But a house is much more than a building. It is a place where people gather, celebrate, learn, support one another, and feel they belong. If Beth El is our spiritual home, communication helps keep that home connected.

Communication is more than sharing information. It is one of the ways a community grows stronger. Every email, story, photo, invitation, and conversation is an opportunity to bring people together and strengthen our **kehillah (community)**.

Each week, our **Thursday Kol Beth El Weekly Email** helps members discover upcoming services, programs, volunteer opportunities, and ways to participate in Jewish life at Beth El. The **quarterly Bulletin** shares stories, celebrates milestones, and highlights the people and programs that make our congregation so special. Our **website, social media**, and photo galleries keep members informed while preserving the memories we create together. Even **All in the Beth El Family**, our online page for sharing lifecycle announcements, reminds us that every celebration, every act of kindness, and every loss is shared by a caring community.



Communication is not only about letting people know what is happening. It is about helping people feel connected. Sometimes that happens through an invitation to an event. Sometimes it comes from seeing a familiar face in a photo, reading an inspiring story, or discovering a program they never knew existed. Those small moments strengthen the connections that make Beth El feel like home.

As we begin a new year together, this column will continue exploring the many ways communication helps strengthen our community, sharing the stories, people, and moments that keep Beth El informed, engaged, and connected.

Because community is the goal. Communication is the bridge.

Beth El Event Showcase May 2026: Tzofim Friendship Caravan





MEMBERSHIP & ENGAGEMENT

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



Preparing Together for the High Holy Days

As the High Holy Days approach, we enter a sacred season of reflection, renewal, and connection. This is not only a time to look inward, but also to strengthen the relationships that make our synagogue a true community.

As Engagement Director, I see every day how powerful it is when members step forward to participate and support one another. This season is an opportunity for each of us—whether long-time members or newcomers—to deepen our sense of belonging.

I invite you to get involved in three meaningful ways:

Help continue our warm and welcoming experiences. Plan a congregational dinner, join the Social Action Committee to keep our Thanksgiving and Spring Mitzvah Days thriving, or lend a hand on Thursday mornings supporting our HAZAK

Core, Balance, and Stability participants. And do not miss the energy of Sisterhood and Men's Club—vibrant, engaging groups filled with fantastic programs to enjoy or help create. Your ideas and enthusiasm make all the difference in bringing these meaningful moments to life!

Welcome new members. A simple greeting, invitation to sit together, or small act of kindness can make someone feel truly at home.

Give your time. From greeting at services to helping behind the scenes, every role strengthens our community. Interested in joining the Programming and Membership Committee? Please reach out, for more information.

The High Holy Days remind us that we are not meant to journey alone. When you choose to participate, you help shape a synagogue that is warm, inclusive, and vibrant.

Wishing you a meaningful and sweet New Year.

What is in a Name?

A name tells a story—it is how we recognize and connect with one another. In our warm and welcoming NSS Beth El community, learning names turns familiar faces into meaningful relationships. As we gather, we are introducing reusable hanging name badges for events and programs (not for services or holidays). Please return your badge at the end of the program, so we can save it for next time. Reusing badges is a simple way to reduce waste while celebrating who we are. By choosing reuse, we honor both our shared community and our responsibility to the world around us. We look forward to welcoming you and getting to know your name!



Beth El Event Showcase May 2026: Stories and Spice with Adeena Sussman





Social Action Committee

By Marlene Halpern | socialaction@nssbethel.org

► Scan the QR code to learn more about the Social Action Committee.



Mark your calendars for our upcoming events!

SEPT
15

SAC's Annual Kick-Off Meeting TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15 8:00 PM

Come join us and bring your new ideas and ways to help our community and the greater Chicagoland community around us. The meeting will take place in the Beth El Library.

Save The Date

BETH EL
SOCIAL ACTION

*Thanksgiving
Mitzvah Project*

SUNDAY,
NOVEMBER 22
9:00 AM - NOON

Beth El members of all ages are invited to join us to make Thanksgiving baskets for families in need. Donated food baskets will benefit families from Glenwood School in Waukegan and Moraine Township Food Pantry. More information to follow in the coming months.

SAVE THE DATE

BETH EL SOCIAL ACTION

COAT DRIVE

NOV. 22 - DEC. 13

Please contribute gently used winter wear to our annual coat drive benefiting Chesed Chicago. Stay tuned for more details.

The ARK's High Holiday Food Drive

Pack the Pantry for The ARK during the high holiday season. Please consider donating kosher food, personal care products, and household essentials to support the greater Jewish Chicagoland community. Stay tuned for exact dates and donation list.

Annual Mitzvah Day

SUNDAY, APRIL 11, 2027 | 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Join your Beth El family and friends for a day dedicated to giving, doing, and getting so much more in return! In partnership with local organizations, we will offer many mitzvah opportunities, including making fleece blankets for children at local hospitals and care packages for the elderly, and a variety of craft projects and community collection efforts.

Email Marlene Halpern at socialaction@nssbethel.org with any questions or comments.
Come do good with the Social Action Committee —one mitzvah at a time!



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



The Blessing of Memory: Recent Children's Books About Jewish Mourning Rituals

At the Association of Jewish Libraries conference in June, I learned about three new picture books that explore the tradition of observing a *yahrzeit*. In ***A Flame Burns On* by Richard Ho, illustrated by Carmel Ben Ami**, a girl and her mom light a *yahrzeit* candle on the anniversary of an uncle's passing. Even though she was young when he died, she and her mom spend the day telling their favorite stories of him and sharing their memories. Similarly, in ***The Remembering Candle* by Alison Goldberg, illustrated by Selina Alko**, a boy and his family light a special *yahrzeit* candle for his beloved grandfather. And, in ***I Wish That You Knew* by Rebecca Gardyn Levington, illustrated by Alyssa Russell**, a young

girl attends the unveiling ceremony for her grandmother. Additionally, ***Something Sweet* by Lesléa Newman, illustrated by Sarita Rich**, illuminates the Jewish custom of *shiva* from the perspective of a non-Jewish girl, Lizzie, who visits her friend Joshua's house while he is mourning the loss of his grandfather.

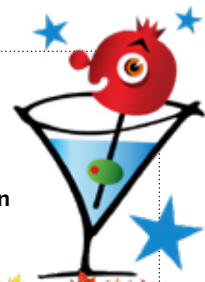
All of these books are beautifully illustrated and accessible for a parent, grandparent, or caregiver to read with a child as young as four years old. They gently introduce Jewish rituals surrounding loss while emphasizing the comfort found in family, community, and cherished memories. As adults, we often struggle to find the right words to explain death and mourning to our children, but these stories can provide a meaningful starting point. They remind children that although the people we love may no longer be with us, the stories we tell, the traditions we observe, and the memories we share ensure that their lives continue to be a blessing. Stop by the Pinsof Children's Reading Room to check out one of these books or contact me at rkamin@nssbethel.org.

Chicago Festival of Israeli Cinema

Cabaret Total

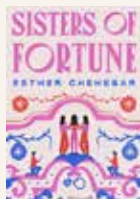
Sunday, October 11, 5:00 pm at the Wayfarer Theatre in Highland Park

Assi, a failed actor, returns home to his family after completing reserve duty during the war. An unexpected turn of events suddenly thrusts him into the spotlight—but not for the reasons he had hoped. Assi is forced to choose whether to give up on his dreams or fully chase them. NSS Beth El, supported by the Joseph and Mae Gray Cultural & Learning Center, will sponsor this film screening as part of the Chicago Festival of Israeli Cinema. Purchases tickets online at <https://israelifilmchi.org/>.



Sisterhood Torah Fund Book Club

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



***Sisters of Fortune* by Esther Chehebar**

Saturday, October 10, 12:30 pm

In this hilarious, heart-warming debut novel, three Syrian Jewish sisters chase love and grapple with the growing pains of young womanhood as they seek their place within, and beyond, their Brooklyn community.



***The Wolf Shall Dwell with the Lamb* by Emmet Hirsch**

Saturday, November 14, 12:30 pm

This sweeping historical novel follows Joseph Friedmann from a traumatic childhood in a Catholic convent in Lebanon to the battlefields of Israel's War of Independence and a dangerous career as an undercover Israeli spy. **Meet the author in person at Beth El on Wednesday, November 18!**

Participants are encouraged to make a minimum annual donation of \$54 to the Torah Fund Campaign. The Book Club will continue in January, March & May 2027. Questions? Contact Rachel at rkamin@nssbethel.org or at 847-926-7902.

Harvest & Harmonies in the Sukkah

Tuesday, September 29, 11:00 am

Violinist Aviva Chertok Li and keyboard and accordion player Arkady Bodner team up as Ensemble A2 to perform a festive, fall concert. Enjoy classic melodies and celebrated Jewish songs, from Dvorak and Beethoven to Hava Nagilah and Tum Balalaika. Plus, a complimentary lunch, sponsored by HAZAK, in the Sukkah! Reservations are required by September 24.

Polarized: Why American Jews are Divided and What to Do About It!

Thursday, October 1, 8:00 pm

Join Beth El member Bobbi Kwall in the Sukkah to celebrate the release of her new book, which offers a multi-disciplinary examination of the major divides within the American Jewish community prior to, and in the wake of, the Israel-Hamas war. Bobbi lays out a blueprint for how American Jewry can develop a much-needed, vocal center capable of productive discourse despite areas of disagreement. Copies of *Polarized* will be available for sale.



Gertrude Lederman Family Continuing Education

Continuing Education courses at North Suburban Synagogue Beth El offer a wonderful chance to deepen your understanding of Jewish thought, culture, and identity as part of a vibrant, inclusive and welcoming community of lifelong learners. Join us for these Fall 5787 classes:



Scan the QR code to register.

	High Holiday Boot Camp: The Days of Awe and Fear with Rabbi Alex Freedman	Thursdays, 11:15 am – 12:15 pm August 27 & September 3
	Writer's Beit Midrash	Wednesdays, 9:30–11:00 am Sept. 2, Oct. 14 & 28, Nov. 11 and Dec. 2 & 16
	Talmud with Rabbi Michael Schwab	Tuesdays, 8:30–9:30 am October 6 – December 15
	Café Ivrit: Intermediate Conversational Hebrew with Pnina Arsers	Tuesdays, 6:15 – 7:30 pm October 6 – December 15
	Breaking Jewish News and Views with Carl Schrag	Wednesdays, 9:45 – 11:00 am October 7 – December 16
	Sicha B'Ivrit: Advanced Conversational Hebrew with Shlomit Hoch	Thursdays, 6:00 – 7:30 pm October 8 – December 17
	Hebrew Literacy 101 with Marci Dickman	Tuesdays, 10:30–11:45 am October 13 – December 15
	Evening Class TBD with Rabbi Michael Schwab	Tuesdays, 8:00–9:00 pm October 13, 20 & 27; November 10; and December 1
	Understanding Israel Today: Can Israel Be Both Jewish and Democratic? with Rabbi Alex Freedman	Thursdays, 11:15 am – 12:15 pm October 15 & 22 and November 5
	From Shepherd to King: David in Bible and Midrash with Rabbi Dr. Vernon Kurtz Sponsored by the Schechter Institute	Sundays, 10:30–11:45 am October 18 – December 27
	Introduction to Conversational Hebrew with Rabbi James Sagarin	Mondays, 10:00 – 11:15 am October 19 – December 14
	SAPIR Salon with Randy Iden	Wednesday, 8:00 – 9:00 pm October 21
	Lunch & Learn with Rabbi Michael Schwab	Thursday, 12:00–1:00 pm October 29
	Parables and Epistles: Stories of Jesus and Letters of Paul with Rabbi Steven Bob	Thursdays, 11:15 am – 12:15 pm November 12 & 19 and December 3

Visit the Continuing Education page on the Beth El website at www.nssbethel.org for more information and to register. Questions? Contact Rachel Kamin, Director of Lifelong Learning, at rkamin@nssbethel.org or at 847-926-7902.

From the Archives: Building Upon the Past, Building for the Future

By Morton Steinberg



Groundbreaking for the "Community Center" (Auditorium) – November 27, 1955

Pictured: 1. Max Rubenstein 2. Edward Glazier, President 3. Max Goldberg 4. Judy Perlman 5. Allen Gellman 6. Harold Blumberg 7. Isadore Braun 8. Joseph Young 9. Rabbi Philip Lipis 10. Al Joseph 11. Scotty Fohrman 12. Harry Hershman

Beth El did not build its first permanent home. It bought it. In the summer of 1948, after several failed attempts to locate a suitable facility on the North Shore, the "showplace" estate constructed by Edward Valentine Price at 1201 South Sheridan Road (later 1175 Sheridan Road) in Highland Park became available for purchase. Max Goldberg, a member of the synagogue's board of directors, at the urging of his wife Ida, stepped forward and on August 18, 1948, on behalf of the congregation, bought the seven-acre estate then called Bonita Vista. The price was \$200,000. Although

the congregation faced some unexpected legal challenges following the purchase, by October the synagogue and its schools were functioning in its new home. Within two years plans were being developed to construct a school building to accommodate the congregation's more than 400 Hebrew and Sunday school students.

By the early 1950s, the rapidly growing congregation needed additional facilities to meet the needs of its almost 500 member families. While the new school building, which



The Mansion, a beloved part of Beth El



New Beth El Pavilion

FROM THE ARCHIVES – CONTINUED

opened in 1953, housed the children's classes, a social hall was the next item on the building plan proposed by its far-sighted spiritual leader, Rabbi Philip L. Lipis. On November 11, 1955, on the synagogue's south lawn, a groundbreaking ceremony was held for the new "Community Center," later dedicated as the Blumberg Auditorium. That groundbreaking ceremony was unique in that not only did adults participate but also children from each of the synagogue's three schools: the Gan (nursery school), the Sunday school and the Hebrew school.

Throughout the ensuing years the continued growth of the congregation fostered the need to further grow its

facilities. These included the Field Family Sanctuary, the Posen Rabbinic and Administrative Wing, the expansion of the school building, and most recently the newly dedicated Cohen Pavilion, which provides a safe, secure and attractive entry into both the school building and the administrative portions of the synagogue. This Rosh Hashanah, as we reflect on the past and contemplate the future, we can all be proud of the growth of the Beth El family and the synagogue's impressive facilities over the past eighty years. And we can look forward to an exciting and meaningful future for all members of our congregation.

Janet and Irving Robbin Scholar in Residence

FRIDAY–SUNDAY
OCTOBER 16–18, 2026



A WEEKEND WITH

Dr. Joshua Shanes

Emanuel Ringelblum Professor in Jewish History at the University of California, Davis

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16

6:00 pm – Dr. Shanes will deliver the D'var Torah during Kabbalat Shabbat Services.

Scan the
QR code
to register.



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17

Shabbat Morning Sermon: ***"Zionism: Ancient Dream or Modern Revolution"***
(Services at 9:00 am; Sermon at approximately 10:45 am)

12:30 pm – Post-Kiddush Lecture: ***"The Israelization of American Judaism"***

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18

2:00 pm – Community Presentation: ***"The Evangelicalization of Orthodoxy"***

- Open to the community, free of charge. Register online or contact Rachel Kamin, Director of Lifelong Learning, at rkamin@nssbethel.org or 847-926-7902.

Connection Through Exercising with Friends



In early 2023, the HAZAK Caring Community began offering a monthly exercise class for members. We hired a Senior Certified Personal Trainer, and the class was named Core, Balance & Stability. What started with just 5–8 members quickly grew, as participants became fans of our instructor, Gina, and asked for more sessions. We expanded from one class per month to three.

Thanks to funding from the Diane and Leonard Sherman Foundation, congregational donations, our Rabbis discretionary fund, and sponsors including Arbor Terrace, Tamarisk Senior Living Communities, and Senior Living Advisors, the class continues to thrive at no cost to participants.

Today, 20–24 people sign up for classes—sometimes filling a waiting list—and two volunteers assist Gina to keep things running smoothly.



Honey Bronson

One of our volunteers, Honey Bronson, explains, “Volunteering with HAZAK Fitness was rewarding. As a health coach, I understand the value of functional movement, so it was inspiring to see so many people gather for exercise, laughter, and community. Gina leads fun, engaging, appropriately challenging classes—no wonder the program has grown. I offered gentle support to participants, helping everyone move safely and confidently. I left inspired and grateful, and encourage anyone considering volunteering to join—you’ll make a difference.”



HAZAK Class in the Blumberg

We’re looking for more volunteers to help keep this class going. No experience is needed—you won’t be leading the exercises, just lending a hand. Interested? Contact Mary Ellen Bowers or Jackie Melinger at hazak@nssbethel.org.

Beth El Event Showcase May 2026: Annual Meeting



It's All in the Beth El Family

Mazel Tov to:

Laurel Abramowicz
On her birthday

Tamar Aizenberg, son of Deborah and Gabi Aizenberg, and Saul Cohen, son of Nancy Bloom and Alan Cohen
On their wedding

Rachel and Nathan Block, children of Melissa and Philip Block
On becoming B'nai Mitzvah

Heidi Blumenthal, daughter of Rebecca and Daniel Blumenthal and Cody Reiff, son of Robin and Robert Reiff
On their wedding

Gail and Brian Boorstein and Carol and John Levy
On the baby naming of their granddaughter, Lottie Baker Levy

Joan Brodsky
On becoming a Bat Mitzvah

Ben Channon
On his 42nd birthday

Jack Channon
On his Gesher USY award and *Chidon haTanakh* win at Solomon Schechter Day School

Mary Channon
On becoming a Bat Mitzvah

Sarah Cohen and Robert Schnitzer
On the baby naming of their daughter, Ella Miriam

Beth Cook
On becoming a Bat Mitzvah

Sara Coven
On her 65th birthday

Rabbi Deena Cowans
On her birthday

Naomi Cowans, daughter of Deborah Shalowitz Cowans and Bruce Cowans and Jesse Madwed, son of Karin and Michael Madwed,
On their wedding

Jenny Dennis
On her 35th anniversary of her Bat Mitzvah

Carole and Stanton Derdiger
On the birth of their great-grandson, Ayreh Zehev Asulin

Gabriel and Samantha Desser, children of Jennifer Desser
On becoming B'nai Mitzvah

Lael and Mark Edelstein
On their 45th wedding anniversary

Julia Faust
On the first anniversary of her Bat Mitzvah

Nancy and Maury Fertig
On the birth of their granddaughter, Emmie Ruth

Leslie Fox
On becoming a Bat Mitzvah

Avi Freedman, son of Laura and Rabbi Alex Freedman
On becoming a Bar Mitzvah

Jonathan and Alexandra Friedman
On their 25th wedding anniversary

Rob Freeman
On the 50th anniversary of his Bar Mitzvah

Eileen and Ron Goldberg
On their 43rd wedding anniversary

Renee Goldfarb
On receiving the Ilana Diamond Rovner Lifetime Achievement Award from the Illinois Jewish Judges Association

Ronni Graff
On becoming a Bat Mitzvah

Melany Gurtman
On becoming a Bat Mitzvah

Justin Halpern, son of Marlene and Seth Halpern, and Jamie Levine, daughter of Stephanie and James Levine
On their wedding

Deborah Herz-Mazius
On becoming a Bat Mitzvah

Marilyn Hirsch
On becoming a Bat Mitzvah

Gerry Kaplan
On the birth of her great-grandson, Max Daniel Kaplan

Lois Lourie
On becoming a Bat Mitzvah

Ellen Lavin
On her 81st birthday

Carol and John Levy
On the baby naming of their granddaughter, Lottie Baker Levy

Adrienne and Marvin Heiman
On their 60th wedding anniversary

Nora Holt, daughter of Mia Levy and Jonathan Holt
On becoming a Bat Mitzvah

Jared Kamin
On the 7th anniversary of his Bar Mitzvah

Mike Kamin
On the 40th anniversary of his Bar Mitzvah

Aaron Krumbein
On the 53rd anniversary of his Bar Mitzvah

Eli Krumbein
On his 100th birthday

Gerald Lasin
On his 90th birthday and the 77th anniversary of his Bar Mitzvah

Gabrielle Lipsitz, daughter of Terri and Michael Lipsitz, and Hunter Watts, son of Valerie and Phillip Watts
On their wedding

Daniela Magnifico and Pinchas Badra
On their first wedding anniversary

Leah Mindell
On becoming a Bat Mitzvah

Laney Newman, daughter of Colleen McCready and Mark Newman
On becoming a Bat Mitzvah

Laura Patterson and Joel Steinberg
On their 18th wedding anniversary

Ken Saffir
On his 77th birthday

Rabbi Ora and Dr. David Schnitzer
On the baby naming of their granddaughter, Ella Miriam Schnitzer

Rabbi Michael Schwab
On his 50th birthday

Gail Scully and Randall Iden
On their 38th wedding anniversary

Phyllis Shalowitz
On her 85th birthday

Shoshana and Rachel Shanes, Dan and Diane Shanes and Samuel Shanes
On the baby naming of their daughter, granddaughter and great-granddaughter, Aariah Ren Dodie Shanes

Fran Shapiro
On becoming a Bat Mitzvah

Katy and Josh Silvers
On the birth of their granddaughter, Shai Juliette Polk

Lexee Vainstock, daughter of Victoria and Gregory Vainstock,
On becoming a Bat Mitzvah

Tami and Reuben Warshawsky
On the birth of their granddaughter, Mila Jay Allen

Rabbi Josh Warshawsky and Adina Allen
On the birth of their daughter, Mila Jay Allen

Kiddush Co-Sponsors:

Adult B'not Mitzvah Class
Laurel and Barry Abramowicz
Melissa and Philip Block
Rebecca and Daniel Blumenthal
Gail and Brian Boorstein
Bruce Cowans
Deborah Shalowitz Cowans
Jennifer Desser
Lael and Mark Edelstein

Abby Elkins
Harriet and Bill Freedman
Laura and Rabbi Alex Freedman
Marcy and Rob Freeman
Alexandra and Jonathan Friedman
Stacy and Jeff Goldsmith
Marlene and Seth Halpern
Eli Krumbein
The Krumbein Family

Adrienne and Gerald Lasin
Terry and Michael Lipsitz
Stephanie and James Levine
Carol and John Levy
Mia Levy
Colleen McCready and Mark Newman
NSS Beth El Men's Club
NSS Beth El Sisterhood

Erica and Rabbi Michael Schwab
Gail Scully and Randall Iden
Michelle and Jimmy Seidenberg
Michael, Kelly, Hannah, Ben and Eric Siegel
Judi Steinberg
Victoria and Gregory Vainstock
Jill Weinberg and Bernard Kramer

It's All in the Beth El Family

Condolences to:

Sally Aaron

On the loss of her brother,
Martin Zolman Karson

Jeff Grafstein

On the loss of his mother,
Annette Grafstein

Laeh Grant

On the loss of her daughter,
Leslie Nan Grant

Adam Kraft and Rachel Kraft

On the loss of their mother,
Kerena Kraft

Eli Krumbein

On the loss of his sister-in-law,
Celia Frohman

Linda Kupfer

On the loss of her mother,
Eva London Ritt

The Rosenblum Family

On the loss of
Louis Rosenblum

Sam Skurie

On the loss of his father,
Paul Skurie

The Stern Family

On the loss of their mother,
Barbara Stern

Alexis Stolze

On the loss of her father,
Arthur Wirth

Marvin Temple

On the loss of his wife,
Janice Temple

Anya Viner

On the loss of her mother,
Joan Harelik

Michael Wirth

On the loss of his father,
Arthur Wirth

IN MEMORIAM:

Kerena Kraft
Louis Rosenblum
Barbara Stern
Janice Temple

Beth El Event Showcase August 2026: Sourdough Workshop with Divorah Marinelli



Rabbi Schwab Discretionary Fund

In honor of Eli Krumbein's 100th birthday

- Earl and Rocky Rubinoff
- Matt and Jamie Pestine

In honor of Gerald Lasin's 90th birthday

- Cara Becker
- Steve and Ellen Lasin

In honor of Heidi Blumenthal's wedding to Cory Reiff and with appreciation to Rabbi Schwab for officiating – Daniel and Rebecca Blumenthal

In honor of Lexee Vainstock becoming a Bat Mitzvah – Gregory and Victoria Vainstock

In honor of Nathan and Rachel Block becoming B'nai Mitzvah – Phillip and Melissa Block

In honor of Perry and Emily's Auf Ruf and with appreciation to our clergy – David and Debbie Rabin

In honor of Phyllis Shalowitz – Laeh Grant

In honor of Rabbi Schwab's 50th birthday

- Steven and Wendy Abrams
- Jeffrey and Janice Aronoff
- Alvin and Elinor Bayliss
- Lawrence and Abby Block
- Barbara Blumberg
- Arthur and Lynn Cohen
- Leonard and Rochelle Foxman
- Rob and Marcy Freeman
- Laeh Grant
- Bruce and Gail Greenspahn
- Michael Gurtman and Lois Lourie
- Benjamin Kopin and Beth Shapiro Kopin
- Barry and Debra Kravitz
- Arlene Levin
- Michael and Terri Lipsitz
- Andrew and Allyson Marcus
- Paulette Margulies
- Arthur Rabinowitz and Maria Ponsillo
- Daniel and Ronit Ripes
- David and Meryl Rosen
- Earl and Rochelle Rubinoff
- Robert and Carol Ruderman
- Patricia Shapiro
- Steven and Fran Shapiro
- Phyllis Shalowitz
- Cindy Shekhtman
- Michael and Sara Sher
- Jonathan and Fran Sherman
- Michael and Stephanie Smerling
- Sandy Starkman and Larry Pachter
- Darryl and Mira Temkin
- Millie Weber
- Karen Weiss

In honor of the baby naming of our daughter, Samantha Jordan, and with appreciation to Rabbi Schwab – Aaron Zell and Dana Levin

In honor of the birth of Barry and Laurel Abramowicz's grandson, Eli Jonah Pawlow. Proud parents are Melanie and Seth Pawlow – Barry and Laurel Abramowicz

In honor of the birth of Isabelle Jade Cohen, granddaughter of David and Barbara Lansing. Proud parents are Jessica and Kenny Cohen – Harvey and Nancy Cohen

In honor of the conversion of Hunter Watts and him joining Am Yisrael – Michael and Terri Lipsitz

In honor of the marriage of Gabrielle Lipsitz and Hunter Watts and with appreciation to Rabbi Schwab – Michael and Terri Lipsitz

In honor of the wedding of Naomi and Jesse and with appreciation to Rabbi Schwab – Deborah Cowans

In memory of Abe Jay Goldsmith, beloved father, and with appreciation to Rabbi Schwab for his support, comfort and counsel – Larry Goldsmith and Mary Ellen Bowers

In memory of Abe Jay Goldsmith, beloved father of Larry Goldsmith (Mary Ellen Bowers), beloved husband, grandfather and great-grandfather

- Ron and Eileen Goldberg
- Michael and Betsy Katz

In memory of Arthur Wirth, beloved father, and with appreciation to Rabbi Schwab – Michael and Jennifer Wirth

In memory of Barbara Stern, beloved mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and sister – Michael and Betsy Katz

In memory of Celia Frohman, beloved sister-in-law of Eli Krumbein, beloved wife of Arthur Frohman, beloved mother of Barbara Gold and Daniel Frohman and beloved uncle

- Jori and Leah Brajer
- Ron and Eileen Goldberg

In memory of Frieda Rosen, beloved mother – Leonard and Rochelle Foxman

In memory of Jean Lang, beloved mother – Stephen and Judy Smiley

In memory of Kerana Kraft, beloved mother of Adam Kraft and Rachel Kraft, beloved sister, sister-in-law, step-grandmother and step great-grandmother – Beth Weiss

In memory of Leroy "Lee" Hirsch, beloved father, and with appreciation to Rabbi Schwab – Judith Hirsch Zelin and Ellen Hirsch Kardon

In memory of Leslie Nan Grant, beloved daughter of Laeh Grant, beloved sister-in-law of Mark and Lael Edelstein and Richard and Sharon Schwab, beloved wife of Bill Schwab, beloved mother of Eliana Schwab and David Schwab, z"l and beloved aunt of Rabbi Michael (Erica) Schwab

- Steven and Wendy Abrams
- Susan and Scott Bauer
- Jori and Leah Brajer
- Deborah Cowans
- Ira and Elise Frost
- Ron and Eileen Goldberg
- Larry Goldsmith and Mary Ellen Bowers
- Ira and Debby Rosenberg
- Sandy Starkman and Larry Pachter

In memory of Leslie Nan Grant, my beloved daughter – Laeh Grant

In memory of Louis Rosenblum and with appreciation to Rabbi Schwab – Family of Louis Rosenblum

In memory of Mala Joseph, beloved mother of Marc (Robin) Joseph, beloved grandmother and great-grandmother – Skip Frost

In memory of Paul Lang – Stephen and Judy Smiley

In memory of Phyllis Lapin and with appreciation to Rabbi Schwab – The Lapin Family

Wishing a Complete and Speedy Recovery to Susan Adler – Joseph Adler

With appreciation for another year of Rabbi Schwab's Talmud class – Matt and Jamie Pestine

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

With appreciation to Rabbi Schwab for officiating our wedding – Steve and Sarah Helderman

With appreciation to Rabbi Schwab – Cohen Religious School Families

With appreciation to Rabbi Schwab for helping Michael Jewishly officiate in all the right ways at Daniel's wedding – Michael and Susan Millenson

With appreciation to Rabbi Schwab for his guidance, assistance and support in Hunter Watt's conversion – Michael and Terri Lipsitz

With appreciation to Rabbi Schwab for performing the stone dedication for Naoma Cahr – Michael Cahr

With appreciation

- Anton and Tracey Hendler
- Jamie Hendler and Daniel Robinson

Rabbi Freedman Discretionary Fund

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

- Steven and Wendy Abrams
- Alvin and Elinor Bayliss
- Robert Berger
- Paul and Sharon Bilow
- Lawrence and Abby Block
- Daniel and Honey Bronson
- Andrew and Gail Brown
- Robert and Iris Center
- Arthur and Lynn Cohen
- David and Beth Cook
- Mark and Lael Edelstein
- Rob and Marcy Freeman
- Mark and Nina Gaines
- Michael Gurtman and Lois Lourie
- Julie Isaacson
- Daniel and Wendy Kahn
- Andy Kenoe and Jan Gaines
- Elise Kline
- Benjman Kopin and Beth Shapiro Kopin
- Barry and Debra Kravitz
- Gerald and Adrienne Lasin
- Arlene Levin
- Mark and Laura Lieberman
- Michael and Terri Lipsitz
- Paulette Margulies
- Stephen and Ronna Noteman
- Arthur Rabinowitz and Maria Ponsillo
- Fran Rabinowitz
- Ira and Debby Rosenberg
- Steven and Fran Shapiro
- NSS Beth El Sisterhood
- Michael and Stephanie Smerling
- Millie Weber
- Roger and Ronnie Wilk
- Richard Zelin and Judith Hirsch Zelin

In honor of Eli Krumbein's 100th birthday

- Bruce and Gail Greenspahn
- Jonathan and Fran Sherman

In honor of the birth of Barry and Laurel Abramowicz's grandson, Eli Jonah Pawlow. Proud parents are Melanie and Seth Pawlow – Barry and Laurel Abramowicz

In memory of Abe Jay Goldsmith, beloved father, and with appreciation to Rabbi Freedman for his support, comfort and counsel – Larry Goldsmith and Mary Ellen Bowers

In memory of Abe Jay Goldsmith, beloved father of Larry Goldsmith (Mary Ellen Bowers), beloved husband, grandfather and great-grandfather – Philip and Doreen Feitelberg

In memory of Adrian Solovsky – Fran Alpert

In memory of Annette Grafstein, beloved mother of Jeff (Beth) Grafstein, beloved mother and great-grandmother – Matt and Jamie Pestine

In memory of Barbara Stern, beloved mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and sister – Fran Rabinowitz

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

In memory of Faye Bloom, beloved mother – **Linda Magad**

In memory of Harry Bichunsky, beloved father – **Phil and Doreen Feitelberg**

In memory of Isaac Feitelberg, beloved father – **Phil and Doreen Feitelberg**

In memory of Joan Harelik, beloved mother and grandmother, and with appreciation to Rabbi Freedman – **The Viner Family**

In memory of Ronald Bloom, beloved brother – **Linda Magad**

In memory of Rose Feitelberg, beloved mother – **Phil and Doreen Feitelberg**

With appreciation for Perry and Emily's Auf Ruf and with appreciation to our clergy – **David and Debbie Rabin**

With appreciation to Rabbi Freedman
– **Cohen Religious School Families**
– **David Fishbaum and Anne McDonagh**

With appreciation to Rabbi Freedman for helping Nathan and Rachel Block on their D'var Torah – **Phillip and Melissa Block**

With appreciation to Rabbi Freedman for his support in Hunter Watt's conversion – **Michael and Terri Lipsitz**

With appreciation to Rabbi Freedman for his thoughtfulness and compassion at a difficult time – **Arthur and Lynn Cohen**

With appreciation to – **Shoshana Winton**

Hazzan Sandler Discretionary Fund

In honor of Hazzan Sandler on his 5 years at Beth El – **Barry and Debra Kravitz**

In honor of Perry and Emily's Auf Ruf and with appreciation to our clergy – **David and Debbie Rabin**

In memory of Marilyn Baker Schwartz, beloved sister – **Len and Bobbie Tenner**

With appreciation to Hazzan Sandler – **Cohen Religious School Families**

With appreciation to Hazzan Sandler for Chicago Sings
– **Larry and Corrine Baskin**
– **Yehuda and Ellen Cohen**
– **Mark and Lael Edelstein**
– **Daniel and Maxine Frankel**
– **Michael and Marla Gordon**
– **Stuart and Barbara Hochwert**
– **Sulie Holt and Larry Chester**
– **Ellen Lavin**
– **Phil and Carol Lazarus**
– **Jerome and Jan Loew**
– **Marc and Susan Sacks**
– **Rod and Marilyn Slutzky**

With appreciation to Hazzan Sandler for his help in working with Nathan and Rachel Block for their B'nai Mitzvah – **Phillip and Melissa Block**

With appreciation to Hazzan Sandler for this thoughtfulness and compassion during a difficult time – **Arthur and Lynn Cohen**

Hazzan Greenberg Discretionary Fund

In honor of Fran Shapiro becoming a Bat Mitzvah
– **Scott and Karen Bieber**
– **Marjorie Garfinkel**

In honor of Hazzan Greenberg and with appreciation for the adult B'not Mitzvah classes – **Steven and Fran Shapiro**

In honor of Hazzan Greenberg for helping us perform a mitzvah in Frankfurt last year – **Barry and Debra Kravitz**

In honor of Hazzan Greenberg for spearheading the adult B'not Mitzvah journey – **Gary Gordon and Marilyn Hirsch**

In honor of Hazzan Greenberg for teaching an incredible B'not Mitzvah class – **Sandy Starkman and Larry Pachter**

In honor of Hazzan Greenberg's excellent teaching – **David and Beth Cook**

In honor of Hazzan Jenna Greenberg for the Adult B'not Mitzvah class – **Matt and Jamie Pestine**

In honor of the adult B'not Mitzvah class on Shavuot
– **Michael and Karen Kesner**
– **Patricia Shapiro**

In memory of Barbara Stern, beloved mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and sister – **Cindy Shekhtman**

In memory of Charles Freeman, beloved father – **Rob and Marcy Freeman**

In memory of Roslyn Feinstein, beloved mother of Lynn (Arthur) Cohen, beloved grandmother and great-grandmother – **William and Joan Brodsky**
With appreciation to Hazzan Greenberg
– **Cohen Religious School Families**
– **Patricia Shapiro**

With appreciation to Hazzan Greenberg for her help with the Torah readers for Nathan and Rachel Block's B'nai Mitzvah – **Phillip and Melissa Block**

With appreciation to Hazzan Greenberg for teaching the adult B'not Mitzvah classes – **Michael Gurtman and Lois Lourie**

Ann and Jack Weinberg Holocaust Memorial Education Endowment Fund

In honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Felix Rutkoff, grandson of Mally Rutkoff – **Jeffrey and Debra Crane**

Arnold Rissman Family Kol Ami Museum Endowment Fund

In honor of Eli Krumbein's 100th birthday – **James Nyeste and Marla Hand**

Ben and Marion Drachler Education Endowment Fund

In memory of Marion "Frankie" Drachler, beloved mother – **A. Michael and Nancy Drachler**

Cal and Lana Eisenberg Halomdim Program Endowment Fund

In memory of Iona Levenfeld, beloved mother, grandmother and great-grandmother – **Calvin Eisenberg**

College Connection Fund

In memory of Zelda Margolis, beloved mother – **Keith and Cheryl Weitzman**

Conservative Masorti Movement

In honor of Sandy Starkman's D'var Torah and dedication to the Masorti Movement – **Madeleine Solomon**

Fertig Family College Campus Visits Endowment Fund

In honor of the birth of Maury and Nancy Fertig's grandchild, Emmie Ruth – **Cindy Shekhtman**

Gertrude Lederman Family Continuing Education Fund

In honor of Eli Krumbein's 100th birthday – **Helene Turner**

In honor of Fran Shapiro becoming a Bat Mitzvah
– **David and Francine Ephraim**
– **Daniel and Wendy Kahn**

In honor of Gerald Lasin's 90th birthday – **David Schwartz**

In honor of Idele Pinzur on her 100th birthday – **Michael and Debora Pinzur**

In honor of Leslie Fox becoming a Bat Mitzvah – **David and Francine Ephraim**

In honor of Marilyn Hirsch becoming a Bat Mitzvah
– **David and Francine Ephraim**
– **Benjamin Kopin and Beth Shapiro Kopin**

In honor of Mary Channon becoming a Bat Mitzvah – **David and Francine Ephraim**

In honor of the birth of Tami and Reuben Warshawsky's granddaughter Mila Jaye – **Daniel and Wendy Kahn**

In memory of Barbara Stern, beloved mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and sister – **Gary Gordon and Marilyn Hirsch**

In memory of Eva London Ritt, beloved mother of Linda (Stuart) Kupfer, beloved wife and grandmother
– **David and Francine Ephraim**
– **Daniel and Wendy Kahn**

In memory of Judith Frisch, beloved mother of James (Bonnie) Frisch, Debra (Stuart) Shiner and David (Shelley) Frisch, beloved grandmother and great-grandmother – **Gary and Merle Kaufman and Family**

In memory of Kerana Kraft, beloved mother of Adam Kraft and Rachel Kraft, beloved sister, sister-in-law, step-grandmother and step great-grandmother – **Ira and Elise Frost**

In memory of Sandra Cohn Becker, beloved mother, grandmother and sister – **Irwin and Jill Bernstein**

With appreciation for Tikkun Layl Shavuot

– **Mark and Lael Edelstein**
– **Michael and Karen Kesner**
– **Barbara Slutsky**
– **Phil and Dori Wolgel**

With appreciation

– **Laurence and Corinne Baskin**
– **Mark and Lael Edelstein**
– **Linda Magad**
– **Marc and Devorah Richards**
– **David Schwartz**
– **Karen Weiss**

HAZAK Fund

In honor of Gina Pecucci on her birthday – **Anne Flanigan Bassi**

In memory of Abe Jay Goldsmith, beloved father of Larry Goldsmith (Mary Ellen Bowers), beloved husband, grandfather and great-grandfather
– **Andrew and Gail Brown**
– **David and Francine Ephraim**
– **Rob and Marcy Freeman**
– **Michael and Jackie Melinger**
– **Matt and Jamie Pestine**

HAZAK Fund (continued)

- Cindy Shekhtman
- Patricia Shapiro
- Cecille Silver
- Sandy Starkman and Larry Pachter
- Gloria Taussig

In memory of Barbara Stern, beloved mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and sister

- Ken and Marcy Levin
- Paulette Margulies
- Patricia Shapiro
- Gloria Taussig

In memory of Channah J. Brown, beloved mother of Rob Cohen – **Patricia Shapiro**

In memory of David Rozencajg, beloved father – **Michael and Jackie Melinger**

In memory of Eugene Levin, beloved brother – **Ken and Marcy Levin**

In memory of Joan Harelik, beloved mother of Anya (Victor) Viner, beloved grandmother and sister – **Jonathan and Holly Reinsdorf**

In memory of Kerana Kraft, beloved mother of Adam Kraft and Rachel Kraft, beloved sister, sister-in-law, step-grandmother and step great-grandmother

- Patricia Shapiro
- Gloria Taussig and Family

In memory of Leslie Nan Grant, beloved daughter of Laeh Grant, beloved sister-in-law of Mark and Lael Edelstein and Richard and Sharon Schwab, beloved wife of Bill Schwab, beloved mother of Eliana Schwab and David Schwab, z"l and beloved aunt of Rabbi Michael (Erica) Schwab – **Michael and Jackie Melinger**

In memory of Paul Skurie, beloved father of Sam (Karen) Skurie, beloved grandfather and brother – **David and Jodi Weiss**

With appreciation to HAZAK

- Ruth Fischer
- Michael and Drina Nadler
- Hilda Reingold
- Cecille Silver
- Karen Weiss

Holocaust Memorial Endowment Fund

With appreciation for the Yom HaShoah program – **Bob and Beth Footlik**

Horwitz-Hoffman Youth Lounge Maintenance Endowment Fund

In memory of Kerana Kraft, beloved mother of Adam Kraft and Rachel Kraft, beloved sister, sister-in-law, step-grandmother and step great-grandmother

- Benjamin and Andrea Leshem
- Paulette Margulies

Irving and Janet Robbin Scholar-in-Residence Endowment Fund

In memory of Rebecca Ellen Benson, beloved daughter – **David and Karen Benson**

Israel Scholarship Endowment Fund

In honor of Eli Krumbein's 100th birthday – **Dr. David and Rabbi Ora Schnitzer**

In honor of Renee Goldfarb receiving the Ilana Diamond Rovner Lifetime Achievement Award from the Illinois Jewish Judges Association – **Larry Goldsmith and Mary Ellen Bowers**

In memory of Annette Grafstein, beloved mother of Jeff (Beth) Grafstein, beloved mother and great-grandmother – **Sandy Starkman and Larry Pachter**

Jack and Mildred Cohen Religious School Endowment Fund

In honor of Anna Besser's 5 years at NSS Beth El – **Steven and Fran Shapiro**

In honor of Eli Krumbein's 100th birthday – **Barry and Irene Sufrin**

In memory of Barbara Stern, beloved mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and sister – **Larry Goldsmith and Mary Ellen Bowers**

In memory of Celia Frohman, beloved sister-in-law of Eli Krumbein, beloved wife of Arthur Frohman, beloved mother of Barbara Gold and Daniel Frohman and beloved uncle – **Steven and Wendy Abrams**

In memory of Neil Michael Levinson, beloved brother – **David and Pamela Hirschfield**

In memory of Professor Raymond Eisenstadt, beloved father and grandfather – **Rob and Marcy Freeman**

Joseph and Mae Gray Cultural and Learning Center Fund

In honor of Beth Cook becoming a Bat Mitzvah – **Gary Gordon and Marilyn Hirsch**

In honor of Beth Katz' Board of Trustees election – **Larry Goldsmith and Mary Ellen Bowers**

In honor of Debbie Mazius becoming a Bat Mitzvah – **Gary Gordon and Marilyn Hirsch**

In honor of Fran Shapiro becoming a Bat Mitzvah – **Gary Gordon and Marilyn Hirsch**
– **Mark Daskin and Babette Levy**

In honor of Joan Brodsky becoming a Bat Mitzvah – **Gary Gordon and Marilyn Hirsch**

In honor of Leah Mindell becoming a Bat Mitzvah – **Gary Gordon and Marilyn Hirsch**

In honor of Leslie Fox becoming a Bat Mitzvah – **Gary Gordon and Marilyn Hirsch**

In honor of Lois Lourie becoming a Bat Mitzvah – **Gary Gordon and Marilyn Hirsch**

In honor of Maggie Garfinkel becoming a Bat Mitzvah – **Gary Gordon and Marilyn Hirsch**

In honor of Marilyn Hirsch becoming a Bat Mitzvah – **Mark Daskin and Babette Levy**

In honor of Mary Channon becoming a Bat Mitzvah – **Mark Daskin and Babette Levy**
– **Gary Gordon and Marilyn Hirsch**

In honor of Melany Gurtman becoming a Bat Mitzvah – **Gary Gordon and Marilyn Hirsch**

In honor of Phil Feitelberg's 90th birthday – **Michael and Barbara Salberg**

In honor of Ronni Graff becoming a Bat Mitzvah – **Gary Gordon and Marilyn Hirsch**

In memory of Abe Jay Goldsmith, beloved father of Larry Goldsmith (Mary Ellen Bowers), beloved husband, grandfather and great-grandfather – **Carl and Lilach Schrag**

In memory of Barbara Stern, beloved mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and sister – **Ellen Lavin**

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

In memory of Joan Harelik, beloved mother of Anya (Victor) Viner, beloved grandmother and sister – **David Gross and Lisa Newman**

- **Barry and Debra Kravitz**
- **Ellen Lavin**
- **James Nyeste and Marla Hand**
- **Brian and Hillary Wenk**

In memory of Roslyn Feinstein, beloved mother of Lynn (Arthur) Cohen, beloved grandmother and great-grandmother – **Steven and Fran Shapiro**

In memory of Sidney Feinstein, beloved father – **Arthur and Lynn Cohen**

With appreciation to Rachel Kamin

- **Gary Gordon and Marilyn Hirsch**
- **Michael and Terri Lipsitz**

Kopin Family Children's T'filot Endowment Fund

In memory of Mala Joseph, beloved mother of Marc (Robin) Joseph, beloved grandmother and great-grandmother – **Myrna Kopin**

LGBTQIA+ Fund

In honor of Ali Drumm's D'var Torah on Pride Shabbat – **Andrew and Gail Brown**

In honor of Rabbi Schwab's 50th birthday – **Daniel and Wendy Kahn**

Maxwell Abbell Library Fund

In honor of Joan Brodsky becoming a Bat Mitzvah – **Arthur and Lynn Cohen**

In honor of Rachel Kamin – **Barry and Debra Kravitz**

In memory of Barbara Stern, beloved mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and sister – **Robert Berger**

In memory of Celia Frohman, beloved sister-in-law of Eli Krumbein, beloved wife of Arthur Frohman, beloved mother of Barbara Gold and Daniel Frohman and beloved uncle – **Sandy Starkman and Larry Pachter**

Minyan Service Fund

In honor of Marcia Okun – **Samuel and Jacki Block**

In honor of Marilyn Hirsch becoming a Bat Mitzvah – **Leon and Leslie Fox**

In honor of Mark and Nina Gaines' 45th wedding anniversary and Mark's 70th birthday – **David and Barbara Lansing**

In memory of Abe Jay Goldsmith, beloved father of Larry Goldsmith (Mary Ellen Bowers), beloved husband, grandfather and great-grandfather – **Leon and Leslie Fox**

In memory of Annette Grafstein, beloved mother of Jeff (Beth) Grafstein, beloved mother and great-grandmother

- **David Fishbaum and Anne McDonagh**
- **Larry Goldsmith and Mary Ellen Bowers**
- **Darryl and Mira Temkin**

In memory of Ed Margulies, beloved husband, on his stone unveiling – **Paulette Margulies**

In memory of Mala Joseph, beloved mother of Marc (Robin) Joseph, beloved grandmother and great-grandmother – **David and Barbara Lansing**

In memory of Sanford Eckerling, beloved husband – **Adrienne Eckerling**

In memory of Zelda Margolis, beloved mother – **Keith and Cheryl Weitzman**

Wishing a Complete and Speedy Recovery to Sara Siegel – **Marvin Siegel**

Miriam and Bernard H. Sokol Hebrew High School Fund

In honor of Debbie Brown's 75th birthday – Gail Taxy

In memory of Abe Jay Goldsmith, beloved father of Larry Goldsmith (Mary Ellen Bowers), beloved husband, grandfather and great-grandfather – Ronnie Jo Sokol

In memory of Celia Frohman, beloved sister-in-law of Eli Krumbein, beloved wife of Arthur Frohman, beloved mother of Barbara Gold and Daniel Frohman and beloved uncle – Ronnie Jo Sokol

In memory of Leslie Nan Grant, beloved daughter of Laeh Grant, beloved sister-in-law of Mark and Lael Edelstein and Richard and Sharon Schwab, beloved wife of Bill Schwab, beloved mother of Eliana Schwab and David Schwab, z"l and beloved aunt of Rabbi Michael (Erica) Schwab – Ronnie Jo Sokol

In memory of Linda Aberman Gottlieb – Gail Taxy

Music Fund

In honor of Phyllis Shalowitz on her 95th birthday – Lawrence and Abby Block

In honor of the birth of Jonathan and Fran Sherman's grandson, Emmett Aviv Sherman – Lawrence and Abby Block

NSS Beth El Camp Scholarship Fund

In honor of Gerald Lasin's 90th birthday – Len and Bobbie Tenner

NSS Beth El Men's Club Special Gifts Fund

In honor of Aaron Krumbein on the anniversary of his Bar Mitzvah – Steven and Fran Shapiro

With appreciation – Barry and Debbie Kravitz

NSS Beth El Sisterhood Special Gifts Fund

In honor of Fran Shapiro becoming a Bat Mitzvah – Sulie Holt and Larry Chester

In honor of Karen Weiss' election to the Board of Trustees – Larry Goldsmith and Mary Ellen Bowers

In honor of Leah Mindell becoming a Bat Mitzvah – Sulie Holt and Larry Chester

In honor of Leslie Fox becoming a Bat Mitzvah – Sulie Holt and Larry Chester

In honor of Lois Lourie becoming a Bat Mitzvah – Sulie Holt and Larry Chester

In honor of Marilyn Hirsch becoming a Bat Mitzvah – Sulie Holt and Larry Chester

In honor of Melany Gurtman becoming a Bat Mitzvah – Sulie Holt and Larry Chester

In memory of Barbara Stern, beloved mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and sister – Rachel Kraft

In memory of Eva London Ritt, beloved mother of Linda (Stuart) Kupfer, beloved wife and grandmother – Sulie Holt and Larry Chester

In memory of Leonard Weitzman, beloved father – Keith and Cheryl Weitzman

With appreciation

- Ted and Cheryl Banks
- Yehuda and Ellen Cohen
- Matt and Jamie Pestine
- Marc and Susan Sacks
- Elizabeth Ury

NSS Beth El Special Gifts Fund

In honor of Beth Cook becoming a Bat Mitzvah – William Weese

In honor of Eli Krumbein's 100th birthday

- Jori and Leah Brajer
- Stephen and Lisa Breit
- Amy Domash and Sara Friedman
- Karen Finerman
- Mark and Robin Greenberger
- Joyce Kamen and Benjamin Abraham
- Gerry Kaplan
- Rhoda Levine
- Steven and Fran Shapiro
- Carole Shifman

In honor of Fran Shapiro becoming a Bat Mitzvah

- Michael and Stephanie Smerling
- Richard Zelin and Judith Hirsch Zelin

In honor of Gerald Lasin's 90th birthday – Barry and Jan Cain

In honor of Joan Brodsky becoming a Bat Mitzvah – Gregg and Joanne Silver

In honor of Julia and Mark Gerstein's 40th anniversary – Scott and Evie Rooth

In honor of Larry Pachter – Michael and Susan Podell

In honor of Leslie Fox becoming a Bat Mitzvah – Richard Zelin and Judith Hirsch Zelin

In honor of Lois Lourie becoming a Bat Mitzvah

- Carole Brandwein
- Hannah Goodman
- Richard Zelin and Judith Hirsch Zelin

In honor of Marilyn Hirsch becoming a Bat Mitzvah

- Alison Witow and Family
- Richard Zelin and Judith Hirsch Zelin

In honor of Matt Pestine on Father's Day – Scott and Sydney Krugel

In honor of Melany Gurtman becoming a Bat Mitzvah

- Carole Brandwein
- Richard Zelin and Judith Hirsch Zelin

In honor of Mira and Darryl Temkin's 50th wedding anniversary – Ron and Doris Lazarus

In honor of our daughter Lexee Vainstock becoming a Bat Mitzvah – Gregory and Victoria Vainstock

In honor of Pam Schlosberg on her installation as President of the Women's League for Conservative Judaism – Teri Leibowitz

In honor of Ronni Graff becoming a Bat Mitzvah – Season of Change Foundation

In memory of Abe Jay Goldsmith, beloved father of Larry Goldsmith (Mary Ellen Bowers), beloved husband, grandfather and great-grandfather

- Phil and Carol Lazarus
- Skip and Lynn Schrayner
- Robbie Schreiber

In memory of Alan and Rose Ander, beloved parents – Ron and Carol Jesselson

In memory of Allen Hoffman, beloved father and grandfather – Steven and Jill Hoffman

In memory of Arthur Wirth, beloved father of Michael (Jennifer) Wirth, Alexis (Barry) Stoltze, beloved husband and grandfather

- David and Julie Baum
- Mark and Melissa Spellman
- Adam and Deborah Winick

In memory of Barbara Stern, beloved mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and sister

- Marla Jaffe
- Kristen Kelly
- Danielle Miller Wagner and Joe Wagner

In memory of Eva London Ritt, beloved mother of Linda (Stuart) Kupfer, beloved wife and grandmother – Stuart and Sylvia Manewith

In memory of Irwin Wygodny on his yahrzeit – Avrum and Jill Miller

In memory of Joan Zweifler, beloved mother – David and Robin Nankin

In memory of Kerana Kraft, beloved mother of Adam Kraft and Rachel Kraft, beloved sister, sister-in-law, step-grandmother and step great-grandmother

- Judy Blake
- Shawn M. Donnelley Fund
- Benjamin and Wendy Frank
- Kenneth and Meryl Rubin
- George Saiger

In memory of Lois and Myron Hirsch, beloved mother and father – Gary Gordon and Marilyn Hirsch

In memory of Myrna and Shael Siegel, beloved mother and father – Eric Siegel

In memory of Paul Skurie, beloved father of Sam (Karen) Skurie, beloved grandfather and brother – Scott and Maureen Chaikin

In memory of Rory Samberg, beloved sister – Darrell and Wendy Katz

In memory of Steve Millman, beloved father – Michael and Stephanie Smerling

With appreciation to Lia Goldfarb for working with Rachel and Nathan Block as they prepare for their B'nai Mitzvah – Phillip and Melissa Block

With appreciation

- Bob and Beth Footlik
- Alan and Margaret Silberman

Prayer Book Fund

In honor of the birth of Tami and Reuben Warshawsky's granddaughter Mila Jaye – Paulette Margulies

In honor of the wedding of Michael and Susan Millenson's son, Daniel, to Lauren – Steven and Fran Shapiro

In memory of Allene "Eenie" Frost, beloved mother, on her first yahrzeit – Ira and Elise Frost

In memory of Gayle Shapiro, beloved wife of Barry Shapiro, beloved mother and grandmother – Paulette Margulies

Ritual Refurbishment Endowment Fund

In honor of Eli Krumbein's 100th birthday – Barbara Blumberg

In memory of Leslie Nan Grant, beloved daughter of Laeh Grant, beloved sister-in-law of Mark and Lael Edelstein and Richard and Sharon Schwab, beloved wife of Bill Schwab, beloved mother of Eliana Schwab and David Schwab, z"l and beloved aunt of Rabbi Michael (Erica) Schwab – Barbara Blumberg

Sarah and Henry Stiebel Schechter Endowment Fund

In memory of Abe Jay Goldsmith, beloved father of Larry Goldsmith (Mary Ellen Bowers), beloved husband, grandfather and great-grandfather – Gerry Kaplan

Social Action Fund

With appreciation

- Mark and Lael Edelstein
- Adam and Leslie Glazer
- Jefford and Carly Humes
- Gerry Kaplan
- Michael and Jackie Melinger
- Nicole Putzel
- Michael and Sheila Small

Staff Recognition Fund

In honor of all the staff that keep Beth El running –
Gary Gordon and Marilyn Hirsch

In memory of Howard Chapman, beloved cousin of
Elise Engert Kline – **Brian and Hillary Wenk**

In memory of Leona Rae Molotsky – **Brian and Hillary Wenk**

In memory of Sidney Starkman, Mildred Starkman,
Sidney Pachter, Annette Berg and Richard Berg for
Yizkor on Shavuot – **Sandy Starkman and Larry Pachter**

Tzedakah/Pushke Fund

In honor of Eli Krumbein's 100th birthday –
Millie Weber

In honor of Gerald Lasin's 90th birthday –
Jerome and Mary Kaltman

In honor of Lois Lourie becoming a Bat Mitzvah –
Jerome and Mary Kaltman

In honor of Marilyn Hirsch becoming a Bat
Mitzvah – **Jerome and Mary Kaltman**

In memory of Eva London Ritt, beloved mother of
Linda (Stuart) Kupfer, beloved wife and grandmother

- Michael and Susan Millenson
- Richard Zelin and Judith Hirsch Zelin

With appreciation

- Sally Aaron
- David and Beth Cook
- Oron and Kristen Daihes
- Mark and Lael Edelstein
- Jefford and Carly Humes
- Arnold and Debra Landis
- Michael and Laura Minkus

- James and Michelle Seidenberg
- Rabbi David and Judy Weiss

Youth Community Fund

In honor of Reese Lindon for being named Youth of
the Year – **David Stark and Lori Shapiro**

In honor of Nathan and Rachel Block becoming
B'nai Mitzvah – **Patricia Shapiro**

In honor of Hadley Frydman, granddaughter of June
Back Frydman, on her high school graduation –
Patricia Shapiro

In honor of Sasha Frydman, grandson of June Back
Frydman, on becoming a Bar Mitzvah – **Patricia Shapiro**

In honor of Stacy LaMell for all of her hard work
and creativity – **Daniel and Ronit Ripes**

In honor of the birth of Maury and Nancy Fertig's
grandchild, Emmie Ruth – **Patricia Shapiro**

In memory of Barbara Stern, beloved mother,
grandmother, great-grandmother and sister –
Terry and Marla Grossberg

Beth El Event Showcase May 2026: Beth El Annual Event





SISTERHOOD

By Jamie Pestine and Elizabeth Ury, Sisterhood Co-Presidents

The Spirit of Sisterhood in 5787

We are excited to begin the new year with a wonderful lineup of programs. Kicking things off, we will gather in the Sukkah on September 30 for our opening event, featuring Dr. Ariela



Dr. Ariela Robinson

Robinson, who will speak on "The Power of the Arts Through Our Own Personal Journeys." We are also excited to welcome back the Israeli Museum Pop-Up Event on November 1, and there may be a few more surprises along the way. Keep an eye out for upcoming Rosh Chodesh gatherings and our book club.

We are always looking for volunteers and members who want to spend time with vibrant, smart women of all ages.

We encourage multigenerational participation, honoring the tradition of *l'dor v'dor* by passing the bonds of friendship, community, and belonging from one generation to the next.

As we celebrate the many *chagim* of the season, we look forward to welcoming 5787 together. We hope to see you either in the Sanctuary or at the High School. We look forward to catching up, giving hugs, sharing stories, and wishing one another a Chag Sameach. These moments of connection are what make being part of this community so special. L'Shanah Tovah!

Beth El Event Showcase August 2026: Mahjong & Canasta



Welcome Back to the Sisterhood Gift Shop

Your resource for all your Judaica. Made in Israel.

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

As we prepare for the High Holidays, **the Sisterhood Gift Shop is back to its regular Sunday hours, from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm.**

We invite you to stop by and explore our beautiful selection of Judaica and gifts. You'll find new mezuzot, tallitot, kiddush cups, elegant head coverings, and special items to help celebrate Rosh Hashanah and the High Holiday season.

Planning a wedding? Register your Judaica with the Sisterhood Gift Shop! We'd love to help you select meaningful pieces for your new home. Visit us during Sunday hours or contact us to schedule an appointment and learn more.

If Sundays don't fit your schedule, we're always happy to arrange a private appointment. To schedule an appointment, please contact Sulie Holt at 847-558-3389 or Judy Hirsch at 847-962-8121.

We wish you and your family a happy, healthy, and sweet New Year filled with peace and many blessings. Am Yisrael Chai!



MEN'S CLUB CORNER

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

Not Your Father's Men's Club

Men's Club has had a busy year! We co-hosted a wildly successful Comedy Night and a heavily attended ballroom dancing experience with Sisterhood. Our community also enjoyed getting together for Men's Club Shabbat, beginning with a lovely congregational dinner and a d'var Torah by our president, followed by a Saturday night party and Sunday study.

And if you weren't there, our first annual golf outing was a smash hit! Of course, not to be forgotten are our award-winning Bagel for Your Brains programs, which always prove to be stimulating.

Consider checking out our early fall event, **Pizza in the Hut, on Monday, September 28 at 7:00 pm**, where we will enjoy a pizza dinner and watch the Bears game on the big screen in the Sukkah. This isn't your father's Men's Club. We look forward to seeing you!

For more information, contact me at akrumbein@sbcglobal.net.



Men's Club Golf Outing

Beth El Men's Club Softball Teams Head to the Playoffs

As of the end of July, both Beth El Men's Club softball teams were heading into the Northern Illinois Men's Synagogue Softball League playoffs. Team One earned the #1 seed, while Team Two secured the #2 seed in the 12-team league.

Beth El players include: Michael Salberg, Noah Weininger, Brian Cohen, Daniel Ripes, Pere Berkowitz, Ben Berkowitz, Oren Razowsky, Josh Altman, Ari Silver, Jon Gordon, Rich Brenner, Bob Doppelt, Michael Waitz, Michael Miller, Bradley Schneider, Jason Loeb, David Davidson, Brad Terry, Jeff Drazin, David Burns, Ross Bennett, Josh Atlas, Sam Alex, Jon Pearl, Jared Cohen, and Josh Foreman.



**Bagels
for Your
Brain**

Presented by Men's Club

Sunday, October 11 – 9:45 am
Robert Don
Author of In the Midst of Darkness
A moving personal story that began with six life-changing words from his father: "Your mother was on that list." Robert shares his family's Holocaust history and its lasting impact across generations.

Sunday, November 15 – 9:45 am
Jeff Blumenfeld (Men Only Program)
Retired Director of Career Counseling at JVS-JCFS Chicago, SHALVA board member, and licensed professional counselor.
Jeff will discuss domestic abuse awareness, the role men can play in preventing harm, and how to challenge harmful attitudes and behaviors.

Sunday, December 13 – 9:45 am
Bruce Levin
Author of The Torah Road Trip: Abraham Rides Shotgun
A humorous and heartfelt account of transporting his late father's donated Torah to a new home, weaving together family memories, Torah insights, and lessons on fatherhood.



🔊 Mazel Tov to Our B'nai Mitzvah Students



BAT MITZVAH
Harlow Leeb
daughter of
Jori and Daniel Leeb
Shabbat, August 22



BAT MITZVAH
Shira Reich
daughter of
Melissa and Adam Reich
Shabbat, September 5



BAR MITZVAH
Noah Poll
son of
Ally and Ryan Poll
Shabbat, September 19



BAR MITZVAH
Taylor Lotzof
son of
Jacqueline and Daniel Lotzof
Shabbat, September 26



BAT MITZVAH
Samara Zukerman
daughter of
Jennifer and Daniel Zukerman
Shabbat, October 10



BAR MITZVAH
Lincoln Caplan
son of
Amanda Caplan and Donald Caplan
Shabbat, October 17



BAT MITZVAH
Jordyn Fox
daughter of
Debbie and Joe Fox
Shabbat, October 24



BAR MITZVAH
Jaron Lynn
son of
Tracy and Eric Lynn
Shabbat, November 7



BAR MITZVAH
Eli Zaransky
son of
Jamie and Brad Zaransky
Shabbat, November 14



BAR MITZVAH
Adley Natan Lindon
son of
Erica and Zachary Lindon
Shabbat, November 21

SUKKOT

is coming!!

Time to order your Lulav/Etrog sets and Schach

Scan the QR code to order online, or go to www.nssbethel.org



Deadline for ordering:
Friday,
September 11
at noon.

Pick up will be on:
Tuesday,
September 22
from 4-7 PM

Questions? Hazzan Jenna Greenberg jgreenberg@nssbethel.org

Join Us in the Sukkah!

Kabbalat Shabbat & Sukkot Dinner
Friday, September 25 • 6:00 PM

Men's Club: Pizza in the Hut
Monday, September 28 • 7:00 PM

Harvest & Harmonies in the Sukkah
Tuesday, September 29 • 11:00 AM
Sponsored by the Gray Cultural & Learning Center and HAZAK

Youth: Sushi in the Sukkah
Tuesday, September 29 • 6:30 PM

CRS & SPS Families Celebrate Sukkot
Wednesday, September 30 • 5:00 PM

Sisterhood in the Sukkah
Wednesday, September 30 • 6:30 PM
Featuring Dr. Ariela Robinson:
"The Power of the Arts Through Our
Personal Journeys"

**Polarized: Why American Jews Are
Divided and What to Do About It**
Thursday, October 1 • 8:00 PM
Book Launch with Beth El member
and author Bobbi Kwall

Scan the QR code for event details and registration



North Suburban Synagogue

Beth El
בית כנסת בית אל

1175 Sheridan Road
Highland Park, IL 60035

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L'DOR V'DOR

From Generation to Generation



During the High Holidays, we reflect on the wisdom of our tradition as a Jewish people, as a Beth El community, and as individuals. As we near our 80th anniversary, we are reminded of everything our forebears did to build our synagogue, as well as our responsibility to continue to reinvest for the next 80 years and beyond.

By supporting the Kol Nidre Appeal, you emphasize your role in sustaining our vibrant synagogue and plant the seeds for the next generation to grow and live Jewishly, even in a changing world.

Together, we will help Beth El go from **strength to strength**,
from **generation to generation**.

Scan the QR Code ▶
to make your
Kol Nidre appeal
donation.

