



SPRING 2015 | 5775



TO SERVE WITH PRIDE

When the Israelites lived in Egypt, they were *avdei pharaoh* (slaves to Pharaoh). When they escaped to Mount Sinai, they entered into a covenant as *avdei hashem* (servants of God). While the word for slave and servant is the same – *eved* – there is a world of difference between them. As Jews, we serve not out of compulsion but conviction, not because of oppression but out of gratitude. We see service as an honor, a privilege and a duty. Beth El Women's League volunteers exemplify this ethic, and, therefore, even as we finish up our *hametz* (leavened bread) in preparation for Pesah, we feature them on this cover baking hamantaschen and in Bonnie's article (p. 5). For their commitment to serving our community with love and devotion, we say, "*todah rabbah* (thank you)."

LEARNING TO SERVE

By Rabbi Alexander Davis



Pesah is a time of questions. So here is one for you: What is the most important mitzvah? As a parent, I'd vote for "honor your father and mother!" On the other hand, God is *Avinu Shebashamayim*, our true Parent. So perhaps the first of the Ten Commandments, to believe in God, is primary. Measured by frequency of

appearances in the Torah, welcoming the stranger could be a top contender as Rabbi Olitzky writes on p. 3. I'd like to offer a different suggestion: "*talmud torah k'neged kulam*, Torah study surpasses them all."

A passage in the Talmud explains:

Rabbi Tarfon and the Elders were once reclining in the upper story of Nitza's house in Lod when this question was posed to them: Which is greater, study or action? Rabbi Tarfon answered saying action is greater. Rabbi Akiva said that study is greater. All the rest agreed with Akiva that study is greater than action because it leads to action. (B. Talmud Kiddushin 40b)

This text probably sounds familiar. It is similar to the story of the four rabbis of the Haggadah who stay up all night, engrossed in learning. Two of the rabbis appear in both stories. Moreover, while this story is set in Lod rather than B'nai B'rak, the towns are near each other (close to today's Ben Gurion Airport). So perhaps this was a different conversation at the same seder. Or maybe the rabbis went seder-hopping?!

According to Rabbi Akiva, learning must lead to doing. Talmud Torah surpasses all the other mitzvot because it leads to all of them.

Over the last two years, we have made great efforts and strides to take this message to heart in our Ben & Bernice Fiterman Bar/Bat Mitzvah Training Program. Today, we are focusing on the mitzvah of bar/bat mitzvah. We learn not just for the sake of performing at one service on one day. Instead, all of our learning must lead to a lifetime of doing.

Rather than wait until the third year of the program to teach about mitzvot, our program now starts and ends with mitzvot. And in between? Mitzvot. "Mitzvah

Heroes" — congregants with a special expertise and love of specific mitzvot — speak to our students regularly. They inspire students to try new mitzvot outlined in our mitzvah curriculum. After their b'nai mitzvah year, students participate in our Mitzvah Corps that teaches principles of Jewish philanthropy and encourages hands-on *hesed* work. This year's Mitzvah Corps was so popular that past participants asked to join for an additional year of learning and serving. Our students clearly recognize that study must lead to action.

This spring, we are thrilled to bring our Beth El Serves year to a close and a climax with Stillman Scholar-in-Resident, Danny Siegel. Danny is a beloved teacher, author and true mitzvah hero who embodies the spirit of Rabbi Akiva. He will be featured in our own, all night learning: the *Tikkun Leyl Shavu'ot* on May 23 (see back page for more information).



Beth El Fiterman Mitzvah Corps participants visited Jewish Family and Children's Service of Minneapolis (JFCS) to learn about the agency's work and about philanthropy. Later in the year, the Mitzvah Corps will evaluate grant requests from local secular and Jewish organizations including JFCS and allocate funding according to criteria they develop.

On Pesah, our *s'darim* are full of food and song, drink and discussion. And though we may not debate until dawn, we should take Rabbi Akiva's message to heart. For our Torah teaches us: just as we feast, so must we feed; just as we celebrate, so must we clothe; just as we rejoice, so must we raise up those who have fallen. Thus, may our learning always lead to doing and our doing lead to blessings.

Radical Hospitality

By Rabbi Avi S. Olitzky



The most repeated commandment in the Torah is not an instruction to keep kosher, or keep Shabbat or wear *tefillin*. It is a charge to each of us to welcome the stranger—for we were strangers in the land of Egypt. But welcoming the stranger is far beyond a simple “hello.” It is what our friends in the Church refer to as “radical hospitality.” It was Saint Benedict (or better, the Benedictine monks) who popularized this mitzvah and embraced this notion as one of Benedict’s rules over 1500 years ago.

Mayo Clinic in Rochester, for example, is excellent at radical hospitality. A visitor or patient cannot move 20 paces without being approached by a volunteer or staff member, checking if they are all right. They serve to serve; they strive to serve. But it’s more than continuously checking on the wellbeing of those who cross your threshold.

Minister of Music at Trinity Presbyterian Church in University City, Missouri, suggests that “Radical hospitality means vulnerability.” Or better put, “I have to change what is comfortable or simply familiar for me in order to provide what is best for others. I have to step out of my comfort zone, my safety zone, into the disturbing place beyond, where I am awkward, afraid, and unsure, and where I am in a position to make mistakes or even to fail.”

We are most vulnerable at Beth El when we welcome the stranger, when we let our guard down and show our neighbors who we really are and what we’re really about. And we’re proud to do so. And this is the reason that, at Beth El, part of our embracing of radical hospitality is opening up our doors as far and as wide as possible. It is our way of serving the greater community and recognizing our role and responsibility in that community. This is not limited to guests and visitors on Shabbat morning or Benilde-Saint Margaret’s students visiting during Sukkot. This is about outreach on the grandest of scales, filling our halls and sanctuary with people of all walks of life for the greater goal of change.

Over the past year alone we’ve partnered with nearly 100 different organizations, institutions and agencies, all in the name of serving as a steward for the Jewish people, for Saint Louis Park, for Hennepin County, for Minnesota and for humanity.

In 2014, *Saint Louis Park Magazine* awarded us with the Editor’s Pick: Best Place to Hear a Famous Speaker in the Park. This is not only because of our beautiful venue and the personas that grace our *bimah*. This is because we play host to thousands—and they become part of our family when they enter our tent.

No doubt, most of these major events serve as vehicles to raise funds for our congregation and community. But it does not take away from our involving hundreds of students in the learning process who otherwise would not get that opportunity. It does not downplay the way we contribute major dollars to various causes year after year by way of these series. And it does not discredit the way we support our troops with care packages and caring systems for their families through these series. We serve the world and change it all at once with these series. And, simply put, it is a challenge to ensure the success of each and every one. But it is our version of radical hospitality.

But we do it—and our institution and community soar higher as a result. The buzz around town is true: Beth El is the place to be. And it is so because we welcome those around us in with open arms—and we know they’ll be back, too.

BETH EL SPEAKER SERIES HISTORY

NATIONAL SPEAKERS SERIES

Alan Dershowitz.....	1998
Wolf Blitzer.....	1999
James Carville.....	2000
Dave Barry.....	2001
Prime Minister Ehud Barak.....	2002
President William Jefferson Clinton.....	2003
Ari Fleischer.....	2004
Colin Powell.....	2006
Dan Rather.....	2007
Condoleezza Rice.....	2009
President George W. Bush.....	2011
Prime Minister Ehud Barak.....	2012
Hillary Rodham Clinton.....	2013
Tony Blair.....	5.27.15

HEROES AMONG US

Tony Mendez.....	2013
Captain Richard Phillips.....	2014
Taya Kyle, with special guest Jim DeFelice.....	2015

INSPIRING MINDS

Jane Goodall.....	2010
Deepak Chopra.....	2011
Gloria Steinem.....	2012
Michael Pollan.....	2013
Neil deGrasse Tyson.....	2014
Jean-Michel, Fabien & Celine Cousteau.....	5.5.15



Tzedakah Centerpiece Program

INSPIRED YEARS OF PAYING BLESSINGS FORWARD

By Cantor Audrey Abrams

Sometimes even small ideas can have big results. That was the case with a program we called Tzedakah Centerpiece Baskets. Here is the story.

In 1996, Betsy Edlavitch visited her hometown of St. Louis, Missouri. She came back with the innovative idea of using centerpieces as a way to promote tzedakah. That year, Beth El was working to revitalize our *Gemilat Hesed* (acts of kindness) program. Tzedakah Centerpieces were a natural addition. But, we sure underestimated the impact they would have for many years to come!

Here is how it worked: Individuals chose a tzedakah cause and rented baskets to benefit that charity. Volunteers created decorative, personalized tags with the names of the honorees and charities. The baskets rented for \$20 each; \$18 went directly to the charity of choice, with the remainder used to replenish supplies.

Cookie Abramson, who headed the project with Betsy, recalls, "With the help of numerous volunteers, we began collecting empty containers. A professional decorator showed us how to make attractive baskets with colored shredded paper and cellophane wrapping. Initially, we created 24 baskets that looked beautiful and could be used repeatedly with a simple tag swap. Eventually we also created baby and birthday theme baskets (pictured on right)—and they were all in active use!"

While recipient organizations were happy to receive checks, this program served a greater purpose: to encourage families to direct money they would have spent on centerpieces to organizations whose work touched their heart and served our communities. And that is just what happened. Today, because many families choose to make

their own creative centerpieces personalized to charities with which they feel connected, Tzedakah Centerpieces are no longer being used and have been recycled. They had a good run...but it was time. I'd like to think that the "seed" of this beautiful trend came from this Beth El project.

We thank all those throughout the years who played a role in the Tzedakah Centerpiece Baskets program. This program inspired us to give tzedakah, beautify the s'mahot in our Gruman Social Hall, and become an even more giving community.



Over the years, Tzedakah Centerpieces have graced tables at more than 120 celebrations at Beth El and other Twin Cities synagogues. The program raised more than \$31,000 for organizations such as STEP, Second Harvest, Mazon, Ronald McDonald House, American Cancer Society, Crisis Nursery and The Animal Humane Society.



Serving Those Who Serve

On Thanksgiving Day, approximately 140 congregants of all ages gathered to pack gift bags and to write "thank you" messages to public servants. Volunteers delivered 10 baskets to St. Louis Park first responders and to caregivers on the Sholom campus, as well as 90 cookie bags to the local National Guard 34th Combat Aviation Brigade. In addition, volunteers packed 500 snack bags for Minneapolis Public School students who are homeless, highly mobile or struggling with food insecurity. This initiative, coordinated by our Gemilat Hesed (Acts of Kindness) volunteers, was part of our yearlong Beth El Serves theme. While volunteers were thrilled to "give back" on Thanksgiving Day, recipients were delighted by the appreciation and support they felt from our Beth El community.



The Right Arm of Beth El

By Bonnie Bongard Goldish, Beth El President

As you know, "Beth El Serves - self, others and God" is our theme this year. Beth El Women's League embraces this value at its core. Our beloved Shirley Raskin Abelson^{z"l}, the late wife of our Rabbi Emeritus Kassel Abelson, rightly claimed that, "Women's League is the right arm of Beth El Synagogue." The Women's League's important and creative activities could fill the pages of this *Shofar*, but I'll mention just a few. Women's League volunteers run our gift shop. And as soon as the Hanukkah rush is over, more volunteers step into the kitchen to bake over 10,000 hamantashen for Purim. Women's League proceeds help support Aleph Preschool and USY; defray costs of unsponsored kiddushim; and make possible the needlepoint handiwork on our Torah covers and wedding huppah.

To reach beyond the Beth El community, Women's League collects and distributes items for various groups, such as The Sojourner Project (a shelter for battered women and children), the Minneapolis Crisis Nursery and STEP.

I asked my mom, Lou Ann Bongard, a 50-year Women's League member, "How has Women's League helped you grow personally?" With a smile on her face she answered, "I gained inner strength and personal growth during my years as President of Beth El Women's League, and then as Regional /Branch President. It served me so well—I became more independent and self-confident, as well as more comfortable speaking before large groups. I learned to travel alone throughout the region, which was significant as I had never previously travelled by myself. I met many wonderful women that I am still friends with today."

In addition to serving our community and providing opportunities for personal development, Women's League is a vehicle for serving God.

The Torah Fund is a national Women's League campaign with funds used exclusively to promote and perpetuate the Conservative movement. Having raised \$90M since its inception, it provides scholarships for the training of rabbis, and Rabbi Olitzky benefitted from this support. According to Rabbi Olitzky, "Not only did I get financial aid support from Women's League and the Torah Fund, but, as an undergraduate, both of the dormitories in which I lived were furnished and built by the Torah Fund. In my time as a student, I gave over 900 tours of the Seminary Campus, many of which were Torah Fund groups and it always gladdened my heart to do so. What a privilege it was to become a rabbi and give thanks to those who have supported Torah Fund over the years."

So when I think about our theme "Beth El Serves" on a personal level, I am aware that Women's League Torah Fund has helped my rabbis, who in turn have provided me with both spiritual guidance and a greater connection with God. Because of my mom's personal growth and path to leadership through her Women's League experiences, she instilled in me the confidence to be President of Beth El Synagogue. As President, I am grateful and indebted to Beth El Women's League for their boundless support to our synagogue community.

Wishing you and your family a Happy Passover.



Women's League Volunteers – Then and Now

B'nai Mitzvah



December 29, 2014 (Israel) / 7 Tevet 5775
Va'yehi

JEREMY MICHAEL MALLIN

ירמיהו מיכאל בן דניאל ודבורה

Son of Dan & Deb Mallin

From Masada to the Dead Sea, the Mallin's trip was the journey of a lifetime. Not only was celebrating Jeremy's bar mitzvah in Israel an unforgettable experience, it left everyone dreaming of their next time they'd return.



April 18, 2015 (Minha) / 29 Nisan 5775
Tazria-Metzora

LILY GRACE ERICKSON

אריאלה בת רוחמה בת-שבע

Daughter of Bret & Rachel Erickson

On the outside, Lily is sweet and kind. Inside she is also strong and determined to help those in need and to do the right things. Lily brings an open heart to her bat mitzvah, the first life cycle event for her family at Beth El.



April 25, 2015 / 6 Iyar 5775
Tazria-Metzora

ZACHARY SAUL MASHAAL

זכריה בן דוד וסרה

Son of David & Cynthia Mashaal

Zachary's route to his Beth El bar mitzvah took him literally around the world. He grew up in Singapore. Last year, he and his family moved to Minneapolis and joined Beth El where his grandparents, Diane and Saul, eagerly anticipated his arrival.



May 2, 2015 / 13 Iyar 5775
Aharei Mot-Kedoshim

ETAI JOSEPH WERT

אתי חוני יוסף בן יהושע אהרן ורבקה איטא

Son of Joshua Wert & Randi Levine

Etai doesn't shy away from asking difficult questions and probing for satisfying answers. He approaches his bar mitzvah wanting to understand the whys and not just the hows of Judaism.



May 2, 2015 / 13 Iyar 5775
Aharei Mot-Kedoshim

ANNA RILEY WERT

חנה מלכה בת יהושע אהרן ורבקה איטא

Daughter of Joshua Wert & Randi Levine

Anna finds great joy in Jewish community through the strong friendships she has made at school and at camp. She celebrates her bat mitzvah at Beth El with her brother, Etai, and a family whose name is synonymous with Jewish community.



May 9, 2015 / 20 Iyar 5775
Emor

ALLISON LENA BIRNBERG

חנה ליבה בת צבי ושושנה

Daughter of Brad Birnberg & Stacy Pinck

Allison has absorbed the lessons her parents and her family have modeled for her here, at Beth El, and in the broader community: being a Jewish adult means learning never ends and involvement in community is both an honor and a responsibility.



May 16, 2015 / 27 Iyar 5775
Behar-Behukotai

MIRIAM CIS HOPE

מרים בת ברוך וחנה אליענה

Daughter of Bruce & Anne Hope

Having grown up in the halls of Beth El and attending shul regularly every Shabbat, Beth El is practically Miriam's second home. And following in the footsteps of her family, Jewish living is second nature.



May 16, 2015 / 27 Iyar 5775
Behar-Behukotai

MARGO ROSE MANDEL

מרים שושנה בת יואל וצפורה

Daughter of Joel & Peggy Mandel

Margo follows the example of her family who has been involved professionally in the Jewish community for years. She exhibits the same passion for life and helping others and will bring these gifts to Jewish adulthood.

B'nai Mitzvah



May 23, 2015 / 5 Sivan 5775
Bemidbar

MARISSA BETH BEUGEN

מירה ברכה בת יעקב וחיה
Daughter of Troy & Mara Beugen

Marissa is a warm young woman who always has a smile on her face. She treats adults and children with kindness and caring, and brings that compassion to Beth El where her family has been longtime members.



May 30, 2015 / 12 Sivan 5775
Naso

IVY HOPE GREENBERG

יעל אסתר בת יעקב אברהם וטובה ושיינא
Daughter of Jeff & Lori Greenberg

Ivy's family has a long and close connection with Beth El. Through her bat mitzvah preparation, she has proven to herself and to others that effort and will are a winning combination allowing her to accomplish her goals.



June 6, 2015 / 19 Sivan 5775
Behaalot'kha

SAMANTHA PAIGE WOLK

חיה בת שלמה ונחמה
Daughter of Shawn & Norma Wolk

Excited by all of her Jewish learning, Samantha has soaked up knowledge and skills at Beth El and HMJDS. She is a young woman of faith whose love of Judaism has grown as her understanding has deepened.



June 13, 2015 / 26 Sivan 5775
Shelah

LIBBY EDEN GREENBERG COHEN

לילה עדן בת אברהם פינחס ושיינא חיה
Daughter of Tony Cohen & Susie Greenberg

Libby's endearing personality along with her derekh erez (proper behavior) are hard to miss. With hard work, not only does she take pride in her accomplishments, she has given her family much nachas as she becomes a Jewish adult.



June 20, 2015 (Israel) / 3 Tammuz 5775
Korah

GAVRIELA CHANNAH SILBERFARB

גבריאלה חנה בת שמואל וליאורה
Daughter of Stephen & Laura Silberfarb

Following the footsteps of her older sister, Gavi is fortunate to be celebrating her bat mitzvah in Jerusalem. Over the years, her family has developed close ties to Beth El and the broader Jewish community and has learned from their example.



June 27, 2015 / 10 Tammuz 5775
Hukat

ANDERSON ELI BLUM

אלי בן מרדכי לב ושרה
Son of Leonard & Missy Blum

Anderson and his family relocated to Minneapolis from California last year and immediately joined Beth El. Anderson jumped right into his bar mitzvah preparation and has begun to build lifelong friendships and skills.

Did you know?

Beth El's Ben & Bernice Fiterman Bar/Bat Mitzvah Training Program students focus on one mitzvah each month. A key component of this program is to expose them to **modern-day examples of mitzvot "in action."** In conjunction with the study of the mitzvah of *teshuvah* (repentance), for example, students had the opportunity to meet with congregant Debbie Walstein. Debbie, one of several "Mitzvah Heroes" the students will learn from over the course of the year, has spent the majority of her professional career as a probation officer. The students were engaged listeners as Debbie shared real-life experiences and lessons.



Busy Teens Make Service a Priority

By Haley Carneol, Youth Director



Overcommitment is a running theme with teenagers today. Our teens in BERUSY (Beth El Rishon United Synagogue Youth) are no exception. Between classes, homework, sports teams, debate, student government, yearbook, newspaper, choir, band, theater, ACT tutoring, applying for college, part time jobs, maybe a few hours of sleep, Talmud Torah, Yachad, youth groups, just to name a few (and not to mention having a social life!), it seems our kids schedule 28 hours of activities into a 24 day.

While overcommitment can lead to disengagement, our teens, on the other hand, seem to be using their

busy schedules to understand the value of prioritization. Most likely without intention, our teens have positioned "Beth El Serves" as one of the top priorities in their lives.

They say that there is a trickle-down theory, but here at Beth El, things seem to be trickling upward. Our teens commitment to service started at BERUSY chapter functions; it permeated throughout our USY regional leadership; and it has made its way to the highest level as Jamie Halper heads up international USY service initiatives. Our teens have taken Beth El Serves to new heights. We can only imagine what the future holds.



Our teens used one of their regularly scheduled Tuesday Lounge Night to assemble care packages for the Minnesota National Guard. The USYers donated supplies, packed boxes, wrote notes to the soldiers and learned firsthand from four soldiers who joined us for the evening to share their stories of how these packages can truly change lives.

This past fall, our USYers and members of the international Abraham Joshua Heschel Honor Society touched the lives of hundreds beyond our Beth El community. Did you know that our teens...

- Unloaded trucks of food from our Yom Kippur food drive at STEP?
- Raked leaves and cleaned out gutters for elderly homeowners through the Neighborhood Involvement Program?
- Sorted and packed 5,000 lbs. of food at Second Harvest Heartland?
- Shared the first night of Hanukkah with the residents at Menorah Plaza, leading them in the prayers and songs?
- Installed a tzedakah box in the Youth Lounge?
- Ventured into the neighborhood and coved the streets with inspiring and uplifting messages written in chalk?
- Have plans to spruce up St. Louis Park by giving fire hydrants a desperately needed new coat of paint?

Our active teens also find time to take on leadership responsibilities and serve as role models close to home and across state lines. Did you know that Beth El...

- Sent 70 representatives to our regional Kinnus where they engaged in service and social action projects?
- Hosts 30 or more teens for weekly programs?
- Has 25 youth in leadership positions at the BERUSY chapter level?
- Boasts 7 teens on the EMTZA Regional General Board?
- Calls our very own Jamie Halper, the 2014-15 EMTZA Regional President AND the 2015-16 International USY Social Action/Tikkun Olam Vice President?

New Members

In the spirit of welcoming families to the congregation – so everyone can put names with faces – we are now offering new families the opportunity to place their photo in the Shofar. If you have joined Beth El in the past year, please email apayton@bethelsynagogue.org with a family picture. It is our goal to feature as many photos of new families as possible.

PLEASE WELCOME

Joe and Liora Dobrin

Adam Fink and Galina Guterman
with Joseph

Scott Hoffman with Talia and Sam

Danya Kornblum with Aidan

David Levine and Joanne S. Ring

Daniel Lieberman and Sophie
Abergel with Samuel and Eliam

David and Cynthia Mashaal with
Sarah, Aiden and Zachary

Oscar and Lucy Mayren with Frida

Fred and Jody Rappaport

Jason and Jamie Saxon

Sandra Streitman

David and Amy Zaroff with
Jordan and Noah



Sandra Streitman



The Saxon Family

L'Chaim!

To celebrate life and the growth of our Beth El family, we have begun announcing births and adoptions of those in our synagogue community through special *Kesher* emails.

To sign up to receive these and other *Keshers*, contact Liz at 952.873.7300 or lrappaport@bethelsynagogue.org.

To submit information about a birth, contact Abbe at 952.873.7303 or apayton@bethelsynagogue.org.



Help Our Simḥa Tree Blossom

Pesah is almost here—and that means springtime is around the corner. Honor friends and family by “planting” a leaf, acorn or dove on Beth El’s Simḥa (Celebration) Tree. Your personalized and inscribed gift will be displayed in the Gruman Social Hall for years to come.

- Births
- Weddings
- B’nai Mitzvah
- Graduations
- Milestone Birthdays & Anniversaries
- Any Happy Occasion

For more information contact Abbe Payton, Director of Engagement & Outreach, at 952.873.7303 or apayton@bethelsynagogue.org. All Simḥa Tree donations are 100% tax deductible.



Jim and Marlene Bukstein have honored each of their grandchildren with an inscribed acorn on the Simḥa Tree. According to Jim and Marlene, “The kids love finding their names on the wall, giving them yet another special connection to Beth El.” Pictured L-R: Saba Jim holding Logan Louis Rohe, Baubee Marlene holding Ilsa Twilight Rajkowski, Reuben James Bukstein and Delilah Rose Rajkowski.

SHABBAT LUNCH IS “SERVED”

The Beth El Shabbat morning experience provides families with young children a sense of fellowship and community. More than Spirit of Asia’s great food, more than convenience, and more than a way to pray together, the ritual of attending shul on Saturday mornings is building memories and a habit of connection and engagement. Below—straight from their satisfied mouths and souls—are what some Shabbat morning regulars have to say about why they value this aspect of the Beth El experience. **So when we serve lunch, we’re serving our community more than you know.** We are proud and grateful that our synagogue and Women’s League have committed to serving Shabbat lunch on weeks when it is otherwise unsponsored—this is a grand investment and should not go unnoticed. And of course, we thank our b’nai mitzvah families who have contributed to this holy act of service.



By Efrem Berman

“Prior to moving to Minnesota last winter, we were not a synagogue-going family. And yet, every Saturday morning... here we are. As the parents of three kids under the age of six, one of the things we enjoy most about Beth El is the social aspect. The kiddush and congregational Shabbat lunch allow us to connect with our friends while the kids get to hang with theirs. (Thank you to Deena and Bridget for supervising in Victor Hall!) The Aleph Preschool and the larger Beth El community have been warm and welcoming since we arrived and have eased our transition to a new city.”



By Dana Rees

“Our decision to attend services regularly and stay for the congregational Shabbat lunch has been priceless. We feel part of a smaller, intimate community within the larger Beth El community. We have seen each other’s families grow in number and witnessed many life stages together. We have come to look out for one another right there at lunch and outside the synagogue. The bonds and connections that we’ve made on Shabbat mornings have extended beyond Shabbat. And returning after an absence feels like coming home.”

SHABBAT LUNCH IS “SERVED”

By Louise and Steven Schoenberger

“Almost every Saturday morning you can find us at Beth El. Sometimes we are sitting in the sanctuary—our kids listening to the service or playing with the toys in a ‘Grandma Fay’s Shul Bag.’ If we are not sitting in our regular seats off to one side, maybe we are in the Quiet Room or down in the Aleph Preschool book nook for a reading break. It’s also not uncommon to find us chatting with friends in the Ring Lobby. Going to synagogue has become a great activity that we look forward to on Saturday mornings. After services, our kids eat quickly and then dash off to play in Victor Hall. As adults, we get to sit and visit with an ever-growing group of friends, without our kids nipping at our heels. We love Beth El. It is a community that cares for our kids and our family. Good food, meaningful services and great friendships, what more could we ask for on Shabbat?”



By Robyn Schein

“During the week, meal time can be a bit crazy for our family with two working parents and three growing kids. Even Shabbat dinner can be a bit hectic as it comes together after a full day of work. But Shabbat lunch is different and it has become a highlight of my week. Our family can sit down and share a meal (one I didn’t have to cook!) with other members of our Beth El community. It is a meal with people at so many different stages of life and I am fulfilled by the conversations around me, which is a reflection of the vibrancy of our congregation. Whether I am catching up with people who watched me grow up at Beth El or meeting someone new, I am proud that on a regular basis my family is a small contributor to the vitality of our congregation. I always leave shul feeling full, satiated by the food and the community I share it with.”

By Uriel Lewis

“Beth El serves congregants in many ways. One of which is the weekly Shabbat kiddush and congregational lunch, encouraging us to shmooze after services rather than run home to eat. Some of us grew up with a scaled down kiddush, involving mainly herring and Schnapps (still served for those who want). How lucky we are that Beth El offers a more substantial and appetizing meal every week. This is by design: Forming and growing relationships is a priority and what better way to do that than serve delicious food!”



Condolences to....

- Friends and families on their loss of our members **Sara Press, Roslyn Tarshish** and **Jeanette Kanter**
- **David Sussman** and **Marilyn Sussman** on the loss of their mother and former mother-in-law, **Shirley Sussman**
- **Jennifer (Steven) Feinberg** on the loss of her mother, **Marilyn Furmansky**
- **Shawn (Naomi Heller) Bulgatz** and **Harold Smith** on the loss of their father and brother, **Richard "Dick" Smith**
- **Donna (Harvey) Leviton** on the loss of her brother, **Paul Cohn**
- **Seymour (Saranette) Frank** on the loss of his sister, **BettySue Morris**
- **Roger (Barbara) Rubin** on the loss of his mother, **Eleanor Shirley Bell**
- **Donald Rosen, Bonnie (Edward) Engler** and **Marcia (Aaron) Pinkus** on the loss of their wife, mother and sister, **Helen Rosen**
- **Judith (Cary) Shaich** on the loss of her brother, **Merlin Hirschorn**
- **Mark (Marla Harris) Bass** on the loss of his father, **Lawrence "Larry" Bass**
- **Daniel (Suzanne Weinstein) Levey** on the loss of his brother, **Alan Zane Levey**
- **Wendy and Lori Malinsky** on the loss of their parents, **Rona & Burton Malinsky**
- **David (Naomi) Rossman** on the loss of his mother, **Ronna Rossman**
- **Edward (Bonnie) Engler** on the loss of his mother, **Bess Engler**
- **Debe (Adam) Fefferman** on the loss of her brother, **Benjamin Freidson**
- **Georganne Savitt** on the loss of her husband, **Arnold Savitt**
- **Shelley Jacobs** on the loss of her mother, **Ruth Leiderman**
- **Paula Beugen** on the loss of her husband, **Michael Beugen**
- **Sandra Uri** on the loss of her mother, **Ruth Lebowitz**
- **Rose Averbach** and **Shirley Jacobson** on the loss of their sister, **Sylvia Field**
- **Estee Warsett** on the loss of her mother, **Roberta Marx**
- **Shirley Ansel** and **Phyllis (Philip) Garon** on the death of their husband and father **Harvey Ansel**

With heavy hearts we mourn the loss of these loved ones within our community.

Mazal Tov to...

Barb & Phil Herman and **Jackie Herman** on the birth of their grandson and great-grandson, **John Michael James**. The proud parents are **Lisa & David Lovelace**. Mazal tov also to grandmother **Sara Lovelace** and great-grandmother **Juliette Malca**.

Marlene & Jim Bukstein on the birth of their grandson, **Logan Louis**. The proud parents are **Cari & Travis Rohe**. Mazal tov also to grandparents **Jackie Silver** and **Daniel Rohe**.

Amy & Michael Walstien on the birth of their daughter, **Evelyn Alice**. Mazal tov also to grandparents **Deborah & Philip Walstien** and **Kathy & Steve Sevcik**.

Jill & Uriel Lewis on the birth of their daughter, **Rachel Bluma**. Mazal tov also to grandparents **Robert & Cheryl Goldberg** and **Rabbi Sheldon & Lorri Lewis**.

Sara & Marc Warren on the birth of their daughter, **Raya Mae Foxx**. Mazal tov also to grandparents **Lori & Richard Warren** and **Phil & Chana Weber**.

Jamie & Jason Saxon on their recent marriage. Mazal tov also to parents **Tammy Schwartz, Donald Saxon** and **William & Judy Gallagher**, and grandparents **Darlene & Nathan Schwartz, Natalie & Ron Saxon, Rita & Robert Goldstein** and **Joanne Gallagher**.

Sara Grimaldi & David Jurisz on the birth of their son, **Sol Max**. Mazal tov also to grandparents **Myra & Ray Fishman** and **Lou & Shirley Jurisz**.

Rebecca & Hal Lieberman on the birth of their son, **Colin Ryan**. Mazal tov also to grandparents **Sheila & Steve Lieberman** and **Lawrence & Sharon Teitel**.

If you would like to ensure that your (or your loved one's) milestone, simcha or other celebration are acknowledged in future publications, please contact Abbe Payton, Director of Engagement and Outreach, at 952.873.7303 or apayton@bethelsynagogue.org.

ADORN YOUR SEDER TABLE

If the gorgeous, new, hammered stainless steel Judaic pieces in the Ring Lobby showcases have not yet caught your eye, please make a point to take a peek! **These ritual objects and serving pieces — available through the Beth El Women's League Gift Shop — are great as gifts or to enhance your own seder table.** The designer is Classic Touch. Their items reflect exceptional functionality and quality at surprisingly reasonable prices!

The Gift Shop is open Sunday mornings from 9:30 – 11:30 AM, or call Linda at 763.545.4301 or Sara at 763.529.1285 to make an appointment.



Mazal Tov to Members with Upcoming MILESTONE ANNIVERSARIES

Name	Date	Years
Harold & Jackie Sadoff	January 3	50
Ben & Jennifer Bukstein	January 15	10
Gary & Laura Katz	April 2	20
Larry & Barbara Parks	April 5	45
Howard & Beverly Radin	April 12	40
Harry & Terry Cohen	April 20	50
Dennis & Helene Konn	April 25	50
Bruce & Karen Blumenthal	May 2	50
Jeff & Sandy Rudoy	May 10	45
Bradley & Terri Eisenberg	May 11	40
Brian & Susan Krelitz	May 14	15
Adam & Rebecca Kristal	May 14	15
Steven & Sandra Mindlin	May 17	40
Howard & Wendy Bach	May 18	40
Daniel Rutman & Andrea Weisberg	May 21	20
Michael & Roni Falck	May 22	10
Sam M. & Rochelle Schwartz	May 24	45
Barney & Cerene Rosen	May 26	70
Michael & Paula Flom	May 27	25
David & Cheri Seffren	May 27	25
David & Tricia Cofman	May 28	15
Jeff & Dana Prottas	May 28	15
Andrew & Amy Schmidt	May 28	20
Sheldon & Lois Conner Vermes	May 29	10
Jonathan & Shayna Kallor	May 30	5
Joseph & Susan Kaminsky	June 1	40
Sid & Anita Konikoff	June 2	30
Daniel & Jennifer Spiller	June 4	15

Name	Date	Years
Bernard & Pauline Ratner	June 5	60
Steve & Natalie Redelsperger	June 6	5
Ben & Carrie Snyder	June 6	5
Harold & Susan Koritz	June 8	35
Earl & Ava Gail Bender	June 8	50
Harry & Leslie Levine Adler	June 9	30
William & Myrna Schaeffer	June 9	35
Daniel & Suzanne Levitt	June 11	20
David & Dana Beth Weisman	June 11	20
Ralph & Sharon Klein	June 13	50
Harold & Eileen Scherling	June 13	50
David & Marie Kopolow	June 15	30
Stanton & Janet Shanedling	June 16	30
Michael & Aimee Sedley	June 17	15
Richard & Sondra Goodkind	June 18	55
Alan & Betsy Weiner	June 18	15
Gary & Wendy Fine	June 19	40
Arnold & Barbara Winikoff	June 19	55
Avi Nahum & Jean Holloway	June 20	35
Stanley & Laura Smith	June 20	20
Robert & Stefanie Karon	June 20	45
Craig & Cindy Greenberg	June 23	30
Sherman & Elizabeth Kantor	June 24	40
Joshua & Dana Youman	June 25	20
Howard & Elaine Schwimmer	June 26	55
Stuart & Sue Ellen Borke	June 27	50
Adam & Deborah Fefferman	June 27	5
Daniel Spiegel & Marilyn Robinson	June 27	25
Bruce & Merrie Forstein	June 29	40

**If you feel we have missed a special anniversary, please call the office to verify it is on record.*



Nearly 175 people (50 families from across the entire synagogue!) attended a **Pajama Havdalah Family Fun Night** in January. Dinner, Havdalah rituals and songs, and a pillowcase decorating craft were all part of the fun. According to Amanda Awend, Director of Shorashim & Young Families Engagement, "It was especially touching to see families and friends gathered around the Havdalah flame singing *Eliyahu Hanavi*. It was also beautiful to watch the kindergarten and first grade Shorashim Religious School students help lead the Havdalah service. It was an amazing community gathering!"

Beth El Synagogue Foundation



supporting our youth AND STRENGTHENING JEWISH IDENTITY

By Susan Lieberman, Foundation Director

Spring is in the air and we all know that summer is around the corner. Summer brings wonderful Jewish identity building opportunities for our youth. Our current endowment helps support Jewish camp and Israel experiences. For many years, congregants have established and contributed to endowment funds that help make life-changing summer experiences more affordable for our youth in financial need. Scholarship support is also awarded to our youth who serve our congregation as educators and mentors of our Ben & Bernice Fiterman Bar/Bat Mitzvah Training Program.

Although these summer experiences are invaluable, the cost can be prohibitive. Increasing the amount of scholarship money available to families for summer camps and Israel experiences is one of the Foundation's priorities. Our goal is to encourage more youth to participate by reducing financial barriers. You are an important part of making this happen.

If you are interested in supporting summer Jewish experiences for Beth El Youth, please contact Susan Lieberman, Foundation Director, at 952.873.7309.



There are Many Ways to Make a Gift to the Foundation

You Can Create a Legacy and Make a Difference

Help ensure that Beth El thrives for years to come by making a gift to the Beth El Synagogue Foundation so that Jewish traditions and values are passed on for years to come.

- Ensure your legacy and support a program you love by starting an endowment fund or adding to your existing fund.

- Contribute to the Foundation in honor of joyous occasions or in memory of a loved one.
- Plan to make a gift from your estate.

Gifts to the Foundation can provide significant tax advantages whether you give cash, stock, life insurance or other assets.

Donor Spotlight

NEW ENDOWMENT FUND AND PLANNED GIFT VALUES COMMUNITY BUILDING

Gary and Bonnie Bongard Goldish have established the Gary and Bonnie Bongard Goldish Fund to support *kehilah* (community) at Beth El. This fund will help support community building activities at Beth El that help provide a warm and welcoming atmosphere. Gary and Bonnie are connected to five generations of family members who have contributed to make Beth El what it is today.

Bonnie, who is proudly carrying on her family's tradition of service as synagogue Board President and Foundation Board Member said, "Gary and I are honored to name Beth El as a recipient of a planned gift from our estate, and also to establish an endowment fund. We now know our legacy will live on at Beth El and we are helping to ensure a vital future for the synagogue."

Foundation President, Gary Krupp, extended his appreciation to the family, "We are grateful for this generous gift and particularly thrilled that Gary and Bonnie's gift is one of the Foundation's inaugural endowment funds."



Gary and Bonnie Bongard Goldish and Family
Left to right: Danny Goldish, Samantha Sosman, Jaimee Goldish, Hillary Aronow, Aaron Goldish, Bonnie Bongard Goldish, Gary Goldish.

TZEDAKAH

Tributes and direct donations to Beth El funds honor friends and family, commemorate significant events, memorialize loved ones and provide essential support to the congregation. For more information on specific funds or to establish a new fund, please contact Susan Lieberman, Foundation Director, at 952.873.7309 or slieberman@bethelsynagogue.org.

TODAH RABBAH (THANK YOU)

Beth El gratefully acknowledges the following contributions:

Alvin & Audrey Kaufman Camp Ramah Fund

Happy Birthday Alvin Kaufman
Wendy & Howie Bach
In Memory of Lois Marcus
Speedy Recovery Jeanne Kaufman
Speedy Recovery Rabbi Avi Olitzky
Speedy Recovery Esther Burke
Alvin & Audrey Kaufman

Ann & Oscar Victor USY Fund

In Memory of Howard Warsett
Julie & Brian Weisberg

Barry & Midge Frailich Yach V'Lev - Caring Community Fund

In Memory of Gina Kugler
Allison Frailich

Bernard Levit on Feed the Hungry Fund

Speedy Recovery Dalia Katz
Clarice Cutts
In Memory of Paul Cohn
Charles Horwitz
Judith Nathenson

Burton & Diane Weisberg Camp Ramah Fund

In Honor of Joyce & Ed Prohovsky's grandson's Bar Mitzvah, Mathew Krelitz
Harriette & Fred Burstein

Cantor Audrey Abrams Discretionary Fund

In Honor of Allie & Brian Hage
Alan & Penny Bank
Tristram & Sandy Hage
In Honor of Tomer Bundt's Bar Mitzvah
Jonathan Bundt
In Honor of Cantor Audrey Abrams
Joe Rine

Congregational Nurse Fund

In Memory of Rabbi Barry Woolf
Charlotte Gelfand
In Honor of Nancy & Ellis Olkon
Edythe Misel
Sheldon & Sandy Olkon
Happy Anniversary Fred & Harriette Burstein
Happy Anniversary Mike & Bernice Frisch
Happy Anniversary Roger & Ellice Landy
Happy Anniversary Buddy & Phyllis Harris
Speedy Recovery Rachel Parnes
Speedy Recovery Arlene Kase
In Memory of Mina Freier
Speedy Recovery Jeanne Kaufman
Ed & Joyce Prohovsky
In Memory of Shirley & Norbert Raucher
Gary Raucher

Daryle Silver Aleph School Fund

Happy Birthday Special Birthday wishes to Aunty Myrna Schaeffer
In Memory of Your Mother & Grandmother, Marilyn Furmansky
Mara, Troy, Samantha & Marissa Beugen
In Memory of Bonnie Litton
Harry & Terry Cohen
Happy Birthday Myrna Levitan Schaeffer
Barry & Carolyn Gerr
In Memory of Nancy Edelstein's Mother & Brother
Happy 75th Birthday Myrna Schaeffer
Jeff & Eileen Silver
In Memory of Shirley Sussman
Barbara Sussman

David & Ida Bach Scholarship Fund

Happy Birthday Pam Kaufman
Happy Birthday Ron Kaufman
Paula & Marshall Lehman

David & Linda Estrin USY Fund

In Memory of Bradley Hytoff
Jennifer & Jeremy Zacks

Dr. Jerry Bach Educational Fund

In Memory of Regina Kugler
Mazal Tov Ron & Pam Kaufman
Barbara Bach

Gerald Gottlieb Camp Ramah Scholarship Fund

In Honor of Evelyn Alice Walstien
Howard & Bea Kampf

Greater Beth El

In Memory of Howard Warsett
Teri & Mike Greenstein
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Paul Tuchman & Tom Evers
Miriam Freidson
Michael & Eileen Kopman
Miles & Sandra Locketz
Myra & Richard Stone
In Honor of Bonnie Bongard Goldish
Raoul & Ferna Heifetz
Mazal Tov Maya Kupritz
Ronald Krebs

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In Memory of Arlene Cardozo
Deborah Deutsch
In Memory of Mina Freier
Linda & David Estrin
In Appreciation of Debbie & Gil Mann
Barbara Herman

In Memory of Regina Kugler
Steve & Lois Lackore
In Memory of Bonnie Litton
In Memory of Dr. Theodore Papermaster
Cantor Neil & Saranee Newman
In Memory of Mina Freier
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In Memory of Paul Cohn
Mike & Linda Platt

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In Memory of Leonard Goldman
Raoul & Ferna Heifetz
In Honor of Jan Snyder
Elisabeth Trach & Family
Ellen Trach & Family

Karen & Ivan Brodsky Presidential Fund

Happy Birthday Harriette Burstein
Happy Anniversary Fred & Harriette Burstein
Happy Birthday Esther Steiner
Karen & Ivan Brodsky

Lawrence M. Spiegel Memorial Discretionary Fund

In Memory of Shirley Sussman
Richard & Judith Spiegel

Library Supplies Donations

In Honor of Marcia Oleisky
Shayne Brody Karasov
In Memory of Shirley Sussman
Allen & Marcia Oleisky

Linda & David Estrin Fund

Happy Anniversary Hal & Jackie Sadoff
Mazal Tov Ed & Joyce Prohovsky
David & Linda Estrin

Lou Ann & Leon Bongard Senior Fund

In Memory of Marilyn Furmansky
In Memory of Ansel Gardner
Lou Ann Bongard

Happy Birthday Paul Benenson
Michelle & Larry Shapiro

Louis & Clara "Billie" Baker Scholarship Fund

In Memory of Dr. Aaron Nathenson
Henry & Gertrude Goldstein

Louise & Jerry Ribnick Family Camp Ramah Fund

In Honor of Engagement of Talia & Adam
Wendy & Howie Bach

In Honor of Harold & Jackie Sadoff's 50th Anniversary
Stuart & Sue Ellen Borken

In Honor of Tali Ribnick
Neil & Saranee Newman
Joe Rine

Minyan Fund Donations

In Honor of Harriet Phillips
Beatrice Herman

In Memory of Mina Freier
In Memory of Shirley Sussman
Felix & Muriel Zwiebel

Mr. & Mrs. Sol Sadoff Scholarship Fund

In Memory of our grandparents
Randy Victor & Andy Steinfeldt

Myrl Lavintman Youth Education Fund

Mazal Tov Donald Saxon
Missy Lavintman

Nathan Gottesman Torah Fund

In Memory of Gerri Maisel
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In Memory of Lois Marcus
In Memory of Shirley Sussman
In Memory of Dr. Aaron Nathenson
Speedy Recovery Martin Ring
In Memory of David Meshbesh
Phyllis & Buddy Harris

Rabbi Abelson Discretionary Fund

In Honor of Rabbi Kassel Abelson
Richard & Marilyn Chern

Rabbi Alexander Davis Discretionary Fund

In Honor of Tomer Bundt's Bar Mitzvah
Jonathan Bundt

In Appreciation of Rabbi Alexander Davis
Marvin & Fran Burstein

In Memory of Gina Kugler
Allison Frailich

In Memory of Dr. Theodore Papermaster

In Memory of Shirley Sussman
Steve Perlman & Jeri Meshbesh
In Memory of Prof Rabbi Dov Zlotnick
Joe Rine

In Memory of Byron Goldstein
Marshall Walzer

Rabbi Avi S. Olitzky Discretionary Fund

Speedy Recovery Rabbi Avi Olitzky
Lee & Barbara Bearmon

Jim & Marlene Bukstein
Barry & Carolyn Gerr

Steve & Mimi Klane
Sheldon & Helen Resig

Joe Rine

David & Dana Beth Weisman

In Appreciation of Rabbi Avi Olitzky
Sally Forbes Friedman

Rabbi Kassel Abelson USY Leadership Fund

In Memory of Marilyn Furmansky
Jodi & Howard Rankin

In Memory of Howard Warsett
Sandy & Jeff Rudy

Edward & Connie Sachs

Elaine Savick

Ralph Fine Israel Fund

Mazal Tov Beverlee Rockler Fine
Joe Rine

Ralph Z. Yellen & Bess Cohen Yellen Scholarship Fund

In Honor of Howard & Jody Sigal
In Memory of Ansel Gardner
In Honor of Martin Rosen
Thinking of Jim Rocklin
In Memory of Recie Louich Holland

In Memory of Richard Smith
Dian & Stuart Yellen

Ramah Card Income Fund

Mazal Tov Mr. & Mrs. Gary Rosenblatt
Esther Burke

Ring Family Endowment Fund

Speedy Recovery Martin Ring
Susan Lieberman

Roberta M. Weber Congregational Nurse Fund

In Memory of Mina Freier
Philip & Chana Weber

In Memory of Claire "Maudie" Cohen
Philip Weber

Rose & Sol Bukstein Sukkah Fund

In Memory of Bonnie Lee Litton
In Memory of Mina Freier
In Memory of Dr. Seymour Blunderman
In Memory of Rabbi Barry Woolf
Mazal Tov Maya's Bat Mitzvah
Speedy Recovery Arlene Kase
Mazal Tov Tomer Bundt's Bar Mitzvah
Mazal Tov Mathew Krelitz's Bar Mitzvah

In Memory of Shirley Sussman
In Memory of Howard Warsett
In Memory of Brother, Paul Cohn
Jim & Marlene Bukstein

In Honor of Dr. Jim Bukstein
Joe Rine

Sally & Sam Greenberg Herzl Camp Scholarship

In Memory of Shirley Sussman
Harley & Ellen Greenberg

Samuel & Ann Rank Scholarship Fund

Happy Anniversary Harold and Jackie Sadoff
Barry & Carolyn Gerr

In Honor of Jackie & Harold Sadoff
Diana Idelkope

Shirley R. Abelson Aleph Preschool Fund

In Memory of Shirley Sussman
Bob & Sorah Blumenfeld

Laurie Goldfarb

In Memory of Edward Levey
Bob & Andy Burton & Family

In Memory of Rabbi Barry Woolf
Clarice Cutts

In Memory of Howard Warsett
Richard & Irene Gross

In Memory of Howard Alan Warsett
In Honor of Noah Hage's 3rd Birthday
Tristram & Sandy Hage

In Memory of Bradley Michael Hytoff
Cym Kibort

In Memory of David Eiger
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Steve & Bonnie Heller Leadership Fund

Mazal Tov Marriage of Naomi & Shawn
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Steven G. Rice Fund for Physically & Mentally Challenged Persons

In Memory of Rausel Rappaport
Mazal Tov Sally Gerty
Mazal Tov Charlene & Kenny Zuckerman
Happy Birthday Gloria Rice
In Appreciation of Edward & Tess Rice
In Appreciation of Gloria & Marc Rice
Happy Birthday Mattea Ann Rice
Happy Birthday Sophia Weisberg
Malika Rice

In Honor of Mark & Rebecca Shulman
In Memory of Gerri Maisel
Mort & Ruth Weisberg

Summer Experience in Israel

In Memory of Howard Warsett
Jodi Davis

The Landy Aleph School Enrichment Program Fund

In Honor of Ellice & Roger Landy
Larry & Rita Covin

The Richard Diamond Memorial Fund

In Memory of Marilyn Frumansky
Howard & Beverly Radin

Torodor & Levy Family Summer Scholarship Fund

Happy Birthday David Levy
Bill, Sharon & Eleanor Torodor
In Memory of Lois Marcus
Speedy Recovery Jeanne Kaufman
In Memory of Shirley Sussman
Speedy Recovery Debbie Gottesman
Sharon & Bill Torodor

USY Scholarship Fund

In Memory of Ansel Gardner
Jerry Bronstien
Speedy Recovery Rabbi Avi Olitzky
Barbara Friedman

This list, and the yahrzeit contributions list that follow, reflect donations made from October 15, 2014 to January 9, 2015. Contributions made after January 9 will be listed in the next issue of the Shofar.

YAHARZEIT TZEDAKAH CONTRIBUTIONS

We honor our loved ones through donations that support their values and continue their lives.

CONTRIBUTOR	IN MEMORY OF	CONTRIBUTOR	IN MEMORY OF	CONTRIBUTOR	IN MEMORY OF
Leah Albersheim	Eugene Albersheim	Shirley Haskovitz	Barrie Haskovitz	Andrea Rose	Pauline Kirschbaum
Howard Ansel	Harold & Bessie Ansel	Christine Hausman	Joe Flaherty	Fred Rose	Muriel Rose
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	David Groll	Benjamin Ostfield	Malka Wolf	Roz Wyles	Roz Wyles
Marsha Finkelstein	Mickey Kaplan		Rose Olkon	Sylvia Zouber	Sylvia Zouber
Merrie Forstein	Anna Silverman		Abe Olkon		Jack Zouber
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Eleanor Gantman	Jordan Friedman		Ethel Phillips		
Eugene Gittelson	Joseph Gantman	Sandra Rabinovitz	Mary Katzovitz		
Hy Glasser	Richard Gittelson	Howard & Beverly Radin	Harry Katzovitz		
Marilyn Goldman	Bessie Glasser	Bernard Ratner	Siegfried Goldschmidt		
	Sam Skolnick	Pauline Ratner	Ann Radin		
Sheila Goldstein	Florence Skolnick	Marsha Raviv	David Ratner		
Richard Goodkind	Barbara Bigelow		Rae Sisler		
Ellen Greenberg	Adele Goodkind	Daniel Ribnick	Henrietta Lazar		
Myron Greenberg	Joseph Gantman	Mindy Ribnick	Sally Greenberg		
Phil Greenberg	Sally Greenberg	Herbert Walder	Leonard Ribnick		
Harley & Ellen Greenberg	Phil Greenberg	Ann Armel	Herbert Walder		
Joshua Gruber	Sally Greenberg	Herman Rice	Ann Armel		
Marcia Harris	Peggy Gruber	Steven Gregory Rice	Herman Rice		
Jacqueline Harris	Terry Goldberg		Steven Gregory Rice		
	Wally Harris				



Upcoming At Beth El

Below is a sampling of only some of the upcoming events at the synagogue. Please mark your calendar and plan to attend. Look for more details, in future Hakol and Keshet publications, and as always, feel free to call the Welcome Desk at 952.873.7300 for additional information.

APRIL	
3-11	Passover
11	Yizkor
12-24	Beth El Eastern Europe Trip
16	Yom Hashoah Community Service, Temple Israel
18	Gun Violence Prevention Lunch and Learn with JCA
21	Yom Hazikaron Community Service, hosted here at Beth El
23	Yom Haatzamut observed
24	Young Adults Shabbat Dinner
24	Choir Sings at Knollwood Place
26	Aleph Preschool Annual Pasta Party—everyone is welcome!
MAY	
3	Trucksploration (community-wide event for young children and families)
7	Inspiring Minds Speaker Series presents An Evening with the Cousteau Family
7	Lag B'omer
15	Choir Sings at Knollwood Place
16	Shabbat <u>Hinukh</u> : Honoring our Teachers
20	Minnesota AIPAC Annual Event, Hilton Minneapolis
22	Young Families Spring Dinner
23	Shavu'ot – <i>Tikkun Leyl Shavu'ot</i> featuring Stillman Torah Scholar in Residence Danny Siegel, services
25	Yizkor
27	National Speaker Series presents An Evening with Tony Blair
28	Aleph Preschool Graduation
JUNE	
6	Tiny Treasures/L'hitraot Service—honoring our babies and high school graduates
13	Summer <i>Darshanim</i> begins this Shabbat morning—congregants and guests share their insights on Torah from the <i>bimah</i> , through September 5
14	Bethelders Picnic & Pontoon Boat Ride, contact Freada at 952.922.6667
SPRING LOOKING AHEAD	
JULY	
19	Bethelders trip to Treasure Island Casino, call Jerry at 763.544.4908
AUGUST	
31	Annual End of Summer Picnic
LOOKING WAY AHEAD...2016	
Start planning soon! Join Cantor Neil Newman for a trip to Israel May 1-15, 2016 (a year from now). This trip will be designed for people who have already been to Israel.	



May 7
AN EVENING WITH THE COUSTEAU FAMILY
www.besyn.org/cousteaus



May 27
AN EVENING WITH TONY BLAIR
 Call Linda Goldberg at 952.873.7302 for tickets

ONGOING SERVICES

EREV SHABBAT

Kabbalat Shabbat 5:45 PM

YOM SHABBAT

Shaharit 9:00 AM*
 Minhah 5:45 PM

SUNDAY

Shaharit 9:00 AM (Hevra Breakfast)
 Minhah 5:45 PM

DAILY MINYAN

Shaharit 7:00 AM
 Minhah 5:45 PM

*Apples & Honey Young Family Service May 2 and June 6, 10:00 am.

UPCOMING VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Join the many activities of the Gemilat Hesed (Acts of Loving Kindness) Committee. Make a difference in our own congregation and in the greater community. Activities can be social, family-oriented, multi-generational and rewarding.



Yad V'lev (Hand and Heart): *Provides meals, hallot, calls, and more to congregants who have experienced a loss, were hospitalized, or are in need of additional help*

Contact: Jo Ann Gruesner, jgruesner@gmail.com, to be on the listserv for notifications

National Guard Military: *Supports the 34th Aviation Brigade, 2nd Battalion/147th Assault Helicopter, and 204th Area Support Medical Company*

What: Donate and pack items to ship to our soldiers

When: April 19, May 24, June 21, 10:00 AM - Noon

Where: Wolson Reading Nook

Contact: Pamela Friedman, pamela.friedman@hotmail.com, or Rachel Parnes, rachelparnes@comcast.net

Inclusion Subcommittee: *Looks to address inclusion-related issues at Beth El for all with special needs*

What: Join the committee to help assess needs and make recommendations

Contact: Jeanne Kaufman, jeannekaufman@comcast.net or 763.533.1888

Sheridan Story: *Food relief organization to prevent students from going hungry over weekends when school lunches are not available. Also offers mentoring/tutoring for students at Nellie Stone Johnson Community School.*

* **What:** Pack bags of food for students

When: Evenings

Where: 740 Harding Street, NE, Suite B, Minneapolis, MN 55413

Contact: Sign up at <http://www.besyn.org/sheridanstory> or contact Steve Kaplan, skaplan6@comcast.net or 612.492.7169

* **What:** Deliver prepared food packages to students

When: Thursday or Friday Mornings, 10:00 - 11:30 AM

Where: Nellie Stone Johnson Community School, 807 North 27th Avenue, Minneapolis, MN 55411

Contact: Steve Kaplan, skaplan6@comcast.net or 612.492.7169

Ongoing: Sponsor a child for \$130. Checks made out to Sheridan Story, sent to Beth El c/o Jill Blustin

Ongoing: Volunteer to mentor a student weekly at Nellie Stone Johnson School

Contact: Karen Burton, kburton@bethelsynagogue.org, or Steve Kaplan, skaplan6@comcast.net or 612.492-7169

Ronald McDonald House:

A home away from home for families with children undergoing long term hospitalization and treatment.

What: Purchase (in advance), prepare and serve brunch to families staying at RMH

When: May 3, June 7

Where: RMH, 818 Fulton Ave. NE, Minneapolis, MN 55414

Contact: Sarah Hanly, sarah.m.hanly@gmail.com

Loaves and Fishes: *Collaborative effort with other congregations to support those in need*

What: Cook, serve and clean up a meal (space limited)

When: April 28, May 26, June 23

Where: St. Stephens Church, 2123 Clinton Ave South, Minneapolis, MN 55404

Contact: Diana Rosen, rose0392@umn.edu

Shul Chauffers:

Driving program for elderly congregants

Ongoing: Driving from Knollwood Place to and from Shabbat services at Beth El

When: Volunteers needed every Shabbat

Contact: Margie Goldfine, smmaahome@aol.com or 952.525.1248

*Family friendly (children over 8 years)

For more information on these and other Gemilat Hesed opportunities, contact Chair Barbara Krupp 952.212.8587 or drbarbarakrupp@gmail.com, or Cantor Audrey Abrams at 952.873.7317 or aabrams@bethelsynagogue.org.



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Avi S. Olitzky, Rabbi

Audrey Abrams, Cantor

Kassel Abelson, Rabbi Emeritus

Neil Newman, Cantor Emeritus

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION

Director of Shorashim &
Young Families Engagement

Amanda Awend

Education Director

Mary Baumgarten

Director of Early Childhood Education

Karen Burton

Youth Director

Haley Carneol

Finance & Administration Director

Jerry Frick

Executive Director

Linda Goldberg

Facilities Director

Peggy Kerska

Foundation Director

Susan Lieberman

Director of Engagement & Outreach

Shofar Editor

Abbe Payton

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Bonnie Bongard Goldish, MD

BERUSY President

David Hope

Women's League President

Joyce Prohofskey

Arthur & Irene Stillman Torah
Scholar in Residence Program presents

**DANNY SIEGEL, FROM
SHABBAT TO SHAVU'OT:**

*“Repairing the World, One
Step and One Hero at a Time”*

Join Danny and your Beth El community for:

Friday Night, May 22
Services & Shabbat Dinner

Shabbat Morning, May 23
Services, Lunch & Study

Saturday Night, May 23
Tikkun Leyl Shavu'ot (Nighttime Learning)

Sunday Morning, May 24
Teaching



Danny is an author, lecturer and poet. He has spoken at and shared his poetry with more than 500 synagogues, JCC's, Federations, and other communal organizations nationwide. Danny, sometimes referred to as "The Most Famous Unknown Jewish Poet in America," is the author of 29 1/2 books on such topics as mitzvah heroes, tzedakah, Jewish values, healing, and tikkun olam.

Look for details about times and topics in upcoming Keshet and Hakol publications.