



In June, we celebrated Shavuot. We associate Shavuot with cheesecake and the giving of Torah, but at its origin, it is an agricultural holiday. In Biblical days, farmers brought the first fruits of their harvest to the Temple in Jerusalem as an expression of gratitude. This history is captured in the stained glass window original to our Penn Avenue building and now located in our Fiterman Chapel (pictured). The inset picture is a detail from our silver Torah case of the seven special fruits of Israel.

WHEN YOU STOP TO SMELL THE ROSES...

By Rabbi Alexander Davis



I grew up in Portland, Oregon, which is known as the Rose City. With a temperate climate, it has just the right conditions for growing roses. Whenever I go home to visit, one of the first places I head is to the International Rose Test Garden. There are roses of every shape, size, smell and color.

I love walking among the rows and rows of flowers, reading the creative names, smelling the perfumed air and deciding which rose is most beautiful. Wandering the paths, I think of a poem called, "The Rose," by 11th century Spanish poet, Moses ibn Ezra:

The garden put on a coat of many colors, and its grass garments were like robes of brocade. All the trees dressed in checkered tunics and showed their wonders to every eye. The new blossoms all came forth in honor of Time renewed, came gaily to welcome him. But at their head advanced the rose, king of them all, for his throne was set on high!

In the Test Garden, one can't help but to "stop and smell the roses." We understand the saying to mean that we should slow down and enjoy life's pleasures and beauty. Indeed, the gift of summer offers just such an opportunity. Less well-known is a different Jewish tradition involving roses.

The sages teach that when God gave the Torah on Mt. Sinai, the barren landscape blossomed forth with flowers and plants. "With each and every word that God uttered, the air filled with the perfume of roses, as it says, 'God's lips were like roses'" (Song of Songs Rabbah 5:8:1). From this description, the custom developed to decorate synagogues and homes with flowers and plants on Shavuot when we celebrate the giving of Torah.

Not everyone approved of the custom. The Vilna Gaon, for example, said that it was too similar to Christmas decorations and so forbade the practice. Other communities, however, embraced the tradition. In fact, people would vie not just to pay for the flowers but pay for the opportunity to pay for the flowers!

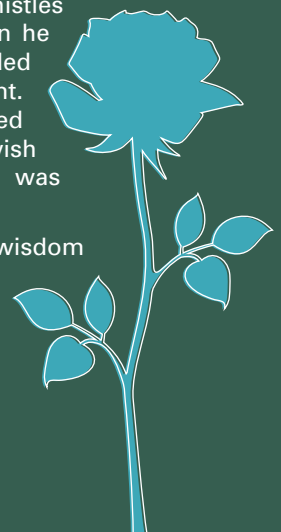
At Beth El, we do not follow this custom. In fact, many years ago we decided to no longer adorn the pulpit with flowers for regular Shabbat services. We found that the flowers were an unwelcome, added expense for b'nai mitzvah families and drew attention to the families who could not afford the cost.

While our bimah may have few flowers, this past Shavuot, the scent of learning wafted through the air. At the Tikkun (literally, "repair"), we studied from dusk to dawn. This follows a spring in which the Center for Learning was abuzz with activity with a series of engaging and well-attended Sunday morning programs.

Plans continue under way to develop a vibrant learning program. We received your feedback from the online survey; and it is informing our program design. We look forward to sharing those plans with you even as we look to you to vie for the opportunity to support it.

In a parable (Lev. Rab. 23:3), the rabbis teach that the world was likened to a garden. A king beheld the garden, saw mostly thorns and thistles and desired to destroy it. But then he noticed a beautiful rose and decided to spare the garden on its account. So too, the Sages say, God decided to spare the world when the Jewish people received the Torah which was likened to a rose.

May our learning make our wisdom grow and our blessings blossom forth. And with the merit of our "tikkun," may we do our part to repair the world.



An Outdoor Palace in Time

By Rabbi Avi S. Olitzky



Isaiah says, “If...you call the Sabbath a delight (*oneg*), ...and you honor it by not doing your habituated ways, by not pursuing your affairs and speaking words, then, you shall delight with God...” (Isaiah 58:13-14). The Talmud reminds us that “Not doing your habituated ways” means “that your

walking on Shabbat should not be like your walking on weekdays” (BT Shabbat 113a-b). This means that in order to truly experience *oneg Shabbat* – the true delight of Shabbat – we have to literally and figuratively step outside. We have to step outside of our comfort zone and of our homes.

Many of us know the word *oneg* to refer to the “nosh” we have on Shabbat following services. Throughout the generation, food has very much been a way for us to delight in the Sabbath day and make it holy.

But then comes the fusion of the two: when we sample God’s bounty with the wind in our hair and the sun on our face, we experience the Holy and the Sacred. All the more so, when we do this on Shabbat; the setting allows us to put the troubles of the past week behind us, instead pausing with calm in what Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel used to refer to as a “palace in time.”

Even after nearly a decade in Minnesota, there are parts of New York City that I miss now and again. Shabbat afternoon picnicking in Central Park is indeed one of those special opportunities—that was my palace in time for nearly a decade in Manhattan.

During the warmer summer months, I am able to get my fill of that palace in our neighborhood surrounding Beth El. Both Twin Lakes Park (which my children affectionately refer to as the “Shabbat Park”) and Fern Hill Park have become wonderful Shabbat afternoon gathering places.

Regularly, my family spends our *seudah shelishit* (third meal) in these parks, enjoying life in beautiful Minnesota, and never once does Central Park cross my mind. In fact, I am reminded of how blessed we are not only to live in such a wonderful community, but how special it is to be able to enjoy Shabbat in such a setting.

Many of our congregants walk over to these parks and playgrounds after Shabbat morning services. And still others attend Shabbat Minchah services, bookending their prayer experience with time at these parks (you’ll even notice that the Twin Lakes Park is adopted by our Aleph Preschool).

These congregants can relate to our rabbis’ teaching that Shabbat meals under the open sky are a glimpse into the World to Come. When we sit in the park and gather with family and friends, enjoying a Shabbat meal together, it is as if we experience a world, albeit briefly, that is replete with peace and love, and absent of hate and pain. We take that peace and that love with us when we leave Shabbat behind, helping to empower us to make it through another week, helping to compel us to make the world a better place and giving us the calm to experience Shabbat warmth even when it’s no longer Shabbat.

We hope to run into you in the park(s) this summer on Shabbat so that we can experience that calm and that palace in time together.



God, Nature, Psalms

By Cantor Audrey Abrams

There is nothing more amazing than the roar of the ocean, the rumbling of thunder, the rainbows that stretch across the sky, the colors in the desert, the uniqueness of each snowflake, the majesty of the mountains, the greenness after a summer rain, the deer in the backyard....I could go on and on. But you get the idea.

"Adonai thunders over rushing waters, roars with might, shatters the cedars, splits rock with lightning, stirs the wilderness." (Psalm 29)

Nature - it's grand, awesome, exciting, dangerous, fragile. It makes us full of something often difficult to describe. It's our "Oh My God" moments. And those are the moments that give us purpose.

"In God's hand rests the world God fashioned: sea and land, abyss and mountain peak. All are God's." (Psalm 95)

Rabbi Mike Comins, founder of TorahTrek Spiritual Wilderness Adventures and the Institute for Jewish Wilderness Spirituality writes,

"Nature is the everyday home of wonder, the place where most people regularly and reliably experience awe. You can't walk down a trail without seeing beauty and decay, the pulse of life and the reality of death. Suddenly the question of God is compelling to the most non-religious of people. Suddenly expressing gratitude through prayer makes sense..."

It's no wonder the psalmists used so many nature images in their writings. They lived close to the land and they experienced the fear and the awe regularly and wrote the psalms reflecting what they lived.

"How vast are Your works, Adonai! Your designs are beyond our grasp." (Psalm 92)

We, who spend our weekdays mostly indoors behind a desk, crave that awe inspiring touch of nature. At the end of the week, we say TGIS (thank God it's Shabbat) and bring in Shabbat with the nature-laden psalms of Kabbalat Shabbat. These psalms awaken us to the power, beauty and majesty all around.

"Let the sea roar and all its creatures; let the rivers applaud in exultation, let the mountains all echo earth's joyous song." (Psalm 98)

In these days of summer, sneak out of work a little early to play a round of golf, bike on a trail, kayak on the river, hike in the park, swim in the lake, watch a ball game, soak in the sun. And don't forget to look around and see what the psalmists were writing about. And then consider joining us Friday nights to sing about it.

Kabbalat Shabbat Summer Style, outside (weather and mosquitoes permitting) with musical accompaniment
June 2, 9; August 18, 25 and September 1.

To My Beth El Family

.....
Cantor Neil Newman



It's taken me some time now to write this letter because of mixed feelings regarding my decision to retire completely from High Holy Days service conducting. Counting my "non-professional" student days, I have acted as a *sh'li'ach tzibbur* or *chazzan* for one congregation or another since 1956

(when I was fourteen years of age). And although I have always found my leading the davening to be more than fulfilling, I think 60 years is an adequately substantial amount of time to be doing anything. Since my full-time retirement from Beth El Synagogue in 2009, I have treasured the opportunity to continue to serve as *chazzan* for the *Yamim HaNora'im* alongside my dear colleague, Cantor Audrey Abrams, who has treated me with respect and warmth and for which I will be forever grateful. Our relationship over the years, as we have worked and sung together with joy, has been nothing short of fantastic. Also I want to express my sincere *todah* to Bill Torodor and the Beth El Choir for their dedicated hard work preparing for services and concert performances, as well as conducting Shabbat evening services at Knollwood Place on a regular basis. I remain ever thankful for their partnership.

In my 37 years of association with the synagogue, Saranee and I have made so many lasting friendships which we truly treasure.

But now, aging is beginning to catch up with chronology so that my singing, although acceptable to some ears, is not at the level that it used to be for mine. I have always tried to keep in mind the advice of one of my cantorial colleagues, "Don't try to be a 'Maxwell House cantor,' good to the last drop!" In addition, Saranee and I have arrived at the point that we look forward to spending precious time with our children and grandchildren at these special times in the Jewish calendar. Consequently, we have decided to join with one part of our family for Rosh Hashanah in Chicago this year and, God willing, other parts in future years. Of course, we strive to stay connected to Beth El for a long time to come, and in that spirit intend this year to daven with and see all of you in Minneapolis for Yom Kippur. It will be meaningful to daven with you, but this time from the pews, especially with the wonderful clergy team we always appreciate so. In my 37 years of association with the synagogue, Saranee and I have made so many lasting friendships which we truly treasure. I have worked with eight different rabbis and more than twice that number of synagogue presidents over the years, and feel privileged to have cultivated and maintained wonderful relationships with each, valuing them individually as enriching on both professional and personal levels. Saranee joins me in extending our best wishes to all of you. We look forward to our time at Beth El and to seeing you soon.

With heartfelt affection and warm regards – Shalom u'L'hitra'ot,

Celebrating our Wear and Tear

By Dan Mosow, Beth El President



As I complete my first year of my term as president, I am so proud and honored to serve such a great community. I have spent many hours at Beth El: meeting with staff and clergy, participating in services, attending special events, and just sitting in the beautiful Learning

Center to catch up on emails. Every time I walk into the building, I am amazed at the activity that takes place here on a regular basis.

During the week, there are 170 students attending Aleph Preschool along with 25 teachers and professionals. On Shabbat morning, the energy in the building is amazing. On a given Shabbat, when we are not celebrating a bar or bat mitzvah and our youth programs are in session, I would estimate that we have well over 250 congregants and guests at Beth El. We host many events including our very successful Speaker Series, adult education programs offered by the Center for Learning and host programs for outside organizations including Talmud Torah, JFCS, Heilicher, JCRC and more.

You may be asking “where is he going with this?” Well the answer is twofold. First, I want to bring to your attention the diversity of events and activities that are continuously happening in our building. With such a vast array of programs, I am confident

that there is an event that will be of interest to you. You can find out more by either going to our revised website, www.bethelsynagogue.org, or reading the weekly Keshet. If you are not currently receiving the Keshet, please contact the Beth El office at 952.873.7300.

Second, with all the activity at Beth El, we are experiencing significant wear and tear on our building and grounds. The playground equipment has grown tired from a growing number of Aleph Preschool students climbing and playing on it for so many years. In the Spiegel Sanctuary, we have experienced so many roof leaks that patching is not effective anymore. The roof just needs to be replaced. Moreover, as you walk from the parking lot to the entrance, you will notice that we are on borrowed time. We are very close to having the parking lot break down and the pot holes could be very large. These are just a few examples of the capital needs we face in the very near future.

We should take pride that the wear and tear on our building is the result of heavy use. At the same time, to be planful, we have put together a small task force to identify, evaluate and prioritize the capital needs of our synagogue. In addition to identifying capital requirements, The Board of Trustees along with the Board of the Beth El Foundation are working diligently to identify the financial needs of current and new initiatives needed to ensure we remain a vital and vibrant synagogue.

We will be providing regular updates, through the Keshet and Shofar, on the progress of this initiative. We are confident that this joint project of the two Boards will keep Beth El fiscally sound, structurally safe and spiritually filled.

Exploring New Mexico

In May, a Beth El study group led by Rabbi Davis travelled to New Mexico where they met with conversos (descendants of Jews forcibly converted during the Spanish Inquisition), listened to a performance of traditional Native American flute, heard a lecture from a Los Alamos physicist-rabbi, and more.



On a cliff overlooking the Rio Grande. Right after the photo, the group broke into song and dance.



Relaxing after a long day of touring



Rabbi Davis exploring pueblo dwellings in Bandalier National Monument



Standing before Temple Montefiore (1884), New Mexico's first synagogue, in Los Vegas, NM. The group chanted Ma Tovv as they admired the original ark and stained glass which have been preserved in what is now a church.

SUMMER FUN at Aleph Preschool

By Karen Burton, Director of Aleph Preschool



Summer has finally arrived, and Aleph Preschool is well into our summer camp programming. For our preschoolers it is a time to be outdoors, close to nature and being aware of the beautiful miracles and wonders around us.

The summer preparations began with planting the community garden, a collaboration with our neighboring students from Benilde-St. Margaret's school. Throughout the summer, our Kindercampers and Pre-K students are given the responsibility to weed, water and harvest the abundant fruits and vegetables. Each week, over two-thirds of the harvested produce is donated to our local STEP food shelf. The remainder is eaten by our campers who get to experience the various tastes and flavors of the fruits and vegetables and experiment with the different ways in which to prepare them.

They also have the responsibility of looking after Twin Lakes Park, which has been adopted by Aleph Preschool. Each month during the spring, summer and fall, our Pre-K groups visit the park to inspect the playground equipment, trees and plantings, pick up garbage and complete a monthly report with their findings which is submitted to the City of St. Louis Park. Our preschoolers live and learn the importance of being part of our community, collaborating with our community and giving back to our community.

During the summer months, much of our classroom time is taken outside. From flag raising each morning, water and sand play, arts and crafts, story time, snacks, lunches and BBQs are all part of our daily schedule. Our playgrounds come alive when children use their imaginations to create wonderful play spaces that transform into beaches, palaces, forts, carparks, Israel and so much more. Oh how we all love the summer and summer camp!

As we continue to embrace being outdoors, we look forward to celebrating with our young families this summer when we host the Israeli Scouts Caravan for a concert on July 20, and Friday Night Kids Programming on June 23 and August 18 at the ROC (Recreation Outdoor Center) at the St. Louis Park Recreational Center.

Wishing you a happy, fun and safe summer!





APPROACHING SHABBAT *in a New Way*

By Amanda Awend, Director of Shorashim
and Young Families Engagement

Many years ago when I was pregnant with my first child, I took prenatal yoga classes. It was a lovely way to get to know other soon-to-be moms, and each class we would start with a new discussion question. One week the question was, "What part of your pre-child life do you plan to continue once your child is born?" There were a variety of answers, spanning from "going on dates with my partner" to "cooking healthy meals".... But my answer on this day was, "I want to keep my Saturday afternoon nap." This may have seemed petty to some, but I was committed to this and have been napping each Shabbat afternoon for almost a decade. That is, until my wonderful and spirited three year old daughter decided she was not interested in napping anymore. I was devastated. My Shabbos nap was ruined! I continued to try, but she just would not do it. This then led to me being in a bad mood and ruining the rest of the afternoon.

Recently, however, I tried something a little different. Instead of expecting my child to do something that I knew was ultimately not going to happen, I took a new approach. After a morning of Shorashim and Shabbat services at Beth El, we all cuddled in bed for a short while, and then as a family we went out for a hike. It took a little convincing, but we eventually got out the door and into nature. It was a beautiful day, one of

the first nice days in a while. We decided to go to Westwood Hills Nature Center located in St. Louis Park. The kids played on the playground, climbed on large rocks, and we were even able to explore the inside of the nature center where we were able to observe snakes, frogs, and other little animals. Then we all went for a nice, long walk on the paths. There were swans on the lake, birds in the air, and smiles exchanged between passersby along the way. Most importantly, we took it easy, shared conversations, and enjoyed each other's company.

I really cherished this experience with my husband and children. We all live such busy lives, and to have an afternoon together outside in nature was such a simple and beautiful way to spend Shabbat. We were there for hours. I wasn't missing my nap at all. My six year old son even said, "This is a lot of fun!"

I encourage you all to try this. This easy Shabbat activity was relaxing and brought us all together as a family.

If the opportunity ever presents itself for me to take an afternoon nap again, I will most certainly take it, but spending a glorious afternoon outside in nature with my family is another great way to spend Shabbat.

"Instead of expecting my child to do something that I knew was ultimately not going to happen, I took a new approach."



Yachad: BRINGING TEENS “TOGETHER” AND JEWISH LEARNING TO LIFE

Dana Prottas, Yachad Executive Director

As teens head off to summer programs, Yachad is anything but quiet. We are busy building another amazing program for our teens. This year, 9th-12th graders from across the community and across the denominations participated in over 35 innovative and experiential learning opportunities. Some offerings included Hebrew for college credit, “Torah Yoga,” “Jewish Views of the News,” a HaZamir Concert at the Metropolitan Opera House in NYC and much more. New, feature programs included:

Jewish Law / Moot Beit Din – In a national competition Yachad teens argued a case about a traffic accident involving a self-driving car using traditional Jewish texts. One teen commented, “The Moot Beit Din program taught me that Jewish law is applicable to modern day situations and the texts are not just part of our past.”

Partnership 2Gether (P2G) Teen Exchange Program – During Winter Break, nine Yachad teens traveled to Israel to learn firsthand about Israeli life, and in April, teens from Rehovot traveled to Minnesota. Through this experience Yachad teens developed their own Israeli narrative as they explored and strengthened their personal relationship to Israel, the land and her people.

Witness Theater – This unique project brought Yachad teens together with Holocaust survivors to create a performance based on the experience and life-long impact of surviving the Holocaust. A teen participant shared, “Getting to learn and understand a survivor’s story face to face is much more powerful than learning over a screen or through a book.”

What’s in store next year? View our fall catalog www.yachadmn.org and contact me for additional information at dprottas@yachadmn.org.



Yachad MN's Hazamir Choir enjoyed New York City before their Lincoln Center performance.



Yachad's Witness Theater troupe performed at the community-wide Yom Hashoah memorial ceremony at Beth El. These Yachad teens told the stories of local survivors.



What is a Tiyul?

By Andrew Freeman, Youth Director

Quickly looking up the Hebrew word “Tiyul” using Google will return the succinct definition: a trip. However, that doesn’t even come close to defining it. For anyone who has participated in a Summer Program trip to Israel, they have seen this word on their Summer Schedule many times and they have heard this word throughout their summer. The Tiyul is something you can use to describe the individual hikes one goes through each day, but it can also be used to describe the collective journey.

As you read this, I am serving as a staff member on USY Eastern Europe / Israel Pilgrimage. As a former participant of a Jewish Summer program, it is my job this summer to allow my participants to form their Israel journey, to have many Tiyulim in Israel and be able to see all of the beauty they can find in any place they go--especially the outdoors.

In reality, a tiyul in Israel can mean a lot of different things. A lot of times when someone would think about traveling to Israel, you think about the classic places to visit, the Kotel, Masada and the Dead Sea, Hezekiah’s Tunnel. All of these places are some of the most talked about or most well-known when people refer to their trip Israel.

But what makes Israel such an awesome and humbling place to visit is the other Tiyul. It is the mountain hike you don’t quite remember the name of, but you

remember the breathtaking view as you get to the top that you realized would look incredible in your Facebook Cover Photo. It is the magnificent waterfall hike, in which you brought an extra pair of “wet shoes” that you could wear on the hike and not miss afterwards. It is the three day desert survival hike, in which you could not know where you were and not care, just because of the people around you and the beauty you could see as you walked by.

Israelis experience all of these regularly. Israel’s natural beauty and variety is what makes it unique--and unique for us as our Homeland. It is a home where you can hike in a desert the same day that you can go snorkeling in the Red Sea. Everywhere you look, especially the places you wouldn’t think to look, you can find amazingly wonderful, holy and awe-inspiring moments that you would be hard pressed to experience anywhere else.

We are proud that our congregation year after year sends the largest number of participants on USY Israel Pilgrimage out of any synagogue in North America. But for me, it is not about the accolades. It’s about what our kids experience and what they “take home.”

Our teenagers will be excited to share their Tiyul experiences when they return--as will I! Please be sure to ask us about it!

We want to wish a huge Mazel Tov and Yasher Koach to our USYers, Elliot Schochet and Lily Smith, on being elected to EMTZA Regional Board for the 2017-2018 year. We cannot wait to see the wonderful things they will do for the community!

B'nai Mitzvah



August 12, 2017 / 20 Av 5777
(Shabbat Minchah-Beth El)
August 17, 2017 / 25 Av 5777 (Israel)
Re'eh

JONAH ARIE HALPER

אריה בן יוסף גדול ויוכבד
Son of Jill & Jon Halper

Jonah is thrilled to be celebrating his bar mitzvah at Beth El and in Israel with his friends, family and community. He's excited to share his sister and brother's strong love for Israel. He looks forward to following in the footsteps of his family's commitment to improving the community at home and abroad.



August 14, 2017 / 22 Av 5777 (Israel)
Re'eh

CARLY ADDISON HERMAN

חיה עדינה בת לוי רפאל ואביבה בתיה
Daughter of Cory & Dana Herman

Carly has worked hard with her cousin Aidan to prepare for their b'nai mitzvah. We're all excited to celebrate them in Israel.



August 17, 2017 / 25 Av 5777
(Thursday Shacharit - Beth El)
August 19, 2017 / 27 Av 5777
(Shabbat Shacharit - Chabad)
Re'eh

SAMUEL ISAAC BADZIN

שמואל יצחק בן ברוך שלום הלוי ונעמי
Son of Bryan & Nina Badzin

Sam demonstrated leadership and openness to learning from a variety of teachers in the Minneapolis Jewish community in preparation for his bar mitzvah. We are very proud!



August 19, 2017 / 27 Av 5777
Re'eh

JULIA JORDAN BLUM

ירדן בת מרדכי לב ושרה
Daughter of Missy & Leonard Blum

Julia is a joyful young woman who takes pride in her faith and heritage. She is grateful to her teachers who prepared her for this date.



August 19, 2017 / 27 Av 5777
(Shabbat Minchah)
Shoftim

JUSTIN ABEL KRELITZ

אברם אליהו בן בנימין וטשרנע
Son of Suzy and Brian Krelitz

Justin's preparation for his bar mitzvah has been steadfast. We hope he continues this commitment and dedication as an adult member of our Jewish community.



August 22, 2017 / 30 Av 5777
(Tuesday Shacharit - Rosh Chodesh Elul)
Shoftim

ISABELLA HELENE SEGAL

ישראלה חנה בת יונתן דוד וריסה בתיה
Daughter of Raleigh & Jonathan Segal

Isabella is a ray of sunshine everywhere she goes and she shares her many passions with her family and friends. We are so excited to see her blossom in her Jewish life.

B'nai Mitzvah



August 26, 2017 / 4 Elul 5777
Shoftim

AVRAM JONAH (A.J.) BULGATZ

אברם בן שמואל

Son of Colleen Riesselman and Shawn Bulgatz & Naomi Heller

Although new to the Beth El community as a St. Paul transplant, A.J. has integrated himself well into his new Jewish community and we are so proud of how he's learned the new prayer tunes.



August 26, 2017 / 4 Elul 5777
Shoftim

NOAH JACOB BULGATZ

נח בן שמואל

Son of Colleen Riesselman and Shawn Bulgatz & Naomi Heller

Noah brings unlimited energy to any task, including his work preparing for his bar mitzvah. Although always looking to "joke around," we are proud of Noah's serious approach to his bar mitzvah studies.



September 2, 2017 / 11 Elul 5777
Ki Teitzei

JULIANNA SIENA SEEWALD

יעל חנה בת יוסף ובאשא

Daughter of Marissa Onheiber & Jeff Seewald

Juliana's personality is one of exuberance. She approached her learning with great diligence and it was important to her that she celebrate her bat mitzvah among our Beth El community. She will be traveling to Israel this summer, where we know she'll strengthen her identity in new ways, bringing zest and joy into her Jewish adulthood.



September 9, 2017 / 18 Elul 5777
Ki Tavo

ELI VINCENT AILLONI

עלי בן אדם

Son of Adam & Angela Carisa Ailloni

In the spirit of his ancestors, Eli has an inquisitive mind! We love him and look forward to seeing him enter Jewish adulthood.

Beth El hosted yet another exciting annual Inspiring Minds evening when Sarah Koenig and Julie Snyder came together taking us backstage into the podcast cultural phenomenon, using some of their favorite tape to narrate personal stories about the ups and downs of creating a new form of modern storytelling.



Despite the inclement weather, on Sunday, May 21st, well over 600 people converged on the Beth El Synagogue parking lot to enjoy a free day of exploration and fun—for kids and kids at heart. From fire trucks to police cars to cranes to Kosher hot dogs from the Taste of Target Field food truck and tacos from Spirit of Asia, this was yet another of our resoundingly successful Aleph Preschool and Young Families initiatives.



Allan Law, "The Sandwich Man," with Fiterman B'nai Mitzvah Program students. The original goal of 613 toiletry bags was surpassed by a total of 637 bags packed!



The Center for Learning presented a speaker panel to discuss the Johnson Amendment, drawing another large group of 75 participants.



Beth El congregant, Neil Kay, was one of the Israeli Curling Team's 4 members who qualified in the final playoffs representing the State of Israel at the 2017 International Men's World Curling Competition in Canada. Last year, Neil competed for Israel at the Championship in Sweden.



MAZAL TOV TO MEMBERS WITH UPCOMING MILESTONE ANNIVERSARIES

NAME	DATE	YEARS	NAME	DATE	YEARS
Lowell & Marsia Herman	January 7	60	Dana Gilbert & Matt Sanders	July 1	10
Marc & Lisa Usem	April 3	5	Irene & Richard Gross	July 1	50
Randy & Rayna Herman	April 6	20	Rachel & Mickey Trockman	July 1	55
Dan & Amy Weiss	April 21	15	Carrie & Jeremy Gottstein	July 2	50
Juli Hanssen & Steve Kaplan	April 26	20	Shanna & David Jadwin	July 3	5
Amy & Ben Rajkowski	April 29	10	Dori & Gary Weinstein	July 5	25
Judy & Howard Sadoff	May 8	40	Francie & David Gale	July 6	20
Dr. Judith & Brian Weisenberg	May 12	15	Michele & Seth Meisler	July 20	20
Philip & Barbara Herman	May 14	50	Jill & Uriel Lewis	July 21	15
Hank & Elaine Berg	May 19	15	Jennifer & Daniel Tenenbaum	July 26	25
Bruce & Anne Hope	May 21	25	Rebecca & Eddie Moradian	August 2	25
Craig & Riva Kupritz	May 24	25	Serena & Michael Harad	August 4	15
Andrea & Davison Nagle	May 24	25	Pam & Josh Gruber	August 8	35
Rachel Saturn & John Seymour	May 25	20	Jane & Randy Rosenzweig	August 11	15
Sarah & Clint Key	May 26	15	Loni & Allan Stillerman	August 12	25
Jeff & Robin Estrin	May 27	10	Rachael & John Vegas	August 16	15
Andy & Cara Strauss	May 27	10	Susan & Marshall Rappaport	August 20	45
Michael & Julie Abramson	May 28	10	Darlene & Larry Braufman	August 20	50
Dr. Ivan & Karen Brodsky	May 28	50	Sonia & Ron Ungerman	August 22	25
Tris & Sandy Hage	May 29	40	Bonnie & Arthur Stein	August 22	35
Deb & Dan Mallin	May 30	25	Julie Hirsch & Ron Feldman	August 24	20
Daniel & Beth Rodich	June 9	15	Janice & Michael Greenberg	August 24	20
Ohad Ludomirsky & Arielle Kaufman	June 10	10	Ann & Neil Wasserman	August 26	55
Alicia Phillips & Jason Blumenthal	June 10	10	Sherry & Phillip Bukstein	August 28	40
Soni & Michael Cohen	June 12	40	Sue & Jim Walder	August 28	40
Nan & Jim Greenfield	June 13	30	Darcy & David Gilbert Burke	August 30	25
Dr. Michael & Michelle Appleman	June 13	35	Jill & Jonathan Halper	August 30	25
David & Kathy Cooper	June 14	30	Lisa & Brett Scholder	August 30	25
Sam Schinazi & Mariana Quiroga	June 15	20	Sara & Marc Warren	September 2	5
Bruce & Janice Waller	June 15	65	Robyn & Manny Plotsker	September 2	10
Heather & Andrew Schwartz	June 17	10	Lynn & Mark Schwartz	September 3	45
Stanley & Marsha Finkelstein	June 18	50	Amy & Lee Friedman	September 6	25
Marty & Kay Harris	June 18	50	Pamela & Frederick Segal	September 6	25
David & Randi Fogel	June 21	25	Christine & Seth Hausman	September 13	25
Charles & Surrie Desnick	June 24	55	Cantor Audrey & David Abrams	September 13	30
Jay & Ilene Goldberg	June 26	40	Dian & Stuart Yellen	September 16	55
Sholly & Jill Blustin	June 28	30	Sharon & Ron Burton	September 17	50
Jody & Tom Moreimi	July 1	5	Abigail Loyd & Owen Moldow	September 21	15
			Diane & Saul Mashaal	September 25	50

If you would like to ensure your (or your loved one's) simchah is acknowledged in future publications, please contact the Beth El Office at 952.873.7300 or info@bethelsynagogue.org.

Condolences to...

Suzanne (Dan Lieberman) Fenton on the loss of her father, Jason Fenton

Sarina (Yosef) David on the loss of her father, Morley Lehrer

Beverlee Rockler Fine on the loss of her brother, Sherwin Fine

Jeff (Sara) Braverman on the loss of his mother, Elinor Braverman

Mort (Sandy) Greenberg on the loss of his brother & sister in law, Harold & Marion Greenberg

Chuck & Cookie Abramson on the loss of their son, Kevin Abramson

Phyllis (Phil) Garon on the loss of her mother, **Shirley Ansesl**

Arlene Reich, Cheryl (David) Goldenberg, Didi (Gerald) Mann and Michael (Susan) Horovitz on the loss of their husband, father, brother and brother-in-law, **Michael Reich**

Rabbi Randall Mark on the loss of his father, Aaron Mark

Anna Berkovich on the loss of her husband, **Zhan Berkovich**

Tom (Marnee) Lieberman on the loss of his father, **Al Lieberman**

David Kravetz on the loss of his wife, **Maxine Kravetz**

Sue Ring on the loss of her husband, **Martin Ring**

Brenda (Benhour) Soumekh on the loss of her mother, Raleigh Spizman

Friends and Family on the loss of our member, **Anita Silesky**

Maureen & Leo Fine on the loss of their grandson, Daniel Fink

Bill (Sharon) Torodor on the loss of his mother, **Eleanor Torodor**

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Zorra Sussman on the loss of his wife, **Marilyn Sussman**

Richard (Terry) Kleinbaum and Ellen Kleinbaum on the loss of their mother and mother-in-law, Rae Kleinbaum Cooper

Harold (Jackie) Sadoff on the loss of his brother, Robert Sadoff

Friends and Family on the loss of our member, **Harold Drucker**

Marlene (Mimi) Lebewitz and Jodi (Michael) Davis on the loss of their husband and father, **Mel Lebewitz**

Amy (Howard) Paster on the loss of her mother, Margie Summers

With heavy hearts we mourn the loss of these loved ones within our community. This reflects the losses in our community through April 19, 2017.

Mazal Tov to...

Rebecca & Harrison Malinoff on the birth of their daughter, Talia Gabrielle born on January 14, 2017.

Amy & Dannon Shiff on the birth of their daughter, Noa Jaffee born on January 20, 2017.

Deborah & Sandy Selnick on the birth of their granddaughter, Madeline Eliana born on January 22, 2017.

Amy Cohen & Josh Rissman on the birth of their son, Jack Gordon born on January 27, 2017.

Melissa Schwartz & Justin Amand on the birth of their son, Matthew William born on February 17, 2017.

Jody & Fred Rappaport on the birth of their son, Roger Edward born on February 25, 2017.

Jacey & Aaron Siedband on the birth of their son, Jonah Samuel born on March 23, 2017.

Beth El Synagogue Foundation

Ensuring the vitality of our congregation now and in the future



Jewish Summer Camp, A Great Investment

By Mary Baumgarten, Education Director
and Matt Walzer, Director of Charitable Giving

Some may not know that nature is a huge part of Judaism. Throughout the year religion is usually taught inside buildings – schools, homes or synagogues. Summer camp is the first time many young people connect with Judaism on a physical level, by hiking or camping out. Among other outdoor activities, they love having services overlooking the lake saying that it makes it more “spiritual” for them.

Study after study continues to highlight the impact that Jewish camping has on fostering a positive Jewish identity in young people and maintaining the practice of Judaism during adulthood.

We find that many young people begin counting the days until their next camping season immediately upon their return from camp.

At Beth El, we take camp very seriously. Our community does this by supporting our youth with service scholarships that enable them to attend summer camp. This year, 31 7th-11th grade campers received scholarships totaling over \$21,000. Among the recipients is a student who acknowledges the importance of his camp experience by writing, “I especially appreciate how camp leaders incorporate Jewish learning and values into all of our experiences which help me feel closer to God and develop my love of Judaism.”

Professor Arnold Eisen, chancellor of the Jewish Theological Seminary proclaimed, “Nothing I do to build Jewish life, Jewish education, or the Jewish community is more important than getting more kids to Jewish camps.” He and other leaders agree that the answer to Jewish continuity can be found at summer camp. “For once in these kids’ lives, Jewishness is not something they are or do off on the side of life, in Hebrew school or synagogue. It is part of what happens 24/7.”

“Attending summer camp has been one of the best experiences of my life. It has benefited me educationally, spiritually, socially and emotionally.”

– Beth El 8th Grade Scholarship Recipient

With the cost of camp being prohibitive for many, we want to continue to provide and grow scholarship support for our youth. For information on how you can help invest in Beth El’s future, contact Matt Walzer, our Director of Charitable Giving – you’ll certainly see a great return.



**Shira Aronow, Julia Salita
and friend at Camp Ramah**



**Rabbi Davis visiting Beth El
Herzl campers, summer 2017**



**Eli Feldman and friend
at Camp Ramah**

TZEDAKAH

Tribute donations to Beth El funds honor friends and family, commemoration of significant events, memorialize loved ones and provide essential support to the congregation. Endowment funds provide permanent funding where needed most or for a specific purpose. Endowment funds are held in the Beth El Foundation. Funds for immediate use are used to support specific programs or projects, are for general use and are spent in their entirety. To make a donation, or to establish a new fund through our Foundation, please contact Matt Walzer at 952.873.7309 or at foundation@bethelsynagogue.org.

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Joseph Vertelney
Rita Vertelney
Rebecca Waller
Helen Rosen
Naomi Salloway
Sholem Weisman
Katherine Weisman
Meyer Epstein
Elizabeth Epstein
David Wener
June Gilats
Sam Blumenfeld
Robert Winnig
Florence Winnig
Steven Davidson
Henry Freier
Hilda Zwiebel
Kalman Zwiebel



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 *Kesher* publications, and as always, feel free to call the Welcome Desk at 952.873.7300 for additional information.

JULY	
1	Summer Darshanim – Elaine Sadoff
4	Independence Day
8	Summer Darshanim – Matt Walzer
15	Summer Darshanim – Chief Mike Harcey
20	Israeli Scouts Concert
22	Summer Darshanim – Adrienne Berman
29	Summer Darshanim – Michael Harad
AUGUST	
1	Tisha B’Av
5	Summer Darshanim – Tyler Abramovich
12	Summer Darshanim – Diane Greenberger
18	Kabbalat Shabbat Summer Style
18	Friday Night Kids Programming at the ROC at the SLP Recreation Center
19	Summer Darshanim – Ruth Paradise
25	Kabbalat Shabbat Summer Style
26	Summer Darshanim – Ellis Olkon
28	End of Summer Picnic
SEPTEMBER	
1	Kabbalat Shabbat Summer Style
2	Summer Darshanim – Andrea Nadel-Tikh
4	Labor Day
20-22	Rosh Hashanah
29-30	Yom Kippur

FALL LOOKING AHEAD

OCTOBER	
4-11	Sukkot
11-13	Shemini Atzeret & Simchat Torah
15-26	Eastern Europe Trip – for more information, contact Cantor Abrams at aabrams@bethelsynagogue.org
NOVEMBER	
23	Thanksgiving

ONGOING SERVICES

EREV SHABBAT (Friday evening)

Kabbalat Shabbat ...5:45 pm

YOM SHABBAT (Saturday)

Shacharit9:00 am

Minchah5:45 pm

SUNDAY

Shacharit9:00 am

(Chevrah Breakfast)

Maariv5:45 pm

DAILY MINYAN

Shacharit7:00 am

Maariv5:45 pm

JUNE SUMMER DARSHANIM

10	Alan Yousha
17	Phil Greenberg
24	Libby Parker



Beth El
SYNAGOGUE

5225 Barry Street West
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www.besyn.org

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IT'S BACK...



Beth El's Famous Annual

END OF SUMMER PICNIC

Monday, August 28 | 5:00 – 8:00 pm

Tons of fun for the whole family
Connect with friends—and make some new ones too
Delicious kosher food available for purchase (meat and vegetarian options)
Plenty of festive activities rain or shine
All are welcome

Volunteers needed! Contact Liz Pomish, 612.245.0713 or lpomish@comcast.net

