



In January, parents and friends came together for an evening of laughter and mini golf throughout the synagogue in support of Aleph Preschool! This year we honored Ali & Josh Berdass for their unwavering volunteer engagement and support of the school. Beth El is proud of the Aleph Preschool and the strong foundation we provide the smallest members of our community!



@Home in Judaism

By Rabbi Alexander Davis
and Matt Goldberg, Rabbinic Intern

Just above the main entrance to Beth El is a verse from Genesis:

“How awesome is this place! It is none other than a gateway to heaven, a House of God (Beth El)”

These are the words famously uttered by Jacob. Recall the story. Travelling alone, Jacob stopped for the night to rest and dreamed of a ladder reaching to heaven. He awoke with a new realization: God was with him on his journey. God was with him in that very place. So Jacob named and dedicated that place. He could have called it anything- Jacob’s Ladder, Stairway to Heaven, Dreamland. But he called it, House of God. Why? Afterall, there was no house there!

A passage in the Talmud suggests an answer and, in the process, offers a compelling vision for our own synagogue community. Rabbi Eleazar asked, “What is meant by the verse, ‘Come let us go up to the House of Jacob?’ And why does it only reference Jacob and not Abraham and Isaac?” Afterall, Abraham had encountered God on a mountain and Isaac met God while wandering in a field. So why does the verse only refer to the House of God established by Jacob.” (Pesachim 88a).

Abraham encountered God on a mountain. That is a reference to when the patriarch nearly sacrificed his son, Isaac, atop Mt Moriah. Though we laud him as a man of faith, this is a path few of us are willing to travel. Abraham’s commitment is beyond the reach of the ordinary individual. This is not a model of faith we can follow.

Isaac met God in a field on the outskirts of town. Isaac had separated himself from others to go away to meditate. Isaac’s model of faith required isolation, disengaging from family, friends, neighbors. This too is not an appealing path.

Judaism is not a mountain. It is not a field. It is a house. Thus, people say, “Come let us go up to the House of Jacob.” Judaism is a house accessible to all, open to all. It is a place of warmth that draws you in and invites you to have an intimate experience inside.

In the comfort of home, we make Judaism our own. We uphold Jewish values and establish Jewish practice in ways that are personally meaningful and accessible. We take ownership of our Jewish lives. It is no wonder, therefore, the Hebrew Bible speaks of “the House of Jacob.” Because Judaism begins and thrives at home.

According to Rabbi Eleazar, people are attracted to a Judaism not of sacrifice nor of isolation but a Judaism of home, a Judaism that is personal, a Judaism that is inviting, a Judaism that is warm and welcoming. It suggests that Judaism of the home is compelling and attractive. That indeed is our hope for our communal home, our own Beth El. It is why we chose to adorn our front door with a verse about home.

We invite you to come home to Beth El.

Building Our Home Team

By Sally Forbes Friedman, Beth El President



Home. Home is where we gather, create memories, comfort each other, learn together, sing together, and laugh together and almost always we are led through the myriad of feelings by our Clergy. Our clergy led by Rabbi Alexander Davis, Cantor Ben Tisser, Cantor Wendi Fried and Rabbinic Intern, Matt Goldberg, are extraordinary. I often hear from friends, colleagues, and acquaintances an acknowledgment that Beth El's clergy leadership is incredible.

And now, our Clergy Team is growing with the addition of soon to be ordained Rabbi Matt Goldberg. Unlike other new hires, we have been afforded the unusual opportunity to experience, learn and listen to Rabbi Goldberg during the past several months versus the usual process of a weekend in residence. Beth El took

the opportunity to engage a Rabbinic Intern. And this model has worked.

Matt Goldberg will join our clergy team as an Associate Rabbi during summer of 2023. Matt has already engaged our youth through the robust Heschel Program, meeting with an overflow group of teens following Shabbat services. He is already meeting, greeting, and learning with our pre-school families. Along with Cantor Wendi Fried, they led meaningful family services during the high holidays. And who can forget Kol Nidre services where Matt along with Cantor Tisser competently and confidently led our congregation through a memorable, thoughtful, and heartfelt evening of prayer, reflection, and teaching.

With youthful enthusiasm, Matt commented more than once that he is appreciative of the opportunity to serve Beth El and to be mentored by, and learn with, Rabbi Davis. It is that combination of Matt's acknowledgment of what he wants to learn as well as his connections to our youth and young families that led the Board of Directors to unanimously approve the employment of Rabbinic Intern Matt Goldberg.

And, now to the economic realities of maintaining our Rabbinic leadership. Our congregation overwhelmingly supported and donated to a new endowment fund, the Audrey Abrams and Neil Newman Cantorial Chair. The success and impact of this initiative compel us to consider a similar approach to ensure we attract and maintain strong rabbinic leadership for you, our Beth El community.

As a congregation, we have so much to be grateful for – a balanced budget, a plan to address deferred maintenance, a vibrant, growing and committed congregation and a clergy team that consistently warms our heart with their teachings, music and warmth.

Our congregation overwhelmingly supported and donated to a new endowment fund, the Audrey Abrams and Neil Newman Cantorial Chair. The success and impact of this initiative compel us to consider a similar approach to ensure we attract and maintain strong rabbinic leadership for you, our Beth El community.



What's the temperature in here?

By Matt Walzer, Managing Director

I've been asked several times what the number one "complaint" I get in my role as Managing Director. When I reply that it's easily the temperature in the building, I often get a surprised response followed by a second question: "Is it too hot or too cold?" It should come as no surprise that there are moments where different people offer different opinions – some say it's too warm and others say too cold!

A couple months ago however, everyone was cold. It was a Shabbat morning following an afternoon where two of our three main boilers went down. With an aging building, we are used to things needing to be addressed – even a boiler every now and then. This was the first time when two boilers were impacted at the same time, though – on a Friday afternoon nonetheless. Luckily, thanks to our facilities team and building & grounds committee chair, Seth Ozer, we came up with a plan to keep temperatures above 60 degrees for Shabbat, allowing us to maintain in-person Shabbat services and programs on Saturday morning. There was no question- the building was cold! Still, our community was warm.

Homes are more than the structures we live in or occupy – they are the places where we maintain important relationships and create meaningful memories.

One of my fondest memories was living in a college fraternity house with 35 other young men when we'd lose electricity for hours at a time. Magically, everyone living in the house would exit their rooms and congregate together to socialize in ways we otherwise wouldn't when TVs, computers, and video games could distract us.

On this specific Shabbat morning, while the temperature was cold, our team was committed to maintaining a comfortable temperature for all who were in the building, as well as caring for and maintaining our facility. It was also heartwarming to see how the warmth of each other's company, gathering together a little closer for prayer, and yes – enjoying kiddush lunch – helped to ensure we were all "home" together.

Homes are more than the structures we live in or occupy – they are the places where we maintain important relationships and create meaningful memories.

New Members

PLEASE WELCOME



Steve Greenberg & Keith Johnson



Suzanne Butler with Zoe and Quinn

Jean & Robert Bundt

Glenda & Harvey Kaufman



Bringing The Arts Home

By Cantor Ben Tisser

When we live in a home for many years, we tend to accumulate a lot of stuff. Often, it is only when we move out that we realize how much we have accumulated. And sometimes when we move into a new home, we are surprised to find treasures left behind- a shoebox at the bottom of a closet, a file left in an office drawer, a photograph on a shelf...

When I moved into my professional home, my office here at Beth El, in July 2021, Cantor Abrams let me know that there were some musical treasures she left for me in my file cabinet. I looked through many decades of music. But what stood out was an old file left by itself in the bottom drawer. In it were some programs, advertisements, and newspaper items about historic music and cultural events at Beth El. I saw "BEMA" advertised alongside the names of cantors and some very major Jewish performing artists. I was intrigued.

I spoke with Cantor Abrams, and then with the chair of our history project, Bonnie Heller, and indeed I learned about the beautiful history of performing arts at Beth El. Cantor Abrams brought the BEMA Coffeehouse each year; Cantor Newman brought cantorial and choral concerts, as well as other special programs; and Cantor Silverman brought artists and cantors of his era to our community. And then came the pandemic, and the concerts stopped. But the love of music in this community is strong.

One of the things about which I am most passionate in my role as a cantor is performing arts programming. Music and the arts are key points of entry for many into a community. They lift our spirits and elevate our understanding of and appreciation for our Yiddishkeit. That is why I am putting great energy into re-launching BEMA (Beth El Music & Arts)! We have already enjoyed the Clergy Boys, and we have several events to look forward to this year:

- a theatrical production, this year James Sherman's "From Door to Door" (March 22-23);
- and a gala concert celebrating Israel 75 (May 9).
- And this is just the start!

I am already hard at work with our BEMA committee, thinking about what programs we will share next year as we prepare to celebrate our centennial anniversary as a congregation, and how we will continue to incorporate the arts as we enter our second century. It is exciting work, and it brings me immense joy to do this work!

I hope you will join us throughout the year at our BEMA programs, as well as our other wonderful programs and classes. If you love music or the arts, reach out to me – I would love your involvement in our committee, or in our various programs. If you wish to support Beth El through the arts, consider sponsoring one of our programs.

Most importantly, come home to Beth El, and bring your family and friends! We engage in this holy work for our community's benefit, and we need all of you here to realize the impact of what we do. It is a privilege to serve such a wonderful community that places such value on music and the arts.

I look forward to greeting you in shul!

SAVE THE DATE

Directed by
Miriam Monasch

JAMES SHERMAN'S From Door to Door

March 22-23, 2023
7:00 pm



Gala Concert Israel 75: A Tapestry in Song

TUESDAY, MAY 9 | 7:00 PM

Featuring musicians of the Minnesota Opera Orchestra



Cantor Audrey Abrams



Cantor Inbal Sharrett-Singer



Cantor Ben Tisser



Dr. Noreen Green, Guest Conductor





Finding Home at Beth El

By Cantor Wendi Fried

Dear Beth El Family,

This is my first Shofar article and thus a huge Shehecheyanu moment for me! The Shehecheyanu is my favorite prayer and we say it when we have new experiences, try new things, buy or wear something new or when we haven't done something in a long time. It keeps us mindful and I look for opportunities to say it as often as I can! My family and I have had a lot of shehecheyanu moments recently. Moving to Minneapolis, coming to Beth El for the first time all together, exploring the area and all the new parks, and finally moving into our new home are just a few.

When I think of home, I think of roots, shorashim. Being an army brat early on in life, we moved all over! I have lived many places in my life from Colorado to Germany, St Louis to Houston, Israel twice, New York, Maryland, Virginia and now Minnesota! My parents are from New England so we have always gone up there and to Maine in the summers (and rooted for all the New England teams as well of course!) I have traveled throughout Europe, the Middle East and even Thailand and the one thing I have learned in all my travels is as much as we think of our roots and home as a physical place, for me it's the people in my life who have truly been my shorashim and my home!

Beth El is now my new home. Although it is truly beautiful, protects us from the elements, and holds our most precious ritual objects, that is not what makes it home to me. It is all the beautiful souls that I have met since I've been here that make it the amazing home that it is becoming for my family and I.

I have asked many people in preparing to write this article what Beth El means to them. So many have talked about the majesty of the sanctuary or the beauty of the Learning Center but when it comes right down to it they will say that what makes them keep coming back is their family friends, their meaningful, deep connections, and the lively and caring community.

They spoke about how wonderful it feels when they are welcomed by Pam, the Shabbat security team, and the welcoming team that greet them as they come in the door. Yes, I also got comments about the ambiance and the delicious food. But more often than not, it was how much they learn and are inspired by the Rabbi and his teaching, how beautiful and soulful the Cantor's davening is, how much they love our lay leaders, Torah readers, and Karen and the Aleph Preschool teachers. It is how they feel they are treated when Anna, Matt, Jill, Corinne, Avi, or Liz answers the phone or email with joy, respect, and love for what they do and for the members they serve. And it is also about how our Facilities staff are always willing to help with a smile and can do attitude!

This is what I've experienced in my new home...a sense of love, safety, respect, harmony, support, sustenance, and joy. This is what makes Beth El a home to all of our community and I pray that it shall always be so. We don't practice the value of hachnasat orchim (welcoming of guests) here because there are no guests. We practice hachnasat mishpacha! (Welcoming of family!)

My door is always open and I am beyond excited to meet each and every one of you! Come home to Beth El! We look forward to seeing you soon!

B'ahava rabah,
Cantor Wendi

It is all the beautiful souls that I have met since I've been here that make it the amazing home that it is becoming for my family and I.



At Home in the Aleph Preschool

By Karen Burton, Aleph Preschool Director of Early Childhood Education

This year we were “At home for Chanukah” not just metaphorically, but literally. Chanukah this year fell the week before Aleph Preschool Winter Break, meaning, we got to celebrate five full days of Chanukah together with our friends and teachers for this joyous Chag (Festival). Lighting the Menorah each day with the glow of candles shining brightly on the sweet faces of our children. Reciting the blessings together over the candles with Amanda Awend and our clergy in unison, then breaking out into upbeat Chanukah songs that tell the story of the Maccabees in the spirit of Chanukah. Sharing stories over potato latkes and sufganiot (donuts) and then seeing and hearing the laughter as the jelly oozes out of the donuts and the latkes are overflowing with apple sauce. Messy, but delicious symbolic foods we wait with anticipation each year to indulge in together.

Baking Chanukah cookies together, creating beautiful menorahs and inviting our families to join us for Special Person’s Day or Musical Shabbat is just a small sampling of what happens at Aleph Preschool. Coming together to celebrate these special occasions in our shared home is what matters most. Our Young Toddler Shabbat Dinner brought over 130 children and families together to experience a beautiful and spiritual Friday Night Shabbat Service, where there was an overwhelming sense of love and closeness, ending with parents placing their hands on their children’s heads while reciting the children’s blessing. This was followed by a delicious traditional Shabbat dinner.

Our preschool is our home. A home where our children learn to love learning. A home to feel safe, loved, and nurtured. A home to engage with one another, explore, create, and make new long-lasting friendships. Our hallways are filled with the laughter and giggles of children. A sound that cannot be replicated. A sound that is priceless and wonderful.

We invite you to stop by for a visit and will gladly give you a preschool tour.

May we all continue to love life and laugh, just like our children do.

Our hallways are filled with the laughter and giggles of children. A sound that cannot be replicated. A sound that is priceless and wonderful.

B'nai Mitzvah

מתתיהו בן צפורה



January 14, 2023 / 21 Tevet 5783
Shemot

MATI FRANK OSTFIELD

מתתיהו בן צפורה

Son of Sue Frank Ostfield

Mati's curiosity, humor, and creativity has colored his bar mitzvah preparations to be shared with family and friends near and far on this special day.



January 28, 2023 / 6 Shevat 5783
Bo

MICAH CHARLES FELDMAN

מיכה יצחק דוד

Son of Amy & Joel Feldman

Micah has worked so hard to balance his bar mitzvah studies with his busy sports schedule, school and family commitments. We are so proud of all his hard work and accomplishments in all his endeavours.



February 11, 2023 / 20 Shevat 5783
Yitro

LEONARDO GUZMAN REES

עודד בן רחל אליענה

Son of Dana Rees & Ivan Guzman

Leo consistently shows commitment and pride in being Jewish. We, along with Leo, look forward to celebrating his hard work of his bar mitzvah studies together with our friends and Beth El family.



February 4, 2023 / 11 Adar 5783
Tetzaveh

TALIA RAE SCHEIN

טליה רחל בת חביב בנימין וריבה

Daughter of Robyn & Ben Schein

Talia is a kind, funny and hard-working young woman. She has brought these traits to her bat mitzvah preparation; we are so proud of her accomplishments. We can't wait to share her simcha with the Beth El community.



March 4, 2023 / 11 Adar 5783
Tetzaveh

SETH MICAH LEVICH

שמחה בן בנימין ויונינה

Son of Michelle & Ben Levich

Seth is a funny, compassionate, and curious young man. He likes fencing and playing Minecraft with his friends. Seth has embraced his bar mitzvah studies with persistence and determination. We are proud of all he has accomplished, and look forward to celebrating with him as he becomes a Jewish adult.



March 11, 2023 / 18 Adar 5783
Ki Tissa

MICHAEL SHELDON OSTROW

זוסעל שמואל בן אליהו שלמה ומירקא

Son of Todd & Mollie Ostrow

Michael is an extremely motivated and determined young man. He has worked very hard on his studies for his bar mitzvah, and we couldn't be more proud of him and his accomplishments. Mom, Dad and Violet love you so much, Michael.

B'nai Mitzvah



March 18, 2023 / 25 Adar 5783
Vayakhel-Pekudei

BROOKE SAMANTHA RABINOVITZ

צבי שרה בת יוסף ויוספה

Daughter of Jill & Jeff Rabinovitz

Brooke is kind, loving and determined with a strong commitment to Judaism. We are so proud of her and look forward to celebrating her bat mitzvah.



April 1, 2023 / 10 Nisan 5783
Tzav

ALEXANDRA SARA ABRAMOVICH

אביבה בת ברוך ושרה

Daughter of Boris & Shari Abramovich

Alex is studying hard for her bat mitzvah and takes pride in her Jewish learning. She is a wonderful, caring young woman. We are so proud of her.



April 1, 2023 / 10 Nisan 5783
Tzav

GABRIELLA FAY ABRAMOVICH

גבי בת ברוך ושרה

Daughter of Boris & Shari Abramovich

Gabby has worked hard preparing for her bat mitzvah. She has a love of learning and a zest for life. We're very proud of her.



April 3, 2023 / 12 Nisan 5783
Vayikra

MAX CHARLES RAPPAPORT

ראובן יהודה בן ברוך מתתיהו ואלישבה

Son of Liz & Matthew Rappaport

Max is kind, compassionate and hardworking. We are so proud of the learning and dedication he has shown while preparing to become bar mitzvah and look forward to marking the moment as he becomes a Jewish adult. We can't wait to celebrate with our Beth El community when we return from Israel.



April 29, 2023 / 8 Iyar 5783
Achrei Mot-Kedoshim

REESE LILLIAN AWEND

ריסה בת יהושע ועפרונה

Child of Robyn & Joshua Awend

Reese went above and beyond in learning her bat mitzvah skills. We are kvelling at the enthusiasm she has shown throughout this experience!



Home is Where the Heart Is

By Avi Aharoni, Director of Youth Engagement, Enrichment, and Informal Education

We've all stepped inside someone's house and seen the same sign, "Home is Where the Heart Is." I'm sure someone reading this right now has that sign hanging in their house! It's a beautiful sentiment. Obviously, each version of the sign has a different font, different layout, different colors, but the meaning is always the same: "Home" is a physical manifestation of "Soul". It's not about a building or a neighborhood, it's about the people and memories.

I think this is why multiple places can feel like home simultaneously. For me, when I'm in Minnesota, I long for Israel and the beautiful culture I fell in love with during my years in Tel Aviv. When I'm in Israel, I yearn for the communities I've built here in Minnesota, both Jewish and theatre, who have supported me in more ways than I can count. Working as the Director of Youth Engagement here at Beth El, there is no denying I see the same feelings with the teens in our community. During the school year, many of them can't help but look forward to the USY conventions and summer camp where they can be with their people. And when they are away, they miss the hugs and support from their family. It is a beautiful thing to always feel torn between locations.

Just like a house needs to be renovated and updated to keep things in their best condition, a community needs that same amount of love and support. We have reinvigorated our Heschel Society this year. This group is made up of a select group of teenagers who are interested, motivated, and dedicated to Social Justice, Social Action, and Philanthropy. This group meets once a month at Rabbi Matt Goldberg's home, and we delve deep into various socio-economic topics that are of interest. So far, we have had discussions around Voting Rights, Reproductive Rights, Addiction & Mental Health, and we will continue forward talking about Homelessness, White Supremacy, and so much more in the coming months. In addition to the monthly learning, the Heschel Society teens have a volunteer opportunity with a local nonprofit who works in the field, and they get to learn, first-hand, the ins and outs of the issue. By stepping inside Rabbi Goldberg's home, we create a community dedicated to serving community. What's more Jewish than that?

To me, what makes a Jewish home is the sense of sharing. For those who have never been to Israel, when you step into an Israeli person's home, no matter what they're doing, they will immediately bring out the nuts and seeds, dried fruits, and start boiling water for tea. Yes, they are sharing their food and drink, but they are also sharing their time and energy. And, in many ways, they're putting you, their community, ahead of themselves by sharing themselves.

That's what makes our summer camps, our teen conventions, even our Beth El youth programming like BESTY and Heschel Society, so unique; we're creating a home by creating a community. And we're specially a "Jewish" community because we give parts of ourselves to each other and those around us. An enormous tenant of Judaism is "Tikkun Olam"—repairing of the world—and what makes me excited about the various programs in our Youth Department, for instance Heschel Society, is that we see it in action. The drive to make our home a better place.

So, the next time you see someone with a sign that says "Home is Where the Heart Is" hanging in their foyer, just give them a pat on the back and say, "Oh, don't I know it!" And don't forget to request all the cashews they have stored in their cabinet. You know, for sharing.

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.

TODAH RABBAH (THANK YOU)

Beth El gratefully acknowledges the following contributions:

Alvin & Audrey Kaufman Camp Ramah Fund

In Memory Of Al Kaufman
Marjorie Fink
In Memory Of Al Kaufman
Morry Markowitz
In Memory Of Alvin Kaufman
Donna & Tom Divine
In Memory Of Alvin Kaufman
Marion Oakes
In Memory Of Alvin Kaufman
Nickie Dwork
In Memory Of Alvin Kaufman
Reida Lazer-Chein & David Chein
In Memory Of Alvin Kaufman
Sue & Harvey Kaplan
In Memory Of Alvin Kaufman
Toni & Gary Masler

APS General Support Contributions

In Memory Of Jack Herring
Barbara & Philip Herman
In Memory Of Lois Weisberg
Lili Chester

In Memory Of Roberta Herring
Barbara & Philip Herman

Audrey Abrams & Neil Newman Cantorial Fund

In Appreciation Of Cantor Audrey Abrams
Elise Lieberthal

Happy Birthday Saranee Newman
Nancy & Michael Schoenberger

Badzin/ Lebow Family Endowment Fund

In Memory Of Harold Smith
Carole & Marshall Lebow

Barbara and Gary Krupp Fund

In Honor Of Ylisa Melendez
Bonnie & Gary Goldish

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In Memory Of Morton Greenberg
Barbara Bearmon

Bernard S. Leviton Feed the Hungry Fund

In Memory Of Freda Ann Kramer Confeld
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Beth El Foundation General Fund

In Appreciation Of Alan Yousha
Sally Forbes Friedman

In Memory Of I. Dean Pepper
Sally Forbes Friedman

In Honor Of Mary Baumgarten
Sally Forbes Friedman

In Memory Of Sheldon (Sam) Pinsky
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In Memory Of Sheldon Pinsky
Judith & Richard Spiegel

Bobby & Elliot Cohen Arts & Judaica Fund

Happy Anniversary Joan & Shelly Weinstein
Roberta & Elliot Cohen

Happy Anniversary Marcia & Allen Oleisky
Roberta & Elliot Cohen

In Memory Of Mort Greenberg
Roberta & Elliot Cohen

In Memory Of Sheldon Epstein
Sandi & Ken Lerner

Bonnie & Len Zeff Community Caring Fund

Happy Birthday Dick & Ronna Locketz
Bonnie & Leonard Zeff

Happy Birthday Richard Kavitt
Bonnie & Leonard Zeff

Cantor Abrams Celebrate the Arts Fund

Happy Anniversary Etta & Don Bernstein
Elaine & David Liss

In Appreciation Of Jason Blumenthal
Elaine & David Liss

In Memory Of Sheldon Pinsky
Dr. Joe Rine

Cantor Audrey Abrams Discretionary Fund

In Memory Of Melvin Orenstein
Deborah Deutsch

Mazel Tov Ylisa Melendez
Deborah Deutsch

Cantor Benjamin Tisser Discretionary Fund

In Appreciation Of Cantor Benjamin Tisser
Sandra & Jeff Rudoy

In Honor Of Cantor Tisser
Susan & Michael Bleher

Cantor Neil Newman Tribute Fund

In Memory Of Larry Friedman
Dr. Joe Rine

Daryle Silver Aleph Preschool Fund

In Memory Of Bruce Nemer
Myrna Schaeffer

In Memory Of Gloria Resnick
Mary Ellen & Nate Karol

In Memory Of Max Fallek
Myrna Schaeffer

David & Ida Bach Fund

For Speedy Recovery Of Howie Bach
Morissa & Joel Lavintman

Diane & Burton Weisberg Education Fund

In Honor Of Dr. Barbara Bank
Karen & Ron Sigal

Fanny and Leonard Margolis Fund

In Memory Of Sheila Livingston
Mark Abramovitz

In Memory Of Sheila Livingston
Michelle & Mitchell Bloom

Fay & Leonard Ribnick Program Fund

In Memory Of Al Kaufman
Louise & Jerry Ribnick

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In Memory Of Jack Herring
Nancy & Michael Schoenberger

Feldman - Bernstein Family Fund

Happy Anniversary Judy & Jay Marku
Leslie & Jason Sell

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Mark Abramovitz

Happy Birthday Michele Bloom
Mark Abramovitz

In Memory Of Sande Bjergo
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Greater Beth El Fund

In Memory Of Al Kaufman
Reva Kibort

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In Memory Of Arthur Sherman
Elayne & Larry Chiat

In Memory Of Arthur Sherman
Shirley Haskovitz

In Honor Of Beth El Clergy
Haley Schaffer & Martin Chester

Thinking Of Beth El Synagogue
Brian McClung

In Memory Of Brad Hytoff
Bradley & Susan Melnick

In Honor Of Cantor Ben Tisser
Joanne & Jim Smith

In Honor Of Cindy & Perry Witkin
Layne & Dave Rosen

In Appreciation Of Deb Yerys
Andrea & Fred Rose

In Memory Of Dr. Edward Orman
Riva & Ellis Nolley

In Honor Of Dr. Steve Waller
Cathy & David Fantle

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Darcy & David Gilbert Burke

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Sara & Jeff Braverman

In Memory Of Harvey Katz
Shirley Haskovitz

In Memory Of Isaac "Gene" Levine
Elayne & Larry Chiat

In Memory Of Izio Zuk
Elayne & Larry Chiat

In Memory Of Izio Zuk
Linda & David Estrin

In Memory Of Jack Herring
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In Memory Of Jack Herring
Linda Brody Ettedgui & Avraham Ettedgui

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Riva & Ellis Nolley

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In Memory Of Joe Moses
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Maggie & Steven Bleher

In Memory Of Joseph Moses
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Shirley Haskovitz

In Memory Of Joseph Olenick
Sue Ostfield

In Honor Of Judy & Marvin Liszt
Elayne & Larry Chiat

In Memory Of Larry Friedman
Andrea & Robert Oleisky

In Memory Of Larry Friedman
Nancy Fursetzer

In Memory Of Malka Rice
Barbara Bach

In Memory Of Marilyn Rovner
Joy & Ron Mankoff

In Memory Of Marnie Ring
Nancy Fursetzer

In Memory Of Marty Grodin z"l
Riva & Ellis Nolley

Happy Birthday Michael Appleman
Michelle & Michael Appleman

In Memory Of Mort Greenberg
Jane & Michael Wipf

In Memory Of Mort Greenberg
Nancy Fursetzer

In Memory Of Morton Greenberg
Amy Chazin

In Memory Of Norm Evidon
Linda & Michael Platt

In Memory Of Norm Evidon
Lois & Dale Dobrin

In Appreciation Of Rabbi Alexander Davis Elaine & David Liss
In Honor Of Rabbi Alexander Davis Joanne & Jim Smith
In Honor Of Rabbi Alexander Davis & Cantor Ben Tisser Carol Woodward
In Memory Of Richard Glaser Haley Schaffer & Martin Chester
In Memory Of Richard Glaser Lili Chester
In Memory Of Richard Glaser Susan & Michael Blehert
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MOROCCO – WHAT A TRIP! WHAT A COUNTRY! WHAT A GROUP!

All the things that make an amazing experience. Our biggest take away from our time in Morocco was the sincerely caring relationship between the Muslims and the 4000 remaining Jews, as well as the legacy of the once vibrant Jewish community. The statement from the Monarchy during WW2, “we have no Jews, no Muslims, no Christians...we only have Moroccans” really says it all. And to this day, Jewish sites are preserved and maintained by Muslims. Truly remarkable. No feeling of antisemitism. A safe place to be Jew.

We found it fascinating that there were mostly Ashkenazi Sefrei Torah in all the Sephardi Synagogues.



Henna night!



Chumash and Koran next to each other in the small museum/synagogue in Essuouria. Both open to parashat Noah – what we were actually reading for that Shabbat. Dana Pepper read from the Chumash and the Muslim woman at the facility read from the Koran.



How Argon oil is extracted. This is a special women's cooperative benefiting the women who work there.



Traditional Berber tea ceremony in a traditional Berber home in the Ourika Valley.



We went to a cooking school to learn how to make our own Tagines. Yum!



Lili Chester, Carol Shapiro and Aklilu Dunlap in traditional Moroccan garb.



The gang in the beautiful Majorelle gardens in Marrakesh.



Jewish cemetery with unmarked graves of children who died during the Typhoid epidemic. Also buried here are some of the Jewish saints – people who were revered by the community. The cemeteries were restored and are maintained by the Muslim community as decreed by the King in their constitution.



The rabbi and his granddaughter at the Jewish Day School in Casablanca. He told us about the financial struggles of running the school, the few Jews left in the country and that when old enough they leave in order to find a spouse. We did Hallel in the modest sanctuary as it was Rosh Hodesh.

Condolences to...

Blanche Singer on the loss of her brother, Arthur Sherman
 Friends and Family on the loss of, Charline "Chuckie" Moscoe
 Wendy (Gary) Fine on the loss of her mother, Lois Weisberg
 John (Debbie) Orenstein on the loss of his father, Melvin Orenstein
 Friends and Family on the loss of, Marilyn Rovner
 Marc Rice, Ed (Tess) Rice, Ruth Weisberg, DeDe Armel, Mort Weisberg on the loss of their mother, sister, sister-in-law & brother-in-law Malka Rice
 Friends and Family on the loss of, Judith Teener Kahn
 Joanne Ring (David Levine) on the loss of her sister, Marnie Ring
 Friends and Family on the loss of, Harold Smith
 Sandra Greenberg, Mark (Pamela) Greenberg & Craig (Cindy) Greenberg on the loss of their husband & father Morton Greenberg
 Sandy (Jeff) Rudoy, Pam Lehman, & Michelle (Steve) Parks on the loss of their mother & grandmother Rose Kay
 Kathilyn Solomon on the loss of her friend, Nicolas Weber
 Kathilyn Solomon on the loss of her friend, Leah Lynn Rosen
 Kent Confeld, & Jon (Sara) Confeld on the loss of their wife & mother, Freda Kramer Confeld
 Rabbi Hayim (Terri) Krivosha-Herring on the loss of his father, Jack Herring
 Jessica Grodin (Seth Ozer) on the loss of her father, Marty Grodin
 Ken (Nicole) Fink on the loss of his father, Gary Fink
 Aliza & Todd Olenick on the loss of their son, Joseph Olenick

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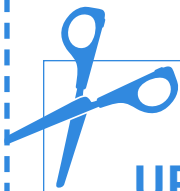
With heavy hearts we mourn the loss of these loved ones within our community. This reflects the losses in our community through 1/5/23.

MAZAL TOV TO MEMBERS WITH UPCOMING MILESTONE ANNIVERSARIES

NAME	DATE	YRS
Sheva & Tom Sanders.....	1/2/23	40
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Marilyn & Harvey Chanen	1/5/23	65
Berek & Amanda Awend	1/20/23	15
Liz & Greg Pomish.....	2/14/23	35
Carrie & Raymond Oleisky	2/17/23	60
Sharon & Martin Kieffer	2/18/23	50
Mary & Jacques Koppel.....	2/20/23	40
Amanda & Greg Simpson	2/22/23	25

NAME	DATE	YRS
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Pamela & Gerald Wolfe-Honigstock.....	3/9/23	15
Barbara & Lee Levitan.....	3/17/23	55
Pam & Howard Friedman	3/22/23	25
Jodi & Michael Lebewitz Davis	3/27/23	35
Randi & Joshua Levine	4/4/23	25
Lisa & James Cohen	4/13/23	20
Sandra & David Benenson	4/15/23	45
Ziva & Joel Fink.....	4/17/23	35

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.



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.

MARCH	
March 6	Purim Extravaganza
March 7	Purim
March 22-23	From Door to Door – BEMA Theatre Event
SPRING – LOOKING AHEAD	
April 6 - 13	Pesach (Community Second Seder April 6)
April 16-23	Israel @ 75 Mega Mission
May 9	BEMA Gala Concert – Israel 75: A Tapestry in Song



After nearly two years of work, Cantor Abrams will be releasing her CD, “Azamra” in Spring of 2023! We gratefully acknowledge the anonymous donor whose generosity ensures this CD is a gift to our congregation. Watch for upcoming announcements about when to pick up your copy! The album will also be accesible from the Beth El Website.

YOTZER OR: CANDLE BRAIDING FACTORY

Winter nights may be dark and cold, but we had a warm evening of community singing and learning at our Yotzer Or Havdallah Candle Braiding Factory. Rabbi Davis brought hands on learning, and Cantors Fried and Tisser brought music and song as we enjoyed an evening together with our Beth El family.



Ipi ads



Beth El
SYNAGOGUE

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SECOND SEDER SAVE THE DATE

Thursday, April 6

**Community Second Seder
led by Cantor Ben Tisser**

All are welcome to attend
Menu and Registration to follow

