



In Israel, the Hebrew month of Nisan signals the approach of spring. Here at Beth El, a hibiscus plant next to the 26th Street Welcome Desk bursts into bloom and marks the end of another long, cold Minnesota winter. Internally, we call this "Victor's Tree," because Victor Vega, a dedicated member of our facilities staff, has lovingly cared for it for the last four years. Originally a centerpiece for a family simcha, now it brightens our entry. Giving from the heart, Victor's green thumb "blesses those who enter."

Angels in Our Midst

By Rabbi Alexander Davis



The story is told of a king and a queen who went for a ride to tour their kingdom. When they had travelled many miles, they came upon a shabby hut. Surrounded by weeds and lacking shade, they thought it abandoned. Then they saw children playing nearby. "If only some industrious hand would take charge, these children would be in better condition," the king said.

"Women lower and women raise*," the queen said.

"What do you mean?" replied the king.

"Leave me here for seven years and I will show you," she said.

And indeed she did. The queen shed her royal garb, put on rags and entered the hut. There, she endeared herself to the family. She fed, washed and clothed the children. She taught the husband, a woodcutter to save money and to fashion a loom to weave cloth. She trained the wife in many skills. Thus, the days passed with the family growing more and more successful with each successive year.

After seven years, the king returned to the area to find not a hut but a palace. When the queen greeted him, he exclaimed, "You were right. You went down and you helped raise up." And the two went on their way.

When the woodcutter returned from the forest, he looked for but could not find her. "Perhaps," he told his wife, "she was a good angel sent to us by God." And so he and his wife and the children thanked God for this special gift.

I came across this story in *The Book of Jewish Women's Tales*. Based on a traditional Moroccan tale, we can forgive its stereotypical and antiquated images because we nevertheless appreciate it as a praise of women who lift up the lowly, establish homes and care for families. Today, we have a more sophisticated and egalitarian understanding of the place of women in society. But the need to celebrate the role of women is the same if not more important now than ever before.

Here at Beth El, Women's League is our local branch of the Conservative movement's national sisterhood organization. We know them from their calendar, hamentaschen and knishes and from the finest synagogue gift shop in town. But they are much more. They are the faces that greet us each Shabbat and during the week at the Welcome Desk. They support the Aleph Preschool and unsponsored Shabbat lunches. They volunteer when we need an extra hand, raise funds to support rabbis training at the Jewish Theological Seminary. And of course, they find camaraderie socializing with each other.

Like the Torah's women who gave of their time, talent and resources to establish the mishkan (Tabernacle), so too, does our Women's League give generously to our Beth El community. When you see them, please join me in thanking these "good angels" who lift up our community.

**This is a paraphrase of a verse from the Book of Samuel in which Hannah acknowledges God as the One who lowers and raises up. Appropriately, in the end, the woodchopper sees the queen as an angel sent by God.*

Fire in the Hole!

By Rabbi Avi S. Olitzky



Adorning the wall of our Spiegel Sanctuary is an artistic representation of the Burning Bush, with the Hebrew text *v'hasneh einenu ukal* (and the bush was not consumed) serving as the brambles ablaze. We sometimes forget how central fire is to our tradition, to our history and

to our connection with the Divine and community.

Fire bookends our weeks as we gather with friends and family around the Shabbat candles and the Havdalah flame. In some settings, it adorns our synagogue bimas with actual flame (like at Adath Jeshurun or the old Bnai Emet), while others it is symbolic, like our *ner tamid* lights.

And even though we are well aware of the biblical connections to fire – especially surrounding the Exodus and the Passover narrative – we sometimes forget the role fire plays in the Passover festival.

Indeed, there are those who *kasher* before Passover using blowtorches and flames, but *biur chametz* is the ritual in question. The night before Passover, we searched our homes for *chametz*. Those of us who prepared for Passover by thoroughly cleaning our homes had long eliminated leaven by that point, so the search is often symbolic. Crumbs were strategically hidden for children to find and then set aside until morning.

The next morning we burned whatever was found and recited a special declaration that nullified the rest. Those of us who had large quantities of *chametz* in our home (cereals, pastas, etc) and whose discarding or burning would lead to major waste and financial loss, sold these goods for the duration of the holiday to someone to which the Passover rules do not apply.

The challenge to all of this was that the “transaction” was often behind the scenes and less well-known, and the burning of the *chametz* was either unsafely done in someone’s driveway or not at all because of lack of safe conditions.

In the spirit of giving back and building community, our St. Louis Park Fire Department worked with us this year to do a communal *biur chametz*. At 11:45am on Friday, March 30th, we had a controlled burn of any *chametz* supplied by those in attendance, as well as fire safety presentations for the children. In addition, Mayor Jake Spano was the designated buyer of our community’s *chametz* this year and we publicly performed the transaction.

Not only were we able to keep our community that much safer this year, but we also engaged our community in rituals that otherwise might seem irrelevant today. And through all of this, we remembered that fire warms and it burns, and that fire is central to a community, especially one that comes together in the name of building community and giving back to it.

And even though we are well aware of the biblical connections to fire – especially surrounding the Exodus and the Passover narrative – we sometimes forget the role fire plays in the Passover festival.



A Labor of Love

By Cantor Audrey Abrams



Twenty years ago, the Yom Kippur Food Drive began. And while the amount we collect has grown, in other ways, little has changed. There still are bags at every door on Rosh Hashanah, a Tilsner truck in the parking and Chris Heikels hauling bags into the back of the truck.

Len Zeff, chair of the food drive, knew Chris from his work in Hennepin County, and when we needed someone to staff the truck, she took on the job. When

asked why she has staffed the food truck for so long, Chris immediately talked about Beth El congregants. She feels part of the congregation and part of the holiday. She enjoys seeing people year after year, having fun with the kids who love to check out the collection by climbing into the truck and yelling, "Wow!" She is touched by many children who told her about their involvement in the process of saving their own money and buying the groceries to bring. Over the years, Chris has learned much about Judaism by being curious and asking questions. She even found herself using some of the poetry from a Yizkor book she found. Every fall she says to herself, "I can do it one more year. I'm not stiff yet." And after all these years, she is happy to support a worthwhile cause and teach future generations about food insecurities.

Seventeen years ago, Audrey Harms joined the team. Audrey is constantly touched at how congregants worry about her hauling the heavy bags. And she feels responsible to greet congregants with a smile and a "thank you" no matter how much or how little they donate. Audrey told me a story about someone who brought just a handful of potatoes. To her, it was a reflection of the commandment that each must give according to their ability.

Over the years, Chris and Audrey have seen many unusual things. There was the time when a garbage truck hit the truck, the time that Progressive Soup went on sale the week of the drive resulting in a huge increase of soup donations, and the times of pouring rain. But as Audrey said, "We do this with joy, even in the rain!"

Both Chris and Audrey expressed guilt over eating their lunches while many were fasting. They expressed concern that the 10,000 lbs. of food only feeds people for two weeks. But mostly, they expressed happiness being a part of a community of givers.

Audrey is officially retiring this year but hopefully Chris will "not be stiff" and able to join us for another year. We thank you, Chris and Audrey, for all these years!

From the Heart

Welcome Desk and Administrative Volunteers

.....
Linda Goldberg

As we continue to think about people with a *lev tov* – in Hebrew a good heart – my thoughts immediately go to those who volunteer at Beth El out of the goodness of their hearts. We are blessed to have a community of volunteers who freely devote their time and talents to every aspect of synagogue life. I'd like to highlight those who dedicate themselves on a weekly basis at the Welcome Desk and in our administrative offices. There is no shortage of services to offer or tasks to perform and these tireless volunteers arrive regularly with a warm smile and willingness to serve. Chances are when you visit or call Beth El during the week, in addition to being greeted by the kind and helpful Pam Friedman, our Welcome Desk Coordinator, you will be warmly welcomed by any one of our dedicated volunteers. They are ever ready with a friendly smile to help you find your way to an appointment or program, assist with on line registration to one of our many activities or events, answer any questions you might have, or connect you with the appropriate person or department. In addition, these volunteers help ensure that all visitors are checked in appropriately.

Here they are – please help us thank them for their commitment and the tremendous customer service

they provide: Terry Cohen; Robyn Elzufon – Frick; Barb Gottlieb; Rivel Greenberg; Diane Hoffman; Marcia Oleisky; Louise Ribnick; Andrea Rose; and Sara Zuk.

If you've been upstairs in the administrative offices, you will often notice a flurry of activity. What you may not know is that in addition to staff, you may run into a volunteer at a desk or in the copy room, quietly performing any number of important tasks from record keeping, data entry, materials production, special projects and a host of other essential functions. On any given day, you may run into Mike Frisch, Stan Levich or Penny Sanderson, selflessly contributing to the wellbeing of our synagogue.

Beth El is a synagogue that benefits from and relies on our wonderful volunteers. You can be sure that every event, program and service we offer has been touched and enhanced by the consistent efforts and generous spirits of our many volunteers who work quietly out of the goodness of their hearts, without seeking or expecting anything in return. Our Welcome Desk and administrative volunteers are dependable, responsible and indispensable. We thank them from the bottom of our hearts.





Bold and Bullish

By Dan Mosow, Beth El President

Last year I shared with you Beth El's plan to shift to a voluntary giving model that aligns our philosophy around membership with our plans to achieve financial sustainability. Over the last several months, I have congregants ask me how the synagogue is doing, financially, now that we don't "charge dues." I'm pleased to share with you that the short answer is that it's going great. But I'd like to share some of the intangible benefits that we've realized as we implement our new approach.

Relationship Development

It may have been a while since you've had a chance to talk with a member of Beth El's leadership – whether that be a lay-leader, clergy, or member of our administrative team. This fall, board representatives called each of our 1,200 member households as a way to express our gratitude for your being part of our wonderful synagogue community. In addition, over the course of this fiscal year, we have had dozens of personal meetings and taken hundreds of calls from many of you. It has been great getting to know you better including your dreams for Beth El both now and into the future. If you're reading this wondering when you can speak with one of us the answer is *anytime*. Reach out and we will schedule personal time with you!

Clarifying Needs

Part of the feedback we've heard this year is from people who assume we no longer need financial support. That couldn't be further from the truth. Program development, growth and operations/facilities cost real money. We've appreciated the opportunity to clarify Beth El's needs and to connect them to members' interests as it pertains to their *tzedakah*. In the upcoming months, you can expect to learn more about the needs of our synagogue. This is not a way of coming to you with open hands. Rather, it's our way of making sure you understand what is needed to maintain the community you care about and to allow us to continue to thrive.

Listening

Big changes always yield diverse opinions. And that is certainly true in our case. Above and beyond your specific questions and suggestions, we hear in your response your care and concern for the long-term sustainability of our shul. While we don't have all the answers, we can say with confidence that we feel optimistic about our future. Your comments matter. Your opinion matters. Your involvement matters. Please continue to share your questions and thoughts, because ***we are listening***.

For synagogues around the nation, this is a time of change. That is certainly true for Beth El when it comes to financial sustainability. The approach we have adopted represents a bold change – there are few synagogues of our size or stature who have taken this approach. At the same time, it reflects a bullish faith in our future.

I am honored to serve as your president during this time and appreciate your patience, understanding and support as we continue to be trendsetters for synagogues across the country and as we ensure the long-term sustainability of the community we love.

New Members

PLEASE WELCOME

Susan & Gabriel Kaufman
with Alyssa and Eve

Janie Finn



Ariel Williams & Bennett Clark
with Wesley and Seren

Pairing Holidays with Mitzvot

By Karen Burton, Director of Aleph Preschool



Chanukah, Tu B'Shevat, Purim and Pesach are all part of the adventurous journey our Aleph Preschoolers take from the start of winter season to the spring.

Along this journey we pair various creative curriculum studies with Jewish themes and values, bringing each chag (holiday) to life.

We start our journey with Chanukah, the festival of lights. We explore different cultures through their celebrations, music, traditions and clothing. Light represents peace, desirable by all cultures. Let's not forget Winter Solstice too. Our mitzvah for this season is Bikur Cholim – visiting the sick. Chanukah gifts are lovingly made by our preschoolers who then distribute them during their annual visit to the Sholom Home. First they perform a Chanukah concert

for the residents followed by tasty festive treats together and engage in wonderful conversations. Bringing smiles of joy to the residents is a true Chanukah miracle.

As we continue our journey, we arrive at Tu B'shevat, the New Year for Trees. Just as our preschoolers bloom and grow so do the fruits and grains grown in Israel that make up the seven special species. We celebrate these new fruits at a Tu B'shevat Seder where many children are tasting new fruits for the very first time. They plant seeds and learn about planting new trees in Israel. In addition, we learn about freedom, equality, acceptance and explore similarities and differences and pair this with the mitzvah Shmirat HaLashon (guarding your tongue).

Purim is our next stop on this journey, the Festival of Lots. Tzedakah is the mitzvah for this season which happens to be one of the four mitzvot of Purim along with hearing the Megillah (Book of Esther), partaking in a Purim Seudah (meal) and giving Mishloach Manot (gifts of food) to friends and neighbors. Of course coming to school in Purim costumes and eating the hamantash they have made is an annual highlight.

Our final destination on this mid-year journey is Pesach (Passover). Once Purim is over, Pesach preparations begin. We learn about travelling, exploring, transportation, freedom and our environmental footprints, which all relate to the Passover story. Our Pre-K children bring this rich story to life in the annual Passover play, that includes songs and stories and is always super cute to watch. Munching on Matzah, searching for chametz and learning new songs is a daily happening as well as our three year olds visit to the Sholom Home to perform a Passover concert for the residents.

We anticipate and look forward to the remaining Chagim of the preschool year with eagerness and excitement. Please remember you can always stop by for a visit to see our children at play.

Our mitzvah for the winter season was Bikur Cholim – visiting the sick. Chanukah gifts were lovingly made by our preschoolers who then distribute them during their annual visit to the Sholom Home.



What Makes People Care Enough to Give

by Amanda Awend

Over the course of my adult life, I have worked at and visited several different synagogues around the country, and I can confidently say that Beth El Synagogue is thriving. Our building looks great as people come and participate in the array of spiritual, community and learning opportunities that we offer. Some may see our synagogue as the norm; but a synagogue like this does not simply exist by chance. It takes money, ambition and a whole lotta love.

So, how are we making this happen? How do we keep this synagogue thriving and what makes people care enough to give of their money and time?

I see it this way. When you are part of a community that is enriching your life, you want to give back. You want see it continue to grow, progress, and make others happy. Additionally, when you see how a synagogue is enriching your children and grandchildren's lives, you want to help make sure it continues to do the same for them.

It is so wonderful to see so many parents and grandparents wanting to ensure the growth of their children's community. I vividly remember my first Shabbat mornings at Beth El and being welcomed by Jim and Marlene Bukstein. Ten years later, I still find comfort in being greeted by the Buksteins. It is obvious that they love this place and through their actions are being examples their grandchildren and to all of us.

When people are passionate about something, they want to share it with their community. Joy Gordon, aka "Bubby-in-law", is teaching Kabbalah as part of the Community Learning @ The Well. On numerous occasions Joy has generously offered her talents to read stories to the children during the Apples & Honey services and also share her wisdom during the Grown Up Learning sessions.

This year, I also had the privilege of meeting with Gay Moldow, Grandma to Sascha and Beatrice Moldow, who was on one of The Well's planning committees along with David Magy and Rabbi Davis. Gay helped put together a series of talks on gun violence prevention in February. Gun violence prevention is a topic that Gay found to be important so she volunteered her time to bring the Be Smart for gun safety program to the Beth El community.

Every aspect of this synagogue is made better by those that help, help with their money, help with their time, help with their passion. This synagogue is blessed to have so many people offer their continued support. It is inspiring to see the work that our congregation is doing, and gives me great hope for the future of Beth El Synagogue.

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Doing Good Quietly

By Mary Baumgarten, Education Director

There are people who choose to do good quietly and unassumingly. They do this with no fanfare and are looking for no reward or recognition.



Howard Sadoff is such a person. You have probably seen him on Shabbat mornings as he has been tutoring our B'nai Mitzvah students for the past 12+ years on a volunteer basis.

Howard, his wife Judy, and his children Elaine and Dan, have been members of Beth El for 22 years. Elaine is one of our veteran TaRBuT Program Master Teachers.

I asked Howard why he chooses to tutor week after week and why he has stuck with it for so long. His response to me was twofold: "I like to help people and if I am limited in what I can give financially to the synagogue, I want to give back in another way." Howard credits both his wife, Judy, and Rabbi Abelson for encouraging him to do this initially.

Howard derives much satisfaction from his work with our children. He takes what he does very seriously and enjoys seeing the progress that his students make. He always appreciates the support he receives from the

rest of the teaching staff and says that he has learned a lot from participating in our program.

In fact, Howard now volunteers in the public schools several times a week. The experience he has gained in TaRBuT is what has given him the confidence to do this as well.

Howard's sensitivity to the needs of children with varying abilities is one of his passions. He is a true advocate for those with special needs.

If you see Howard at Beth El you might want to thank him for his service. Though his true thanks comes from the feeling he gets when a student who might have been struggling says: "I get it now, thank you."

If you would like to volunteer for these or other roles, please contact me:

- Tutor on Shabbat or Sunday mornings
- Scholarship Committee
- Mitzvah Events Committee
- Be a B'nai Mitzvah Mentor Family

TALMUD TORAH LIVING MUSEUM PROJECT



Pictured are Heather Goldman and her son, Spencer, at the Grand Opening Reception of this year's 5th Grade Living Museum at the Talmud Torah of Minneapolis.



Students brought in family artifacts, some dating back over 150 years, which became part of a weeklong exhibit at the JCC Tychman Gallery.

Faculty member, Mary Baumgarten, was the coordinator of this project.





Beth El at USY's International Convention

By Andrew Freeman, Youth Director

This past December, over 600 teens around the United States and Canada spent their winter breaks at USY International Convention—all in the name of making incredible and meaningful connections with other Conservative Jews across North America.

Our teens spent the week studying the essence of freedom. The takeaway from these discussions was that the teens understood that they have the freedom and the power to make a difference in their communities and in the world.

This speaks to one of the many strengths that USY has to offer: USYers plan the week long convention directly. We are proud at Beth El that our teens are involved in leadership on the international level, ensuring a positive experience for all USYers.

What was most exciting for us is that Emtza Region sent 14 delegates. Of those 14, 5 came from Beth El. We represented 1% of the convention—that is quite mighty when you look at the broader numbers across the country. If you include our staff and regional director, Anne Hope, almost half of our entire region's delegation was from Beth

El Synagogue. During the opening session (as well as elections later that week), our assigned seating was the center of the room. Emtza indeed means middle, but we feel it was because we serve as the core for the organization as a whole.

During the Candidates Forum for the future International Executive Board, our members were the ones asking the most questions and deeply reflecting on the qualities of leaders that we would like to see in our movement.

During the Candidates forum for the future International Executive Board, our members were the ones asking the most questions and deeply reflecting on the qualities of leaders that we would like to see in our movement.

Granted, our representation was small relative to other regions such as the New York and North Jersey Region. But our presence at the convention was still very much felt. We made it known that both our region and our chapter exemplify our desire to go above and beyond what is expected of us to make the best possible difference we can make.

Wherever we go, we stand for Beth El. We represent Beth El. We own the humbling responsibility to represent our synagogue and chapter – the one that started it all. And we cherish that privilege. This is the legacy that Rabbi Abelson left for us, and this is the legacy we seek to leave for the future.

B'nai Mitzvah



April 14, 2018 / 29 Nisan 5778
Sh'mini

NAOMI MARIAH PROHOFSKY

אהבה נעמי בת לוי שלום

Daughter of Lee Prohofsky and
Andrea Jensen

Naomi approached her bat mitzvah just as she does everything, with hard work and a big smile! We are so proud of her and cannot wait to watch her enter Jewish adulthood.



May 5, 2018 / 20 Iyar 5778
Emor

JACK NIELSEN MINTZ

יונתן בני בן שלום הלל וטליה רבקה

Son of Steve & Trish Mintz

Jack has an enthusiastic spirit, ready to take on the challenges of Jewish adulthood. He's looking forward to celebrating with family and friends.



May 12, 2018 / 27 Iyar 5778
Behar-Bechukotai

TALIA JEANNE RODICH

טליה גולדה בת דניאל ורות

Daughter of Dan & Beth Rodich

Talia is a bright and focused student who has taken her learning and preparation very seriously. We look forward to welcoming her into Jewish adulthood.



May 26, 2018 / 12 Sivan 5778
Nasso

SALLY JANE RENDLEMAN

בת ציון בריינא בת בן ציון טבע וחווה מלכה

Daughter of Tyler & Kathy Rendleman

Sally has a wise and generous soul. She jumps into each day with energy full of compassion. We look forward to every moment as she embraces the world around her.



June 9, 2018 / 26 Sivan 5778
Sh'lach L'kha

MABEL ADRIENNE GLASER

אביגיל בת שמעון וגילה

Daughter of Simon & Gretchen Glaser

Mabel has always sought connection to the Jewish community. We are so proud of her success, and cannot wait to see what is next!



June 14, 2018 / 1 Tamuz 5778 (In Israel)
Rosh Chodesh Tamuz

ZOE ISABEL LIPSCHULTZ

חווה בת שבע בת נח ובתיה

Daughter of Jodi & Noah Lipschultz

Zoe will be celebrating her bat mitzvah in Israel. We are thrilled to be going on this journey as a family. Zoe's zest for life and new experiences will surely lead the way!



June 16, 2018 / 3 Tamuz 5778
Korach

SABRINA INES RUBENSTEIN

סברה בת ראובן ועדינה

Daughter of Tricia & Richard Rubenstein

Sabrina has approached her bat mitzvah studies with dedication and tenacity. We are so proud of her and look forward to celebrating with family, friends and the community.

Purim at Beth El





Today Rabah to our dedicated volunteers who serve a monthly brunch to families staying at the Ronald McDonald House!

Beth El USY Executive Board at the Leadership Training Initiative in Kansas City.



Beth El USY represented at Winter Shabbaton in Omaha in late January.

Cantor Audrey Abrams conducts the local chapter of HaZamir – The International Jewish Teen Choir.



Community Learning @ The WELL



50 people got to know our neighbors and experienced the diverse religious worlds found right in our own backyard! This bus tour, lead by Professor Shana Sippy, stopped at a Cambodian Buddhist temple in Hampton, MN, a Hindu temple in Farmington, MN and the Muslim Community Center and Mosque in Bloomington, MN.



Liz Traison Witkin and Cindy Witkin led 25 people in an engaging, hands on cooking demonstration featuring Jewish dumplings from around the world.





A Gift for the Next Generation

By Jan Hamilton, Congregational Nurse

Recently, I attended a family member's funeral. At the dinner following the burial, conversation naturally included recollections of the deceased's personality and character. It then shifted to discoveries friends had made about their family using DNA testing. Such testing is becoming widespread, often done for genetic and health reasons. What stood out for me was our desire to know "from whence we came." We not only want to know our genetic predispositions, we want to know what our ancestors did, what challenges they encountered, how they coped and what sustained them, how they lived, what they valued, and so forth. What did they pass on to us as the people they were?

My previous discussion with residents at Knollwood Place Apartments was on the topic of ethical wills. Beyond our DNA, we can leave a legacy of our values, traditions and beliefs. While some might think of this as an end-of-life-type activity, it need not wait until then.

When thinking about your ethical legacy, consider the skills you've developed, the passions you've pursued, and the ways you've contributed. Reflect as well, on the regrets you have. Perhaps there is something yet you can do to or address the issue or to find more peace. Finally, we must consider what not to pass on. The authors of *Wise Aging* by Rabbi Rachel Cowan and Dr. Linda Thal, referred to legacy *via negavita* defined by what is not handed down. It's a way of saying, "This I inherited, but it is not what I am handing down to you."

As for the recipients of this legacy, I have yet to hear anything but gratitude. It's an expression that comes from the heart to those who mattered. It's a gift of sharing who we are and the wisdom we've gained through the experience of life.

Look for future programs through Community Learning @ The Well to follow up on this topic.

When thinking about your ethical legacy, consider the skills you've developed, the passions you've pursued, and the ways you've contributed.

MAZAL TOV TO MEMBERS WITH UPCOMING MILESTONE ANNIVERSARIES

NAME	DATE	YRS
Joshua Wert & Randi Levine	April 4	20
Lisa & James Cohen	April 13	15
Sandy & David Benenson	April 15	40
Joel & Ziva Fink	April 17	30
Merle & Trudii Mark	April 28	50
Candace & Mike Sussman	May 2	15
Adam & Angela Ailloni	May 3	20
John & Lisa Simon	May 3	20
Tobe & Arlin Goldberg	May 7	40
Molly Brackett & Shane Boroditsky	May 11	5
Steven & Julie Friedman	May 12	55
Michelle & Larry Shapiro	May 15	35
Michael & Dana Neiman	May 19	5
Ernest & Fern Gershone	May 22	35
Martin Harris & Vic Thor	May 22	35
Barry & Barbara Rosenzweig	May 23	25
David & Cynthia Mashaal	May 24	20
Dick & Judy Spiegel	May 25	40
Fred & Jody Rappaport	May 26	5
Jacob & Laura Stein	May 26	5
Art & Judy Shragg	May 29	35
Brian & Debbie Slovut	May 30	25
Jeffrey & Judy Locketz	May 30	30
Steve & Laura Silberfarb	May 30	25
Jaymie & Kaylene Stoller	June 1	10
Jeff & Jill Rabinovitz	June 1	15
Uri & Carolyn Koppel	June 1	40
Alan & Beverly Kasdan	June 5	35
Julie & Brian Weisberg	June 5	30
Reida Lazer-Chein & David Chein	June 6	25
Leslie & Andrew Parker	June 12	25
David Schlaifer & Julie Ritz-Schlaifer	June 13	25
Robert & Jane Polansky	June 13	25
Richard & Laura Sevak	June 15	10
Jack & Sylvia Zouber	June 16	50
Jerry & Shelly Silverman	June 20	55
Daniel & Sarah Kaye	June 21	10
Wesley & Sheryl Schochet	June 21	20
Sheldon & Rollye Winnig	June 23	50
Jack & Mary Baumgarten	June 24	45
Rick & Susan Bunin	June 24	45
Buddy & Marjory Howell	June 25	40

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...

Friends and Family on the loss of our member, **J. Seymour Locketz Serene (Peter) Simon and Mike (Linda) Fiterman** on the loss of their mother, **Bernice Fiterman**

Friends and Family on the loss of our member, **Sophie Teener Stan (Margaret) Jaffy** on the loss of his mother, **Tillie Jaffy**

Friends and Family on the loss of our member, **Gennadiy Babiner**

Friends and Family on the loss of our member, **Bernice Cowl Gordon**

Nancy (Rick) Grobovsky on the loss of her father, Stanly Malmon

Mort Silverman on the loss of his wife, **Artice Silverman**

Wendy (Howard) Bach on the loss of her mother, Ruth Ziman

Friends and Family on the loss of, Lewis Bialick

Micki Herman (Neil) Kay on the loss of her mother, Beatrice Herman

Benhour (Brenda) Soumekh on the loss of his mother, Malkah Soumekh

Rachel (Steven) Rosen on the loss of her father, Jerry Hoffman

Cindy Livon (Marshall) Shragg, Randi (Bob) Livon, Jodi Livon (Jason)

Rein and Jeff (Michi) Livon on the loss of their mother, **Barbara Livon**

Friends and Family on the loss of, Raphael Aronson

Nancy (David) Goldstein on the loss of her brother, **Bruce Frank**

Ian (Jane) Flam on the loss of his father, Darryl Flam

Rick (Pam) Glassman on the loss of his father, Ronald Glassman

Eugene Gittelson on the loss of his wife, **Sally Gittelson**

Friends and Family on the loss of our member, **Manuel Binder**

Kathy & David Cooper on the loss of our member, **Zenith Kremen**

Linda (Michael) Platt on the loss of her brother, Edward Glasband

Jeff (Sara) Braverman on the loss of his father, **Irving Braverman**

Stacey (Gary) Bush on the loss of her mother, Cerna Gendler

With heavy hearts we mourn the loss of these loved ones within our community. This reflects the losses in our community through November 6, 2017.

Mazal Tov to...

Hillary Aronow & Aaron Goldish on the birth of their son, Oscar Moshe born on November 8, 2017

Stephanie & Robin Rower on the birth of their son, Elijah Samuel born on November 24, 2017

Dana & Benjamin Becker on the birth of their son, Leon Frederick born on November 20, 2017

Abby & Dwayne Cosby on the birth of their son, Onyx born on November 26, 2017

Deborah & Ryan Shapin on the birth of their son born on December 1, 2017

Ellyn & Will Sternberg on the birth of their daughter, Perry born on December 11, 2017

Kari Chester and Noah Trueger on the birth of their son, Shepard Olin born on December 13, 2017

Erica & Justin Ribnick on the birth of their daughters, Carly and Sydney born on December 14, 2017

Pavel and Inna Lachei on the birth of their son, Daniel born on December 16, 2017

Kyra & Andrew Moses on the birth of their son, Esai Benjamin born on December 17, 2017

Kindy & Yonatan Rouache on the birth of their son, Ozzie Lev born on December 21, 2017

Risa & Siatta Dunbar-Siegel on the birth of their daughter, Avital born on December 21, 2017

Michelle & Aaron Goldstein on the birth of their daughter, Maya Hope born on December 31, 2017

Alicia & Brady Silver on the birth of their son, Eyal Samuel born on January 8, 2018

Susanna & Shmuel Goldstein on the birth of their son, Yaakov born on January 11, 2018

Rachel & Joseph Fine on the birth of their son, Zeke Max born on January 16, 2018

Cheryl & Ira Radtke-Troxel on the birth of their daughter, Everly born on January 26, 2018

Charitable Giving

Ensuring the vitality of our congregation now and in the future

The Gift of Young Families

By Matt Walzer, Director of Charitable Giving



In the Winter Shofar, I shared with you one of my most frequently asked questions – “What is it like to ask people for money?” I shared that people ask this question out of fear of having to ask someone for money themselves and that they feel like doing so is an imposition on the person(s) being asked.

But sometimes those questions make a difference.

As the weather begins to turn, our children are playing more in their new playground and we have been able to address this new play space with appropriate security measures – a new fence, door alarm, and better protection from potential intruders. None of these would have happened if a question had not been asked.

To explain further, a young family began sharing concerns about the temporary fence surrounding the new playground this past winter. They wanted to know what the plan was to protect their (and everyone else’s children). Upon hearing the plans, which totaled \$60,000, they responded decidedly by getting involved and challenging young families to unite to protect our youth. They understood (at the time) that we had \$20,000 already committed, and wanted to commit another \$10,000 to the project. Further, they wanted to ask friends to join them in challenging other young families to support and finance the difference (another \$20,000).

And so it happened: Sheri Rosen and Melanie Vinokur set out on a mission to protect our children. Within a matter of weeks, their combined \$20,000 was bolstered by another 20 families and all are humbled and incredibly proud to have played a role in supporting an integral Beth El project.

All of this started with a question. A question answered by educating, and continued by engaging families and galvanizing their cohort to support things they care about.

A fence might not be for you. There are additional emergent needs that may speak to you and you could have an impact as well:

- Improving the sounds quality in the sanctuary
- Creating a much needed space for youth and programs above the social hall
- Leave a lasting mark through an endowment

The possibilities are endless. We should talk – let’s work together to take Beth El to that next level.

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:

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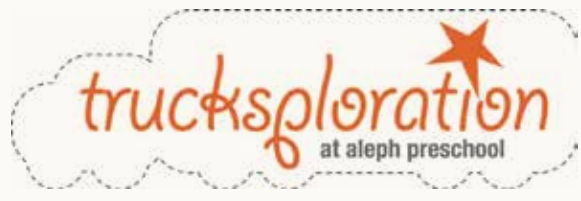


UPCOMING AT BETH EL

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.

APRIL	
1-7	Pesach
6/7	Beth El Office Closed for Pesach/Last Day Pesach – Yizkor Recited
11-13	Aleph Preschool Scholastic Book Fair
15	Aleph Preschool Family Fun Night Pasta Party
17/22	Community Yom Hazikaron (Beth El)/Community Yom HaAtzmaut (Mount Zion)
20	Choir at Knollwood
MAY	
6	Trucksploration
18	Choir at Knollwood
20-21	Shavuot
21	Beth El Office Closed for Shavuot – Yizkor Recited
28	Memorial Day – Morning minyan at 9:00 am
JUNE	
17	Common Sound Concert
JULY	
4	4th of July – Morning minyan at 9:00 am
AUGUST	
27	Beth El Picnic

ONGOING LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES @ THE WELL	
Community Learning @ The WELL – Check Beth El Website for most up-to-date information	
Rashi to Rembrandt – meets monthly	
Mindful Tuesdays – every Tuesday through June	
Apples & Honey; Adult Learning – 1st Shabbat each month through May	
Nosh and Drash – April 16 & May 7	



SUNDAY, MAY 6, 2018 | 11 AM - 2 PM
Beth El Synagogue Parking Lot

Trucks and other vehicles of all sizes, fun for boys & girls, parents & grandparents! High-energy, interactive vehicles, fun guests and food vendors.



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Save the Date

SUNDAY, JUNE 17, 2018

Save the date for the first ever Common Sound concert event—a partnership between Beth El Synagogue and Benilde-St. Margaret's.

We're very excited that our headliner will be The Gin Blossoms!

Visit www.besyn.org/common-sound to learn more.