



Time to play and explore outdoors is critical for the healthy development of young children. As the weather warms, our children now have an outdoor extension of the classroom in a natural play space because of the new playground generously donated by Fern Badzin, in memory of her parents, Fannie & Sam Katz. This wonderful gift will ensure that learning at Aleph Preschool supports developing the entire child and fosters creativity and exploration for the world around them.

I Am My Prayer

By Rabbi Alexander Davis



It is summer now but recently I've found my mind wandering back to that late April snow storm. No, I am not interested in a repeat performance! But I've been thinking about how that storm brought out the best in people.

Recall, by April, everyone was tired of winter. My kids didn't even want to play in the snow. It was a more a hassle than a joy. We were tracking the storm on Friday, debating as a staff how to respond. We were not sure how bad it was going to get but decided not to cancel services or programs. By Saturday afternoon, the snow was really coming down. We had over a foot and more to come. I had been told that there was no way we'd get a minyan for mincha and that even our Torah reader said he wasn't coming. But since we had said minyan was happening, I felt I needed to go to Beth El in the afternoon to inform anyone who happened to come that services were cancelled. On my

way trudging through the snow, I heard a voice yell to me from a nearby house, "Do you need us for a minyan?" I yelled back, "No thanks. Services are cancelled because of the storm."

How surprised I was, therefore, when I entered the chapel. One couple with a four wheel drive had come to say kaddish. Four others had come to support the minyan. We were now at six people. "Still a ways to go but not impossible," I thought. We needed four more people and needed someone to read Torah. So while I went up the street to round up more people, Rabbi Olitzky began preparing the Torah reading. I got the three neighbors. Another person went and got his wife. That made a minyan. We began services and in walked our Torah reader plus two additional people. Now we had more than enough and the couple was so appreciative of the chance to say kaddish.

But the story doesn't end there. By the end of the service, the snow was so high that one woman's car was completely snowed in. So the couple with their four wheel drive took the woman home in blizzard-like conditions.

Prayer is called *avodah shebalev*, service of the heart. That phrase is meant to remind us that for prayer to be meaningful, we can't just recite words on a page. We must open our hearts. But the spring snow shower taught me that some people's hearts are open even before they begin to pray. I see them often and am grateful for all their efforts.

There are the people I call upon frequently to help make a minyan when we are short. And they are the people who come regularly without needing to be asked. There are *sh'lichei tzibbur* (service leaders) who lead the daily minyan every morning at 7:00am and every afternoon at 5:45pm. They are leaders who never hesitate to step up when I need help leading a shiva minyan. These folks give generously to our community of their time and talent. They open their hearts that we might pray. That is to say, they not only enable and facilitate our prayer; their efforts are in and of itself *avodah shebalev*, a service of the heart. In the words of our siddur: "v'ani t'filati l'kha adonai eit ratzon I, myself am a prayer to You, God, at this most precious hour."

CHILDREN ARE A Good “Problem” to Have

By Rabbi Avi S. Olitzky



It may be summer, but I still am reflecting on a realization that I had the Shabbat morning of the April blizzard. Our Beth El is truly unlike any synagogue in the country—in so many ways.

Not too long ago, children running around the synagogue were treated with firm tones and dirty looks. It was not respectful to run around the sanctuary let alone have a child present at services in general. Synagogue worship services were to be places of high decorum—and behavior in the surrounding spaces was to be just the same. As a result, children stopped attending—or better put, families stopped coming to synagogue because, implicitly, their children weren't welcome. This meant that they weren't welcome.

These synagogues forgot the very special and famous teaching of Reish Lakish (in the name of Rabbi Yehudah Nesiyah) in the Babylonian Talmud (Shabbat 119b): *Ain haolam mitkayem ela bishvil hevel tinokot shel beit rabban* - The world endures only for the sake of the breath of school children. Somehow, we forgot this and something changed over time. Children were abhorrent instead of adulated and adored. Sweets for children were replaced with “shushes.” Toys replaced with ushers.

My colleagues across the country often lament the lack of children in synagogue. They look out in their congregation on Shabbat morning and (should they have more than a few score committed attendees even present) the majority are adults well into their senior years. At Beth El, not only do we have our seniors, but we have our “juniors,” too. In fact, the seniors will often bring their grandchildren and the

juniors the same. And for those without children (—raised at Beth El) they often found their home at our synagogue because of the comfort level they experienced as a child at shul.

In preparation for that snowy Shabbat, we were panicking because we might not have enough staff for childcare. We sent out an email expressing that though we may be short-staffed, children are still welcome in the service! Some synagogues were debating holding services while we were trying to figure out how to accommodate those attending!

Over the years at Beth El, we've reembraced our rabbinic tradition. Not only does the world exist only for the sake of children—but so too does our synagogue. To be clear, this is not to the exclusion of those without children. It just means that we welcome children inside and outside of our tefillot; inside and outside of our programming.

This is the reason that we offer childcare and children's programming from the beginning of services on Saturday mornings until well into lunch. It is the reason we have special plates of kid-friendly food set up at tables reserved for those young children. And it is also the reason this summer we are refreshing and restructuring our choir loft / quiet room alongside our Spiegel sanctuary to have a child-friendly library and children's space.

These may be costly endeavors, but: the smile of the child who snags some challah or a treat after Kiddush on the bimah, the children camping out all over the building in groups having their own private Shabbat lunch, the little ones coordinating playdates on their own for after services knowing that shul is just an extension of home—these children are our future. And without them, our very world will cease to exist.



Stepping Up

By Cantor Audrey Abrams



In our Shofar articles this past year, we have focused on giving from the heart. We have featured stories of individuals who exemplify the middot (soul-trait) of generosity and loving-kindness. And while there is much we can be proud of, as a community, we have not succeeded in all areas.

One of my hopes for Beth El is that we grow as a caring community. I look on with admiration at other communities that step up to help those facing illness, mourning, a significant life change, etc. These communities offer meals, rides, support, and companionship not just once but for as long as needed. That is truly “warm and welcoming.”

I wish I could say the same for us. Yes, many of us do these things for those in our circle of family, friends and neighbors. But what about those we don't know? Our community is sufficiently large that we need more volunteers and more active volunteers.

Currently, we have a three member Yad V'Lev (Hand and Heart) committee that relies on some 25 people to reach out to those in need. We send cards when someone comes home from the hospital or suffers a loss. We deliver a challah after a death. On occasion we provide a meal or a ride. But we can do better. 25 people in a congregation of over 1200 is simply not enough.

With additional volunteers, we hope to

- take care of families with members in long-term treatment
- arrange for shiva meals
- provide rides to doctor visits for seniors
- visit homebound members
- and more.

This is the work of a village not a committee. We need YOU to make Beth El a truly caring committee.

Contact Jenny Hage, Chair of Gemilat Chesed (jenhage@gmail.com), Jeanne Kaufman, Yad V'Lev Chair (jeannekaufman@comcast.net), or me (aabrams@bethelsynagogue.org) to get involved.



In the Beginning

By Lennie Kaufman

I would like to introduce myself. My name is Lennie Kaufman and I have just joined Beth El Synagogue as the Chief Operating Officer (COO). I feel honored to have this opportunity and I look forward to meeting and getting to know the members of the Beth El community. It hasn't taken many games of Jewish Geography to draw connections from my past to my present at Beth El.

By way of background, I am a native of the Twin Cities. I was born and raised in St. Paul, and became a Bar Mitzvah and was confirmed at Temple of Aaron, where I received a solid religious education. I also attended the St. Paul Talmud Torah for five years, where the principal was the future father-in-law of a Beth El colleague. A year after my Bar Mitzvah, I began ushering at Temple of Aaron on Saturdays and High Holidays and continued for the next eight years. For a significant part of that time, one of my co-ushers was the future husband of another colleague in the Beth El office. During my ushering years I served on the Ritual Committee at Temple of Aaron, and later on its Board of Directors (with the future father-in-law of a Beth El President).

After graduating from Highland Park High School, I attended the University of Minnesota, and received an undergraduate and MBA degree from the U's Business School (before it was renamed in honor of Curt Carlson). After graduate school, I went on to spend the next 30 plus years in a financial services career here in the Twin Cities. This career included several years as a corporate banker, loan syndicator, and the CEO of a national securities transfer business. I left the financial services industry in 2015. In my most recent position prior to joining Beth El, I spent almost

three years at the Greater Twin Cities United Way, which included some great nonprofit experience.

At the same time I was pursuing my career, I met my wife, Jill, who grew up in New Hope, and was a lifelong member at Temple Israel. So, for over 30 years we have lived in New Hope and been members of Temple Israel. We have raised two daughters through the Robbinsdale School District and college degrees, and they are now enjoying successful careers. Jill currently works for Robbinsdale Area Schools, overseeing all community volunteers. Prior to taking her current job, she volunteered in the District for over 15 years while our kids were in school.

While Jill was volunteering in the schools, I pursued a volunteer path that led me to several nonprofit boards and committees (mostly finance committees) in both the Jewish community and the community at large. In the Jewish community, I have served two stints as a board member at Temple Israel, including four years as their treasurer. I have served on Temple Israel's finance committee for over 20 years, while serving most recently on the Temple Israel Foundation Board, and its investment committee. I currently serve on the board and finance committee of the Sabes JCC, and am a board member, and chair of the finance and human resources committee of JFCS.

I am excited about the opportunity to apply the lessons I have learned over the years in my career and volunteer positions in support of the continued success of Beth El. I feel very fortunate to be surrounded by a caring and supportive group of staff and clergy colleagues, and look forward to joining you as we move forward in fulfillment of our mission.



From Strength to Strength

By Dan Mosow, Beth El President

As my term as President comes to a close, I want to say what an honor it has been to work with our Board of Directors, our synagogue staff and clergy and the greater Beth El community over the past two years. It has been my privilege to work through challenges and celebrate accomplishments with our community. I would like to take a moment to share some exciting news with you as we look ahead to the future of Beth El.

We are pleased to announce that we have secured long term contracts with both Rabbi Davis and Rabbi Olitzky to lead Beth El as our senior rabbis. This innovative, shared leadership model divides their responsibilities to best serve the needs of our congregation.

Both of our Rabbis will serve our congregation by working with congregants in the areas of life-cycle events and pastoral care, counseling, and leading services.

Rabbi Davis will focus particular efforts leading the community in a variety of educational initiatives through The Well, which was introduced this year to rave reviews. He will also serve our congregation as teacher and spiritual guide. Rabbi Olitzky is moving into a new, shared role as senior rabbi and will focus his talents on programming, outreach, and engagement designed to grow and develop our congregation, in addition to his work with the young family through young adult population.

Cantor Abrams remains a core member of our clergy team. She will continue to use her skills and her spirit to lift us, to guide us, and to comfort us as she serves the congregation leading services, officiating in life cycle events, performing pastoral and educational work.

This shift has required additional changes in our staffing structure, including the hiring of a Chief Operating Officer to lead the range of operational and administrative functions needed to support these new roles and expectations.

I am very pleased to announce that Lennie Kaufman has accepted that role following a thorough interview process with members of the board, clergy, and staff.

Some of you may be familiar with Lennie as he has been active in the Jewish community for many years, serving in lay leadership positions with organizations such as Temple of Aaron, JFCS, Minneapolis JCC, and Temple Israel. He also has an extensive background in finance and operations, managing the National Shareholder Services Business for Wells Fargo.

The board also recognizes that membership relationships is very critical to the future of Beth El. With that in mind, who better to be our Director of Membership and Engagement than Linda Goldberg. Her deep knowledge of the congregation, relationship with Beth El families, and caring nature will serve our community well.

This is an exciting time for Beth El. I believe we have positioned ourselves with strong clergy, executives, staff, and lay leaders to ensure a healthy future for our Beth El community.

As always, I thank you for your support of our congregation and our future.

May we go from strength to strength.



Today Rabah to all who participated in our March Food Drive! Beth El congregants and Aleph Preschool families donated a total of 800 pounds of food to STEP!

Beth El teens joined 60 other Twin City Jewish teens on a trip to Washington DC's March For Our Lives.



Beth El Clergy brought warm Pesach greetings to residents of Sholom Home with stories, songs, teachings and sharing of memories.

Snow flurries couldn't keep 100 people away from the first annual Community Biur Chametz with Congregation Darchei Noam!



Beth El was proud to host Helicher Minneapolis Jewish Day School and Good Shepherd School as they gathered to learn about each other's traditions leading up to Passover and Easter.

Summer Days at Aleph Preschool

By Karen Burton, Director of Aleph Preschool



Finally the signs of summer arriving in Minnesota are making themselves known. The sun rising bright and strong each morning into a clear blue sky, grass as green as can be, birds singing, butterflies flying and bees buzzing. The joys of summer at Aleph Preschool have also made themselves known. Children wearing summer clothes and sandals with swim suits in tow, all eager to play outdoors, because that is just what summer is all about. Delighted squeals of children's laughter while they play at water tables and in the sand area of our new playground. Let's not forget searching for bugs, building mud castles, playing music and enjoying indoor classroom activities outside.

Our summer days begin with raising the flag, camp songs and Tefillah. Each Monday morning we come together for Havdalah and end the week each Friday with our Shabbat program. Weekly swimming, sports, art and cooking are on the agenda, and sprinkled in highlights that include carnival days, field trips, BBQ's, Undernights, cooking and science programs.

Being part of our community also means giving back to our community and during the summer months our preschoolers oversee the Community Garden at Beth El. This is a big piece of our summer curriculum and the children have weekly rotors of weeding , watering and harvesting the fruits and vegetables. A large portion of the harvest is donated to the S.T.E.P. food shelf in the region of over 350 lbs each summer. A portion of each harvest is kept for the children to eat and enjoy and experiment by making new foods with some of the fruits and vegetables.

Again this year we are fortunate to have the Israeli Scouts visit Aleph Preschool and spend the day with our children, engaging them in interactive hands on activities that explore Israel, the culture, people and heritage. The Scouts will join our campers for lunch and they will end their visit with a mini concert, where parents are encouraged to join us.

Throughout the preschool year we invite our families to join us for various school events including Musical Shabbatot, Shabbat Dinners and Holiday programming. Bringing parents, caregivers and extended family and friends together with their children is always heartwarming. It is beautiful to see the joy on their children's faces and in turn the pride in their faces while sharing special experiences together as a community.

Please join us for our special Musical Shabbatot this summer which are scheduled for June 8, July 6 and August 3. We invite all young families to join us for Erev Shabbat at the ROC (St. Louis Park Recreational Outdoor Center) on August 3, for a pre Shabbat sing-a-long and concert. Bring along a blanket and picnic dinner followed by swimming at the Rec Center. Contact Aleph Preschool office for more details.

We invite you to stop by this summer and visit our campers at Aleph Preschool and share in all the daily fun.

Wishing you a safe and fun filled summer.

Karen



Our Expanding Beth El Community

by Amanda Awend

As Director of Young Families Engagement at Beth El Synagogue, I have helped organize and attended a number of fabulous events at our synagogue. I have loved the intensity of the larger events, and I have loved the intimacy of the smaller ones. Each event has looked entirely different, but the one aspect that they all share is community. At each one, I take a moment to step back and appreciate that common thread.

This past spring, I attended the community-wide celebration of Israel at 70. I arrived with my husband and two children at the Minneapolis Event Center, a place that I have never been before, and was immediately greeted by at least a hundred familiar faces. My 7 year old son even asked me how I knew all of these people. I knew these people by being a part of the Beth El community. My family ate falafel with friends that we made while my son attended the Aleph Preschool, and I danced in the front row of Jewish rapper Kosha Dillz's hip hop performance with students that I previously taught in my Shorashim program. Beth El was represented by Linda Goldberg, our new Director of Membership and Engagement, who welcomed people at the table full of craft projects and Beth El swag. Beth El was also represented by the hundreds of people that came out to celebrate Israel's birthday.

New this summer, Beth El Synagogue partnered with Benilde-St. Margaret's to present the first ever Common Ground Music Festival. This unified neighborhood experience brought together thousands of people of all backgrounds to enjoy a day of music and community. I was beyond honored to get to be a part of one of the musical acts along with the Gin Blossoms and the Big Wu. It felt pretty incredible to be standing on a stage in front of such a big crowd and to recognize so many friendly faces. This event was truly amazing, and I am definitely looking forward to what this festival has in store next summer!

Later this summer, we will return to the St. Louis Park Recreation Center for our second annual Shabbat at the ROC. We wanted to create a new experience for our Beth El young families where we could eat, sing, schmooze, and even swim! It felt like being at summer camp, except I got to experience this with my friends and my family. We had so much fun last year, and I look forward to seeing many of you at the next one!

The Beth El community continues to bring people together, and our community continues to expand. It expands by inviting people to our synagogue's home, and by going out and being a part of our neighboring communities. We support our greater community, and it is wonderful to know that our greater community supports us.

This summer Shabbat at the ROC will be Friday, August 3.



God in Deed

By Mary Baumgarten, Education Director

In 1996, Rabbi Jeffrey Salkin published a book entitled, *Putting God on the Guest List*. One of the chapters in this book was "Putting the Mitzvah Back into Bar/Bat Mitzvah." He emphasizes that mitzvot are our holy obligations, that they connect us to God, to our tradition, and to other Jews, past and present. Rabbi Salkin states: "Mitzvot teach us to sanctify life. They foster altruism and self-esteem. Not each mitzvah will speak to every Jew, but each mitzvah is sacred. What we do shapes who we are. A Jew's actions create a Jewish world. Performing mitzvot make Jewish values real and bring greater meaning to the bar/bat mitzvah."

With this in mind, our Fiterman B'nai Bat Mitzvah Training Program provides students with knowledge and experiences about a wide range of mitzvot. We want our students to experience mitzvot and incorporate them into their lives, to understand the connection between mitzvot and the Jewish values they represent and to have our students understand what is uniquely Jewish about mitzvot.

It gives me great pleasure to hear about the many mitzvot that our students and their families take on as part of their b'nai mitzvah training. Our students participate in

- Loaves and Fishes
- Second Harvest
- Feed My Starving Children
- Empty Bowls Project
- Book Drives
- Eyeglass Drives
- Animal Rescue
- Twin Cities Heart Walk
- National Guard
- STEP
- Sholom Home
- Animal Humane Society
- and many more mitzvah opportunities.

In addition to individual family experiences, we provide opportunities for families to come together to perform mitzvot. This year our families cleaned up a local park, did lawn work and sundry chores for some of our senior congregants. We learned about the mitzvah of "tzaar baalei chayim/kindness to animals" from Sharon Abelson, Beth El member and certified Wildlife Rescuer and Rehabilitator. At this program, we made enrichment toys which were donated to the Wildlife Rehabilitation Center of Minnesota.

There is no limit to the mitzvot we can perform, no limit to the difference even one person can make in another person's life or in the life of their community. At the same time, mitzvot enhance our own lives enabling us to sense the spark of the Divine inside.

In the words of Abraham Joshua Heschel: "God is hiding in the world. Our task is to let the divine emerge from our deeds." Here at Beth El, we are truly blessed, as our b'nai mitzvah students and their families learn and take seriously the important role of mitzvot in their lives.

If you would like a copy of Rabbi Salkin's book, I have a few extra which I am happy to share.

We want our students to experience mitzvot and incorporate them into their lives, to understand the connection between mitzvot and the Jewish values they represent and to have our students understand what is uniquely Jewish about mitzvot.



9th Grade Representatives

By Andrew Freeman, Youth Director

The nature of elections is that someone wins and someone loses. It can be troubling for teenagers to experience, but elected leadership can also be quite rewarding. It is a delicate balance we navigate in the world of USY. One of Beth El Rishon USY's main goals is to eliminate as many barriers to participation as possible. We yearn to create an all-inclusive and welcoming community. We strive to make it as easy as possible for our teens to access and feel comfortable and safe in our community.

This past Fall, we entered the new school year with a problem (which was a very good problem to have): we had a group of talented, invested, and excited eighth graders who all wanted the chance to experience what it was like serve as a leader in our chapter. What makes this particularly challenging is that incoming 9th graders are only eligible for one position - the 9th grade representative, meaning they would all have to run against each other. Over the past few years, the board structure we established called for two incoming 9th graders to serve as Freshman Representatives. This evolution

from one to two was something Rabbi Olitzky implemented when he arrived to help engage greater numbers. Still, we were faced with far greater than two teens who wanted to serve. We did not want these incoming USYers' first memory of BERUSY to be losing an election.

This year, we decided that these incoming 9th graders and all future 9th graders would be able to serve as representatives together. This change is unprecedented, but it amplifies our goal of an inclusive community. 9th graders who are ready to be invested in the chapter will be able to walk in with a feeling of excitement and can all look forward to what they are going to be learning and experiencing in the future. This culture change is necessary to ensure that no incoming USYers will feel rejection as soon as they enter the program. It is of utmost importance that the feeling they experience is inclusion and appreciation, especially to those who have expressed desire to commit to what we are building.

We now have an involved and invested group of 9th graders. We are so excited to see what things they accomplish and we look forward to seeing the potential of this community.

COMING UP: On Labor Day Weekend, we will have our annual Youth Outreach Weekend. This fun and meaningful weekend is completely subsidized and at no cost to participants thanks in part to a generous gift from the Seth Foundation, in loving memory of Seth Karon^{Z"l} by his parents and brother, Stefanie, Bob, and Jason. For 9th-12th graders, please sign up at this link: bethelsynagogue.nirsham.com/form/yow-2018

We look forward to seeing you there!

B'nai Mitzvah



August 25, 2018 / 14 Elul 5778

Ki Teitzei

SAMANTHA PAIGE AJSENBERG

שמואלה בת יהודה וחווה לאה

Daughter of Jennifer & Tony Ajsenberg

Sammy is a hardworking and talented young lady. We are so proud of everything she has accomplished in life so far and especially in preparation to become a bat mitzvah. We look forward to celebrating her and watching her continue to grow into Jewish adulthood.



August 25, 2018 / 14 Elul 5778

Ki Teitzei

DANIELLE BROOKE KRIDER

ברכה בת אשר ושושנה

Daughter of Shanna Ajsenberg and Bradley Krider

Danielle has worked so hard to prepare for her bat mitzvah and we are so proud of her. She has a heart of gold and is so fun to be around. Her spark for life really shines through and we are excited to see what the future holds.



September 1, 2018 / 21 Elul 5778

Ki Tavo

ELLA MAY SCHAFFER CHESTER

אליענה ברכה בת מנחם מנדל שולם ויעל

Daughter of Haley Schaffer & Marty Chester

Ella has always been proud to be Jewish, and we are very proud of her as she approaches this milestone.



Let it Shine

By Jan Hamilton, Congregational Nurse

How many times have you heard responses like these after you've reached out to someone: "Thank you for asking;" "Thank you for thinking of me;" "It was so thoughtful of you to call."

Knowing how much it matters to be remembered, especially when we are facing a life challenge, I wonder if we reach out as much or as often as we should. I include myself in this question even though it's my primary role at Beth El because each of us can do more.

It is easy to allow our own agendas to usurp our available time and to forget how much we gain when we extend ourselves to those in need. How then, can we motivate ourselves to reach beyond ourselves?

I like to remind myself of the internal light each of us carries. When our light is bright and strong, we can share it with others whose light is temporarily dimmed. When our own light is dim, others share their brighter light with us.

It has been enlightening for me to observe the interaction of residents of Knollwood Place during our monthly meetings. In recent months, we've considered the book, *Wise Aging*, by Rabbi Rachel Cowan and Dr. Linda Thal. Subjects like our changing-aging bodies, cultivating nourishing relationships, cultivating spiritual qualities, living with loss, etc., have offered interesting food for thought. After introducing the topic and reading a segment, participants draw on their experiences to share opinions and reactions. Together, we have grown in understanding and grown as a community. When, outside of class, we put our learning into practice and reach out to one another, we shine our light and illumine our world.

When our light is bright and strong, we can share
it with others whose light is temporarily dimmed.

Community Learning @ The WELL



Scholars-In-Residence Rabbi Jonathan Rubenstein, bread maker and baking teacher and Rabbi Linda Motzkin, soferet, parchment maker and scribal artists spent a beautiful Shabbat at Beth El. In their program Bread & Torah, we spent the weekend baking, learning how a Sefer Torah is made and had the unique opportunity to proofread panels for a new Sefer Torah.



Community Learning @ The WELL



Mirrors representing the beauty amidst the brokenness were the project during this session of Art for the Heart facilitated by Cantor Audrey Abrams and Cara Strauss.



Over a foot of fresh mid-April snow was not enough to keep folks from learning about Jewish genealogy and DNA!

MAZAL TOV TO MEMBERS WITH UPCOMING MILESTONE ANNIVERSARIES

NAME	DATE	YRS	NAME	DATE	YRS
Shelley & Harry Jacobs	July 1	45	Ella & Shawn Hoffman	August 22	25
Amy & Jeff Aronow	July 5	20	Chaya & Jon Sulman	August 24	10
Jennifer & Aaron Hage	July 13	10	Claire & Matthew Swanson	August 24	15
Cynthia Gross & Peter Bitterman	July 15	45	Betsy & Julyus Edlavitch	August 25	45
Linda & Sherwin Brodsky	July 15	45	Patricia & Samuel Lichterman	August 25	50
Delores & Michael Friedman	July 16	65	Leslee & Steve Kollins	August 26	45
Marlys & Elliott Badzin	July 18	25	Dana Yugend-Pepper & Larry Pepper	August 28	35
Bat-Sheva & Jeremy Berman	July 19	40	Elaine & Leslie Spiegel	August 30	60
Mimi & Steve Klane	July 24	35	Dobra & Richard Hunegs	August 30	65
Bryn & Shane Wasserman	August 1	15	Anne & Steven Burstein	August 31	15
Shari & Mike Rothman	August 1	25	Sandra & Morton Greenberg	August 31	60
Natalie & Ronald Saxon	August 2	65	Zhanna & Dennis Melnik	September 1	5
Jodi & Daniel Rosen	August 8	25	Abbey & Rudy Rosen	September 1	5
Sandra & Michael Swirnoff	August 9	60	Davidene & Gary Weinberg	September 2	45
Amanda Schwartz & Bryan Savage	August 11	5	Elaine & Koolick	September 4	30
Elayne & Larry Chiat	August 12	45	Bonnie Bongard Goldish & Gary Goldish	September 4	35
Chana & Phil Weber	August 14	10	Rachel & Steve Rosen	September 5	25
Leslie & Jerad Hahn	August 15	20	Debra Yerys & Mitchell	September 9	40
Jeri Meshbesh & Steven Perlman	August 17	10	Sara & Jeff Braverman	September 10	40
Liba & Jeffrey Herman	August 17	15	Adina & Bernerd Dahlin	September 12	15
Marina & Joseph Levine	August 17	15			

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...

Shirley (Mark) Lerner on the loss of her mother, **Susan "Cesia" Wolf Okrent**

Cerene Rosen and Gary (Diana) Rosen on the loss of their husband and father, **Barney Rosen**

David (Susie) Magy on the loss of his father, **Harold Magy**

Joseph Abrahamson on the loss of his wife, **Helen Abrahamson**

Mimi Lebewitz and Jodi (Michael) Davis on the loss of their son and brother, **Jon Lebewitz**

Friends and Family on the loss of, Rabbi **Charni Selch**

Lynn (Mark) Schwartz on the loss of her mother, **Elizabeth "Lee" Schulze**

Wendy Bloom on the loss of her father, **Sanford Baskin**

Ralph Klein on the loss of his wife, **Sharon Klein**

Terry (Rick) Kleinbaum on the loss of her father, **Harvey Soltan**

Gail Bender (Mark) Satz on the loss of her brother, **Barry Papermaster**

Ralph Klein on the loss of his sister, **Marion "Bonny" Swatez**

Ray (Myra) Fishman on the loss of his mother, **Dorothy Jacobs**

Diana (Gary) Rosen on the loss of her mother, **Jeanette May**

Friends and Family on the loss of our member **Barbara Gleekel**

With heavy hearts we mourn the loss of these loved ones within our community. This reflects the losses in our community through April 17, 2018.

Mazal Tov to...

Darcy & David Gilbert Burke on the marriage of their son Zack Gilbert Burke to Ayla Postelnek.

Frankie & Mitchell Bennett on the birth of their daughter, Holly born on January 27, 2018. Mazal Tov to proud grandmother Estee Warsett.

Arielle & Robin Thomas on the birth of their sons, Charlie and James born on January 29. Mazal Tov to proud grandparents Judy & Rick Weinberger and Murry Klane and to great grandmother Lorraine Klane.

Marni & Ted Koshiol on the birth of their son, Nathan Yaron born on February 4, 2018.

Stacie & Troy Osborne on the birth of their daughter, Olivia born on February 11, 2018.

Leanna & David Siegfried on the birth of their son, Benjamin born on February 17, 2018.

Lauren & Leo Zabezhinsky on the birth of their daughter, Jackie born on March 17, 2018.

Jody & Tom Moreimi on the birth of their daughter, Marika born on March 12, 2018.

Elizabeth & Greig Wald on the birth of their son, Levi born on March 19, 2018.

Carly & Justin Walder on the birth of their son, Arie. Mazal Tov to proud grandparents Sue & Jim Walder.

Jenny & Aaron Hage on the birth of their daughter, Dena born on March 26, 2018. Mazal Tov to proud grandparents Sue & Jim Walder and Sandy & Tris Hage.

Rachel & Bradley Ingber on the birth of their son, Jonah Micah born on March 28, 2018.

Andrea Nadel-Tikh & Misha Tikh on the birth of their son, Aviv born on March 28, 2018

Jenna & Scott Pugh on the birth of their daughter, Amelia born on April 2, 2018.

Shanna & David Jadwin on the birth of their son, Bernie born on April 3, 2018.

Rachel & Mike Fisher on the birth of their son, Mason William who was born on April 11, 2018. Mazal Tov to proud grandparents Mike & Lou Anne Bartell and proud great grandparents Al & Tos Dietz.

Marissa & Jake Smith on the birth of their daughter, Lily Joy born on May, 6. Mazal Tov to proud grandparents Paula & Marshall Lehman.

The following Beth El Teens were Keren Or writing and photography contest winners:

David Bix, who received 3rd place (grades 10-12) for his poem What I Would Do Different

Jonathan Cohen, who received Honorable Mentions (grades 7-9) for both his creative prose piece Control and his photograph Double Date

Libby Cohen, who received 3rd place (grades 10-12) for her photograph Grammy & Zaide

Noa Ni Aolain Gross, who received 1st place (grades 7-9) for her photograph Golan at Dusk AND 3rd place (grades 7-9) for her prose piece The Fall

Josh Halper, who received 1st place (grades 10-12) for his photograph Among the Masses—Old City, Jerusalem

Shira Hanovich, who received 1st place (grades 7-9) for her prose piece World's End Dancehall and Honorable Mention (grades 7-9) for her prose piece Count on It

Justin Krelitz, who received 3rd place (grades 7-9) for his poem What is Poetry? and Honorable Mention (grades 7-9) for his prose piece Uncle Elliot

Noah Orloff, who received 3rd place (grades 7-9) for his photograph New Beginnings

Ayelet Prottas, who received Honorable Mention (grades 7-9) for her photograph A Puddle A Day Keeps the Doctor Away

Mazal Tov to Deb Schein on the publication of her new book *Inspiring Wonder, Awe and Empathy: Spiritual Development in Young Children*.

Charitable Giving

Ensuring the vitality of our congregation now and in the future



A Story from Behind the Scenes

By Matt Walzer, Director of Charitable Giving



There's an old Chasidic tale about two Jews in a village: a wealthy Jew and a poor Jew. In the story, the wealthy Jew delivers two challot every week as, what he believes is a token of his gratitude to God—and places them in the shul ark on Friday mornings. Unbeknownst to him, the poor Jew comes to shul each week and prays for relief and sustenance. To his surprise, each week, in his mind, God answers his prayer with challot in the ark. Neither are any the wiser. And God smiles at both of them.

This tale reminds us that those who give tzedakah may not know whom they're helping, and those receiving the tzedakah may not realize they're receiving anything but help from God.

I share this story so that we might remember one of our congregants who gave in a way that may go unnoticed, but definitely should not be forgotten.

Bruce Frank (z"l) may not be someone you knew, but he will certainly be someone you are going to remember.

Bruce, a lifelong Beth El member, passed away this past winter, and as part of his legacy, he will be leaving a lasting impact for the things he was most passionate about – Beth El being one of them.

As someone who cared deeply about youth and community, Bruce wanted children to be given the opportunity to get experiences that help them develop into the people they aspire to be. Because Beth El helps fulfill many of these opportunities, he chose to leave a legacy gift to the synagogue.

The result of Bruce's generosity is that a fund has been established in his name within the Beth El Foundation to support education in perpetuity – something that was near and dear to his heart.

As part of his process of identifying the organizations for which he wanted to leave a legacy with, Bruce let his family know of his intent and made sure they knew why it was important to him.

Bruce is one of many generous Beth El members who have chosen to leave a legacy through their estate. In the last year alone, we've learned from the following members who have chosen to let Beth El know of their plans to include us in their arrangements:

- Rabbi Kassel Abelson
- Steve Hunegs
- Carol F. Lichterman
- Dr. Howard Ansel
- Howard & Marlee Kaminsky
- Bill Neiman
- Ruth Atkin (z"l)
- Alvin & Audrey Kaufman
- Russ & Karen Rubin
- Barbara Bach
- Lynn Lederman

Sometimes it may be challot in the ark, other times it can be much more. I'd love to hear from you if you have made plans already or simply wish to discuss how you can leave a long-term legacy.

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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In Honor of Micah Davis
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*In Memory of Harold "Red" Goldberg
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This list reflects donations made as of 12/31/17.

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

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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.

JULY	
4	Independence Day – Morning Minyan at 9:00 am
7	Summer Darshanim – SLP Fire Chief Steve Koering
14	Summer Darshanim – Lev Buslovich
21	Summer Darshanim – Chaya Sulman
22	Fast Day – Tisha B’Av
28	Summer Darshanim – Zach Sussman
AUGUST	
4	Summer Darshanim – Brad Birnberg
11	Summer Darshanim – Ilena Marron
18	Summer Darshanim – Benjie Kaplan
25	Summer Darshanim – Lennie Kaufman
28	End of Summer Picnic
SEPTEMBER	
1	Summer Darshanim – Josh & Robyn Awend
3	Labor Day – Morning Minyan at 9:00 am
10-11	Rosh Hashanah
19	Yom Kippur
24-October 2	Sukkot
FALL LOOKING AHEAD	
October 2	Shemini Atzeret – Yizkor Recited
October 3	Simchat Torah

SUNDAY JUNE 17

COMMON SOUND 2018 MUSIC FESTIVAL

**DOORS: 3 PM
MUSIC: 4-9 PM**

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Beth El's Famous Annual

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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

