

This year, our editions of the Shofar have focused on a theme of transition. But we could never have imagined transitioning our entire synagogue to an online CyberShul. And yet when it became necessary to close our doors against the COVID-19 pandemic, we did just that. Though physically separated, we gather virtually to pray, socialize, and learn. As the chill of winter gave way to blue skies and spring flowers, it became apparent how blessed we are to have such a vibrant community blossoming forth with creativity and new life.



Guarding the Soul

By Rabbi Alexander Davis and Rabbi Avi Olitzky



During the summer we read the Book of Deuteronomy and begin to close out our Jewish year—our holidays and our biblical narrative. Moses’ farewell address to the Israelites comprises the bulk of the book. Moses restates many of the mitzvot, knowing that his audience was not present to receive the Tablets at Sinai (back in the Book of Exodus). In the Second *parashah*, *Vaetchanan*, we see the specific restatement of the Ten Commandments. And in that same *parashah* there is a peculiar proviso: “Guard yourself and guard your soul very carefully” – *rak hishamer l’kha u’shmor nafshekha m’od* (Deuteronomy 4:9).

Our rabbis use this verse as the foundation for the principle of *Shmirat HaNefesh*—protecting and caring for one’s life. For a tradition (and text) that places considerable weight on community, it is surprising that this principle focuses on the individual.

It is even more surprising because of the danger in focusing solely on ourselves and not our community and broader society. We begin to think of ourselves living in a vacuum. We ignore our impact on others, birthing a life of egoism, treating our own self-interest as the foundation of morality.

But maybe this directive in Deuteronomy is not about the individual alone.

Over 2,000 years ago lived Philo Judaeus. Philo was a Hellenistic Jewish philosopher who lived in Alexandria, the Roman province of Egypt. Reflecting on this verse, Philo asks: “The body is the soul’s house; therefore, shouldn’t we take care of our house so that it doesn’t fall into ruin?” This line of thinking might seem also to focus on the individual. However, we have to remember that Philo was a subject of the Roman Empire.

The Romans recognized links between causes of disease and methods of prevention—and thus was born a public health network. The Romans were the first to conceive of the broad concept of public health, believing that cleanliness would lead to good health. Philo would have known and lived within this system. And in his mind, he would have understood that if your house falls into ruin, it would eventually take down the neighborhood. If you ignored your health, you ignore the health of your neighbor. And further: in order to care about your health, you must care about your neighbor’s health.

This brings us today. How are you tending to your house? And what are you doing about your neighbor’s? That is to say, we have entered a new world, one that compels us to focus more deeply on *Shmirat HaNefesh*—our personal *nefesh* and the *nefesh* of those around us.

We don’t yet know how this new world will continue to evolve, but one thing is certain: *Shmirat HaNefesh* will soundly serve as a guiding principle.

Indeed, this principle will continue to help us strengthen and re-envision Beth El, and specifically the role we play in the broader society.

We are humbled that we’ve been able to serve as a source of comfort and community, far beyond our physical walls. And we are hopeful, looking long into the future, knowing that our community is the heartbeat of our soul.

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Cantor Abrams' Retirement & Transition Planning

Last fall, Cantor Abrams announced that she would be retiring as full-time cantor of Beth El. Over the winter months and into the spring, she along with the rabbis and executive board have developed a transition plan. We are grateful to Audrey Goldfarb and John Simon who worked with Cantor Abrams to carve out a part-time role for her next year.

Next Year

In the coming year, Cantor Abrams will continue to serve the congregation albeit in a more limited capacity. Specifically, she will

- lead High Holiday Services and lead Shabbat services when we celebrate b'nai mitzvah
- officiate upon request as available at lifecycles such as weddings, baby namings/brises, and funerals
- sing with the choir at Knollwood on Friday nights
- offer Musar classes through The Well

For all the ways Cantor Abrams will be present, her retirement as full-time cantor leaves an enormous hole. There are specific areas- the b'nai mitzvah program, pastoral outreach and synagogue programming, where her absence will be keenly felt. And of course, we will miss the special spirit she brings to all that she does.

To address the gaps Cantor Abrams leaves behind, we are shifting responsibilities to other synagogue staff and to volunteers. Specifically, we will look to congregants to lead Shabbat services on non-b'nai mitzvah Shabbat and holidays mornings. Jill Blustin will take on a new role- Interim Ritual and B'nai Mitzvah Program Coordinator. In that capacity, she will run the Sunday Morning b'nai mitzvah program, coordinate other aspects of b'nai mitzvah training and the many things that go into running Shabbat services. Even with those plans, there are needs that will go unmet. Simply put, a synagogue of Beth El's size cannot be fully served by just two rabbis.

Celebrating Cantor Abrams

After over 25 years serving the congregation, there is much to celebrate! Cantor Abrams has lifted the community with her song and her spirit. She has comforted us, taught us, challenged us, and inspired us.

Because Cantor Abrams will continue to serve in a limited capacity until July 2021, we will hold off celebrating her achievements until next spring.

This time of transition calls on us to highlight the importance of music in Jewish life. There is perhaps no one more qualified to do just that than world-renowned, Cantor Azi Schwartz. To celebrate Cantor Abrams, we look forward to Cantor Schwartz performing in a benefit concert in this coming year.

Supporting the Role of the Cantor

Critical to Beth El's future are the necessary financial resources to support a full clergy team. As we look to grow our endowment funds, we will be turning to you in the fall to solicit your help.

Looking Ahead

We believe that music is central to the identify of our congregation and is critical to the spiritual life of a Jew. For this reason, we know that finding a third clergy member who has the skills and spirit of a cantor is necessary.

To that end, we have established a small task force to develop a job description for this third clergy member. The committee consists of Donna Leviton, John Simon, Dani Fisher, Katherine Magy. These four have been active in Beth El and represent four different demographics in the congregation. Over the coming months, they will be reaching out to their constituents that span a range of ages and stages in life to gather input from a broad spectrum of the congregation. In coordination with the board, the rabbis and the synagogue's strategic plan, we will be in a good place to launch a search in late fall/early winter.

Despite the uncertainty we have faced this past spring, we look to the future of Beth El with confidence and excitement. Our congregation is strong and vital. We will continue to carry the melody of our ancestors as we "sing to God a new song" (Psalm 96:1).



Reflections

By Cantor Audrey Abrams

What do I say in my last Shofar article of my full-time career as Beth El's cantor? I guess I start with, "thank you."

In my 30+ years working for Beth El, I have been truly blessed. I have witnessed and experienced transitions and lifecycles in peoples' lives, been privileged to work with amazing staff and volunteers and fortunate to have had many wonderful opportunities.

I have worked with six very unique and inspiring rabbis – Abelson, Herring, Gershon, Kahn, Davis, Olitzky. I have served under thirteen strong and committed presidents: Bonnie Heller, Elliott Badzin, Donna Leviton, Bob Karon, Jeff Stein, Marshall Lehman, Dick Diamond, Gary Krupp, Gil Mann, John Orenstein, Bonnie Bongard Goldish, Dan Mosow, Steve Sanderson. I have officed in 1. a closet near the original library, 2. a downstairs classroom by the old stairway, 3. what used to be the old workroom, and eventually to 4. a room with a view! I have done everything from serving shabbat dinners to editing the Shofar; from leading healing services to overseeing Gemilat Chesed; from organizing golf tournaments to hosting Sukkah square dances and Lag Baomer bonfires in the Beth El parking lot; from creating the End of Summer Picnic to producing our first High Holiday Yizkor book; from teaching b'nai mitzvah students to teaching Mussar, chanting, meditation and art; from leading services with the choir at Knollwood Apartments to organizing 25 years of Purim shpiels.

And...I am the first woman clergy at Beth El. Something that while originally raised some eyebrows, is a position I hold with great pride.

We all know that change is hard. Traditions run deep. And, in Conservative Judaism, change comes very slowly. Halacha (law) is steadfast. Throughout the years, when faced with critical issues that might disrupt someone's traditions or personal halacha, I've

watched our congregation adapt to the changes with grace - notwithstanding a few bumps along the way. But no changes to date can come close to what has occurred in these past few months in which I have been privileged and honored to be a part.

I could never have conceived of a Beth El Cybershul on Shabbat, let alone with so many anxiously signing on to see their community. We've always talked about changing up services but this forced us to do so in such a radical way. And I am proud. I'm proud to be part of a clergy team whose rabbis took this halakhic challenge head on and didn't say, "it can't be done." I'm proud to be part of congregation that dove into these new online platforms even though many of us (me) weren't really sure what we were/are doing. I'm proud of our families that were trailblazers with their ZOOM b'nai mitzvah. And proud of our community as we all struggled to understand how we can still honor our loved ones' passing when not physically present. I'm proud of those who volunteered to help the new Beth El Caring Community initiative by calling congregants and checking in with regularity. Everyone has shown such flexibility, compassion, understanding, courage and humor.

Over the past few months, I have looked into the eyes of so many of you in our Cybershul, in my classes, goofy cybersings. And what I see is an abundance of holiness. Each face unique and special. Each soul radiating through the little square on my screen. And I am filled with an overwhelming sense of gratitude. I got to be with you all for 30+ years. And no one can take that away.

Not being physically present in my last few months has been less than ideal. And I certainly didn't think

I am filled with an overwhelming sense of gratitude. I got to be with you all for 30+ years. And no one can take that away.

I'd be increasing my workload at the end! With all that aside, I have continued to feel very connected via ZOOM. And, strangely, I think this turned out to be a good way to end my tenure as I've been getting used to the "home thing" in a more gradual way. I find I really like running downstairs to have dinner with David in between meetings and classes instead of eating at my desk in the office. I know that when I go back to the building to pack up my office, I won't need most of the "stuff" and will hold a book sale instead of hauling it all home. I know I can clean out my closet – a stay at home wardrobe is much simpler. I know I can look forward to actually starting and finishing home projects. I learned this new skill called ZOOM and can offer classes in the future. And I am reassured that, even in physical distance, we are still together.

During this next year of transition for the synagogue, I have agreed to work in a very part time capacity until the end of June 2021. The main places you will see me is at funerals, weddings and, God willing, on the bimah (or ZOOM) with all of the b'nai mitzvah.

(There are over 30 so it will be like I never left!) You may also see me doing some teaching in the B'nai Mitzvah program and facilitating Mussar/Middot groups or other things of that nature. I'm thrilled to not be totally cutting the cord just yet.

In one of the last classes in the Sunday Torah Plus program, I asked the students to look for a blessing – a blessing in this time of the pandemic – a way to see the good in our situation when it is so much easier to focus on the bad. I'm including some of their thoughts here as an inspiration to us all that in times that feel uneasy, uncomfortable or down right bad, we can look for the glimmer of blessing which helps us to feel gratitude for the moment.

Amidst my mixture of emotions – about the state of the world and about retiring from Beth El - I feel filled with an abundance of blessings and love for which I am forever grateful to Beth El Synagogue and to all of you.

Please stay safe.

Prayers During this Time of COVID-19

by the Sunday Torah Plus B'nai Mitzvah Students

Thank you God for allowing us to be together in these difficult times and allowing us to stay healthy. Hopefully, things will get better soon for everyone.

Thank you *God for keeping me and all of my family safe throughout this pandemic.*

Bless me and my family for having the strength to get us through this together.

Please...God let all of this be over so we can get back to our normal ways of life.

Thank you, Universe, for sparing my family thus far from the coronavirus and that my parents still have jobs.

God, I would like for the world to get back to our everyday lives. I would like to have sports again and to be able to see my friends and family. Until that time, God, thank you for my friends and family; for food and shelter. Bless You for our health, and for my family.

Thank you, God, for technology for giving me a chance to continue Jewish studies and to watch YouTube and bless you God for giving me more time with my mom.

Please God, let there be a treatment for Coronavirus soon.

Amen



ELITE CULTURAL CHANGE ALIGNING WITH OUR VALUES:

A Beth El of Love, Safety and Inspiration

By Steven Sanderson, Beth El President

Shalom chaverim,

First and foremost, I hope and pray you and your families are safe and well.

Second, thank you for our “keshet”, our Beth El relationship. Our synagogue is safe, strong and prepared for now and a bright future because of you. The love you give to our community is why Beth El is able to provide the emotional, spiritual, mental and physical support we did before the Covid-19 crisis—and even more today.

Any other year this is when the outgoing president writes their farewell note. Our relationship deserves more than that. The following describes, at its core, a Beth El cultural change. One that reestablishes the deep and unbreakable bond we share grounded in trust, stability, and growth.

Because of our team approach, thoughtful and careful strategic planning, as well as a rededication to our core values, we have indeed accomplished a lot in a few short years. We are an incredible Beth El Jewish community, blessed with remarkable clergy, talented staff, and new found strength in our lay leadership. The most important, your investment of love, time, energy and resources make an already vibrant community thrive and grow even in a time of virtual engagement.

Our services, educational opportunities and lifecycle events, along with readily immediate access to our clergy set us apart. I visit with my counterparts throughout the country. As Carly Simon would sing, “Nobody does it better” than Beth El—thank you!

Over the past two years, initiated well before the Covid pandemic, our shul accomplished a number of essential actions. To name just a few:

- The synagogue has been upfront in addressing the financial challenges it faces. In June 2019, the synagogue partnered with CliftonLarsonAllen, LLP (“CLA”), a nationally recognized professional services and accounting firm, to conduct a Finance Department Assessment. As a result of that assessment, the Synagogue made the decision to reconfigure its finance department by outsourcing finance operations to CLA. As part of its partnership with CLA, the synagogue has asked CLA to prepare and present monthly financial statements that compare current activity to budget on a department and entity-wide basis. The synagogue is also making strides to automate financial procedures to the extent possible to reduce labor costs and minimize risk.
- Recommitment to transparent, affordable and honest financials to best support the work of our synagogue and clergy. Specifically, responsible expense management while pursuing enhanced revenue opportunities. An essential part, a commitment to annual and verifiable balanced budgets including the upcoming fiscal year (beginning July 1st)
- Contemplative examination of existing programs and services we deeply value. Thoughtful consideration of new and innovative programming
- A formal strategic planning process has been recently performed
- Overdue and necessary upgrades in software and modernized technology
- Restructured administrative and board functions and responsibilities. In particular, we are exceptionally fortunate to have Matt Walzer as our Managing Director. Matt’s leadership, analytic and forward-thinking skills, inherent qualifications, as well as naturally collaborative personality have been a perfect fit. We owe much of our growing cohort in core supporters and the addition of sustaining supporters to his attentive guidance

Painful decisions have been made. This included the elimination of the congregational nurse position a year ago. This was a collaborative decision based upon economics. A service gap that was felt could be addressed by clergy and lay leadership. I believe, however, we have on-going unmet needs regarding our seniors and other at-risk individuals including those with special needs. We have to do better---and together, we will.

Recently, the Beth El board of trustees voted unanimously to affirm and reestablish our commitment of participation in social justice causes. It is through study and action that Tikun Olam can be performed.

Due to the Covid pandemic, and as part of the CARES Act, Beth El successfully procured a Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loan, the majority of which will be forgivable. Additional assistance from non-government and government origins have been applied for and received.

Culture and leadership in a time of crisis and uncertainty requires *bold, brave and inspiring action*. Our rabbis took such action. For the coming fiscal year, our rabbis have elected to take a significant voluntary compensation reduction.

Our Managing Director, Matt Walzer, has also volunteered a similar and generous reduction.

Of note, all of our staff are impacted by the world and shuls' current financial reality.

Cantor Abrams is retiring this summer. She too, has agreed to lend her leadership and gifts during this upcoming year of transition at reduced compensation. I am thrilled to share that in addition to many items, live or virtual, Cantor Abrams will be intimately involved with our High Holidays services and programming!

The Beth El board of trustees has also made a new collective commitment of \$50,000 to our shul's bottom line.

These are personal sacrifices performed to address previous systemic issues in the setting of an unprecedented global economic crisis. These acts by our clergy, managing director, staff and board are direct and selfless actions to assist the health of our synagogue and community. Todah rabah!

My highest appreciation is to you, our congregation and community. You have honored me with the privilege to be our synagogue president. I am humbled and grateful. I am delighted Alan Yousha will be our next president later this summer. Alan's inherent strategic skills, leadership and long love for our shul are a perfect compliment as we move toward our centennial anniversary.

Our keshet, our community's connection and relationship, is stronger than ever before. We care, love and *depend* on one another. To all in our Beth El congregation and community---Kol Hakavod and todah rabah! Together, our culture is now more in line with our values. And we are in a better place because of that. A safe and loving relationship for years and generations to come worthy of continued love and investment.

Stay safe and be well,
Dr. Steven Sanderson
President

Our synagogue is safe, strong and prepared for
now and a bright future because of you.



Our Commitment to Staying Connected

By Matt Walzer, Managing Director

Judaism teaches that pikuach nefesh, saving a life, is a fundamental principle valued above all other commandments. We are incredibly proud of how our Beth El community has come together and supported one another through these difficult times and we thank you for your understanding and support. We remain committed to the physical and spiritual health of our congregation as well as the broader public by continuing to offer numerous learning and engagement opportunities as well as daily minyan and Shabbat services via our vibrant CyberShul until it is safe and practical for us to gather in person.

As the situation surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic continues to evolve, we turn our attention to the summer months ahead and continue to operate with an abundance of caution. Since our initial closure in mid-March, we have been working hard to develop a plan to reopen our building. We have consulted with several qualified and experienced medical professionals and facility experts to determine protocols for hygiene, disinfecting practices, minimum staffing requirements, and proper social distancing.

We will continue to carefully consider all these important factors as we work towards reopening our building as soon as possible while keeping our synagogue community safe. Like many things right now, that timing is uncertain. Because of this, our plans continue to incorporate how to provide services virtually through our CyberShul, including what High Holy Day services might look like. Through this process we remain committed to our relationship with you – both in keeping you connected to Judaism and keeping you safe.

These are challenging times, and we are encouraged that we are a strong community. We are a people who have faced many challenges and overcome them. Beth El is here for you. As a community, we turn to each other, to the wisdom of our tradition, and to our faith to lift us up and transform our concern to rejoicing, our sickness to healing, our uncertainty to blessing and to peace.

Many people have reached out asking what they can do to help at this time. Our Beth El Caring Committee (BECC) has revived itself under the leadership of Cantor Abrams and Jenny Hage and has a variety of opportunities. Additionally, if you are in a position to join others and make a donation to help Beth El in this time of need, please consider doing so. Your community needs your support and will be ever appreciative. You can make a tax-deductible donation via our website, www.besyn.org, or by contacting me directly at: mwalzer@bethelsynagogue.org.

We will get through this time together, and I look forward at gathering back at the shul as soon as possible.

As a community, we turn to each other, to the wisdom of our tradition, and to our faith to lift us up and transform our concern to rejoicing, our sickness to healing, our uncertainty to blessing and to peace.

New Members

PLEASE WELCOME



Debbie & Mark Berman



Karen & Ron Sigal



Marsh Walzer

MAZAL TOV TO MEMBERS WITH UPCOMING MILESTONE ANNIVERSARIES

NAME.....	DATE	YRS	NAME.....	DATE	YRS	NAME.....	DATE	YRS
Susan & Joseph Kaminsky	6/1	45	Elizabeth & Sherman Kantor	6/24	45	Kerry & Michael Gershone.....	8/15	10
Anita & Sid Konikoff.....	6/2	35	Haley Schaffer &			Bonnie & Michael Zeff.....	8/15	55
Amy & David Lui.....	6/3	30	Martin Chester	6/25	20	Donna & Harvey Leviton	8/15	55
Jennifer & Daniel Spiller.....	6/4	20	Dana & Joshua Youman.....	6/25	25	Lois & Dale Dobrin.....	8/15	55
Carrie & Ben Snyder.....	6/6	10	Elaine & Howard Schwimmer	6/26	60	Marcy & Samuel Pearlman	8/16	50
Natalie & Steve Redelsperger.....	6/6	10	Deborah & Adam Fefferman.....	6/27	10	Caryn & Fred Goldberg	8/17	40
Susan & Harold Koritz.....	6/8	40	Marilyn & Daniel Spiegel	6/27	30	Terri & Rabbi Hayim Herring.....	8/17	40
Ava Gail & Earl Bender.....	6/8	55	Sue Ellen & Stuart Borken	6/27	55	Helain & James Pesis.....	8/17	45
Dana Beth & David Weisman.....	6/11	25	Merrie & Bruce Forstein	6/29	45	Dina & Matthew Cohen.....	8/20	20
Suzanne & Daniel Levitt.....	6/11	25	Sherry & James Rudin.....	7/2	25	Deborah & Rabbi	8/20	50
Eileen & Harold Scherling.....	6/13	55	Kim & Joshua Lipschultz.....	7/3	15	Jeffrey Schein		
Carly & Justin Walder	6/14	5	Rachel & Timothy Frailich.....	7/4	10	Susan & Bradley Melnick.....	8/21	15
Janet & Stanton Shanedling.....	6/16	35	Meryll & Christopher Page.....	7/8	30	Sarah & David Scott	8/23	5
Aimee & Michael Sedley	6/17	20	Sylvia & Harvey Keller.....	7/11	55	Gay & Mark Herzberg	8/23	50
Betsy & Alan Weiner	6/18	20	Patty & Byron Hechter.....	7/15	30	Randy & Andy Victor	8/24	35
Amy & David Zaroff.....	6/18	25	Karen & Brian Bix	7/16	20	Julie & Steven Rose	8/24	40
Sondra & Richard Goodkind.....	6/18	60	Natasha & Alex Karchevsky.....	7/21	30	Lisa & Benjamin Rubin.....	8/25	35
Wendy & Gary Fine	6/19	45	Karen & Mark Riomondo	7/22	20	Susan & Kevin Klett.....	8/27	20
Barbara & Arnold Winikoff.....	6/19	60	Ana & Mark Sneider	7/23	15	Jodi & Noah Lipschultz	8/27	20
Michal Rischall &			Andrea & Steven Heifetz.....	8/3	35	Seryl Sue & Steven Warren	8/27	25
Keith Schulhof.....	6/20	10	Kelly & Vincent Castiglione.....	8/5	20	Heidi & David Fonder	8/28	15
Jean Holloway & Avi Nahum.....	6/20	40	Jessi & Jeff Heidelberg	8/7	15	Karen & Ronen Malka.....	8/31	25
Stefanie & Robert Karon	6/20	50	Lauren & Leo Zabezhinsky.....	8/8	10	Paula & Bruce Saunders	8/31	35
Michelle Gendlin &			Deborah & Brian Gerdes	8/9	5	Diane & Irwin Ingber	8/31	40
William Heyman	6/21	5	Sharlee & David Halper.....	8/13	5			
Cindy & Craig Greenberg.....	6/23	35	Lisa & Bruce Peilen.....	8/13	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.

Mazal Tov to...

Laura & Jacob Stein on the birth of their son, Noah James born on January 29, 2020.

Ayla & Eliyahu Gilbert Burke on the birth of their son, Baruch Moshe born on January 31, 2020. Mazal Tov to proud grandparents Darcy & David Gilbert Burke.

Sophia & Noah Marell on the birth of their son, Isaiah Daniel born on March 19, 2020.

Mazal tov to proud grandparents Leah & Simon Temkin and Ellyn & Michael Marell.

Andrea & Sean Davis on the birth of their son, Alexander born on April 3, 2020.

Marissa & Zack Kaplan on the birth of their daughter, Eden Robbie born on April 24, 2020. Mazal Tov to proud grandparents Wendy & Marty Shragg and proud grandfather Babe Shragg.

Dana & Jef Rogney on the birth of their twins, James Robert and Vera May born on April 27, 2020.

Johanna & Dan Hyman on the birth of their son, Asher Miles born on May 13, 2020.

This list reflects births through May 13, 2020.

Condolences to...

Friends and Family on the loss of, **Alex Posherstnik**

Larry Braufman on the loss of his wife **Darlene Braufman**

Harolyn Rudoy on the loss of their husband **Steven Rudoy**

Dan (Stacy) Mosow on the loss of his mother, Bernadine Mosow

Reida Lazar-Chein (David Chein), Mary Jane (Skip) Shapiro, Amy (Tom)

Lieberman, Beth Laiderman on the loss of their mother **Nessa Lee Laiderman**

Harold Gruesner on the loss of his mother, Arlyne Gruesner

Sue (Jim) Walder on the loss of her father, Bertram Shapiro

Friends and Family on the loss of, Ira Levin

Marsi Herman, Randall (Rayna) Herman and Jeffrey (Michelle) Herman on the loss of their husband and father, **Lowell Herman**

Tammy Schwartz (John Wagner), Linda (Ron) Mash, Shirley Haskovitz on the loss of their mother and sister, **Darlene Schwartz**

Paulene Ratner and Mark (Lisa) Ratner on the loss of their husband and father, Bernard Ratner

Ross Dworsky, Jay (Nancy) Dworsky and Natalie (Steve) Redelsperger on the loss of their wife and mother, **Judy Dworsky**

Gary Klein and Mike (Rachel) Klein on the loss of their wife and mother, **Marion Klein**

Harriet Swatez, Eileen Strauss (Harold Kaplan), Irwin (Diane) Ingber and Bernice Heiligman on the loss of their mother and sister, **Mildred Ingber**

Barry (Barbara) Rosenzweig and Randy (Janie) Rosenzweig on the loss of their mother, **Jean Rosenzweig**

With heavy hearts we mourn the loss of these loved ones within our community. This reflects the losses in our community through May 13, 2020.

B'nai Mitzvah



6/6/2020 / 14 Sivan 5780
Naso

AMIRA DAVID

רחל בת יוסף ושרה

Daughter of Yosef & Sarina

Amira is full of life and energy. She took her bat mitzvah preparation very seriously and we look forward to watching her enter Jewish adulthood.



6/13/2020 / 21 Sivan 5780
Beha'alotcha

MACCABEE DAVID HARAD

מכבי בן אהרון ושרה מנדעל

Son of Michael & Serena Harad

With gratitude to Hashem, we are overjoyed as our beloved Maccabee, with his vibrant Jewish soul, becomes a bar mitzvah and leads our community in prayer.



7/11/2020 / 19 Tamuz 5780
Pinchas

HENRI WILLIAM LEBOVIC

חיים בן דוב

Son of Dan & Carol Lebovic

Henri has devoted almost as much to his bar mitzvah as his skateboard yet he is acutely aware of his heritage and the role that Beth El - bar mitzvah will play.



July 18, 2020 / 26 Tamuz 5780
Matot-Masei

GRAYSON BARR SNYDER

חיים בן שניאור זלמן

Son of Greg Snyder and Stephanie Snyder

Grayson is delighted to continue in our Jewish traditions and fully enter the Beth El congregation as our newest generation. Our family is so proud of Grayson and his accomplishments.



8/15/2020 / 25 Av 5780
Re'eh

NOAH PRESTON PARKS

נח בן ברוך צפור וחיה

Son of Michelle & Steven Parks

Through hard work and effort, Noah has succeeded in his bar mitzvah education. We are so proud of his accomplishments, and we look forward to watching him enter Jewish adulthood.



8/22/2020 / 2 Elul 5780
Shoftim

AMICHAH DAVIS

עמיחי לב בן הרב אלכסנדר הכהן ואסתר מרים

Son of Esther Goldberg-Davis & Rabbi Alexander Davis

Amichai is kind and easy-going. He's approached studying for his bar mitzvah with a good attitude and is taking the uncertainty of what will be in stride.



8/29/2020 / 9 Elul 5780
Ki Teitzei

LILY MACKENZIE KURMAN

זהבה בת משה וגולדה

Daughter of Max & Lori Kurman

Lily has a caring, fun-loving approach to life. As she becomes a Jewish adult, we pray that she always carries these qualities with her.



8/29/2020 / 9 Elul 5780
Ki Teitzei

ANDREW BRAEDEN BAKER

אברהם בן שמואל ואב'גיל

Son of Seth & Abbey Baker

Drew has a true zest for life. He approached his bar mitzvah training with his unique mix of wittiness, determination and focus. We are so proud of him and look forward to celebrating his entrance into Jewish adulthood.



9/5/2020 / 16 Elul 5780
Ki Tavo

DAHLIA EMI KARCH

דינה בת אברהם ומרגלית

Daughter of Andy Karch & Kaori Yamada

We are so proud of Dahlia and all her accomplishments. We look forward to celebrating this important milestone.



9/12/2020 / 23 Elul 5780
Nitzavim/Vayeilech

ASHER PAYTON ZIPKIN

אשר בן רנה

Son of Jill Zipkin

Asher is a very bright and diligent student. He approached his bar mitzvah studies with the same dedication. I am so proud of him!

Community is at the heart of Judaism and a synagogue is a place for community to come together. The name beit kenesset means “house of gathering.” Not being together in person has been hard. But Beth El is more than a building. Our community remains vital and vibrant.



Gathering

As a Cybershul, Beth El has grown in new and wonderful ways. People regularly join our classes and services from across the United States, from as far away as Santiago, Chile and Israel. In fact, they have even joined the synagogue!

Virtual gathering has presented new opportunities for collaboration. On Shavuot, we joined with congregations from across the Twin Cities at our annual Tikkun Leyl Shavuot to learn Torah throughout the night. Beth El created and led a Healing Service that brought together the Jewish communities from throughout Minnesota.

Aleph Preschool

It is with pride and gratitude that we recognize the work of our preschool staff. With creativity and sensitivity, with ingenuity and joy, they educated our children and supported our young families at a very difficult time. Sadly, summer camp was closed, and our staff furloughed. Yet Beth El will continue to provide engaging family programs throughout the summer months.



Learning

Even before the pandemic, Beth El had a vibrant learning community. The move to our Cybershul not only increased attendance at classes, it inspired new learning opportunities. Within days of the shutdown, the rabbis and cantor put together a wide variety of learning programs: Parasha and Pirkei Avot, meditation, Zoom Challah baking, lectures with medical ethicist, Jeff Kahn, happy hour conversations with interfaith clergy, and more.



Service Sundays

In addition to their usual Tuesday lounge nights, USYers have responded to the crisis by serving those people and organizations in need. Collecting food, PPEs and more, their acts of chesed have inspired giving. This summer's "Camp Beth El" is providing an outlet for kids and families to connect and engage in fun activities.

Lifecycles

One of the challenging aspects of the stay at home order has been the inability to be physically together at time of joy and mourning. With compassion and understanding, we continue to celebrate births and weddings, and to mourn the deaths of loved ones with funerals and shiva on the Zoom platform.

Services

Shabbat services without communal singing, Torah reading, or kiddush lunches feels like something essential is missing. But we are finding ways to make the best of the circumstance- to create a spiritually nourishing experience while addressing the challenges of antisemitic "Zoom Bombing," lack of siddurim, technology limitations and more. In the face of the crisis, we have been encouraged to see our weekday minyan grow since the onset of the pandemic.



B'nai Mitzvah

The Post office says, "neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night stays these couriers." The same could be said of our b'nai mitzvah program. With maturity and understanding, b'nai mitzvah families chose to celebrate despite their disappointment not being in physically together in shul. Students and tutors transitioned successfully to online learning as did our partner organizations at Talmud Torah and Heilicher.

TZEDAKAH

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

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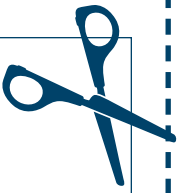
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 Leemona Armel
 Malka Rice
 Rick Siegel
 Larry Barenbaum
 Paula Beugen
 Marilyn Barenbaum
 Sandy Selnick
 David Magy
 David Levinson
 Richard Spiegel
 Marvin Eisenstein
 Michael Frisch
 Mark Laboe
 Patti Meyer
 Edward Prohofsky
 Jerry Rosenzweig
 Myrna Schaeffer
 Cary Shaich
 Shirleymae Lane
 Anna Berkovich

IN MEMORY OF

Sholem Weisman
 Simon Dolgoff
 Sol Singer
 Sophia Pase
 Sophie Feldman
 Stanley Somers
 Stephen Serber
 Steven Rice
 Steven Rice
 Sydney Siegel
 Sylvia Barenbaum
 Sylvia Borken
 Sylvia Field
 Sylvia Selnick
 Sylviette Magy
 Syme Levinson
 Thomas Spiegel
 William Eisenstein
 William Frisch
 William Kasdan
 William Kasdan
 William Prohofsky
 William Rosenzweig
 William Schaeffer
 Wilma Shaich
 Zelda Epstein
 Zhan Berkovich



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	4th of July
30	Tisha B'Av
AUGUST	
SEPTEMBER	
7	Labor Day – Morning minyan at 9:00 am
19-20	Rosh Hashana
27	Kol Nidre
28	Yom Kippur – Yizkor Recited
FALL LOOKING AHEAD	
October 3	Sukkot Begins
October 10	Shmini Atzeret
October 11	Simchat Torah





Beth El
SYNAGOGUE

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Plans for the High Holy Days 5781 are underway.

MORE INFORMATION
COMING SOON!

ROSH HASHANAH
September 19 – 20

YOM KIPPUR
September 28

SUKKOT
October 3 – 9

SIMCHAT TORAH
October 11

