

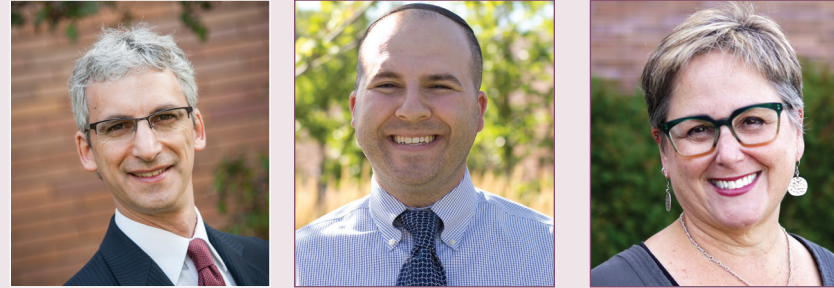


In Appreciation of  
**The Beth El Women's League**

For their significant generosity, commitment, and  
support to our congregation.

**1924 to 2020**

Autumn of 2020 marked the end of an era and brought to a close the Beth El Women's League. Women's League has been a source of support, of instruction, of joy for our children and our children's children. Indeed, they have made Beth El good "all the days of our life" in ways far too numerous to count and have blessed us with peace and wholeness. Because of the work and dedication on behalf of Women's League, the light of Beth El will continue to shine.



## Daring to Dream

By Rabbi Alexander Davis, Rabbi Avi Olitzky and Cantor Audrey Abrams

Recently, we celebrated Tu B'Shevat, the New Year of Trees. As much as we enjoyed the celebration – the wine and fruit and songs – it felt odd. Here we were announcing the arrival of spring in the midst of winter! Tu B'Shevat may work in Israel, but it feels very out of place in Minnesota.

Rather than see a disconnect, a commentary by 19th Century German Rabbi Shimshon Raphael Hirsch teaches us that it is precisely in the dead of winter when we should dream of spring:

What do we usually think? When spring arrives, resplendent with its dazzling buds and flowers – that is the time to joyously celebrate the coming of spring. But ancient Jewish tradition speaks otherwise. It instructs us to gaze upon the bare trees, during the height of snowy winter, and whispers to us its precious and profound secret: Behold, these trees are already celebrating the day of their renewal, in the following spring.

It would be very easy for us to slip into a state of perpetual winter- to see life as barren, devoid of joy and beauty, to focus on all that we miss and all that we have lost. That is especially true in this winter of Covid. But Judaism instills in us optimism. It reminds us that though the landscape looks bleak, it will blossom forth with new life. Jewish tradition invites us to look ahead and to consider how we can bring about a better tomorrow.

Having tasted the fruit of Tu B'Shevat, that is how we are looking at the months ahead: with hope.

In the short term, there will be more suffering, more challenges. Therefore, each of us is called upon to do our duty to relieve the pain, to reduce the misery. At the same time, we are already dreaming about how life will be changed – for the good – on the other side.

On the surface, most of us would agree that there are few things we want to carry forward from last year into 2021. 2020 was full of challenges too numerous to mention. And yet, it also brought out in so many a spirit of generosity, a spirit of activism, a spirit of caring. Those are things we cherish that we hope to continue.

Here at Beth El, greater numbers have engaged through our virtual learning, prayer, and gathering opportunities. But we also realize how many of us have felt alone over this past year. We commit to working together as your clergy to keep engaging those newly engaged and to warmly reconnect with those who feel left out.

We look forward to seeing you in person at some point in the coming year. We look forward to melting snow. We look forward to longer days. We look forward to Shabbat lunches and dancing at weddings. We look forward to mourning and laughing together. In the meantime, let us plant seeds of faith that ground us with the warm embrace of community, that enliven us with learning and prayer, and that encourage us to perform acts of kindness that pursue justice and repair the world.

We commit to working together as your clergy to keep engaging those newly engaged and to warmly reconnect with those who feel left out.



## A Bright Future

By Alan Yousha, Beth El President

In 2020, our oldest daughter was supposed to be in Israel for a 5-week internship program and then off to Europe for semester abroad. As a High School senior, our younger daughter was supposed to walk across the stage at graduation and staff Herzl Camp for her last summer home before college. Our 9th grade boys this year would have been playing competitive sports, enjoying their Kadima summer at Herzl and their freshman year in High School. Well, things did not happen as planned and the conditions which created a revision to our life's plans are of course not specific to us.

I believe that change is best adopted when made in small progressive steps. However, the changes we all needed to adopt this past year were forced, massive leaps towards new ways of living as individuals and as families, as professionals and as business owners, as healthcare providers and as teachers, as congregants. All our norms and recognizable ways of living were churned into a new reality.

When I consider the life-altering health and financial challenges many in our community are facing every day, I am also reminded about how fortunate many of us are as well. I find it difficult to look back on this year and not feel blessed with quality family time, keeping healthy, and having steady employment. I am hopeful that those of us who have also been blessed in this way have taken the time to give back to our community and continue to do so.

As we transition into 2021, almost a year into this pandemic, I am optimistic about our path forward and the opportunities we will leverage as a community. I am optimistic about the vaccines being produced and their impact on humanity, about the employment opportunities to come as businesses can safely open, and I am optimistic about having our synagogue doors opened once again to physically welcome our Beth El community.

Until that time, the Board continues to work and to serve our congregation. We have kept our staff and building safe, our expenses in line with budget, ratified a new Committee Charter and restructured administratively to align with our strategic plan, and formally kicked off our search for a new Cantor.

I am thankful for the good work our Board and our Committees are doing, I am excited about the prospect of greeting at the front door on Shabbat morning, and I am hopeful for the bright future of Beth El and our community.

When I consider the life-altering health and financial challenges many in our community are facing every day, I am also reminded about how fortunate many of us are as well.



# Strategic Plan

Last year, Beth EI embarked on a strategic planning process and sought to include the input and voices of our congregation. This process concluded in the board approving a three year plan that is outlined below. We will be focusing on the five goals outlined to help us achieve our vision to be a warm and welcoming home for spiritual growth and transformation, a covenantal community where Judaism brings purpose to our lives and holiness to our world.



## ENGAGEMENT

Offer dynamic programming that builds belonging and engagement.

## SPIRITUALITY

Deepen the spiritual life for the Beth EI community.



## COMMUNITY

Expand compassion and healing within and beyond Beth EI's walls.

## LEADERSHIP

Develop greater leadership capacity throughout the congregation.



## OPERATIONS

Ensure appropriate systems and resources to support the aspirations of Beth EI.



# Continuing Progress

By Matt Walzer, Managing Director

At this point we've probably all heard the comparisons from our day-to-day lives and the movie Groundhog Day. Even as we prepared for this edition of the Shofar things felt a mix of status quo and the sky's the limit. And, building off what I last shared with you – we are still embracing the uncertainty of the unknown.

All that said, there continue to be positive things to look towards and there seems to be a sense of normalcy (albeit an altered one) in the midst.

One of the most energizing parts of the last year has been you. As our congregants, you continue to be engaged, offer your time to volunteer in a variety of ways, and provide financial support to our synagogue community – thank you! On the last point in particular, you have been steady with your tzedakah through both our challenges and progress and we are looking forward to providing another mid-year financial update, much like we did last fiscal year.

In terms of your engagement – it was so much fun celebrating Chanukah and Tu BiShevat with you virtually. While we are eager to be back in person full-time, we are grateful that we were able to spend time together for portions of these holidays.

As we continue through the year, we will remain focused on finding ways to be together as much as possible. Our COVID-19 team is providing constant updates to ensure safety & health is a priority while we try to innovate virtual and hybrid programs.

Life Cycles are a priority for us to navigate and we are hoping to make more of these in-person as soon as safely possible. We ask you to please keep an eye out for our Keshet emails as a primary way to stay updated.

Something that you will see throughout this Shofar is how we are working to align the organization with our strategic plan. This effort is important because it maps out how your input is being implemented to serve you over the next few years. Part of this has been further engagement with social justice. While separate from congregational programming, I am proud to share with you that our staff is also taking this upon ourselves and are launching a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion initiative (DE&I). For the staff team this process is starting with an internal survey which will lead to a customized effort to better address the importance of this topic. For anyone interested in learning more, please don't hesitate to reach out to me directly.

I wish you all good health for 2021 and hope to have further progress to report back in the coming months.

L'Shalom,  
Matt

As we continue through the year, we will remain focused on finding ways to be together as much as possible.





# Our Search for a Cantor

By John Simon and Kat Magy

Shalom Chaverim!

When the Clergy Search Task Force was convened in April, we were not sure where our congregational need rested. Did we need another Cantor? A third Rabbi? Where were the opportunities and gaps that our congregants saw with our current system? What is the Beth El we imagine for ourselves and our families in the years to come? We have been so fortunate to see our congregation through the eyes of each of you over the past eight months. Through countless conversations, focus groups and interviews we were able to determine that adding a new Cantor to our clergy team is the right choice for Beth El.

With this decision made, we launched a congregational survey in late November to fully inform the job description of the Cantor as well as our process to come. 239 of you participated! Thank you! Your feedback was heard! We are seeking a spiritual leader who will continue to engage our congregation, inspire us with song, and teach us.

Immediately prior to Chanukah we posted our job opening on the Cantor's Assembly website. We have received applications from a variety of candidates with varying skills and experiences. The list includes Cantors (Chazanim) and Rabbi-Cantors! With each resume, cover letter, and music clip we are able to imagine a new and exciting future for our Beth El community!

At the beginning of January, we convened our formal Search Committee. Its membership is as follows:

<p><b>CORE SEARCH TEAM</b>          John Simon and Kat Magy, Co-Chairs          Adrienne Berman          Karen Brodsky          Jim Bukstein          Simon Glaser          Jenny Hage          Marshall Lehman          Polly Lehman          Sonia Ungerman          Amy Weiss          Alan Yousha          Josh Zamansky</p>	<p><b>STAFF</b>          Rabbi Davis          Rabbi Olitzky          Jill Blustin          Matt Walzer</p> <p><b>EX OFFICIO SEARCH TEAM MEMBERS</b>          Cantor Abrams          Cantor Newman          Dani Fisher          Donna Leviton          David Magy          Ellis Olkon          Bill Torodor</p>
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We will begin the process of vetting and interviewing candidates throughout the coming weeks and months. In light of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the search process, our process may end with a new Cantorial hire in 2021 or 2022.

We know that there is concern about the financial health of our shul, including our ability to fund a third clergy role. We are abundantly thankful that through the tireless efforts of Steve and Nancy Schachtman and their committee, the *Audrey Abrams and Neil Newman Cantorial Chair Endowment Fund* is well on its way to being fully realized. This will ensure continuity of congregational leadership, pastoral support, and learning in perpetuity.

Look to future editions of the Shofar and Keshet for updates as we work toward filling our open Cantor position and feel free to send any questions or comments to ClergySearch@BethElSynagogue.org.



# A Heartfelt Thank You

For 96 years, Women's League has been a staple in our congregation and has brought innumerable hours of dedicated service and leadership to our Beth El community. At this time, we are saddened to share that this incredible era of Women's League at Beth El Synagogue has come to end. We want to take this opportunity to thank all of the dedicated Women's League members for their countless hours of volunteer service and financial support to our synagogue.

Over the past nine decades, Beth El Women's League has provided significant financial donations that have helped provide support to the Aleph Preschool, TaRBuT and USY. They gifted each b'nai mitzvah with a personalized kiddush cup on their simchah and proudly sponsored the Shabbat Lunch on weekends when there was not a simchah at Beth El. Women's League donations regularly assisted with kitchen needs and repairs, health initiatives, and general support that at times simply helped keep the lights on.

They shared the light of learning, the light of friendship, the light of a warm welcome to all who walked through our synagogue doors on Shabbat and the High Holy Days. And that light extended beyond the building to each Beth El home. Their yearly calendar provided a beautiful way to organize and guide us through the Jewish calendar year. With Women's League Shabbat, they brought music to our community, and delicious treats to our kiddush tables. They have been a source of support, of instruction, of joy for our children and our children's children. Indeed, they have made Beth El good "all the days of our life" in ways far too numerous to count. Because of their work and dedication, the light of Beth El will continue to shine.

It is important to note that once our synagogue building has safely reopened, the Women's League Gift Shop will resume their regular hours and the yearly hamentaschen baking will continue as long there are volunteers interested in participating in and supporting these projects. Those interested can also join the national Women's League for Conservative Judaism (WLCJ) as an at-large member to participate in their many programs including Torah study, book reviews, support of the Jewish Theological Seminary and more. A membership application is available online at [www.WLCJ.org](http://www.WLCJ.org) or by calling Razel Kessler at 212-870-1263 at the WLCJ office.

We are saddened to see the era of Women's League at Beth El come to an end, but we are incredibly thankful for the mark they have left on our community and know that the memory of the Women's League impact will live on for many decades to come.

We want to take this opportunity to thank all of the dedicated Women's League members for their countless hours of volunteer service and financial support for our synagogue.





## A Year of Great Change – and Still Smiling

By Karen Burton, Aleph Preschool Director of Early Childhood Education

It has been almost one year since that fateful day, March 13, 2020, when Aleph Preschool made the decision to close its doors for the safety of our children, teachers, and families. By no means was it a decision we wanted to make, but realized to some degree, the unknown enormity of what was yet to come.

Fast forward to December 31, on the eve of the English calendar New Year, 2021, and we can look back at what has transpired over the last ten months to where Aleph Preschool is today.

As you can well imagine, closing Aleph Preschool is not what we had ever expected and families and teachers alike felt a mixture of shock, doom, fear, anxiety and worry about what the future had in store. But none of those fears stopped our teachers and administration taking immediate action to make sure our children and families had the support they needed. Within one week, our teachers had created hours and hours of self-educational videos which were made available for our families to view. Over the next month, new weekly videos were added, as well as daily zoom classes for each age group, so classroom learning and engagement could continue. Children were able to participate each day on zoom with their teachers and friends and felt a sense of closeness and togetherness that we could never have expected. Zoom classes continued throughout the summer enabling our children and families to stay connected.

Collaborating with our team of medical professionals and consultants, a COVID-19 Preparedness Plan with Policies and Protocols was adopted, allowing us to re-open our preschool. On September 8, 2020, we opened our doors to a new COVID-19 Aleph Preschool year. It was one of the happiest days of my life as well as the teachers.

In every way possible we are having a tremendous year. Our children could not have been happier to return, and instead of expected tears on the first day, there were squeals of laughter and joy and great happiness to be back.

Changes have been made to our daily routine that include to name a few, keeping our classes in their own cohorts, and parents drop off and pick up their children at carpool instead of coming inside the building. This year instead of allowing specialist programs into our building we have found other ways to incorporate them. This includes weekly zoom classes for Havdalah and Shabbat with Amanda Awend, keeping the routine we have had in the past and the kiddos participating as if she was in the classroom with them. Our children do not notice these changes and each morning are delighted and excited to enter our doors to see what the new day holds in store for them.

Additionally, we have planned and executed some amazing young family programming in ways that we could never have imagined prior to the start of the pandemic. Beginning in the summer with Friday Night outdoor zoom services with Amanda Awend to Sunday night zoom Shema sing-a-longs with Cantor Abrams. We continue with zoom Musical Shabbat's with Amanda, Rabbi Davis, and Rabbi Olitzky and ending this calendar year with two phenomenal Chanukah events. We have many exciting events planned for the remainder of the school year and we feel very fortunate we can keep our families connected and involved.

It is now time for us to look ahead with positivity, brightness and excitement as Aleph Preschool registration opens for the 2021-2022 school year on January 11. Spaces will be limited, so please reach out if you need registration details.

Wishing you health, happiness, and peace for 2021, and keep smiling, just as our Aleph Preschoolers do daily. They are our bright light during these dark days, rays of sunshine that make all of us smile and realize how grateful we are for these gorgeous little people in our lives.

Karen Burton  
Aleph Preschool Director of Early Childhood Education



## More Than Just USY

By Jody Moreimi, Director of Youth Engagement, Enrichment, and Informal Education

As we all know, and have been told numerous times, this year has been filled to the brim with change. Whether at home, work, school, the holidays, friendships, or so much more, we have all been forced into changing aspects of our lives that were once comfortable and automatic. I am asking you to shift your thinking one more time, hopefully for the better.

When most people hear the words "Youth Department", especially when associated with Beth El, they think of USY and teens. Historically, that would be a safe bet. However, over the past year and a half, the Beth El Youth Department has been transitioning to a more fully inclusive department with programs and activities for all *youth*; newborns through young adults. Although our original plans have been somewhat derailed this year, it has still been an exciting journey working to strengthen the bonds of Jewish youth, near and far, while laying the foundations for the future of our Youth Department.

Yes, Beth El Rishon United Synagogue Youth (BERUSY) is still going strong this year. Consisting of 9th through 12th graders, we have a very motivated and engaged executive board comprised of 12 members, two regional board members, and a great group of general board members. Our weekly programs have been transformed into virtual experiences that aim to build relationships with old and new friends while still focusing on the main initiatives of USY. One of the highlights of this year has been our 'Grade Level Meet-Ups' that take place before USY program nights. During these meet-ups, 9th graders have been focusing on Mental Health, 10th Graders are examining "Jews in the News" and current events, 11th Graders are exploring ways to help with college applications and navigating those final years of high school, and 12th graders are discussing and planning for life after high school.

But, youth doesn't just mean high-schoolers. By transforming the youth department into being inclusive of youth of all ages, we are able to fully embrace Beth El's vision to "go forth with our young and our old". While this year hasn't gone as originally planned, we have succeeded in rolling out virtual programs for youth- from toddlers through 12th graders. Our virtual "Game Days" have been a favorite of the older elementary cohorts. These events have included programs like scavenger hunts, pictionary, charades, Jeopardy, Scattergories, online gaming, and so much more! They have offered a safe space for children of each age group to have fun while getting to know their peers better.

The Beth El Toddlers through Pre-Kindergarten have been offered a unique opportunity to attend Aleph Preschool virtually through the Youth Department's Enrichment program. Children in this program attend online classes 3 or 5 days a week and receive a quality education focused on Havdalah, Language/Literature, Hebrew, movement and music, math, and Shabbat.

In addition to the aforementioned programs, there are so many more offerings for our youth including our new "Mini Minyan" on the first Shabbat of the month, drive-up experiences, virtual Shabbatons, family engagement opportunities like photo scavenger hunts and art contests, havdalah programs, and other community wide events.

With all these offerings and more, how can you stay informed and up to date? There are a few different ways. First, we have a 'Beth El Youth Department Facebook Group' that will keep you up to date on all offerings. Also, since November, we have been sending out a Youth Department Newsletter. This newsletter contains important information about all the happenings in the department. It includes program information by grade levels, advisor spotlights, and a monthly family engagement activity in which all families can participate. Finally, we also have a website with an updated calendar of events located at [www.besyn.org/youth-department/](http://www.besyn.org/youth-department/).

With all these programs rolling out on a regular basis, there is sure to be something of interest that will engage you and your families. Even in this virtual world, we are working hard to ensure that all youth has a place to thrive and the opportunity to make real, life-long connections. We hope to see you soon!

**For more information on any of the programs listed above or to be added to the mailing list, please reach out to Jody Moreimi, Director of Youth Engagement, Enrichment, and Informal Education at [jmoreimi@bethelsynagogue.org](mailto:jmoreimi@bethelsynagogue.org).**



# B'nai Mitzvah



1/9/21 / 25 Tevet 5781  
Shemot

## BRIANNA CAMILLE SCHWARTZBERG

בהירה חוה בת עברי טוביה ובתיה גיט  
Daughter of Brenda & Todd Schwartzberg

*We are so proud of and inspired by Brianna. She has spent so much time preparing for her bat mitzvah and we look forward to her continued growth.*



1/30/21 / 17 Sh'vat 5781  
Beshallah

## OLIVIA BLUE WINDHORST-CHANDLER

אורית בת דוד ונשמה  
Daughter of Spencer Chandler & Diana Windhorst

*Amidst a challenging time, Olivia has demonstrated an inspiring capacity to carry on with her studies. She has remained resilient, positive, and has found meaning in Jewish ceremony.*



2/6/21 / 24 Sh'vat 5781  
Yitro

## ZAVDI CHAIM FISHER

זבדי בן יצחק בנימין ונעמי

Son of Julian Fisher & Naomi Zuk-Fisher

*Zavdi is a deep thinker with an insatiable curiosity and a hunger for learning. He has many interests and passions, and we hope he continues to apply these strengths towards all that he pursues.*



2/27/21 / 15 Adar 5781  
Tetzaveh

## ILAN SOLOMON SCHEIN

אילן שלמה בן חביב בנימין וריבה

Son of Benjamin & Robyn Schein

*Ilan is passionate about many things from sports to camp to preparing for his bar mitzvah. We know this passion will guide him successfully into Jewish adulthood.*



3/6/21 / 22 Adar 5781  
Ki Tisa

## MARISSA EVELYN RISCHALL

מיטל בת יצחק ולאה

Daughter of Isaac Rischall & Karen Hessel

*Marissa is a dynamic young woman who has been singing to us throughout the pandemic. She is deeply committed to her friends and family. We look forward to watching her enter Jewish adulthood.*



3/13/21 / 29 Adar 5781  
Vayakhel/P'kudei

## ANDRE GUZMAN REES

ברוך בן רחל לאה

Son of Dana Rees & Ivan Guzman

*Andre embarks on his journey as an adult in the local and greater Jewish community. We look forward to honoring his hard work as well as all those that helped him on his path.*

# B'nai Mitzvah



3/20/21 / 7 Nisan 5781  
Vayikra

## ADRIANNA LYNÆ CASTIGLIONE

לאה שפרה בת ברוך ורבקה

Daughter of Vincent & Kelly Castiglione

*Adrianna has always had a passion for Judaism. That passion has grown stronger during her bat mitzvah studies. We are so very proud of her.*



4/10/21 / 28 Nisan 5781  
Sh'mini

## JAYDEN HERSCHEL ABRAMSON

ידון בן יהושע ותרצה

Son of Michael & Julie Abramson

*Jayden has a zest for life and a love for learning. He is kind and compassionate, and shares this energy with his friends and family. We are extremely proud of him.*



4/17/21 / 5 Iyar 5781  
Tazria/Metzora

## DALIA KORNBLOM FALCK

דליה בת משה ורונית

Daughter of Roni & Michael Falck

*Dalia has approached her bat mitzvah studies with hard work and dedication. We are so proud of her and can't wait to celebrate this important milestone in her life.*



4/24/21 / 12 Iyar 5781  
Acharei Mot-Kedoshim

## SOPHIE ELIORA SCHAFFER CHESTER

אליאורה בת מנחם מנדל שולם ויעל

Daughter of Haley Schaffer & Marty Chester

*Sophie, true to her Hebrew name Eliora, spreads light to all who know her. She is excited to share her bat mitzvah with family, friends, and the community.*



4/24/21 / 12 Iyar 5781  
Emor

## JONAH SETH RUBIN

יונה משה בן ראובן וטלסה פייג

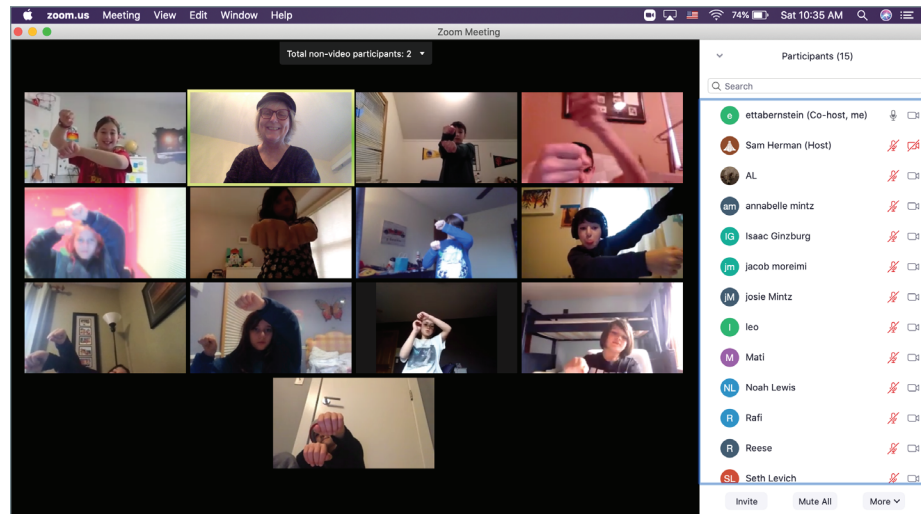
Son of Tony & Alli Rubin

*Jonah has approached his bar mitzvah with enthusiasm and dedication. We are so proud of his accomplishments and we look forward to watching Jonah live an active Jewish life in our community.*



# From Sadness to Gratitude

By Mary Baumgarten



Recently, I went to Beth El to pick something up from my office. As I entered our building, I was immediately overcome by profound sadness.

I could not help but visualize how I had spent my past 30 years as Director of Beth El's B'nai Mitzvah Program. I pictured myself going from the Badzin Family Learning Center to the Fiterman Chapel, the Gruman Social Hall, up the stairs through the

hallways and several of the classrooms, numerous times every Shabbat morning.

I was overcome by a deep sense of loss. I missed the energy, the din of students learning with their tutors, the pride of students coming up to me to tell me that they had "passed out" of a prayer. I missed the hugs and the many interactions with students and their families. I also missed the precious time spent at lunch following a morning of TaRBUt. This was a time of making new connections and renewing and cultivating previous ones.

As I take a step back, though, to look at how we have all been dealing with such a challenging situation, I am filled with gratitude.

91 students are actively engaged in TaRBUt preparing for their B'nai Mitzvah, albeit remotely. 51 teen tutors regularly work with their students to help them accomplish their goals. 9 adults, Master Teachers and Specialists, supervise and monitor our students and our teen tutors to ensure ongoing progress. Rimonim, our teacher training program is in full swing. I get to Zoom in on many tutoring sessions and greet our students and their tutors. I look forward to these moments of connection every Shabbat morning.

Our students are working with tutors to master Torah and Haftara skills. Others are studying about the prophets of their Haftara. They are working with our rabbis to prepare divrei Torah. Parents are joining in family learning sessions and more.

It has not been easy to become a "Cyber Shul." It has been especially difficult for parents to navigate their children's education during this pandemic. We have all had to work hard to adapt, to be flexible and resilient. Considering all we have been able to accomplish, my sadness has turned to gratitude. I hope the same is true for you as you reflect back on 2020.

Kol HaKavod and Todah Rabah to students, teachers, staff and families for all your efforts. I cannot wait until we can be together again in person. In the meantime, let us all stay safe and healthy.

L'hitraot

Mary Baumgarten

## New Members

**PLEASE WELCOME**

Alissa & Stephen Abelson  
with Madilyn and Stacie

Bonnie Karlen

David & Elaine Liss

Marion Oakes



## MAZAL TOV TO MEMBERS WITH UPCOMING MILESTONE ANNIVERSARIES

NAME.....	DATE.....	YRS	NAME.....	DATE.....	YRS
Adina & Sheldon Goldstein Pinsky .....	1/3/21 .....	5	Dan & Stacy Mosow .....	4/21/21 .....	30
Ralph & Maralyn Atlas .....	1/7/21 .....	70	Dr. Steven & Penny Sanderson .....	4/27/21 .....	30
Ronald & Janet Plotsker.....	1/23/21 .....	50	Dr. Steven Hanovich & Melissa Mark..	4/28/21 .....	25
Audra & Loren Mintz .....	2/4/21 .....	15	Lucy & Oscar Mayren .....	4/30/21 .....	15
Alex & Faina Lakhter .....	2/11/21 .....	60	Michael & Michelle Flamenbaum.....	4/30/21 .....	15
Ken & Lynn Raskin.....	2/12/21 .....	15	Bradley & Stacy Birnberg.....	5/5/21 .....	25
Gary & Barbara Krupp.....	2/22/21 .....	40	Jason & Leslie Sell .....	5/6/21 .....	20
Bruce & Jeanne Kaufman .....	2/27/21 .....	50	Shana & Christopher Marchand.....	5/7/21 .....	15
Alex & Natasha Kushner.....	3/7/21 .....	20	Jeffrey & Cindy Goldish .....	5/8/21 .....	55
Dan & Joey Kristal .....	3/9/21 .....	25	Jill & Michael Schwartz.....	5/19/21 .....	25
Daniel & Dori Gelfman .....	3/12/21 .....	15	Nancy & Jay Dworsky .....	5/20/21 .....	20
Yarden & Jill Wolfe .....	3/18/21 .....	20	Sheri & Jeremie Rosen .....	5/21/21 .....	15
Julian Fisher & Naomi Zuk-Fisher.....	3/19/21 .....	15	David & Cindy Bearman.....	5/21/21 .....	40
Morissa & Joel Lavintman .....	3/21/21 .....	45	Jeffrey & Geri Sweet .....	5/24/21 .....	40
Jonathan & Sally Minsberg .....	3/21/21 .....	45	Brian & Shelley Johnson .....	5/26/21 .....	25
Orrin & Judith Kessel .....	3/21/21 .....	50	Melissa & David Kieffer.....	5/28/21 .....	15
David & Stacey Spencer.....	3/23/21 .....	30	Tanya & Samuel Keller.....	5/29/21 .....	10
Todd & Teri Brown.....	3/26/21 .....	15	Harvey & Arlene Kase .....	5/29/21 .....	55
Jason & Aryel Londer.....	4/1/21 .....	20	Cary & Judith Shaich.....	5/29/21 .....	55
Mr. Norman & Bonnie Evidon .....	4/14/21 .....	30			

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...

Shirley May Lane on her 95th birthday on August 23, 2020. Happy belated birthday!

Madeline & Avshalom Naor on the birth of their son, Lavi Boaz, born on September 30, 2020

Jody & Fred Rappaport on the birth of their daughter, Ivy Belle, born on October 1, 2020.

Adam Magy on his promotion to Commander of Delta Company, 2nd Battalion, 135th Infantry Regiment.

Josh & Rory Zamansky on the birth of their daughter, Ariana Rose Zamansky born on October 30, 2020. Mazal Tov to proud grandparents Debbie & Gil Mann.

Margalit Silver & Matan Goldman on their wedding. Mazal Tov to proud grandparents Jacki & Bill Broze and Maida & Jim Fruen.

Jennifer & Brian Shragg on the birth of their son, Jack Thomas, born on November 10, 2020. Mazal Tov to proud grandparents Wendy & Marty Shragg.

Abby & Daniel Solow on the birth of their son, Martin Benjamin, born on November 14, 2020. Mazal Tov to proud grandparents Elayne & Larry Chiat.

Rabbi Avi Olitzky and Zoe Stern on their December, 2020 engagement.

Mazal Tov to Megan & Max Bitterman on the birth of their son, Jude Wynn, born on December 31. Mazal Tov to proud grandparents Cindy Gross & Peter Bitterman.

Amy Zaroff on being among the Twin Cities Business Top 100 people to know in 2021.

*This list reflects births through January 10, 2021.*

### Condolences to...

**Bob Blumenfeld** and Carri (Mickey) Lazaruz on the loss of their wife & sister, **Sandra "Sorah" Blumenfeld**

**Ena (Brian) Sobol** on the loss of her mother, Tatyana (Tanya) Kolvchuk

**Karen (David) Katz and Paula (Mike) Flom** on the loss of their father, Albert "Al" Levitt

**Michael (Soni) Cohen** on the loss of his mother, **Judith Meisel**

**Nancy Gildin (Allan Klugman)** on the loss of her father, **Bernard Gildin**

**Lynn Lederman (Ken Raskin)** on the loss of her father in law, **Marty Lederman**

**Marsha (Bruce) Campbell and Andrea (Scott) Harris** on the loss of their mother, **Shirley Schenker**

**Michael Fefferman and Adam (Deborah) Fefferman** on the loss of their wife and mother, **Roberta "Bobbie" Fefferman**

**Rivel Greenberg and Susie (Tony) Greenberg** on the loss of their husband and father **Philip Greenberg**

Friends and Family on the loss of **Elaine Cohen**

**Steve (Trish) Mintz** on the loss of his brother Jeffrey Mintz

Juli Hanssen on the loss of her husband **Steve Kaplan**

**Sue (Jim) Walder and Jenny (Aaron) Hage** on the loss of their brother and uncle Michael Shapiro

**Harold (Jackie) Sadoff** on the loss of his sister **Carol Sadoff Greenberg**

Friends and Family on the loss of **Norton "Nurdy" Rockler**

**Jan Raskin and Ken Raskin (Lynn Lederman)** on the loss of their son and brother **Jerold "Jerry" Raskin**

**Lois Conner Vermes and Sandy (Art) Lavintman** on the loss of their husband and brother **Sheldon Vermes**

*With heavy hearts we mourn the loss of these loved ones within our community. This reflects the losses in our community through January 11, 2021.*



## 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.

FEBRUARY	
22	Beth El Mid-Year Financial Update
26	Purim
MARCH	
27	Pesach Begins at Sundown
28	Beth El Virtual Second Seder
APRIL	
4	Pesach Ends – Yizkor Recited
8	Yom HaShoah
14	Yom Yom Ha'Zikaron
15	Yom Ha'Atzmaut
MAY	
17-18	Shavuot – Yizkor Recited
27	Aleph Preschool Graduation

**We are here for you!**

We are acutely aware that many families will have lifecycle events during these uncertain times and there are undoubtedly questions and concerns. Our clergy is committed to working with families to make appropriate arrangements.

**Please do not hesitate to reach out to Rabbi Davis, Rabbi Olitzky or Cantor Abrams so they can provide guidance and support.**

**WE ARE HERE FOR YOU!**



## 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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*Happy Birthday Audrey & Al Kaufman*

Howard & Wendy Bach

*In Honor of Al Kaufman*

Margo Berdass

*Happy Birthday Al Kaufman*

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Anna & Charles Silverman

**Arie & Vivian Mann Fund**

*Mazel Tov Debbie & Gil Mann*

Sally Forbes Friedman

**Arnold & Renee Soskin**

**Family Music Enhancement Fund**

*Happy Anniversary Marcy*

*& Sam Pearlman*

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**Audrey Abrams & Neil Newman**

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*& Michel Melendez*

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*In Memory of Barbara Lui*

*Mazel Tov Cantor Audrey Abrams*

*Mazel Tov Jenny Hage*

*Mazel Tov Ken Raskin*

*Mazel Tov Penny Sanderson*

*In Memory of Sherman Kaminsky*

*Happy Anniversary Steve*

*& Andrea Heifetz*

*Mazel Tov Steve Sanderson*

*In Honor of Yoni Lui*

Sally Forbes Friedman

*In Memory of Bernard Silverberg*

Elise Lieberthal

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*Happy Anniversary Caryn*

*& Fred Goldberg*

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*Happy Anniversary Caryn*

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*Mazel Tov Debbie & Gil Mann*

*Happy Anniversary Diane & Irwin Ingber*

*Happy Anniversary Donna*

*& Harvey Leviton*

*In Memory of Dr. James Guerro*

*Happy Anniversary Esther Goldberg Davis*

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*Happy Anniversary Gay & Mark Herzberg*

*Happy Anniversary Helain & Jimmy Pesis*

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*In Memory of Debra K. Hillman*

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*Happy Birthday Leslie Cohen*

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*In Honor of Amichai Davis*

Howard & Heidi Gilbert

*In Honor of Cindy & Craig Greenberg*

Howard & Heidi Gilbert

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Howard & Heidi Gilbert

*In Honor of Lois & Dale Dobrin*

Howard & Heidi Gilbert

*In Honor of Jenny Hage*

*In Honor of Ken Raskin*

*In Honor of Penny Sanderson*

*In Honor of Sara Zuk*

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*Happy Anniversary Linda*

*& Paul Benenson*

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*In Honor of Brad & Lara*

Michelle & Lawrence Shapiro

*In Memory of Al*



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

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# *extravaganza*



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