

We have greatly missed gathering with you in person this past year – thank you for ensuring Beth El has remained open over the past 15 months, even while much of our connection has been virtual! As we look towards the summer months, Beth El's staff and lay leadership are gearing up to reopen the building and define our new normal after COVID-19. We are excited about this process and look forward to gathering as a community once again. We look forward to seeing everyone soon!



Age-Old Traditions and Transitions

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

The core blessing of Havdalah is one of our oldest traditions. According to the Talmud (Berakhot 33a), we learn that the members of the Great Assembly instituted blessings and prayers, sanctifications, and *Havdalot* for the entire Jewish community. This phrasing not only gives us a sense of solidarity with our ancestors each Saturday night when we recite the Havdalah blessings, but it also leads us to recognize something deeper.

Havdalah means separation—separating Shabbat from the rest of the week, separating the sacred from the mundane. However, central to every separation is a process of transition. The act of separation is, in fact, a transition from being part of something to being part of something else. We immerse ourselves in Shabbat when we light the candles on Friday night, transitioning into the warm embrace of the Sabbath. And when we recite Havdalah, we immerse ourselves into the clamor of a new week, transitioning without the need to brace for impact.

The Jewish mystics created the Havdalah ceremony in order to ease the transition—so it did not feel as stark, as sharp, or as cold. They taught us to pause and to be intentional. They taught us to stop and consider our five senses, and to use them to navigate the world—smell the spices, see and feel the flame, taste the wine, hear the signing and sizzling of the extinguished candle. With our five senses, both separate and united, we are present and able to transition into a new week with calm and without anxiety.

Here we are now at the precipice of transitioning, God willing, out of the pandemic. This past year (plus) has indeed been a year that has not at all felt like Shabbat. It has felt far more like the mundane in many ways. And yet, we at Beth El have been able to build community, albeit virtually. We have been able to lean into senses we often have used far more infrequently.

But let us not think that we are returning to “normal.” We are building a new normal, together. Each Saturday night, as we transition out of Shabbat, we enter a NEW week, praying that there be light and joy and happiness for us, just as there was for our ancestors. But we pray for a new light. We pray for new joy. We pray to leave last week behind, washed away by the soothing Shabbat.

We join you, our beloved community, yearning for a new beginning in the coming months, washing away the isolation and loss of the past year. We know it won't be easy. We know it will be awkward and clumsy and we will stumble through this together.

But we look forward to joining hands together, physically, and declaring loudly as we do in Havdalah: “Eftach v'lo efchad—I am confident and unafraid.” Let this transition be a safe, and healthy, and positive, and calm one.

We join you, our beloved community, yearning for a new beginning in the coming months, washing away the isolation and loss of the past year.



Our Hearts Are Full of Thanksgiving

.....
Cantor Ben Tisser

The Psalmist writes: “*Tov L'hodot LA-donai ul'zamer...* – it is good to give thanks to A-donai and to sing...” I can't think of more appropriate words to describe all that has been in my mind and in my heart these past weeks as we prepare for the big move to Minneapolis. To quote the *Himnon Ramah* (the anthem of Camp Ramah), “*L'vaveinu maleh rachashei hodayah* – our hearts are full of thanksgiving.” The opportunity to join the Beth El community is a gift, both for me as a cantor and for my family. It is a blessing to follow in the footsteps of beloved colleagues and to work alongside such talented professional and lay leaders. It is a blessing to join a community of generations. It is a blessing to join a community that places such value on the cantorate and on Jewish music that it established a Cantorial Chair. It is a blessing to join a community that is so warm and welcoming. *V'al kulam*, for all of these blessings, we are grateful; for all of these blessings, I sing praises to God.

Music is my first language. I learned to read notes as early as I learned to read words. But I understood the power of a melody before I could understand a sentence. There is something so primal about music... something transformative. Change one note in a chord and suddenly we experience a different sensation in our *kishkes*. Elongate a single tone in a passage and something intangible tugs at our heartstrings. We can experience this alone, at home, or listening to a great recording. Yet when we have the experience together, as a community, there is an added dimension that has the power not only to make us feel, but to feel in a very powerful and deep way. These communal experiences with music have the power to change us. I see my role as a facilitator of these experiences, together with my rabbinic and staff partners.

After sixteen years on the pulpit I can say that I have been truly blessed to go to work in this field each and every day. I look forward to the b'nai mitzvah lessons, the choir rehearsals, the classes I teach, the pastoral moments, and yes, even the staff meetings...for it is through these interactions that I have the opportunity to be together with other people, helping them along their Jewish journey, and allowing them to inspire me along my own journey. I look forward to sharing so many of these opportunities and more with the Beth El community over many years. I know we are going to do wonderful things together, truly sharing in each other's lives.

You may wonder what cantors do when they're off the bimah... I will admit that just recently I have re-learned how to ride a bike (after a 25-year hiatus) and am really loving it (I hear the trails in Minnesota are awesome!). I enjoy boating and fishing, cooking, doing work around the house, and of course binging on Netflix (a new hobby I picked up during the pandemic!). And in the evening, you'll often find me with a good glass of wine in hand.



My wife, Robyn, is a very passionate high school math teacher; she loves working out and is equally talented with a sewing machine and a table saw. In short, she's an incredibly impressive woman! I have two children - Talia (9) and Ethan (pronounced "Eitan" (6)), who attend the Schechter Day School in Chicago and are so excited to spend school breaks with us in Minneapolis and make new friends "up north". Rounding out the family are our two dogs, Zoey Doey Picklehead (we didn't name her!) and LC S'mores.

We can't wait to meet you all, and to become part of the Beth El family. I can't wait to be in the sanctuary with you as we sing songs of thanksgiving to God, together, for all the good God has given us. Truly, it is my privilege to be your next cantor. I look forward to many years together, God willing, in good health.

Have a wonderful summer, and we'll see you soon,
Cantor Ben and Robyn Tisser and Family



We Will Have Changed

By Alan Yousha, Beth El President

Very little, if anything, about this pandemic was easy. And while many aspects of this virus caused unique distress, not everything about the pandemic was bad – or stressful. I am optimistic that we all have a healthier appreciation for certain things as we see life and people and the world differently than we did a little over a year ago. As we now experience the positive impacts of the vaccines and begin to unveil our faces again in public, we see each other once again; albeit on the other side of many unique lessons and unusual experiences. We will have changed.

I think about Beth El often. Not just in my role as President, but as a congregant and as a member of the community. I have written and spoken about a day when we will all go back into the building and see each other on a Shabbat morning, at holiday services, or at a simcha. I think about that and consider too that Beth El will have changed.

When we walk through those doors again, we will be welcoming Cantor Ben Tisser to our Beth El community. I recall one Sunday afternoon during his interview in Minneapolis, I was part of a small group provided with an opportunity to hear him sing in the Spiegel Sanctuary. It was beautiful, and all I could think of was how I wanted the room to be completely filled with congregants all experiencing his wonderful tone and voice as it filled this incredible place, to be among our community.

Two years ago, Beth El set out on a strategic journey to support a different kind of change. Aligning to a strategy and implementing a plan is a process of transformation and growth for Beth El. As you read this, the Board will have passed a fully balanced and sustainable budget for FY22, introducing new investments in meaningful programs and initiatives directly tied to our strategic plan as determined by the voice of this congregation.

Looking forward, Beth El will continue to embrace change as we further build out our clergy team, implement our strategic plan, expand upon engagements with our community, and celebrate our centennial!

The Board continues to work in service to best represent the congregation and I am thankful for all of the members, who are so committed and that I am privileged to lead. I am truly hopeful for the bright future of Beth El Synagogue and look forward to greeting everyone in person, soon!

Aligning to a strategy and implementing a plan is a process of transformation and growth for Beth El.



Moving From Strength To Strength

By Matt Walzer, Managing Director

Reflecting on the past year, when I read my past words in the Shofar, I've spoken from a place of both appreciation and uncertainty. As this summer begins I find myself wanting to share a lot of excitement with you.

Looking back on the last few years, I can recall several times where news needed to be shared with the congregation that was negative and disappointing. We had to both apologize and ask for your loyalty as we navigated challenges together.

Today, with your partnership, we are in a very different place. Not only have we survived 15 months through a pandemic as a synagogue community – we have thrived. Staying connected with one another, continuing to find ways to participate in Jewish life even while largely remote – it's been really amazing. Through this time, we've learned how to maintain relationships in different ways – ways that will allow us to provide different types of opportunities as we return to being in-person on a regular basis.

Over the last few months we've begun experiencing some semblances of normal as we have celebrated life cycle events in the building with limited capacity. We are actively working towards a meaningful High Holy Day experience that will also provide an opportunity to be in person.

I am also excited to share what we are planning to do for you this upcoming fiscal year (beginning July 1, 2021). Because of your continued involvement and support, we are positioned to make significant investments in programming and services that we have been unable to address for a few years. These investments are consistent with the feedback you gave as part of our strategic planning process and align with the board approved strategic plan.

These investments come with a balanced budget, and with having fully endowed a new Cantorial Chair in celebration of Cantor Abrams' & Cantor Newman's tenure at Beth El. What an awesome way to welcome Cantor Tisser to our community.

It's a very exciting time to be part of the Beth El community. I'm proud to work alongside a dedicated team ready to welcome you back and I am eager to schmooze and nosh with you soon.

We are actively working towards a meaningful High Holy Day experience that will also provide an opportunity to be in person.

On June 5th, we celebrated all of our Tiny Treasures and honored families who welcomed a baby born from May 1, 2019 – May 1, 2021. May this be the first of many simchahs (celebrations) for these children with their Beth El community!

Nava Elianna, born on June 17, 2019 to Adina & Jacob Konikoff

Samuel Robert, born on August 4, 2019 to Katharine & Michael Weiss

Jorie Elizabeth, born on October 10, 2019 to Erin & Dan Hammer

Bodie Pierce born on November 15, 2019 to Blair & Daniel Goldstein

Max Aaron, born on November 29, 2019 to Marni & Ted Koshiol

Ethan Stern, born on December 1, 2019 to Emily & Michael Stern

Hannah Rose, born on December 2, 2019 to Laura & David Stern

Sidney Richard, born on December 3, 2019 to Liz & William Levin

Louis Samuel, born on December 10, 2019 to Hillary Aronow & Aaron Goldish

Joshua Paul, born on December 13, 2019 to Allison & Justin Sweet

Henry James, born on December 22 to Whitney & Adam Magy

Levi Isaac, born on January 5, 2020 to Dori & Daniel Goldfarb

Noah James, born on January 29, 2020 to Laura & Jacob Stein

Baruch Moshe, born on January 31, 2020 to Ayla & Eliyahu Gilbert Burke

Isaiah Daniel, born on March 19, 2020 to Sophia & Noah Marell

Alexander, born on April 3, 2020 to Andrea & Sean Davis

Eden Robbie, born on April 24, 2020 to Marissa & Zack Kaplan

James Robert and Vera May, born on April 27, 2020 to Dana & Jef Rogney

Asher Miles, born on May 13, 2020 to Johanna & Dan Hyman

Esther Jean, born on April 16, 2020 to Rebecca Nahum & David Walters

Natan, born on May 25, 2020 to Kate & Matt Erickson

Perry, born June 18, 2020 to Mindy & Daniel Chiat

Miriam, born on July 24, 2020 to Sarah & Daniel Kaye

Lavi Boaz, born on September 30, 2020 to Madeline & Avshalom Naor

Ivy Belle, born on October 1, 2020 to Jody & Fred Rappaport

Ariana Rose, born on October 30, 2020 to Josh & Rory Zamansky

Jack Thomas, born on November 10, 2020 to Jennifer & Brian Shragg

Martin Benjamin, born on November 14, 2020 to Abby & Daniel Solow

Oliver Terry Snyder, born on December 26, 2020 to Carrie & Ben Snyder.

Jude Wynn, born on December 31 to Megan & Max Bitterman

Asher, born on February 7, 2021 to Jill & Zachary Sussman

Jonah Eitan, born on February 28, 2021 to Aliza Bach & Jeff Wojciechowski

Talia Elizabeth, born on March 12, 2021 to Shana & Christopher Marchand

Ilan, born on March 31, 2021 to Andrea Nadel-Tikh & Mikhail Tikh

Elijah, born on April 27, 2021 to Dana & Ben Becker

Zachary, born on April 28, 2021 to Rachel & Andrew Scherf





Looking Forward

By Karen Burton, Aleph Preschool Director
of Early Childhood Education

Have we really completed a COVID-19 year at Aleph Preschool? It seems hard to believe, but what an incredible year we have had. We began the school year with only four classrooms and quickly added another two, full of happy children and grateful teachers who felt most fortunate to have had the opportunity to teach during a year of unknowns. It could not have been better. We enjoyed small class sizes with low teacher to child ratios, and quality time spent with our children.

There were many highlights throughout the year, including Pre-K Graduation. This past May 2021, fifteen Aleph Preschool, Pre-K students, graduated in a beautiful, intimate outdoor ceremony, bringing their year to a close and starting them on the path for their journey into kindergarten. It really was quite a wonderful experience to be part of.

Summer camp at Aleph Preschool is in full swing with eight full classes of excited children, doing what they do best, having fun in the sun with their friends and teachers. What more does one want for their kiddos? Campers will experience a variety of activities including math & science, sports, water play, cooking, arts & crafts and so much more. Please mark your calendar to join us for two very special Zoom Friday Night Musical Shabbat programs with Amanda Awend on June 18 and July 9 at 5:30 pm. Check your daily Keshet nearer the time for zoom log-in information.

We are excited to share that enrollment for the 2021-2022 school year is almost full. This fall, we will open at capacity with eleven classrooms, a full teaching staff and class sizes will remain small with low teacher to child ratios. We look forward to welcoming back old and new families and eagerly anticipate the sounds of laughter and joy to fill our hallways as we welcome in a new school year.

Aleph Preschool staff have learned so much from this year of uncertainty and unpredictability. We have grown in ways we never thought possible, gained insight, and understanding, compassion and patience, and an overwhelming love for our profession. Teaching is a privilege. Being able to continue educating our youngsters this past year has truly been an honor. Thank you to all our parents for putting your faith in us. It has been a delight and pleasure and we look forward to another successful year ahead.

Please mark your calendar to join us for two very special Zoom Friday Night Musical Shabbat programs with Amanda Awend on July 9 & August 13 at 5:30 pm.



Hit the Reset Button

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

When I first started working at Beth EI, I wasn't sure what to expect. It was early September 2019 and the program year had just started. There were shabbatons already planned, programs in place, and a USY board already elected. I tried to hit the ground running, but I was still learning. The teens knew what they were doing and planned a great year of strong programming. I was able to introduce some new one-time programs and I was just finishing up some final touches before rolling out new initiatives. I worked long hours just trying to keep up and stay ahead of the school year. By March, the Purim Carnival was set and ready to go and then...BAM! COVID came. We ended up running the carnival with no bouncy houses or face painting, lots of sanitizer, and a ton of elbow high fives. And, unless you have been living under a rock, you know what happened next...lockdown. I was faced with a challenge, how will the youth department continue the quality of programming we already had in place while moving everything virtual? The answer was simple, we won't.

There was no way I could just switch the programs to virtual and keep moving forward and, the truth was, did I want to? In the past several years, there had been no full time youth department director and youth engagement was suffering. USY (9th - 12th grade) was run mostly by the teens with rotating youth directors, Kadima (6th-8th grade) had programs but was, by no means, thriving. And then there was nothing for the rest of the youth. We have strong engagement in the Aleph Preschool and Young Families but, after 3rd or 4th grade, we were losing kids and, therefore, families. COVID gave us a unique opportunity to hit the reset button on youth engagement and focus on what direction we wanted the Youth Department to go.

My plan is to have a clear place at Beth EI for everyone-from birth through college and into adulthood. Partnering up with Karen from the Aleph Preschool, Amanda from Young Families Engagement, Mary from TaRBuT, and many others, the Youth Department began to take shape. In the weeks and months to come, I can't wait to share with the congregation a new and improved Shabbat experience for all kindergarteners through 4th graders, 3rd and 4th grade youth group opportunities, 5th-7th grade new and improved Kadima programming, 8th-12th grade USY, leadership programs, and once-in-a-lifetime experiences, teen, parent, and family learning opportunities and so much more!!

This year has not been a bust-far from it! Although mostly virtual, we introduced twice a month game day programs for the 3rd-5th and 6th-8th graders respectively. Along with our Beth EI Youth Department Facebook page, we started an optional text message reminder system for programs in each age level and a monthly Youth Department newsletter that highlights staff and programs from the month and offers youth and family engagement opportunities (from drive-thrus to art contests, scavenger hunts to costume parades) all with a focus on each grade level and the programs available to them. In May, we began some in-person outdoor programs including weekly USY program nights, an URBANPOP dance class for kindergarten-5th graders, and even a teen midnight bonfire study session for Shavuot.

Our Beth EI Rishon United Synagogue Youth (BERUSY) program thrived this year. With an executive board made up of Shira Aronow, Koby Davis, Seth Kristal, Toby Khabie, Johnna Parks, Liz Madigan, Tamar Gewirtz, Alana Weiser, Rebekah Gendler, Abby Meisler, and Henry Salita, we managed to have almost weekly engaging programs focusing on Israel, Social Action and Tikkun Olam, Judaism, leadership, and fun! We won 4 regional awards from our region (EMTZA) including "Best Social Action Program: A Conversation on Race", "Chapter of Excellence" and the highly coveted "Chapter of the Year"! We will only continue this momentum next year as we move ahead with our newly elected, very talented, 2021-2022 BERUSY Executive Board.

Obviously, there is no denying that this year of COVID has been tough on everyone. But, to look on the bright side, I have so much enjoyed the challenge of redefining the focus of the Beth EI Youth Department and reimagining what youth engagement should look like. I look forward to sharing with you and seeing more of each of you in the future!

B'nai Mitzvah



5/1/21 / 19 Iyar 5781
Emor

LAILA MALAMUD SCHOENBERGER

לילה בת שלום חיים וליבא

Daughter of Louise & Steven Schoenberger



5/1/21 / 19 Iyar 5781
Emor

MICAH SCHOENBERGER

מיכה בן שלום חיים וליבא

Son of Louise & Steven Schoenberger

We are so proud of Micah and Laila and the people they have become. For both Micah and Laila their b'nai mitzvah provided an opportunity to combine their love for learning and passion for Judaism.



5/8/2021 / 26 Iyar 5781
B'har/Bechukotai

BENJAMIN BURT RIBNICK

בנימין בן חיים ולאה

Son of Yelena & Evan Ribnick

We are so proud of Ben as he becomes a bar mitzvah, and look forward to watching him continue to learn and grow into Jewish adulthood.



5/15/21 / 4th Sivan 5781
Bamidbar

TALIAH YARDEN EYAL

טליה בת אפרים ואביבה

Daughter of Ephi and Christine Eyal

Taliah immersed herself in her bat mitzvah studies. She finds joy in being a member of the Jewish community.



5/22/21 / 11 Sivan 5781
Naso

JACOB LEONARD LONDER

יעקב לב בן יצחק שמחה ופיה ציפורה

Son of Jason Londer & Aryel Diker Londer

Jacob's sense of humor and easy-going personality guides him through life. We look forward to him becoming a bar mitzvah and continuing his Jewish learning.



6/5/21 / 25 Sivan 5781
Sh'lach L'cha

SOPHIA EMMA MOLDO

שפע בת טוביה ועדה

Daughter of Tony and Amy Moldo

Sophia is a bright and focused student. She took her bat mitzvah preparation very seriously and we are so proud of her accomplishments.

B'nai Mitzvah



6/12/21 / 2nd Tamuz 5781
Korach

PHOENIX WILLIAM FLAMENBAUM

מרדכי בנימין בן משה הרשל

Son of Michael Flamenbaum &
E. Michelle Drake

Phoenix is looking forward to celebrating his bar mitzvah with family, friends and the community. Thank you for sharing this special day with us.



6/19/21 / 9th Tamuz 5781
Chukat

MADILYN GWEN ABELSON

מרים בת שמואל ודבורה

Daughter of Alissa & Stephen Abelson

Madilyn has taken on this goal of becoming a bat mitzvah as a true leader. She is dedicated to learning and Judaism and we are bursting with pride on this special day for our family. We are excited for what the next chapter holds for our dear Madi.



6/26/21 / 16 Tamuz 5781
Balak

MAXWELL AUGUSTUS WALSTIEN

מרדכי בן משה ואהובה

Son of Amy & Michael Walstien

Max approached his bar mitzvah like he has approached life - with determination and enthusiasm. We are excited for all he will contribute to the world as a Jewish adult!



8/14/21 / 6th Elul 5781
Shoftim

BENNY DAVIS ZWEIGBAUM

בנימין בן הרשל ואסתר רייזל

Son of Elly & Michael Zweigbaum

Benny is very proud to be Jewish and it shows through in his diligent studies of Torah and all things Jewish. We could not be more proud of him at this milestone in his life.



8/21/21 / 13 Elul 5781
Ki Teitzei

MARCO CARLOS MELENDEZ

משה בן שושנה

Son of Shana & Michel Melendez

Marco studied diligently to reach this day. Our entire family takes such pride in him and in his accomplishments.

Looking Back to Look Ahead

By Mary Baumgarten



It was music to my ears when I heard at an early May, Beth El Staff Meeting, that we were on our way to envisioning how our return to Beth El, in person, would look. This has been an interesting year, to say the least. As hard as it may be to believe, it has actually passed by quickly!

I am happy to share that Beth El's Fiterman B'nai Mitzvah Program is alive and well. Every component of our program has been operational this past year, albeit remotely.

Our students have continued their study of t'fillot (prayers), Torah trope, Haftarah, Nevi'im (Prophets) and Torah reading. They have participated in "Minyan and Mitzvot," where they conducted a service, spoke about mitzvot, and taken on Mitzvah Challenges. Many attended our 5th-6th Grade Virtual Shabbaton, which they loved.

In the words of one of our 6th grade parents: "Our daughter's experience this pandemic year was a good one. She developed strong shul skills, learned how to dialogue with her camera on and retained her sense of connection to her Beth El community and excitement for her upcoming Jewish milestone."

Our staff have worked diligently throughout the year and have participated in a variety of relevant and helpful professional development sessions. Our 6th grade parent continues, "We are continually impressed with the attention to detail on the t'fillah front, and the involvement of so many teachers at so many levels."

From last Sept. to this coming Sept. we will have celebrated 32 B'nai Mitzvah. It has been a pleasure observing how well our families have adapted to the new reality we faced this year. I admire everyone's flexibility and positivity as we moved to Zoom B'nai Mitzvah.

Kol Hakavod to all of our families for staying the course during challenging times – we all have much to be proud of. We have learned a lot this year and our plan is to incorporate the best of what we learned this year as we prepare for next year.

Yet, when all is said and done, I must admit that I have missed so many things about being at shul.

I have missed being able to greet families and children at the front door with a big "Shabbat Shalom." I have missed giving and receiving hugs from so many of you.

I have missed the din and the energy of students learning in our Badzin Family Learning Center, in the Fiterman Chapel, in the hallways on our upper level and in many nooks and crannies.

I have missed students running up to me to tell me what t'fillah they tested out on that day.

I have missed being part of the many life cycle events and B'nai Mitzvah which took place weekly.

And, I have missed our famous Kiddush lunches, catered by Spirit of Asia.

I will continue to hope and pray for our safe, in person return, to our beloved Beth El.

I can't wait to give everyone a big hug (in whatever way possible).

There are so many people who contributed to the success of our B'nai Mitzvah Program this year.

Thank you Master Teachers and specialists for all your contributions to our program. Etta Bernstein, Sam Herman, Lilly Kaufman, Elaine Sadoff, Brenda Schwartzberg, Bill Torodor, Elana Warren, and Sheryl Sue Warren, you are the backbone of our program.

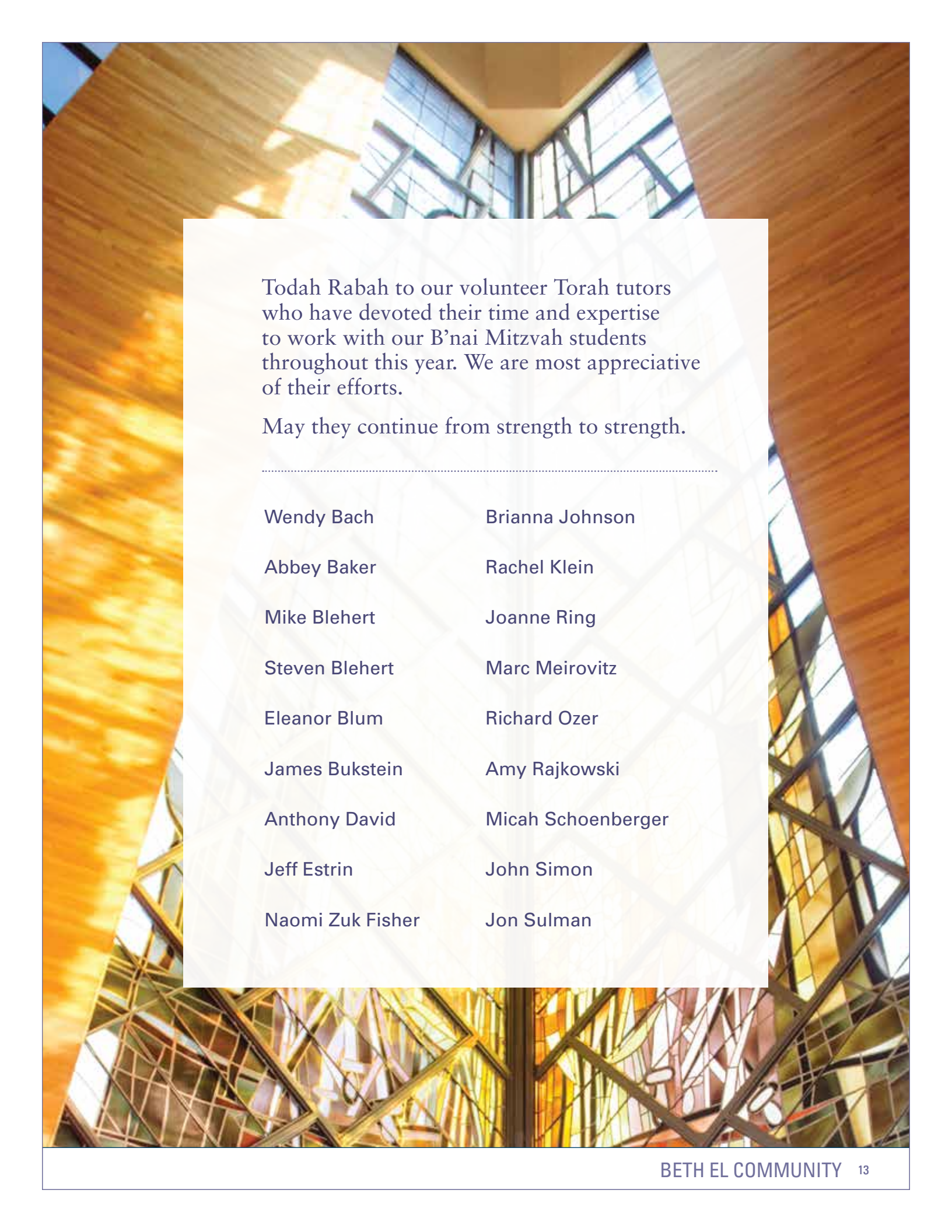
Thank you Rimonim and Teen Staff.

Thank you Jill Blustein and Andrea Johnson for your irreplaceable support.

Thank you to Beth El leadership for supporting us along the way.

Thank you to our wonderful clergy for being our guiding light.

Thank you, parents, for entrusting your children to us.



Todah Rabah to our volunteer Torah tutors who have devoted their time and expertise to work with our B'nai Mitzvah students throughout this year. We are most appreciative of their efforts.

May they continue from strength to strength.

Wendy Bach

Brianna Johnson

Abbey Baker

Rachel Klein

Mike Blehert

Joanne Ring

Steven Blehert

Marc Meirovitz

Eleanor Blum

Richard Ozer

James Bukstein

Amy Rajkowski

Anthony David

Micah Schoenberger

Jeff Estrin

John Simon

Naomi Zuk Fisher

Jon Sulman

MAZAL TOV TO MEMBERS WITH UPCOMING MILESTONE ANNIVERSARIES

NAME.....	DATE.....	YRS
Katherine & Marcus Magy	6/5/21	10
Ruth & Warren Solom	6/8/21	35
Vickie & Tom Hymanson	6/9/21	25
Rachel & Michael Goldman	6/9/21	55
Amy & Jack Fiterman	6/16/21	25
Sharon & William Hope	6/17/21	65
Lois & Sheldon Epstein	6/17/21	70
Karen & H. Irving Katz	6/18/21	60
Roberta & Elliot Cohen	6/18/21	60
Sylvia & Bob Fine	6/20/21	50
Pamela & Mark Greenberg	6/23/21	30
Michelle & Steven Parks	6/24/21	20
Estelle & Robert Stillman	6/24/21	65
Diane & Richard Cohen	6/26/21	55
Sally & Morrie Kleiner	6/27/21	50
Barrie & Steven Orloff	6/30/21	25
Michelle & Alan Yousha	6/30/21	25
Linda & David Estrin	6/30/21	40
Shirley & Joel Heiligman	7/1/21	50
Rebecca & Jacob Liston	7/2/21	15
Amy & Thomas Lieberman	7/5/21	40
Debra & Gil Mann	7/12/21	40
Trish & Steve Mintz	7/14/21	25
Jill & Zach Sussman	7/17/21	5

NAME.....	DATE.....	YRS
Brenda & Benhour Soumekh	7/28/21	30
Annalee & Arnold Odessky	7/28/21	40
Yelena & Jeffrey Kase	8/3/21	20
Pam & Murray Feldman	8/5/21	50
Terry & Richard Kleinbaum	8/6/21	15
Susan & Bruce Meyer	8/7/21	55
Bonnie & Steven Heller	8/7/21	55
Linda & Michael Platt	8/7/21	55
Erica & Aaron Karasov	8/14/21	10
Marilyn & Richard Chern	8/16/21	40
Cindy & Marshall Shragg	8/16/21	40
Jennifer & Scott Lang	8/18/21	25
Carolyn & Stuart Bloom	8/18/21	40
Maggie & Steven Blehert	8/20/21	15
Diane & Neil Hoffman	8/20/21	60
Dee Ann & Gerald Mann	8/22/21	50
Marnee & Thomas Lieberman	8/25/21	30
Dawn & Daniel Zouber	8/26/21	20
Robyn & Erik Wetter	8/27/21	15
Genya & Joseph Buslovich	8/27/21	55
Lillian & Allen Griffel	8/28/21	45
Marlene & James Bukstein	8/29/21	50
Bonnie & Alan Ziskin	8/29/21	50
Laureen & Jack Bleet	8/31/21	45

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...

Mazal Tov to Jill & Zachary Sussman on the birth of their son, Asher, born on February 7, 2021. Mazal Tov

Mazal Tov to Aliza Bach & Jeff Wojciechowski on the birth of their son, Jonah Eitan born on February 28. Mazal Tov to proud grandparents Wendy & Howard Bach and Elise & Joe Wojciechowski

Mazal Tov to Shana & Christopher Marchand on the birth of their daughter, Talia Elizabeth, born on March 12. Mazal Tov to proud grandparents Patti & Ari Kaplan and to proud great grandmother Sharon Kaplan

Mazal Tov to Jonathan Ribnick and Stephanie Fishbein on their engagement.

Mazal Tov to proud parents Mindy & Danny Ribnick

Mazal Tov to Andrea Nadel-Tikh & Mikhail Tikh on the birth of their son, Ilan, born on March 31

Mazal Tov to Seth Kristal on being elected Religion/Education Vice President on the EMTZA Region Executive Board

Mazal Tov to BERUSY for winning four regional awards including "Best Social Action Program: Continuing the Conversation and "Best Membership Program: Virtual Youth Outreach"

Mazal Tov to Shira Aronow on being the 2021 Howie Stillman recipient

Mazal Tov to Gabe Kaplan on receiving the 2021 Rose Rees Award

Mazal Tov to Beth El Rishon on winning EMTZA Region Chapter of the Year

Mazal Tov to BERUSY President, Shira Aronow, on winning the Senior Dugma Award for the EMTZA Region

Mazal Tov to Sara Frailich on being named one of the Twin City's 40 under 40 for 2021.

Mazal Tov to Dana & Ben Becker on the birth of their son, Elijah, born on April 27. Mazal Tov to proud grandmother Deb Deutsch

Mazal Tov to Rachel & Andrew Scherf on the birth of their son, Zachary, born on April 28. Mazal Tov to proud grandparents Jodi Lebewitz Davis & Michael Davis

Mazal Tov to Denh Tuyen & Ariel Altman on their wedding on June 1

Mazal Tov to Rachel Carlson and Caleb Hausman on their engagement!

Mazal Tov to proud parents Christine & Seth Hausman

Condolences to...

Shelley (Brian) Johnson on the loss of her father, Steven Burnstein

Nancy Miller on the loss of her brother, Elliot Miller

Dian (Stuart) Yellen on the loss of her brother and sister in law, Lewis & Joan Smith

Jeffrey (Dana) Prottas on the loss of his father, Robert Prottas

Reida Lazer-Chein (David Chein) on the loss of her daughter in law Sarah Lazer

Missy Barenbaum and Rena Locke on the loss of their husband and son **Thomas Barenbaum**

Jill (Yarden) Wolfe on the loss of her father, David Rosenblatt

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Mickey (Paula) Carlson and Barbara (Barry) Rosenzweig on the loss of their brother **Henry Goldstein**

Fionnuala Ni Olain (Oren Gross) on the loss of her father, Padraig O'hAolain

Becky (Adam) Kristal on the loss of her father, Herzl Locks

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Sheryl (Kerry) Olitzky and Rabbi Avi Olitzky on the loss of their father and grandfather Melvin Rosenblatt

Rick (Helen) Averbach, Linda (Butch) Bialick and Shirley Jacobson on the loss of their mother and sister **Rose Averbach**

Julie Friedman and Larry (Bobbi) Friedman on the loss of their husband and brother **Steven Friedman**

Pat Lichterman and Carol Lichterman on the loss of their husband and brother **Samuel Lichterman**

With heavy hearts we mourn the loss of these loved ones within our community. This reflects the losses in our community through May 18, 2021.

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

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Strategic Plan

Last year, Beth El 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 El community.



COMMUNITY

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

LEADERSHIP

Develop greater leadership capacity throughout the congregation.



OPERATIONS

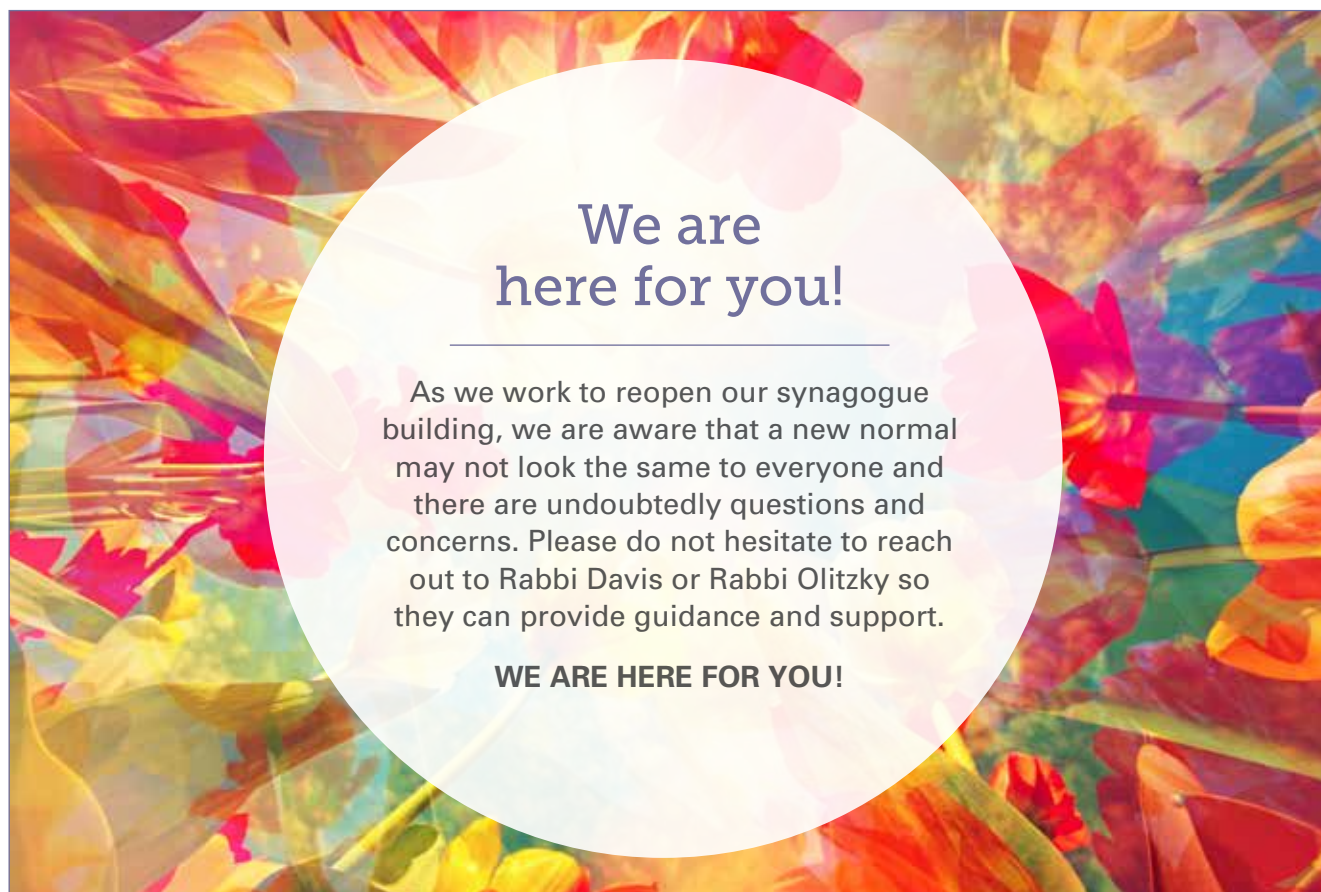
Ensure appropriate systems and resources to support the aspirations of Beth El.



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	
3	First Shabbat with Cantor Ben Tisser – Welcome!
18	Tisha B'av
AUGUST	
2	Beth El Annual Meeting
8	Yom HaShoah
Fall LOOKING AHEAD	
Sept 7-8	Rosh Hashanah
Sept 16	Yom Kippur
Sept 21-28	Sukkot
Sept 29	Simchat Torah
Oct 17	Celebration honoring Cantor Audrey Abrams
Oct 24	Concert featuring Cantor Azi Schwartz & Cantor Audrey Abrams





Beth El
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SAVE THE DATES




A musical celebration honoring
Cantor Audrey Abrams
as she officially retires as Beth El's Cantor
SUNDAY EVENING,
OCTOBER 17, 2021

Sunday Evening, October 24, 2021

The celebration continues with a concert featuring special guest, world renowned
Cantor Azi Schwartz from Park Avenue Synagogue and Cantor Audrey Abrams

