

BETH EL NEWS

January - February 2018



Rabbi Andy Green

On the night of December 9, as numerous dedicated community members filed into our shul's *Casino Royale* evening, I found my way to my office, donned wig and sunglasses, jumpsuit and belt, tallis and yarmulke, as I transformed into "Rabbi Elvis." Over the course of the night, I renewed the vows of thirteen Beth El couples, serenading them with the Elvis' sacred words of *Can't Help Falling in Love with You*, and having them promise to be their loved one's "hunka hunka burning love."

I'd be lying if I claimed that I wasn't at all hesitant about assuming this role, but when I realized that the essential character and holiness of the moments shared under our Beth El Chapel of Love chuppah, I couldn't refuse. Though surrounded by the trappings of Vegas shtick and an admittedly poor Elvis impersonator, the moments of greatest beauty and kindness that night happened not when I did anything, but those loving couples took time to rededicate themselves to one another, to laugh and kiss, to have and to hold, and to, under that chuppah, look deeply into the eyes of their spouses and recognize the image of Gd they are so privileged to behold and too often take for granted. Hand in hand (and with their whole hearts too), with bouquets and veils, these soulmates kissed and cried, blessed *boreh pri hagafen*, broke a glass, and signed their hearts to each other once again. Together we sang *siman tov u'mazel tov*, honoring this shared moment of love and intimacy, of caring and affirmation, of joy and humor.

In embracing both the sacred and the silly for this moment of significance, I followed what our congregation and what Conservative Judaism strives for, simultaneously holding on to both tradition and change, integrating ancient wisdom and practices with modern philosophies and circumstances. We take the approach in everything we do, whether considering the initial audience for a biblical narrative in our Torah Talk classes (every Saturday at 10:15am) or gathering together in Washington DC to reaffirm our ancient homeland and marvel at Israeli innovation (AIPAC Policy Conference, March 4-6) or revisiting our communal approach to welcoming interfaith families (January 24 at 7pm.) I hope you'll join us, as we reaffirm that Jewish wisdom, however ancient, has something deep to teach us as we respond to the vicissitudes and challenges and blessings that shape our lives.



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Neshama Carlebach is coming! See back for details!

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE - JOSH LASTER



In early December, I attended my annual conference of synagogue administrators and executive directors. It's always a good chance to network with others that are in the same field, share our experiences with each other and most importantly learn together while attending the variety of workshops and seminars geared toward enabling us to serve as the Jewish communal professionals guiding our individual congregations. The theme of this year's conference was "Working for Today, Innovating for Tomorrow: The Ever-Evolving Role of Executive Directors".

I've attended many conferences over the years, and they have all offered valuable information that I could bring back for the improvement of my both myself and my synagogue. This conference impacted me in a different way. It spoke to the changing landscape in synagogues and the complicated dynamic of synagogue membership. We explored the opportunities for financial resources outside of the dues our families contribute each year. The speakers and participants shared innovative ideas for engaging those that are either on the

fringes of our own community or otherwise completely unengaged with their entire community. For me, all of this came back to two big questions: Why? and How?

These two questions leads to lots of other questions! Why do we do what we do? Why do our members belong to Beth El? Why do non-members choose to support us? How does Congregation Beth El serve as a beacon of Conservative Judaism in the South Jersey area? How do we raise awareness of the benefits we provide to our greater community? Why does our community need vibrant synagogues? How do we fit into the lives of the Jewish community that is not currently engaged with Beth El or any other synagogue?

These are big questions. As your executive director, I simultaneously feel confident answering these questions and at the same time cautiously aware that my answers may very well not be your answers. And yet, with these differences, we all very likely agree upon the importance of Beth El. We just need to understand the "why" and "how" so that we can help others who are not yet engaged or, perhaps, those are still part of Beth El but are currently less engaged than they were in other years.

In addition to attending this yearly conference, I look for inspiration from other resources as well. I'm a fan of listening and viewing TED Talks. For a taste of how truly engaging these talks are, Google "Simon Sinek Start with Why" (no caps needed). He is a powerful, speaker. I'm reasonably certain you will be inspired.

One of my most important ever-evolving roles as your executive director, is to help you connect with the organization you care so deeply about, assist you with connecting others to Beth El and make certain that we make clear not just the ways that you can support Beth El, but how we can support your as well. I need your feedback. I'm truly interested in reading and hearing your thoughts. Perhaps you would consider sharing your "Why Beth El" story so I can better represent our beautiful congregation. You can email me at jlaster@bethelsnj.org, call me in my office at 856-675-1166 x405 or reach me on my mobile phone at 610-733-0760. Thank you and Happy New Year!

Introducing YoPro, South Jersey's newest Jewish Young Professionals Group!

Out of college but haven't started a family yet? YoPro is for you!

To get involved, email Davida Chornock at dchornock@bethelsnj.org or
Leora Waiche at lwaiche@bethelsnj.org.

Follow us on Facebook to stay up to date on events: <https://www.facebook.com/yoprodsnj/>

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The Community Partnership Program has been designed to connect local businesses to Beth El in an effort to raise funds on an annual basis.

Beth El has been connected to Camden County and more specifically the Cherry Hill and Voorhees area for nearly 100 years. Children start their education in our Early Childhood Center and continue on through our Religious School. Adults enrich their lives in our educational and cultural programs, and our community worships and celebrates together.

We pride ourselves on providing assistance to those in need.

By supporting Beth El, you are assuring the Jewish future of our area and sustaining an organization that is committed to supporting those in need.

Thank you for your consideration of this exciting new program. We look forward to your support.

If you are interested in being part of the Beth El Community Partnership Program, please contact Reta Feldman at rfeldman@bethelsnj.org or 856-675-1166.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - DAVID BACKAL



Congregation Beth El is our spiritual home. We create a warm and welcoming community, where people of all generations are enriched by learning and inspired to discover their personal experience of Jewish life.

This is Beth El's Mission Statement, this is our Mission Statement. As I was attending one of our "Let's Do Shabbat" dinners the other week (and I recommend every one of us to attend one if you haven't), I was looking around the Social Hall and found myself thinking about the words in this statement and the meaning of our mission. Our Board along with our Clergy developed this mission statement about two years ago, to create a brief but powerful message that represents our Shul and what happens in our building and community. Since its creation, these words are ringing truer now than I have experienced in the past.

Not only are our Shabbat services well attended on a weekly basis, whether there is a scheduled Simcha or not, our overall programming is extremely impressive and inclusive to our entire congregation. From education to spiritual growth to social events, Beth El offers something for all of us. In my Kol Nidre message, I expressed that one of my visions for Beth El is to get every congregant to enter our building and be more engaged this year than in years past. We are experiencing this level of activity on a regular basis and, more importantly, we are seeing many new faces and families participating alongside our regulars. Beth El is buzzing.

Rounding out our fall season, we had an awesome night watching horse races and playing the gaming tables as Rabbi "Elvis" Green renewed vows at our Casino Royale evening. This was followed by a full week of Chanukah Celebrations. If you missed anything, don't worry there is plenty more to come. I know by now, we all have the winter version of our "What's Happening @ Beth El" postcard hanging on our refrigerators listing all events (Social, Holidays, Shabbat and Learning). But I wanted to highlight a few upcoming programs: starting with the Art Auction on Saturday, January 20; then we will celebrate Purim on Sunday, February 25 with our Purim Carnival followed by the Megillah Reading February 28 and March 1. Also on Sunday, February 25, is the 49th Annual JCRC Middle East Institute. So please mark your calendar with the upcoming events. For more information, please refer to the mailing, contact our office or go online and visit our newly designed website. I promise you there is something for everyone! Come out, bring a friend and get involved.

In early December, I traveled to Atlanta along with Faye Shapiro and Cathy Backal, members of our Executive Committee, and our Clergy to the USCJ Annual Convention "Dare Together". There we were inspired and empowered with new ideas, strategies and skills to strengthen the Beth El community. I'd welcome the opportunity to share with you what we learned.



I wish you and your families a very Happy and Healthy New Year!

And remember, *You do not belong to Beth El, Beth El belongs to you!*

SHARING OUR LIVES (AS OF NOVEMBER 28)

BIRTHS:

Shelly & Allan Brenner on the birth of their granddaughter, Harper Jane Caracciolo
Bonnie Johnson & Abe Galam on the birth of their son, Elliot Isaac
Shirley Yaffa on the birth of her great granddaughter, Tehila Sara Mazuz

B'NAI MITZVAH:

Beth & Andrew Blumenthal on the Bar Mitzvah of their son, Adam
Debbie & Dave Feinstein on the Bar Mitzvah of their son, Adam
Randi & Brian Genovese on the Bar Mitzvah of their son, Remy
Melissa & Jeffrey Herskowitz on the Bar Mitzvah of their son, Justin
Simmy & Joe Krassan on the Bat Mitzvah of their granddaughter, Ellie
Debbie & William Morowitz on the Bar Mitzvah of their grandson, Adam Blumenthal
Diane Rose on the Bat Mitzvah of her daughter, Jenavieve
Judy Ruttenberg on the Bar Mitzvah of her grandson, Jared Contant
Audrey & Marc Snyderman on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter, Leah

ENGAGEMENTS & MARRIAGES:

Gerry & Howard Abramsohn on the marriage of their son, Heath, to Marla Enowitz
Donna & Rick Forman on the marriage of their daughter, Lindsay, to Daniel Capecci
Nella Glick on the engagement of her granddaughter, Samantha Cancell, to Scott Milden
Stephanie & Brad Specter on the marriage of their daughter, Lindsay, to Dan Davis
Lauren Williams & Joel Rudin on their engagement

BETH EL MOURNS the passing of:

Irving Benedon, father of Bob Benedon
Claire Caplan, mother of Carl Caplan
Leonard Green, grandfather of Rabbi Andy Green
Al Gardner, grandfather of Charlene Green
Randee Lipsman, mother of Mandee Andoian, sister of Eric Boory
Helen Pomerantz, sister of Myron Gilbert
Phyllis Safier, mother of Paula Jayson
Charlotte Sharofsky Silver, sister of Martin Sharofsky
Marion Weinstein, mother of Bob Weinstein



IN MEMORIAM OF OUR MEMBERS

The Beth El Family mourns the passing of

Ronald Kaplan

Brother of Richard Kaplan

**Our Shabbat Kiddush is a wonderful way to
celebrate your Simcha with our
Beth El community!**

* Birth/Baby Naming * Wedding/Auf Ruf *
* Milestone Birthday * Anniversary *
*Graduation * Bar or Bat Mitzvah Anniversary *
*Other Special Occasion *

To coordinate your event, please contact
Tamar Barkan at 856-675-1166 ext 418 or
tbarkan@bethelsnj.org

Mazal Tov to our B'nai Mitzvah of January & February

Miranda Rosenbaum

January 6

Andrew Neff

February 17



Miranda Rosenbaum

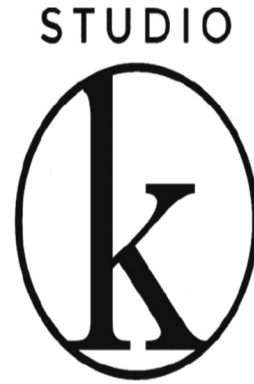
Daughter of Rachel Rosenbaum
and Charles Rosenbaum

Sister of Sivi and Estee

Granddaughter of David & Nancy
Schultz and Carol & Marvin
Rosenbaum

Great granddaughter of Jane Glazer, Morris Nipon, and
Meyer Scultz

Mitzvah Project:
Volunteering at Animal Welfare Association (AWA)



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Congregation Beth El's Sisterhood presents

PARTY showcase 2018

Sunday, March 18

10:30 AM - 1:30 PM

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Join Us at Congregation Beth El for an

Art Auction

Featuring Art in All Media & Price Ranges

Saturday, January 20, 2018

**Havdalah, Cocktails & Preview: 6:00PM
Auction: 7:00PM**

**Door Prize
Wine & Cheese ~ Hors d'oeuvres ~ Dessert & Coffee**

For more information, contact Reta Feldman at rfeldman@bethelsnj.org or 856-675-1166 x. 427

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ART EXHIBITION & AUCTION

Please return by January 8, 2018

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

City, State & Zip: _____

CIRCLE SPECIFIC REQUESTS:

Impressionism

Wildlife

Contemporary

African-American

Sports

Americana

South Western

Seascapes

Judaic

Primitive

Children

Special Requests:



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A Community Project

The beauty of a synagogue is that it has the power to bring together members of the congregational community across generational lines. We at Beth El strive to bring children, teens, and adults together to learn. Learning can take place during typical times or in alternative

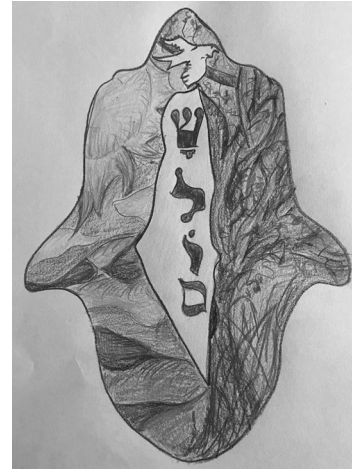
spaces. The benefit of these types of experiences is the opportunity for our members to make new connections outside of their peer group within the congregational community .

In December, the entire community gathered together for Menorah Madness on the fifth day of Chanukah where members of all ages attempted to break the world record of lighting the most Chanukiyot at one time. Although we did not break the record we did have a wonderful time together singing songs and celebrating the lights of Chanukah as a community.

And In just a couple of months our entire community will come together again to work with artist in residence Esther Cohen Eskin. We will be creating a beautiful mosaic bench in honor of Israel's 70th birthday that will be on permanent display in the front of the building.

The design has been created by our artist in residence. Esther will prepare the tiles for each section of the bench and each participant will be assigned a section to work on either by themselves or with their families. When the tiling is complete, it will be placed on the bench that will displayed outside of our building. The result? A sense of pride from every participant for helping to piece together a long lasting gift to our community.

Beginning Sunday, March 11 through Sunday, March 18 Esther Cohen-Eskin will be with us as we create the bench. Look out for dates and times to come work on this beautiful creation. As it says in Avot: Do not separate yourself from the community. I look forward to coming together as a community.



Esther Cohen-Eskin bench design

SAVE THE DATE

- Tuesday, January 2** School Resumes
- Sunday, January 7** Shabbat Shalom Club Party for those students who have attended 5 or more Shabbat services
- Sunday, January 14** No School
- Sunday, January 21** Hey B'yachad S/T Class
- Sunday, January 29** Yom Pajama (Pajama Day)
- February 2-3** Inclusion Shabbat
- Saturday, February 3** Bet B'yachad Havdalah Program
- Saturday, February 10** Community Wide 8th grade Night at the Museum
- Sunday, February 11** Hey B'yachad S/W Class
- Tuesday, February 13** Hebrew High School Right in Our Backyard Program
- Thursday, February 15** No Hebrew High School
- Sunday, February 18** No Religious School
- Saturday, February 24** Gimmel Chag Hassidur

Sunday, February 25
Purim Carnival

10am-12pm
Games, crafts, prizes,
and so much more!
\$10 for children ages
4-12. Adults free.



Dear Beth El Families:

Since our last edition we have had our class and individual pictures taken, Silly Hat Day, and a wonderful Thanksgiving Feast! The children enjoyed the feast and a special thanks to Hazzan PB for singing her beautiful songs with us and the PTG volunteers for cooking, serving, and making sure all went well! We also had an ECC Art Exhibit at Barnes and Noble. Look at our creative and talented student artwork.



We had a wonderful Chanukah Celebration and Winter Camp. Our Mad Science class is full and our little scientists are having fun learning science with Chemistry Carol. Our parent communication app, Brightwheel, is up and running in all classrooms. Please sign up if you have not already done so. We send messages and update the calendar with our great events so please check in often. This is a wonderful way to be a part of your child's day!

Shabbat birthdays, Bagel Wednesdays, and Pizza Fridays are fun days and if you need any forms please check on my table or ask me.

Registration has begun. Please encourage your friends to come learn and grow with our Beth El Family and schedule a tour today!

Important Dates:

December 14 Chanukah Celebration

December 25 ECC Closed

December 26 – 29 Infants & Toddlers have a regular school day and Winter Camp for Two's through K

January 1 ECC Closed

January 31 Tu B'Shevat

February 28 Purim Eve - Shul-wide Megillah Reading & Purim Celebration

March 1 Purim – ECC Celebration

March 2 Dr. Seuss Day

March 30 ECC Closed for Passover

April 6 ECC Closed for Passover

SWEET INDULGENCE

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CONGREGATION BETH EL PRESENTS

MLK DAY OF SERVICE

MONDAY, JANUARY 15

9 AM - 11 AM

Join our hands-on Mitzvah Day
with activities for all ages!

Cook For A Friend

Sandwich Factory

Making & Packaging Soup

Bake Cookies

Create Crafts for Others

...and many more activities to
make a difference!



For more information, contact Tamar Barkan at
tbarkan@bethelsnj.org or 856.675.1166 x.418

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Let The Festivities Begin!

CONGREGATION BETH EL'S



Olympic Purim CeLeBrATiON!

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2018

5:45pm
Opening Ceremonies
Purim Dinner.
Free and all are welcome!

6:15pm
Megillah Reading for All Ages
Come dressed as your favorite athlete or in your best costume and join the Parade of Champions!

7:45pm
Go for the Gold Adult After-Party!
Fun and active game night with food and spirit!

Thursday, March 1

7am Morning service and Megillah reading. Festive breakfast to follow.



For more information, contact Tamar Barkan at tbarkan@bethelsnj.org or 856.675.1166 x. 418

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SHACHARIT

MINCHA/MA'ARIV

CANDLE LIGHTING

HOLIDAY / SPECIAL

EVENTS

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
DECEMBER 31 9:00AM 4:45PM	1 NEW YEAR'S DAY 8:30AM 4:45PM	2 7:30AM 4:45PM	3 7:30AM 4:45PM	4 7:15AM 4:45PM	5 7:30AM <i>CELEBRATION SHABBAT</i> 4:30PM 4:31PM	6 SHEMOT 9:00AM 4:40PM
7 9:00AM 4:50PM	8 7:15AM 4:50PM	9 7:30AM 4:50PM	10 7:30AM 4:50PM	11 7:15AM 4:50PM	12 7:30AM 4:35PM 4:38PM	13 VAYERA 9:00AM 4:45PM
14 9:00AM 4:55PM	15 MLK DAY 8:30AM 4:55PM	16 7:30AM 4:55PM	17 ROSH CHODESH 7:15AM 4:55PM	18 7:15AM 4:55PM	19 7:30AM 4:45PM 4:46PM	20 Bo 9:00AM 4:50PM
21 9:00AM 5:05PM	22 7:15AM 5:05PM	23 7:30AM 5:05PM	24 7:30AM 5:05PM	25 7:15AM 5:05PM	26 7:30AM 1:00PM <i>MINCHA</i> LET'S DO SHABBAT 6:00PM SER- VICE	27 BESHALACH 9:00AM 5:00PM
28 9:00AM 5:15PM	29 7:15AM 5:15PM	30 7:30AM 5:15PM	31 Tu B'SHEVAT 7:30AM 5:15PM	FEBRUARY 1 7:15AM 5:15PM	FEBRUARY 2 7:30AM <i>CELEBRATION SHABBAT</i> 5:00PM 5:03PM	FEBRUARY 3 YITRO 9:00AM 5:10PM

NOTES:

1 - ECC Closed

7- Sisterhood Dye & Tie It - 9:30AM

7 - Breakfast & Speaker Sponsored by Men's Club - 9:45AM

11 - Sisterhood Challah Bake - 7PM

14 - Religious School Closed

15 - MLK Day of Service - 9AM

16 - CoLeL Movie Night - 7:30PM

17 - Pirkei Avot Class with Rabbi Krupnick - 12PM

17 - Sisterhood Rosh Chodesh - 7PM

19 - Singles Shabbat - 8PM

20 - Art Auction - 6PM

21- Sisterhood Dye & Tie It - 9:30AM

23 - BEJC - 7PM

24 - Pirkei Avot Class with Rabbi Krupnick - 12PM

24 - Interfaith Forum - 7PM

25 - Library Short Story Discussion Group - 1:30PM

26 - Let's Do Shabbat Dinner - 6:45PM

27 - Sisterhood Shabbat - 9AM

27 - Shabbat Shirah - 9AM

30 - BEJC - 7PM

31 - Pirkei Avot Class with Rabbi Krupnick - 12PM

31 - An Evening with Tom McCarthy - 6PM

SHACHARIT

MINCHA/MA'ARIV

CANDLE LIGHTING

HOLIDAY / SPECIAL

EVENTS

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
JANUARY 28 9:00AM 5:15PM	JANUARY 29 7:15AM 5:15PM	JANUARY 30 7:30AM 5:15PM	JANUARY 31 TU B'SHEVAT 8:30AM 5:15PM	1 7:15AM 5:15PM	2 7:30AM CELEBRATION SHABBAT 5:00PM 5:03PM	3 YITRO 9:00AM 5:10PM
4 9:00AM 5:20PM	5 7:15AM 5:20PM	6 7:30AM 5:20PM	7 7:30AM 5:20PM	8 7:15AM 5:20PM	9 7:30AM 5:10PM 5:11PM	10 MISHPATIM SHABBAT SHEKALIM 9:00AM 5:15PM
11 9:00AM 5:30PM	12 7:15AM 5:30PM	13 7:30AM 5:30PM	14 7:30AM 5:30PM	15 ROSH CHODESH 7:15AM 5:30PM	16 ROSH CHODESH 7:15AM 1:00PM MINCHA LET'S DO SHABBAT 6:00PM SERVICE 5:19PM	17 TERUMAH 9:00AM 5:25PM
18 9:00AM 5:35PM	19 PRESIDENTS DAY 8:30AM 5:35PM	20 7:30AM 5:35PM	21 7:30AM 5:35PM	22 7:15AM 5:35PM	23 7:30AM 5:25PM 5:27PM	24 TETZAVEH SHABBAT ZACHOR 9:00AM 5:30PM
25 9:00AM 5:45PM	26 7:15AM 5:45PM	27 7:30AM 5:45PM	28 FAST OF ESTHER 7:15AM 5:15PM MINCHA	MARCH 1 PURIM 7:00AM MEGILLAH READING 5:45PM	MARCH 2 SHUSHAN PURIM 7:30AM 1:00PM MINCHA LET'S DO SHABBAT 6:00PM SERVICE CELEBRATION SHABBAT 5:35PM	MARCH 3 KI TISA 9:00AM 5:40PM

NOTES:

2 - 3 - Inclusion Shabbat

4 - Phil Podell Memorial World Wide Wrap - 9AM

4 - Service From the Heart - 11AM

8 - Sisterhood Challah Bake - 7PM

11 - YFG Family Bingo

12 - Sisterhood Evening of Things We Love - 7PM

12 - Men's Club Bowling - 9PM

13 - BEJC - 7PM

16 - Let's Do Shabbat Dinner - 6:45PM

16 - Sisterhood Rosh Chodesh - 7PM

16 - Singles Shabbat - 8PM

19 - Shalach Manot Packing - 6PM

21 - Pirkei Avot Class - 12PM

21 - Men's Club Torah on Tap - 8PM

22 - Library Short Story Discussion Group - 1:30PM

22 - Shabbat Seder Class - 7PM

24 - Chag HaSiddur - 9:30AM

25 - Purim Carnival - 10AM

27 - Red Cross Blood Drive - 2PM

27 - College Connection Packing - 3PM

28 - Pirkei Avot Class - 12PM

28 - Shul Wide Megillah Reading & Purim Celebration

Men's Club



Larry Hanover, President
hanovers4@comcast.net

Men's Club rolled in 2017 with a surge in new members and a variety of events that hit all our main missions: being educational, charitable, religious, and having a social blast. We plan to keep up the pace in 2018.

I can't wait for Wednesday, January 31 when Phillies baseball broadcaster Tom McCarthy, a friend of mine from when we were both Trenton Times sportswriters many years ago, comes to Beth El. Tom was there for the 2008 World Championship and took over the lead role when Harry Kalas died in 2009. He has lots of great stories to share!

Other big events include:

- ◆ Sunday, January 7, Beth El Breakfast sponsored by Men's Club on "The Jewish Way to Aging Responsibly.": Our own Rabbi Green, Meredith Becker, Jerry Rothkoff, Marc Shenker and Glenn Sloves will provide vital information about issues on aging such as long-term care, the emotional impact on us and our families, the services we will require, and how we'll pay for them.
- ◆ Saturday, January 20, Art Auction: We support the shul for a fun, fantastic way to liven up your walls while raising money for Beth El.
- ◆ Sunday, February 4, Phil Podell Memorial World Wide Wrap: Pray in tefillin with Jews worldwide and hear planned remarks from Ira Podell, Phil's courageous son, who continues to make great strides in his recovery from a brain tumor and stroke.
- ◆ Monday, February 12, Men's Club Bowling: Be the strike-meister at Pinsetters in Pennsauken.

Don't forget Torah on Tap on Wednesday, February 21 at Tir Na Nog.

Lastly, we look forward to your help with Shalach Manot, in tandem with Sisterhood. This is a great way to spread Purim joy. We do packaging on Monday, February 19 and need all the delivery helpers we can get on Sunday, February 25.

Editor's Note: Congratulations to Larry Hanover on being named Beth El Men's Club Man of the Year 2017!

Sisterhood



Barbara Sharofsky, President
bsharofsky@gmail.com

We are well into our programming year, and there is so much to do and become involved with! There's something for everyone!

We had an amazing Paid Up Membership event on November 2, attended by over 100 Beth El Sisters.

Yasher Koach to our Membership Vice Presidents, Laurie Grossman and Meredith Becker, who saw to every detail of the evening! Everyone had a great time and learned a few make up tricks. Not yet a member of Sisterhood? It's never too late! Send a check for \$45 to the Beth El office, labeled Sisterhood dues, and join us!

Mitzvah Mall on November 19 was amazing and inspiring. So many wonderful organizations came to show us what we can do to become involved in our community. One of the organizations was our own Sisterhood tzedakah program, Torah Fund.

Torah Fund is the official tzedakah project of Women's League for Conservative Judaism, the parent organization for Sisterhood. Through funds donated to Torah Fund, Sisterhood supports the institutions which provide our clergy, educators and synagogue leadership. You can support Torah Fund in so many ways. If you have questions, contact Faye Shapiro (fayeshap0407@gmail.com) or Renee Kessler (rbkess@comcast.net) to learn more. You can become a benefactor and wear a beautiful Torah Fund Pin, which shows your support. Any donation, \$18 and up, works to provide us with our spiritual leadership.

Coming up with Sisterhood:

January

- | | |
|----------|---|
| 7 and 21 | Dye It and Tie It: Create your own Tallit |
| 11 | Challah Bake |
| 15 | MLK Day of Service |
| 17 | Rosh Chodesh |
| 27 | Sisterhood Shabbat |

February

- | | |
|----|---|
| 8 | Challah Bake |
| 12 | An Evening of Things We Love
Chocolate, Wine, and more |
| 16 | Rosh Chodesh |

It's all about YOU! Come see what's NEW!

Young Families' Group



Nikki Cohen, President
nicolecohen24@gmail.com

YFG hosted its kick off Karaoke and Kibitz event last month for a great parents night out!! We had a blast eating sushi while using our best singing voices to liven up the crowd.

We also had a successful pie and cookie sale for Thanksgiving and enjoyed working with Diane Nussbaum from Diane's Patisserie for a successful YFG fundraiser. The pies and cookies were delicious, thank you Diane!!

We have started planning for a fun afternoon of Family Bingo coming this winter on Sunday, February 11 and Cupcake Wars in the Spring so **SAVE THE DATE!!** Bingo will take place on Sunday afternoon after Religious School lets out and will be fun for all ages. Cupcake Wars is Beth El's version of the popular Food Network competition where each family will decorate a cupcake using limited supplies but only one family will be crowned the Beth El Cupcake Wars champion of 2018! You will not want to miss this event!!

As always, if you're interested in volunteering with YFG, we never turn anyone away!

YFG hopes everyone had a lovely Chanukah and wishes a Happy New Year from our families to yours.

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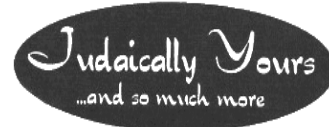
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January 19 ♥ February 16

Contact Norma Kamis:
(856) 662-7916 or normatrack@verizon.net



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Help us keep our Beth El college students connected to their shul and Jewish community. We provide holiday packages and Beth El news updates throughout the school year.

If you would like your student to participate in this FREE program, please submit the following information to Ann Miller at ALM4SP@aol.com or (856) 428-5145

- Student Name
- Student's E-mail Address
- Name of School/Class Year
- Student Mailing Address
- Parents' Name, E-mail Address, and Phone Number

ALL ADDRESSES MUST BE UPDATED ANNUALLY. PLEASE SUBMIT STUDENT'S ADDRESS EVEN IF PREVIOUSLY REGISTERED.

INFORMATION MUST BE SUBMITTED BY FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2018 TO RECEIVE THE THIRD PACKAGE.

(Names submitted after this date will be added to the next mailing list)

For more information call Gloria Back
(856) 428-6368

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YAFFA AT 856-675-1166 OR

SYAFFA@BETHELSNJ.ORG



The darkest days of winter can be illuminated by good books. Take advantage of cozy evenings at home and settle in with a selection from your synagogue library. Here are some suggestions:

Dorah Blume: ***Botticelli's Muse***

Set in Renaissance Italy, this book will bring you into the world of renowned painter Sandro Botticelli at the time he was having problems with his patron, Lorenzo deMedici. On a visit to his sister's convent, he meets a Jewish woman, a weaver being held captive and forced to renounce her faith. Her beauty and artistry with flowers inspire Botticelli to paint his masterpiece, "La Primavera," and he falls in love.

Nathan Englander: ***Dinner at the Center of the Earth***

Englander (*For the Relief of Unbearable Urges, The Ministry of Special Cases*) blends genres in his latest novel. The central character, Prisoner Z, is in captivity at an unspecified location in the Negev. Another key figure, identified as the General, is in a coma; this character is a barely fictionalized Ariel Sharon. While the General lies dreaming of past exploits, Prisoner Z reminisces about his past experiences. The adventures these two men had take the reader across Europe and into historic moments with famous figures. Israeli history and politics receive a creative touch in this novel.

Alexandra Silber: ***After Anatevka***

"Sunrise, Sunset," "Tradition," "If I Were a Rich Man" – these are the songs that make "Fiddler on the Roof" a modern classic. We walk out of the performance with these tunes in our heads. But what happens to the actors who live these roles for years? Alexandra Silber spent two years performing as Tevye's daughter Hodel in "Fiddler" in England. When she left the show, she needed to stay with the character, so she began writing about what happens to Hodel after she gets on a train to Siberia....and a novel was born. ***After Anatevka*** opens in a Siberian prison, where Hodel exchanges letters with her sister Tzeitel. Then husband Perchik, who is in a labor camp, comes into the story. The author spent three years writing the book, and her research included traveling to Siberia; she then was cast in the current Broadway revival of "Fiddler," this time as Tzeitel.

Gabrielle Zevin: ***Young Jane Young***

Aviva, a 20-year-old intern, has an affair with a congressman (does this sound like a certain young woman in a blue dress? It's meant to...). When they are involved in a car accident, the affair becomes public. He makes the requisite apologies, but her life is destroyed by the publicity. What happens thereafter is cleverly related from five unique perspectives. One piece is told in the entertaining voice of Aviva's mother, an elderly South-Florida lady. Another uses the format of a choose-your-own –adventure story. While this all makes for an amusing read, the book is dead serious in its message that our society revels in "slut-shaming," to the detriment of women everywhere.

As this newsletter is being prepared, the Library's annual **Jewish Book Month** fundraiser is still underway. A list of our generous contributors will appear in the next issue

The Library's **Short Story Discussion Group** will meet on **Thursday, January 25 and Thursday, February 22, 1:30 – 3:00 PM** in the Conference Room. Refreshments are served and we enjoy a stimulating conversation. Give it a try – and bring your friends. For more information, call the Library (675-1166, ext. 503).

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For questions, call Debbie Drachman at 856 -719 -9485

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LEAF: Purchasing a leaf on Beth El's Tree of Life, located inside the Shabbat and Holiday entrance to our building, is the perfect way to commemorate a significant life-cycle event.

Remember your wedding, birthday, anniversary, children's B'nai Mitzvah or other accomplishment by having a leaf custom engraved for \$275.

STONE: For a more significant addition to the Tree of Life, please consider purchasing a stone to adorn the bottom of the artwork. Each stone is custom engraved onto an all natural surface and promises to be a source of great family pride for years to come. The cost for each stone is \$600.

To order a leaf or stone, please call the Beth El office at 856-675-1166

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Matez, 60th wedding
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Murray Matez
Marriage of Alex
Feinerman, Bar Mitzvah of
Adam Blumenthal

Amy & Charles Rossano

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CHARLES E. TROBMAN MEDICAL RESEARCH FUND

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IN HONOR OF

Malcolm Trobman special
birthday
B'nai Mitzvah of twin
grandsons of Lina Shane
Special birthday of Craig
Taylor

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Simkin

Memorial Room

Honor your loved ones by purchasing a plaque (\$575) in our Memorial Room.

Additionally, the names and yahrzeit dates will appear on the digital screen, scrolling during the yahrzeit week, high holidays and other chaggim.

Contact Beth El for more information
at 856-675-1166

PATHWAY TO INSPIRATION

Do you wish to honor a loved one, that special simcha, a child's favorite teacher, or the memory of someone special? Personalized bricks make a lasting and unique gift.

The cost of a personalized brick starts at \$180 for the first brick and \$118 for every brick thereafter when multiple bricks are purchased together.

To order a personalized brick, please call Davida Chornock at 856-675-1166



Beth EI is an active participant in a charitable Endowment initiative under the auspices of the Jewish Community Foundation and funded by the Harold Grinspoon Foundation.

Please remember Beth EI when you do your Estate Planning. Our Committee will be happy to discuss various options with you. All of us thank those who have helped to ensure Beth EI's future.

Our Life and Legacy Donors

Anonymous (2)
Mira & Aaron Aumiller
Susan & David Backal
Cathy & Marc Backal
Marcia Baruch
Donna & Richard Bell
Pam & Bob Benedon
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Jeffrey Zeiger

Names in bold have formalized their commitment to Beth EI

LIFE & LEGACY PLANNED GIVING SPOTLIGHT: Jonathan Korn & Deborah Shore

Why did you choose to make this legacy gift commitment?

Deborah: Being involved in the Jewish community was part of my upbringing. I grew up with a Jewish identity. My house was kosher. My grandfather was a lay-cantor/rabbi at our shul. He would pitch in at the shul and lead services. Not every community has the many wonderful Jewish institutions that we have here. By participating in Life and Legacy, I hope to preserve them for the future.

Jonathan: I was not brought up in a very involved family from a Jewish perspective but gravitated towards Jewish involvement when I married Debbie. Over the years, and especially after having children of my own, I have been thinking about what we will leave for the next generation. I like to lead by example to set an example for my children. Through my involvement with JCRC, I understand the mission of Life and Legacy to build an endowment for Jewish institutions so that they remain there in the future. Fundraising is so difficult. The Life and Legacy program, in contrast, is a relatively painless way to raise money because you are not asking people to give money today. It will make a difference as these legacies create a pool of funds in the future.

Learn how you can help ensure Beth EI's future!

Email our Endowment Committee Chair, Jocelyn Borowsky, jdborowsky@comcast.net

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SAVE THE DATE!
Thursday, May 3

Neshama Carlebach
World Renowned Soul Singer

**Creating Unity in the Community Concert
with the Glory to God Gospel Singers**

Look for more information coming soon!