Dearest Beth El Family,

During these challenging times, as science and medicine tenaciously search for a cure, we pray for their speedy success. But in the spiritual world in which we, your Clergy, live, the focus is not so much on how to be cured as how to live. We personally cannot cure COVID, but we have been trying our best to cure the disease of loneliness through strengthening your sense of community. We pray that those whose lives have been touched by illness find comfort in the feeling of belonging that our congregation hopes to impart. While physical, tactile connections may have become virtual, there is nothing “virtual” about the way we three feel about all of you. We care deeply for each and every one of our members and their families. We are here for you. And, at the same time, we feel most grateful for the care, support and encouragement that you have sent our way, too. We really are a family, and we will indeed get through this together. May the warmth in our hearts be felt deeply in all of yours.

With Best Wishes for Health and Happiness,

Rabbi Krupnick, Hazzan Pomerantz-Boro, and Rabbi Green

Beth El is Going Solar!

We are making progress with the solar installation project by our Community Partner, Geoscape. If you are interested in evaluating solar for your home or business, give them a call at 877.436.7861.

Our Early Childhood Center teachers have been working hard during quarantine to teach and engage our youngest learners! In addition to virtual classes, celebrations, cooking demonstrations, and stories, several teachers have made visits to sing and bring presents to their students.

We hope you’ve enjoyed our Daily Lifts and connection opportunities! You can Lean On Beth El! We Belong Together.
**President’s Message**

Karen H. Schlessel  
President

I am blown away, but I am not surprised. Within hours of the decision to physically close our building, just before the start of Shabbat on March 13, we transformed. We opened other doors - virtual and real. Beth El Helping Hands sprung up within hours. Our clergy, staff, teachers, Board of Trustees, members and volunteers not just adapted, but flourished online and from a safe distance in person. Our presence is felt. The fact is, as our saying goes, *We Belong Together.* That manifests itself every day at Beth El, because Beth El transcends the place. I am grateful for the way all of us have demonstrated how we stick together. We show up for one another and our community.

Things have certainly changed. Everyday tasks, such as grocery shopping and returning home from work, have become carefully planned endeavors. On the flip side, many of us have had the luxury of pausing for a few breaths and taking time for introspection. While we stay at home, we are simultaneously connecting more on a global basis.

So what now? What will we rush back to? What will we let go of? What have we learned that we want to carry forward? We may not know what will last from what we are experiencing now, but we do have the power to determine what that history will be.

---

**Executive Director**

Josh Laster  
Executive Director

Although we are, for the most part, operating from outside of the synagogue, we continue to connect for prayer, learning, celebration, and support. We’ve transformed out of necessity, but many of the changes made will become our regular practice of connecting with our Beth El Family. We’ve also transitioned to a largely remote workforce due to restrictions of the Covid-19 guidelines. Those restrictions have caused us to make the shift to as much electronic communication as possible, and that now includes our billing and payments. In the next few days you will be receiving your membership renewal materials via email.

I’m at Beth El just about every day. Please know that the building is in great shape and being maintained by Rob Torrez, our facilities manager, and Marlon McElveen, our longtime janitorial supervisor from Mac’s Janitorial Services. They’ve been very busy with minor repairs and maintaining our beloved Beth El so it is ready for when we all return.

We hope to see everyone in the very near future!

---

**Our Life and Legacy Donors**

*Names in bold have formalized their commitment to Beth El*

| Anonymous (2) | Marla Glauser |
| Mira & Aaron Aumiller | Myra & David Gutin |
| Susan & David Backal | Phyllis Hecsh z”L |
| Cathy & Marc Backal | Deborah & Edward Hochberg |
| Marcia Baruch | Beth & Harvey Jacob |
| Donna & Richard Bell | Adam Kaminer |
| Pam & Bob Benedon | Sharla & Mort Kanovsky |
| Jodi Berman | Amy & Barnard Kaplan |
| Helene & Alan Blumenfeld | Jerome Katz |
| Jocelyn Borowsky | Alison & Andrew Keim |
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| Fran & Neal Coppersmith | Fran & Leon L. Levy |
| Leila & Adam Coppersmith | Suzanne & Victor Levy |
| Alan Dias & Heidi Handler | Judy & Don Love |
| Marsha Dollinger | Rachel & Stephen Miller |
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| | Lynn Goldman Paul |
| | Arlene & Ed Plasky |
| | Hilary & Harry Platt |
| | Hazzan Pomerantz-Boro & Family |
| | Donna & Leon Rose |
| | Ilene Rosen & P. Todd Rowan |
| | Sharon & Adam Sackstein |
| | Stuart & Sherry Sauer |
| | Karen & David Schlessel & Family |
| | Harriet Schulman |
| | Faye & Gary Shapiro |
| | Jennifer Sholder |
| | Michael Silver |
| | Juli Mandel Solves & Glenn Solves |
| | Lauren & Jonathan Soll |
| | Tami Bogutz Steinberg |
| | Judith & Stuart Wasserlauf |
| | Jennifer & Jim Weiss |
| | Leah & Jason Wolf |
| | Jeffrey Zeiger |

Help Beth El thrive for the next 100 years!

Jocelyn Borowsky, Endowment Committee Chair: jdborowsky@comcast.net  
Robin Berger, Events & Development Director: rberger@bethelsnj.org
Together, together we will be strengthened.

Torah:
As we recite when we finish the reading of a book of

Afterwards, we look forward to celebrating with you virtually

graduates, Confirmation students, and graduating

in our schools.

I would also like to welcome to our schools new ECC

As our “academic year” comes to a close, I would like to

take this opportunity to thank four members of our

community who are concluding their volunteer positions. Thank you to our ECC chairs, Beth Lambert and Sara Valli, and Religious School PTG chairs, Shari Shapiro and Brandi Seltzer. These four individuals have worked tirelessly supporting our schools. We thank you for your
dedication and service and look forward to your

continued involvement at Beth El.

Finally, I would like to extend a Mazel Tov to our Gan

graduates, Kindergarten graduates, Gimmel students on

their upcoming Chag Hasidur celebration, Vav

graduates, Confirmation students, and graduating

seniors. We look forward to celebrating with you virtually

and hopefully together one day soon.

As we recite when we finish the reading of a book of

Torah: Chazak Chazak v’nitchazelz.

Together, together we will be strengthened.

Shining examples of community spirit, support, love, kindness,

and strength are all around us, right here in our ECC and our Shul

as a whole.

I have been completely awe-struck by the way that I have seen

our school come together to support not only our teachers, but also our students and families. I have watched friendships form

that never would have been realized had we not been placed in

this situation. Beautiful acts of kindness, selfless acts of love,

and unabashedly supportive acts have been the norm over these last few months.

Watching teachers drive around to dance for their students, sing

songs and read stories on daily ZOOM calls and videos, call

students in the evening to wish them sweet dreams and

ila tov,

makes me proud of how our teachers truly treat these children as

their own. And conversely, how welcomed they are as part of the

family, by our incredible parents.

I’ve loved the parent groups that I’ve seen form to support not

only our teachers and school, but also to support each other.

There is no greater catharsis than having a legitimate “ugly cry”

FaceTime with a fellow parent. Those FaceTime calls and the

following WhatsApp group messages do more good for our

parents than I ever thought possible. The support consistently

reinforces to our parents that they are not alone, that we are all in

this together, and that they are doing the very best possible job

and being the best possible parent.

I’ve loved the way our administration has been a constant, ever

solid, ever resolute in maintaining the day to day, in a positive

and supportive manner, by reaching out to not only our Beth El

Community, but the Jewish community as a whole. Lastly, I’ve

loved the way our Clergy has been a daily gift to us, always there

with smiles on their faces and a positive message to share;

guiding our hearts with laughter, song, and thought.

I look at these few months as a glowing example of what is at the

core of our community, and that is heart. I am proud to be a part

of it, and so incredibly grateful for all of you.

With this incredible community, and through its strength, I look

forward to the future with you. I look forward to a time when we

can celebrate simchas together, big and small. I look forward to

celebrating the High Holy Days with you, whether side by side or

virtually. I look forward to more beautiful moments with this

tremendously resilient and engaging community.

I want to leave you with this: we will get through this, we are

stronger together, and thank you for being such an incredible

family. Be safe, stay healthy, and stay POSITIVE!!

Mazel Tov to our Kindergarten graduates!!
“There is no better exercise for your heart than reaching down and helping to lift someone up.”

Beth El Helping Hands

In early March, a group of dedicated volunteers from the Social Action, Membership, and Boker Tov Committees sprung into action to form Helping Hands. Helping Hands was initially created as a way to connect with seniors who may be feeling isolated. Within days, 15 congregants had volunteered and more than 200 calls were made, connecting with homebound seniors and offering assistance. After the success of that first effort, Helping Hands was expanded with the goal of reaching all 800+ Beth El households.

The program has been an overwhelming success, with more than 600 calls made to date by over 30 volunteers. In addition to weekly check-ins, Helping Hands volunteers are delivering meals, shopping for groceries, and sharing information for how to connect to Beth El programs and services. Some would say that the most meaningful part of the program has been the relationships that have been formed between the volunteers and the congregants whom they are calling.

Laurie Grossman shared, “I really enjoyed reaching out to members of our congregation, especially to those who have been a little more isolated during this awful pandemic. At a time when it can feel like the world is breaking, the Helping Hands program shows how our community is as strong as ever, and I’m happy to be a small part of that!”

Rachel Miller added, “In a time when it’s easy to feel that there is so much that we can’t do, Helping Hands has given me something that I can DO. By making a few calls each week, adding a few extra items to my supermarket list, I am able to assist our members who can’t leave their homes. These phone calls take a few minutes of my time and help folks have a connection to our synagogue in a time when they can’t be in the building. In truth, these calls have made me feel more connected to my community- something that I am grateful for.”

Helping Hands calls will continue weekly and there are plans to expand the program in the future. If you would like to volunteer as a caller, or if you need assistance, please reach out to Melissa at mleibowitz@bethelsnj.org or 856.675.1166. Just one call can brighten someone’s day!

Charli Aumiller has been making Candy Bouquets to benefit the Lone Soldier Center in memory of Michael Levin. Making these has been a fun activity, often involving Charli’s whole family. To date, Charli has raised over $2,500 and is still hoping to be able to travel to Israel for her Bat Mitzvah this December and hand deliver this donation to the Center.

Kosher Candy Bouquets are still available and able to be dropped off to a door to brighten someone’s day. Email Charli for information: candybycharli@yahoo.com

Justin Fox chose to support New Beginnings in Camden, NJ for his Mitzvah Project. They are a mobile resource center helping to restore honor and dignity to Camden’s homeless population. They offer hot showers, meals and the ability to wash clothes in their two traveling motor homes. Justin collected men’s clothing and toiletry items and will sort and deliver the much needed supplies as soon as possible.

Stacey and Lauren Gruber supported One Love Animal Rescue by putting together a gift basket that was raffled at a fundraising event. Stacey and Lauren collected monetary contributions at Beth El which were used to purchase items to make the basket.

Jonah Kutikov organized an online chess tournament on April 19 that raised more than $1600 for Fox Chase Cancer Center’s COVID-19 Response Fund. 31 chess players rated from amateur to FIDE master participated in the tournament. The tournament was a success and resulted in a 3-way tie for first place (Jonah was happy to be one of the 3). The tournament was something fun to do with the stay-at-home order in place. The funds will go toward resources needed in the hospital to continue to provide safe cancer care in the era of COVID-19. Donations are still being accepted at: http://donate.foxchase.org/jonahs_chess_tourney
Kavod is a new organization at Congregation Beth El that aims to address the needs of Jewish LGBTQ adults and their allies in South Jersey. Organizers Jemma Kline and Shanin Gross formed the group earlier this year, bringing together those in our community interested in advocating for LGBTQ rights as well as joining together for social events.

The group has met to discuss how our congregation can best serve the needs of queer members and their families, including updates to membership policies, signage, the building, and services. The goal is to further build on all the steps our synagogue has made to make LGBTQ people feel welcome and included. Discussions have also focused on how we can engage the wider community through attendance at Pride, coordination with other Jewish and LGBTQ organizations, and social media. We aim to engage in a wide range of advocacy issues, including transgender rights, same-sex adoption, and blood donation.

During quarantine, Kavod has held bi-weekly meetings, Zoom Movie Nights featuring LGBTQ-relevant entertainment, Game Night, and a Shavuot discussion. We hope you’ll join us at our future gatherings to learn more about how you can be a part of making Beth El a place where queer Jews of all orientations and genders feel they have a home.

Contact Jemma at jforrestkline@gmail.com to connect.

If you like historical fiction:
- Barenbaum, Rachel: *A Bend in the Stars*
  A WWI story that blends science (Albert Einstein plays a role in the story), history, and romance
- Benjamin, Melanie: *Mistress of the Ritz*
  Based on actual events and set in the famed Paris hotel, an American woman helps the French Resistance
- Carner, Talia: *The Third Daughter*
  A Jewish girl from Russia is a victim of sex trafficking by a Jewish crime ring in early 1900s Buenos Aires; inspired by actual events
- Clayton, Meg Waite: *The Last Train to London*
  Based on actual events; the story of Truus Wijmuller, whose work on the WWII Kindertransport saved thousands of children
- Hoffman, Alice: *The World That We Knew*
  12-year-old Lea and Ava, a golem sworn to protect her, find danger and love in WWII Europe
- Orringer, Julie: *Flight Portfolio*
  Fictionalized version of Varian Fry’s heroic efforts getting Jewish writers and artists out of WWII Europe. Masterful, a must-read.
- Quintero, Faith: *Loaded Blessings*
  Set in contemporary times and at during the Spanish Inquisition, a missing candlestick links generations

If you want suspense:
- Gross, Andrew: *The Fifth Column*
  Suspense with spies in a New York City neighborhood
- Silva, Daniel: *The New Girl*
  Gabriel Allon’s 19th (!) adventure

If you prefer contemporary stories:
- Blake, Sarah: *The Guest Book*
  Three generations of an American family, a saga to savor
- Friedland, Eyssa: *The Floating Feldmans*
  Family dysfunction on the high seas
- Ragen, Naomi: *Unorthodox Match*
  A modern California girl decides to change her life; she marries an ultraorthodox Torah scholar in Boro Park
- Weiner, Jennifer: *Mrs. Everything*
  Two sisters start out in the 1950s and experience the turmoil of a changing America

Sunny afternoons in the backyard are the perfect time to catch up with new novels. Here are some highlights from our “New Books” shelf this year:

*Sunny afternoons in the backyard are the perfect time to catch up with new novels. Here are some highlights from our “New Books” shelf this year:*
ATTENTION COLLEGE UNDERGRADS & PARENTS!

More than 330 holiday packages and Beth El News updates were sent to 117 college students across the country this school year!

Thank you to all the volunteers who helped to keep our college students connected to Beth El and their Jewish community.

If you would like your undergraduate college student to participate in this free program for 2020-2021, please submit the following to Ann Miller at ALM4SP@aol.com or (856) 428-5145:

- Student Name
- School Address
- Student’s Email
- Name of School/Class
- Parent Name, Phone, Email

DEADLINE TO SUBMIT INFORMATION FOR THE FIRST PACKAGE OF 2020-2021 IS FRIDAY, AUGUST 28, 2020*

*ALL ADDRESSES MUST BE UPDATED ANNUALLY. PLEASE SUBMIT STUDENT INFO EVEN IF PREVIOUSLY REGISTERED.

SPONSORED BY:
David Back College Connection Fund
To make a donation: 856.675.1166

For information, please contact: Gloria Back at 856.428.6368 OR gback5454@aol.com

We also wish a wonderful future to all of our members who graduated college or graduated with an advanced degree this year!

---

**ECC Kindergarten Graduates:**
- Jaxon Cygler
- Mila Cygler
- Graham Delgado
- Eliot Driben
- Noah Ducorsky
- Ryder Ettinger
- Anna Fingerman
- Zachary Gelrod
- Brant Inselman
- Rishaan Iyer
- Dylan Jacobs
- Isaac Karsenty
- Maya Mittelman
- Jack Okon
- Haden Petkun

**Vav Class Graduates:**
- Charli Aumiller
- Samantha Bellezza
- Ethan Cohen
- Julie Cohen
- Maxwell Cutler
- Madden Danowitz
- Sebastian Enda
- Justin Fox
- Jayna Gardner
- Tara Goldman
- Benjamin Green
- Zachary Green
- Lauren Gruber
- Olivia Jacobs
- Noah Livestone
- Annabel Maidenberg
- Samuel Neuwirth
- Camryn Ostrood
- Rachel Rosenberg
- Alexis Rovner
- Landon Schuster
- Jordan Segal
- Blake Sholder
- Erin Smith
- Zachary Smith
- Guy Sorasky
- Ariel Steinberg
- Noah Sztejman
- Reese Titon

**Confirmation Students:**
- Max Becker
- Elizabeth Berg
- Sara Chesnick
- Aidan Dworkin
- Ethan Farber
- Adam Feinstein
- Rachel Fensterer
- Jack Gaffin
- Max Gaffin
- Madison Glauser
- Jamie Goldberg
- Rob Golin
- Emma Greenberg
- Elyse Kratchman
- Sabrina Kushner
- Hannah Leibowitz
- Isabella Levin
- Devyn Levin
- Jessica Levin
- Nadine Litvak
- Noa Pecarsky
- Gavin Poulshock
- Marisa Rappaport
- Zachary Schreiber
- Carly Shulman
- Leah Snyderman
- Caleb Unterlack
- Shira Weiss
- Nathan Wolf
- Eva Woods

**High School Graduates:**
- Nicole Austin*
- Jeremy Bender*
- Ethan Benn
- Perry Bernard
- Joshua Boro*
- Adina Boyd*
- Emma Broder
- Jake Brooks
- Ryan Chakov
- Ethan Chase
- Lily Cohen
- Seth Drachman
- Sydney Gaffin
- Gabby Hanover
- Jake Herskovitz
- Jillian Jasner
- Madeline Kagan
- Samantha Keim*
- Leah Kellerman
- Carly Kolmins
- Naomi Korn
- Benjamin Landau
- Nathan Landau
- Alex Marks*
- Jordyn Meltzer
- Benjamin Nadelbach
- Juliet Noah
- Julia Orel
- Jacob Packman
- Molly Phillips
- Madeleine Roberts
- Stefanie Rose
- Rachel Rosenberg
- Benjamin Schwartz
- Robert Schweitzer
- Emily Steele
- Luke Steele
- Lily Turner
- Nadav Warszawski*
- Hannah Weber
- Marisa Weinberg
- Matthew Weinberg
- Emma Wolf*
- Jacob Yankowitz

*Beth El Junior College graduate
JOIN OUR GROWING LIST OF SHOMRIM MEMBERS

PILLAR
The Brown Families – Sidney & Sandy and Jeff & Tracy
Donna & Richard Forman – Forman Foundation
Eva & Marvin Schlanger

VISIONARY
Marvin Samson Foundation

SUSTAINER
Jerome M. Katz
Alison & Andrew Keim

BUILDERS
Anonymous (1)
Susan & David Backal
Cathy & Marc Backal
Donna & Richard Bell
Beth & Josh Brodkin
Marcia & Arnold Cohen
Betsy & Peter Fischer

BENEFACTOR
Elaine & Bart Greenspan
Rabbi & Helene Kupnick
Judy & Donald Love
Ellen & Michael Lowenberger
Miriam & Stan Meltzer
Sharon & Adam Sackstein

GUARDIAN
Iris & Steven Auerbach
Hazzan Alisa Pomerantz-Boro
Gloria & Ira Back
& Stephen Boro
Delores Gerstein
M. Zev Rose
Jennifer & Michael Gerstein
Karen & David Schlessel
Deborah & Ed Hochberg
Lauren & Jon Soll
Sharla & Morton Kanovsky
Elaine L. Waxman
Robert & Valerie Linden
Julie & Jason Whitney
Carol & Donald Meltzer

Contact Robin Berger at rberger@bethelsnj.org for more information on our dues inclusive giving program!

WE MOURN THE PASSING OF:

Phyllis Hecsh
Wife of Allan Hecsh, z"L, Beth El Past President

WE SEND CONDOLENCES TO:

Jonathan Bennett
loss of his mother, Ruth Bennett

Alan Blumenfeld
loss of his sister, Lisa Blumenfeld

Scott Dorfner
loss of his mother, Geraldine Dorfner

Gloria Goldberg
loss of her parents, Frances & Marvin Weiss

Cheryl Hanover
loss of her mother, Sandy Rosen

Chaim Respes
loss of his mother, Arthea Williams

Joel Respes
loss of his partner, Arthea Williams

Mindy Sorasky
loss of her mother, Adele Schwartz

Barbara Strosberg
loss of her brother, Leonard Trugman

Nicole Weisman
loss of her mother, Eve Rose

May Their Memories Be A Blessing
*List as of May 13, 2020

Mazel Tov!

Bonnie & Michael Gewurtz
birth of grandson, Dylan Elliott Myers

Lauren & Joshua Okon
birth of son, Benjamin Grey

Audrey Oppenheim
marriage of son, Marc, to Ilana Bagel

David & Barbara Oppenheim
marriage of son, Marc, to Ilana Bagel

Sharon & Jay Ruder
birth of grandson, Jackson Matthew Ruder

Shelby & Andrew Ruder
birth of son, Jackson Matthew

Debby & Michael Silverman
birth of granddaughter, Norah Ashley Silverman

Amy & Jason Weiss
birth of son, Graham Henry Weiss

List as of May 13, 2020

May Their Memories Be A Blessing

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We appreciate the generosity and support of our current Beth El News advertisers:

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COMMUNITY PARTNERS
Please support those who support us!

VIRTUAL CONNECTIONS
Having trouble with the computer? We can help!

Beth El volunteers are available to help you use Zoom and answer your computer questions.

To learn more, contact Melissa Leibowitz at mleibowitz@bethelsnj.org or 856.675.1166.

If you are not receiving Beth El emails, please contact Alicia at adrozen@bethelsnj.org to ensure we have your correct email address.

SCRIP GIFT CARDS
Contact Shirley to purchase at 856.675.1166.
Orders must be placed 24 hours in advance.
No contact pick-up only on:
Tuesdays 9:00-11:00am and Thursdays 3:00-5:00pm

KOSHER FOOD DELIVERY
We are pleased to share two wonderful Kosher food delivery options with all of you.

Classical Caterers, our exclusive caterer, is offering prepared Kosher meals and wholesale Kosher meat/poultry. Classical has an updated menu with new offerings. Visit them online at classical.catertogo.com

Kosher Mart Foods, a Cherry Hill based Kosher wholesale food supplier, is now offering a wide variety of Kosher products to residential customers. They will be donating a portion of their proceeds back to Beth El. Visit them online at koshermartfoods.com