

Beth El Newsletter

We Belong Together

L'Shanah Tovah!



WE STAND WITH ISRAEL

September/October 2024 - Av/Elul/Tishri 5784-85

High Holy Days at Congregation Beth El

2024/5785 Schedule of Services:



SELICHOT

Saturday, September 28

Mincha/Ma'ariv: 7:30pm

Havdalah/Program/Service: 8:15pm

ROSH HASHANAH

Erev Rosh Hashanah: Wednesday, October 2

Evening Service: 6pm; Candle Lighting: 6:50pm

Day One: Thursday, October 3

Morning Service: 9am; Torah Service: 10am

Social Hall Tot Service: 9-9:30am

Social Hall Morning Service: 10:15am

K-6th grade: 10am-1:30pm; Teen Program: 10am-1pm

Tashlikh: 5:30 pm (location to be announced)

Mincha/Ma'ariv: 6pm; Candle Lighting: 7:18pm

Day Two: Friday, October 4

Morning Service: 9am; Torah Service: 10am

Mincha/Ma'ariv: 6pm; Candle Lighting: 6:18pm

Family Service (all ages welcome): 10:15am

Teen Program: 10:15-11am

YOM KIPPUR

Kol Nidre: Friday, October 11

Mincha: 2pm; Family Service: 3pm

Kol Nidre: 6pm

Candle Lighting/Fast Begins: 6:07pm

Yom Kippur: Saturday, October 12

Morning Service: 9am; Torah Service: 10:15am

Sermon & Yizkor Service: 12pm

Musaf Together in the Katz Sanctuary

Social Hall Tot Service: 9-9:30am

Social Hall Morning Service: 10:15am

K-6th grade: 10am-1:30pm; Teen Prog.: 10am-1:00pm

Torah Study: 3pm; Community Yizkor: 4pm

Mincha: 4:15pm; Neilah: 5:45pm; End of Fast: 7:05pm

SUKKOT

Erev Sukkot: Wednesday, October 16

Yom Tov Services and Candle Lighting: 6pm

Day One: Thursday, October 17

Yom Tov Services: 9am

Family Program: 10:30am-11:30pm

Mincha/Ma'ariv: 6pm; Candle Lighting: 6:57pm

Day Two: Friday, October 18

Yom Tov Services: 9am

Family Program: 10:30am-11:30am

Mincha/Ma'ariv: 6pm; Candle Lighting: 5:57pm

Sukkot Chol Ha'Moed: October 19-23

Morning Minyan: 7:30am (Sunday: 9am)

Mincha/Ma'ariv: 7pm

Hoshanah Rabbah: Wednesday, October 23

Morning Minyan: 7:30am

Evening Service and Yizkor: 6pm

Candle Lighting: 5:50pm

SHEMINI ATZERET/ SIMCHAT TORAH

Shemini Atzeret/Yizkor: Thursday, October 24

Yom Tov Services: 9am

Yizkor and October 7th Commemoration: 10:45am

Family Program: 10:30am-11:30am

Simchat Torah Celebration: 6:30pm

Candle Lighting: 6:48pm

Simchat Torah: Friday, October 25

Yom Tov Services: 9am

Family Program: 10:00am-11am

Evening Service: 6pm; Candle Lighting: 5:47 pm

*Babysitting: 9am-1:30pm

(offered on both days of Rosh Hashanah and on Yom Kippur)

CLERGY CORNER



Summer winds down but Beth El and Jewish communities worldwide feel a gearing up for the upcoming High Holidays that we look forward to marking together. Whether it is your first fall season at Beth El, your third (like mine), or your fiftieth or more, we will once again gather in person and online to usher in a New Year that is full of possibility and potential. This is true for each of us personally, as we are never done learning and growing. We embrace the annual opportunity to do a mandatory self-assessment (known in Hebrew as *cheshbon nefesh*) to see where we have been so that we can chart where we hope to go.

It is true for our Beth El community as well, which continually strives to climb higher and higher, *l'eilah ul'eilah*, through commitments, dedication, and putting our values into collective action to make our ancestors proud, to motivate each other right now, and to inspire the next generation to take up the mantle of Jewish life in their own

way. We are blessed to be on a beautiful path; may we each find the strength to travel it with humble pride and unselfish devotion as 5785 begins.

We enter this year with hope but also, if we are honest, with some increased anxiety. Israel has been at war since October 7th. As of this writing, the fate of more than 100 hostages remains unknown and we pray for their safe return. And our country faces a hotly contested election, a partisan battle that feels more intense than most of us can remember. While “worrying” is practically a sport in the Jewish Olympics, our tradition is something that can stave off unproductive concern about the swirling darker clouds that can descend onto our world, and into our lives. And we have seen that capacity in practice throughout a challenging year.

When it comes to Israel, our community has stepped up in a variety of meaningful ways. Donations to Israel emergency campaigns. Advocacy with elected officials. Constant attention to every available detail about Israel’s progress against a diabolical enemy. Mourning the loss of every fallen soldier. Demonstrating for the hostages and standing with their families. Going to Israel on missions or to visit family (or encouraging and hearing the reports of those who did) specifically because “showing up” is a powerful form of support. These were all in wide evidence at Beth El since a fateful Shmini Atzeret morning when our reality changed.

At Beth El, our year was full of learning, doing, and being uplifted in celebration and supported following loss. An unforgettable evening of tribute and gratitude for my great partner and our amazing Hazzan Alisa Pomerantz-Boro was certainly a highlight, as was beginning to welcome our terrific new associate rabbi, Sam Hollander, a product of our local community who has in some ways come home to help lead it to its even brighter future. Our schools are in the best hands under the direction of Rabbi Nogah Marshall and Ayelet Mittelman. We are so pleased that Marissa Kimmel has enthusiastically taken on the role of Engagement Director and I hope everyone will have the chance to meet or speak with her soon. Alicia Drozen masterfully coordinates smaller gatherings and blowout events alike. Beth El’s communication is as clear and beautiful as it can be thanks to the creativity and expertise of Claudia Sternberg. Our accounting, maintenance, administrative, catering, and security staff do so much critical behind-the-scenes work to maximize our synagogue’s efficiency and impact. And Josh Laster, our wonderful executive director, holds it all together with wisdom, competence, and grace.

I extend a special thank you at the beginning of this year to our dedicated president Faye Shapiro, and to the board and volunteers who give of themselves day to day on behalf of all of us. In addition to all of our arms, groups, and committees, too numerous to name, I want to thank Neal Cupersmith, Lee Rosenfield, and the Bayit Va’Lev team that implemented an important and successful campaign to secure Beth El’s financial footing. No one likes being asked for money and very few people like asking. But with belief in Beth El, they asked and so many of you gave, and I am grateful to them and to you for doing so.

To close I want to share a thought from an important book I read this summer called ‘*The Anxious Generation*’ by Jonathan Haidt. I could not recommend it more strongly, especially to parents of school-age children and those who care for and about

Continued on pg. 4

them, which is all of us. A short chapter on the power of gathering together for sacred activity, in part as an antidote to the very isolated world of device-driven childhoods that too many pre-teens and teens are living (and some of the rest of us too), it speaks to the communal “reunion” we anticipate beginning with Rosh Hashanah. He writes:

“The strongest and most satisfying communities come into being when something lifts people out of the lower level so that they have powerful collective experiences. They all enter the realm of the sacred together, at the same time. When they return [from it], they have greater trust and affection for each other as a result of their time together in the sacred realm.”

I value and am grateful for your true partnership in making Beth El “the strongest and most satisfying” place that it can be. May we increase our affection for one another through our sacred time together, and channel our love for Beth El into words of kindness, acts of dedication, and ever-increasing excellence in being there for and with each other, connecting to and supporting Israel, and doing all we can to cause the Holy One to look on our efforts with favor.

Shanah Tovah U'metukah,

Rabbi David Englander

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



I hope everyone had a great summer and is excited to transition into Fall. I know I am, because Fall means High Holidays, one of my favorite times of the year. This year, the holidays don't start until early October, so we have more time to prepare, both physically and spiritually. The

physical preparation is easy for me. I like to get my house ready for guests, prepare my menus (I always like to try cooking and baking new things) and maybe even shop for some new clothes to wear. But the spiritual preparation is harder for me – reflecting on the previous year. What did I do wrong? Who did I hurt (even if unintentionally)? How can I improve? These are hard questions, but ones we are supposed to ask ourselves each year. By reflecting on our past we can learn and we can grow.

One way we can improve is by reaffirming our commitment to Judaism and to our Beth El community. Many of you may find yourselves in a new place in life, i.e. your youngest child is in school full time or you are new empty nesters, and have some more time. Or you are committing to making time to give back. I encourage you to think about volunteer

opportunities at Beth El. Our Beth El is full of amazing people, both professionals and volunteers, that can help you find a meaningful purpose. Think of what it is you like to do – do you like to cook? Then come to our monthly Cook For a Friend nights to help prepare meals for those in need. Are you good at organizing? Then volunteer to help with sorting donated items for mitzvah collections. Do you have good clerical skills? Maybe there are projects in the office that we need help with. Or do you want to just be with people? Then consider attending daily minyan once or twice a week (it is a mitzvah as you are helping to make a minyan for those who need to say Kaddish) and/or getting more involved in one of our many groups, to forge stronger relationships with like-minded people. There is truly something for everyone here! Please contact me at president@bethelsnj.org if you want to get more involved. It is the involvement of so many of our congregants that makes our Beth El community so special.

On behalf of my husband Gary, and my children Andrew, Allison and Melissa, I want to wish everyone a very happy and healthy New Year. We have a calendar full of wonderful programs and events for this coming year and I am looking forward to seeing all of you at Beth El.

B'Shalom,

Faye L. Shapiro

OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



My wife, Erica, and I took a weeklong trip to Vermont at the beginning of August. We very much enjoyed the time away with a much slower pace than our day-to-day lives. We are not the most outdoorsy people, but we did, however, book one adventure. It was a 4-mile paddle in a tandem kayak on the Winooks River. We were told by others that it was easy and you should be able to float for extended periods of time. That was not accurate. We paddled for about an hour and a half, occasionally coasting for periods of one to two minutes. The section of the river we were in was very shallow, and we had to navigate some rocky areas where we got stuck a few times. Nothing major, just unexpected, and we always got moving again. Aside from the fact that we didn't see any of the wildlife they said we might see, Erica and I had a great time navigating the river together, doing our best to paddle in synch moving us forward to our ultimate destination.

Thinking back on it now, many aspects of this excursion remind me of my work here at Beth El during the summer. The pace of the summer is certainly a little slower. A little calmer. But your Beth El team of clergy, staff, lay leaders and volunteers are paddling forward the entire time. Our destination? The robust year that lies ahead of us - High Holidays, Religious School, the Early Childhood Center, services, programs, events and so forth. With so much to plan for, there are times where we may get a little stuck, but we always get moving again and ultimately keep moving forward. It's an amazing trip, and the scenery is beautiful, especially as more and more people join us again in the building after our "quiet" summer.

So here's my request. Even if you are not the most "synagogue-y" people, grab a paddle and join us in the adventure of the very full year ahead of us. There is something for everyone, opportunities for volunteering and many ways to get involved. It's more fun when we paddle together, and we will certainly accomplish much, much, more.

Shanah Tovah,

Josh Laster

A promotional banner for a comedy night. The background is a dark, textured wall. On the left, the date '12.14.2024' is written in large, glowing blue letters. Below it, a red brushstroke contains the text 'A hilarious comedy night with' in white. Underneath that, the name 'GARY GULMAN!' is written in large, glowing yellow letters. At the bottom left, it says 'at Congregation Beth El' in white. In the center is a portrait of Gary Gulman, a man with long dark hair, wearing a dark shirt, with his hand to his chin. On the right, the text 'SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE!' is written in glowing blue letters. Below that, it says 'Contact Alicia Drozen, Events & Programs Director, at adrozen@bethelsnj.org' in white. At the bottom right, 'TICKETS GO ON SALE OCTOBER 13!' is written in glowing yellow letters.

Live & Learn 2024-2025

at CONGREGATION BETH EL

TUESDAYS at **7:00pm** beginning **October 29**



Rabbi Sam Hollander

Sacred Disagreements: How does Judaism grapple with the value of truth and conflicting perspectives? Explore how classical Jewish texts relate to our Jewish lives today.

Oct 29, Nov 5 & 12



Dr. Steven Chervin

Jews on Stage and Screen: Explore Jewish producers, actors, directors, composers, and more, that have played essential roles in the founding and growth of the Hollywood movie industry and Broadway theatre.

Mar 11, 18 & 25



Rabbi David Englander

Chanukah: Law, Lore, and Lessons of the most widely celebrated holiday of the Jewish year.

Dec 3, 10 & 17



Dr. Tameika Minor

Passover, Juneteenth, and Judaism: Exploring Intersection and Liberation

Apr 1, 8 & 15



Hazzan Alisa Pomerantz-Boro

Stories and Memories; Prayers and Purpose: Ways to bring meaning to our days through stories and prayers.

Jan 7, 14 & 21



Rabbi Nogah Marshall

Transformational Leadership: How Judaism guides us to influence and inspire others. Based on the teachings of Dr. Simcha Assaf Leibovich.

May 13 & 20



Harriet Hendel

Justice, Justice You Shall Pursue? Let's Talk About Wrongful Conviction: We will explore the role of junk science and false confession as it applies to wrongful conviction.

Feb 4, 11 & 18



FREE for Beth El members, \$54 for non-members

Scan QR Code to register, or visit: bethelsnj.org/learn

Sponsored in memory of Elaine Greenspan^{z"l}

BETH EL EDUCATION



Yehi Or Mitzvah Project

In the first book of the Torah in Parashat Bereshit we read about Creation. On the first day of Creation God created light, *Yehi Or*, "and let there be light." The theme of light is pervasive in Judaism. We light candles to welcome in Shabbat and we light a candle to usher out Shabbat. We light candles to remember our loved ones,

and the *Ner Tamid*, eternal light, burns continuously in the Sanctuary. But sometimes, we take for granted that we have light in our homes to allow us to perform daily functions. Unfortunately, there are some people in the world, even in our communities, that do not have the luxury of light in their homes.

I am very proud to announce that Congregation Beth El Religious School, in partnership with a local non-profit TRU Partnership are joining efforts to help bring light into the homes of those residents living in low-income housing in Camden through the *Yehi Or* Mitzvah Project. Together we will be collecting and distributing 613 used lamps to provide needed light for these families, many of whom do not even have enough light for their children to do homework, read, or play.

The *Yehi Or* Mitzvah Project will run until our goal of 613 lamps has been achieved. In addition to collecting lamps, students in the Religious School will make greeting cards throughout the year that will be distributed with the lamps. Lamp donations can be dropped off at the synagogue outside of the Youth Lounge, beginning September 15.

As Rabbi Shneur Zalman of Liadi says, "A little bit of light dispels a lot of darkness." Let's work together to spread light and dispel the darkness in our community.



Yehi Or!

Rabbi Nogah Marshall
Educational Director



We love to celebrate everything here in our ECC, and I mean everything! We ended our Camp Kaitana with SO many fun and exciting activities! We celebrated the Olympics with our

very own Beth El Olympics, we enjoyed a "drive-in" movie with hand-made cars and celebrated the end of the summer with our annual Camp Kaitana Luau!

Our ECC is growing so beautifully and as such we are very excited to welcome our beloved teachers as well as some amazing NEW teachers to our annual In-Service week which includes a fabulous meet-n-greet for all students and parents, and of course... Mr. Softee!

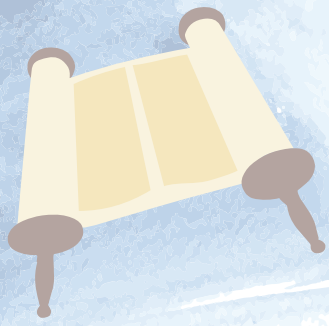
The High Holidays are just around the corner, and our students will be busy learning all about the Jewish New Year (Rosh Hashanah), which will include a Shofar Factory for our older students; they will learn all about the history of the Shofar, the different types of Shofrot, and the various uses over time. The oldest students will even have a chance to make their own shofar!

We are also very excited to get back to tending the ECC Children's Garden, lovingly gifted and built by Harv Cohen. We thoroughly enjoyed the bounty it provided all through the summer and can't wait to see what the fall brings!

Our ECC wishes everyone a wonderful start to the school year, safe and meaningful High Holidays and a very happy new year! *Chag Sameach* everyone!!

Ayelet Mittelman
ECC Director





Mazal Tov

TO OUR B'NAI MITZVAH



Dillon Spector – September 7

Parents: Todd & Lauren Spector
Siblings: Brenna Spector
Grandparents: Bonnie & Martin Spector,
Jim & Ellen Hagen
Mitzvah Project: Dillon is helping build a kitchen in a new home for the organization, A Woman's Place, which supports domestic violence victims.



Elliott Parker – September 14

Parents: Rachel & Doug Parker
Siblings: Alex and Sylvie Parker
Grandparents: Jerry Kaneff (z"l) & Melanie Kaneff, Sheldon & Susan Parker
Mitzvah Project: Elliott is baking homemade dog treats all proceeds go to the Voorhees Animal Welfare Association.



Maxine Driben – September 14

Parents: Karen & Ian Driben
Siblings: Eliot Driben
Grandparents: Charles (Chuck) & Brenda Driben, Alan & Jill Meltzer
Mitzvah Project: Maxine raised almost \$3,000 for Penn Oncology Cares, a charity that helps those get the cancer treatments they need. Penn Oncology Cancer Center treated Maxine's Aunt Amy Salcedo during her 5 year battle with colon cancer.



Devin Cohen – September 21

Parents: Nikki & Jon Cohen
Siblings: Julie, Dana and Drew Cohen
Grandparents: Terry & Marc Freedman, Sharon & Mitchell Cohen
Mitzvah Project: Devin raised funds for the Katz Family Charitable Trust in honor of our dear friend, Josh Katz. Funds will be used to support and enrich lives locally and around the world with a focus on hunger relief, education, and development to carry on Josh's work.



Maya Chacker – October 19

Parents: Maureen & Brian Chacker
Siblings: Eva and Chloe Chacker
Grandparents: Sheila & Edward Chacker, Maly & Akiva Anachovich
Mitzvah Project: Maya is raising money for Belev Echad, an organization dedicated to restoring wounded IDF soldiers back to life through physical, medical, legal, emotional, and financial support.



Alexa Cohen – October 19

Parents: Anne & Stephen Cohen
Siblings: Ethan Cohen
Grandparents: Darlene & Gerald Gordon, Carol & Saul Cohen
Mitzvah Project: Alexa is collecting new/gently used dancewear and dance shoes and donating them to aspiring dancers in need around the world through a Charity called Dance Fairies.



Mason Hassman – October 26

Parents: Tracy Ann Bancroft and Dr. Michael Hassman
Siblings: Finn Hassman
Grandparents: Arthur & Nancy Bancroft, Dr. Joseph & Lillian Hassman
Mitzvah Project: Mason is collecting funds to create 'MishaBears' (healing teddy bears) for members of our community, as well as in Israel, who are experiencing difficulties, illness or loss. The teddy bear is meant to uplift spirits and offer strength through the "Mi Sheberach" prayer - each one will have a tag describing the MishaBear Mission and a link to recordings of the prayers.

UPCOMING EVENTS at a glance!

SEPTEMBER:

- 3, 10 & 17:** KaHaL Elul Illuminations (Visit bethelsnj.org/elulilluminations)
- 6:** Prayers & Pajamas, Pizza & Popsicles Welcome Rabbi Hollander
- 8:** 1st Day of BERS at JCC Camps at Medford
- 8:** Parent & Me Volunteer Morning* Assembling Shana Tovah gifts for our security & officers at JCC Camps at Medford
- 13:** Let's Do Shabbat Dinner with Dr. Yizhar Hess (See back cover for details)
- 15:** Ballet Fitness Class with Amanda Fruchter
- 19:** Men's Club Schmooze & Brews with Rabbi Hollander
- 21:** Tot Shabbat (See pg. 11 for details)
- 22:** Eagles v. Saints Tailgate Party: Josh v. Marlon! Kosher Gumbo Cook-off
- 25:** Healing Service with Hazzan
- 26:** Sisterhood Kick-Off Event Challah Bake (See pg. 20 for details)
- 28:** Selichot
- 29:** Achim Sheli SATO Brunch
- 29:** Youth Department Event

OCTOBER:

- 2-4:** Rosh Hashanah
- 5:** Shabbat Shuva
- 6:** Manifesting Made Easy presented by KaHaL
- 11-12:** High Holiday Food Drive for JFCS*
- 11:** Kol Nidre
- 12:** Yom Kippur
- 13:** Youth Department Event
- 13:** Kavod Bowling Social at Laurel Lanes
- 16-23:** Sukkot; Social Action Sukkot Sock Drive for CommUNITY SJP
- 18:** Let's Do Shabbat in the Sukkah
- 20:** Shomrim/Life & Legacy Sukkot Reception
- 21:** Men's Club Steak & Schnapps in the Sukkah
- 22:** Habonim Sukkot Supper
- 24:** Shemini Atzeret
- 25:** Simchat Torah
- 26:** Tot Shabbat (See pg. 11 for details)
- 27:** Vav B'Yachad
- 27:** Parent & Me Volunteer Morning* Sock & Snack Packing for CommUNITY SJP
- 27:** Youth Department Event
- 28- Nov 11:** Thanksgiving Turkey Drive* for Boys & Girls Club
- 30:** KaHaL NYC Trip with Hazzan and Rabbi Marshall (See pg. 24 for details)



* denotes Social Action Volunteer Opportunities

Get ready for the
2024/5785 High Holidays!



Flower Fund

Help Beautify the High Holy Days!

Donate to our flower fund to help offset the cost of *bimah* flowers. Minimum donation \$25. Please visit:

bethelsnj.shulcloud.com/form/hhdflower



High Holiday Greetings

Send your friends a greeting to celebrate the New Year! \$18 per family (up to four names) and \$3 for each additional name.

Names will be printed in the next issue of the Beth El News and included in the weekly Buzz e-blast. Please visit:

bethelsnj.shulcloud.com/form/hhdgreetings2024



Lulav & Etrog Sale

\$60 per set - Order yours at:

bethelsnj.shulcloud.com/form/lulav2024

or contact Marsha at 856.675.1166
Orders due 9/25. Staff will contact you closer to Sukkot with pick up details.

BELL LIBRARY NEWS



Amy Kaplan Congregation Librarian

How interesting the Jewish calendar is this year! September usually finds us rushing to prepare for the High Holidays, yet this year we have plenty of time to study, cook, and get ready. With this in mind, I'm suggesting there

is still time to enjoy some quality time with good books, and I offer two highly anticipated and highly rated novels.

First, my suggested "must read" novel is "The Long Island Compromise" by Taffy Brodesser-Akner (her "Fleishman Is In Trouble" published in 2020 was adapted for television in 2022; the miniseries starred Jesse Eisenberg and Claire Danes). "Long Island Compromise" is the story of the Fletcher family of Long Island. Carl, the father, and his wife Ruth have three children, and the matriarch is Carl's mother Phyllis. At a young age, Carl inherited ownership of his father's polystyrene manufacturing company (the family knows the difference between polystyrene and Styrofoam and would like you to know it, too!). One day Carl is kidnapped from his car in the driveway of the family's estate, and when the ransom is paid and Carl is returned, he has been physically and emotionally abused and is no longer the man he had been. Repercussions of the incident resound through the generations, and all three children are damaged by it. So far this sounds like a very sad story, and it is tragic, but it's also very funny. Very, very funny. Brodesser-Akner is being compared to Philip Roth for her acute, biting observations of wealthy Jewish families. It's satire but more, with much to say about those who are born to money and those who are not. Along the way the author creates memorable characters such as the son Nathan, gentle and neurotic; middle child Bernard (aka Beamer), reckless and self-absorbed; Jenny, altruistic to a puzzling degree, and all of the others in the family and in the Fletchers' orbit. This is the type of novel where you just want to stop and read a line or a paragraph out loud to anyone in the room with you, if you can stop laughing long enough. But be forewarned: while I (and many, many critics) consider this

blockbuster one of the best novels of the year, some readers may find it disturbing, even offensive. It all depends on your sense of humor and sensitivity to the subjects the author is presenting. Well, you know – not every book is for every reader. So you can thank me or send me a scathing email after you read it!

Fans of Lisa Barr ("Woman on Fire," 2022) and those who haven't yet discovered her will all want to read her latest, "The Goddess of Warsaw." This is top-shelf historical fiction. The story begins in 2005, when aging Hollywood star Lena Browning is approached by the current darling of the film world, Siena Hayes. Siena wants to direct a movie about Lena's life, and Lena agrees, with the proviso that her real, full story be told. And it is quite a story. Lena was originally Bina Blonski, an Aryan-looking but actually Jewish actress living comfortably in pre-WWII Poland with her husband, Jakub. Their lives changed with the onset of the War and their banishment to the Ghetto, where Bina joined with the Jewish resistance and used her Aryan appearance to conduct spy operations, gaining information and stealing weapons. The horrors of the Holocaust and life in the Ghetto are depicted in very graphic, carefully researched detail. Bina survives, changes her name to Lena and becomes a movie star in Hollywood, where the story picks up in 1956. Someone from her past is still a threat, and Lena wants revenge and justice. We then understand the encounter in 2005 between Lena and Siena, and how the previously unknown details of Lena's life are so shocking to others. There is a lot of historical fiction being published about the Holocaust, but this one stands out for its historical accuracy and strong character development. The specific details about horrific Nazi cruelty and the novel's exploration of the difficulty of making ethical choices in extreme circumstances also set this novel apart.

Be sure to visit the library, or call us at 856.675.1166, ext. 503 to arrange for pickup of library books. Our hours are:
Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday from 9:30am – 12:00pm.

With best wishes for a New Year of health, peace, and blessings!



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TOT SHABBAT

at Congregation Beth El

Led by **Rabbi Marshall**

Once a month | 10-10:30am

Join us for a short, engaging and interactive service for families with kids 5 & under. Children and parents (and grandparents!) will enjoy a warm Shabbat experience in a welcoming and friendly environment.

Following Tot Shabbat service, children are invited to stay in babysitting so parents can join the Katz Sanctuary service. Everyone is invited to lunch!

2024/25 DATES:

October 26 • November 23
December 21 • January 18
February 8 • March 16
April 6 • May 15



More families than ever have stepped up to support the future of Congregation Beth El!

We are less than a million dollars short of retiring our mortgage!

We are proud to report that we have raised almost \$2,500,000 with the support of 265 generous Beth El families, including the entire Board of Trustees, every Past President, our Clergy, and members of our staff.

The funds raised are already having a huge impact - Our ECC children have been tending to the beautiful 'Sylvia Cohen Memorial Garden;' we have partnered with many organizations through our Social Action efforts, and we are planning a Beth El Mission to Israel in December. All of these experiences are part of our 10 commitments. Retiring our mortgage will mean that we can direct even more resources to these and so many more important goals in the years to come!

Will you add YOUR NAME?

Thank you for your participation at the most personally meaningful level you are able to contribute. Gift recognition is at the discretion of the donor.

Every gift counts... scan the QR code to make YOUR pledge!



To learn more and view the current donor list, please visit bethelsnj.org/bayit-valev

Contact **Marissa Kimmel** at mkimmel@bethelsnj.org or 856.675.1166 x418 for more information.

THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS SHOMRIM MEMBERS:

PILLAR

The Brown Families – Sidney & Sandy and Jeff & Tracy
Donna & Richard Forman – Forman Foundation

VISIONARY

Marvin Samson Foundation

SUSTAINER

Marcia & Arnold Cohen
Jerome M. Katz
The Keim Family Foundation
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Leslie & David Breslau
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Karen & Ian Driben
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Leonard Feldman

Nicole & Michael Gray
Jennifer & Alex Greenwald
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Ilene & Michael Weinberg
Karin Elkis & Steven Weinstein
Jennifer & James Weiss
Jennifer Jagust & Yoel Weiss
Eileen & Bernard Yaffa
Anonymous



A strong Jewish Tomorrow is in YOUR hands

By leaving a gift to Congregation Beth El in your will or estate plans, your legacy commitment can ensure that our synagogue will remain part of South Jersey's vibrant and colorful Jewish community for generations to come.



To create your Jewish Legacy, contact Josh Laster, Executive Director | jlaster@bethelsnj.org | 856.675.1166



Please remember Beth El when you do your Estate Planning.

Leaving a legacy is simple: Bequest in a Will, Gift of Life Insurance, Gift of IRA or Pension Funds, Gift of Cash or Assets, Charitable Remainder Trust.

Contact Josh Laster at jlaster@bethelsnj.org

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

Mira & Aaron Aumiller
 Susan & David Backal
 Cathy & Marc Backal
 Marcia Baruch Bowen
 Donna & Richard Bell
 Robert & Pamela Benedon
 Jodi Berman
 Helene & Alan Blumenfeld
 Jocelyn Borowsky
 Ronit & Chris Boyd
 Beth & Josh Brodtkin
 Amy & Eric Clayman
 Herbert (z"l) & Thalia Cohen
 Arlene & Harris Colton
 Fran & Neal Cupersmith
 Leila & Adam Cupersmith
 Marsha Dollinger
 Alan Dias & Heidi Handler
 June & Steven Eisner & Family
 Alan Finkelstein

Nicole & Michael Gray
 Myra & David Gutin
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 Debra Kelberg
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 Stuart & Sherry Sauer
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 Robin & Joshua Schwartz
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 Jennifer Sholder
 Michael Silver
 Juli Mandel Sloves & Glenn Sloves
 Lauren & Jonathan Soll
 Tami Bogutz Steinberg
 Judith & Stuart Wasserlauf
 Jennifer & Jim Weiss
 Jennifer Jagust & Yoel Weiss
 Julie & Jason Whitney
 Leah & Jason Wolf
 Jeffrey Zeiger
 Anonymous (2)

MAZAL TOV TO

B'NAI MITZVAH:

Téo Respes, son of **Rabbi Chaim Respes & Tonia Purnell-Respes**

Judah Reuben Sharofsky Weisel, grandson of **Barbara & Martin Sharofsky**, son of Rabbi Abbi Sharofsky & David Weisel

BIRTHS & NAMINGS:

Nancy & Dr. John Kravitz on the birth of their granddaughter, **Remy Jade Kravitz**

Arielle Kase & Brian Thomas on the birth of their son **Levi**, and to big sister **Delilah**

Michelle & Bryan Balaban on the birth of a baby girl, **Sonia Paige Balaban**

Chana & Ross Goldstein on the naming of their daughter **Abigail**, and to grandparents **Rick & Lori Goldstein**

Henry David on the naming of his granddaughter, **Evelyn David-Fuselli**

Keith Dunoff on the birth of his grandson **Seth Elliot Parish**

Robin & Steven Cohn on the birth of their grandson **Ari Jaxx Cohn**

Sharon & Adam Sackstein on the naming of their granddaughter, **Sophia Victoria Sackstein**



ENGAGEMENTS & WEDDINGS:

Lauren & Jon Soll on the engagement of their son, **Andrew to Melissa Kenny**, and to grandparents **Linda & Joel Appel**

Harris & Arlene Colton on the engagement of their granddaughter, **Lisa Colton to Matt Halpin**

Nanci & Michael Epstein on the marriage of their son, **Ethan Epstein to Kimberly Kanakos**

SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENTS AND OTHER GOOD NEWS:

Micah Hulnick, son of **David & Jill Hulnick**, led a crowd of 400+ in Hatikvah at the JCC Sports Awards!

Habonim honored **Judy Simkin** with a stone on the Beth El Tree of Life!

Aaron Inver was named Executive Producer of Fox 29's Weekend Morning Show and nominated for 2 Mid-Atlantic Emmy Awards

Tracy Ann Bancroft spoke in support of the Kids Online Safety Act at an Advocacy Day on Capitol Hill and at a press conference in Washington, DC along with Senators Richard Blumenthal and Marsha Blackburn.

Our members who were installed as new officers and board members of the Jewish Senior Housing & Healthcare Service's:

President **JD Abrams**, Vice Presidents **Amanda Kaminer** and **Leora Waiche**, Treasurer **Carl Bagell**, Board Members **Rachel K.**

Miller, Jamie Schuster Morgan and **David Gutin**.

Max Silverman, son of **Drs. Ben & Dina (Goldstein) Silverman**, is being honored by FIDF at the upcoming Philadelphia chapter of FIDF event, "Honoring Our Heroes." Max will recite a prayer for the soldiers.

Jaime Herndon was selected for a Mahlokhet Matters fellowship this fall at Pardes, and accepted into the low-residency Mekhinah program at JTS.

We want to celebrate everyone's simchas, accomplishments, and achievements.

Email Claudia Sternberg at csternberg@bethelsnj.org to share your special news!

ZICHRONAM LIV'RACHAH

WE MOURN THE PASSING OF:

Dr. Murray Matez - husband of Dorisann "Cookie" Matez (z"l); father of Mitchel (Tracie) Matez, Andi (Ron) Morris, and Bruce Matez

Esther Zoblin - wife of Martin Zoblin (z"l); mother of Jack (Dorrie) Zoblin, Andrew Zoblin, and Helene (Anthony) Engel

Lila Eisner - wife of Leonard Eisner (z"l); mother of Steven (June) Eisner, Jay (Bonnie) Eisner, and Beth (Adam) Share

Alice Mohr - mother of Leslie (David) Breslau, Beth (Matthew) Goldstein, and Emily Mohr

Sid Kaplan - husband of Marlene Kaplan (z"l), Zeldia Kaplan (z"l); Father of Elliot (Jill) Kaplan, Neida Perrie (Mark Costello),

Bryan Grossman (Tali Alfassy), Beth Grossman Gilbert (Greg Gilbert), Rabbi Yakov (Basha) Kaplan, and Nate Kaplan (z"l)

Allan Laufgraben - husband of Eileen Laufgraben, Father of Marc Laufgraben and Ross (Jodi) Laufgraben

Judith Weinstein - wife of Nathaniel Weinstein (z"l); mother of Linda (David) Wander, Marcy Weinstein, Lisa (Steven) Gillman

Lois Asbell - wife of Joseph Asbell (z"l), Mother of Lori Asbell-Donahue (Mike Donahue), and Sally Asbell

All life events as of August 15, 2024

Caregiver & me class

at CONGREGATION BETH EL

- Friday mornings beginning 9.6.24
- Class will meet at 10am in the Playroom
- Music, Art Projects, Special Guests & more!
- Open to all caregivers and their infants or toddlers

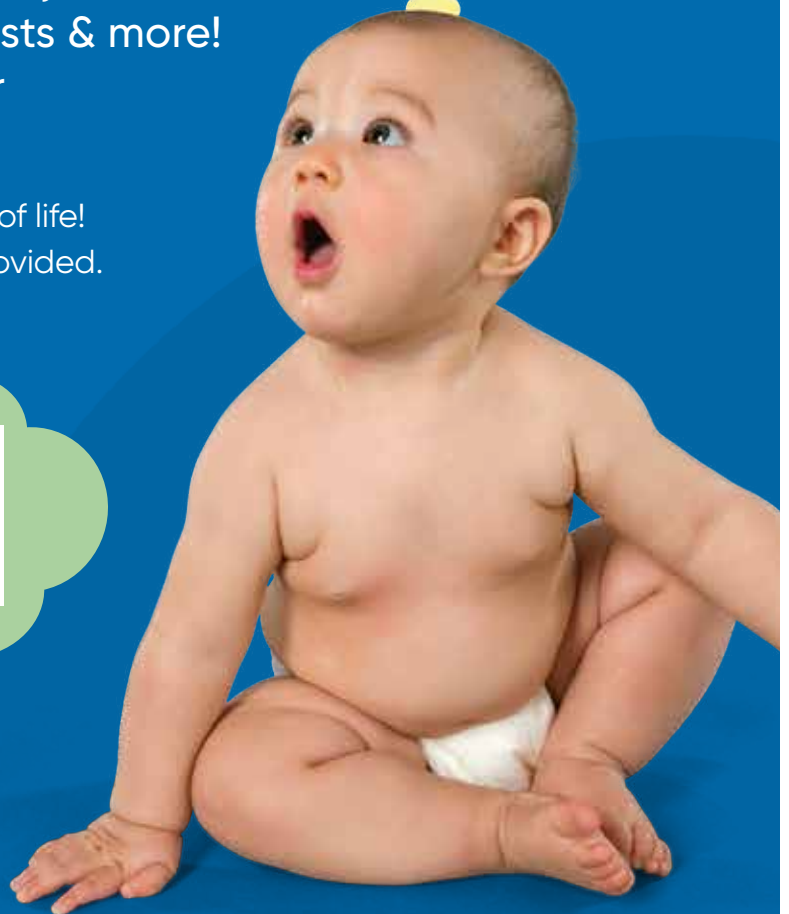
Come meet other families in the same stage of life!
\$118 for 13 classes. Adult and infant snacks provided.

To register, scan the QR code or visit:

bethelsnj.org/caregiverclass

Questions?

Contact Marissa Kimmel
mkimmel@bethelsnj.org
856.675.1166





Looking back at...
Recent Beth El Happenings



Ice Cream Social at Primo Water Ice with Rabbi Englander and Rabbi Hollander... yum!



Splish Splash Shabbat Party!



Rabbi Hollander visiting our Beth El campers at Camp Ramah in the Poconos.



Rabbi Marshall, Hazzan Pomerantz-Boro and Rabbi Hollander with our Beth El campers at the JCC Camps at Medford.



Beautiful sunset gathering in Ventnor, graciously hosted by Cathy & Dr. Marc Backal.

Recent Beth El Happenings



BBQ & Brews night at Zed's Beer



CONGREGATION BETH EL
SOLIDARITY
MISSION *to*
ISRAEL
with **RABBI ENGLANDER**

DATES: DECEMBER 1-5, 2024

with optional Shabbat add-on December 6-7

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Volunteer Opportunities • Interaction with Israelis, Hostage Families, and IDF Soldiers • Guest Speakers and bearing witness to the losses of October 7th, including the site of the Nova Festival and Har Herzl Military Cemetery's newest sections.

PRICE PER PERSON:*

For Monday-Thursday Mission:

Beth El Members - \$1830 Double Occupancy | \$2390 Single Occupancy

Non-members - \$1980 Double Occupancy | \$2540 Single Occupancy

For Shabbat Add-On Dec. 6-7:

(2 full days & nights with Rabbi Englander; includes guide and meals):

Beth El Members - \$1245 Double Occupancy | \$1715 Single Occupancy

Non-members - \$1395 Double Occupancy | \$1865 Single Occupancy

*Pricing is based on 20 or more participants, and will increase slightly if there are fewer participants. Registration with \$250 per person deposit due at registration. Full payment of balance will be due Nov. 1. *Participants will book their own flights, with recommended flights provided. Do not book flights until you receive confirmation of your registration.*



For more information, contact Rabbi Englander at denglander@bethelnj.org

We are thrilled to present a new Social Action Series: "Parent & Me Volunteer Mornings"

The first event, held this past spring, engaged ECC parents and children in sorting food for families dealing with childhood cancer at the Emmanuel Cancer Foundation's Food Pantry. The 2024-2025 series includes four (4) Sunday mornings aimed at older ECC students or younger siblings of Religious School students who are not yet in the program and their parents. Let's show our little ones that we can do a variety of mitzvot to make a difference in the lives of others no matter how big we are!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

Sunday, September 8 at 9:15am - Package Thank You Bags for our VTPD officers and JFed Security Guards at JCC Camps at Medford

Sunday, October 27 at 9:00am - Assemble sock care packs for CommUNITY SJP homeless outreach efforts at Beth El

Sunday, February 9 at 9:45am - Sort Food at Emanuel Cancer Foundation Food Pantry

Sunday, March 2 at 9:00am - Make lasagnas for Beth El Chesed Freezer at Beth El

Contact Alicia Drozen at adrozen@bethelsnj.org with questions.



Beth El Habonim Presents:

♪ WE WILL DANCE AGAIN ♪

♪ *Let's Rock and Roll to the Oldies!* ♪

- Dancing
- Photo booths
- Karaoke • Trivia
- Buffet dinner & more!

We welcome donations to Friends of the IDF



Thursday, November 21
6:00 - 9:00pm

- Congregation Beth El
- \$36 per person
- Open to the community
- 50's-60's dress invited
- Featuring DJ Big Al!

Send checks payable to

Beth El Habonim to Sharon Deutsch -
66 Hopewell Road, Marlton, NJ 08053

Name: _____

Phone #: _____

E-mail: _____

No. of people attending

@ \$36 each: _____

Questions? Contact Judy Simkin:

lensim@comcast.net or 856.829.2651



SISTERHOOD KICK-OFF EVENT:

Challah Bake

Enjoy a night of friendship and good conversation
while you prepare 2 challot to take home!

**Thursday,
September 26**
from
7-9pm

\$18 Sisterhood Members
\$25 Non-members
RSVP: Scan the QR code or
visit: bethelsnj.org/sisterhood



קהילת בית אל
CONGREGATION

Beth El

★ ESTABLISHED 1921

Engagement Committee

Are you passionate about Beth El?
Are you interested in helping find
ways to help Beth El Members
connect with one another?
Can you help us drop of Shabbat
boxes to new families or greet
guests at Shabbat services?
Contact **Marissa Kimmel**
at mkimmel@bethelsnj.org to join
our Engagement Committee.



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PENNSYLVANIA, NEW JERSEY, DELAWARE, MARYLAND, VIRGINIA

Beth El Habonim invites you to sweeten up your
Holiday meals with Magical Sweet Shop!



High Holiday Bake Sale

Items are pareve unless otherwise noted.

ROSH HASHANNAH SELECTIONS: Order by Tuesday, September 24

Pick up at Beth El: Tuesday, October 1, 3:00-5:00pm at Shabbat entrance

Jewish Apple Cake	_____ x \$24= _____
Jewish Blueberry Cake	_____ x \$24= _____
Jewish Honey Cake	_____ x \$26= _____
Chocolate Ganache Truffle Cake (Gluten free)	_____ x \$26= _____
Chocolate Lover's Brownie Box - 4 brownies <i>(Chocolate chip, smores, walnut brownie & peanut butter brownie)</i>	_____ x \$16= _____
Sampler Box - 4 bars cut in minis <i>(Raspberry pecan, lemon, apricot almond, chocolate chip brownie)</i>	_____ x \$16= _____

TOTAL Rosh Hashanah Order _____



YOM KIPPUR SELECTIONS: Order by Tuesday, September 24

Pick up at Beth El: Friday, October 11, 10:00am-12:00pm at Shabbat entrance

Jewish Apple Cake	_____ x \$24= _____
Golden Honey Cake	_____ x \$26= _____
Chocolate Ganache Truffle Cake (Gluten free)	_____ x \$26= _____
Chocolate Babka (Dairy)	_____ x \$19= _____
Jewish Apple Cake Muffins (4 muffins)	_____ x \$15= _____
Assorted Chocolate Dipped Pretzels (1lb-Dairy)	_____ x \$18= _____
Small Chocolate Chip Loaf (Dairy)	_____ x \$8= _____
Small Lemon Pound Loaf (Dairy)	_____ x \$8= _____

TOTAL Yom Kippur Order _____

Please make checks payable to Beth El Habonim

Mail to: Judy Simkin - 712 Foxcroft Drive, Cinnaminson, NJ 08077

Questions? Contact Judy Simkin at lensim@comcast.net or 856.829.2651



Dear College Students
and Parents,

We hope you had a great summer and are ready for the Fall School Year. We at the College Connection Program are preparing for the 2024-25 school year! With the help of dedicated volunteers along with assistance from Alyssa Gross in the Beth El Office, we assemble and send out packages three times per year to undergraduate students in college.

Our first fall package for the New Year/Sukkot should be sent out around September 20. We will need updated COMPLETE addresses for all college students previously enrolled and those entering college for their freshman year, no later than September 2. Please be watching for an email from Audrey Snyderman with the form to complete and email back to us.

To get involved either as a recipient or a volunteer, contact Jackie Bernard at 856.630.0585 or 4bernards@comcast.net.

Sponsored by:

The David Back College Connection Fund.

To donate to the fund, please call 856.675.1166

CARING ACTS OF TZEDAKAH AS OF AUGUST 10, 2024

SUSAN ASBELL RITUAL FUND

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IN APPRECIATION OF
Sam Asbell
IN MEMORY OF
Esther Zoblin

DAVID BACK COLLEGE CONNECTION FUND

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IN HONOR OF
B'nai Mitzvah of Ava Chhabria
and Grayden Kratchman
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Yahrzeit of Israel Harris
Betty Perlmutter, sister of
Josh Matusow
Kathy Kotzker, sister of
Bob Hilbronner
Esther Zoblin
Lila Eisner

Gloria Back
Gloria Back
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Yahrzeit of Ruth Weiner
Lila Eisner
Yahrzeit of Alfred Ritter

MARGIE BLUM COOK FOR A FRIEND FUND

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Iris & Steven z"l' Auerbach

IN HONOR OF
Bnai Mitzvah of Ava Chhabria
and Grayden Kratchman
Bat Mitzvah of your granddaughter
Ava Chhabria

Iris & Steven z"l' Auerbach

Toby Dubner

Judy & Stuart Wasserlauf's 60th
Wedding Anniversary
Stuart Wasserlauf Special Birthday
Rabbi Sam Hollander - Welcome!
Jeremy Bender's graduation from
Penn

Toby Dubner
Toby Dubner
Faye & Gary Shapiro

Alex's graduation from Law School
Sophia Sloves graduation from
Binghamton

Faye & Gary Shapiro
Faye & Gary Shapiro

IN MEMORY OF
Esther Zoblin
Andrea Dubner
Esther Zoblin
Esther Zoblin
Esther Zoblin
SPEEDY RECOVERY
Alicia Collik

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Julie Salomon

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Lila Eisner

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Sam Engels's marriage to Joy Zavala
IN MEMORY OF
Alice Mohr
Esther Zoblin
Murray Matez

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Rabbi David Englander
Rabbi David Englander
Rabbi David Englander
IN MEMORY OF
Herbert Knopp
Herbert Knopp

Helene Korngold

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Judy Love
Marty & Gail Raffner
Gail & Marty Raffner

Lori Spector & family
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Barbara & Marvin Waxman
Ilene & Michael Weinberg
Bobbie & Steve Wenick
Len & Judy Wizmur

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Marshall, Andrea, Leighton, &
Hayley Spevak
DONOR
Sharon Mindel
Erica Ritter

Yahrzeits of Izchak Ivnitsky, Volf ben
Yesiv Geshtipelter, Motel ben Boruch
Ivnitsky
Lila Eisner
Morris Korngold
Rosalind Benedon
George Miller, Bernice Miller and
Kay Wetzstein
Yahrzeit of Charles Raffner
Esther Zoblin
Lila Eisner
Allan Laufgraben
Allan Laufgraben
Alice Mohr

IN HONOR OF

Rosie Brotz on her Simchat Bat
IN MEMORY OF
Alice Mohr
Yahrzeit of Alfred Ritter

BETH EL GENERAL FUND

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Ethel Levinson
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IN APPRECIATION OF
Levi aliyah during Pesach
Beth El

IN HONOR OF
100th birthday of Claire Silver
Bat Mitzvah of Judah Reuben Sharofsky
Weisel

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Carole Britchkow
Carole Britchkow
Yahrzeit of Jacob Bourke
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Esther Zoblin
Sid Kaplan
Esther Zoblin
Esther Zoblin
Yahrzeit of Rubin Berman
Lila Eisner
Yahrzeits of Goldie Ruder and Marc
Ruder, z"l
Yahrzeits of Bernard Becker and
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Yahrzeit of Marla Ilyse Sharofsky

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Yahrzeit of William Freihon

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Family of Esther Zoblin
Family of Esther Zoblin
Family of Esther Zoblin

IN APPRECIATION
Hazzan Alisa Pomerantz-Boro
Hazzan Alisa Pomerantz-Boro
Hazzan teaching me to read Torah
Hazzan Alisa Pomerantz-Boro
Hazzan Alisa Pomerantz-Boro
Howard Joffe leading shiva minyan service
Danny Wolf leading shiva minyan service

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Iris & Steven z"l' Auerbach

IN HONOR OF
Josh Boro's graduation from Temple
University
Baby Naming: Sophia Victoria Sackstein
Baby Naming of Sonia Paige Balaban
Tracy Bancroft reading Torah Shavout

Leslie & David Breslau
Michelle & Bryan Balaban
Jaime & Micah Herndon
Ruth Katz Ruth Katz
Ruth Katz

Josh Boro's graduation from Temple
University - Mazel Tov!
Josh Boro's graduation from Temple
University and new job! Mazel Tov!

Sharon & Robert Katz



a TRIP to NYC!

Join Hazzan Pomerantz-Boro, Rabbi Marshall and Marissa Kimmel for an unforgettable trip!

DATE:
October 30, 2024

TIME:
Leave Beth El at 9:30am
Arrive at Beth El at 7:30pm
(approx.)

PRICE: \$190/person

TRIP INCLUDES:

- Ticket to "SUFFS The Musical"
- Luxury coach transportation (round trip)
 - Lunch (Kosher meat or Vegetarian options)
- Conversation following the performance

Limited tickets available!
Get yours at tinyurl.com/nycsuffs

Questions? Contact Marissa at mkimmel@bethelsnj.org

Stuart & Judy Wasserlauf
Stuart & Judy Wasserlauf
Janice Weiner
Harry Wierzba

Sid Kaplan
Esther Zoblin
Yahrzeit of Ruth Weiner
Lila Eisner

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IN HONOR OF
Andrew Soll's engagement to Melissa Kenny
Marriage of Noah Lieberson to Maxine Swick

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Special birthdays of Lynn & Jerry Marshall
Special birthdays of Lynn & Jerry Marshall
Birthday of Joan Feinberg
Special birthdays of Lynn & Jerry Marshall
Special birthdays of Lynn & Jerry Marshall

IN MEMORY OF
Lila Eisner

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Ellen Podell
Ellen Podell

IN HONOR OF
Special birthday of Ellen Podell

IN MEMORY OF
Esther Zoblin
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Joe & Barbara Walkes

IN HONOR OF
Special birthday of Joe Walkes
Special birthday of Joe Walkes
Special birthday of Bernie Yaffa
Thursday Morning Minyan

IN MEMORY OF
Esther Zoblin
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Selma Ellis Special birthday
Bernie Yaffa Special birthday

SPEEDY RECOVERY
Marc Millstein

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IN MEMORY OF
Alice Mohr
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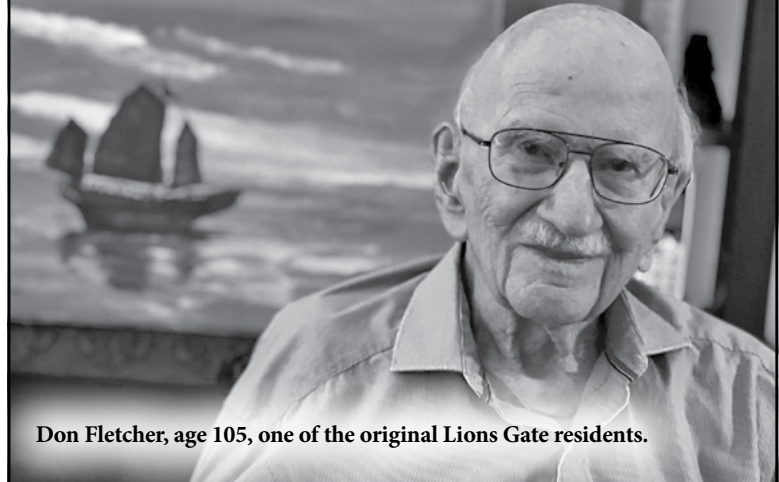
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