

Beth El Newsletter

We Belong Together

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with your Beth El Family!** (page 2)

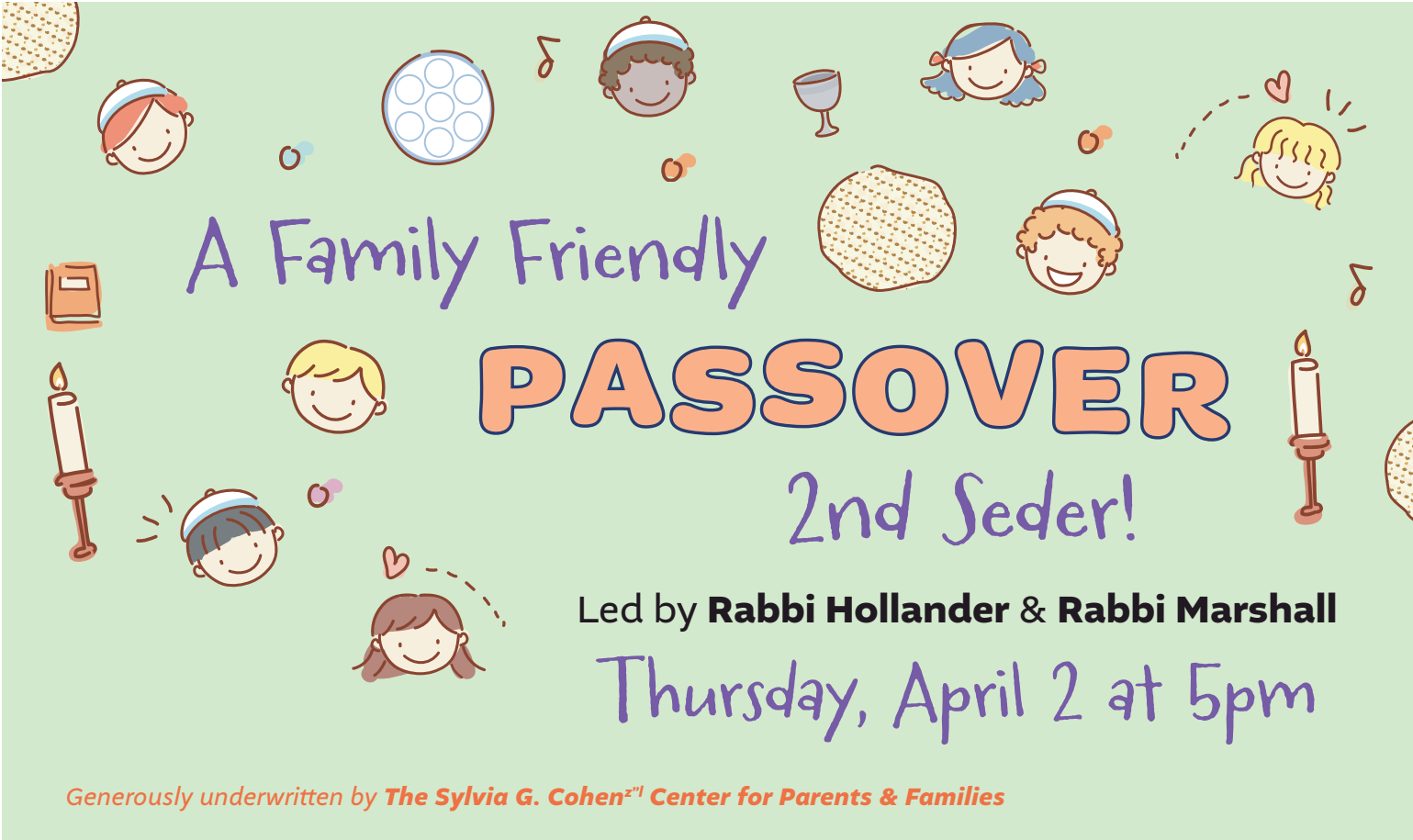
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Lissen Pesach! Happy Passover!

March/April 2026 - Adar/Nisan/Iyar 5786



A Family Friendly

PASSOVER

2nd Seder!

Led by **Rabbi Hollander & Rabbi Marshall**

Thursday, April 2 at 5pm

Generously underwritten by **The Sylvia G. Cohen^{z"l} Center for Parents & Families**



Community Passover Seder

Celebrate the 2nd night with your Beth El Family!

A full Seder led by **Rabbi Englander**
and **Cantor Brian Kalver**

THURSDAY, APRIL 2 at 7pm

Family Seder Price: Adult \$50, Child \$20

Community Seder Price: Adult \$75, Child \$36

(Both catered by *Deluxe Catering*)

RSVP at bethelsnj.org/passover

Email agross@bethelsnj.org for more information.

Spiritual Spring Cleaning



In the weeks leading up to Passover, our homes begin to transform. Cabinets are emptied, countertops are scrubbed, crumbs are hunted down with impressive determination. We check

labels, change dishes, and we joke about how ironic it is that this festival of freedom requires way too much work.

Passover preparation, at first glance, appears to be about physically cleaning our homes. The Torah teaches us that we are commanded to remove chametz from our home. Jewish law requires us to search for it carefully, and to refrain from owning it during the holiday. All of this reminds us that our physical actions matter.

But is that really the point?

Our tradition rarely asks us to do something physical without inviting us to experience something spiritual at the same time. This is why my favorite night of the year is the night before the seder, when we engage in *Bedikat Chametz*, the ritual of searching for the chametz. Using a wooden spoon, a feather and a candle, we symbolically search our homes for ten pieces of bread that were previously hidden for this "chametz scavenger hunt." Yet the rabbis of the Mishnah remind us that it is impossible to actually search and find every last crumb, saying *ein l'davar sof* "there is no end to the matter" (*Mishnah Pesachim 1:2*).

So if it is impossible to remove every physical crumb, what are we to learn from engaging in this annual spring cleaning? The search for chametz is not only about crumbs hidden in the corners of our physical homes; it is also about removing the crumbs in the corners of our hearts.

Chametz, the leaven that causes dough to rise and puff up, has long been understood as a symbol of ego, arrogance, and spiritual inflation. Matzah, by contrast, is simple, flat,

humble. On Passover, we do not merely change what we eat, we engage in a "spiritual spring cleaning" where we remove the excessive behaviors, revealing behind our true selves.

As you clean your kitchen this year, I invite you to ask: What in me has become puffed up? What grudges am I still holding onto? What habits no longer serve my highest self?

Spiritual spring cleaning can be more challenging than scrubbing a stove top. It asks for honesty. It asks for courage. It asks for gentleness with ourselves and others.

There are no shortcuts for self-reflection and personal growth, only you can do that work. However, when it comes to preparing and attending a seder, we can help with that! Join your Beth El family on the Second Night of Passover for our annual community seder. For young families with children in elementary school and younger, Rabbi Marshall and I will be leading an interactive and fun seder starting at 5pm. Rabbi Englander and Cantor Brian Kalver will lead a meaningful and musical full seder starting at 7pm. Let us do the cooking and cleaning, so you can do the harder work of spiritual spring cleaning.

As we prepare for Passover this year, may we not only cleanse our homes from chametz, but also remember to set aside time for our own spiritual spring cleaning.

Chag Kasher v'Sameach,

Rabbi Sam Hollander



Shomrim is an inclusive giving program designed to allow benefactors to commit one time during the year to support the annual activities and operational needs of Beth El.



PARTNERSHIP



COMMUNITY



FUTURE

Thank You to our Shomrim Members

PILLAR

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

VISIONARY

The Keim Family Foundation
Marvin Samson Foundation

SUSTAINER

Marcia & Arnold Cohen
Jerome M. Katz
Anonymous

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Marsha Dollinger			Anonymous

PIONEER

Sara & David Baumgarten	Nikki & Dean Drizin	Susan Greenwald	Jessica & Aaron Inver	Katie & Marc Schlessel
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Congregation Beth El proudly presents

An Evening with Former Hostage: **Nili Margalit** *Hero, Nurse, and Survivor*

Tuesday, March 17 | 7pm



A Story of Unwavering Courage

On October 7th, Nili Margalit was kidnapped from her home in Kibbutz Nir Oz and held in the tunnels of Gaza for 55 days. A pediatric nurse by profession, Nili became a lifeline to fellow hostages—managing medications, offering medical care, and providing comfort under unimaginable conditions.



Ticket Price: \$36 per person
Students (18 & under): FREE

Advance registration required, please scan QR code or visit: bethelsnj.org/nili

Questions? Contact mkimmel@bethelsnj.org



Co-sponsored by: • **Marcia & Dr. Arnold Cohen** • **Drs. Ilene & Harry Grossman**
• **Emily & Dr. Howard Orel** • **Advocare Premier OBGYN of South Jersey**
• **Congregation Kol Ami** • **Pop Dermatology** • **Segal and Iyer Orthodontics**



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 Marissa Kimmel | mkimmel@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 Tara Feiner at tfeiner@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
Fran & Neal Cupersmith
Leila & Adam Cupersmith
Marsha Dollinger
Alan Dias & Heidi Handler
June & Steven Eisner & Family
Tara Feiner
Alan Finkelstein
Nicole & Michael Gray

Myra & David Gutin
Deborah & Edward Hochberg
David & Jill Hulnick
Juan Izquierdo
Beth & Harvey (z"l) Jacob
Adam Kaminer
Arnold & Sandra Kaminer
Sharla & Mort (z"l) Kanovsky
Amy & Barnard Kaplan
Jerome Katz
Alison & Andrew Keim
Debra Kelberg
Deborah Shore & Jonathan Korn
Helene & Rabbi Aaron Krupnick
Fran & Leon L. Levy
Suzanne & Victor Levy
Judy & Donald (z"l) Love
Diane & Benjamin Mashioff
Rachel & Stephen Miller
Burt & Diane Nussbaum
Lynn Goldman Paul
Sheri & Jason Pecarsky
Arlene & Ed Plasky

Hilary & Harry Platt
Ilene Rosen & P. Todd Rowan
Sharon & Adam Sackstein
Stuart & Sherry Sauer
Karen & David Schlessel & Family
Harriet Schulman
Robin & Joshua Schwartz
Faye & Gary Shapiro
Stacy & Marc Shenker
Jennifer & Brett Sholder
Michael Silver
Juli Mandel Sloves & Glenn Sloves
Lauren & Jonathan Soll
Tami Bogutz Steinberg
Judith & Stuart Wasserlauf
Jennifer & Jim Weiss
Jennifer Jagust & Yoel Weiss
Linda P. Weiss
Julie & Jason Whitney
Leah & Jason Wolf
Jeffrey Zeiger
Anonymous (2)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



The March/April Beth El News... the months may not mean that much to you, but it has meaning to me. It means that, as President of Beth El, I have now written half of my Beth El News articles, and my term is at its midpoint. That leaves me a little stunned.

In some ways, it feels as my instillation was just yesterday, while in other ways, I can barely remember not being the President (and that isn't just because I had to endure another brutal New York Jets season that seemed to go on with no end to ease my misery!).

It has been quite a year, showing the resilience of our congregation time and time again. Of course, that is to be expected of any institution surviving—and thriving—for more than a century. Our new Executive Director, Tara Feiner, and new Early Childhood Center Director, Jessica Sherman, have fit in seamlessly. In fact, they hardly seem “new” anymore. While we will never be able to replace our beloved Hazzan, we expect to hire a cantor soon who will add a new, wonderful and different chapter to Beth El's storied history.

For me, the highlight of my first year was welcoming in former hostage Eli Sharabi to our congregation in December. The Katz Sanctuary held more than 1500 people (more than on the High Holidays), but it was so quiet it was as if the room was empty as we all listened to Eli tell his life affirming story of how he survived 491 days of Hamas captivity in Gaza. Those in attendance will never forget that night. Beth El remains unapologetically committed to Israel, and to continually educating our congregants and the broader community on the Jewish state and the horrors of October 7th. On this front, we are excited to welcome Nili Margalit to Beth El on March 17.

A pediatric nurse living on kibbutz Nir Oz, she was taken hostage on October 7 and held for 55 days in the tunnels of Gaza before being part of the first negotiated release in November 2023. While we do not expect the event to be nearly as big as Eli Sharabi, it is critical that we hear more voices from October 7th and bear witness. The teens in Keshet will be attending, and hopefully you can be there, too...and bring friends, regardless of whether or not they are Beth El members. Also, don't forget to join us on April 21 at Café 78 for our Yom Ha'Atzmaut Celebration where we celebrate Israel.

Another highlight in my role as President has been meeting so many people. I am sure it comes as no surprise that many people voluntarily share with me their thoughts on what we are doing well (our kiddush cannot be beat!), and what we can be doing better. I am appreciative that so many people care so much about our shul. As for what we can be doing better, I've heard from many people that it seems like everything Beth El does costs a lot to attend. As a synagogue, Beth El is a charitable organization, and our dues barely cover half of our expenses. We are dependent on the generosity of our congregants. But...it is a very fair point, and we have tried to introduce activities that are low, or no, cost. The Nili Margalit event is one such example, but others include Table Top Tuesdays (where we host Mah Jongg and canasta at no cost), and last month we had our first Havdalah Night Live... a low cost, casual evening of food and entertainment meant to bring members together for a fun time. Have other ideas? Please let me know.

In the meantime, Happy Purim and Happy Pesach, and I hope to see you at Beth El's annual meeting on Sunday, April 26!

Jason Whitney

Mazal Tov to our B'NAI MITZVAH



Max Koenig - March 7

Parents: Wendy & Brad Koenig

Siblings: Ross and Sam

Grandparents: Elaine & David Lyons, Linda & Robert Koenig

Mitzvah Project: Max collected gently used sports equipment and donated it to 'Leveling the Playing Field'. He was also a 'basketball buddy' with Marlton Sports Unity Program, supporting and playing alongside kids with special needs.



Maya Mittelman - March 14

Parents: Ayelet & Matthew Mittelman

Siblings: Sadie

Grandparents: David & Barbara Bezalel, Neil & Susan Mittelman

Mitzvah Project: Maya assembled 100 gift bags with bracelets, stickers, candy, coupons, etc., and donated them to newly diagnosed T1D patients at CHOP. Having experienced this herself, she chose to do this in an effort to make the experience less scary for others.



Layla Engelman - March 21

Parents: Stephanie & Guy Engelman

Siblings: Eliana

Grandparents: Michael & Hannah Engelman, Patrick Long, Melanie Long

Mitzvah Project: Layla has been volunteering at the Religious School on Sundays, participated in MLK day at Beth El and has plans to do more volunteer work at a local food bank.



Benjamin Simpson - April 11

Parents: Rachel & Eric Simpson

Siblings: Rebecca

Grandparents: Nanare & Michael Slepian, Bonnie & Howard Simpson

Mitzvah Project: Benji raised funds for the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network (PanCan) in memory of his aunt Beth. The funds are used to support research and patient services.



Noah Claps - April 18

Parents: Jennifer & Lewis Claps

Siblings: Lewis and Anna

Grandparents: Ethel & Andrew Muskat, Dennis Rinzler & Susan Jarblum, Carol McIntire

Mitzvah Project: Noah made Shabbat in a Box kits for Jewish families at Cooper that are unable to formally celebrate.

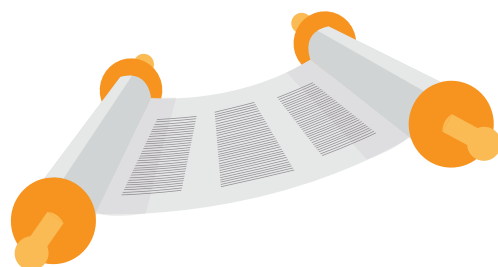


Samuel Semanoff - April 25

Parents: Rebecca & Jack Semanoff

Siblings: Lainey

Grandparents: Alan & Rita (z"l) Kagan, Evelyn & Gene Semanoff



OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



It is hard to believe that I have been at Beth El for almost six months. During this time, I have fully experienced firsthand the *kehillah kedoshah*, the sacred and welcoming community that Beth El is, not only as your executive director but also as a community member.

While I have been living in Cherry Hill since September, until recently, my husband, Adam, remained in Dayton, Ohio. He stayed there to get our house ready for sale and until he had a job here in New Jersey. Even though you may have only met Adam during one of his two visits to Beth El, you embraced him; you embraced us. At Shabbat, at programs, at meetings, and during calls, you asked how he was doing, how we were doing. On January 14, Adam's father, Richard "Dick" Feiner died. Your outreach and support touched us deeply. You sent emails and called with condolences and words of comfort. You made donations in Dick's memory. You welcomed Adam to daily minyan via Zoom where he said kaddish for his father. Thank you. We know that we are home at Beth El, a community that cares about us and each other, that values relationships, and that is responsible for one another.

Mishe-nichnas Adar marbim b'simcha. When the month of Adar arrives, we should increase our joy. And the Feiners are doing just that. As we turned the calendar from Shevat to Adar, Adam moved from Dayton to Cherry Hill. Adam is officially a New Jersey resident. We are together in the same state and under the same roof.

There is a place for US at Beth El. We belong together. Together, we look forward to praying, celebrating, having fun, and growing with our Beth El community. In particular we are looking forward to:

- Mamma Mia! A Purim Celebration on March 2
- Our Community Seder on April 2
- Modim: An Evening of Gratitude for our Hazzan - A gala celebration honoring Hazzan Alisa Pomerantz-Boro for her years of dedicated service to Beth El on May 13th.

Warm wishes for a *Chag Purim Sameach*, a Happy Purim, and a *zissen Pesach*, a Sweet Passover.

Tara Feiner



SAVE THE DATE!

TUESDAY, JUNE 16, 2026

Beth El's 9th Annual

**GOLF CLASSIC
& GAME DAY**

Ramblewood Country Club



Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks (z"l), once said, "To be a Jew is to be a student, a learner, a navigator of texts, an explorer of possibilities." What is exceptional about our very own Congregation Beth El is that one of our core values is ongoing Jewish learning.

In addition to our outstanding ECC, Religious School, and Kesher Hebrew High School, we provide engaging, ongoing adult Jewish learning. From weekly classes, Jewish craft nights, and inspirational speakers, our KaHaL program provides something for everyone. And this coming March and April, we have a number of programs that I hope everyone will take advantage of.

Beginning on March 3rd, our spring session of weekly **Live, Lunch & Learn** series returns with our clergy and educators as we delve into the text of Pirkei Avot. This series is free and open to all members in person and on Zoom on Tuesday afternoons from 12:30-1:30pm.

On Wednesday, March 11, our Religious School and ECC PTGs (Parent Teacher Groups) will be sponsoring a ladies night out with Jewish Book Council Author **Jennifer Glanz**, the author of *Finally the Bride*. Thank you to Allegra Cohen for hosting this intimate and entertaining evening at her home where we will have the opportunity to engage in conversation with Jennifer Glanz and enjoy a fun evening with friends.

On Tuesday, March 17, we hope you will join us at Beth El for an inspirational evening with October 7 Hostage Survivor **Nili Margalit**. Nili was kidnapped from her

home in Kibbutz Nir Oz and held in the tunnels of Gaza for 55 days. A pediatric nurse by profession, Nili became a lifeline to fellow hostages, managing medications, offering medical care, and providing comfort under unimaginable conditions. Today, Nili uses her voice to fight for those who cannot fight for themselves. We hope you will join us for this most important program. This is an evening you will never forget. It is so important for us to remember and never forget the atrocities from October 7.

And on Tuesday, April 21, following our annual Yom Ha'Atzmaut Celebration, we will be joined by journalist and reporter for Haaretz, **Lee Yaron**, who will share with us about her book *10/7: 100 Human Stories*, a book that documents the single most traumatic day in Israeli history through intimate profiles of some of the nearly 1,200 people killed and 251 taken hostage. We hope you will join us as we celebrate Israel's birthday and at the same time remember those lives who were affected by October 7.

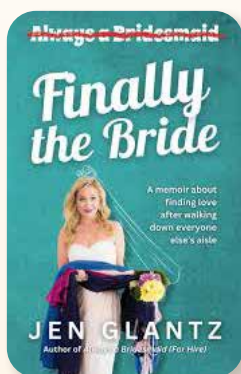
Rabbi Hillel taught in *Pirkei Avot*, "Do not say, "When I am free I will study", for perhaps you will not become free." In today's world we are consistently pulled in different directions. We have commitments and responsibilities that often monopolize much of our time. I encourage you to not say, "when I am free", but to try to set time aside to partake in Jewish learning. Try one of our classes or attend one of our programs. I promise it will deepen your Jewish identity and instill meaning in your lives. I look forward to learning together.

Rabbi Nogah Marshall
Educational Director



Ladies/Moms Night Out!

with Guest Author **JEN GLANTZ**



Wednesday, March 11 | 7pm

Generously hosted at the home of
Allegra Cohen*

COST: \$18 per person

BOOK: \$10 in advance, \$12 at the event

RSVP: Scan QR code or visit

bethelsnj.shulcloud.com/form/jenglantz

* Allegra's address will be provided after registration.



As March and April arrive, we welcome the beauty of spring and the joy of new beginnings in all our classrooms, from our tiniest infants to our oldest Kindergarten. The changing season brings wonderful opportunities for sensory exploration, outdoor play, and meaningful learning experiences.

This time of year is filled with joyful Jewish celebrations, including Purim and Passover. For Purim, our children enjoy dressing up in costumes, listening to the story of Queen Esther, making groggers, and celebrating with music, laughter, and festive activities. Even our youngest learners take part through colorful art projects, songs, and playful experiences that introduce them to the holiday in a fun and gentle way.

As we prepare for Passover, our preschool and Kindergarten children explore themes of freedom and growth. Through stories, songs, dramatic play, and hands-on activities, they learn about the journey from slavery to freedom in age-appropriate ways. They discover symbols like Matzah and the Seder plate, practice retelling the story, and talk about what it means to make choices and help others.

Across all age groups, we continue to focus on Jewish values such as chesed (kindness) and tikkun olam (caring for our world). Children plant seeds, observe new life in nature, and learn that even small actions like sharing, helping a friend, or taking care of our environment can make a big difference.

Spring is a time of growth not just in nature, but in our children as well. We are so proud to watch them build confidence, friendships, independence, and a lifelong love of learning.

Wishing your families a joyful and meaningful season.

*Chag Purim Sameach, Chag Pesach Sameach,
and Shabbat Shalom!*

Jessica Sherman
ECC Director



MAZAL TOV TO

B'NAI MITZVAH:

Drew Wilensky and to his parents **Genna & Howard Wilensky** and grandparents **Merle & Fred Linden**

Karni Marshall and to her parents **Rabbi Nogah & Scott Marshall**

Samuel Schatz and to his mother **Marni Schatz**

BIRTHS & NAMINGS:

Felicia & Andrew Hurwitz on the birth of their son, Shai Mason Hurwitz, and to big sister Ella, big brother Ari, and proud grandparents **Barbara & Eric Frantz**

Karen & David Schlessel on the birth of their grandson, Gavi Laurence, and to proud parents Zoe & Judah

Audrey Oppenheim on the birth of her grandson, Harrison Oppenheim and to parents, Marc & Ilana

Stuart & Linda Yaffa on the birth of their granddaughter, Everly "Evvie" Rose Yaffa, and to proud parents Jeff & Peri and big brother Paxton, and great-grandmother, **Shirley Yaffa**

ENGAGEMENTS & WEDDINGS:

Lynne & Diego Warszawski, on the engagement of their daughter Naomi to Ryan Stinebaugh

SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENTS & OTHER GOOD NEWS:

Jeffrey Zeiger on his appointment to the NJ Commission on Holocaust Education by Governor Phil Murphy.

Charli Aumiller, daughter of **Mira & Aaron Aumiller**, on being named '2025 Voorhees Selfless Student of the Year' by the Voorhees Rotary Breakfast Club.

Rabbi David Englander on receiving an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree from the Jewish Theological Seminary for his achievements over 25 years of distinguished service!

All life events as of February 15, 2026

We want to celebrate everyone's simchas, accomplishments, and achievements! Please email Claudia Sternberg at csternberg@bethelsnj.org to share your special news.



ZICHRONAM LIV'RACHAH

WE MOURN THE PASSING OF:

Rita Abrams - Wife of Louis Abrams z"l; Mother of Ed (Jodi) Abrams, Mark (Irina) Abrams; Grandmother of Samantha, Heather, Alexander, Gabriel & Michael

Richard "Dick" Feiner - Husband of Charlene Feiner, Father of Adam (Tara) Feiner, Drew (Maggie) Feiner, Grandfather of Caroline, Penny and Leo

Brielle Rose Isadore - Daughter of Jaclyn & Dylan Isadore, Sister of Samuel Isadore, Granddaughter of Hilary & Harry Platt, Mindi & Alan Isadore, Great-Granddaughter of Naomi Young, Judith & Bernie (z"l) Platt, Lou & Shelly Zager

Alice Greenberg - Wife of Calvin Greenberg z"l, Mother of Sharon (Bennett) Shanker, Andrew Greenberg z"l, Grandmother of Justin (Karina) Shanker, Garrett Shanker, Nevin (Lauren) Shanker, Great-Grandmother of Liam and Mia

Albert "Al" A. Chazin - Husband of Ruth Kotzen Chazin z"l, Father of Cheryl Kroungold and Erica (Josh) Laster, Grandfather of Emma and Abby Kroungold, Isabella and Masyn Laster

Benjamin "Ben" Hord - Husband of Melissa Kaufman Hord, Father of Brittany Hord, Son of Judi (Arie) Weiss, John W. Hord, Jr. z"l, Brother of Nathan (Erin) Hord

Carl L. Back - Father of Norman (Shari) Back, Richard (Vickie) Back, Steven (Leah) Back

ROSH CHODESH

Nisan

Enhance Your Seder Experience with Beth El Sisterhood!

Join us as we welcome the new month of Nisan. We will come together, share recipes, and exchange ideas and insights to make your seders engaging and relatable.

Interactive Activity: Edible Vegetable Arrangement

Create a beautiful vegetable arrangement that you will be able to duplicate, or build upon for your seder table.

Cost:

\$15 Sisterhood member | \$18 Non-member
Refreshments will be provided.

RSVP by March 12. Scan the QR code
or visit bethelsnj.org/sisterhood

Wednesday,
March 18
at 7pm



Questions? Email us at sisterhood@bethelsnj.org

8000 Main St., Voorhees, NJ 08043 | 856.675.1166 | bethelsnj.org



CONGREGATION BETH EL Annual Meeting



Please join us at Beth El on **Sunday, April 26** for our Annual Meeting. We will reflect on the previous year's accomplishments, share our vision for the year ahead, and recognize the dedication of our Board members, volunteers, and staff. All members are invited and encouraged to attend!

Breakfast begins at 9:15am

Program: 10:00–11:30am

We look forward to celebrating our community with you!

Kindly RSVP to amittelman@bethelsnj.org

Baby & me!

at **CONGREGATION BETH EL**

with **Jodi Appel, OT**

& **Rebeca Sternbach, OT**

Class
is **OPEN**
to the
public!

Friday Mornings

10:15 - 11am (13-24 months)

11:15am - 12pm (Birth-12 months)

Join **Jodi** and **Rebeca**, Beth El moms and Occupational Therapists, for sensory fun and guided play that will help your baby with development and milestone achievement. Play, chat, and sip coffee while we go over all things baby and development!

Dates: March 13, 20, 27; April 17, 24; May 1, 8, 15

Location: Congregation Beth El - Appel Social Hall

Cost: Package of 8 sessions \$140, Drop-in \$25

To register, scan the QR code or visit: bethelsnj.org/babyandme

Generously underwritten in part by 'The Sylvia G. Cohen (z"l) Center for Parents & Families'



Café 78

All are
WELCOME!

Yom Ha'Atzmaut Community Celebration! at Congregation Beth El

TUESDAY, APRIL 21

6:00 - 6:30pm Yom HaZikaron Ceremony

6:30 - 7:30pm Yom Ha'Atzmaut Celebration
Dinner, Israeli dancing, crafts & more!



7:30 - 8:30pm Join us after the celebration for a
conversation with **Lee Yaron**, author of
10/7: 100 Human Stories

Cost: \$18 pp - Register at bethelsnj.org/leeyaron



The ECC celebrated 100 days of school!



Chef Shavit Moshe outdid himself at Beth El's first Humusiya with deliciously authentic Israeli dishes. Stay tuned for the next one!



Todah rabah to Sharon & Dr. Adam Sackstein for hosting Beth El's 2026 South Florida reunion.



The "BIG REVEAL" date party for our 2029 B'nai Mitzvah class. Mazal Tov!!!



Lots of fun at Havdalah Night Live with "The Undercovers."



Baby & Me class is in full swing every Friday morning!



"COME WHO YOU ARE"

Ice Cream Social

CELEBRATING TRANS DAY
OF VISIBILITY

MARCH 29

Sunday | 4-6pm

@ **Primo's Water Ice**

484 E. Evesham Rd., Cherry Hill
(In Short Hills Town Center)

Table Top Tuesdays

Come play Mah Jongg
or Canasta with your friends at Beth El!
1st & 3rd Tuesday
of the month when
Keshar is in session.

Play time is 6:45-8:15pm

No charge, no
reservation required.
BYO friends, sealed Kosher
snacks, mah jongg sets,
and cards!

Contact Jodi Kratchman
with questions - 609.922.7520

Congregation Beth El

Welcomes the Community to our Annual

PRIDE Shabbat

FRIDAY, JUNE 5

5:30pm Proneg
Snacks & Schmooze

6:00pm Musical Kabbalat
Shabbat Services

**Open to the LGBTQI+
community and allies.**
Questions? Contact Kavod
at kavod@bethelsnj.org



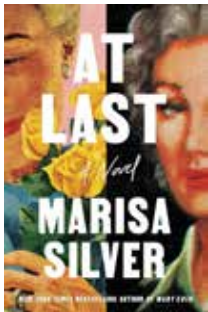


I am sure that, like mine, your family looks forward to familiar flavors at Passover. Heirloom recipes have a treasured place at your holiday table. But maybe a new entrée, side dish, or dessert would add a welcome fresh touch to your holiday meal. Or perhaps you're looking for something

different for dinner on the intermediate days of Passover. Here in the library, we have Jewish cookbooks, including several that are just for Passover. Paula Shoyer's **"The New Passover Menu"** offers recipes for an international seder as well as Italian and French-inspired meals. Spice it up with Moroccan Salmon from **"Perfect for Pesach"** by Naomi Nachman or turn to Susie Fishbein's **"Passover by Design"** and find recipes for an easy Tomato Basil Chicken or her Unbelievable Brownies. Take a look at these and other cookbooks and you'll be inspired.

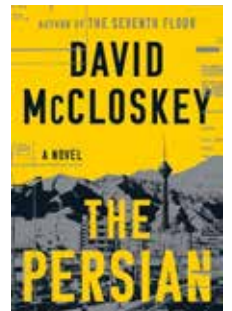


You'll find plenty of new fiction on our shelves. Whether you enjoy historical fiction, mysteries, thrillers, or other genres, you'll find novels to enjoy. Marisa Silver's **"At Last"** is the story of two very different widowed women, set in the Midwest in the 1970s. Evelyn had a difficult childhood and is feisty, while Helene embodies the ideals of the upper-middle class "trad wife." Helene's son Tom and Evelyn's daughter Ruth marry, and their daughter Francie is the object of much grandmotherly love and rivalry. Richman's skillful writing captures the frustrations and hopes of the three generations of women in this novel.



Another novel that takes us back to the 1970s is Ross Barkan's **"Glass Century."** Barkan, a columnist for New York Magazine and host of a popular political podcast, keeps the action going in this one, which takes us through fifty years of New York City drama. Barkan jumps right in with the machinations of Mona Glass in Brooklyn in the early 1970s. Mona's parents are eager for her to get married, but she's in love with already-married Saul Plotz, the Queens borough director for Governor Nelson Rockefeller. Mona isn't interested in marriage, but she and Saul stage a mock wedding, complete with a friend posing as rabbi, to deceive and placate her parents. Mona, an expert tennis player, continues to blaze her own trail and becomes a photographer for a new tabloid. The novel takes us through the various boroughs of the city and through decades of wealth and crisis in the characters and in the Big Apple as Saul balances his marriage and family with his ongoing relationship with Mona. You don't have to have lived in New York City through the past fifty years; this novel will make you feel as though you did.

Don't miss **"The Persian"** by David McCloskey. In this thriller, main character Kamran Esfahani is Iranian born but raised in Sweden, where he practices dentistry. He longs to retire to California, and when the Mossad offers him an opportunity to earn enough to make his dream a reality, he accepts. Following the Mossad's plan, he returns to Iran and sets up a dental practice as cover for his real mission, which is espionage. Things go awry, and he is captured. The story takes place largely in prison, where a bizarre general has Esfahani write his confession, then write it again and again. Most of the story is told through the confession, which details the activities that led to Esfahani's arrest. Author McCloskey is a former CIA analyst with experience in the Middle East, and he gives the reader a sense of the shadow war between Israel and Iran in this compelling novel.



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Acclaimed food writer and author of more than 15 cookbooks, including the award-winning **Sababa** and the New York Times bestsellers **Cravings** and **Cravings: Hungry For More** (co-written with Chrissy Teigen). Adeena lives in Tel Aviv with her husband.

Wednesday, April 29th at 7pm

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*Includes signed copy of **zariz**, cooking demo by Adeena Sussman, photo opportunity with Adeena and moderator Amy Zitelman (CEO of Soom Foods), and a jar of SOOM tahini.*

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Passover Q+A

Q: When is the Fast of the First Born?

A: The Siyum of the Fast of the First Born will be held on Wednesday, April 1st at 8:15am following services which begin at 7:30. We will conclude a tractate of Talmud at the end of services so as to negate the need to fast.

Q: When do we search for Chametz?

A: Following a thorough cleaning of the house, the search for leaven is held on Tuesday, March 31st after night fall. Bread crumbs are placed conspicuously in rooms where food is normally eaten. Using a candle, a search is made and the crumbs are whisked with a feather onto a wooden spoon and then into a paper bag. The prayer said at this time is found in the Haggadah.

Q: What do we do with the crumbs in the bag? Where is Chametz burned?

A: Chametz should be burned on Wednesday, April 1st. After morning Minyan (7:30am), we will have a small bonfire in a steel drum in the parking lot to burn your Chametz. Parents and children can come from 8:30—9:00am that morning to share in this ritual.

Q: How and why do I sell my Chametz?

A: On Pesach it is forbidden to possess Chametz.

B: All Chametz that will not be eaten or burned needs to be sold to a non-Jew through a transaction facilitated by the Rabbis of Beth El. (Sale of Chametz form below or online at bethelsnj.org/passover) It should be mailed, dropped off, or returned by email no later than Wednesday, April 1st at 10am.

Foods During Pesach

The following foods are forbidden for use during Pesach: All uncertified products of the 5 specified grains traditionally identified as Chametz: oats, wheat, barley, rye and spelt. This includes such products as bread, cakes, biscuits, crackers, cereal, etc. Ashkenazic custom has us refraining from eating rice, corn, peas and legumes because when ground they can be confused for those grains listed above. However, in a different form, some of the derivative products of these foods are permitted such as peanut oil. With so much hechshered food available in our area, it is best just to look for the certification on foods.

Kashering Utensils

Pots and Pans: Silverware and pots must be thoroughly scrubbed, cleaned and then completely immersed in boiling water. Pots should not be used for a period of at least 24 hours between the cleaning and the immersion in boiling water.

Metal baking utensils cannot be kashered.

Earthenware: China and pottery etc. may not be kashered.

Ovens & Ranges: Every part that comes in contact with food must be thoroughly scrubbed and cleansed. Oven and range should be on as hot as possible for ½ hour.

Microwaves: After a thorough cleansing, a cup of hot water should be brought to a boil until most of the water disappears.

Dishwasher: The Rabbinical Assembly has ruled that after not using the machine for 24 hours, running a full cycle through empty with detergent will kasher a dishwasher for Pesach.

Tables, Food, Closets & Counters: Should be thoroughly cleaned and covered for Pesach. Then they may be used.

Kitchen Sink: A metal sink can be kashered by thoroughly cleaning and then pouring boiling water over it. A porcelain sink should be cleaned and a sink rack used. If, however, dishes are to be soaked in a porcelain sink, a dish basin must be used.



Charitable giving before Passover is called **Ma'ot Chittin**. Donations that accompany your chametz sale will be directed toward the needy of our community. To fill out the Sale of Chametz form online, visit bethelsnj.org/chametzsale.

Delegation of Power: Sale of Chametz Form

I hereby authorize Rabbi David Englander to be my agent to sell all kinds of Chametz including, but not limited to, any leavened food, dishes, pots, pans, and utensils used with leavened food, which may be in my possession at the address below.

Rabbi Englander is also empowered to lease all places wherein Chametz owned by me may be his stead and said substitute shall have full right to sell and to lease as provided herein. I understand that the sale will be effective at noon on Wednesday, April 1st.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

This form is to be returned to the office by 10am on April 1st; taking a picture of it and emailing to denglander@bethelsnj.org is also acceptable.

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