

Beth El Newsletter

We Belong Together

Modim: *An Evening of Gratitude* *for our HAZZAN*



Celebration honoring
HAZZAN ALISA POMERANTZ-BORO

for all her years of devoted service
to Congregation Beth El

Wednesday, May 13th at 7pm



Please join us for a truly unforgettable evening as we celebrate Hazzan Pomerantz-Boro's retirement and honor the incredible legacy she leaves behind. This will be a night to reflect, to cherish memories, and to thank Hazzan for the countless ways she has touched our community through her voice, her spirit, and her devotion.

Tribute Concert Featuring Hazzan's close friends:



Hazzan Matt Axelrod
Executive Director
Cantors Assembly



Cantor Randy Herman
Har Zion Temple
Penn Valley, PA



Cantor Jen Cohen
Temple Beth Sholom
Cherry Hill, NJ



Hazzan David Propis
Congregation Shaarey Zedek
Southfield, MI



Hazzan Joanna Dulkan
Adath Jeshurun Congregation
Minnetonka, MN



Cantor Elizabeth Shammash
Institute for Jewish Spirituality
Philadelphia, PA



Cantor Magda Fishman
B'nai Torah Congregation
Boca Raton, FL



Hazzan Emeritus Michael Stein
Temple Aliyah
Woodland Hills, CA



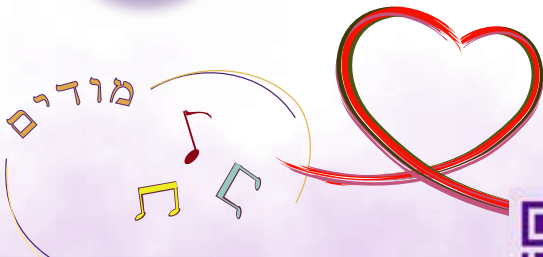
Cantor Raquel Pomerantz Gershon
Congregation Ohev Shalom
Maitland, FL



Cantor Steven Stoehr
Congregation Beth Shalom
Northbrook, IL



Scott Stein
Pianist
Brooklyn, NY



To RSVP online, become a Sponsor, or purchase an ad in the Yearbook, please scan the QR code or visit bethelsnj.org/Modim

Kindly RSVP by May 5th. Questions? Contact Marissa Kimmel at mkimmel@bethelsnj.org or 856.675.1166

CLERGY CORNER



Dear Friends,

I've often wondered whether Jewish tradition has a blessing similar to the saying often quoted as a Chinese proverb: "May you live in interesting times." If there is such a blessing, I have not found it. If there is not, perhaps

the reason is simple: times are always interesting, some just more than others.

There are two kinds of interesting times. Some we welcome for the uplift, growth, and inspiration they bring as we try to build meaningful lives and strengthen the institutions and relationships that matter most. For us, that certainly includes continuing to build on the great legacy of Beth El. And then there are the other kinds of interesting times, the ones we would never have chosen for ourselves had we been given the choice, which of course we rarely are.

At Beth El, among the most difficult news we could have received was word of the retirement of our beloved Hazzan Alisa Pomerantz-Boro. Even after many months to adjust to that reality, it still does not fully align with what we imagined the coming years would look, and sound, like. We continue to wish Hazzan better and better health and strength, and we are deeply grateful that she, Stephen, Rebecca, Josh, and the whole family remain such a vital part of our Beth El community. And we hope you will attend and support **Modim: An Evening of Gratitude for Our Hazzan**, to take place on May 13th.

At the same time, that real sense of loss does not diminish our excitement about the future. As you have already heard, a new cantorial era at Beth El will begin in July when Cantor Zahava Fried joins us in this important and impactful clergy role. During her days with us in March, Cantor Fried

brought energy, warmth, light, and enthusiasm, along with great professionalism, a beautiful voice, and a clear ability to touch lives through Jewish prayer and song. We feel very fortunate to have found her, and we look forward to years of growth, partnership, and inspiration together.

As of this writing, Israel remains under bombardment from Iran, and the United States Armed Forces remain engaged in efforts to degrade Iran's capabilities, long directed toward harming Israel, its allies, and the West. My hope is that by the time you read this, the conflict will have ended and greater security will have been achieved for all who seek peace. We pray for Israel, for all who defend her, for the Iranian people who deserve the possibility of a better future for their children, and for a safer and more hopeful world.

All told, it has indeed been an interesting and challenging season. Some of that has been as simple as highly objectionable winter weather! Much more of it has centered on Israel, on anti-Semitism toward the American Jewish community, and, in this period of transition, on Beth El as well. Yet through all of it, we draw on the same enduring qualities that have carried our people this far: resilience, hope, and the determination to keep building Jewish life with strength and purpose. Those qualities are not accidental. They are the inheritance of a people shaped by generations of challenge and sustained by Torah, community, and faith. And they remain, still, our guide as we move forward together.

I wish all students and families a successful and fulfilling end to the school year, a hearty *Mazal Tov* on graduations and anticipated new beginnings, and a wonderful start to a long-awaited summer season.

B'shalom,

Rabbi David Englander



To my NEW Spiritual Home,

I cannot begin to express my gratitude as I move toward this new pulpit, and I truly feel that Congregation Beth El is a blessing for my both family and me. So, as I am holding this gratitude, I want to take the opportunity to introduce myself and my family.

I was raised in Pittsburgh, PA, in a small Reconstructionist synagogue where Judaism was central to my identity. I was one of those kids who genuinely enjoyed Religious School—especially the music and tefillah. I fell in love with Jewish music at an early age, inspired in part by my rabbi, who would lead services with her guitar, creating a deeply meaningful and engaging prayer experience.

My connection to music, however, began even earlier. I started playing the violin at the age of four and later transitioned to viola. It became apparent that I was able to sing when I had my Bat Mitzvah, and my rabbi told me that perhaps I should become a cantor. I did not believe that her words would actually come to pass.

After my Bat Mitzvah, I began studying opera and classical voice. While I loved the artistry and discipline, I sensed that something was missing. I soon realized that what I was seeking was a deeper connection not only to Judaism, but also to education.

I went on to earn my bachelor’s degree in Education, and after relocating to Buffalo, NY with my husband, Yaakov, I began teaching in Jewish Day Schools and Early Childhood programs. In the classroom, I quickly discovered how naturally children connect to music. It became a powerful and effective pedagogical tool, and before long, leading morning blessings and Circle Time were the highlights of my day.

After seven years, first in the classroom and later as an administrator, I felt at a crossroads. I had recently had my second daughter, and it was the height of Covid. Many preschools were closed and not hiring. At this point, I had served as a High Holiday Cantorial Soloist and felt called to the cantorate but had never acted upon that urge. Now, in that place of indecision, I finally had the opportunity. After following my husband through medical school and the beginning of his ENT residency, he looked at me and told me: “Go to cantorial school - it’s your turn.” So, I did!

I am currently in my fifth year as a cantorial student at AJR, with ordination anticipated in April 2027. Over the past several years, I have had the privilege of serving Temple Beth Tzedek in Buffalo, NY, beginning in 2022 as a Cantorial Intern and later as Cantorial Soloist. During this time, I also served Congregation Beth Ohr in Old Bridge, NJ for two years. These experiences have provided invaluable opportunities for learning and growth, and I feel ready and excited to take the next step in my cantorial journey. I am truly thrilled that this next chapter will be with Beth El.

I am equally excited that my family will be joining the Beth El community. My husband, Yaakov, and I have been married for 11 years. He is completing his ENT residency and looks forward to beginning his career in Voorhees. We are the proud parents of three children—Lilah (7), Serafina (4), and Ramiel (1)—who are truly the lights of our lives. Lilah and Serafina will be attending Kellman Brown Academy, and Ramiel will join the Beth El ECC. We also have a beloved cat, MishMish.

Outside of my work on the bimah and in the classroom, I enjoy running, spending time on my Peloton, exploring new coffee shops, playing mahjong, and crocheting.

I am looking forward to getting to know you all more, and I thank you for welcoming me with such open arms!

Warmly,

Cantor Zahava Fried

SHOMRIM

שומרים

GUARDIANS OF CONGREGATION BETH EL

PARTNERSHIP

COMMUNITY

FUTURE

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.

Thank You to our Shomrim Members

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

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The Keim Family Foundation
Marvin Samson Foundation

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May/June 2026 - Iyar/Sivan/Tamuz 5786

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Congregation Beth El

May/June 2026 - Iyar/Sivan/Tamuz 5786

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Congregation Beth El



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
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Adam Kaminer
Arnold & Sandra Kaminer
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Deborah Shore & Jonathan Korn
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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



In March, Julie (my wife) and I went on an amazing trip to Australia and Fiji. While we primarily went to visit our daughter who is studying abroad in Sydney, it was also a walk down memory lane for both of us as we also (and separately) did study abroad in Australia more than 30

years ago, and I worked in Melbourne a few years later on a consulting engagement. Australia is a great place – nice weather, clean and modern cities, great food and a culture of being outside and having fun. It is also, however, the first place I ever felt that Jews weren't fully welcome. As a student in Sydney, and later working at a bank in Melbourne, I heard antisemitic remarks in casual conversations with people who did not know I was Jewish. It was shocking to me and stood out because I had never experienced anything like that growing up in the New York area.

On our first day in Sydney, we went to Bondi Beach where the horrific shooting occurred this past December that killed 15 people at a Hanukkah celebration. Our daughter lives just 3 blocks from where the slaughter occurred. We saw a makeshift memorial on the pedestrian bridge where the shooters murdered Jews, ranging from an 87 year old Holocaust survivor to a 10-year-old girl. Having followed Australian politics, I can't say I was surprised that this happened. There had been synagogue attacks, out of control protests with "Gas the Jews" chants, and harassment of Jewish owned businesses throughout Australia, and the government did little in response...and even made it worse by publicly castigating Israel and unilaterally recognizing a Palestinian state.

In the middle of our trip, we received the terrible news of the attack on Temple Israel in West Bloomfield, Michigan. Thank goodness the only fatality was the attacker thanks to a well-fortified synagogue and well-trained security personnel on site.

So why am I bringing this up? I want to let all at Beth El know that leadership spends a great deal of time and resources making sure our beloved shul is secure and people entering the building are safe. We do regular walk throughs with both JFED Security and the Voorhees Police Department, looking at how we can continually enhance security – some of which is seen, and some of which is not meant to be seen. At our Annual Meeting just a week ago, we changed the bylaws to create a Technology and Security Officer position to Beth El's Executive Committee, ensuring that we don't get complacent and security is on every Board meeting's agenda. You will also be seeing some policies changing, such as having to pre-register for more events, and providing additional information when signing up. Yes, it is a little bit of a hassle, but please keep in mind it is being done with a bigger purpose of safety.

Unfortunately, and unsurprisingly, our security costs have skyrocketed over the past few years. Beth El was the only synagogue in the area that did not have a mandatory security fee for members, but we did have to change that for next year. You will be getting your membership renewal information soon. We did keep dues flat for almost all membership types, but you will see the additional of the mandatory security fee—it is an identical amount to what other area shuls are charging. This was not an easy decision, but the Board felt it had no choice and absolutely could not cut back or compromise on security needs. We hope you understand. Also, as a reminder, the High Holidays are almost a full month earlier this year than last year, so please don't forget to send your renewal as early as possible for High Holiday seating.

Until we see each other at Beth El, "G'day" (as the Aussies say).

Jason Whitney

OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



When I was young, I loved singing “On the Way to Cape May” with my mom. If memory serves me correctly, Oldies 98 played that summertime anthem every Friday morning from Memorial Day through Labor Day. Hearing Al Alberts croon those lyrics always meant summer was just around the corner!

Now, summer is around the corner once again. After a long winter, the Beth El clergy and staff have been busy planning a season filled with sunshine and warmth. Keep your shades on—our summer schedule is looking bright!

Save the Dates

- **Memorial Day Weekend:** Young families kick off the season with Rabbi Marshall for **Shavuot by the Sea**.
- **Tuesday, June 16:** Join us for our **9th Annual Golf Classic & Game Day** at Ramblewood Country Club.
- **Wednesday, July 1:** Back by popular demand! We’re bringing back The Undercovers (from Havdalah Night Live) for an **Independence Day Celebration and BBQ** at Beth El.
- **Throughout July and August:** Look out for ice cream socials and playground meet-ups around Cherry Hill and Voorhees.

- **At the Shore:** We’ll be gathering throughout the summer for mini-golf, schmoozing, and Havdalah by the ocean.
- **Weekend of August 21:** A packed weekend featuring an **ECC Splashpad Meet & Greet**, followed by a **Shabbat Under the Stars & Welcome Dinner for our new Cantor, Zahava Fried**, and her family. We’ll cap it all off with a **Phillies game!** You can find details for all these events right here in this newsletter and on our website.

Looking Toward the High Holidays

Summer comes to an unofficial close on Labor Day, September 7. With Rosh Hashanah beginning just four days later on Friday evening, September 11, please keep an eye on your mail and inbox for these important updates:

- **May:** Membership Information
- **June:** High Holiday Seating
- **August:** High Holiday Tickets

I look forward to seeing you this summer at Beth El, around South Jersey, and down the shore. We truly have something for everyone.

Sunshine, Beth El & You: Better Together!

Tara Feiner

Young Families

SHAVUOT BY THE SEA!

Join Rabbi Marshall down the shore for a fun celebration in the sun!

- Shavuot songs & stories
- ‘Sinai’ cupcakes
- Fruit roll-up Torahs
- Flower crowns... & more!

FRIDAY, MAY 22 3-5pm

No charge but RSVP required. Scan QR code or visit bethelsnj.org/shavuot
Location will be sent upon registration.

Mazal Tov to our B'NAI MITZVAH



Ali Klear - May 2
Parents: Liz & Scott Klear
Siblings: Josh
Grandparents: Libby & Philip Clear, Ina Beckman, Irwin Beckman
Mitzvah Project: Ali is interested in helping relieve hunger and has been volunteering for the 'Cook For a Friend' program at Beth El.



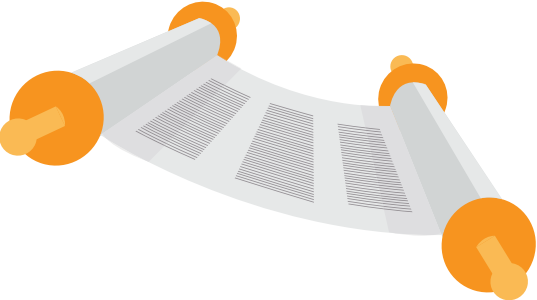
Shai Lev Jair Respes - May 16
Parents: Rav Chaim & Tonia Purnell-Respes
Siblings: Teo and Kobe
Grandparents: Christine Purnell, Ms. Arthea Williams z"l, and Mr. & Mrs. Joel Respes
Mitzvah Project: Shai collected donations for Toys for Tots in Mercer County, and organized a walk-a-thon to raise funds and awareness for H'Arts of Gold and Pancreatic Cancer.



Shoshanah Rinah Yares - May 17
Parents: Ilana & Yonaton Yares
Siblings: Yochai, Shulamit, Tirtzah, Makabee, Elchanan, and Nachshon
Grandparents: Bonnie & Howard Yares, Fern & Allan Katronetsky
Mitzvah Project: Shoshanah is repairing all of the plush Sifrei Torah at Congregation Beth El for continued use without having to purchase new.



Julianna Silverstein - June 13
Parents: Perri & Robert Silverstein
Siblings: Maddox
Grandparents: Shelly & Allan Brenner, Judi (z"l) & Howard (z"l) Silverstein
Mitzvah Project: Julianna is raising funds for Children's Alopecia Project and National Alopecia Areata Foundation. Alopecia is an autoimmune condition that causes hair loss and can deeply impact a person's confidence. By creating awareness, promoting kindness, and supporting those affected, she hopes to inspire others to look beyond appearances and see the strength within each person.



Dedication and Gratitude *in Our Community*



As we reach the end of this school year, our Beth El Religious School family takes a moment to express profound gratitude to two remarkable individuals whose dedication has strengthened our Religious School and enriched our community.

It is bittersweet for me to share with you that our Daled teacher Mali Gold, after 35 years of inspiring our students with a love for Judaism, Hebrew, and Jewish learning, has decided to retire this coming year to spend time with her many grandchildren and her family in Israel. Morah Mali's retirement will truly mean an end of an era.

Through her warmth, patience, and wisdom, Mali has helped shape generations of young Jews, nurturing in them not only knowledge but also a deep sense of identity and connection to our tradition. As our sages teach, *"Whoever teaches a child Torah, it is as if they gave birth to them"* (Sanhedrin 19b). Although Morah Mali will be leaving us, her legacy will continue in the lives, values, and voices of the students she has guided. Morah Mali, we are eternally grateful for your many years of teaching at Beth El. We will miss you!

There are many people who work behind the scenes in making sure the Beth El Religious School is as successful as

it is. The Beth El PTG (Parent Teacher Group) is made up of volunteers who offer guidance, support, and time to make sure the Beth El Religious School is the best it can be. As our school year comes to an end, we also share our gratitude to Rachelle Mitchell, who is completing her two-year term as PTG Co-Chair with Renee Picot. With vision, compassion, and tireless effort, Rachelle has helped our program flourish—supporting teachers, fostering community among families, and ensuring our students experience a vibrant, engaging Jewish education.

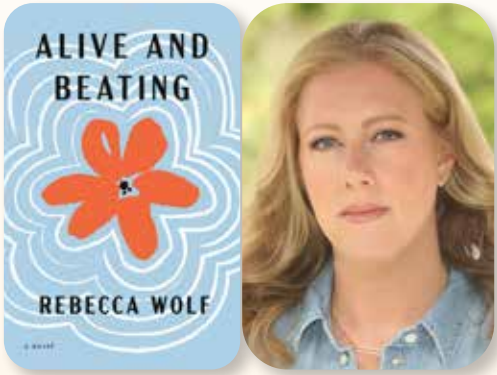
The Talmud teaches, *"The world stands on three things: on Torah, on avodah (service), and on gemilut chasadim (acts of loving-kindness)"* (Pirkei Avot 1:2). Rachelle has embodied all three in her leadership. Rachelle, we are grateful for your time, effort, and support. We thank you and look forward to your continued presence and involvement. And as we say *L'hitraot* to Rachelle, we welcome Karen Danziger as our incoming PTG Co-chair who will continue the sacred work with Renee Picot and their committee.

As we honor Mali and Rachelle and all our incredible teachers and staff, we are reminded that teaching, leading, and serving our community are sacred responsibilities—part of the enduring chain of *l'dor v'dor*, generation to generation. May their contributions continue to inspire us to learn, lead, and lift one another in gratitude.

Rabbi Nogah Marshall
Educational Director



Author Forum with **REBECCA WOLF**



Tuesday, May 26 | 7pm

Inspired by the true story of her childhood friend, Wolf's moving debut novel, **Alive and Beating**, follows six people from diverse backgrounds and neighborhoods throughout Jerusalem, all desperately in need of organ transplants, on the day their lives will forever be changed.



No charge but RSVP required.
Scan QR code or visit
bethelsnj.shulcloud.com/form/Rebecca-Wolf-RSVP



As we welcome the beautiful months of May and June, our preschool is filled with reflection, celebration, and excitement for all that is still to come. It has been a truly meaningful year of learning, growth, and connection for our students, families, and staff.

Throughout the year, our children explored the richness of Jewish traditions and holidays. From the reflective moments of the High Holidays—Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur—to the joy and light of our Hanukkah feast, our classrooms were filled with hands-on learning, songs, stories, and meaningful conversations. The children especially loved celebrating with family and friends, creating memories that will last a lifetime.

This spring, our students brought the story of Passover to life through our preschool Seder. Watching them proudly sing the Four Questions, taste traditional foods, and retell the story of freedom was a highlight of the season. These experiences help build a strong sense of identity, tradition, and community in even our youngest learners.

As we approach the end of the school year, we are especially excited to celebrate our Pre-K and Kindergarten students as they prepare for their graduations. This is a milestone moment—not only for the children, but for their families and teachers who have supported them every step of the way. We are so proud of their growth, confidence, and readiness for the next chapter.

While we will certainly miss our graduates, we are also looking ahead with excitement to a fun-filled summer! From outdoor play and water days to creative projects and special activities, summer at our preschool is a time for laughter, exploration, and making new memories with friends.

Thank you to our families for being such an important part of our community. We wish you all a joyful end to the school year and a wonderful, safe, and sunny summer ahead!

Jillian Winfree
ECC Curriculum
& Instruction
Supervisor



MAZAL TOV TO

B'NAI MITZVAH:

Max Koenig, and to his parents **Wendy & Brad Koenig**
Maya Mittelman, and to her parents **Ayelet & Matthew Mittelman**
Layla Engelman, and to her parents **Stephanie & Guy Engelman**
Benji Simpson, and to his parents **Rachel & Eric Simpson**
Noah Claps, and to his parents **Jennifer & Lewis Claps**

Samuel Semanoff, and to his parents **Rebecca & Jack Semanoff**, and to grandfather **Alan Kagan**

BIRTHS & NAMINGS:

Randee & Alan Moldoff on the birth of their grandson, Gabriel Harris, and to parents Yaelle & Nathaniel Moldoff
Rosemary & Rabbi Eli Kahn on the birth of their grandson, Yonatan Bendit, and to parents Tova & Danny Bukingolts
Andrea & Bruce Grundt on the birth of their grandson, Tyler Grundt, and to parents Katherine & Zachary and big sister Madison
Miriam & Michael Rosenheck on the birth of their son, Samuel "Sammy" Raphael Rosenheck, and to big brother Benji
Marcy Sanders on the birth of her great grandson, Samuel Max Alderman
Lindsay & Daniel Capecci on the birth of their son Graham Louis Capecci, and to siblings Addison, Bailey, and Parker, grandparents **Donna & Rick Forman**, and aunts and uncles Sydney Forman, Karly & Elijah Cohen
Jessica Sherman (ECC Director) & Travis Zimmerman on the birth of their daughter, Brooklyn Hope Zimmerman
Jordana (Morah Jordie) & Jason Silverberg on the birth of their daughter Maya Tzipporah, and to big brother Wren
Karly & Elijah Cohen on the birth of their daughter, Jemma Rae Cohen, and to grandparents **Donna & Rick Forman**

ENGAGEMENTS & WEDDINGS:

Jennifer & Ari Brooks on the marriage of their son Ezra Brooks to Alina Mizrahi Gitlin

SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENTS & OTHER GOOD NEWS:

Rabbi David Englander received an honorary Doctorate degree from JTS.
Mimi & Harold Weitzman's granddaughter, Molly Weitzman, made the USA Women's Track Team for this year's Maccabi Games in Jerusalem.
Julia Orel and **Melissa Shapiro** received the 'Emerging Jewish Educator Leader Award' at the National Jewish Educators Assembly Conference in Philadelphia.
Alison Platt-Tarnopol received the Love Impact Award in the area of Older Adults.
Jason Wolf received the Love Impact Award in the area of Global Connections.



All life events as of April 10, 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:

Norman Friedman - Husband of Rita Friedman z"l, Father of Brian (Marcy) Friedman, Janet (Michael) Sussen, Kenneth Friedman z"l, Grandfather of David (Jenny) Friedman, Eric Friedman, Josh (Lainie) Sussen, Craig (Julieta) Sussen, Great-Grandfather of Noah, Zachary, Levi & Jordan
Deborah Ross - Wife of of Phil Ross, Mother of Richard (Robyn) Ross, Meredith Ross, Sister of Karen (Dr. David) Schlessel, Daughter of Sam (Sybil z"l) Handwerker, Aunt of Dr. Marc (Katie) Schlessel, Zoe (Judah) Levy
Deborah Ross - Wife of of Phil Ross, Mother of Richard (Robyn) Ross, Meredith Ross, Sister of Karen (Dr. David) Schlessel, Daughter of Sam (Sybil z"l) Handwerker, Aunt of Dr. Marc (Katie) Schlessel, Zoe (Judah) Levy

קהילה בית אל
CONGREGATION Beth El
ESTABLISHED 1921

Beth El's 9th Annual GOLF CLASSIC & GAME DAY

TUESDAY, JUNE 16, 2026

Ramblewood Country Club

REGISTRATION:
Individual Golfer \$225 | Game Day \$72
To register or become a sponsor, scan the QR code or visit bethelsnj.org/golf2026

Title Sponsor
THE TUSTIN GROUP

11:00am Registration & Brunch
12:45pm Game Day Begins
1:00pm Golf Shotgun Start
5:30pm Golf Happy Hour & Awards

Questions? Contact Marissa Kimmel at mkimmel@bethelsnj.org



Mamma Mia! Our Purim Spiel , Bingo Night and Carnival were so much fun!



Beth El Religious School's Aleph and Daled families at their B'yachad programs.



Beth El Summer Happenings!

July

Wednesday, July 1
Independence Day Celebration & BBQ with the Undercovers!

Wednesday, July 8
Ice Cream Social at Primo's

Sunday, July 12
Connelly Park Playground Meet-up

Friday, July 24
Shore Schmooze at the Levin's

Friday, July 31
Shabbat Under the Stars
BYO Dinner

August

Wednesday, August 5
Ice Cream Social at Diane's

Sunday, August 16
Mini Golf/Ice Cream at the Shore

Friday, August 21 | 4:30pm
ECC Splashpad Meet & Greet with Cantor Zahava Fried!

Friday, August 21
Shabbat Under the Stars & Welcome Shabbat Dinner for Cantor Zahava Fried & Family

Sunday, August 23
Phillies Game

Saturday, August 29
Young Family Havdalah at the Shore with Rabbi Marshall

Save the dates...

More details for all these fun summer events coming soon!

BELL LIBRARY NEWS



“Even After Everything,” by Beth El congregant Betsy Frischman Fischer, is a welcome new addition to our library. Through her work with JNF in the area formerly known as the Gaza Envelope and now called the Israeli Envelope, Betsy met Gadi Yarkoni, an Israeli living on a kibbutz 1.5 miles from the Gaza border. Gadi has faced challenges throughout his life: his schoolwork was limited by dyslexia and dysgraphia, and he later was diagnosed with a heart defect and glaucoma. In 2004 Gadi, a farmer, lost both his legs in an explosion from Hamas during Operation Protective Edge. Undaunted, Gadi continued to devote himself to his kibbutz, rising from head of field crops to mayor of the Eshkol region. Though an idealist, the events of October 7 ended his belief that peace can be achieved with Hamas and the neighbors who support Hamas. Betsy was so touched by Gadi’s story that she decided to write a book about him. Through her personal experience and extensive research, “Even After Everything,” her first book, has brought Gadi’s heroic life to the printed page. Betsy gives readers a lively view of daily life on the kibbutzim and moshavim and the aspirations of the Israelis who live there. Readers are calling the book “compelling,” “inspiring,” and emotional, and they find Gadi a model of “resilience” and “determination.”



And here are some new novels to enjoy:

Allegra Goodman’s newest book **“This Is Not About Us,”** tells the story of three sisters and their family. When youngest sister Jeanne passes away, middle sister Sylvia bakes an apple cake for the shiva using a recipe eldest sister Helen had given to her. The cake causes Helen, who considers herself to be the baker of the family, to become incensed and this seemingly trivial disagreement balloons into an epic grudge and

estrangement. Of course, there’s more to the conflict than an apple cake, and as the story unfolds, we see how years of jealousy and competition have led to the current conflict, but we also see the family’s love and commitment. Throughout the stories that comprise the novel we get to know these women and their children and grandchildren. Goodman is a skilled storyteller with a gift for creating characters who “sound” and feel so real.

The Manhattan Project in Los Alamos, New Mexico is the setting for **“Hill of Secrets”** by Galina Vromen. It’s 1943, and the government abruptly moves art restorer Christine and her scientist husband Thomas from New York to a secret location out West. Other characters include Kurt, a refugee German Jewish physicist, and army technician Jimmy, who tutors Kurt’s teenage daughter Gertie. Los Alamos housing offers primitive conditions with scarce water and no telephones as the secret work on an atomic bomb is carried out. The tense atmosphere of the secret work is not the only focus of the story: Kurt and wife Sarah desperately wonder about the fate of their relatives back in Germany, Gertie and Jimmy share a mutual attraction, and Christine and Kurt are drawn to each other. Vromen takes the reader into the high-pressure atmosphere of Los Alamos in a story enhanced by romance and highlighted by historical facts.

Alyson Richman’s tenth novel, **“The Time Keepers,”** begins in 1978 when Irish-Catholic Grace befriends Vietnamese refugee Anh and her young son, Bao. Grace is married to watch- repair store owner Tom, who is Jewish. Vietnam War veteran Jack works for Tom. All of these characters face discrimination: Grace is shunned by her church because she married a Jew, Tom is made to feel unwelcome in town because he is Jewish, Anh and Bao are reminders of an unpopular war, and Jack is avoided because his face is terribly disfigured from a war injury. The intertwining of the lives of these characters drives the story in which acceptance and love overcome loneliness and rejection.

The Library will be closed July and August. Please come in soon to borrow books for summer reading!

Amy Kaplan
Congregation Beth El Librarian



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Sebastian Goldstein

Survivor Sisters

Please contact ilene33@comcast.net, illenerubin@aol.com, or silverberg.heidi@gmail.com to connect to our support network for women with a diagnosis of cancer, focusing on empowering and redefining life during and after treatment.



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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

הִנֵּה מַה־טּוֹב וַיִּמָּה־נָּעִים
שַׁבַּת אֲחֵים גַּם־יַחַד:

*How good it is when all people
dwell together in peace.*

(Psalms 133:1)

KAVOD
(Respect)

Beth El's LGBTQI+ Friends, Families & Allies