



NEW YEAR NEW STYLE

Find letters from our leaders,
Shabbat & holiday information,
simchas & sorrows, thoughtful
contributions, and more in

Temple Topics...

and look for complete event
info in our new monthly

Temple Happenings



Be★

*Community You
Can Believe In*

TEMPLE *topics*

January - February
2024

Tevet - Shevat - Adar I
5784

- ★ January Class with Rabbi Rosen *page 2*
- ★ Update from Resettled Israeli Family *pages 4, 9*
- ★ The Masa Project: Teen Trip to NYC *page 5*

★ From the Rabbis' Desks

The Power of Face-to-Face

The following is based on a recent Shabbat morning sermon...



One of the supreme ironies of the October 7 attack is that many of the victims were peace activists who believed in coexistence with Palestinians.

Yocheved Lifshitz, one of the first captives released by Hamas, was one of those activists. The 85-year-old resident from Kibbutz Nir Oz agitated for peace, and also helped to get sick Palestinians to hospitals in Israel over the years.

Three days into her captivity the captives were visited by Hamas leader Yihya Sinwar. Face-to-face she asked him was he not ashamed to do such a thing to people who all these years supported peace?

A face-to-face confrontation with one who masterminded the face-to-face destruction of lives and property and took 249 precious souls' captive. He had no answer.

The hostages, 129 of whom remain in captivity, have stared into the face of evil. Kudos to Yocheved Lifshitz for having the courage to confront her captors in that way.

But how do we best help those who have seen the worst in humanity to cope. How do we help others and ourselves to heal?

And the answer of Jewish tradition is boldly ironic. You do so face-to-face. In the Mishnah the question is asked, what is the latest time that one can gather for morning prayers? The answer, when there is enough light to be able to recognize the face of your friend. See that face, prayer can then happen.

In the Torah portion of *Vayishlach*, Jacob and Esau meet at long last. Jacob is fearful that after all these years, his brother will still harbor anger from their rivalry. Jacob fears for his life, but Esau does not

attack. He embraces his brother. And Jacob responds, "to see your face is to see the face of God."

The philosopher Emmanuel Levinas taught to "see someone's face is a way of saying I accept my ethical obligations towards you."

In the *Birkat Kohanim*, a blessing we share with children each Friday night at the Shabbat table, we say, "may God lift the divine face towards you."

How does Torah describe the unique relationship that Moses enjoyed with God, one of deep intimacy? God knew him *Panim el Panim*. Face-to-face. Even something as mundane as a welcome reception is known in modern Hebrew as *Kabbalat Panim* – the place where faces are received, literally speaking.

Healing begins when those who have suffered see the face of compassion and caring and know that they are not alone. Healing continues when we share the gift of presence with those who hurt.

One can be hopeful that one day, perhaps far in the future, stripped of the barbarism of Hamas and terror, Israelis and Palestinians will be able to see their shared humanity, face-to-face, and create a relationship that is both secure and accepting.

Israeli radio is now dedicating songs for the hostages in Gaza. Loved ones are invited to request a song that is beloved by those who are still in captivity. One of the most popular songs is *Hatishma Koli*, whose lyrics read in part,

*Will you hear my voice, my far away one,
will you hear my voice wherever you are?
A voice is calling with strength, a voice is
crying softly, and it sends a blessing.*

It is a prayer cast into the heavens that a beloved might know they are not alone. Until such time as they can be reunited face-to-face. Please, God, let it continue to happen, and very, very soon.

~ Jim Rosen

Is there an Essence to Being Jewish?

Three-Class Series with Rabbi Rosen

WEDNESDAYS, JANUARY 3, 10, & 17

7:00 – 8:00 PM

Zoom only; no charge

We'll dive into the roles of faith and practice, the land of Israel, being part of a people, and the importance of values in texts. We will consider our own Jewish identities, especially in light of the October 7th war.

The Song of Angels

There were no fewer than twelve Levites singing as a choir in the Holy Temple, and they could be increased ad infinitum. The children would then enter the Temple courtyard for service at the time when the Levites were engaging in song. And the children would add their voices to give greater beauty to the music. Because the voice of the children is clear and angelic and adds greatly to the voice of the adults. Rabbi Eliezer ben Ya'akov says: "the children would stand just below the Levitical choir and they were called the apprentices of the Levites." From Mishnah Masechet Arakhin 2:6, combined with an explanation by Rabbi Ovadiah of Bartinura (c. 1445-1515):

There were also instrumentalists in the Holy Temple! Mishnah Middot Arakhin 2.4 indicates that many of these singers and musicians were from the families of a place called Beth El.

It is with this ancient and rich tradition in mind that we have, in this Beth El Temple, in the years that I have been the cantor, dedicated ourselves to keeping the remnants of this heritage alive.

The first and foremost element of this has been our Beth El choir who has been, with powerful dedication, by my side, not only as the sweet singers that they are, but



most of each year, come together, multiple times a week to diligently prepare for Shabbat, *Shalosh Regalim*, and the High Holidays, as well as those many times that this choir would, poetically, raise their voices in support of our beloved Israel and its history, both past and present, plus contribute to culture in general.

They have both urged and inspired me to write hundreds of pieces for this choir as a group and for those who sang as soloists or in a duet.

It is profoundly important for me to recognize the multitude of gifted singers who have performed at Beth El Temple over these many years, for their artistic and inspirational contribution to the life of this synagogue.

What has been especially poignant and meaningful to me is the shared goal of intense dedication and work to raise the level of performing so we could feel a

as my family, my brothers, my sisters, and my children.

For the bulk of my time here, these special singers have, for

shared pride and satisfaction that we did the best that our abilities allowed us to achieve.



The choir culture here has been far reaching, from the wonderful mixed voice choirs to the men's and women's choirs to the amazing children's choirs. Many of these kids were very young and others joined after their Bar/Bat Mitzvah experiences. Just this past year we had a special group of nine young women, some from high school and one who was still studying to become a Bat Mitzvah, sing so beautifully with such precision and tone. I was transported.

There are so many wonderful experiences and stories, too many to recount here. I cannot express in words what each of these singers has meant to me personally and musically. My life has been immeasurably enriched!

It is one thing to be proud of our accomplishments and our history, but it is another to keep our traditions alive and with the creativity that will ensure its continuing and greater role in the lives of our Jewish communities. I am dedicated to keeping that flame burning.

~ Joseph Ness

Dirshuni – Israeli Women's Midrash

Multi-session Series with Rabbi Zerlin

WEDNESDAYS, FEBRUARY 7, 21, MARCH 6, 20

6:00 – 7:15 PM In person and Zoom; no charge

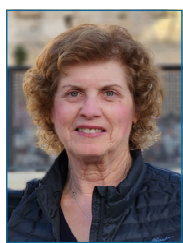
Musical Chat

Ongoing series with Cantor Ness

MONDAYS, JANUARY 8, FEBRUARY 5

7:00 – 8:00 PM Zoom only; no charge

★ Reflections from the President



What does a synagogue president write about when in the Northeast we are likely in the throes of some very dark,

cold, and perhaps snowy days? And these past months, life has felt a little bit darker and colder as our hearts and minds continue to focus on Eretz Yisrael. As much as we saw a glimmer of hope with the release of some hostages over the Thanksgiving holiday, as I write this article, the war continues, we pray for the remaining hostages, and here at home antisemitic words and actions are on a frightening increase.

Yet, we have reason to celebrate. In our secular world, we mark special days for several great Americans: George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, and Martin Luther King, Jr. These brave men were trailblazers as they fought for freedom and humanity. And in our

Jewish world, Tu BiShevat, the 15th day of the month of Shevat, is celebrated this year on the evening and day of January 24 and 25.

So why write about a fairly minor holiday, a holiday that's not mentioned in the Bible nor has any special religious requirements? This year, that answer is easier than ever. Tu BiShevat, sometimes referred to as the New Year for the Trees, was established in ancient times by the rabbis as an agricultural holiday, and in particular, a time for planting trees. Throughout the Bible, there is reference to the importance of trees, especially trees that bear fruit. We are told in Deuteronomy (20:19-20) that when we go to war, and it takes a long time to capture the besieged city, we are not to destroy fruit trees. Similarly, in Leviticus (19:23) we are instructed to not eat the fruit for the first three years after planting. Moving into modern times, Tu BiShevat is certainly a precursor for Earth

Day. In Israel it comes at a time when the winter rains are ending and the trees start to flower. Tu BiShevat is also regarded as a symbol of Zionism and the attachment to the land of Israel. The early Zionist settlers physically planted trees and we now see green in what was a desert. The flowers of the almond trees are breathtaking. My mind brings me back to the Israeli breakfasts with tables overflowing with apricots, dates, figs, and so many more delicacies.

I'll suggest to each of you to bring a bit of Israel into your life on Tu BiShevat. Enjoy some fruits and nuts, eat some olives, plant a tree in Israel through the Jewish National Fund, and maybe sip a glass of Israeli wine or grape juice. And then, browse through the rest of this edition and the new, monthly *Temple Happenings* flyer to learn about all that Beth El has to offer. We look forward to seeing you throughout 2024.

~ Leah Katz

To the Beth El Community,

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts. We don't think words will ever be able to truly express our gratitude. Your generosity and support have turned a house into a warm and full home.

The past months have been so hard on us, moving from place to place and feeling like we didn't have a base to just rest and be. You changed that in one single day. We have a space now in which our 4 kids (and us!) have so much security and fun thanks to how thoughtful and caring you all are.

We are so humbled and overwhelmed by the enormous amount of love you have showered upon our family. There is not a single thing that we needed that did not arrive at our doorstep... and then you added extra things that just filled our hearts. There were so many items that were so obviously given to us with such thoughtfulness and awareness of what could make our lives easier here – and that you have. We have a fully working kitchen thanks to you. A beautiful dining room thanks to you. A family room filled with everything to make us comfortable and then some. Each of our children has their own space and bed, with perfectly

curated sheets, blankets, and stuffed animals... thanks to all of you. We wish that you could all hear the amount of wows and yays that continue to be exclaimed with joy as they discover yet another wonderful story or game given to them by your community.

It was such a heartbreaking decision for us to leave Israel at this time. Coming to West Hartford has shown us that Am Yisrael Chai here in CT as well. We will forever be grateful for your generosity and for how you made our hearts start to heal. As we begin Chanukah tonight – surrounded with Chanukiot, dreidles, and mezuzot that were also sent over with love – we pray that Israel and the Jewish community around the world experiences light and hope. That the light and love that Beth El has shown us is the start to shedding light on these dark times.

We look forward to meeting you in the coming weeks at Shabbat services and we are just so so thankful for all of you. May you all be healthy and experience the kindness and love that you've shown us.

*Chag Chanuka Sameach and with huge hugs and thanks,
The Benoni Family*



★ Family Engagement

What we need more than anything else is not textbooks but text people.

~ Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel (1907-1972)



The challenge of planning and successfully implementing meaningful programming for post B'nei Mitzvah students is a perennial obstacle across the Jewish community. Although the written word in a sacred textbook will always

be relevant and important in continuing the Jewish journey, Rabbi Heschel's quote highlights the value of experience and informal education.

One of the central goals of BET is to build a strong sense of community in our teenagers, creating a close connection to each other, to Judaism, and to the BET and larger local Jewish community. We have the following goals in mind for the program that will begin in Spring 2024:

- ✧ Broadening the Jewish experiences and deepening the Jewish knowledge of teens in a compelling and attractive way.
- ✧ Connecting teens with each other and with the greater Jewish people.
- ✧ Bonding students as a sacred community where they can find their home, where they can turn for friendship, exciting new ideas, and an anchor for helping them make ethical decisions at a critical time in their personal development.
- ✧ Creating text people so that our students continue to be equipped with tools and experiences needed to continue their Jewish journey post B'nei Mitzvah.

After becoming a Bar or Bat Mitzvah at BET, students have several choices to continue their Jewish development: they can participate in USY, attend JTConnect, and/or be *Madrichim* (teaching assistants) at SULAM. In addition, we are starting a new program at BET called *The Masa Program*. *Masa* means journey. This program is focused on exploring the Jewish journey of our post B'nei Mitzvah students through travel impact learning experiences. It is our hope that they will be engaged and remain active in the larger Jewish community in Greater Hartford.

~ Dr. Eliyahu Krigel

The Jewish Immigrant Experience

Post SULAM – The Masa Program

SUNDAY, MAY 5, 2024

6:30 AM – 10 PM

GRADES: 8-12

FACULTY: Marisa Beede and Dr. Eliyahu

REGISTER: tinyurl.com/BETMasaNYC

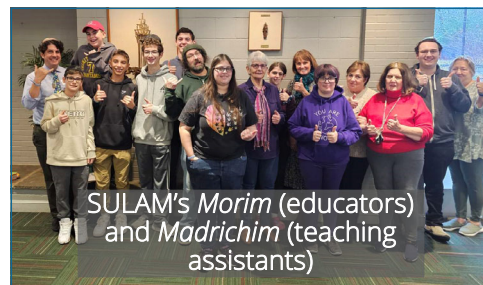
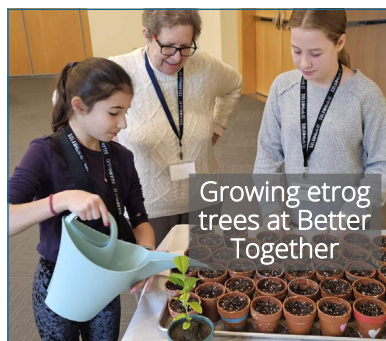
COST: \$50/BET student, \$100/non-BET

CONTACT: Dr. Eliyahu, ekrigel@bethelwh.org

NOTE: limited to 20 students

We will travel to New York City to visit Ellis Island, The Tenement Museum, and the Top of the Rock, plus experience kosher dining. In addition to the trip, we will also gather once before to plan for the trip and once after to reflect on our experience together.

Pics around SULAM



★ Shabbat Services & Daily Minyan

Shabbat – Friday

Kabbalat Shabbat 5:45 PM

Shabbat – Saturday

Shacharit, Torah & Musaf Services 9:30 AM

Children's Playroom 9:30 AM

Mazel Tots & Shabbat Club 11:00 AM

Mincha Service 12:30 PM

Havdallah ZOOM ONLY, SEE CHART BELOW

There are no regular services, in person, on Saturday evenings.

Daily Minyan

Shacharit	Sun	8:45 AM
	Mon–Fri	7:00 AM
Ma'ariv	Sun–Thu	7:30 PM

NOTE: Special Minyan Times

Monday, January 1 9:00 AM

Monday, January 15 9:00 AM

Monday, February 19 9:00 AM

Candle & Havdallah Times; plus Havdallah Service Time

Shabbat	Friday	Saturday	
	Candle	Havdallah	Service
Jan 5-6	4:17 PM	5:16 PM	5:35 PM
Jan 12-13	4:24 PM	5:23 PM	5:45 PM
Jan 19-20	4:32 PM	5:31 PM	5:50 PM
Jan 26-27	4:41 PM	5:40 PM	6:00 PM
Feb 2-3	4:50 PM	5:49 PM	6:10 PM
Feb 9-10	4:58 PM	5:58 PM	6:20 PM
Feb 16-17	5:07 PM	6:07 PM	6:30 PM
Feb 23-24	5:16 PM	6:15 PM	6:35 PM
Mar 1-2	5:24 PM	6:24 PM	6:45 PM



All services and classes can be accessed directly from the weekly e-blast to members (no login necessary) or by following the links on our website (login required).

Special Shabbat Programs and Events

January

Sat 6 6:00 PM Family Havdallah Movie Night

Fri 26 5:30 PM Congregational Friday Night Dinner

Sat 27 9:30 AM Shabbat Service in Honor of International Holocaust Remembrance Day

February

Fri 2 5:30 PM Shababa

March

Sat 2 6:00 PM Havdallah, Wine, and Paint Night

Sat 9 9:30 AM Men's Club Shabbat

Join Us For Minyan – In Person

Our in-person Minyan allows people to come together for worship, say Mourner's *Kaddish* (our members observe 5,300 *yahrzeits* every year), name a baby, provide support in good and difficult times, and build a lasting connection to those around us. It is an opportunity for prayer, community, music, reflection, and a few moments of quiet in our busy world.

What can I expect at Minyan?

Our clergy and/or a congregant leads and guides the service with English and Hebrew portions. Congregational participation is encouraged at whatever level you feel comfortable with.

Do I need to know Hebrew to attend?

No. All of our prayerbooks have English translations on the facing page of every prayer, and transliterations (using English letters to spell out Hebrew words) are provided for some prayers.

How long is Minyan?

Sun, Tues, Wed, and Fri mornings: 30 minutes

Mon. and Thurs. mornings: 40 minutes
(when Torah is read)

Sunday through Thursday evenings: 25 minutes

You are welcome whenever you show up. But, if you know your plans, please sign up to attend a Minyan. You will then receive a calendar invite and a reminder two days before your selected dates. Scan this code or visit BethElWestHartford.org/Minyan.



★ Holidays

Tu BiShevat

A Historical Refresher

This minor holiday wasn't always a festival. Instead, it was a key farming date that Jews marked in ancient times.

When you enter the land [of Israel] and plant any tree for food, you shall regard its fruit as forbidden. Three years it shall be forbidden for you, not to be eaten. (Leviticus 19:23)

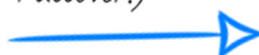
The fruit a tree bore in year four was offered to the priests in the Temple, but the fruit of the fifth year (and all the ones after!) was for the farmers. The rabbis established the 15th of the month of Shevat as the "birthday" for trees, regardless of when they were planted during the year.



*It's the start of
Spring in Israel...*



*...but we can settle
for planting parsley
(it'll be perfect for
Passover!)*



**SEDER PLANS, CRAFTS,
RECIPES AND MORE AT**
@betheltemplewesthartford



*The New Year of Trees begins
Wednesday evening, January 24.*

Our Celebration of Nature

An increasingly popular way to celebrate is with a Tu BiShevat *seder* (yes, Passover doesn't have a lock on the *seder*). The menu includes the traditional four cups of wine along with foods celebrating the *Seven Species* traditionally grown in Israel.

The *seder* is a great, tangible way to connect with Israel. We eat fruits that symbolize the life-sustaining power brought forth from the earth, the spiritual strength within each of us, the mystery of our world, and our study of Torah. Find details on how to lead the *seder* and where to find a Haggadah on our Pinterest board.



The Seven Species

as rendered by Israeli artist Ahuva Elany in a copper tile wall hanging...

- ✧ wheat
- ✧ barley
- ✧ grapes
- ✧ fig
- ✧ pomegranate
- ✧ olive branch
- ✧ date palm

Purim



Plan your costumes and get out your graggers! Join our adult only **Purim Celebration and Megillah Reading** on Saturday, March 23, and family fun on March 24.

ALL local members will get *Mishloach Manot* from Beth El!

A personalized letter will accompany the *Mishloach Manot* you receive with greetings from the members who sponsored your gift. The member portal for *Mishloach Manot* will open in early February for you to sponsor the goodies going to your friends. Paper forms will also be available from the Office.



*A portion of
the proceeds
go to JFS!*



College Connections

We are again planning *Mishloach Manot* with lots of goodies for Purim. Please be sure that we have this year's contact information (name, school mailing address, cell phone number, and email address) for your college kids!

Stephanie Kudler, Chair
collegeconnections@bethelwh.org



The generosity of the *Gavens Family College Youth Fund* makes this project possible.

★ Upcoming Events & Programs

Teen Community Mitzvah Day **MONDAY,**
JANUARY 15

JTConnect

Midwest Food Bank New England, Manchester; carpooling from The Emanuel Synagogue at 10:00 AM or Temple Sinai at 10:30 AM.

Trivia Night

SATURDAY,
JANUARY 20

World Wide Wrap

SUNDAY,
FEBRUARY 11

8:45 AM

Morning
Minyan

Men's Club

9:30 AM

Breakfast &
Speaker

Musical Event
with Cantor Ness

MONDAY,
FEBRUARY 19

1:00 – 2:30 PM

Zoom only

Chai Society

Havdallah, Wine and Paint Night

SATURDAY,
MARCH 2

Women's Network Shabbat and First Annual Woman of Valor Award

SATURDAY,
APRIL 6

DURING MORNING SERVICES

Women's
Network

The **Sandra L. Kravet Woman of Valor Award** will honor a woman each year whose contributions to Beth El, the Jewish Community, and/or the Greater Hartford Community embody a modern-day Woman of Valor – and the deeds of Sandra L. Kravet z"l.

Women interested in reading Torah, other aliyot, or English readings are encouraged to contact Michelle Kunzman, 860-729-4201, michellekunzman1@gmail.com.

★ Thank You to Our Volunteers

Men's Club Program, 11/5

Dave Diamond	Harley Graime
Bob Efron	David Klau
Tom Falik	Jacob Kovel
Ron Ferraro	Jeff Rudolph
Arthur Freedman	David Sabino
Gerry Garfield	Phil Schulz

Women's Network Chanukah Program, 12/11

Rena Citron	Michelle Kunzman
Rivka Dvorin	Deena Myers
Judy Kulakofsky	

Turkey Collection, 11/19

Judy Borus
Alison Demarest
Loren Gelber
Sherri Hammick
Leah Katz
Rick Kinyon
Bill Kleinman
Myra Kleinman
Lois Koteen

252 turkeys, including 17 kosher (most ever); plus \$8,558 cash/checks!!

Michelle Kunzman	Abby Rothstein
Janel MacDermott	Dan Rothstein
Lily MacDermott	Jake Rothstein
Denise Order	Tara Rothstein
Richard Order	Jessie Storch
Steve Rabb	Nathan Storch
Amy Raider	Lisa Sussman
David Rosenthal	
Judith Rosenthal	

★ Programs for Teens

United Synagogue Youth

JANUARY 17	WHUSY Shabbat
FEBRUARY 10	Pink Shabbat with JTConnect
FEBRUARY 25	HaNer Chaverim/Gesher Region Program
MARCH 8-10	HaNer Winter Convention

USY HaNer Spring Convention

FRIDAY-SUNDAY, MAY 10-12

CONTACT: Jason Kay, j kay@uscj.org

HOST HOMES: both within walking and driving distance

VOLUNTEERS FOR FOOD: adults to help with food service

Beth El Temple and West Hartford USY are hosting this year's Region convention. **We need the entire community** to help with housing and feeding the teens. It will be an incredible weekend!



USY Summer Experience

INFORMATION: www.usy.org/summer-travel

USY provides Jewish teens with transformative travel experiences, opening their eyes to new places, different ways of life, and some of the world's most spectacular sights. Trips options include Israel, Europe, and all across North America.

CONTACT: Marisa and Max Beede, Advisors, whusyadvisor@gmail.com
AGES: grades 6-12

WHUSY programming is made possible in part through the generosity of Jewish Federation of Greater Hartford.

JTConnect

Monday Night JTConnect at Beth El Temple

MONDAYS

6:15 – 7:45 PM

INFORMATION: www.JTConnect.org

CONTACT: Caroline Poland,

Executive Director,
office@jtconnect.org

AGES: grades 8-12



★ Adult Classes

Lunch & Learn

TUESDAYS 12:00 – 1:00 PM

Talmud Study

WEDNESDAYS 10:15 – 11:15 AM

Bible & Breakfast

THURSDAYS 8:00 – 9:00 AM

Pirkei Avot Study

THURSDAYS 1:30 – 2:30 PM

★ Mitzvot

KNITzvah Group

MONTHLY SUNDAYS, JANUARY 7, FEBRUARY 25

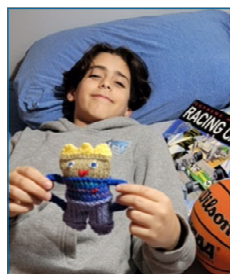
10:00 – 11:00 AM

CONTACT: BJ and Fran, knitzvahgrp@gmail.com

A dozen hats were recently mailed to Israel for soldiers in the IDF!!

From the Benoni family:

We were truly overwhelmed by the love and care that so obviously was put into making the dolls, blankets and hats for us. On our move-in day, we were able to put your thoughtful gifts on each of our kids' beds to welcome them into their new space.



Food Pantry

The Anja Rosenberg Kosher Food Pantry at Jewish Family Services continually needs to be restocked. Throughout the year, when coming to Beth El, please bring a can of vegetables or fruit, peanut butter, tuna, pasta, or a bag of groceries. Place your donations in the box at the entrance across from the Community Room.

Items may also be brought directly to:

Jewish Family Services
333 Bloomfield Ave, Suite A
West Hartford

★ Israel Education Committee

Jews of Bahrain

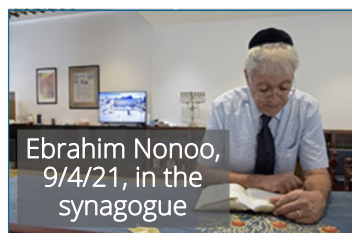
During our recent visit to Bahrain, we visited the rebuilt House of the Ten Commandments. This small synagogue serves the Jewish community there that has dwindled to about fifty members from a high of some 1,500 in the 1920s. In Talmudic writings the mention of ports and islands in the Persian Gulf indicate a Jewish presence. They participated in the pearl industry, crucial to this area's economy until



The land deed granting this property to the Jewish Community in 1930

1930, with the advent of the Japanese cultured pearl. Arabic sources speak of Jews in Hajar, the old capital, in 630 CE. Other communities existed in what is now Oman and Saudi Arabia. The current community is descended from Jewish traders from Iraq who migrated to Bahrain in the late 1800s. Others arrived from Persia and India. Many participated in the clothing business, such as the family of Ebrahim Daoud Nonoo, current head of the Jewish community.

On December 5, 1947, rioting broke out, targeting the Jewish community. A mob looted Jewish homes and shops, murdering one elderly woman. The synagogue was destroyed along with the Torah. Some Jews found safety among their Bahraini friends. About two-thirds of Jews left after the riots, going first to India, then Israel (Pardes Hanna-Karkur) and Britain. There was more rioting after the



Ebrahim Nonoo, 9/4/21, in the synagogue

6 Day War in 1967 and most of the remaining 500+ Jews emigrated.

Ebrahim Daoud Nonoo, a Jewish businessman and community leader, sat in the appointed



Rafi and Robin Santiago at the House of the Ten Commandments Synagogue Manama, Bahrain 11/18/23

to an ambassadorship. She is the first Jewish ambassador of any Middle Eastern Arab country. In 2006, Ebrahim Nonoo financed the repairs to the country's only synagogue. The synagogue is now home to the Torah gifted by Jared Kushner to His Majesty King Hamad Bin Ibn Al Khalifa in September 2020.



The Covering of the Ark

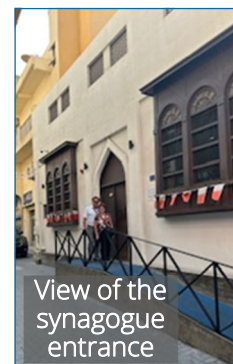
In 2007, the Jewish population numbered only about thirty-six. As is often the case with small communities, many of the younger members are leaving. Nonoo is currently the CEO of the Basma Company and president of the Association of Gulf Jewish Communities. They are happy to be able to worship publicly for the first time in almost 75 years. Only time will tell what the future holds for this community.

~ Robin Santiago

Upper House of the Bahraini Parliament's Shura Council from 2001-2005, the first Jewish member. His niece, Houda Ezra Nonoo, was appointed Bahraini ambassador to the US from 2008-2013. She is the first Jew and third woman appointed



Kushner giving the Torah to His Majesty King Hamad Bin Ibn Al Khalifa



View of the synagogue entrance

CO-CHAIRS: Sharon Efron, 860-559-4010; sgredancer@yahoo.com; Robin Santiago, 860-490-7661, Robin@rsantiagodmd.com

★ Life Cycles

Mazel Tov! and Appreciation for Sponsoring Shabbat Kiddush

Bauman family, in honor of Jude's Bar Mitzvah
Cipriano family, in honor of Ella's Bat Mitzvah
Michele & Dan Gottfried, in honor of one year until Avi's Bar Mitzvah
Kay family, in honor of Avi's Bar Mitzvah
Elena & Tom DiFazio, in honor of daughter Lena's baby naming
Yasmim Figueiredo & Edward Schenkel, in honor of their Aufruf
Chai Society, in honor of Veterans Day

Congratulations

Debbie Prince & David Goldberg, on birth of grandchild Miles Blake Ellis
Caryl & Len Goldberg, on birth of grandchild Eleanor Reese Barman
Riva Lewinter and David Kruger, on birth of grandchild Elias Leo Kruger
Annette & Jack Levine, on birth of grandchild Benjamin Aaron Minde
Jan Glassman & Joel Sowalsky, on birth of grandchild Jonah Sowalsky Chipkin

Of Blessed Memory

Annette Gavens
Merle Goldman, mother of Ethan Goldman
Gerald Kaplan, father of Laura Kaplan
Norman Solinsky, father of Alan Solinsky
Sidra Sperling
Faye Stanger, mother of Bruce Stanger
Daniel Weber, father of Elyse Fox

Welcome to New Members

Melissa & Lee Bloom, with Lilly, Reed, and Ellie
Gerald & Diane Borodkin
Rachel Eckman, with Ellie
Jill & Juri Kotowitz, with Gabriel and Ithan
Jamie & Paul Schned, with Levi and Eva

B'nei Mitzvah Celebrations



Charlotte Rose Zigman January 13, 2024

Charlotte, child of Jane & Joshua Zigman of West Hartford, sibling of Sophia, grandchild of Susan & Jeffrey Gerner from Brooklyn, NY, and Linda & Ira z"l Zigman from West Hartford, is a 7th grader at Sedgwick Middle School. Through the sale of her baked goods, Charlotte is raising money for הצלה הצלה to provide United Hatzalah with capital for the medical and safety equipment necessary for their medics to combat the daily emergencies resulting from the current war in Israel.



Levi James Schleif February 3, 2024

Levi, child of Stacy & Kelvin Schleif of West Hartford, sibling of Aliza and Miranda, grandchild of Marjorie & Burt Seiferheld from West Hartford, and Nyuk-Yoong, of blessed memory, and Robert Schleif from Towson, MD, is a 7th grader at King Philip Middle School. Levi is baking and delivering lasagnas to local families in need, through the non-profit Lasagna Love.

If you would like to share your Simchas and Sorrows with the Beth El Community, please send your Life Cycle announcements to: info@bethelwh.org.

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★ Supporting Beth El

We deeply appreciate the following Thoughtful Contributions.

- ★ This list reflects contributions received and processed through November 16, 2023.
- ★ For the next edition of Temple Topics, contributions need to be received in the office by January 18, 2024.

Camp Ramah Fund

IN APPRECIATION OF

Rabbi Rosen – **the Kulakofsky family**
Our Bimah honor on Shabbat Shuvah –
Alison & Jeff Rudolph

FOR THE YAHRZEIT OF

Irving Kellner, father – **Barbara Samberg**

Cantor's Music Fund

IN APPRECIATION OF

Cantor Ness for the bar mitzvah of son,
Jude Bauman – **Melissa & Joel Bauman**
Cantor Ness for the marriage of Leah &
Yossi – **Michael Small**

IN MEMORY OF

Diane Lieberfarb, mother of Richard –
**Carolyn & Stu Bernstein, Jeanne &
Dan Kleinman**

FOR THE YAHRZEIT OF

Della Diamond, mother – **Lorraine &
Farrel Vogelhut**

Education Fund

IN APPRECIATION OF

Dr. Eliyahu Krigel for the time & attention
he gave in welcoming our church's
middle schoolers – **The Universalist
Church of West Hartford**

IN HONOR OF

The bat mitzvah of Evelyn Raider, daughter
of Amy & Adam – **Lorraine & Tom
Barber**

IN MEMORY OF

Diane Lieberfarb, mother of Richard –
Linda Jainchill
Sidra Sperling – **Carolyn & Stu Bernstein,
Marcia & Michael Garfinkel, Bobby &
David Klau, Janice Klein, Susan & Joe
Piescik, Deborah & Glen Rosenfeld,
Jennifer & Steven Wolfberg**

WISHING A COMPLETE RETURN TO GOOD HEALTH TO

Phyllis Lehman; Rita Epstein – **Lorraine &
Tom Barber**

Beautification Fund

IN HONOR OF

The marriage of Yasmim & Edward –
Lynne Schenkel

Jewish Continuity Fund

IN HONOR OF

Judy & David Rosenthal for their many
years of devoted service to Beth El and
the community – **Barbara & David
Brown**

Birth of Helen Shlizerman Jones,
granddaughter of Jill & Gary – **Sharon
Gorlick**

IN MEMORY OF

Norman Solinsky, father of Dr. Alan
Solinsky – **Meryl & Mitchell Danitz**

Rabbi Rosen's Discretionary Fund

IN APPRECIATION OF

Rabbi Rosen – **Alexandra Popstefanov &
Asher Kinyon**

Rabbi Rosen for the marriage of Leah &
Yossi – **Michael Small**

IN MEMORY OF

Marvin Smith, husband of Roberta, father
of Karen Sussler – **Carolyn & Stu
Bernstein**

Sidra Sperling – **The Felsenfeld family,
Brad Hutensky, Linda & Bruce Stanger**
Beverlee "Peppe" Sable, mother of Clifford
Caplan – **Karen Katz**

Marsha Kamins, sister of Elaine Dombroff
– **Faith & Bruce Parker**

Diane Lieberfarb, mother of Richard –
Gloria & Mark Rubin

FOR THE YAHRZEIT OF

Frank Altman – **Cheryl & Arnold Altman**
Dr. David E. Garber – **Dr. Avram S.
Berger**

Bobbe & Herbert Basch, parents – **Robin
Flatow**

Daniel Roger Lyon, brother – **Wendy
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Hy Gloth, father – **Joanne Rome**

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timely needs of Beth El Temple.
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specific designations, please visit
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Chai Society

FOR THE YAHRZEIT OF

Tillie Redlus, mother – **Judy & Al
Greenspoon**

Rose Post, mother – **Philip Post**

Joseph Springut Security Fund

FOR THE YAHRZEIT OF

Arthur Springut, father-in-law – **Honey
Sue Springut**

Taste Of Shabbat

FOR THE YAHRZEIT OF

Irma Rubin Golfin, mother – **Jane & Gary
Rubin**



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Why Endowment?

The Endowment Fund of Beth El Temple has welcomed three new funds so far this fiscal year. We thank those individuals who have established them:

- ☆ *Charna and John Kaufman Family Endowment Fund*, an unrestricted fund, supports many aspects of life at Beth El, established by Charna & John Kaufman.
- ☆ *Vicki and Michael Konover Endowment Fund* gives Beth El's rabbis the chance to allocate specific funds and also supports music and supplies to enhance Beth El's worship and music experience, established by Vicki & Michael Konover.
- ☆ *Sandra L. Kravet Woman of Valor Endowment Fund* sponsors a program or event to honor a Beth El woman who embodies the qualities of a modern-day Woman of Valor, established by David Kravet.

It is thanks to endowment funds like these that Beth El is able to offer such a wide range of programs and services, send kids to camp and to Israel, support our college students, and keep our aging building running. Last fiscal year, The Endowment Fund

contributed \$175,000 to Beth El's overall budget and an additional \$45,000 to support special programs.

Setting up your named fund is easy. The Endowment Trustees will work with you to develop your specific endowment mission and discuss funding; an RMD or appreciated stock are just two ways Endowments are often resourced.

By joining the Kaufman, Konover, and Kravet families to establish your named Endowment Fund, you help assure that Beth El remains a vibrant community of worship, celebration, learning, and meaning for generations to come. Please connect with any of the members of The Endowment Board to start the conversation or email endowment@bethelwh.org and a Trustee will contact you.

Joshua B. Gottfried

Lois Koteen

Abbey Miller Kreinik

Jerry Leshem

Judie Levy

Elliott B. Pollack

Frank Resnick

Marc Sussman

Naomi Lerner Tussin

Stuart Wachtel

Howard Weiner

Temple Fund

IN APPRECIATION OF

Gabi Silver, son – **David Silver**

IN HONOR OF

Bradley Rosenberg starting UConn School of Dental Medicine – **Lori & John Rosenberg**

Bat mitzvah of Lucy Vogelhut, granddaughter of Lorraine & Farrel Vogelhut – **Cheryl & Arnold Altman, Miriam Lappen**

Samantha Harris reading Torah on Yom Kippur, Joni Harris receiving an Aliyah, and Ryan Harris – **Patricia Shapiro**

IN MEMORY OF

Marvin Smith, husband of Roberta, father of Karen Sussler – **Rebecca Charles, Terri, Steven & Corey Gelbstein, Rachel & Mitchell Marcus, Ona & Tom Mastronarde**

Sidra Sperling – **Christine & Richard Berberian, Marlene Cundall, Debbie Freesman, Madeline Littman, Hilary & David Silver, Bernice Wiener**

Diane Lieberfarb, mother of Richard – **Eva & Michael Kaplan**

Morton Feifer, father of Dr. Roberta Meltzer – **H. Donald Golden**

George Gilman, brother of Felice Goldman – **Ida Ressler**

Judith & Martin Schulz, parents of Philip – **Lori, John, Brad & Max Rosenberg**

FOR THE YAHRZEIT OF

Florence & Lester Wasserman, parents – **Shelley Barker**

Danica Cupurdija, Holocaust remembrance – **Carolyn Bernstein**
Alan Abrahamson, brother – **Leslie Blumberg**

Samuel Cohen, father – **Georgianne & Jonathan Cohen**

Sylvia & Walter Cook, parents – **Beth Cook**

Matilda & Izidore Denes, in-laws; Pista Denes & Bandi Denes, brothers-in-law – **Edith Denes**

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Ben Silverstein, father; Yetta Silverstein, aunt – **Korine Ferraro**

Sol Hershman – **Myrna & Michael Fienman**

Thelma Gold, mother; Mildred Lukash, mother; Stephen Friedman, brother – **Sandy & Marc Friedman**

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Gloria Finkel, aunt – **Peter Levine**
Sheldon Meyer; Bernard Soref, step-father – **Jean Meyer**

Jodi Peikes, wife – **Ron Peikes**

Florence Post, wife; Harry Post, father; Larion Cweitnikow, Holocaust remembrance – **Philip Post**

Muriel Bartnick, mother – **Bonnie & Jay Roston**

Miriam & Jack Miller, parents; Fanny & David Cohen, grandparents – **Gloria & Mark Rubin**

Louis Samberg, father – **Ira Samberg**

Louis A. Cohen, father; Ruth Krongold, mother; Dr. Edward Emmanuel Sheldon, father – **Cyral & Richard Sheldon and family**

I. Fred Andorsky, father – **Lisa Sussman**

Sam Wilensky, father; Morris Wachtel, father-in-law; Henrietta Slonim, sister-in-law; Julio Stennberg, Miriam Stennfeld, Holocaust remembrance – **Shirley Wachtel**

(continues)

★ Supporting Beth El, cont.

Temple Fund (cont.)

FOR THE YAHRZEIT OF (CONT.)

Morris Wachtel, grandfather; Sam Wilensky, grandfather;
Henrietta Slonim, aunt; Dionyz Stein, Holocaust remembrance
– **Sue & Stuart Wachtel**
Max Berkowitz, father; Jennie Berkowitz, grandmother – **Lenore Weisinger**

FUNDS OF THE ENDOWMENT FOUNDATION AT BETH EL

General Unrestricted Endowment Fund

IN APPRECIATION OF

The generosity of Meryl Danitz – **Lois & Chuck Koteen**

IN HONOR OF

The birth of Miles Blake Ellis, grandson of Debbie Prince & David Goldberg – **Abbey Kreinik**

IN MEMORY OF

Marvin Smith, husband of Roberta, father of Karen Sussler –
Abbey Kreinik, Sheri Steinmetz

FOR THE YAHRZEIT OF

Anne Fleischman LaVine & Martin Fleischman, parents –

Doreen Fundiller-Zweig

Dr. Philip Gladstein, father – **Michelle & Eric Gladstein**

Max Goldsmith, grandfather – **Peter Katz**

Alter Family Fund

FOR THE YAHRZEIT OF

Donald Lehrer; G & W Besselman – **Irene Lehrer**

Friends Fund for Members in Need

IN HONOR OF

Judy & David Rosenthal receiving the Men's Club Distinguished Service Award – **Arnold Greenberg, Annette & Jack Levine**
The 70th birthday of Fran Landy – **Andrea Hotes; Alys & Jack Krichavsky, Patti & Howard Weiner**

Sandra L. Kravet Woman of Valor Endowment Fund

IN APPRECIATION OF

Lois Koteen, Abbey Kreinik, Michelle Kunzman, and Rabbi Howard Sowalsky – **David Kravet**

IN MEMORY OF

Stewart Yontef, father of Lori; Diane Lieberfarb, mother of Richard – **David Kravet**

WISHING A COMPLETE RETURN TO GOOD HEALTH TO
Chuck Koteen, Amy Lebetkin, and Richard Lieberfarb – **David Kravet**

Diane & Richard Lieberfarb Endowment Fund

IN APPRECIATION OF

Diane & Richard Lieberfarb – **Steve Rabb**

IN HONOR OF

Bar mitzvah of Jude Bauman, son of Melissa & Joel; son-in-law, Lou Shapiro receiving the service award from Pine Brook Jewish Center – **Diane & Richard Lieberfarb**

IN MEMORY OF

Diane Lieberfarb, mother of Richard – **Marci & Jonathan Alter, Melissa & Joel Bauman, Harriet Bergman, Holly Cohen, Jackie & Dan Cohen, Meryl & Mitchell Danitz, Jeanne Elman, Caryl & Leonard Goldberg, Sharon Gorlick, Barbara & Robert Green, Cheryl & John Hinz, Linda & Michael Jainchill, Leah Katz, Abbey Kreinik, Lori & Lance Reiser, Susan & Michael Schenker, Jennifer & Steven Wolfberg**

WISHING A COMPLETE RETURN TO GOOD HEALTH TO
Richard Lieberfarb – **Jackie & Dan Cohen, Debra Feldman & Larry Kushner, Lori & Lance Reiser**

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FOR THE YAHRZEIT OF

Sam Moses, grandfather; Sheila Rosenblatt, aunt; Wendy Schulman, friend – Sharon & Bob Efron

Jane & Nathan Field Memorial Fund

IN HONOR OF

Bar mitzvah of grandson, Daniel Tiger; grandson Aaron Pease attaining the rank of Eagle Scout – Emmy & Steve Fast

Gottfried Family Endowment Fund

IN HONOR OF

Bar mitzvah of Rafi Gottfried, son of Shanna & Josh – Abbey Kreinik

Anna Heineman Memorial Fund

FOR THE YAHRZEIT OF

Hattie Kaufman, sister – Francine & Steve Stier

**Goldberg Endowment Fund
for Education**

IN MEMORY OF

Sidra Sperling – Caryl & Leonard Goldberg

Golder Family Fund

IN HONOR OF

Bat mitzvah of Hannah Golder, daughter of Shera & David – Alison & Alan Gittleman

**Leah Goldschmidt Katz
Endowment Fund**

FOR THE YAHRZEIT OF

Ruth & Arthur Goldschmidt, parents – Leah Katz

Kest Family Fund

IN HONOR OF

Bat mitzvah of Nava Kest, daughter of Tali & Stephen – Leah Katz

Koteen Family Fund

**WISHING A COMPLETE RETURN TO
GOOD HEALTH TO**

Chuck Koteen – Meryl & Mitchell Danitz

**Richard & Debbie Gutcheon Family
Endowment Fund**

FOR THE YAHRZEIT OF

Alvin Gutcheon, father; Benjamin Gutcheon, grandfather – Debbie & Richard Gutcheon

**Ruth & Harry Kleinman
Endowment Fund**

IN HONOR OF

75th birthday of Bill Kleinman – Carolyn & Stu Bernstein, Naomi & Michael Cohen

Kreinik Family Endowment Fund

IN APPRECIATION OF

Abbey Kreinik's generosity – Lois & Chuck Koteen

FOR THE YAHRZEIT OF

Dorothy Kreinik, mother-in-law – Abbey Kreinik

**Marc S. Levine & Tamara Kagan Levine
Family Endowment Fund**

FOR THE YAHRZEIT OF

Marc Levine, husband – Tammy Levine

(continues)

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★ Supporting Beth El, cont.

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IN HONOR OF

Sharon Levine-Shein's dedication to Beth El Temple – **Meryl & Mitchell Danitz**

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FOR THE YAHRZEIT OF

Stella Krampf Mostel, mother; Sam Krampf, grandfather – **Carolyn & Jeff Weiser**

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WISHING A COMPLETE RETURN TO GOOD HEALTH TO

Rabbi Jim Rosen – **Jackie & Dan Cohen**

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Sandy & Marshall Rulnick – **Susan & Michael Schenker**

Sara & Morris Rulnick Memorial Fund

IN MEMORY OF

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FOR THE YAHRZEIT OF

Mort Schenker, father – **Susan & Michael Schenker**

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