

# BEHIND THE SCENES



DETAILS, PAGE 3

Be.★  
Community You  
Can Believe In

TEMPLE  
*topics*  
May - June 2023 Iyar-Sivan-Tamuz 5783

- ★ Presidential Transition  
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- ★ Celebrating Shavuot  
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# ★ SULAM Beth El - Seek. Understand. Learn. Act. Marvel.



We human beings mark the passage of time in multiple ways, and the changing of seasons is the one most evident as I write these words. Winter is behind us and ahead lies spring and the unfolding of summer. Spring is commonly associated with renewal, with growth, and with adventures that

still lie ahead. It brings anticipation of new or renewed opportunities and activities. Then comes summer with adaptation to new things and new experiences

branching out into new directions and deepening roots.

SULAM, Beth El's hands-on, minds-on, and hearts-on model was

inaugurated in 2017. Then, SULAM's spring was dramatically interrupted by the sudden, devastating onset of the COVID pandemic. From a vibrant, innovative, experiential approach to Jewish learning, we shifted to online learning creating Zoom communities to connect our learners with one another and with our educators. We developed a successful substitute, over a year and a half of virtual learning. Yet, it was not the participatory, collaborative, synergistic learning envisioned.

SULAM's return to onsite education was encumbered by the after-effects of the pandemic. We found that for many learners there were gaps in their foundational knowledge, gaps individual and collective. We pivoted curriculum and lessons to fill in these gaps incorporating in-depth Torah lessons, review of holidays and ritual, and Hebrew reading practice emphasizing prayer skills. We expected an adjustment to a return to a social, group learning experience, and this was realized. One of the biggest challenges remaining is that some of our learners' attendance is still sporadic. For these learners the knowledge gap persists. We are confident, however, that with continued engagement in SULAM and in Beth El's family

programming these gaps will be quickly filled.

The end of the SULAM year draws close. After a short summer break we return, but to a vibrant, renewed spring of SULAM. Time to pick up where we left off, with joy and excitement, and with wisdom gained over these past long months. We look ahead and make plans. There is much to experience, much to share; the learning potential is unbounded.

Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks writes:

*There is no life without a task; no person without a talent; no place without a fragment of God's light waiting to be discovered and redeemed; no situation without its possibility of sanctification; no moment without its call.*

We wish all our SULAM families a rejuvenating summer vacation with opportunities and adventures galore. Make some good memories!

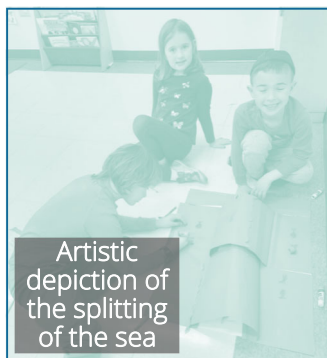
*Bivracha* (with blessing),  
Michelle



Madrich Joel Harris opens a Torah for primary learners



Bogrim discussing community needs



Artistic depiction of the splitting of the sea



Artistic depiction of B'nai Yisrael crossing the sea on dry land



Purim Carnival face painting



Purim costume, creation day 5

## Lag Ba'Omer Field Day

**SUNDAY, MAY 7**

**9:15 – 11:30 AM**

LOCATION: Solomon Schechter Day School's athletic fields

SULAM learners and their friends from neighboring synagogue religious schools will share a fun-filled day! Every participant will receive a specially designed t-shirt.

## May Special Programs and Events

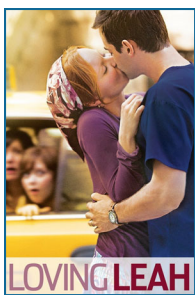
Sun. 7 Lag Ba'Omer Field Day  
Mon. 21 Last Day of SULAM and  
*Thank You* to Michelle Konigsburg

## SULAM Calendar for May

<u>Sun.</u> 7, 21	<u>Wed.</u> 3, 10, 17
<u>Tues.</u> 2, 9, 16	<u>Thu.</u> 4, 11, 18



## ★ Enjoying Beth El



### An Afternoon Movie

Wednesday, May 17

1:00 PM

A quirky love story revolving around the unexpected wedding and unconventional married life of a 26-year-old widow and her late husband's brother. Jake, a non-observant Jewish bachelor, feels compelled to marry his rabbi brother's widow, Leah, and honor him via the ancient Jewish law of *yibbum* (levirate marriage). Mark Schmidek will introduce the movie, and there will be popcorn, munchies, and dessert.

COST: no charge

RSVP: by 5/11, Judy Satlof, 860-523-8883, judsatlof@aol.com

SPONSOR: Chai Society



Sunday, June 11

12:00 – 6:00 PM

Stop by our booth on the second day of the town's annual community festival. Say hello to our clergy and lay leaders, and share your enthusiasm for Beth El. You don't want to miss our community art project!

CONTACT: Jason Kay, engagement@bethelwh.org

### Behind the Scenes at *Saturday Night Live* with Set Designer Melissa Shakun

Wednesday, May 31

6:00 – 7:30 PM

Melissa Shakun, Designer and Art Director for *Saturday Night Live* on NBC, will answer all of our questions about what it is like to design sets for *SNL*. She will tell us about the career path that led her to *SNL*, describe what her job entails on a day-to-day basis, and share entertaining anecdotes from her experiences with this iconic television show and its guests. Ms. Shakun, who grew up at Beth El, has won two Emmys for her work as a set designer, for *SNL* in 2021 (and a nomination in 2022), and for *Jesus Christ Superstar Live!* on NBC in 2018.



COST: no charge

REGISTER: [tinyurl.com/ShakunSNL](https://tinyurl.com/ShakunSNL)

REFRESHMENTS: drinks and hors d'oeuvres

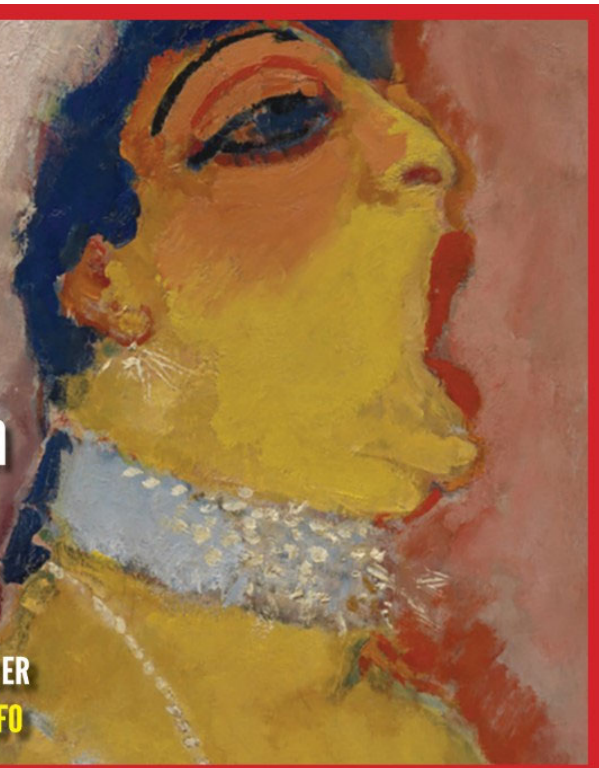
QUESTIONS: Michelle Kunzman, 860-729-4201,  
[michellekunzman1@gmail.com](mailto:michellekunzman1@gmail.com)

SPONSOR: Women's Network

# Opera Extravaganza

Concert: Sunday, June 11, 2023, 7pm

VERDI, PUCCINI, BIZET PLUS MOZART CONCERTO K. 491 C MINOR  
\$25; \$20 SENIORS (62+) & STUDENTS; FREE TO CHILDREN 12 & UNDER  
AT BETH EL TEMPLE IN WEST HARTFORD [CLICK FOR TICKETS & INFO](#)



# ★ From the Rabbi's Desk

## Our Words Mirror Our Souls



The following is adapted from a recent sermon...

In our world today, we troll and dox, we malign, and we “own” the other side. It’s a toxic wasteland of communication shielded by the ease of expression and capacity to express outrage instantaneously.

It is no wonder that we increasingly are fragile and anxious, angry, and legitimately concerned about the well-being of our democracy and truth.

But if you want to be an agent for change in this world, if you want to serve as a voice of hope and possibility, embrace the Jewish attitude towards language. It will change your life and those around you.

Understand the power of speech. Says the Book of Proverbs, “life and death are in the power of the tongue.” The old adage is true: we are given two ears and only one mouth that we might listen twice as much as we speak.

The problem of course is that slander is just too much fun. I’ll pick on my own profession. Three clergymen are out on a boat in the middle of a lake for a day of fishing. One says to his friends, “Here we are far from our congregations and the people we serve. Let’s become completely honest with each other and confess our worst sin. I like all the things money can buy so every once in a while, I skim some money from the collection.” Says the second clergyman, “As long as we’re being honest, I tell you my sin is gambling. I will bet on anything – a baseball game, a football game, and especially a horse race.”

The third clergyman is silent. Finally, his friend said to him. “We confessed our sins, now it’s your turn. What is your greatest vice?”

The third clergyman said, “My greatest sin is the sin of gossip, and I can hardly wait to get home.”

*Leshon Hara*, as it’s called in Hebrew, allows us to feel holier than thou, to put ourselves at the center of attraction and attention. It gives us the pleasure of malice though it exposes an emptiness of soul.

How hard is it to break the habit? Writer Joseph Telushkin challenges us to have a 24 hour fast with respect to speech. A full day of no slander. Could you do it?

Jewish tradition is obsessed with language. We are a text-based tradition. Words are woven into the fabric of Creation, and, as such, are holy. God creates the world through speech with the remarkable utterance of “let there be.”

Every recitation of the Amidah, the silent prayer, ends with the phrase, “may God guard my speech, lest I speak ill of another.” The Talmud is so concerned about slander that it says that three are injured every time it takes place: the speaker who loses dignity, the listener who acquiesces, and of course, the victim of the attack.

What if before we spoke, we asked ourselves, is what I’m about to put out into the world true, necessary, kind? We are told in *Avot* that the wise one is somebody who learns *Mikol Adam*, from every person. The phrase is often interpreted as “from the whole person.” Are we thinking about the whole person, as we speak or write about them?

In my mind friends, language is a pouring forth of our souls into the world. Our tradition would ask us, are we presenting the very best that is within us when we communicate?

When God created the world, the answer for “let there be,” was “and it was good.” How revolutionary it would be if that could be said about what we create with the words we offer. Because words are worlds, let us make them beautiful ones.

~ Jim Rosen



Want more messages from our clergy? Check out our YouTube channel!

[YouTube.com/BethElWestHartford](https://www.youtube.com/BethElWestHartford)





## ★ Celebrating Beth El

# 70FOR70 Spring No Event

Since our founding in 1953, your generosity has helped keep our operations running smoothly.

Dues alone do not cover all our operating costs, and fundraising is a critical part of our annual budget. While we are taking a Spring Event Break, we look forward to celebrating Beth El Temple's 70th all year long!

Please help us reach our goal of 70 grand for 70 great years.

[BethElWestHartford.org/70for70](http://BethElWestHartford.org/70for70)



## ★ Reflections from the President



This is the last Temple Topics commentary I will write as your president. I confess that I do it with mixed emotions. On the one hand I am saddened that this chapter in my life is coming to a close. On the other hand, it is with deep appreciation that

I reflect on the accomplishments of the past two years and the incredible support of our clergy, staff, Board of Trustees, and volunteers who have made it possible. It has been an honor and privilege to serve as your president. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Beth El is in a good place. With your support over the past two years, we have

- ✧ Transitioned out of COVID and back into live events.
- ✧ Held security and awareness briefings and installed ballistic coatings on windows and doors.
- ✧ Welcomed Rabbi Zerlin to Beth El.
- ✧ Renewed Rabbi Rosen's contract.
- ✧ Held focus groups regarding a search for a new Cantor.
- ✧ Thanked Michelle Konigsberg for her outstanding service as Education Director and wished her well in retirement.

- ✧ Created the new, expanded position of Director of Education and Family Engagement and hired Dr. Eliyahu Krigel, a vibrant and exciting educator, to lead it.
- ✧ Joined for services, including the new outdoor High Holiday services, studied together, celebrated life cycle events, engaged in social activities, and participated in the vibrant community that is Beth El. In short, we have lived, loved, learned, and worked together.

At the Annual Meeting we will vote on bylaws changes which will welcome our non-Jewish adult household members into Temple membership. This is a huge step forward and reflects the changing demographics of Jewish families in America. Please join us on June 13<sup>th</sup> and vote.

I am happy to say, as my term ends, that Beth El is healthy. We are financially secure. We have a stable, active, and engaged membership, the finest clergy anywhere, an outstanding staff, a forward-thinking Board of Trustees, and a cadre of volunteers unmatched in their enthusiasm and dedication.

Finally, we have continuity of leadership. Our next president, Leah Katz, will continue to lead Beth El with strength, passion, and dedication.

*B'Shalom,*

*~ Steve Rabb*

# ★ Worshipping Together - Shabbat

## Family Program

### Shababa

**FRIDAY, MAY 12**

**5:30 PM** Snack and Activity

**5:45 PM** Service

**6:15 PM** Dinner

GEARED TO: children 0-8  
and their families

COST: free; opt. suggested donation \$18/family  
REGISTER: by preceding Tues at noon,  
[tinyurl.com/ShababaMay12](https://tinyurl.com/ShababaMay12)

to enable us to plan for dinner

QUESTIONS: Rabbi Zerin, [rzerin@bethelwh.org](mailto:rzerin@bethelwh.org);  
Jason Kay, [engagement@bethelwh.org](mailto:engagement@bethelwh.org)

Experience the joy of Shabbat with dancing,  
singing, stories, prayers, community, and  
Shabbat dinner for all.



### Camp Sendoff Shabbat

**FRIDAY, JUNE 16**

**6:00 PM** Services

**7:00 PM** Dinner

COST: \$18/adult, \$12/child, family max of \$55;  
free for children under 5

REGISTER: by 6/13 at noon,  
[tinyurl.com/CampSendoff2023](https://tinyurl.com/CampSendoff2023)

QUESTIONS: Rabbi Zerin, [rzerin@bethelwh.org](mailto:rzerin@bethelwh.org);  
Jason Kay, [engagement@bethelwh.org](mailto:engagement@bethelwh.org)

SPONSOR: underwritten by the Kest Family  
Fund

The entire community is invited to celebrate  
our campers and counselors as we send  
them off to summer camp, Beth El style!  
Service and dinner will be outdoors, weather  
permitting.



## Friday – weekly

### Kabbalat Shabbat

**6:00 PM**

Zoom and in person

Every week, we welcome Shabbat with joyous song and  
prayer led by Cantor Ness, *d'var Torah* from one of our  
rabbis, and special guest soloists.

## Saturday – monthly

### Birthday Shabbat

all ages!

**SATURDAYS, MAY 6, JUNE 3, JULY 1**

**DURING TORAH SERVICE**

A group birthday Aliyah in your birthday month.

## Saturday – weekly

### Shabbat Morning & Torah Services

**9:30 AM – 12:00 PM**

Livestream and in person

A traditional service; may include b'nai mitzvah or  
special programming.

### Children's Playroom

up to age 5

**9:30 AM – 12:00 PM**

NOTE: children must be supervised by a grownup

A place to take a break with your energetic child.

### Youth Shabbat Services

**11:00 AM – 12:00 PM**

no Virtual Options

QUESTIONS: Jason Kay, [engagement@bethelwh.org](mailto:engagement@bethelwh.org)

#### ★ Mazel Tots

Featuring songs and stories geared for  
children 6 and under with their families.



#### ★ Shabbat Club

Prayers, games, and activities  
for students in grades 1-5.



### Shabbat Mincha Service

**12:15 – 12:45 PM**

Livestream and in person

The brief afternoon service, complete with Torah  
readings, has returned to the Levine-Shein Chapel.  
Mourner's *Kaddish* will be recited for Sunday *yahrzeits*.

### Havdallah

LOCATION: Home

Zoom only

NOTE: see chart for timing; it follows sunset

We transition from Shabbat to the new week with this  
brief service using the traditional symbols of a burning  
candle, a spice box, and wine. This will not include an  
evening service; Mourner's *Kaddish* will not be recited.

## Candle & Havdallah Times; plus Havdallah Service Time

Shabbat	Friday	Saturday	
	Candle	Havdallah	Service
May 5-6	7:35 PM	8:35 PM	8:55 PM
May 12-13	7:43 PM	8:42 PM	9:00 PM
May 19-20	7:50 PM	8:49 PM	9:10 PM
May 26-27	See page 8 for <i>Shavuot</i> timing.		
Jun 2-3	8:02 PM	9:01 PM	9:20 PM
Jun 9-10	8:07 PM	9:05 PM	9:25 PM
Jun 16-17	8:10 PM	9:08 PM	9:30 PM
Jun 23-24	8:12 PM	9:10 PM	9:30 PM
Jun 30 - Jul 1	8:12 PM	9:10 PM	9:30 PM



## ★ Worshipping Together - Daily Minyan

**Mincha & Ma'ariv** Zoom and in person  
**SUNDAYS-THURSDAYS 5:30 PM**

Our daily *minyan* (prayer service with at least 10 Jewish adults) includes *Kaddish* for those in mourning or observing *yahrzeit* (the anniversary of a person's passing).

For timing of Daily Minyan services and candle lighting for Shavuot, May 25-26, turn to page 8.

**Shacharit** Zoom and in person  
**SUNDAYS 8:45 AM**  
**MONDAY-FRIDAY 7:00 AM**

NOTE: Mon, May 29 and Tues, July 4 at 9:00 AM  
The morning *minyan* includes reading Torah on Mondays, Thursdays, and *Rosh Chodesh*.

## ★ Worshipping Together - Spring Observances

### Counting the Omer

15 Nissan – 5 Sivan  
April 6 – May 25

We continue to count the 49 days from the second night of Passover to Shavuot. This practice of “counting the *omer*” dates back to the Torah, when the people would bring an *omer*, or sheaf, of grain to the *mishkan* each day for the seven weeks between these two festivals. It is based on the verses from Leviticus 23:15-16 that command us to do so.

Nowadays, we no longer bring sheaves of grain, but we do still count the days and weeks with a special blessing, traditionally said at night. It is a simple yet powerful way to mark the passage of time and increase our anticipation of Shavuot. It connects us to the agricultural cycles of our ancestors and the land of Israel and marks the journey from Egypt to Mount Sinai and from slavery to freedom – a journey we are privileged to relive, year after year.

### Lag Ba'Omer – 33<sup>rd</sup> Day of the Omer

18 Iyar – begins Monday, May 8

Lag Ba'Omer, a minor holiday on the Jewish calendar, is a festive day. The Hebrew letters *lamed* and *gimel* which make up the acronym “Lag” have the combined numerical value of 33. This day is an occasion for happiness during an otherwise mournful period.



The Omer counting period is a relatively somber time: many Jews do not listen to live music or get haircuts; at Beth El, weddings don't take place in the first part of the Omer period (until Lag Ba'Omer) with a few exceptions. This is because of a plague that wiped out many of the students of Rabbi Akiva, one of the greatest rabbis of the Talmud.

We are told that the plague stopped on the 33<sup>rd</sup> day of the Omer, so that day is one of celebration, picnics, bonfires, and outdoor fun. In Israel, people also plant trees. Grab some friends and enjoy!

## ★ Observing Together - Modern Holidays

### Yom Yerushalayim – Jerusalem Day

28 Iyar – begins Thursday, May 18



Celebrating the 1967 reunification of Jerusalem is a national holiday in Israel but obviously one put on the calendar very recently! The rabbis have ruled it to be a day to thank God for the victory in the Six-Day War and for answering the 2,000-year-old prayer of *Next Year in Jerusalem*. Sing Jerusalem songs, watch the “Kotel-cam” (the 24-hour video surveillance of the Western Wall), and start to plan your next trip to Jerusalem!

# ★ Worshipping Together - Spring Holidays

## Shavuot – 5-7 Sivan

Thursday-Saturday, May 25-27

Shavuot is one of those holiday gems that seems to get lost. Everyone knows Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Chanukah, and Pesach. But what is Shavuot and why is it considered one of the “biggies” in Jewish life?



Coming seven weeks (*Shavuot* is Hebrew for *weeks*) after the second Passover Seder, Shavuot celebrates

not one but two important events: spring's first harvests and the giving of the Torah on Mount Sinai. Once out of Egypt and settled down, our ancestors brought to the Temple the first and best fruits of their spring harvest. With everyone coming together, it was a perfect opportunity to honor God's historic giving of the Torah on Mount Sinai, marking the covenant between God and the Jewish people. It's a joyous festival that lasts for two days.

During Shavuot we read the beautiful story of Ruth, who, after the death of her husband, followed her also-widowed Jewish mother-in-law, Naomi, back to her homeland of Canaan. This is the origin of the touching speech that begins,

*whither thou goes, I will go, where thou lodges, I will lodge. Thy people shall be my people, thy God my God.*

Her steadfast loyalty – and ultimate conversion to Judaism – was rewarded: Ruth's offspring gave birth to King David. We will read the Book of Ruth during morning services on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of Shavuot.

Shavuot is also known as the dairy holiday; we eat blintzes or cheesecake. Why dairy? One reason is that the sweetness of Torah is often compared to the

## Shavuot-Shabbat Dinner and Tikkun: *Tour of the Torah*

### SEE CHART FOR TIMING DETAILS

COST: \$18/adult, \$12/child, family max of \$55; free for children under 5

RSVP FOR DINNER: by 5/21,

[tinyurl.com/ShavuotDinner5783](http://tinyurl.com/ShavuotDinner5783)

Join us for festive services, dinner, and Tikkun Shavuot in honor of Shabbat and Shavuot! We will enjoy community, prayer, food, learning together, and the traditional Shavuot favorite – cheesecake!

## Shavout Calendar

Services will be accessible from home; all other activities will only be available in person. Havdallah is only available on Zoom.

### HOW TO WATCH THE SERVICE:

Z = Zoom

LS = Livestream

### THURSDAY, MAY 25

5:30 PM	Mincha and Festival Ma'ariv	Z
7:55 PM	Candle Lighting	

### FRIDAY, MAY 26

9:30 AM	Festival Morning Services	LS
12:00 PM	Congregational Kiddush	
6:00 PM	Festival Mincha, Modified Kabbalat Shabbat, Festival/Shabbat Ma'ariv	LS
6:45 PM	Dinner	
7:45 PM	<i>Tikkun Ley'l Shavuot</i>	
7:56 PM	Candle Lighting	
8:45 PM	Dessert	

### SATURDAY, MAY 27

9:30 AM	Shabbat & Festival Morning Service, <i>Yizkor</i> recited	LS
11:00 AM	<i>Tekkes Bikkurim</i> and Family Service	
12:00 PM	Congregational Lunch	
12:15 PM	Shabbat & Festival Mincha Services	LS
9:15 PM	Shabbat & Festival Havdallah	Z

sweetness of honey and milk. Another, is that Moses received the Torah – including the laws of kashrut – on Shavuot, but the people had not yet internalized what was and wasn't allowed. Eating dairy was a safe bet.

## Tekkes Bikkurim, Family Service and Lunch

### SEE TIMING DETAILS ABOVE

GEARED TO: children ages 10 and under

LUNCH: follows for entire congregation, with cheesecake and ice cream sundae bar; no charge

RSVP FOR LUNCH: by 5/21,

[tinyurl.com/ShavuotLunch5783](http://tinyurl.com/ShavuotLunch5783)

Children are invited to present the "first fruits" in a special *Tekkes Bikkurim* (Ceremony of the First Fruits) during Shabbat/Festival Morning Services! Festivities continue with services in the sanctuary, or enjoy a Family Service with Rabbi Zerin.





# ★ Israel Engagement Committee

## Christian Arab Villages ☆ Robin Santiago

At the end of 2022, Christians (185,000 strong) made up 1.9% of the Israeli population. Under the Declaration of Independence, Christians, like those of all religions, are guaranteed freedom of religion, conscience, language, education, and culture, and protection of their Holy Places.

75.8% of the Israeli Christians are historically bound with neighboring Lebanese, Syrian, and Palestinian Christians. The cities and communities where most Christians in Israel reside are Haifa, Nazareth, Shefa-Amr, Jish, Mi'ilya, Fassuta and Kafr Yasif. Arab Christians are one of the most educated groups in Israel. The Christian communities in Israel run numerous schools, colleges, hospitals, clinics, orphanages, homes for the elderly, dormitories, family and youth centers, hotels, and guesthouses. Christians make up 6.9% of the Arab citizens of Israel.

The Galilee, the most diverse area of Israel, is home to 2 special Christian Arab villages – Fassuta and Mi'ilya, unique in the entire Middle



East, not just Israel, in which the population is homogeneously Christian. The residents are Melkite Christians as are 60% of Arab Christians in Israel. In the other towns, the percentage of Christians is declining each year due to the low natural increase,



sanctuary for Christians from all over the country.

but these two local groups have succeeded in maintaining their unique character and constitute a cultural

In the middle of Fassuta stands an impressive house. Once the home of the mukhtar, his granddaughter Rima Khoury has turned it into a center dedicated to the women of the village. Known as Beith Rima, it is now a cultural, tourism, and art gallery center, showcasing Galilean and rural

Christian culture and tradition.



Rima Khoury is considered the “Peter Pan” of Fassuta, full of inspiration, joy for life, and munificence. She has created a beautiful space for dialogue, meetings, and conversation. You can hear Rima’s personal story about growing up in this village and stories from other village women about the traditional customs, culture, and local holidays, while enjoying local cuisine.

Mi'ilya, the town of archaeology, is home to what is known as the largest Crusader winery in the world. The roots go back to the Late Bronze Age and Iron Age, as well as Hellenistic, Roman, Byzantine, Crusader, Mamluk and Ottoman periods. The town is reconstructing and preserving much of its ancient history with the help of archaeologist Rabbei Khamisy.

These towns and their people are a testament to Israel’s multicultural diversity and tolerance. Israel is the only country in the Middle East where the Christian population is growing.

CO-CHAIRS: Sharon Efron, [sgredancer@yahoo.com](mailto:sgredancer@yahoo.com);  
Robin Santiago, [Robin@rsantiagodmd.com](mailto:Robin@rsantiagodmd.com)

# ★ Lifelong Learning

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).

## Classes with Clergy

### **Musical Chat with Cantor Ness**

**MONDAYS, 1:00 – 2:00 PM** Zoom  
**MAY 29** *Reapers and Seekers*



### **Dirshuni – Israeli Women's Midrash and the Missing Half of the Jewish Bookshelf with Rabbi Zerín**

**WEDNESDAYS, MAY 10, 17, AND JUNE 7**

**5:30 PM** Minyan

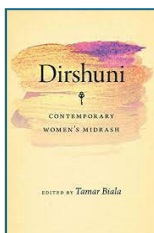
**6:00 PM** Dinner & Class Zoom option available

COST: \$10/class, includes a light dinner; no charge for Zoom or if not eating (contact Rabbi Zerín if cost prevents you from registering)

REGISTER: [tinyurl.com/BETDirshuni](https://tinyurl.com/BETDirshuni)

QUESTIONS: Michelle Kunzman,  
860-729-4201,  
[michellekunzman1@gmail.com](mailto:michellekunzman1@gmail.com)

CO-SPONSORS: Women's Network,  
Israel Engagement Committee



What can we discover if we read between the lines of the Torah? What backstories were we never told?

*Dirshuni* is a collection of *Midrashim* – imaginative interpretations of the Torah – written by modern Israeli women who answer these questions and more. We will read and discuss the texts from *Dirshuni*, adding both the authors' voices and our own voices to the centuries' old tradition of interpreting the Torah.

No previous knowledge or background is necessary. All are welcome to these classes; join us for one or more classes – each stands on its own & enhances the others.

## Library Corner

We thank Roberta Buland for her many years of writing **Library Corner** for Temple Topics! Always enlightening and timely, Roberta's columns have covered everything from nonfiction to playful page-turners. We appreciate the time, enthusiasm, creativity, and hard work clearly displayed in all of Roberta's reviews.

More of Library Corner will be online soon!

*Yasher koach!*

## Ongoing Weekly Adult Classes

New participants welcome!  
Come occasionally or come weekly.  
No registration, no charge.

Classes are both on Zoom and in person, unless otherwise noted.

Several classes hold their last meeting before the summer break during the week of June 12; they will resume in the fall.

### **Lunch & Learn**

**TUESDAYS**

**12:00 – 1:00 PM**

NOTE: last class is 6/13



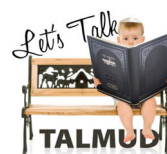
Now in its 29<sup>th</sup> year, Rabbi Rosen invites you to join us as we explore the Hebrew Bible together. Having completed the entire Bible last year, we are back at the beginning as we study *B'reisheet*.

### **Talmud Study**

**WEDNESDAYS**

**10:15 – 11:15 AM**

Zoom  
only



We are a self-guided group of learners currently studying the tractate *Sanhedrin*. The only prerequisite is a desire to learn Torah as explored by our great sages.

### **Bible & Breakfast**

**THURSDAYS**

**8:00 – 9:00 AM**

NOTE: last class is 6/15



Guided by our rabbis, participants share their viewpoints and insights about the weekly parsha. We all learn by listening, thinking, and sharing. People with all backgrounds are welcome; an ability to read Hebrew or knowledge of Hebrew text is not needed.

### **Pirkei Avot Study**

**THURSDAYS**

**1:30 – 2:30 PM**

NOTE: last class is 6/15



This small book of wisdom has been a source of inspiration for centuries. Rabbi Rosen leads us as we explore the nature of the good life from an ancient (and still very relevant) Rabbinic perspective.



# ★ Doing Mitzvot

## KNITzvah Group

SUNDAYS, MAY 14, JUNE 11

10:00 – 11:00 AM

CONTACT: BJ, 860-523-4918, and  
Fran, knitzvahgrp@gmail.com

We create “lapghans” and hats that are donated to social service agencies, nursing homes, and hospitals, both locally and in Israel. Bring your completed 10” x 10” squares for us to put together to create lapghans. If you need yarn for new squares or hats, we have some skeins on hand. Don’t forget to bring your knitting needles for worsted weight (suggest #9 or 10) or crochet hook (suggest G or H), if you have them.

All are welcome to join us for kibbitzing, knitting, crocheting, and making something special to share with others! Thanks for brightening the days of the people who receive our creations!



*We make strings into things  
one stitch at a time, to give  
comfort and warmth to others!*

## Chesed (Kindness) Committee Supporting Our Members

COORDINATOR: Leah Katz,  
mitzvahbethel@gmail.com

The Chesed Committee is a group of volunteers dedicated to helping our members in times of need. Whether it's due to an illness, the loss of a loved one, or some other challenge, we are here to provide the needed support. This may include providing some meals, assisting with errands, or simply a friendly phone call.

Are you interested in being a volunteer? Could you use some assistance? Please contact us.

## 3-Season Opportunities

### Jessie's Community Garden

CONTACT: Dan Kulakofsky,  
860-214-0881,  
dpk18@hotmail.com

Jessie's Community Garden at  
BET has started its second decade!

When BET members Michelle and Dane Kostin started Jessie's Community Garden Foundation, they created an opportunity for us to grow and donate fresh vegetables to foodbanks throughout Hartford. For the past 10 years, we have done a great job getting our hands dirty and growing thousands of pounds of vegetables for donation. Let's keep the tradition going! Gardening will feed your soul while you help raise crops to feed your neighbors. Jessie's Community Garden at BET is a great way to spend an hour a week while performing an important mitzvah.

Whom we need:

- ✧ Experienced gardeners
- ✧ People with no gardening experience and a desire to learn
- ✧ Families looking for a new, outdoor family activity – children of all ages are welcome
- ✧ Everyone with a desire to help combat food insecurity



Both of these outdoor activities make great b'nai mitzvah projects. Volunteers are invited to come with friends, as a family, or solo.

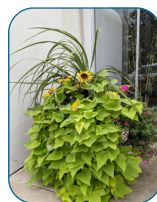
### Garden Club News

CONTACT: Alison Demarest, 860-810-2084,  
alisonsupermom@comcast.net;  
Robin Santiago, 860-490-7661,  
robin@rsantiagodmd.com

DONATIONS: gently used garden tools, hoses, or the funds to purchase them are gratefully accepted

The Garden Club is indebted to Sheila Fox for creating this group of dedicated volunteers to tend the grounds of Beth El. While she is stepping down from being one of the co-chairs, she will continue to lead by example with her gardening efforts at Beth El.

Join us this spring and summer as the gardens surrounding our building continue to GROW! Volunteer for an hour or two, every week, or once in a while. Weeding and watering, snipping and clipping, planting and digging, kvelling and laughing! We have lots of little jobs to keep the synagogue grounds looking lovely and inviting. Gardening can be a great Mitzvah project too.



**We could really use a few  
weekly waterers this summer!**

The flower beds are awake and showing off their beauty and God's glory! Gardening is excellent exercise, easy to do, and you will meet other wonderful gardeners and volunteers.

*No experience necessary.*

# ★ Making Connections

## United Synagogue Youth

### Shabbat Around the World

**FRIDAY, MAY 19**

COST: \$15/dinner

Explore the culture and cuisine of Jewish communities around the world in this series of Shabbat dinners.

*This program is made possible through the generosity of the Jewish Federation of Greater Hartford.*



Other USY programming, regional programs and conventions, local social and social justice activities, and more will be announced throughout the year.

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

## Calling All Beth El Softball Players

**SUNDAY MORNINGS, APRIL 30 – EARLY FALL**

**9:30 – 11:30 AM**

LOCATION: CIGNA (in Bloomfield off Simsbury Rd.)

CAPTAINS: Alan Cetel, 860-232-9515, acjctc@aol.com,  
Jacob Kovel, 860-651-9366, eaglewars@aol.com



Spring is here and it is time to think SOFTBALL. The season has started and we are looking forward to another fun season. It's time to dust off the old mitt, find those cleats, and whip that body into game shape. If you or other congregants you know are interested in renewing their softball exploits, sign up now with the Captains. We are always looking for new players as well as veterans to join our team.

This is a great way to revive your athletic career while getting to know fellow congregants in an athletic setting. We welcome and encourage non-playing Beth El members to come cheer us on!

## 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Dan Miller Men's Club Membership Dinner

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 24**

**6:00 PM**

COST: \$5

REGISTER: [tinyurl.com/MCDinner2023](http://tinyurl.com/MCDinner2023)

QUESTIONS: Tom Falik, [tfalik@comcast.net](mailto:tfalik@comcast.net)

NOTE: if not already a member, join now for \$40 and your membership is good through June, 2024

Program includes catered dinner, a speaker, recognition of best b'nai mitzvah project, and election of next year's board.

## Outing to See the Hartford Yard Goats

**SUNDAY, JUNE 11**

**12:00 PM LUNCH/SOCIALIZING**

**1:05 PM GAME TIME**

LOCATION: Dunkin' Donuts Park, 1214 Main St, Hartford  
COST: \$20, includes \$2 voucher for food, children (13 and under) of BET members are free

REGISTRATION: [tinyurl.com/YardGoatsJune11](http://tinyurl.com/YardGoatsJune11)

QUESTIONS: Tom Falik, 860-729-7245

NOTE: kosher food will be available



Come see the Hartford Yard Goats play the Somerset Patriots (Yankees affiliate). Our seats are in a shaded, private section along the first base side; your ticket gives access to the Yard Goats Club, an air conditioned section with great views of the game and higher-end food and liquor options.

## Men's Club



### The Retreat 2023

**THURSDAY, JUNE 8 – SUNDAY, JUNE 11**

LOCATION: Camp Ramah, Palmer, MA

COST: \$95/1<sup>st</sup> time attendees; \$195/others  
(cost has been subsidized by both Men's Club and CT Valley Region of the FJMC)

REGISTER AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

[www.nerfjmc.org/region-programs/theretreat2023](http://www.nerfjmc.org/region-programs/theretreat2023)

QUESTIONS: Phil Schulz, 860-726-6118,  
[philschulz@sbcglobal.net](mailto:philschulz@sbcglobal.net)

NOTE: ends in time to get to the Yard Goats

*The Retreat* is a long weekend of fun, spirit, and learning for Jewish men, with outstanding speakers, lay-led worship, music, Jewish Jeopardy, a movie, poker, sports, and camaraderie. All of this in a beautiful camp setting, with incredible kosher food!

### Distinguished Service Award Banquet

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22**  
**5:30 – 8:30 PM**

SAVE THE DATE

Honorees this year are Judy and David Rosenthal; invitations will be mailed to all Beth El members.

### Walk Around the Reservoir

**TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS 9:15 AM**

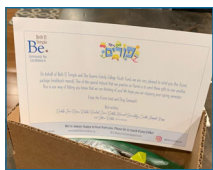
LOCATION: Reservoir on Route 44, Albany Ave;  
meet in parking lot

CONTACT: Stu Bernstein, 860-232-2012,  
[scbernste@aol.com](mailto:scbernste@aol.com)



# ★ Recognizing Volunteers

## College Connections



Thanks to *The Gavens Family College Youth Fund*, and packaging and shipping provided by Lesro Industries, 40 of our college-age members received *Mishloach Manot* this Purim! The packages got

rave reviews! It's wonderful to be able to stay connected and let our kids know we're thinking of them!



(l-r) Becky Azia, Stephanie Kudler, *co-chair*, Jen Ludgin, Hallie Kudler (not pic) Mina Nemirow, *co-chair*, Barry Nemirow

## Horseradish from Jessie's Garden

We harvested and processed enough horseradish to fill 90 jars! This year, the jars were sold out.



Judy Kulakofsky



## Purim Bag Deliveries to the homebound

Michelle Kunzman, <i>chair</i>	Eileen McMurrer	Gary Starr	Marge Swaye
Debbie Gutcheon	Roberta Moss	Francine Stier	Rick Swaye
Rich Gutcheon	Leigh Newman	Lisa Sussman	Melissa Weinstock



(l-r) Felicia Willion, Howard Meyerowitz, Dan Kulakofsky, *chair*, Alison Demarest

# ★ Celebrating Israel in the Community

## Iron Dome, Defending Israel

**SUNDAY, MAY 7  
7:30 PM**

LOCATION: The Emanuel Synagogue,  
160 Mohegan Drive, West Hartford

COST: no charge

PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED:  
[emanuelsynagogue.org](http://emanuelsynagogue.org)

NOTE: for security reasons, this presentation will not be recorded, or offered on online; the lecture is in-person only

Defense expert Gideon Weiss offers the Keynote Presentation opening The Emanuel Synagogue's Israel 75 Events, to which the entire community is invited.

A dessert reception follows.



## Joyful Noise

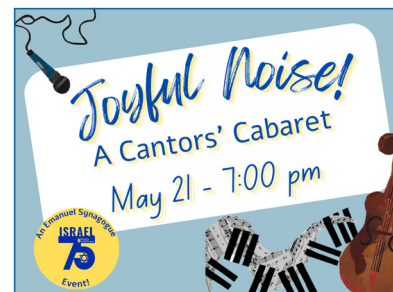
**SUNDAY, MAY 21  
7:00 PM**

LOCATION: The Emanuel Syn. 160 Mohegan Drive, West Hartford

COST: \$50/adult;  
\$25/youth under 18;  
\$25/students with ID;  
\$125/immediate family cap;  
\$50/virtual household

TICKETS: [emanuelsynagogue.org](http://emanuelsynagogue.org)

A *Cantors' Cabaret* featuring Cantor Daniell Risman, Cantor Daniel Mendelson, Cantor Matt Austerklein and Cantor Eliana Kissner; with Cantor Joseph Ness and the Beth El Temple Orchestra. The concert also includes a tribute to the late Cantor Sanford Cohn z"l, and to the state of Israel. A dessert reception will follow.



## Beth El is Concerned about the Environment



As Jews, the best way to beautify ourselves is by performing acts of kindness (*Gemilut Hasadim*). Many people are highly sensitive to fragrances and can suffer adverse health consequences when exposed to them. The next time you're grooming yourself, please add a touch of beauty by avoiding the application of fragrances.

*Let's keep the air we share healthy and fragrance-free for all.*

# ★ Supporting Beth El

## We deeply appreciate the following Thoughtful Contributions.

★ This list reflects contributions received and processed through March 16, 2023.

★ For the next edition of Temple Topics, contributions need to be received in the office by May 18, 2023.

### Rabbi Zerin's Discretionary Fund

#### IN APPRECIATION OF

Rabbi Zerin – Barbara & Robert Green

#### IN MEMORY OF

Rhoda Grossman, mother of Jordan – Dr. Avram S. Berger

### Rabbi Rosen's Discretionary Fund

#### IN APPRECIATION OF

Rabbi Rosen – Donald Gershman, Barbara & Robert Green, Lori & John Rosenberg & sons, Lonni & Philip Schulz, Rayna Segelman & family, Sue & Stuart Wachtel

#### IN HONOR OF

80<sup>th</sup> birthday of Bruce Parker – Fredda & Jon Goldstein, Lisa & Bruce Sussman  
Birth of Grey James Rostowsky – Debra & Richard Rostowsky

#### IN MEMORY OF

Martin Schulz, father of Philip – Carolyn & Stu Bernstein, Gail & Barry Deutsch, Barbara & Robert Green

Steven Buchman, brother of Fredda Goldstein – Harriet & Dr. Robert Berland, Brenda & Malcolm Berman, Donna Burke & Marty Wolinsky, Leigh & Gregory Farber, Camille & Steven Fish, Judy & Marty Gold, Sandy & Bruce Goldberg, Amy & Gary Levin, Jane & Roger Loeb, Ellen & Jerald Margolis, Marylin & Arthur Noll, Myra & Lewis Platt, Bette & Joel Platt, Ellen & Howard Rosenberg, Lori & John Rosenberg, Andrea & Ron Saxon, Judy & Ron Schlossberg, Lisa & Bruce Sussman, Irene & Robert Weiss, Ellen Zelman

Arthur Schuman, husband of Toby – Leigh & Gregory Farber, Fredda & Jon Goldstein

David Federman, father of Brian; David Bernstein, brother of Richard; Nancy Goodman – Fredda & Jon Goldstein

### FOR THE YAHRZEIT OF

Scott Bernstein, husband; Harry Palmbaum, father – Nancy Bernstein Joseph Friend, father – Roberta Buland Fred Dannhauser, husband – Harriet M. Dannhauser

Tessie Deutsch – Barry Deutsch Dorothy Erman, mother – Nancy & Spencer Erman

Steward Lehman, husband & father – Phyllis Lehman & family

Edward Schupack – Beth & Bernie Schilberg

Dr. Emanuel Roth, father – Shari Roth Kalman Satz, grandfather – Linda & Bruce Stanger

Martin Vogelhut, father – Lorraine & Farrel Vogelhut

Marcia Habelow, mother; Dr. Norman Weinstein, father – Wendy Habelow & Robert Weinstein

### Cantor's Music Fund

#### IN APPRECIATION OF

Cantor Ness – Barbara & Robert Green, Lonni & Philip Schulz & family

#### IN MEMORY OF

Steven Buchman, brother of Fredda Goldstein – Rita & Martin Epstein Martin Schulz, father of Philip – Bobby & David Klau

### FOR THE YAHRZEIT OF

Rosalyn Palmbaum, mother – Nancy Bernstein

Lillian Friend, mother – Roberta Buland

### Cemetery Fund

#### IN APPRECIATION OF

Rabbi Howard Sowalsky – Lonni & Philip Schulz & family

### Education Fund

#### IN MEMORY OF

John J. Smith, father – Anita & Dennis Levy

Special thanks to the Men's Club for their contribution to enhance the Livestream, Owl, and Zoom technologies we use.

### Chai Society

#### IN HONOR OF

Barbara Green, "Kallat Mafteret" on Simchat Torah – Linda & Jonas Leifer

#### IN MEMORY OF

Martin Schulz, father of Philip – Linda & Henry Cohn

Edythe Sussman, mother of Bruce – Phyllis Lehman

### FOR THE YAHRZEIT OF

Nettie & Louis Greenspoon, parents; Salomon Albogair, Holocaust remembrance – Judy & Al Greenspoon

### Joseph Springut Security Fund

#### IN HONOR OF

99<sup>th</sup> birthday of Shirley Wachtel – Honey Sue Springut

#### IN MEMORY OF

Martin Schulz, father of Philip – Honey Sue Springut

### Temple Fund

#### IN HONOR OF

95<sup>th</sup> birthday of Ellie Jainchill – Alice Gurne

Rabbi Howard Sowalsky – Lori Newman 99<sup>th</sup> birthday of Shirley Wachtel – Barbara & Chuck Wolfe

#### IN MEMORY OF

Steven Buchman, brother of Fredda Goldstein – Leslie & Harold Blumberg, Elissa & Elliott Donn, Mimi & Jeff Kaplan

Martin Schulz, father of Philip – Office of the CT Attorney General, Sheila & David Diamond, Philip Margolis, Sue & Stuart Wachtel

Arthur Schuman, husband of Toby – Harriet & Richard Case, Barbara Falkin, Dick Zetoff

Marilyn Goldberg, mother of Sharon Schreiber & David Goldberg – Laurie & Steve Strauss

### FOR THE YAHRZEIT OF

Sherman Bercowetz, husband; Joelle & Jack Levin, parents – Sharon Bercowetz

(continues)



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Alan Abrahamson, brother – **Leslie Blumberg**  
David Brody, husband, father, grandfather – **the Brody family**  
Pauline Illions, mother; Helene & Jack Brown, parents – **Barbara & David Brown**  
Marsha Cohen, wife – **Martin Cohen**  
Dora & Morris Turchin; Daniel Turchin; Haley Cremer; Marvin Cremer – **Marilyn Cremer**  
Jack Eisler, father – **Edith Denes**  
Sy Dresner, husband; Gusti Turkisch, mother – **Edith Dresner**

Claire Silverstein, aunt – **Korine Ferraro**  
Israel Friedman, father; Grace Markman, aunt – **Matthew Friedman**  
Esther Miller, mother – **Betty Garber**  
David Goldman, husband – **Felice Goldman**  
Gladys L. Franzman, mother; Ruth Green, mother – **Barbara & Robert Green**  
Goldie Spiegel, mother – **Cheryl & John Hinz**  
Dr. Richard Hotes, husband – **Andrea Hotes**  
Dora Kessler, grandmother; Elaine Evnen, aunt – **Abigail Kessler-Hanna**  
Estelle Kleinman, mother; Ron Meier, brother – **Debbie & Steven Kleinman**  
Esther Levy, mother – **Coleman B. Levy**  
Ida Simon, mother; Martin Lindenberg, father – **Andrea & Robert Lindenberg**  
Bertha Glasser, grandmother; Sadie Treach, grandmother – **Lynn & Joel Malkoff**  
Solomon Moskowitz, father; Jacob Greenberg, father – **Janet & Harold Moskowitz**  
Elene Needelman, mother – **Davida & Steve Needelman**  
Benjamin Rabinovitz, father – **Lewis Rabinovitz**  
Jeffrey Alan Willick, cousin – **Deborah Rosenfeld**  
Ludwig Rosenberg, husband; Nathan Pahuskin, father – **Lillian Rosenberg**  
Fanny Cohen – **Gloria & Mark Rubin**  
Dorothy Kellner, mother – **Barbara Samberg**  
Elizabeth Singer, mother – **Irwin D. Singer**  
Lena Sussman, grandmother – **J. Bruce Sussman**  
Steven Simonovitz, brother; Bertha Wachtel, grandmother; Philip Stoltz, grandfather; Moses Wachtel, cousin – **Sue & Stuart Wachtel**  
Frances F. Weiner, mother – **Patti & Howard Weiner**  
Jennie Weisman, mother – **Joel Weisman**  
Yetta Werner, mother – **Herbert Werner**  
Janet Zimmerman, wife – **Richard Zimmerman**

### Tsedakah/Chesed Fund

**FOR THE YAHRZEIT OF**  
Jozef Drazek, Holocaust remembrance – **Tom Falik**

### Taste Of Shabbat

#### **IN HONOR OF**

Birth of Lenny Kochen, grandson of Sharon & Neil – **Loren & Joel Gelber**

#### **IN MEMORY OF**

Martin Schulz, father of Philip – **Rivka Dvorin & Arthur Freedman**

### ENDOWMENT FUNDS

#### General Unrestricted Endowment Fund

##### **IN APPRECIATION OF**

Beth El Community – **Irene Kaplow**

##### **IN HONOR OF**

Birth of Estelle Billie Steinhardt, granddaughter of Meryl & Mitchell Danitz – **Lois & Chuck Koteen**

##### **FOR THE YAHRZEIT OF**

Sydney Lustgarten, father – **Marlene DeRosa**

Michael Kulick, husband; Emanoil Braunstein Florescu, father – **Alexandra Flowers**

Friedel & Dr. Nachman Kacen, parents – **Eva & Michael Kaplan**  
Gella & Kurt Katz, parents – **Peter Katz**

#### Alter Family Fund

##### **IN HONOR OF**

Bat mitzvah of Riley Borden, daughter of Jessica & Sam – **Marsha Nagler**

#### Judith & David Borus Family Endowment Fund

##### **FOR THE YAHRZEIT OF**

David Borus, husband; Beatrice & Irwin Krams, parents – **Judith Borus**

#### Sharon & Bob Efron Family Fund

##### **IN HONOR OF**

Birth of Lenny Kochen, grandson of Sharon & Neil – **Sharon & Bob Efron**

#### Leonard & Vicki Eisenfeld Endowment Fund

##### **FOR THE YAHRZEIT OF**

Sara Duker & Matthew Eisenfeld – **Bonnie & Jay Roston**

#### Harry E. Goldfarb Endowment Fund for Teacher Training

##### **IN MEMORY OF**

Steven Buchman, brother of Fredda Goldstein – **Ellie & Peter Cohen**

(continues)



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# ★ Supporting Beth El, cont.

## Friends Fund for Members in Need

### IN HONOR OF

Bat mitzvah of Riley Borden, daughter of Jessica & Sam – **Jane & Ken Friedland**

### IN MEMORY OF

Dorie Bobrow, mother of Kimberly DiBella & Mindy Jason;  
Arthur Schuman, husband of Toby; Steven Buchman, brother of  
Fredda Goldstein – **Joyce & Richard Leibert**  
Martin Schulz, father of Philip – **Judy & David Rosenthal**  
Sam Cohen, father of Dan & Jonathan; Estelle Landy, mother of  
Fred; Morton Katz, father of Annette Levine – **Francine & Steve Stier**

## Mildred, Hyman & Edward Glasband Memorial Fund

### FOR THE YAHRZEIT OF

Hyman Glasband, father; Edward Glasband, brother – **Linda Glasband Platt**

## Richard & Debbie Gutcheon Family Endowment Fund

### FOR THE YAHRZEIT OF

Jennie Weinerman Gutcheon – **Debbie & Richard Gutcheon**  
Annie G. Chase, mother – **Jason Gutcheon**

## Anna Heineman Memorial Fund

### FOR THE YAHRZEIT OF

Aaron Anshel, uncle; Fanny & David Anshel, grandparents; Riva  
Anshelevitz Schneerson, aunt; Lonya Schneerson; baby girl  
Schneerson – **Francine Stier**

## Eleanor Weinberg Jainchill Family Fund

### IN HONOR OF

95<sup>th</sup> birthday of Ellie Jainchill – **Barbara & Robert Green**

## Leah Goldschmidt Katz Endowment Fund

### IN MEMORY OF

Steven Buchman, brother of Fredda Goldstein; Martin Schulz,  
father of Philip – **Leah Katz**

### FOR THE YAHRZEIT OF

Toni & Sol Goldschmidt, grandparents – **Leah Katz**  
Matilda & Isidore Denes, grandparents – **Marge Swaye**

## Kesten Education Fund

### IN MEMORY OF

Estelle Landy, mother of Fred; Morton Katz, father of Annette  
Levine – **Marlene & Jeffrey Alfin**

## Ruth & Harry Kleinman Endowment Fund

### IN HONOR OF

Marriage of Jason Kleinman, son of Myra & Bill, and Julie Cutler  
– **Carolyn & Stu Bernstein, Marcia Bronstein, Ava & Harold Geetter, Merle & David Harris, Karen & Joshua Klein & family, James Klein, Kirsten & Jon Kleinman, Jesse Klein & Susannah Levine, Ellen & Jerald Margolis, Eileen Marks, Jia & Michael Monts, Lucy Morris, Susan & Michael Peck, Rhonda & Bob Sattin, Claudia & Carl Shuster, Susan & Alan Solinsky, Helene & Felix Springer, Carol W. Starr**

## Kochen Family Fund

### IN HONOR OF

Birth of Lenny Kochen, grandson of Sharon & Neil – **Abbey Kreinik, Lisa & Mike Lenkiewicz & family, Susan & Michael Schenker**

## Koteen Family Fund

### IN MEMORY OF

Arthur Schuman, husband of Toby – **Lois & Chuck Koteen**

## Santiago Family Fund

### IN HONOR OF

Birth of Theodore Raiden Santiago, grandson of Robin & Rafi,  
great-grandson of Sheila & Howard Mark – **Sharon & Bob Efron, Abbey Kreinik**

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### Diane & Richard Lieberfarb Endowment Fund

#### IN HONOR OF

Bat mitzvah of Phoebe Roffman – Diane &amp; Richard Lieberfarb

### Ludgin Family Endowment Fund

#### IN MEMORY OF

Steven Buchman, brother of Fredda Goldstein – Karen &amp; Rob Ludgin

### Arthur & Stella Mostel Fund for Adult Education

#### FOR THE YAHRZEIT OF

Stella &amp; Arthur Mostel, parents – Carolyn &amp; Jeff Weiser

### Michael & Susan Schenker Endowment Fund

#### IN MEMORY OF

Steven Buchman, brother of Fredda Goldstein – Susan &amp; Michael Schenker

#### FOR THE YAHRZEIT OF

Bill Friedeberg, husband; Lee &amp; Leon Birnbaum, parents – Pamela Friedeberg

Daniel Novarr, brother – Susan &amp; Michael Schenker

### Laurie & Marshall Shakun Family Fund

#### FOR THE YAHRZEIT OF

Florence &amp; Aaron Shakun, parents – Laurie &amp; Marshall Shakun

### Mort Shechtman Men's Club Fund

#### IN MEMORY OF

Martin Schulz, father of Philip – Sharon &amp; Bob Efron

### Clara & Mickey Sowalsky Gabbai Rishon Endowment Fund

#### IN APPRECIATION OF

Rabbi Howard Sowalsky – Barbara &amp; Robert Green

### Amy E. Toyen Endowment Fund

#### IN MEMORY OF

Martin Schulz, father of Philip – Dorine &amp; Marty Toyen

#### FOR THE YAHRZEIT OF

Salena Blake, mother; Morris Toyen, father – Dorine &amp; Marty Toyen

### I. Milton Widem Adult Education Fund

#### FOR THE YAHRZEIT OF

Joseph Waxman, grandfather – Susan Widem

### There are two ways to make a donation:

- ✧ Go to the Beth El website:  
[www.bethelwesthartford.org/giving](http://www.bethelwesthartford.org/giving)
- ✧ Mail it in

### Please be sure to include:

- ◇ the name of the fund
- ◇ whom you wish to honor/remember and your relationship to the person
- ◇ their address for an acknowledgment card
- ◇ your address/phone/email

**Print clearly – or submit the information typed.**

Every dollar contributed can and does make a difference and will be acknowledged.

The minimum donation for each listing is \$10.

Unrestricted funds support the timely needs of Beth El Temple. Restricted funds benefit specific purposes and objectives. For a complete list of funds and any specific designations, please visit our website.



# ★ Engaging Generations

## Welcome to New Members

Cindy Krish                      Deena Myers  
Marty Melnick                  Esther Newman-Cassin

## Congratulations

Marlene & Jeffrey Alfin, on birth of  
grandchild Lincoln Adam Alfin  
Stephanie & Geoffrey Brown, on birth of  
child Julian Mitchell Brown  
Meryl & Mitchell Danitz, on birth of  
grandchild Estelle Billie Steinhardt  
Nancy & John Jacobson, on birth of  
grandchild Claire Campbell Caruso  
Drs. Ellen & Jeffry Nestler, on birth of  
grandchild Noa Jeanne Nestler

## Mazel Tov! and Appreciation for Sponsoring Shabbat Kiddush

Rabbi Ilana Garber & Adam Berkowitz in  
honor of their children  
Grossman family in honor of Brayden's Bar  
Mitzvah  
Borden family in honor of Riley's Bat Mitzvah  
Mayo family in honor of Avi's Bar Mitzvah  
Kleinman & Cutler families in honor of the  
aufruf of their children Julie & Jason  
Sabino family in honor of Lily and Jeremy's  
B'nai Mitzvah.  
Walker family in honor of Silas's Bar Mitzvah

## Of Blessed Memory

Robert Adams  
Mae Herman Askinas  
Dorie Bobrow, mother of Kimberly DiBella  
and Mindy Jason  
Steven Buchman, brother of Fredda Goldstein  
Idell Hendler, sister of Shirley Wachtel and  
aunt of Stuart Wachtel  
Eugene Kagan, father of Tamara Kagan Levine  
Phyllis Landau, mother of Jeffrey Landau  
Anita Lande, sister of Jacquelynne Pilo  
Barbara Louis  
Salvatore Mendolia, father of Dominic Mendolia  
Jerome Scharr, husband of Marlene Scharr  
Martin Schulz, father of Lori Rosenberg and  
Phil Schulz  
Ronald Jay Siegel, father of Aaron Siegel

## B'nei Mitzvah Celebrations

Information on B'nei  
Mitzvah celebrations is  
available from the  
Temple Office.

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](mailto:info@bethelwh.org).

# ★ Camping at Ramah



## Virtual Tours

CONTACT: Josh Edelglass, 781-702-5290,  
joshe@camprahamne.org

Book personal multi-media online experiences to learn about Camp Ramah in Palmer or Ramah Day Camp Greater DC.

## RAMAH FAMILY CAMPS

**Spring:** 6/2 - 6/4

**Summer:** 8/23 - 8/27

**Camp Ramah New England**  
39 Bennett St, Palmer, MA

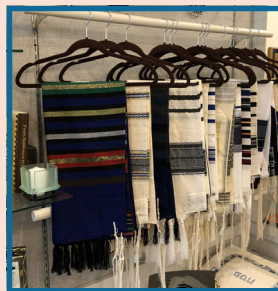


- Energetic and joyous Shabbat
- Outdoor adventures, sports, fitness, boating, alpine tower, art, and more!
- Fun and inspirational programming for kids and adults

[www.Ramahfamilycamp.org](http://www.Ramahfamilycamp.org)

## BETH EL TEMPLE CRAFT GALLERY

Our Craft Gallery has been busy meeting the needs of our community. Shoppers are invited to come to the Craft Gallery to find items for their particular



occasions. Customers remark that seeing and touching *tallitot*, *kippot*, and special gifts, before purchasing, is a much more satisfying experience. If you have a Bar or Bat Mitzvah, wedding, or religious holiday to shop for, please come by on a Sunday

or call for a time to visit the gallery.

Please come see our new *tallitot*, recently acquired from two of our favorite Israeli artisans!

HOURS: Sundays, 9:00-11:30 AM, when SULAM is in session, see page 2; or by appointment

APPOINTMENTS AVAILABLE:

Shelley Barker, 860-232-6468;

Jill Jones, 860-922-7300

VOLUNTEERS: contact Jill to sign up

NOTE: proceeds benefit the synagogue, and we are staffed through the generosity of our volunteers

## Beth El Temple of West Hartford Inc.

2626 Albany Avenue  
West Hartford, CT 06117

[bethelwesthartford.org](http://bethelwesthartford.org)



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[beth.el.temple.wh](https://www.instagram.com/beth.el.temple.wh)

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[jness@bethelwh.org](mailto:jness@bethelwh.org)

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**1/25 for March-April**

**3/25 for May-June**

**5/25 for July-August**

**7/25 for September-October**

**9/25 for November-December**

**11/25 for January-February**

Send Life Cycle announcements to:  
**info@bethelwh.org**

## ★ Notice of Annual Congregational Meeting

**TUESDAY, JUNE 13**

**7:00 PM**

**IN PERSON, ONLY**

In accordance with the by-laws of Beth El Temple, the Nominating Committee met on November 9, 2022, and December 20, 2022, to identify Beth El members in good standing to serve on the synagogue's Board of Trustees and the next Nominating Committee.

Also at this meeting will be a vote on changes to the By-Laws.

The Nominating Committee is proud to recommend for nomination the following congregants to serve as Trustees and on the Nominating Committee.

### **Nominating Committee, 2022-2023**

Stuart Bernstein, <i>chair</i>	Katie Schaeffer
Samuel Borden	Patti Weiner
David Diamond	<i>ex-officio:</i>
Arthur Freedman	Shera Golder <sup>^</sup>
Sharon Kochen	Steve Rabb

<sup>^</sup> resigned upon nomination as an officer

### **We thank the following Trustees as they leave the Board upon completing their terms**

Meryl Danitz	<i>Past Presidents</i>
Judith Resnick	Ann Brandwein
Sandra Stanfield	Michael Schenker
	Gary Starr

### **Officers nominated to serve the term July 2023 through June 2025**

<i>President</i>	Leah Katz
<i>1<sup>st</sup> Vice President</i>	Phil Schulz
<i>2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President</i>	Shera Golder
<i>Treasurer</i>	Stuart Wachtel
<i>Asst. Treasurer</i>	Jeremy Kempner
<i>Financial Secretary</i>	Marsha Fisher
<i>Asst. Financial Secretary</i>	Mina Nemirow
<i>Secretary</i>	Ellen Sanders-Nirenstein

### **Trustees to continue their terms through June 2024**

Ronald Apter	Gerald Garfield	Glen Rosenfeld
Alison Bluestone	Shera Golder	Ellen Sanders-Nirenstein
Samuel Borden	Jeremy Kempner	
Judith Borus	Justin Kudler	
Marsha Fisher	Janel MacDermott	

### **Trustees nominated to serve new terms, July 2023 through June 2025**

Lee Ann Benadiva	Leah Katz	Ila Sabino*
Alisha Cipriano	Howard Levinbook*	Stuart Wachtel
Sharon Efron	Mina Nemirow	
Leonard Eisenfeld	Elliott Pollack	
Loren Gelber*	Phil Schulz*	<i>* new trustees</i>

### **Past Presidents, eligible to serve**

Jonathan Alter  
Diane Lieberfarb  
Steve Rabb  
Judith Rosenthal

### **Auxiliary Board Members**

Arthur Freedman, *Men's Club*  
Allan Geetter, *Chai Society*  
Michelle Kunzman, *Women's Network*

### **Nominating Committee, 2023-2024**

Eric Brown	Sharon Levine-Shein	<i>with three additional</i>
Barbara Green	Lisa Levy	<i>members selected by</i>
		<i>the incoming president</i>