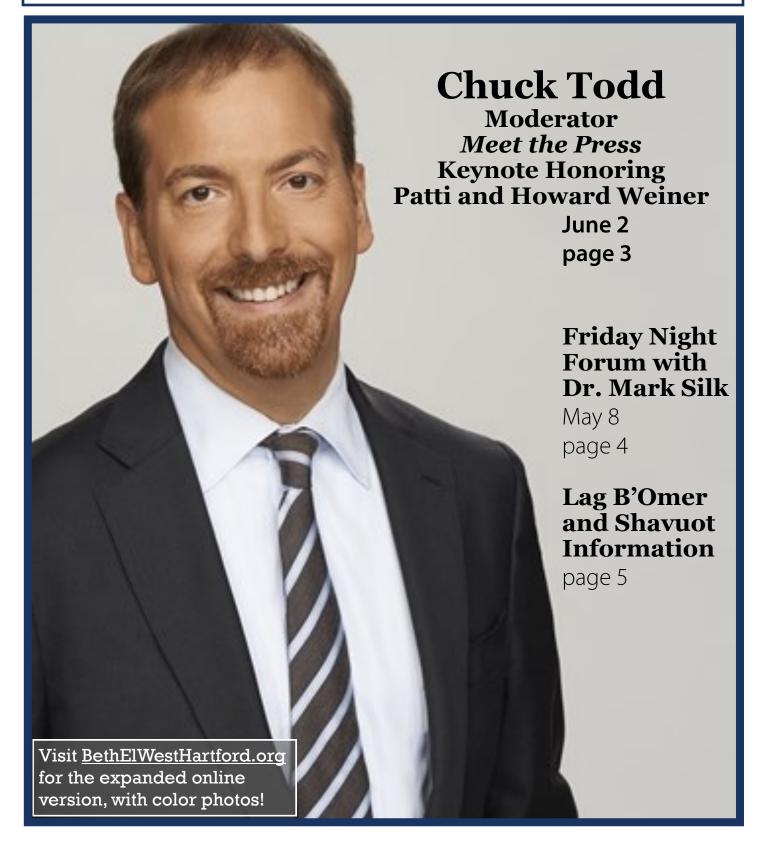
# Temple Topics



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SHARE THE AIR

Please submit articles and information by the first of the preceding month: (i.e., May 1 for June issue)

## templetopics@bethelwh.org

Published monthly with a combined June/July issue.

#### Skyboxes and the Fields We Share Rabbi Jim Rosen



It's May and the baseball season is in full swing (pun intended!). Baseball is not the national pastime it used to be, but so many of us have memories of lazy afternoons and evenings at the ballpark. And even if some sat in the bleachers and others in the box seats, everyone shared a passion for the team and exposure to the elements.

With the proliferation of luxury skyboxes this is no longer the case. One can view a game from on high sheltered from any inclement weather. We are seeing a trend. According to Harvard Philosopher Michael Sandel, "We are witnessing something

called 'the skyboxification' of American life. It's not only that well-heeled corporations provide luxury seats for a premium price, it's that the very trend of purchasing advantages for the few to the detriment of the many proceeds throughout American life."

Sandel gives many examples; not only are stadiums named for corporations, but even now sliding into home plate can be a corporate sponsored event ("This play is brought to you by..."). And in seven states advertising is allowed on the sides of school buses!

Sandel decries the trend where "everything is up for sale"; where children are taught to be consumers rather than citizens. Sandel touches on the growing divide between the haves and have not's and suggests no matter what our political orientation, those who are blessed with resources ought to help better the lives of those who lack opportunity and basic comforts.

I believe that the month of May provides a kind of corrective to the divisions, the "skyboxification" that Sandel describes. Two holidays coincide this year, one American and one Jewish that shows this in a different way.

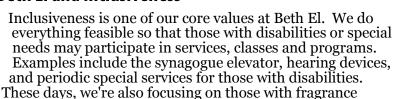
The American Holiday is Memorial Day. In the many wars that our country has fought, countless individuals gave their lives to enable us to live and prosper. They came from all walks of life and protected us; rich and poor alike.

At the same time, the Jewish world observes Shavuot, the Festival of the Giving of the Torah. It is a fundamental of Jewish belief that the Torah is the prized possession of all from "water carriers and wood choppers" to the wealthiest within our community. This Holy text is "the living waters" and our moral and spiritual GPS to be shared by all in navigating the lives we lead. Income, status, abilities do not matter.

This kind of egalitarian counterpoint to Sandel's lament reminds us that the most significant things in life are best lived on the common ground of our existence and not from the rarified atmosphere of the skybox.

Wishing you the best for a wonderful, refreshing summer.

#### **Beth El and Inclusiveness**



and periodic special services for those with fragrance These days, we're also focusing on those with fragrance sensitivities which include numerous Beth El members, staff, and undoubtedly, visitors. Fragrance sensitivity is a common problem which causes a wide variety of health concerns; especially difficulty breathing. Many institutions, businesses, and a growing number of houses of worship, have enacted Fragrance Free policies. So please do your part so that everyone can participate and enjoy Beth El – refrain from wearing fragrances to Temple.

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

## **Evening of Celebration**



## Patti and Howard Weiner Honoring This Winning Team

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Chuck Todd Moderator, *Meet the Press* 

Patti and Howard Weiner, Beth El members who live in West Hartford, will be honored at an Evening of Celebration. To mark the occasion, Chuck Todd, NBC's

Moderator of *Meet the Press*, will be the keynote speaker.

Note: the entire community is invited

TICKETS: \$54 for adults, \$18 for students, includes a

Gala Dessert Reception

INFORMATION: Beth El Temple, 860-233-9696

Sponsorships: Judith Rosenthal, <u>JudithRRosenthal@gmail.com</u>

#### **Community Leaders**

Patti and Howard Weiner have been very quietly, and without fanfare, investing their time and passion into volunteer work in the Greater Hartford Jewish community for decades. According to Rabbi Rosen, "Howard and Patti work underneath the radar; they love the community, they love Beth El, and they try to make things happen."

Both of the Weiners are involved in numerous facets of the community. Patti is Administrative Coordinator and Community Engagement Associate at Jewish Family Services West Hartford and was a founding member of Rachel's Table of Western Massachusetts, which is a food distribution service to help feed the hungry. Patti is also involved with the

Jewish Federation of Greater Hartford, Hebrew Healthcare Auxiliary (having chaired many Strawberry Festivals), the Anja Rosenberg Kosher Food Pantry and she became a Bat Mitzvah as an adult at Beth El.

Howard Weiner is the owner of Woodland Auto in East Hartford which his family founded in 1924. Howard is involved with the Jewish Federation of Greater Hartford, the

Howard and Patti work underneath the radar; they love the community, they love Beth El and they just try to

make things happen.

- Rabbi Rosen



Tuesday, June 2

7:00 PM

Howard J. Siegal Leadership Commission, Jewish Family Services, and was a past President of Hebrew Healthcare. He is also a Wexner Foundation graduate, a former Young Leadership Board member, and a current fundraising advisor for the East Hartford Chamber of Commerce.

They have long been active at Beth El, serving in various leadership positions, including the synagogue's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration and the Beth El Endowment Board. They can be seen almost every Friday night at Kabbalat Shabbat services.

#### **A Perfect Team**

The Weiners put a great value on community involvement. "They are partners," says Rabbi Rosen, "They really come out and support everybody together."

Anne Danaher, Executive Director of Jewish Family Services of Greater Hartford, says of the couple, "They are viewed as community leaders who are very well respected and whose ideas are listened to. They share that commitment and that interest [in community involvement]. They are a unit; they know everyone, everyone knows them, and they are both very well respected."

Joe D'Ambrosio, voice of the UConn Huskies and radio talk show host on WTIC AM in Farmington, first met Howard Weiner when he had an auto accident and brought his car to Woodland Auto. The Weiners also advertise Woodland Auto on WTIC AM.

They are viewed as community leaders who are very well respected and whose ideas are listened to.

- Anne Danaher, Executive Dir. of Jewish Family Services

"It's nice to meet a couple who are so ingrained into one another; who are so similar in regard to their respect for people," says

D'Ambrosio, "They are the type of solid citizens and good people who make a community a

continues on page 15

## Worshipping Together - Shabbat

#### Show-Off Shabbat! Friday, May 1 A Celebration of our Religious School Students SERVICE 6:00 PM DINNER 7:00 PM

Come celebrate the academic year as students from all Religious School classes participate and "show-off" some of what they have learned. Invite grandparents, aunts, uncles, and friends to join us as every child will shine at this special evening. The entire congregation is invited.

COST FOR DINNER: \$12

NOTE: this celebration will replace the ceremony previously held on the last day of religious school

#### The US Media, Israel and the Middle East Friday, May 8 A Friday Night Forum with Dr. Mark Silk 7:30 - 9:30 PM

Dr. Mark Silk is the founding director of the Leonard E. Greenberg Center for the Study of Religion in Public Life at Trinity College, where he is Professor of Religion in Public Life. He is the author of numerous books, edits the Center's on-line magazine, and his daily blog runs on the Religion News Service.

REFRESHMENTS: a festive oneg follows NOTE: free and open to the public

CO-SPONSORS: Chai Society and Lifelong Learning Committee

#### **Blockbuster Shabbat**

#### Saturday, May 9 11:00 AM - NOON

There's something for everyone through grade 6! Older students are invited to the main service. We conclude together on the bima for Kiddush and a treat.

NOTE: all free and open to the community

#### **Tumbling with Torah** UP TO AGE 5

This program will also run on May 23. NOTE: parent must stay with child(ren)

#### **Shabbat Family Experience** GR K-2

LEADER: Adrian Durlester, aka Mr. D

#### **Junior Congregation GRADES 3-6**

LEADER: Rabbi Rosenbaum CONTACT: if your student would like to read Torah, hrosenbaum@bethelwh.org, 860-233-9891

#### Shabbat - weekly

#### **Fridays**

10:00 AM - NOON

#### bebe – Beth El Babies Exploring

Bring your little ones to enjoy tumbling equipment while moms enjoy coffee and conversation!

NOTE: Beth El membership not required.

### **Saturdays**

9:30 AM - NOON

#### Children's Playroom

UP TO AGE 5

A great place for our youngest ones to take a break from services. Parents must supervise their children.

#### Shabbat – monthly

## Saturday, May 2

**DURING SERVICES** 

**Birthday Shabbat** 

**ALL AGES!** 

If your birthday is this month, enjoy a special group aliyah (Torah honor) and blessing from the Rabbi.

#### Friday, May 15 PJ Shabbat

5:45 - 6:45 PM

**UP TO AGE 5** 

Kids' ClubShabbat

Children may come in pj's to enjoy stories, songs and a Torah parade. Older children will have their own age appropriate services.

DINNER: follows for all participants

NO CHARGE, families are invited to serve as sponsors in honor of their children

RSVP: Rabbi Rosenbaum, 860-233-9891,

hrosenbaum@bethelwh.org

#### **JCL Special Needs Shabbat Service** Saturday, May 9 10:30 AM

This joyous and exuberant service is open to adults who have special needs as well as "typical" worshippers who enjoy an abbreviated meaningful service filled with ruach (spirit and energy); it is geared toward those with developmental delays. The service typically includes the singing of prayers, storytelling by Sara deBeer, a Torah parade, and Shabbatappropriate activities based on the theme of the service.

LEADERS: Nancy Rosen; and Susan Fried & Bonnie Eisenberg-Greene, Judaic Coordinators of JCL NOTE: a light Kiddush lunch follows the service

#### **Soul Songs Friday Night Service** and Hot Hors D'oeuvres Friday, May 29 6:00 PM

This intergenerational Friday night service with Cantor Ness promotes congregational participation. The Beth El Adult and Children's choirs grace us with harmonies as we explore traditional Friday night melodies, plus Jewish melodies from around the world.

NOTE: hot hors d'oeuvres follow services

RSVP: none needed

CO-Sponsors: BEMA and Lifelong Learning

## Worshipping Together - Spring

#### Lag B'Omer Thursday, May 7

Lag BaOmer, a minor holiday on the Jewish calendar, is a festive day. It falls on 18 Ivar, the 33rd day of the Omer count. 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 is the forty-nine days that are counted off between the festivals of Passover and Shavuot. This is a time of semi-mourning, when weddings and other celebrations are forbidden. There are many explanations for this 24 hour suspension of mourning, including the ending of a plague, a respite from battle or a momentary victory, or the belief that the manna that fed the Israelites in the desert first appeared on the eighteenth of Ivar.

The day is celebrated with outdoor activities, bonfires, and in Israel the planting of trees. This year, locally, we can celebrate at the Bushnell as the Beth El Choir performs (see page 7 for details).

#### Shavuot

Shavuot, the "Feast of Weeks," is celebrated seven weeks after Pesach (Passover). Since the counting of this period, Sefirat Haomer, begins on the second evening of Pesach, Shavuot takes place exactly 50 days after the (first) seder. Hence, following the Greek word for "fifty," Shavuot is also referred to sometimes as *Pentecost*. Although its origins are to be found in an ancient grain harvest festival, Shavuot has been identified since biblical times with the giving of the Torah on Mount Sinai.

Shavuot combines two major religious observances. First is the grain harvest of the early summer. Second is the giving of the Torah on Mount Sinai seven weeks after the exodus from Egypt. The first determines the ritual for the holiday, which was one of the three pilgrimage festivals of ancient Israel, when Israelite males were commanded to appear before God in Jerusalem, bringing offerings of the first fruits of their harvest. The second determines the significance of the holiday for Judaism, tying it in with the seminal event of Jewish religious memory, namely the entering into a covenant between God and Israel, exemplified by Israel's assumption of Divine law.

There are a number of customs associated with personal practice. Chief among them is the eating of dairy products on Shavuot. Although the reasons for this custom are not completely clear, it has become traditional to eat milk and cheese products as part of the celebration of Shavuot.

#### **Shavuot Calendar**

Saturday, May 23

9:30 AM Study Session during morning services

6:00 PM Mincha & Festival Ma'ariv

#### Sunday, May 24

9:30 AM Festival Services 6:00 PM Festival Mincha &

Ma'ariy

#### Monday, May 25

9:30 AM Festival Services -**Yiskor Recited** 

8:10 PM Festival Mincha, Ma'ariv, Havdalah

## **Doing Mitzvot**

#### **Volunteer Opportunities – Monthly**

**Sundays KNITzvah Group**  10:00 - 11:00 AM Mav 3

We knit or crochet, mostly lap-afghans, and deliver them to local charities. Bring a #10 needle.

9:00 - 11:00 AM <u>Sundays</u> **Charter Oak Project: Cook May 17** 

Prepare dinner for Hartford schoolchildren and their families. Volunteers are also needed to shop and deliver the food to Charter Oak. Donations are welcome to help pay for the cost of the food.

Contact: Kerry Rausch, rausch.kerry@gmail.com, 232-3591, or Craig Diamond, craigpdiamond@yahoo.com, 860-461-0263

**Mondays** 10:00 AM - 12:45 PM Loaves & Fishes Soup Kitchen Mav 4

The group prepares and serves lunch to approximately 80 clients.

LOCATION: Immanuel Church, Woodland Street, Hartford CONTACT: Ellen Solomon, gingy81434@hotmail.com

**Mondays Charter Oak Project: Serve**  5:30 - 7:00 PM

**Mav 18** Serve dinner (prepared Sunday) to Hartford school children and their families.

LOCATION: Charter Oak Cultural Center, Charter Oak Ave, Hartford CONTACT: see left

## **Making Connections**

# 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual *Minyan on the Mountain*Breakfast follows Sunday, May 17 9:15 AM - NOON

Join us for a hike (about 30 minutes) to the Heublein Tower. Enjoy breathtaking views, a Sunday morning minyan led by Cantor Ness, and breakfast at the top of the mountain.

<u>Location</u>: Talcott Mountain State Park, Route 185, Simsbury

RSVP: Joe Śpringut, 860-676-9878, dr.EyesJoe@gmail.com, by 5/12

COST: \$5.00 (suggested donation)

RAIN DATE: June 7

Note: open to the entire community

CO-SPONSORS: Beth El Temple Men's Club and Emanuel

Synagogue's Brotherhood

#### Solomon Schechter Day School To Honor the Temkin/Weiner Family Wed, May 20 7:00 PM

Beth El's very own Gayle & Steve Temkin, Bonnie & Abby Weiner, and Joann Temkin, will be honored at the school's annual *Ner Tamid* Gala. The event features Grammy awardwinning Broadway composer Stephen Schwartz, known for for *Wicked*, *Pippen*, and *Godspell*.

LOCATION: The Bushnell Center for the Performing Arts,

INFORMATION, TICKETS, SPONSORSHIPS: Kim Prescott, 860-561-0700

## NextGen BETT Thursday, May 21 Beth El Thirsty Thursdays 8:00 - 9:30 PM

A night out for those in their 20s, 30s, and early 40s.

LOCATION: TBD

CONTACT: Sharon Neiberg, sharonneiberg@gmail.com RSVP: not required, just show up and look for our sign

## Beth El Women's Network Wed, May 27 Planning Meeting 12:00 PM

The Beth El Women's Network is a community within our community, a way for Beth El women to connect with one another, learning from our shared experiences, and engaging with the greater community.

Please join us as we brainstorm and plan our schedule of events for the next year.

COST: no cost for lunch

RSVP: bethpapermaster@yahoo.com

#### **Tour de Shuls Benefit Bike Ride**

Sun, May 31 7:30 AM - 1:00 PM



This annual bike ride benefits the Tikvah program for special needs children at Camp Ramah in Palmer, MA. It is a non-competitive, highly-enjoyable ride thru scenic areas of Bloomfield, Simsbury,

Granby, and West Hartford. Sponsors have contributed generously in the past and we hope to raise \$7500 for the campers this year.

BEGIN/FINISH: Beth El Temple, in West Hartford

OPTIONS: 20/35/50 mile bike routes

CONTACT: Jeffrey Factor, 860-916-0273, jmfactor@comcast.net

REGISTRATION: tourdeshulsct.org

#### Beth El Softball Team Ready to Play Ball!

#### **Sunday mornings**

It has been a long cold winter and your Beth El softball team is ready to emerge from hibernation and take to the field. We are members of the co-ed Greater Hartford Synagogue Slow Pitch Softball League and are always on the lookout for new recruits (rookies and veterans) who can help the team to another successful season in the league. Women players are at a premium, so we especially encourage our female members to come out and participate. Open to any member looking to renew their athletic careers on the softball field. This is also a great way to meet and get to know fellow congregants in a new setting.

LOCATIONS: Hall High and King Philip Middle School fields, West Hartford

PRACTICES: begin in May

GAMES: early June through mid-August

CAPTAINS: Alan Cetel, acjctc@AOL.com, 860-232-9515, and Duane Schwartz, duane.schwartz@gmail.com, 917-439-1964

#### **Celebrate! West Hartford**

Sunday, June 7 12:00 - 6:00 PM

Share your love of Beth El with our community! Volunteer at the Beth El booth for an hour or so.

**LOCATION: West Hartford Center** 

CONTACT: Lois Koteen, koteenl@comcast.net

#### 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Hands Across the River Golf Tournament Tuesday, June 23

Beth El, Emanuel, and Kol Havarim invite you to a day of golf, friendship, and fun! Raffle prizes, a silent auction, and a Hole-in-One contest to win a brand new Lexus.

**LOCATION:** Wampanoag Golf Course

CONTACT: Leah Katz, lckatz@comcast.net, Jeremy Kempner,

Jeremy.kempner@yahoo.com

REFRESHMENTS: Brown Bag Lunch, Cocktail Hour, BBQ Dinner

## **Enjoying the Music**

# The Beth El Choir Performs with the Hartford Symphony Thur, May 7 – Sun, May 10 EVENINGS AND A MATINEE

The Beth El and Beth Israel Choirs join the Hartford Chorale and the Hartford Symphony in a performance of Leonard Bernstein's *Chichester Psalms*. Maestra Carolyn Kuan conducts this HSO Masterworks Series featuring the works of Mozart, Bernstein, and Beethoven.

Cantor Joseph Ness is the conductor and artistic director of the Beth El Choir.

LOCATION: The Bushnell Center for the Performing Arts TICKETS/INFORMATION: hartfordsymphony.org, 860-987-5900

## Classical Folk Festival BEMA Concert Series #3

Sunday, June 7 7:00 PM

This is the final concert of the 2014-2015 musical season. Selections will include works by Béla Bartók, Edvard Grieg, Paul Simon, Leonard Cohen and others. An exciting performance of the Kachaturian Cello Concerto will be featured! Cantor Ness directs the Beth El Orchestra and Choirs.

COST: \$20 - general admission; \$15 - seniors and students; FREE - kids 12 and under!

NOTE: tickets available at the door, in advance at the Temple Office, online at www.bethelwesthatford.org

## **Engaging Generations**

#### **Appreciation for Sponsoring a Kiddush or Lunch**

Friends of Francine Stier

#### **Congratulations**

correction: Jeanne & Marshall Elman on the birth of *great* -grandson Joshua Lewis Ehrlich

Margorie & Bruce Abel on the engagement of son Adam and Elizabeth Schrott

David Heilbrunn & Alexandra Curran on the birth of son Landon Bennett Heilbrunn

#### **Of Blessed Memory**

Warren Katz, brother of Marvin Katz Miriam "Yummie" Oberstein, wife of Dr. Robert Oberstein, mother of Jordan & Maya Oberstein Paula Polivy, mother of Richard Polivy Martin Z. Vogelhut, father of Farrel Vogelhut

Please let us know of the Simchas and Sorrows in your life that you would like to share with your Beth El family.

Please contact the office for information about this month's Bar and Bat Mitzvah celebrations.

Sunday		Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	
	<i>14 lyar</i> Charter Oak Project, cook KNITzvah	15 lyar 10:00 AM Loaves & Fishes 5:30 PM Charter Oak Project, serve	<b>5</b> 16 lyar	6 17 lyar 8:00 PM Ritual Comm. Meeting	
10	21 lyar	<b>11</b> 22 lyar	7:00 PM Board of Trustees Meeting	13 24 lyar	
	28 lyar of Religious School Minyan on the Mountain	18 29 lyar 7:00 PM JTConnect Graduation	19 1 Sivan Rosh Chodesh 5:30 PM Finance Comm. Meeting	<b>20</b> 2 Sivan	
	6 Sivan First Day Festival Services Festival Mincha & Ma'ariv  Candle Lighting: 8:53 PM	25 7 Sivan Shavuot – Yizkor Recited Memorial Day 9:30 AM Festival Services 8:10 PM Festival Mincha, Ma'ariv, Havdalah	<b>26</b> 8 Sivan 7:00 PM Men's Club Board Meeting	27 9 Sivan 12:00 PM Women's Network Brainstorming Lunch	
<b>7</b> 12:00 PM 5:30 PM <b>6:30 PM</b>	13 Sivan Tour de Shuls  20 Sivan Celebrate! West Hartford Pre-Concert BBQ Evening Minyan BEMA Concert #3	1 14 Sivan 10:00 AM Loaves & Fishes	7:00 PM Beth El Spring Event Honoring Patti and Howard Weiner, featuring Chuck Todd	<b>3</b> 16 Sivan	

#### **Daily Minyan Service Schedule**

Mornings 7:00 AM Monday through Friday

8:45 AM Sunday

**Evenings** 7:30 PM Sunday through Thursday

#### שבת Shabbat

**Friday** 6:00 PM Kabbalat Shabbat Services **Saturday** 9:30 AM Shacharit, Torah Service, Musaf

see grid Mincha, Ma'ariv, Havdalah Service

Note: When a Saturday evening B/M (Bar/Bat Mitzvah) is listed, there will be a concurrent service in the Chapel.

#### **Ongoing Weekly Programs**

no registration required

Tue. 12:00 PM Lunch & Learn

Wed. 10:00 AM Talmud Study (not 5/6)

Thu. 8:00 AM Bible & Breakfast

Fri. 10:00 AM bebe - Beth El Babies Exploring

Sat. 9:30 AM Children's Playroom

After Memorial Day, and continuing through the summer months, Shabbat Mincha will be at 12:30 PM. There is no regular Saturday evening Ma'ariv during the summer.

# yar – Sivar

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#### **Multi-Week Classes**

pre-registration and/or payment required

Mon. 1:30 PM Personal and Family History

Workshop (not 5/25)

Mon. 7:00 PM Hebrew Ulpan, Int./Adv. (not 5/25) Tue. 2:00 PM Beginners' Hebrew Class (ends 5/12)

Thu. 7:00 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal

#### Religious School ~ Special Activities

Fri. 1 Show-Off Shabbat Year-End

Celebration

Sun. 17 Last Day of Religious School –

Mitzvah Day

Go to <u>BethElWestHartford.org</u> for the expanded online version, with color photos!

**5775** 

## **Recognizing our Volunteeers**

Peter's Retreat 3/29/15	Art Israel Sue Israel	Benjamin Priest David Priest	Mark Priest Justin Vera	Joy of Food	
Taste of Shabbat Cooking Team 4/24/15	Leah Chatinover Meryl Danitz Ava Geetter	Harley Graime Sarah Graime Judy Levy	Howard Meyerowitz	Barbara Rosen- Brown Jane Rubin	Gale Shapiro Joe Springut Bonnie Weiner
<b>KNITzvah</b> ongoing	Bobbe Basch Judy Borus Sandra Brook BJ Diamond Annette Gavens Marilyn Goldberg	Ellie Jainchill Bilha Kaplan Barbara Louis Kristie Mazzoni- Cohen Cipie Miller	Lorraine Nodelman Karen Polinsky Lillian Rosenberg Roberta Smith Fran Solinsky	Clara Sowalsky Paula Steinberg NormaJean Sternschein Fran Weinberger	

## **Lifelong Learning**

#### Ongoing - Weekly

Mondays 1:30 - 3:00 PM Personal & Family History (not 5/25)

This workshop helps each participant select the best approach for writing his or her personal and/or family history.

CONTACT: Betty Hoffman, 860-233-4853, bhoffman3@comcast.net NOTE: free; for Beth El Temple members only

#### <u>Tuesdays</u> NOON - 1:00 PM Lunch & Learn

Rabbi Rosen explores the Bible, chapter by chapter. Newcomers welcome!

## Tuesdays Beginners' Hebrew Class (ends 5/12) This 10-week class is being taught by

This 10-week class is being taught by Sidra Sperling.

REGISTRATION: required to get location, Beth El Office, 860-233-9696

NOTE: for Beth El members only; no cost, thanks to an anonymous donation from a member of our congregation

## <u>Wednesdays</u> 10:00 - 11:30 AM (not 5/6)

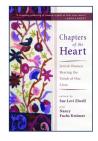
We discuss the themes that were important 2000 years ago and have an impact on our Jewish journeys today. Texts are in English.

## Thursdays 8:00 - 9:00 AM Bible & Breakfast

After *Minyan*, the Rabbis discuss the weekly *Torah* portion.

# LIBRARY CORNER Roberta J. Buland FIRST-PERSON ACCOUNTS OF CONVERSOS AND JEWISH WOMEN TODAY

Remnants of Crypto-Jews Among Hispanic Americans, by Gloria Golden, uncovers Sephardic roots in the Southwest. These conversos, through oral histories accompanied by photos, reveal how their ancestral faith, in whole or in part, has been passed through from descendants of Sephardic Jews from Spain in 1492 to the present. Many settled in hilly geography because it was a perfect setting to hide and be left alone from the shadows of the Inquisition. Living in disguise meant behaving like Christians in public and practicing their Jewish customs at home. As centuries went by, and intermarriages occurred, that furtive life became merely partial memories and home behavioral practices that were very different from those of their Christian neighbors. Golden provides another piece in the puzzle of scattered Jews.



Chapters of the Heart, a 2014 National Jewish Book Award Finalist, edited by Sue Levvi Elwell and Nancy Fuchs Kreimeer, invites readers into the lives of twenty women for whom Jewish language and texts provide a lens for understanding their experiences, including accompanying a young husband through his lifethreatening illness, a daughter's struggle with an

eating disorder, and a parent's long decline with Alzheimer's. The authors use religious words prepared with love and intention. Essays include being daughters, mothers, sisters, partners, lovers, and friends as well as experiences of parenting, infertility, and abortion. The writers wrestle with Jewish texts while growing as rabbis, feminists, and interfaith leaders. They tell when Jewish tradition has helped make meaning and, on occasion, when it has come up empty. Readers will find new insights into God, Judaism, and themselves.

## **Making Us Proud**

#### BET Religious School Teacher to Compete in European Maccabi Games This Summer



Rebecca Lewis, 22-year-old Beth El member, teacher in our religious school, and graduate of Hall High School, will represent the USA on the Women's Soccer Team at the 2015 European Maccabi Games in Berlin, Germany, from July 27 to August 5, 2015.

"This is an amazing opportunity," says Becca.

"Soccer is my passion, and to be able to play abroad while representing not only my country, but my faith,

will be a great honor. The fact that the games are in Berlin, Germany, I believe is extra special. It shows the strength and resilience of the Jewish people to be able to have over 3,000 Jews go to Germany for a positive reason only 75 years after the Holocaust."

Becca has an extensive soccer background and is constantly in training. She recently completed the mini-triathlon at the JCC. While growing up in West Hartford, Becca played for West Hartford Travel Soccer and

for club teams at Oakwood and FSA. Lewis played for Hall High School, all four years, and was a starter for 2 years. At NCAA Division III Ithaca College, Becca played goalkeeper. In 2012 and 2013, Ithaca was the Empire 8 Conference Champion. Ithaca competed in the Division III Soccer Tournament every year that Becca was there, reaching the Final Four in 2011, the Sweet 1 in 2012, and the Elite 8 in 2013. She played goalkeeper for Central Connecticut State University and they were NEC Conference Champions 2015 and went to the NCAA Tournament in 2015.



Becca, daughter of Paul and Bonnie Hittleman Lewis of West Hartford, is currently a graduate student at Central Connecticut State University, and will graduate in May with a Master's Degree in Educational Technology. She hopes to be a high school Social Studies teacher and Soccer Coach.

In addition to her classes, Becca holds numerous part-time jobs. She works frequently as a substitute teacher for West Hartford Public Schools and is an assistant to Hall High Athletic Director Betty Remigino-Knapp. For her graduate assistantship, Becca works for campus recreation at CCSU and also coaches soccer. On Sunday mornings, Becca can be

found teaching at our own Religious School.

Participating in the Maccabi Games is a tremendous honor, but it comes with a cost. Each Maccabi USA athlete must pay \$5,800 to participate. Becca is raising money

through crowd funding on Gofundme.com/ovrrk8.

Maccabi USA has an extensive history of enriching Jewish lives through athletic, cultural, and educational programs. The organization is the official sponsor of the United States Team to the World Maccabiah Games in Israel and other Maccabi competitions around the world. Maccabi USA supports Jewish Athletic endeavors enhanced by cultural and educational opportunities at home, in Israel, and throughout the



Diaspora.

## **Supporting Beth El**

#### We are grateful for the following contributions (received through March 31, 2015)

#### **Cantor's Music Fund**

#### IN APPRECIATION OF

Cantor Ness – John Jacobson, Barbara Simons & family, the Schloss family, Sam Cohen

#### IN HONOR OF

Roslyn Volvovitz's special birthday – **Marlene & Jeff Alfin** 

Arlene & Lenny Lippman's 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary – **Lorraine & Farrel Vogelhut** 

#### IN MEMORY OF

Edward Hotez – **Marlene & Jeff Alfin** Yummie Oberstein, wife of Robert, mother of Maya Rose & Jordan – **Beth** El **Religious School staff** 

Luis Lopez, father of Carmen Ness – **Carin & Ron Buckman** 

Pauline Ness, mother of Cantor Joseph Ness – Carin & Ron Buckman,

Sam Cohen Harriet Marks, aunt – Nancy & Dennis Gottfried

Robert Silver, brother of Phyllis Gelles – Jeanne & Dan Kleinman, Bernice Wiener

#### FOR THE YAHRZEIT OF

Harry Volvovitz, father and husband – Marlene & Jeff Alfin, Roslyn Volvovitz

#### **Chai Society Fund**

#### IN MEMORY OF

Sam Schulman, husband of Natalie, father of Jed – **Sam Cohen** Dr. Felix Bronner, husband of Leah; Arthur Feinstein, husband of Rhoda; Sherwin "Shep" Schloss, husband of Phyllis; Evelyn Weinstein, mother of Morton – **Rosalind & Joseph Rachlin** 

#### **Education Fund**

#### IN APPRECIATION OF

Ron Buckman, for the Brit Milah of Yitzhak Franklin Gunnet-Shoval Emmy & Steve Fast, Dr. Alexandra Flowers, Lois & Chuck Koteen, Abbey & Steve Kreinik, Ellen & Jeff Nirenstein, Judy & David Rosenthal, Lea & Bernie Selig, Jennifer & Douglas Wolf & family for Misloach Manot – **Sandra & Marshall Rulnick** 

#### IN HONOR OF

Birth of Nora Lily Pencu, granddaughter of Diane & Richard Lieberfarb – **Marci** & **Jonathan Alter & family** 

#### IN MEMORY OF

Chuck Koteen

Lois Silverman, mother of Laurie Press – Carin & Ron Buckman
Yummie Oberstein, wife of Robert,
mother of Maya Rose & Jordan –
Crystal & Jeff Begleiter, Lois &

#### FOR THE YAHRZEIT OF

Robert Diamond, cousin; Isadore Epstein, father – **Jill & Gary Jones** 

## Friends of Ari Santiago Building Accessibility Fund

#### IN HONOR OF

Birth of Emerson Lila Santiago, daughter of Erica & Ari, granddaughter of Robin & Rafi, great-granddaughter of Howard & Sheila Mark – **Naomi & Michael Cohen, Sharon & Bob Efron** 

#### **Library Fund**

#### IN HONOR OF

Sidra & Marvin Sperling - Faye Cohen

#### IN MEMORY OF

Sondra - the Gloth Family

#### Rabbi Garber's Discretionary Fund

IN APPRECIATION OF

Rabbi Garber – Carolyn & Jeff Gitlin, Deborah & Michael Stiebel

#### Rabbi Rosen's Discretionary Fund

#### IN APPRECIATION OF

Mishloach Manot – Frances & Murray Bilmes

Rabbi Rosen – Marlene & Jeff Alfin, Barbara Checknoff, Leigh, Greg & Samantha Farber, John Jacobson, Marylin & Art Noll, Barbara Simons & family, the Schloss family

#### IN HONOR OF

Esther & Lew Harris' 65<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary – **Vida & Eliot Barron** Bar mitzvah of Benjamin Goodman, grandson of Nancy & Robert Goodman – **Linda & Shel Eisenberg, Fredda** & **Jon Goldstein** 

Bat mitzvah of Samantha Farber, daughter of Leigh & Greg, granddaughter of Marylin & Art Noll – Fredda & Jon Goldstein

Birth of Anna Katherine Berube-Gladstein, granddaughter of Alison & Ed Demearst and Michelle & Eric Gladstein – Honey Sue & Dr. Joseph Springut

#### IN MEMORY OF

Edward Hotez – Reba & Alden Stock Sherwin "Shep" Schloss, husband of Phyllis – Sheri Rifkin & Wendy Gordon, Judy & Herb Silver Robert Simons, husband of Barbara – Ellen Blumberg, Ann & Bernie Cope, Fredda & Jon Goldstein, Carol Rosen, Kim & Brian Roth

#### FOR THE YAHRZEIT OF

Rabbi Dr. Sidney Kosofsky, father – **Vivian Haas** Shelley Semmel, sister – **Reba & Alden Stock** 

## Student Israel Assistance Fund IN MEMORY OF

#### Helen Blum, mother of Dr. Jerold Blum Marlana & Laff Alfin, Roslym

– Marlene & Jeff Alfin, Roslyn Volvovitz

#### Temple Fund

#### IN APPRECIATION OF

Rabbi Kessler - Marlene & Jeff Alfin

#### IN MEMORY OF

Felix Bronner, husband of Leah – **Cynthia Rabinowitz** 

Sam Schulman, husband of Natalie, father of Jed – **Tracy King** Sherwin "Shep" Schloss, husband of

Sherwin "Shep" Schloss, husband of Phyllis – Barbara Alciati, Elizabeth & William Case, Naomi & Michael Cohen, Gail & Barry Deutsch, David Drumm, Bella & Judd Fink, Beverly & Myron Halpin, Renee Janow, Barbara & Stuart Kessler, Elaine & Harry Lane, Barbara Merker, Anna Marie Simcic, Dorothy Sterpka, Joanne Thomas, Sue Thompson

#### FOR THE YAHRZEIT OF

Max Alpert, husband – **Eve Alpert** Dora & Frank Basch, in-laws; Lydia Kahn, sister – **Bobbe Basch** 

Louis Beckenstein, great-uncle; Henry Beckenstein, father-in-law, grandfather - **Roz-Lynn & Julie Beckenstein** 

Louis Asheroff, father; Samuel Bernstein, father – Carolyn & Stuart Bernstein

Florence & Louis Wasserstein, parents – **Estelle Bernstein** 

Ruben Blinder, father – **Jordan Blinder** 

Samuel Kling, father & grandfather –
Shirley K. & David Brody & family
Eugene Cohen, father – Leah Cohen
Chatinover

Ida Cohen, mother; Gertrude Abo, sister; Israel Helfand, father-in-law – **Sam Cohen** 

Miriam Cohn, mother – **Linda & Henry Cohn** 

Gordon David Coplein, father – **Claudia Coplein** 

Joseph Dannhauser, father – **Fred Dannhauser** 

Dr. Milton Philips, father; Helene Gallas, Holocaust remembrance – **Ellen & Peter Donshik** 

Alex Akimow, Holocaust remembrance – **Sharon & Bob Efron** 

Marsha Lewis Levy, sister – Nan Glass Frances Greenberg, mother – Arnold Greenberg, Leonard Greenberg

Nettie & Louis Greenspoon, parents; Salamon Albohair, Holocaust remembrance – **Judy & Al Greenspoon** 

#### FOR THE YAHRZEIT OF, cont.

Frances Deutsch, mother – **Michael Kaplan** 

Kurt Katz, father – **Leah & Peter Katz** Abe Simon, father – **Gina Koppel** John Smith, father – **Anita Levy** Thelma Glasband, mother – **Ellen** 

Margolis

Daniel Miller, husband; Anna & Morris Hoffenberg, parents; Rose Fein, aunt; Abraham Miller, father-in-law – **Cipie** 



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Sarah & Benjamin Rabinovitz, parents – Lewis Rabinovitz Lillian & Saul Sack, in-laws; Sarah Faye Massave, granddaughter Gerri Sack

Harry Manus Eisner, father - Susan Eisner Saidel Dorothy Kellner, mother - Barbara Samberg

Bernard Lovitz, brother-in-law – Martin Schulz

Max Weisman, father – **Florence Shakun** Samuel Drapel, father – **Edith Shapiro** 

Robert Sherman, husband; Noah Sherman, father-in-law –

**Edith Sherman** 

Helen Springut, mother - Dr. Joseph Springut Tilly Shein, mother; Morris Stein, father - Regan & Barry Stein & family

Harvey Steinmetz, husband; Edith & Eliot Shapiro, parents – **Marilyn Steinmetz** 

Essie Stier, mother - Stanley Stier

Gittel & Chaim Weiner, parents; Sam Lebowitz, uncle - Abby & **Bonnie Weiner** 

Fannie Krampf, grandmother – Carolyn & Jeff Weiser Max Weisman, father – Joel Weisman Fannie Levin, mother – Roslyn Yellin

Bernard Groman, father - Shirley Zelman

#### Tsedakah/Chesed Fund

#### IN MEMORY OF

Fannie & Frank Fruchtman, parents; Jacob Fruchtman, brother Roslyn Volvovitz

#### ENDOWMENT FUNDS

#### **General Unrestricted Endowment Fund**

#### IN HONOR OF

Birth of Nora Lily Pencu, granddaughter of Diane & Richard Lieberfarb – Abbey & Stephen Kreinik

**Naomi & Michael Cohen Endowment Fund** 

#### IN APPRECIATION OF

Aliyah on Shabbat - Naomi & Michael Cohen

Jane & Nathan Field Memorial Fund

#### IN HONOR OF

Carolyn Bernstein's special birthday - Emmy & Steve Fast

Friends Fund for Members in Need

#### IN HONOR OF

Birth of Hadley Mila Brogadir, granddaughter of Annette & Jack Levine - Patti & Howard Weiner, Fran Weiner

#### IN MEMORY OF

George Haller; Robert Simons, husband of Barbara - Patti & **Howard Weiner, Fran Weiner** 

#### WISHING A SPEEDY RECOVERY

Rabbi Howard Rosenbaum - Judy & David Rosenthal

**Anna Heineman Memorial Fund** 

#### FOR THE YAHRZEIT OF

Riva & Lonya Schneerson, aunt & uncle; Baby girl Schneerson, cousin; Sheldon Fertig, brother-in-law - Francine Stier

Cipie & Daniel Miller Family Fund

#### FOR THE YAHRZEIT OF

Daniel Miller, uncle - Diane Mackay & family

**Lois & Alvin Reiner Family Fund** 

#### IN APPRECIATION OF

Receiving Mishloach Manot - Al Reiner

#### IN MEMORY OF

Robert Silver, brother of Phyllis Gelles; Thelma Sigal - Al Reiner

Rosen Family Kehillah Kedosha Fund

## Supporting Beth El, cont.

#### FOR THE YAHRZEIT OF

Dr. Hyman Farber, father – Nancy & Rabbi James Rosen

Susan & Michael Schenker Endowment Fund FOR THE YAHRZEIT OF

Harriet Novarr, sister - Susan Schenker

Sowalsky Gabbai Rishon Endowment Fund

#### FOR THE YAHRZEIT OF

Al Kadden, father & grandfather – **Lele & Ralph Kadden & family** 

Muriel Levin, mother & grandmother – The

Greenebaum-Levin family

Jean Trigg, sister; Mildred Greenberg, sister-in-law – Clara Sowalsky

Dr. Manuel & Evelyn Stier Memorial Fund FOR THE YAHRZEIT OF

Albert Weinstein, uncle - Steven Stier

**Sussman Families Fund** 

FOR THE YAHRZEIT OF

Bernard Sussman, father; Roslyn Sussman, sister – Marc Sussman

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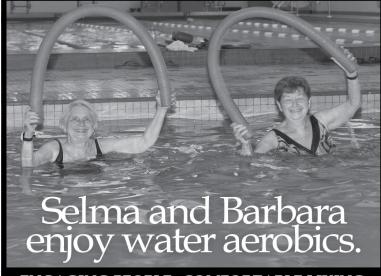




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continued from page 3

better place to be. The more of those kinds of people we have in the world, the better off we are!"

Ray Dunaway of WTIC AM is also a longtime friend of Howard Weiner, "He leads by example; he wouldn't ask you to do anything that he wouldn't do." And of Howard and Patti together, "They're a great couple!"

#### **Bridging Gaps**

What is also unique about Patti and Howard Weiner and their commitment to the community is their ability to bridge gaps between various Jewish organizations.

"There is a tendency for synagogue people not to be as involved in Federation and general Jewish community things and vice versa, and the Weiners do both," says Rabbi Rosen, "They show what ought to be natural partnerships. In a given week they'd be just as likely to be at a Beth El meeting as a Federation meeting."

Anne Danaher also notes the varied involvements that the Weiners' have, "They have focuses that extend throughout the community They are a couple who both share that commitment and that passion."

#### **Humble and Not Seeking Attention**

While the Weiners volunteer often to help in various organizations in the Jewish community, they are very unassuming and don't seek any attention. Danaher shares, "They are honored to be honored, but they would not expect it. They do things for the right reasons without expecting that they would be recognized at all."

"The Weiners are not the kind of people who need to have their names featured in programs," Rabbi Rosen agrees, "The Jewish community and the future [of

Judaism] means a great deal to both of them. They lead by example; over the years, they have developed a sterling reputation as people who go out of their way to help others."

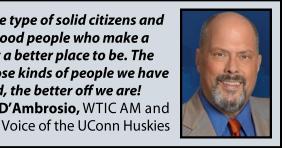
He leads by example. I think that's the strongest [type of leader] you can be.

- Ray Dunaway, WTIC AM, about Howard Weiner

"He never makes a show of it," says Ray Dunaway, "I think that's the great thing about Howard. He's unassuming, he's a perfectly honest guy and he doesn't blow his own horn at all."

Patti and Howard are happily involved and volunteer as a team and support each other and each other's causes and organizations. "Not for the glory," Patti says, "But because we feel it in our hearts."

They are the type of solid citizens and generally good people who make a community a better place to be. The more of those kinds of people we have in the world, the better off we are! - Joe D'Ambrosio, WTIC AM and



#### **Devotion to Family**

While service to community plays a huge role in Patti's and Howard's lives, they are "Very, very loyal to family," according to Rabbi Rosen.

Anne Danaher says, "I have always thought that what comes through so clearly from both of them is the value that they both place on family and the respect they have for other people's families."

Danaher describes how Patti is very thoughtful in small ways that people don't see. When someone is sick or there is a loss in the family, "Patti's the one showing up at your door with chicken soup."

#### **An Example For Our Community**

Ray Dunaway has nothing but compliments for Howard Weiner, "He leads by example. I think that's the strongest [type of leader] you can be."

Their effect in the community is quiet but does not go unnoticed, "Their leadership style is understated but very strong at the same time," explains Danaher.

"I'm happy to see the Temple honor them," Joe D'Ambrosio relates, "I think sometimes when somebody doesn't try to grab the spotlight, they get passed over, and the fact that Howard and Patti are being recognized is a great tribute to who they are and what they represent.'

Rabbi Rosen describes the Weiners' reputation in the

community, "They are true models of commitment in a way that is attainable for others. If the Weiners can go out of their way to make special commitments of themselves, their time and their resources, why not others?"



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## **Notice of Annual Meeting**

#### **Beth El Temple Annual Congregational Meeting**

Tuesday, June 9 7:00 PM

Let your voice be heard and cast your vote as we elect the officers and Trustees for 2015-2017.

In accordance with the by-laws of Beth El Temple, the Nominating Committee met on October 22, 2014, December 3, 2014, March 31, 2015, and May 7, 2015, to identify Beth El members in good standing to serve on the synagogue's Board of Trustees. The committee considered candidates who had demonstrated a commitment to Beth El's mission, had participated in the Beth El community, and conducted themselves in accordance to the religious and ethical tenets of Judaism.

The committee is proud to recommend for nomination the following congregants to serve as Officers and Trustees.

#### Nominating Committee, 2014 – 2015

Joshua Gottfried, chair Jonathan Alter Heather Satlof

Roberta Smith Joe Springut

Norma Jean Sternchein

Karen Tuvin

#### Officers and Trustees to serve the 2-year term, **July 2015 – June 2017**

President Diane Lieberfarb 1st Vice President Jonathan Alter 2nd Vice President Judith Rosenthal Secretary Ellen Sanders-Nirenstein Stuart Wachtel Treasurer Jerry Leshem Assistant Treasurer Financial Secretary Meryl Danitz Sheila Diamond Asst. Financial Secretary

#### Trustees to serve the 2-year term, July 2015 - June 2017

Jonathan Alter Amy Goldman **Beth Brumberg** Lisa Harris **Sharon Neiberg** Mervl Danitz Sheila Diamond Marshall Shakun Eliane Freund Stuart Wachtel Diane Lieberfarb **Douglas Wolf** 

#### Trustees to continue their terms, through June 2016

Carrie Berman Jeremy Kempner Justin Kudler Debra Cohen Ron Ferraro Robin Gelles

Jerry Leshem Rachel Leventhal-Weiner

Josh Gottfried Judy Rosenthal

Ellen Sanders-Nirenstein John Hinze