

Temple Topics

Beth El
Temple
Be★
*Community You
Can Believe In*

If I forget you, O Jerusalem,
let my right hand
forget its cunning!

Let my tongue stick to the
roof of my mouth,
if I do not remember you,
if I do not set Jerusalem
above my highest joy.

Psalm 137

*We pray
for peace
in Israel!*

Jerusalem 36
by Mordechai Rosenstein

for more, see page 5
about our Artist-in-
Residence week,
December 7-13

★ From the Rabbi's Desk

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

**TempleTopics@
bethelwh.org**

Other Beth El questions, life-
cycle announcements, email
updates, etc., should be sent to:

CDeer@bethelwh.org

Published monthly with a
combined June/July issue.



Wrestling & Celebrating

To be a Jew is to struggle, to question, and eventually to grow. This journey is part of our name: *Yisrael*, one who wrestles with God. I don't see this wrestling as a negative concept; rather, it is a give-and-take, a conversation, a lifelong relationship that each Jew must cultivate individually and as part of community. We start this process with our youngest children in our religious school (they talk more freely about God than any one of us!), and we continue throughout our lives, confronting God in the very good, and very bad, moments of our journey, and if we are lucky, becoming ever more aware of God even in the regular, not particularly good or bad moments, too.

It is an incredible experience to be an adult who pauses on the journey of life to recognize where she is and what it all means. Truly it is a holy moment. We have three such women who will become Adult B'not Mitzvah this month. Marci Alter, Carolyn Gitlin, and Judy Resnick have made the commitment to learn Hebrew, to study the Torah and Haftarah portions **and** to chant them, to learn to lead prayers, and to add to their already busy schedules by doing a mitzvah project together supporting the Anja Rosenberg kosher food pantry (that's in addition to the mitzvah work all three already do!). Whew!!!! We are excited and honored to celebrate this accomplishment with them. Please join us for the Adult B'not Mitzvah on Saturday, November 28th, starting at 9:30 AM.

Our Adult B'not Mitzvah represent just one aspect of our incredible lifelong learning program. You don't need to make as huge a commitment (or get up and sing in front of your nearest and dearest!) if that's not your cup of tea. But to engage, to journey, and indeed, to wrestle...that's what it means to be a Jew.

The New Year 5776 has begun. How have you wrestled so far? How will you journey into the next months and years? Our Torah portions during these months are particularly poignant as our ancestors wrestle – sometimes literally – with God, with each other, and with themselves. Join us as we join them on the journey of a lifetime!

~ Rabbi Ilana Garber



Announcing: Adult Trip to Israel, 2016 led by Rabbi Rosen

Sunday, May 22 - Friday, June 3



- ✧ A trip for first timers and veteran Israel travelers alike
- ✧ Starts and ends at Beth El with Deluxe Accommodations along the way
- ✧ Eilat to Tzfat
- ✧ Jerusalem to Jordan (day trip to Petra)



Additional details to be announced.

Excited? Direct your questions to Rabbi Sowalsky, hsowalsky@bethelwh.org

★ From Another Rabbi's Desk

After the holiday season was over last month, I had the occasion to spend a couple of days along the Southern California coast. The weeks before had been intense and bittersweet, and taking morning walks along Zuma Beach in Malibu helped relax and refresh my exhausted soul. I breathed in the salty Pacific air and prayed, *Modah ani Lefanecha*, I am grateful to You, God... *she'hechezarta bi nishmati*, that You have restored my soul... *be'chemla raba*, with Your great compassion. I watched the powerful waves crashing against the shore and with each one saw the beach transformed. Then, as the water receded, the sand returned to some semblance of how it was – similar, but changed, and both in profound ways.

Spending the High Holidays at Beth El this year reminded me of the sand. Ten years have passed and

the community has been transformed by great joys and accomplishments, as well as sadness and loss. PJ Shabbat tots have become proud bar and bat mitzvah students, and beloved teens are now adults making their way in the world. In fact, I was in California for one of their weddings. It was heartening to see so many new faces in Kessler Hall and yet, it still felt like home. Thank you for offering me the opportunity to teach and learn Torah with you for a few important days, for praying and repenting with you, and for sharing your stories with me.

Being back at Beth El, working with my wonderful colleagues again, Rabbis Rosen, Sowalsky, Rosenbaum, and Cantor Ness, made for awe-inspiring Days of Awe. I can also more fully



appreciate one of the great changes that happened in the ten years since I've left: Rabbi Garber's profound impact on the life and heart of Beth El. While the circumstances for my coming back were difficult, I – and pretty much all of us who have been #GarberStrong – now breathe a strong sigh of relief for her remission and new healing journey.

In this season of gratitude building up to Thanksgiving, *modah ani lifneichem*, I am grateful to you, my old and new Beth El family. Thank you for welcoming David, Eden, Margo, and me into the community with warmth and kindness. May 5776 be a year of joy and growth and good health for all.

Bi'vracha (with blessings),
Jen Tobenstein

★ Making Connections

Motherland: Growing Up with the Holocaust Sunday, Nov. 15
Morning Minyan 8:45 AM
Breakfast & Book talk 9:15 AM

In a deeply moving second-generation Holocaust memoir, Rita Goldberg introduces the extraordinary story of Hilde Jacobsthal, a close friend of Anne Frank's family who was fifteen when the Nazis invaded Holland. Goldberg reveals a little-explored aspect of Holocaust survival: the often-wrenching family and interpersonal struggles of the children and grandchildren whose own lives are haunted by historic tragedy.

After the program, author Rita Goldberg will sign copies of her book.

COST: \$5 Beth El members; \$10 guests
RSVP: by 11/9, Kathy Fishman, 860-727-5771,
jfact@mcmgmt.com

CO-SPONSORS: Beth El Temple Library and Men's Club, and Voices of Hope

Walk around the Reservoir with Men's Club Tues. & Thurs., 9:45 AM

All are invited to join this walk, 3.6 miles around.

LOCATION: Route 44 Reservoir, West Hartford
STARTING POINT: meet in the parking lot
COST: no charge
INFORMATION: Dave Klau, 860-651-8962, daklau747@gmail.com

Join a Havurah

A *Havurah* consists of a small group of Beth El members – couples and/or singles of similar ages and interests. They meet on a regular basis to celebrate, socialize, learn, and enrich their lives in a small setting while being part of Beth El Temple.

CONTACT: Korine Ferraro, 860-584-0376, korinef@att.net

It's so quiet - is this really my house?! Empty Nester Moms

**Wed., Dec. 2
7:30 - 9:00 PM**

What happens after you enjoy the Thanksgiving holiday with your returning college student(s)? Whether you are thrilled or dismayed at the quiet, let's talk about it.... Join moms for coffee and conversation about this new chapter of our lives.

INFORMATION: Lonni Schulz, 860.651-0072, LonniSchulz@sbcglobal.net
LOCATION: Panera Bread, Bishop's Corner, West Hartford

★ Worshipping Together - Shabbat

Weekly

Fridays 10:00 AM - NOON

bebe – Beth El Babies Exploring

This informal pre-Shabbat group gives moms a chance to enjoy coffee while meeting and networking with other moms and their children.

NOTE: Beth El membership is not required

Saturdays 9:30 AM - NOON

Children's Playroom UP TO AGE 5

A place to take a break from services.

NOTE: parents must supervise their children

Bi-Monthly

Saturdays, Nov. 14 & 28 11:00 AM - NOON

Tumbling with Torah UP TO AGE 5

A program of stories, songs, activities, a snack, and a chance to tumble on fun equipment. We end together on the *bima* for Kiddush and a treat.

LEADER: Barbara Checknoff

NOTE: parent must stay with child(ren); free and open to the community

CONTACT: hrosenbaum@bethelwh.org, 860-233-9891

Monthly

Saturdays, Nov. 7, Dec. 5 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, Nov. 13, Dec. 4 5:45 - 6:45 PM

Family Service GRADES 3-6

All students will be invited to lead prayers with their classes. Children who play a musical instrument and wish to accompany a prayer at a future service should contact Rabbi Garber.

NOTE: Shabbat hors d'oeuvres follow services

Sat, Nov. 14, Dec. 5 11:00 AM - NOON

Shabbat Family Experience GRADES K-2

An age-appropriate Shabbat service; families will learn about the weekly Torah portion and enjoy special activities.

LEADER: Adrian Durlerster, aka Mr. D

Sat, Nov. 14, Dec. 5 11:00 AM - NOON

Shabbat Zone GRADES 3-6

A fun and interactive way for kids to experience Shabbat; snacks, prizes, games and fun!

Veterans' Day Shabbat Friday, November 6
Celebrate America 7:30 PM

Commemorate the 70th Anniversary of the end of WWII and the 40th Anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War with organ and choir under the direction of Cantor Ness, our Religious School students, and a veterans roll call. Guest Speaker: Rick Kinyon, Vietnam War Veteran

NOTE: this will be the only Shabbat service on November 6

REFRESHMENTS: Oneg follows at 9:00 PM

RSVP: Veterans, to be included in the roll call, contact Marcia Slotnick, herbandmuriel@sbcglobal.net, 860-236-2630 by 11/2 at noon

SPONSOR: Chai Society

JCL Special Needs Shabbat Service

Saturday, November 14
10:30 AM

This joyous and exuberant service is open to adults who have special needs as well as other worshippers who enjoy an abbreviated meaningful service filled with *ruach* (spirit and energy). The service typically includes the singing of prayers, storytelling by Sara deBeer, a Torah parade, and Shabbat-appropriate 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

Adult B'not Mitzvah Shabbat Service

Saturday, November 28
Services 9:30 AM

Congregational Lunch 12:00 PM

Celebrate this year's B'not Mitzvah Class as Marci Alter, Carolyn Gitlin, and Judy Resnick lead services and read from the Torah.

★ Enjoying Beth El

Beth El and Inclusiveness

Beth El has joined the growing number of houses of worship that have enacted Fragrance Free policies.

In order to assure that affected individuals are able to participate and enjoy Beth El, we request that you avoid wearing scented products.

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



★ Artist-in-Residence Week



December 7 – 13, 2015
with **Mordechai Rosenstein**

The Hebrew alphabet is the essence of the art of Mordechai Rosenstein. “The flowing forms of the letters have been an inspiration to me since my youth.” Mordechai’s love of these forms is evident in every piece he creates. His vibrant shapes and colors enhance synagogue interiors, tapestries, paintings, murals, and silk screen prints.



Illuminated Art at JTConnect

Monday, Dec. 7
7:00 - 8:40 PM

Teens will do a special “illuminated art” project.

RSVP: Heather Fiedler, 860-727-6110, heather@jtconnect.org
to reserve your spot.

In Celebration of Women

Wednesday, Dec. 9
7:30 PM

Through his art, see the role that women have played in history and in life. Discussion will be followed by a creative project with attendees.

SPONSOR: Women’s Network

REFRESHMENTS: wine and dessert

COST: free for paid-up WN members, \$5 guests, in advance

RSVP: by 12/4 to womensnetworkbethel@gmail.com

Art Is for All Ages!

Thursday, Dec. 10
2:30 PM

Seniors are invited to a *Chai Tea* and a special project designed just for them.

SPONSOR: Chai Society

RSVP: by 12/9 to the temple office

Creative Open House

Thursday, Dec. 10
10:00 AM - 2:00 PM
& Friday, Dec. 11
10:00 AM - 1:00 PM

An original painting will be created by Mordechai and presented to Beth El. You will have the opportunity to add a brush stroke, making this a truly collaborative community creation.

My Journey as an Artist

Friday, Dec. 11
Services 6:00 PM
Dinner 7:00 PM

Celebrate Shabbat with services, followed by a talk during a community dinner.

COST: \$16/adult, \$10/child under 13

RSVP: by 12/9 at noon, to
cdeer@bethelwh.org



The Art within Shabbat and Torah

Saturday, Dec. 12
9:30 AM

A special D’var Torah from Mordechai during services.

Pinot and Painting Beth El Paint Bar

Saturday, Dec. 12
7:00 PM

Create an original work of art while enjoying good food, company, and the sounds of live jazz riffs.

SPONSOR: BEMA (Beth El Music & Arts)

COST: \$8/general; \$5/BEMA Subscribers and Seniors (62+)

RSVP: by 12/10 at noon, to elianefreund@sbcglobal.net

The History of Creating Jewish Art

Sunday, Dec. 13
9:00 AM

Enjoy breakfast and a powerful slide show and stories about artwork created for families, organizations, synagogues and even celebrities.

SPONSOR: Men’s club

RSVP: by 12/10,, to dr.EyesJoe@gmail.com, 860-676-9878

COST: no charge, but Breakfast Sponsors welcome to commemorate a special occasion, contact Bruce Shein, 860-677-8330, bruceshein@comcast.net

Students and Art

N - Gr.2
Gr. 3 - 7

Sunday, Dec. 13
10:30 - 11:15 AM
11:15 AM - NOON

Students and parents will create a take-home artwork co-signed by the artist. SSDS families are invited.

SPONSOR: Religious School

NOTE: Nursery Grade 2

parents are invited to join their children for services following the program



★ Religious School Happenings



Thank you to Paula Steinberg and Laurie & Josh Kaufman, sponsors of the Lewis Steinberg Rabbinic Intern. We are excited to have Rabbi David Winship spend the year with us.



Special Events this month

Sunday, 11/8

- ✧ New York Trip – Students in Daled and Hai (grades 6-7) will travel to New York City and visit the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island.
- ✧ Mitzvot and Munchies – A light lunch and special mitzvah project for families with students in Nursery, Gan (K) and Bet (grade 4). Sponsored by PAG (Parent Action Group), it follows Religious School at noon. Please RSVP to the Religious School office.

Sunday, 11/15, school hours

- ✧ Jewish Book Month Program – Janice Hechter, award-winning children's book illustrator and Beth El member, will read her recently published book *Avi's Choice* to students in Gan through Gimel (grades K-5). It explores the struggle of putting others first and delivers the satisfaction of a choice well made. Students will be able to purchase the book and have it signed by Janice. Order forms will be sent home in advance of the program.

Madrichim

We are very lucky to have Beth El high school students as *Madrichim* in our Religious School. They assist our classroom teachers as well as tutor students in need of extra help with Hebrew. There is room for more, especially those with a strong Hebrew background.

Ahna Bielik	Lucy Gottfried	David Malakh
Lexi Blinder	Max Harris	Jordan Oberstein
Michael Cherny	Dara Hechter	Lilli Satlof
Liana Eisler	Hannah Kovel	Lily Shakun

CONTACT: Rabbi Rosenbaum, 860-233-9891, hrosenbaum@bethelwh.org

★ Lifelong Learning

Facing the Big Question: Bad Things, Good People. Why?

Wednesday, Nov. 4, 8:00 - 9:00 PM

For the final meeting of the class we are privileged to have two special panelists, Rev. Gretchen Sausville of the Westminster Presbyterian Church and our own Rabbi Garber. They will speak about their own views of God and suffering in a personal way. Rabbi Rosen will serve as moderator and questions/comments from the floor will be welcomed. Join us for a special and moving evening.

NOTE: prior participation in the class is not required
CONTACT: Temple office, 860-233-9696

Crash Course in Hebrew Reading

Level 1 Tues. 1:00-2:30 PM Regina Karas
Level 2 Thur. 12:00-1:00 PM Sidra Sperling

Learn to read Hebrew in only five 90-minute sessions. Level 2 is for those looking to strengthen their Hebrew reading skills for increased fluency.

NOTE: classes end the week of Nov. 16
COST: no charge; books provided
CONTACT: school office, 860-233-9891
SPONSOR: National Jewish Outreach Program

Weekly Classes

Mondays 1:30 - 3:00 PM

Personal & Family History

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

CONTACT: Betty, 860-233-4853, bhoffman3@comcast.net
COST: no charge, Beth El Temple members only

Tuesdays NOON - 1:00 PM

Lunch & Learn

Rabbi Rosen explores the Hebrew Bible. He has been going through the entire book, chapter by chapter, and newcomers are welcome at any time. He is currently in the Book of Second Kings.

Wednesdays 10:30 - 11:30 AM

Talmud Study

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.

★ Note the Power of Music at Beth El

An Afternoon of Contemporary Music

Free Concert Sunday, November 22, 4:00 PM

A performance of riveting 20th century music by Jewish composers who perished in the Holocaust; with Cantor Joseph Ness, baritone, Cyrus Stevens, violin, Donald Charlamb, piano.

COST: no charge

The 2015-2016 Music Series at Beth El

BEMA – Beth El Music & Arts

Cantor Joseph Ness, DIRECTOR

It's All Relative **December 20, 2015, 7:00 PM**

Broadway and Purim **March 20, 2016, 4:00 PM**

Yom Yerushalyim Celebration
June 5, 2016, 7:00 PM

COST: \$20/person/concert; \$15/senior/concert;
\$15/student/concert; free for children 12 and under

Hollywood and the Jews

Wednesday Music University Lecture Series

February 24, March 2, March 9, 2016, 7:00 PM

Three-part series with Cantor Ness, other scholars, and augmented by film and audio.

COST: no charge for the first two; \$5 at door on 3/9 for the film
SPONSOR: Beth El Music & Arts

Become a Subscriber Support BEMA and Enjoy the Benefits

- ♪ Three unique concerts! All directed, arranged, and conducted by our own Cantor Ness.
- ♪ Children 12 and under are always our complimentary guests at all concerts.

Sponsor Subscriptions

- ♪ Sponsors receive tickets to each concert and recognition in concert programs.
- ♪ Admission to the *Hollywood and the Jews* March 9 film is included.
- ♪ Sponsor levels, per person:

Conductor	\$500
Concertmaster	\$275
Principal	\$180

Series Subscriptions

- ♪ Get your tickets early and save \$5 on the cost of individual tickets at the door!
- | | |
|------------------|------|
| Adults | \$45 |
| Seniors/Students | \$30 |

NOTE: Opportunities for concerts in honor, in memory, or in celebration, of a loved one are available by contacting Robin Gelles, robinjgel@gmail.com, or Eliane Freund, elianefreund@sbcglobal.net.

★ Engaging Generations

USCJ Family Engagement Network

Great news! Beth El Temple was selected by United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism (USCJ) to participate in a new Family Engagement Network, an initiative geared toward involving young families in Jewish life and community. Beth El was one of only 20 congregations nationwide invited to participate.

USCJ's Family Engagement Network is a coalition of synagogue professionals and lay leaders dedicated to engaging young families in the many different aspects of Jewish life. Over the course of a year, Network members will participate in webinars and be able to connect with each other to share resources and ideas.

Thanks to our school's Parent Action Group (PAG) co-chairs, Lisa Karabelnik-Harris and Tammy

Krulowitz, for spearheading this initiative. Lisa, Tammy, and Rabbi Garber will be participating in mentoring phone calls with Rabbi Cara Weinstein Rosenthal, USCJ's Family Engagement Specialist and coordinator of the Family Engagement Network.

The work and enthusiasm of our PAG is very much in evidence throughout our school and congregational communities. A number of initiatives are coming up, including an intergenerational Chanukah party complete with dreidel spin-off in December and, working with our Men's Club, a Havdalah service followed by games and activities for all ages in February.

GET INVOLVED: the PAG group can be reached at the school office, 860-233-9891

★ November 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
November 1 19 Cheshvan ALL DAY Mitnick Educators Conference <div>No Religious School</div>	2 20 Cheshvan 10:00 AM Loaves & Fishes Soup Kitchen	3 21 Cheshvan <div>Election Day – Religious School is in session</div>	4 22 Cheshvan 8:00 PM Facing the Big Question
8 26 Cheshvan 12:00 PM <u>RS</u> Mitzvot & Munchies	9 27 Cheshvan	10 28 Cheshvan 6:45 PM Board Mtg. 7:30 PM Executive Session of the Board	11 29 Cheshvan
15 3 Kislev 9:00 AM Charter Oak Project, cook 9:15 AM <u>MC</u> Breakfast Program with Library Committee 10:00 AM KNITzvah Group	16 4 Kislev 5:30 AM Charter Oak Project, serve	17 5 Kislev 7:30 PM <u>MC</u> Board Mtg.	18 6 Kislev
22 10 Kislev 9:15 AM <u>RS</u> Thanksgiving Turkey Drive 4:00 PM An Afternoon of Contemporary Music (free concert) <div>Retreat ends 2:30 PM</div>	23 11 Kislev	24 12 Kislev 6:00 PM Executive Committee Meeting	25 13 Kislev <div>No Religious School</div>
29 17 Kislev <div>No Religious School</div>	30 18 Kislev	1 19 Kislev	2 20 Kislev 7:30 PM Empty Nester Moms

Daily Minyan Service Schedule

Mornings 7:00 AM Monday through Friday
 8:45 AM Sunday

Evenings 7:30 PM Sunday through Thursday

Shabbat שבת

Friday 6:00 PM Kabbalat Shabbat Services

Saturday 9:30 AM Shacharit, Torah Service, Musaf
 see grid Mincha, Ma'ariv, & Havdalah

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

unless
otherwise
noted in
the grid

Ongoing Weekly Programs

no registration required

Tue. 12:00 PM Lunch & Learn
 Wed. 10:30 AM Talmud Study
 Thu. 8:00 AM Bible & Breakfast
 Fri. 10:00 AM bebe - Beth El Babies Exploring
 Sat. 9:30 AM Children's Playroom

Please note the use of the following abbreviations:

MC Men's Club CS Chai Society
WN Women's Network RS Religious School

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

5 23 Cheshvan	6 24 Cheshvan 7:30 PM <u>CS</u> Veterans Day Program and Shabbat Service (Note: There is no 6:00 PM service this evening) Candle Lighting: 4:19 PM	7 25 Cheshvan Parsha Chayei Sarah Birthday Shabbat 9:30 PM B/M Harrison Margolis 4:30 PM B/M Sophia Kaufman Havdalah: 5:18 PM
12 30 Cheshvan Rosh Chodesh 6:45 PM Special Session Board Mtg, with Executive Session	13 1 Kislev Rosh Chodesh 5:45 PM Family Service Candle Lighting: 4:12 PM	14 2 Kislev Parsha Toldot 10:30 AM JCL Service 11:00 AM Tumbling with Torah / Shabbat Family Experience / Shabbat Zone 4:20 PM Mincha, Ma'ariv & Havdalah Havdalah: 5:11 PM
19 7 Kislev	20 8 Kislev Refresh, ReJEWvenate, Renew – Spiritual Retreat for Women, Friday, 2:30 PM, through Sunday, 2:30 PM Candle Lighting: 4:06 PM	21 9 Kislev Parsha Vayeitzei 9:30 AM B/M Eli Stevens 4:15 PM Mincha, Ma'ariv & Havdalah Havdalah: 5:05 PM
26 14 Kislev 9:00 AM Morning Minyan	27 15 Kislev Candle Lighting: 4:02 PM	28 16 Kislev Parsha Vayishlach 9:30 AM Adult B'not Mitzvah Service 11:00 AM Tumbling with Torah 4:10 PM Mincha, Ma'ariv & Havdalah Havdalah: 5:02 PM
3 21 Kislev	4 22 Kislev 5:45 PM Family Service Candle Lighting: 4:00 PM	5 23 Kislev Parsha Vayeishev Birthday Shabbat 11:00 AM Tumbling with Torah / Shabbat Family Experience / Shabbat Zone 4:10 PM B/M Will Schoen Havdalah: 5:00 PM

Multi-Week Class no registration required
Wed. 8:00 PM Facing the Big Question (ends Nov. 4)

Multi-Week Classes

pre-registration and/or payment required

Mon. 1:00 PM Personal and Family History Workshop
Tue. 1:00 PM Hebrew Crash Course-1 (ends 11/17)
Thu. 12:00 PM Hebrew Crash Course-2 (ends 11/19)
Thu. 7:00 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal

Religious School ~ Special Activities

Sun. 8th 8:00 AM Daled/Hai Trip to Ellis Island
Sun. 8th NOON PAG Mitzvot and Munchies
Sun. 15th 10:30 AM Author Program – Janice Hechter, grades K-5

No School: 11/1, 11/25, 11/29
School is in session on Election Day: 11/3

★ Supporting Beth El

We are grateful for the following contributions (received through September 30, 2015)

The minimum donation
for each listing in
Temple Topics is \$10.

Camp Ramah Fund

IN APPRECIATION OF

Rabbi Howard Rosenbaum for serving on
Beit Din – **John Kreinest**

Cantor's Music Fund

IN APPRECIATION OF

Cantor Ness for serving on Beit Din – **John Kreinest**

IN HONOR OF

80th birthday of Bernie Selig – **Morris Banks, Sheila & Howard Mark, Edie Sherman**

25th wedding anniversary of Loren & Joel Gelber – **Meryl & Mitchell Danitz**
Stephanie Gold, daughter of Susan & Bob, graduating from high school – **Ava & Harold Geetter**

60th birthday of Robin Gelles – **Tammy & Marc Levine**

New home of Bobby & David Klau – **Meryl & Elliott Rosenberg**

IN MEMORY OF

David DeCastro Robles, father – **The Aronson Family**

Harold Mindell, husband of Constance – **Morris Banks**

Lori Jean Dimon, sister of Lee Ann Benadiva – **Bettina & Mario Cohen**
Pauline Ness, mother of Cantor Joseph Ness – **Elisa Wagner**

Cemetery Fund

FOR THE YAHRZEIT OF

Seymour Poles, husband & father – **Fay Poles & family**
Freda Wiener, mother-in-law – **Bernice Wiener**

Education Fund

IN HONOR OF

Diane Lieberfarb – **Caryl Goldberg**
Barbara Checknoff – **Rayna Segelman & family**

IN MEMORY OF

Vivienne Jones, mother of Gary – **Lisa & Gary Schwartz**

Rabbi Rosen's Discretionary Fund

IN APPRECIATION OF

Rabbi Rosen – **Ginny & Wayne Eklund, Penny & Arthur Fallman, Jeanne & Dan Kleinman, Myra & Bill Kleinman, Jan & Harold Moskowitz, Lois Siegal, Ruth Yancovich**

Rabbi Rosen for officiating at our marriage – **Jillian & Josh Feldman**

Rabbi Rosen for marriage of daughter Elisabeth to Doron Roth – **Michele & Dane Kostin**

Rabbi Rosen for presiding over Beit Din – **John Kreinest**

IN HONOR OF

MSW degree for Adina Rosen and Rabbinical ordination of Ariella Rosen, daughters of Nancy & Rabbi Jim Rosen – **Ava & Harold Geetter**

Diane Lieberfarb – **Janet Goldman**
Leah Katz reading the Haftarah – **Holly & Jerry Swirsky**

IN MEMORY OF

Terry Marcus, mother of Mitchell – **Gary Belt, Gail & Barry Deutsch**
Lori Jean Dimon, sister of Lee Ann Benadiva – **Sheila & Mike Reiner & family**

Gerda Lion, mother of Helene Springer – **Rhonda & Robert Sattin**
Anne Schupack, mother of Beth Schilberg – **Louise Koppleman**

FOR THE YAHRZEIT OF

Lionel Stern, father – **Stacey & Eric Shore**

Rabbi Garber's Discretionary Fund

IN APPRECIATION OF

Rabbi Garber – **Eleanor Jainchill**

IN HONOR OF

Naming of son, Ilan Kest – **Tali & Stephen Kest**

Rabbi Garber – **Jeanne & Dan Kleinman, Myra & Bill Kleinman**

80th birthday of Bernie Selig – **Diane & Richard Lieberfarb**

WISHING GOOD HEALTH TO

Rabbi Ilana Garber – **Gilda Liebowitz, Bonnie & Jay Roston, Florence Shakun**
Judy Rosenthal – **Diane & Richard Lieberfarb**

Taste of Shabbat Fund

IN HONOR OF

105th birthday of Lillian Hillman – **Lois & Chuck Koteen**

Judge Henry Cohn for marriage of Scott Gladstein to Christina Johnson – **Michelle & Eric Gladstein, Alison & Edward Demarest**

IN MEMORY OF

Vivienne Jones, mother of Gary – **Annette & Sy Gavens**

Tsedakah/Chesed Fund

IN APPRECIATION OF

Dr. Ron Buckman – **John Kreinest**



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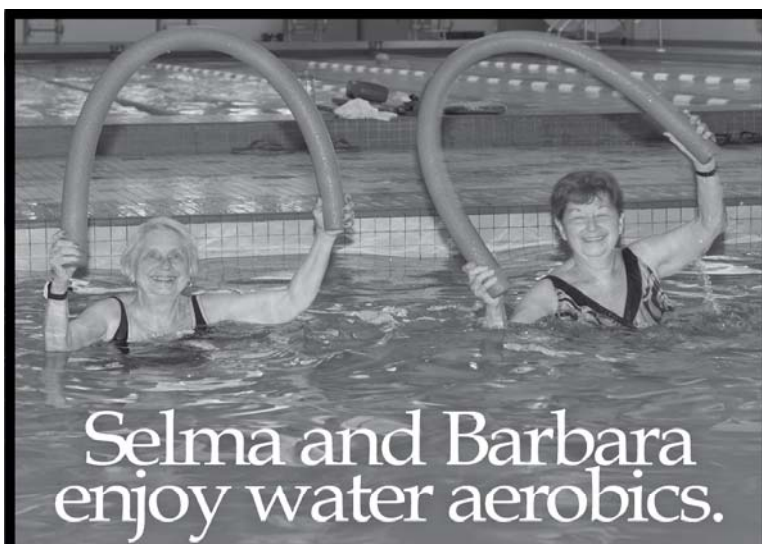
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Chai Society Fund

IN HONOR OF

90th birthday of David Brody – Florence Shakun

Temple Fund

IN HONOR OF

90th birthday of David Brody – Evelyn Dvorin

Birth of Adam & Evan Faust, grandsons of Ruth Anne & Halley – Ava & Harold Geetter

105th birthday of Lillian Hillman – Renana & Ron Kadden, Bea Margolis

80th birthday of Bernie Selig – Alice & Adam Leshem

IN MEMORY OF

Terry Marcus, mother of Mitchell – Leslie & Paul Korus, Kerry & Fernando Rausch

FOR THE YAHRZEIT OF

Leon Abkowicz, father – Marilyn & Leslie Abkowicz

Rebecca Brody, mother & grandmother – Shirley & David Brody & family

Herman Roy Sternstein, father – Marilyn Bubbs

Bernie Reisman, father; Judy Conway, mother – Sharon & Steve Conway

Seymour Gold, father – Sandy & Marc Friedman

Ethel Corash, sister – Sarah Friedman

Norton Glass, brother-in-law; Valerie Draheim, Holocaust remembrance – Nan Glass

Ida Gillman, mother – Felice Goldman

Pearl Harnett Orlofsky, grandmother – Nancy & Dennis Gottfried

Tillie Redlus, mother; Antonia Drabiec, Holocaust remembrance – Judith & Al Greenspoon

Bernice Kosofsky, mother – Vivian Haas

Benjamin Kleinman, father – Deborah & Steven Kleinman

Sybil Simon, mother – Gina Koppel

Sam Lerer, father – Andre Lerer

Perry Scott Levy, son – Judie & Coleman Levy

Barbara Levy, mother – Randi Levy

Larry Malitz, husband – Marjorie Malitz

Harriet Treach, mother – Lynn & Joel Malkoff

Ruth Moskowitz, mother – Harold Moskowitz

Mollie & Samuel Pollack, parents – Elliott Pollack

Gladys Rose Eisner, mother – Sue Eisner Saidel

Hyman Shakun, father-in-law – Florence Shakun

Norton Seltzer, father; Ann Seltzer, grandmother; Richard Shakun, father – Karen & Roy Shakun

Jennie Newman, mother; Carolyn Zaretsky, sister – Marcia & Herb Slotnick

Sylvia & Albert Drucker, parents & grandparents – Paula Steinberg & Laurie Kaufman & family

Jack Smith, father – Suzanne Sussman

Harold Epstein, father – Susan Ungar

Dionyz Stein, Holocaust remembrance – Susan & Stuart Wachtel

David Levin, father – Roslyn Yellin

Albert Zern, father – Howard Zern

Nora Zimmerman, mother – Dr. Richard Zimmerman

ENDOWMENT FUNDS

Irving & Shirley Gutcheon Congregant Assistance Fund

IN APPRECIATION OF

Paulette & Jim Lotstein – Lois & Chuck Koteen

Henry Matthew Hillman Youth Scholarship Fund

IN HONOR OF

105th birthday of aunt, Lillian Hillman – Billie Greenberg

Koteen Family Fund

FOR THE YAHRZEIT OF

Boris Levitsky, father – Lois & Chuck Koteen

★ Supporting Beth El, cont.

Friends Fund for Members in Need

IN HONOR OF

Special birthday of Fran Weiner; MSW degree for Adina Rosen and Rabbinical ordination of Ariella Rosen, daughters of Nancy & Rabbi Jim Rosen – **Annette & Jack Levine**

Lois Koteen's presidency; Diane Lieberfarb becoming President – **Judy & David Rosenthal**

IN MEMORY OF

Kay Krichavsky, mother of Jack – **Judy & David Rosenthal, Caryn & Adam Solomon**

FOR THE YAHRZEIT OF

Lillian Rosenfield, mother; Hilda Rosenthal, mother – **Judy & David Rosenthal**

WISHING GOOD HEALTH TO

Rabbi Ilana Garber – **Annette & Jack Levine**

WISHING A SPEEDY RECOVERY

Judy Rosenthal – **Lois & Chuck Koteen**

Kreinik Family Endowment Fund

IN MEMORY OF

Belle Miller, mother of Abbey Kreinik – **Morris Banks**

FOR THE YAHRZEIT OF

Arthur Kreinik, father – **Abbey & Stephen Kreinik**

Ruth Sweedler Family Endowment Fund

IN APPRECIATION OF

Ruth Sweedler – **Lois & Chuck Koteen**

Lois & Alvin Reiner Family Fund

IN HONOR OF

Special birthday of Al Reiner – **Jeanne & Marshall Elman**

Rosen Family Kehillah Kedosha Fund

IN HONOR OF

Lake Nordenbadger's 30th year – **Lois & Chuck Koteen**

Michael & Susan Schenker Endowment Fund

IN HONOR OF

Marriage of Elisabeth Kostin, daughter of Michele & Dane, to Doron Roth – **Susan & Michael Schenker**

IN MEMORY OF

Barbara Putterman, mother of Bruce – **Susan & Michael Schenker**

Sowalsky Gabbai Rishon Endowment Fund

IN APPRECIATION OF

Rabbi Howard Sowalsky – **Arthur Greenblatt, Jan & Harold Moskowitz**

IN HONOR OF

90th birthday of David Brody; marriage of Linda Sabatelli to Paul Irving Brody – **Shirley S. Brody**

I. Milton Widem Adult Education Fund

IN MEMORY OF

Selma Widem, mother of Larry – **Shelley & Robert Langer & family**

Marshall & Sandra Rulnick Endowment Fund

IN APPRECIATION OF

Aliyah prior to Israel trip – **Marshall Rulnick**

Amy E. Toyen Endowment Fund

FOR THE YAHRZEIT OF

Leo Simon, father – **Marilyn Rothstein**
Amy E. Toyen, daughter of Dorine & Marty – **Barbara & Adam Fischler, Allison & Alan Gittleman**

General Unrestricted Endowment Fund

IN APPRECIATION OF

Ruth & Howard Sovronsky – **Debbie Shulansky**

IN HONOR OF

80th birthday of Bernie Selig – **Annette & Sy Gavens, Barrie Kreinik**
90th birthday of uncle, David Brody – **Caren & Larry Peters**

WISHING A SPEEDY RECOVERY

Dick Weinstein – **Joan & Dan Fine**

Every dollar contributed can and does make a difference, and will be properly acknowledged. The minimum donation for each listing is \$10.

From the Beth El Office Staff:

Please do not leave checks, receipts, or notes on employee desks. Please do not slide items under closed doors.

Please put all checks and receipts in the black *inbox* next to Laurea Esau's office door. It is next to the coat rack to the left upon entering the office.

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★ Recognizing Our Volunteers

High Holidays

Making our high holidays enjoyable for all takes a true community: many, many Beth El'ers volunteer each year in a variety of ways. We thank those listed below. If we left you out, please let us know. We try to cover everyone, but don't always get there. Todah Rabah. Thank you very much.

Preparing the Sanctuary

Cleaning our ritual objects

Tallitot, including
retying the tzitzit

Anonymous
individual

Torah Mantels &
Binders

The Reiner family –
Al, Gail, and
James

Silver adorning our
Torahs

Marlena DeRosa
Ellie Jainchill
Michael Klein
Ellen Sanders-
Nirenstein

Greeters

Diane Lieberfarb, *chair*

Jonathan Alter
Stephen Aronson
Meryl Danitz
Sheila Diamond

David Diamond
Jacob Kovel
Jerry Leshem
Roz Rachlin

Judith Rosenthal
Ellen Sanders-
Nirenstein
Stuart Wachtel

Honors Coordinators

Susan Gold, *chair*
Stuart Bernstein
Meryl Danitz
Sharon Efron
Len Eisenfeld

Loren Gelber
Bob Gold
Rebecca Gold
Neil Kochen
Michael Schenker

Bruce Stanger
Linda Stanger
Francine Stier
Bruce Sussman

Ushers

Sharon Levine-Shein & Karyn
Schwartz, *co-chairs*

Stephen Aronson
Carrie Berman
Stuart Bernstein
Roberta Buland
Alan Cetel
Stu Cohen
Dave Diamond
Sheila Diamond
Scott Dolin
Tom Falik
Eliane Freund

Josh Gottfried
Harley Graime
Albert Greenspoon
Leonard Guthart
John Hinze
Jacob Kovel
Abbey Kreinik
Justin Kudler
Sharon Neiberg
Fred Pliskin
Deborah Rosenfeld

Judith Rosenthal
Ron Salm
Ellen Sanders-
Nirenstein
Phil Schulz
Marshall Shakun
Bruce Shein
Joe Springut
Gary Starr
Robert Sternschein
Stuart Wachtel
Carolyn Weiser
Douglas Wolf

Teen Torah Readers

Charlotte Apter
Shayna Aronson
Hannah Bash
Sasha Bash
Ahna Bielik
Noah Gelber
Emily Gershman
Rebecca Gold
Elijah Gottfried

Lucy Gottfried
Max Harris
Dara Hechter
Sam Katz
Isabel Kaufman
Marissa Kaufmann
Marissa Lazinsk
Sarah Lazinsk
Ariel Leshem

Claire Peikes
Jonathan Peikes
Ariel Reiser
Sarah Rosenfeld
Rachel Selzer
Samm Smith-
Rapaport
Noah Stanton
Sydney Weiser

Choirs and Soloists

Adult Choir

Daniel Cohen
Diane Dolin
Allan Geetter
Harold Geetter
Robin Gelles
Joel Goodman
Eva Kaplan
Melinda Kaufmann
Jeanne Kleinman
Robin Lazinsk
Peter Levine
Richard Lieberfarb

Melissa Mentzer
Lance Reiser
Shelly Rosenberg
Joshua Rosenfeld
Mat Saidel
Reuel Stoltz
Elisa Wagner

Student Choir,
grades 4-8

Nathan Chinitz
Sadie Margolis
Noah Yontef
Mathog

Jared Stevens
Alyssa Temkin
Sophie Tulchinsky
Jessie Zweifler

Teen and College
Soloists

Alyssa Barzach
Heather Beinstock
Zachary Herz
Isabel Kaufman
Jordan Lazinsk
Sydney Weiser

Madrichim

Teen helpers in the classrooms and children's programs

Ahna Bielik
Lexi Blinder
Michael Cherny
Liana Eisler

Lucy Gottfried
Max Harris
Dara Hechter
Hannah Kovel

David Malakh
Jordan Oberstein
Lilli Satlof
Lily Shakun

Treats after Services

Apples & Honey Sticks, Martini's & Munchies – Men's Club

Neilah Break Fast – Alison Demarest, on behalf of the Women's
Network

Shabbat Shuvah Lake Norden Badger Lunch

Howard Meyerowitz, head chef

Ahna Bielik Tom Falik Sue Meyerowitz Gary Rubin
Beth Brumberg Susan Gold Jane Rubin Joe Springut

Bimah Decorators for Sukkot – Women's Network

Sharon Levine-
Shein

Jeanne Elman
Alison Demarest

Laura Kinyon
Beth Papermaster

Simchat Torah - Hakafot Leaders

We sing and dance on this holiday
celebrating reaching the end of the
Torah, and beginning again.

Diane Dolin Susan Gold Shelley
Ron Ferraro Peter Levine Rosenberg
Allan Geetter Richard Matt Saidel
Harold Lieberfarb Elisa Wagner
Geetter Lance Reiser Jay Wolman

from the Children's Choir: Noah Yontef
Mathog and Sophie Tulchinsky with
members of the Religious School 5th grade
Dancing led by Lori Yontef Mathog and the
Israeli Emissaries
Len Ormland, guitar

Jesse's Community Garden

Nearly all produce went to Jewish
Family Services; some for special
projects at Beth El. We produced

over 300 tomatoes, 75 peppers,
100 cucumbers, 100 carrots,
some squash, and of course
horseradish.

Planters, Waterers, Weeders, Pickers, Deliverers, and
Cleaner-Uppers

Barbara Brown
David Brown
Alison Demarest
Ava Geetter
Harold Geetter
Herb Hoffman
Carol Johnson

Dane Kostin, *chair*

Michele Kostin
Dan Kulakofsky
Judy Kulakofsky
Eileen McMurrer
Melissa Mentzer
Howard
Meyerowitz

Leigh Newman
Amy Nulsen
Joanne Rome
Kim Roth
Marvin Sperling
Sidra Sperling

Horseradish for Pesach

Dan Kulakofsky
Howard Meyerowitz
Daled Classes,
2014-2015

★ Enjoying Beth El

Special Programs During Religious School

Younger students with their stuffed animals for Noah's Ark; Daled students harvested (and ate!) greens at Adamah Farm; Hai students hosted clients of JCL for a Sukkot program.



In the Unlikely Event

Women's Network kicked off the new year with lunch in the sukkah and a book discussion on Judy Blume's *In the Unlikely Event*. We welcomed Alana Blum, Literacy Coordinator, Hartford Jewish Coalition for Literacy, and collected books for young school children. Judy Mandell joined us to share her memoir, *Replacement Child*, and her personal connection to the events depicted in Judy Blume's book.



PICTURED: Beth Papermaster, Alana Blum, Program Chair Melissa Weinstock, Judy Mandell, and Rabbi Ilana Garber

Wiesen Family Sponsors Program

This year's Men's Club kickoff breakfast on September 27th featured Rob King, Sr. VP, Sports Center and News at ESPN. In an engaging presentation, Rob shared stories about his career, behind-the-scenes stories at ESPN, and how sports have evolved since ESPN's founding in 1978.

This breakfast was sponsored by the Wiesen family in memory of Stanley Wiesen. It was the first of ten breakfasts over a ten-year period that will be sponsored by Stan's family through a very generous contribution given to the Men's Club. Stan's passion was sports and it was fitting that a sports program was chosen for the first breakfast. Stan was very active in the Men's Club over several decades, culminating in his receiving the Distinguished Service Award in 2008.



The Men's Club is very grateful to the Wiesen family for their generosity.



The Best of Jewish Comedy

At a Chai Society lunch, Charlie Bernhaut (father of congregant Beth Papermaster) shared his passion for Jewish music, especially cantorial, and his recordings of Jewish comedians. He is a radio and website broadcaster from New York.



★ Relational Judaism

What Does Relational Judaism Mean to You?

How do we express Community You Can Believe In?

If you are seeking volunteer opportunities at Beth El, whether long term or short term, involving our Caring Committee or our Adult Choir, writing Tribute Cards or preparing meals, providing transportation or becoming part of one of our standing committees, please contact Diane Lieberfarb.

Begin this New Year prepared to make a difference! Commit to attending morning and/or evening minyan when you can, participate in our Lunch and Learn program on Tuesdays at noon, Talmud Study on

Wednesday mornings, and Bible and Breakfast following Thursday morning minyan. Connect to PAG, our Parent Action Group, Women's Network, Men's Club, and Chai Society. Support music and arts through our outstanding BEMA committee and become involved in our Social Action initiatives. Make it a point to invite new faces to your Kiddush Luncheon table following services. Reach out beyond your comfort zone and make others feel welcome. I look forward to hearing from you!

CONTACT: Diane Lieberfarb, president@bethelwh.org

★ Engaging Generations

A Warm Welcome to New Members

Kim & Jason DiBella, Benjamin
Casey & Debbie Dylan, Jacob and Danny
Ethan & Ellen Foxman, Ben, Sam & Rachel
Anne Riener
Dr. Jeremy Fried & Dr. Ilana Waynik,
Lila, Noa and Danya
Libby & Matthew Wentworth, Jeffrey

Congratulations

Ruth Anne & Halley Faust, birth of their grandchildren Adam & Evan Faust
Joyce & Richard Leibert, birth of their grandsons, Harrison Martin Mahoney & Henry Marshall Williams
Ellen & Stuart Roth, on the birth of their grandson, Jackson Lancelot Richards

Mazal Tov! and Appreciation for Sponsoring a Kiddush or Lunch

Leah & Peter Katz, in honor of Leah's 50th anniversary Bat Mitzvah
Michelle Brisman & David Priest, in honor of their son Mark's bar mitzvah

Of Blessed Memory

Mark Epstein, brother of Susan Ungar
Terry Marcus, mother of Mitchell Marcus
Joseph Appelbaum, step-father of Alan Tuvim

Please let us know of the Simchas and Sorrows in your life that you would like to share with your Beth El family. Send an email to Laurea at LEsau@bethelwh.org.

This Month's Bar and Bat Mitzvah Celebrations



ADULT B'NOT MITZVAH
(left-right)
Carolyn Gitlin
Judy Resnick
Marci Alter
November 28, 2015

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



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★ Doing Mitzvot

Xmas Day Mitzvah Day **Friday, December 25**

Please join us for another day of giving at this year's Xmas Day Mitzvah Day. It is a rewarding way for the members of our Beth El Family to demonstrate their ongoing support for West Hartford and surrounding communities.

South Congregational Church **20 volunteers**
90 Main Street 6:00 AM - 3:30 PM
New Britain

Prep, cook, serve, clean up. Additional volunteers needed for deliveries to neighboring homes.

Peter's Retreat **5-6 volunteers**
123 Retreat Avenue 2:00 - 3:30 PM
Hartford

Cook, set tables, and serve dinner for 20-25 people.

Hebrew Home and Hospital **15 volunteers**
1 Abrahms Boulevard 8:00 AM - 3:30 PM
West Hartford

All ages wanted to socialize with residents, play games, do arts and crafts, etc.

Hands On Hartford **20 volunteers**
Christ Church Cathedral 9:15 AM - 2:00 PM
45 Church Street, Hartford
Serve dinner at 11:30 AM, and then help clean up.

RSVP: by 12/17, xmasmitzvah2015@gmail.com,

Beth, 860-238-0039, Georgianne, 860-233-6496

NOTE: volunteer spots are limited and tend to fill up early.
Please reply as soon as possible to get your first choice.

Loaves & Fishes Soup Kitchen

Mon, Nov. 2, Dec. 7, 10:00 AM - 12:45 PM

The group prepares and serves lunch to approximately 80 clients.

LOCATION: Immanuel Church, Woodland St, Hartford

CONTACT: Ellen Solomon, gingy81434@hotmail.com

KNITzvah Group

Sun, Nov. 15, Dec. 6, 10:00 - 11:30 AM

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

CONTACT: Annette Gavens, sygavens@aol.com

Charter Oak Project

Cook Sun, 11/15, 12/6 9:00 - 11:00 AM

Serve Mon, 11/16, 12/7 5:30 - 7:00 PM

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

LOCATION: cook at Beth El, serve at Charter Oak Cultural Center, Charter Oak Ave, Hartford

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

Turkey Drive

for JFS Kosher Food Pantry

Sun, Nov. 22, 8:30 AM - 12:00 PM

Volunteers are needed throughout the morning to receive the turkeys (kosher and non-kosher) and cash donations from our generous donors.

LOCATION: Religious School entrance

CONTACT: Rabbi Rosenbaum,
hrosenbaum@bethelwh.org

SPONSOR: Religious School