

Purim 5781



Mishloach Manot FOR ALL MEMBERS!

Page 5

Be★

*Community You
Can Believe In*

TEMPLE
topics

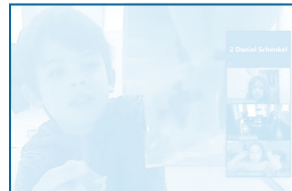
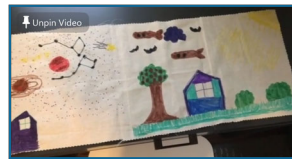
January-February
2021

Tevet-Shevat-Adar
5781

- ☆ BEMA: Piano Recital & a Cantor Concert *page 3*
- ☆ Caring for Our Beth El Community *page 11*
- ☆ Special Programs *page 20*

★ SULAM Beth El - Seek. Understand. Learn. Act. Marvel.

SULAM lessons on Sunday morning are engaging and relevant. Our educators and our learners look forward to seeing one another and learning together.



SULAM learners completed a unit entitled *Sukkat Shalom*, a *sukkah* (shelter) of peace. They explored the concept of safety and protection, shared personal examples of shelter and comfort, discussed ways that we could each create *sukkat shalom* other than physical structures, and identified key elements of *sukkat shalom* in our lives, with thought given to the vulnerability of a *sukkah* and the resilience of those who pay attention to strengthening it.

2nd graders learn about *Sukkat Shalom* – a shelter of peace – through creative projects, including Shrinky Dinks!

Lessons are taught on Zoom, with projects and challenges done at home at the convenience of families. Project materials are provided for our learners from Beth El prior to the start of each unit.

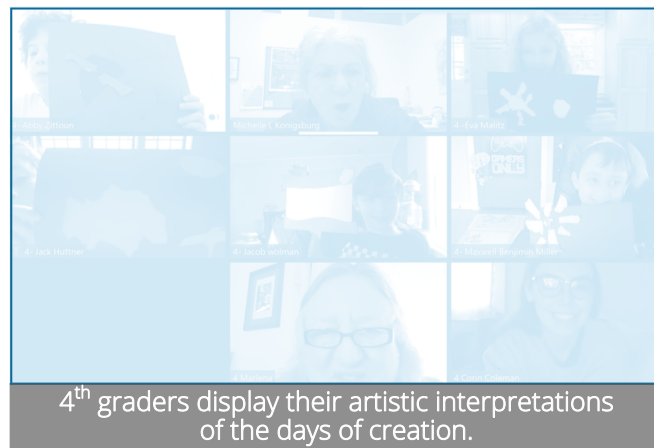
We will be exploring *Ometz Lev* – strength of the heart, or inner strength – how we deal with our Big Feelings; and

G'vurah – courage – how we use our individual power and strength for good.

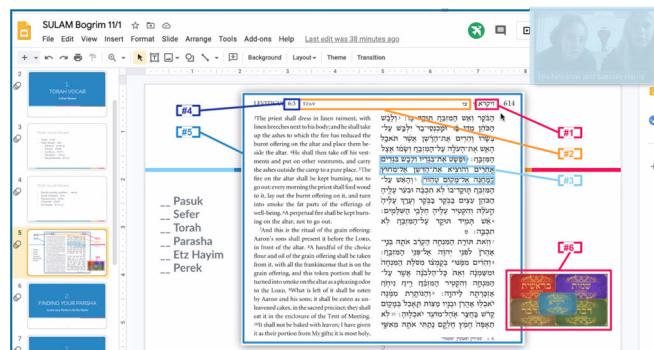
TO REGISTER YOUR CHILD:
mkonigsburg@bethelwh.org



Sawyer, our music educator, demonstrates the hand-motions of *David Melech Yisrael*



4th graders display their artistic interpretations of the days of creation.



7th graders learn the vocabulary and components necessary for successful exploration of their individual b'nai mitzvah parshiyot (Torah portions)



Madricha Sophie Kudler leads our youngest learners in Hebrew language exercises

★ Enjoying Beth El

It was stiff competition for the Ugly Sweater Contest during Beth El's *Chanukah's Final Night* event on Zoom. All the winners graciously announced they would donate their Amazon gift card prizes to families in need.



1st place:
Debbie & Steve Kleinman



2nd place:
Ilana Waynick & Jeremy Freed



3rd place:
Robin & Rafael Santiago

★ Enjoying Beth El

MUSICAL MOMENTS

JANUARY THRU MARCH 2021
GREAT PERFORMERS, MANY GENRES & CANDID CONVERSATIONS WITH CANTOR NESS

TUESDAY, JANUARY 5, 8PM ROMANTIC PIANO RECITAL

Pianist Corbin Beisner performs a heavenly program created especially for Beth El Temple. Includes works by Frederic Chopin & Franz Liszt. Broadcast live from Beth El Temple.
Registration: <https://tinyurl.com/BEMABeisner>



SUNDAY, JANUARY 24, 8PM FROM BIMAH TO BROADWAY

Noted Cantor Azi Schwartz's music is beloved by both Jewish and non-Jewish audiences, for the emotion it evokes and for Cantor Schwartz's artistry. This online event is part of the BEMA 2021 online season.
Registration: <https://tinyurl.com/Bimah2Broadway>



SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 8PM SHALOM 2021/JAZZ, POPS & MORE

Join us for a fun evening of songs you love with performers you know!
Event Registration: watch for your link at betheltemplemusic.com and in your Temple email



WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10, 1PM CHAI SOCIETY: GUITAR & VOCALS

Join Chai Society and BEMA for a fabulous afternoon of music with David Stoltz, guitar, and LeeAnn Lovelace, vocals.
Event Registration: watch for your link at betheltemplemusic.com and in your Temple email



WATCH OUT ALL SEASON LONG
"POP-UP" RECITALS & MUSICAL CONVERSATIONS WITH CANTOR JOSEPH NESS.

2021 ONLINE SEASON BROUGHT TO YOU
BY BEMA: BETH EL MUSIC & ARTS

MUSICAL CHATS WITH CANTOR JOSEPH NESS



MONDAY, JANUARY 4, 1PM
Mahler and the Decline of the European Idea

MONDAY, JANUARY 18, 1PM
The American Songster

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 1PM
The Music of Israel: The Story of Hatikvah & Patriotic Music

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 1PM
Songs of Purim: The History of Purim Shpeil

MONDAY, MARCH 8, 1PM
Great Jewish Musicians: from Heifetz to Rubinstein to Benny Goodman

MONDAY, MARCH 22, 1PM
Songs of Passover

WATCH YOUR INBOX AND THE BETH EL WEBSITE FOR LINKS TO THE "CHATS"

PAST CHATS ARE AVAILABLE AT [BETHELTEMPLEMUSIC.COM](http://betheltemplemusic.com)

★ From the Rabbi's Desk - Beginnings



The past year of 2020 was so painful and hard for us all. We can't help but hope to consign the year of COVID-19 to the past and hope, pray, and work for something far better in 2021.

I believe we might all be inspired by what Jewish tradition says about beginnings and hope.

Our tradition has a way of reinvigorating life by presenting a new slate of possibilities in not one but four New Years. Taken together, these points in time might serve as a guide and reminder of what matters in a good life.

We all know about Rosh Hashanah on the 1st of Tishrei. This is the New Year for the holiday cycle but also the time of our ethical and spiritual rebirth. Through reflection, repentance, and even entertainment we achieve a clean slate for a new start.

But a month before that, in Elul, we find the New Year for Tithes. A tithe is something that is given away in honor of God, or to support each other. Generosity is one of the key ingredients of being human. We are what we share.

In the spring, in the month of Nissan, is the New Year for Kings. This date marks the time for counting the reigns of monarchs. In ancient Israel, there were 48 kings and queens. Some were wise and good. Others were neither. But all were supposed to have a copy of the Torah always with them. This was to serve as a reminder that the leader was subject to the law and not the other way around.

★ Cantor's Corner - The Validation



ideas.

These months of cold winter weather are adding, palpably, to nearly a year of constraints on our lives. Part of me would like to forget everything that has happened and find a time to restart

the "New Year," as if what we have been endlessly going through is a dark hallucination with a litany of challenges. But I find myself thinking that maybe there is another approach to all of this.

How can we **validate** 2020 as the new year quickly approaches? How can we use what we have been experiencing in the past year to make a positive difference in the months ahead?

Perhaps we can attempt to 'revisit' the beginning of this year to find

themes that are relevant to what we were working on or hoping for. Maybe we were anticipating a wedding, or a Bar/Bat Mitzvah; maybe it was a graduation or the hope of singing in a choir or musical. Perhaps there was an expectation of a trip to some new place or a reconnection with friends and family for the Passover seder, or Thanksgiving...and so much more...

In the final analysis, it seems that much of what we yearn for as

(continues on facing page)

It is also the month of the Exodus from Egypt. As such, it is the reminder that it is freedom that makes everything else possible in life. It is the treasure that makes it possible for us to be a people that journeys to Sinai to receive the Torah. It is the ingredient for human dignity for all people.

Finally, the New Year for Trees, Tu BiShevat, which we observe in just a few weeks.

It is this New Year that celebrates the very first hints of spring in the land of Israel. Saplings will be planted, their growth nurtured. It is a sign of the miracle of rebirth of how a tiny seed will in time grow into a grand symbol of beauty. It is no wonder the Torah is called a Tree of Life. It, too, brings us roots and branches, an anchoring in the soil of meaning, and nurturance to grow throughout our lives.

The daylight grows longer. Vaccines are coming. Healing slowly but persistently pushes upward through the earth. The hope and dignity symbolized by these Jewish beginnings have prepared us for this time. May we see this healthy future come speedily – for us all.

Nancy and I also want to thank you, our Beth El family, for the outpouring of support you have provided us with the loss of our mother and mother-in-law Elsie Farber. She loved this community and felt so much at home here. As a result, she chose to celebrate her 100th birthday at our services last year. You were a blessing to her as you continue to be for us.

~ Rabbi Jim Rosen

★ Reflections from the President



Welcome 2021! As we begin the New Year making our resolutions, or at the very least, thinking about them, we say goodbye to 2020 and the unimaginable unknowns we have all experienced. At the same time that we celebrated the festival of Chanukah and its bright lights, the miracle of the COVID-19 vaccine became a reality giving us hope for brighter days ahead – and the chances we will have to gather together in person.

Let's all pause, for a minute, and ask ourselves: What have we learned? How are we feeling? How hard has it been for so many of us to keep at it day after day? Certainly, it has not been easy.

I think it is fair to say that we at Beth El have learned a great deal.

A Shot in the Arm

Our dedicated clergy and entire Beth El team have worked tirelessly to show us the way forward. We have reached out to our Beth El family more than we ever thought possible, reminding ourselves why we must hold close those we love and continue to extend care to those who may not have loved ones to offer vital support. We reached out by telephone, by zoom and livestreaming, with live minyans and Shabbats, with drive-bys to recognize celebrations and with musical programs and concerts offered by Cantor Ness and BEMA.

Women's Network, Men's Club and Chai Society reached out as well with engaging programs, often joining forces to bring dynamic topics to our members. Our social action committee in

collaboration with The Greater Hartford Interfaith Action Alliance, (GHIAA) along with its "core group" began working on 2021's key initiatives facing our Greater Hartford region.

I do think that the sacrifices from 2020 have taught us many things, but one thing stands out: something special exists right here at Beth El – something spiritual. This past year has shown us that our faith has never been stronger and has given us the capacity to think outside of ourselves. I hope you will all join me as we work together to come out on the other side of COVID-19 as more caring, calm, compassionate, and collaborative human beings. It really is quite simple... we can just live our mission: We Are **Community You Can Believe In.**

~ Judy Rosenthal

(Cantor's Corner continued)

human beings is a validation of ourselves as members of our family, community, country, and the world.

Perhaps this period can be regarded as a time that continually proves that much of what we have gone through individually, we have all experienced. Maybe the theme of this year is about being more compassionate, more sensitive, and more resolute about who we are as part of the larger whole, and we can all look forward to better times with mindfulness – spiritually connecting with those around us, singing and praying together, creating beautiful melodies, rhythms, and harmonies.

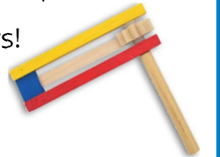
Please stay safe and healthy, so that we can soon be together again and continue to validate the creative connection between all of us, thereby moving to a deeper understanding of our full potential.

~ Cantor Joseph Ness

Purim 5781

PURIM BEGINS AT SUNDOWN ON THURSDAY, FEB. 25.

Plan your costumes and get out your graggers! Join our Zoom **Purim Celebration and Megillah Reading** on Thursday, February 25.



Mishloach Manot

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

You are invited to help sponsor the goodies going to your friends for just \$3.50/selection. A personalized letter will accompany the *Mishloach Manot* you receive with greetings from the members who sponsored your gift. Selections can be made via your member portal on our website; last year's selections were saved and can be selected with just two clicks! Paper forms will also be available from the Office upon request.

Purim Drive-Thru, Sunday, February 21

Come to Beth El to pick up your goodies and greetings. Limited deliveries will also be made to our homebound members.

Volunteers will be needed for (COVID-19-safe) stuffing of *Mishloach Manot*, as well as during the Purim Drive-Thru. Simply sign up when you make your *Mishloach Manot* selections.

A portion of *Mishloach Manot* proceeds go to the Jewish Family Services of Greater Hartford.



★ Worshipping Together - Shabbat

Egalitarian Services

Our congregation invites broad participation, within the limits of social distancing. Congregants (adults and teens, men and women) read *Torah*, chant the *Haftarah*, and lead our services along with our clergy. Many women choose to wear a *tallit*, and head coverings for women vary between *kippot*, hats, headbands, doilies, and no covering (unless they go on the *bima*).

Shabbat Services – Friday

Kabbalat Shabbat 6:00 PM

LOCATION: Home Zoom
We welcome Shabbat with joyous song led by Cantor Ness and *d'var Torah* from Rabbi Rosen.

Our talented members continue to lead sections of evening minyan, enhancing our services – both during the week and for Kabbalat Shabbat – with singing in Hebrew or reading in English.

<u>Adults</u>	Steve Wachtel
Joanne Bienstock	Amy Wallin
Roberta Buland	<u>Teens & Children</u>
Annette Gavens	Jude Bauman
Robin Gelles	Ilana Brown
Barbara Green	Davyn Gottfried
Richard Gutcheon	Lily MacDermott
Justin Kudler	Will MacDermott
Lance Reiser	Sarah Neiberg
Joshua Rosenfeld	Rachel Simmons
Larry Scherzer	Rose Wallin

Candle Lighting & Havdalah Times; plus Havdalah Service Time

Shabbat	Friday Candle	Saturday Havdalah	Service
Jan 1-2	4:13 PM	5:12 PM	5:30 PM
Jan 8-9	4:20 PM	5:19 PM	5:45 PM
Jan 15-16	4:27 PM	5:26 PM	5:45 PM
Jan 22-23	4:36 PM	5:35 PM	6:00 PM
Jan 29-30	4:44 PM	5:44 PM	6:15 PM
Feb 5-6	4:53 PM	5:53 PM	6:15 PM
Feb 12-13	5:02 PM	6:02 PM	6:15 PM
Feb 19-20	5:11 PM	6:10 PM	6:30 PM
Feb 26-27	5:20 PM	6:19 PM	6:45 PM

Shabbat Services – Saturday

Shabbat Morning & Torah Service 10:00 – 11:45 AM

LOCATION: Sanctuary Livestream or in-person
A traditional service, although slightly abbreviated during this time.

Youth Shabbat Series 11:00 AM – Noon

LOCATION: Kessler Hall
REGISTRATION: required, space is limited
Questions: Jason Kay, engagement@bethelwh.org

- ★ **Shabbat Club** JAN 9, 30
Prayers, games, and activities for students in grades 1-5
- ★ **Mazel Tots** JAN 16, FEB 6
Featuring songs and stories geared for children 6 and under with their families
- ★ **Jr USY & USY** JAN 23, FEB 20
Programs for middle and high schoolers

Shabbat Mincha & Ma'ariv

The afternoon and evening services for Shabbat are on pause.

Havdalah EVERY WEEK

LOCATION: Home Zoom
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.

Family Havdalah Series

LOCATION: Home Zoom
Questions: Jason Kay, engagement@bethelwh.org

- ★ **Musical Havdalah** 6:30 PM JAN 9
7:00 PM FEB 13
Gather your own wine/juice, spices, and candles, and join for a Havdalah filled with community and songs.
- ★ **PJ Havdalah** 7:00 PM JAN 23
This program is designed for families with children in second grade and below, but all are welcome. Wear your PJs, gather your grape juice, spices, and candles, and join us for a relaxing Havdalah and a story.

★ Worshipping Together - Daily

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

As you know, this is a time for caution and prevention, as COVID-19 ("Coronavirus") continues on a very fluid basis. Please check our website for guidelines about coming to Services, the procedures we are asking you to follow, and what we are doing to keep the building safe and secure.

www.bethelwesthartford.org/coronavirus

Special Holiday and Program Minyan Times:

FRI, JAN 1 9:00 AM
FEB 25-26 PURIM: watch your email for information

Weekday Services

Mincha & Ma'ariv

SUNDAYS-THURSDAYS 7:30 PM
LOCATION: Home Zoom

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).

Shacharit

SUNDAYS 8:45 AM
MONDAY-FRIDAY 7:00 AM
LOCATION: Chapel Zoom or in-person

The morning *minyan* also includes reading Torah on Mondays, Thursdays, and *Rosh Chodesh*.

★ Celebrating - Tu BiShevat

A Historical Refresher

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

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

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



It's the start of spring in Israel...



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

The New Year of Trees begins Wednesday evening, January 27.

Our Celebration of Nature

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

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

The Seven Species

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

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



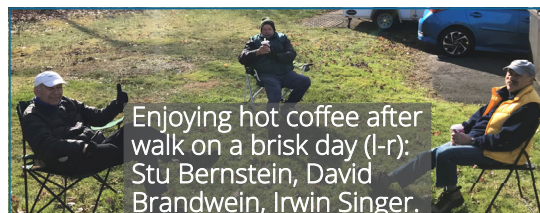
★ Making Connections

Men's Club

Walk Around the Reservoir

TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS 9:15 AM

LOCATION: Reservoir on Route 4, towards Farmington; meet in parking lot
CONTACT: Stu Bernstein, 860-232-2012, scbernste@aol.com



Enjoying hot coffee after walk on a brisk day (l-r): Stu Bernstein, David Brandwein, Irwin Singer.

To help sponsor a breakfast/dessert program:
MINIMUM CONTRIBUTION: \$36
CONTACT: bruceshein@comcast.net

World Wide Wrap XXI

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7

8:45 AM

Assistance available: 8:30 AM

LOCATION: Chapel, via Zoom or in-person

ASSISTANCE: both virtual and in-person

COST: no charge

CONNECT: regular Sunday morning link

QUESTIONS: Jacob Kovel, 860-651-9366, eaglewars@aol.com; Michelle Kunzman, 860-729-4201, michellekunzman1@gmail.com

NOTE: a limited number of sets are available to borrow from the Temple office

CO-SPONSORS: Men's Club and Women's Network

The Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs, joined this year by the Women's League for Conservative Judaism, promotes this annual event to encourage all to participate in the mitzvah of wrapping tefillin.



West Hartford United Synagogue Youth

Winter Calendar

Sun	Jan 10	Virtual Escape Room
Sat	Jan 16	HaNer Regional Soul Spa
Wed	Jan 27	HaNer Regional Lounge Night
Thu	Jan 28	Tu BiShevat Party & Craft
Fri-Sun	Feb 19-21	HaNer Regional Winter Kallah
Wed	Feb 24	Hamentaschen Bake Off!

AGES: 8-12th graders

ADVISOR: Tamar Mor, whusyadvisor@gmail.com

INFORMATION & REGISTRATION: watch for emails

CO-SPONSORS: Beth El Temple, The Emanuel Synagogue

This year's programming is thanks, in part, to grants from USY and the Jewish Federation of Greater Hartford.

College Connections

CONTACT: Mina Nemirow, betcollegeconnections@gmail.com

SEND INFO: by 2/8, student's name, email, cell phone, and address for last week of February

SPONSOR: Gavens Family College Youth Fund

We reach out to our college kids to let them know the Beth El community is thinking about them and is here for them. For the High Holidays we sent an e-card and for Chanukah, Amazon gelt was sent to their emails. Now it's time to send Mishloach Manot.

Help us send a Purim gift to your college student. Please send an address for wherever they will be the last week of February – home, school, or elsewhere.

★ Engaging Generations

Mazal Tov! and Appreciation for Sponsoring a Kiddush or Lunch

DiBella family, in honor of Benjamin's Bar Mitzvah
Garfield family, in honor of Nika's Bat Mitzvah
Stanfield family, in honor of Simon's Bar Mitzvah

Congratulations

Jan Glassman & Joel Sowalsky, on birth of granddaughter, Shira Maya Sowalsky
Lonni & Phil Schulz, and Marty Schulz, on engagement of daughter/granddaughter Rebecca and David Gabay
Elina & Daniel Tannenbaum, on birth of son, Samson Isaac Tannenbaum
Doreen Fundiller-Zweig & Richard Zweig, on birth of granddaughter, Maya Isabelle Zweig

Of Blessed Memory

Elsie Farber, mother of Nancy Rosen
Sybil Golden, wife of H. Donald Golden
Hattie Kaufman, sister of Francine Stier
Norma Pisetsky, sister-in-law of Phyllis Schloss
Joann Sanoff, sister of Sharon Denson
Marvin Sperling, husband of Sidra Sperling
Selma Stein
Roslyn Yellin

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

★ Israel Engagement Committee

Good News in the Middle East – The Abraham Accords



A new effort at rapprochement is bearing fruit in the Middle East. Pictured above are Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, UAE Foreign Minister Abdullah bin Zayed, and Bahrain Foreign Minister Abdullatif Al-Zayani who joined President Donald Trump in Washington to sign the Abraham Accords, a commitment by the three countries to work together to solve joint problems **and** provide joint opportunities. It represents an historic breakthrough in a region that has been paralyzed by decades of hostility. More recently, Morocco and Bhutan have also agreed to normalize relations with Israel.

As UAE's Minister of State Yousef al-Otaiba noted in his first-ever op-ed in an Israeli newspaper, *Yediot Aharonot*, "In the UAE and across much of the Arab world, we would like to believe Israel is an opportunity, not an enemy. We face too many common dangers and see the great potential of warmer ties." But he added, "Israel's decision on annexation will be an unmistakable signal of whether it sees it the same way."

One of the catalysts towards this change is Iran and her growing threat to stability throughout the region. By playing supplier to Hezbollah, Hamas, and the Houthis of Yemen, Iran has brought increased danger to the Middle East.

The "enemy of my enemy is my friend" is not the only reason for this formal rapprochement. A decade

or more of behind-the-scenes discussions have laid the groundwork for this positive development. And, as the demand for Middle Eastern gasoline diminishes, these leaders realize that they must make plans for a future economy that is less petro-dependent. Israel represents an opening into a more profitable and diversified future.

No one believes that an overnight transformation of anti-Israel sentiment into brotherly love will happen. But the Arabic press is showing some willingness to paint a more positive view of the Jewish state. Too, signs exist of a growing fatigue over the Palestinian cause. For about a century the richer states have been funneling money to the Palestinian government while relatively little benefit has been passed down to the people.

Other countries are expressing varying degrees of interest that could potentially expand this circle of cooperation under the new Biden administration. With Anthony Blinken as Secretary of State, hints of thawing between Israel and the Palestinian Authority may provide blocks for building. As Ben-Gurion said, "In Israel, in order to be a realist you must believe in miracles." That's something we Jews can get behind!



A dozen Israeli and Emirati women – including Jerusalem's deputy mayor and a Hebrew-speaking professor born in Abu Dhabi – met in October in Dubai to discuss life, work, and the future, creating a space to exchange cultural and business ideas

An Introduction to Mercaz

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 15

8:00 PM Zoom

COST: no charge

REGISTRATION: tinyurl.com/BETMercaz

MERCAZ, the Zionist organization of the Masorti (Conservative) Movement, is the force that advocates for funding of pluralistic streams of Judaism in Israel through the World Zionist Congress, which is crucial to our movement's growth in Israel and around the globe. A representative from Mercaz will tell us more about how they work, and what that means to us as Conservative Jews.



Also Coming in 2021

COMMITTEE CO-CHAIRS:
Sharon Efron, sgredancer@yahoo.com
Robin Santiago, robin@rsantiagodmd.com

- ★ *Telling our Stories:* learn about the lives of Israelis of different backgrounds – emigrants, Israeli youth, and those who made Aliyah.
- ★ Pre-Passover wine fun – March 7 at 4:00 PM.

★ Lifelong Learning

Ongoing Weekly Adult Classes

New participants welcome!
No registration, no charge.

Watch your email and check the website for announcements when live classes can resume.

Lunch & Learn

TUESDAYS

12:00 – 1:00 PM

Zoom

BYOL: Lunch during class is optional

Rabbi Rosen leads an exploration of the Hebrew Bible. This year continues with the main teachings of the Prophets.



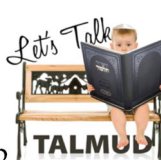
Talmud Study

WEDNESDAYS

10:15 – 11:15 AM

Zoom

We are a self-guided group of learners, currently studying the tractate Sanhedrin, using the Steinsaltz Hebrew-English text (a free version in a slightly different format is available online). The only prerequisite is a desire to learn Torah as explained by our sages.



Bible & Breakfast

THURSDAYS

8:00 – 9:00 AM

Zoom

QUESTIONS: Michael Schenker, msschenker31@gmail.com

Guided by our rabbis, participants share their viewpoints and insights. 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

FRIDAYS

1:30 – 2:30 AM

Zoom

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



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

Ongoing Monthly Adult Class

Musical Chat with Cantor Ness

NOTE: see page 3 for dates and topics

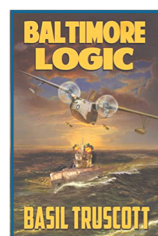


Library Corner

Beth El Member Publishes

Baltimore Logic ★ Roberta J. Buland

Farrel Vogulhut, long-time Beth El member, has published *Baltimore Logic* under the pen name Basil Truscott. It is dedicated to his father and uncle who taught him “to value courage above all things and appreciate the humor and irony of daily life.” Men’s Club donated the book to our library and sponsored Vogulhut’s presentation last month. Although fiction, *Baltimore Logic* is based on accurate research into the history of World War II.



Two years prior to the attack on Pearl Harbor, Japanese and German spies are pitted against a diverse team of U.S. counter-intelligence agents recruited from the FBI, the Office of Naval Intelligence, and the Baltimore City Police. As the Axis operatives and their American supporters scheme to steal top-secret U.S. radar technology, cripple the production of advanced military aircraft, and assassinate the government official responsible for ramping up war-winning research, a small band of American “expendables” is all that stands in the way of Hitler’s and Hirohito’s henchmen – and their plans to defeat America before it enters World War II. Vogulhut told the Zoom audience, “The Japanese and Germans did not understand radar as the Americans and Brits did.”

In 1939, high school history teacher Martin Victor receives a telegram ordering him to report to the Department of the Navy. What begins in a job interview at the Office of Naval Intelligence becomes a descent into the lethal, zero-sum game of espionage played against ruthless Japanese and German spy masters on the unforgiving streets of Baltimore and Washington.

Martin and his iconoclastic band of agents abandon bureaucratic protocols and operate to prevent their murderously Machiavellian adversaries from disrupting America’s ability to wage modern war.

Library Corner provides information about books in our library. Books are reviewed rather than critiqued. To request that a book be reviewed, please contact rjbuland@comcast.net.

★ Doing Mitzvot

KNITzvah Group Honors...

We are very happy that we were finally able to present our beloved founder, mentor, and friend, Annette Gavens with the “Thank You” afghan that we created together for her. We included the following:

- A token of appreciation
- For your years of dedication
- In keeping us together
- Regardless of the weather
- And shopping for the yarns*
- To make our lovely afghans
- Now we’ve ALL made this for you
- With love, from you-know-who.
- (* say "yahns" like a Bostonian)



And Annette's "thank you" back to us:

I Love It!! I am still in shock that I received such a beautiful gift.

Developing the KNITzvah group was such a fun activity. One “fun part” was shopping for yarn. I NEVER paid full price for yarn. With my coupon and “shlepping” my Seymour, I paid only 50%... but, then I had to pay Seymour off with an ice cream sundae. Those are some of my precious memories.

Again, I truly thank the group. Stay strong. You are on a mission of “chesed.”

Love, Annette

KNITzvah Group Update

CONTACT: BJ & Fran, knitzvahgrp@gmail.com

Our KNITzvah mission is making cozy gifts for people who might need a little extra love. We gave 18 lapghans to JCL (Jewish Association for Community Living) for the residents of their group homes and we’re working on more for those in JCL’s supportive living program! So, despite our currently challenging times, we continue *to make strings into things* that give comfort and warmth to others!

Chesed = Kindness

We are a community that cares. Everyone knows about the Mitzvah Projects we sponsor in Greater Hartford (currently on hold due to COVID), but we also coordinate Mitzvahs within our own Beth El family as needs arise.

Chesed Committee – Supporting Our Members

When there is an illness, injury, hospitalization, or passing of a loved one, we can help with our Meal Train (prepared meals delivered to your home), a friendly phone call, or grocery shopping. In the future, assistance may include transportation to appointments or help with other in-home needs.

Leah Katz, *Coordinator*, will speak directly to the family to determine specific needs and then match them with someone from a pool of volunteers. She acts as a liaison with the family, maintaining a schedule of volunteers, and staying in touch with the families for as long as they may need help.

Volunteers give time once a week, every other week, or even once a month depending on schedule and interest. Individuals, couples, or entire families can volunteer; this could be a meaningful bar/t mitzvah project.

Contact us to see how we can help ease this time, or if you want to be part of our volunteer corps.

COORDINATOR: Leah Katz, lckatz@comcast.net

MEAL TRAIN: Barbara Checknoff, barbarachecknoff@aol.com

Annual Turkey Drive

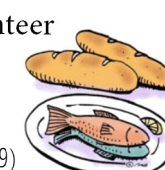
Thanks to the generosity of our Beth El Family, we surpassed our goal by collecting 201 Turkeys and an even \$3,000! Lisa Sussman dropped off the 100th turkey and Richard Gutcheon the 200th.



Loaves & Fishes Soup Kitchen

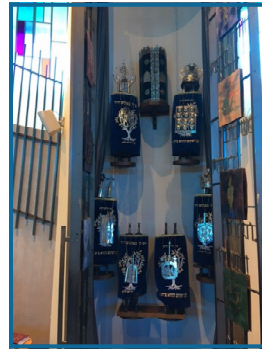
Volunteer

List
(from before COVID-19)



Ellen Solomon, *chair*
Marjorie Abel
Bert Berlin
Jane Blumenthal
Sharon Efron
Nancy Gershman
Sheila Ment
Harold Moskowitz
Nancy Myerson
June Rosenblatt
Sara Rosenblatt
Ronit Shoham
Ruth Stern
Steve Szafman
Sue Wachtel

★ Supporting Beth El



New Torah Mantles

Thanks to the gift of a very generous donor who prefers to remain anonymous, all of our Beth El Torahs have new mantles (coverings). The mantles feature an abstract tree of life motif in silver and gold, embroidered on blue velvet. Written near the design is the phrase:

עץ חיים היא – Eitz Chayim Hee – It is a tree of life

Each mantle also includes other Biblical quotations, selected by Rabbi Rosen. Half are inscribed with the first quote below and half with the other:

שם המקום ההוא בית אל – Sham Hamakom HaHoo Beit El – The name of this place is Beit El (house of God)

יש ה' במקום הזה – Yaysh Adonai BaMakom HaZeh – God is in this place

Both quotations are from the story of Jacob's dream where he sees a tall ladder that reaches to heaven, with angels ascending and descending. When he wakes up, Jacob realizes he has been on holy ground and creates a monument honoring *Beit El*, House of God.

The donor is an active member of our congregation who wanted to contribute to the Judaica collection in a meaningful and lasting way. The new mantles fulfill that wish. They replace the beautiful, well-worn, needlepoint mantles that were lovingly created by Beth El members, more than a generation ago, which will be preserved and displayed in the future.



We deeply appreciate the following Thoughtful Contributions.

- ☆ This list reflects contributions received and processed through November 23, 2020.
- ☆ For the next edition of Temple Topics, contributions need to be received in the office by January 19, 2021.

Beautification Fund

IN MEMORY OF

Dr. David Satlof, husband of Judy, father of Josh – **Harriet & Robert Berland, Marlene Passman & family**

Ceremonial Court

IN MEMORY OF

Hattie Kaufman, sister of Francine Stier – **Sally & Harris Chorney**

Camp Ramah Fund

IN HONOR OF

Birth of Jacob Henry Norman-Goldberg, grandson of Debbie Prince & David Goldberg – **Meryl & Mitchell Danitz**
Birth of Solomon Ethan Steinhardt, grandson of Meryl & Mitchell Danitz – **Barbara & Bob Green**

FOR THE YAHRZEIT OF

Arlene Lewis, mother; Edward Hittleman, brother – **Bonnie & Paul Lewis**

Chai Society

IN MEMORY OF

Dr. David Satlof, husband of Judy, father of Josh – **Judy & Al Greenspoon, Philip Post, Rosalind Rachlin & family**
Dr. Elliott Berg, brother of Denese Mann – **Rosalind Rachlin & family**

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IN APPRECIATION OF

Cantor Ness – **the Borden family, Ellen & Ethan Foxman, Robin & David Gelles, Michele & Daniel Gottfried, Barbara & Bob Green, Debbie & Richard Gutcheon, Vicki & Michael Konover, Robin & Leonard Oremland, Judy & Frank Resnick, Hilary Freedman & Howard Zern**

Cantor Ness, Rabbi Sowalsky & Lydia Lutt for welcoming our family as part of Yom Kippur services – **Stewart Lander**

Cantor Ness for the bat mitzvah of daughter, Abby – **Tara & Daniel Rothstein**

Cantor Ness for the bar mitzvah of son, Ben – **Kimberly & Jason DiBella**

IN HONOR OF

Bar mitzvah of son, Ben – **Kimberly & Jason DiBella**
60th wedding anniversary of Bobby & David Klau – **Annette Gavens**
80th birthday of father, Harold Geetter – **Jennifer Geetter & Lauren Geetter**
Birth of Solomon Ethan Steinhardt, grandson of Meryl & Mitchell Danitz – **Loren & Joel Gelber, Leah Katz, the Lenkiewicz family**

IN MEMORY OF

Rhoda Resnick, mother of Frank – **Barbara & David Brown**

Dr. David Satlof, husband of Judy, father of Josh – **Ellen & Peter Donshik, Arlene & Lenny Lippman, Sandra & Marshall Rulnick, Roberta & Marvin Smith, Judith & Joel Weisman**

Edith Rutstein Shapiro, mother of Steven Rutstein – **Jeanne & Marshall Elman**
Annette Elbaum, mother of Robin Oremland – **Lisa Levin & Thomas Greenebaum**

Hattie Kaufman, sister of Francine Stier; Thomas Adam Epstein, brother of Ann Brandwein – **Jeanne & Dan Kleinman**

FOR THE YAHRZEIT OF

Leon Satenstein – **Arthur Freedman**
Janice Wasserman – **Vicki & Alan Wasserman**

Education Fund

IN APPRECIATION OF

Limor Shefer for her patience & wisdom – **Julie & Gregory Wolfe**

Jewish Continuity Fund

IN MEMORY OF

Hattie Kaufman, sister of Francine Stier – **Sharon Gorlick**

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- Pay face value, spend face value, and Beth El gets a donation, up to 12% for some retailers.
- Commonly requested cards are stocked in the synagogue office, including Big Y, Stop & Shop, Amazon, and Dunkin Donuts!
- Other cards can be ordered (allow at least 1 week).



visit www.shopwithscrip.com for details and updates about the Scrip program, including a 6-page list of all the participating stores, restaurants, entertainment, and more.

AMAZON SMILE

- Go to smile.amazon.com, type in Beth El Temple, and shop as you normally would!
- Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to Beth El.



SEARCHING

- Set your default search engine to www.goodsearch.com and choose Beth El Temple as the beneficiary.
- For every search you do, Beth El gets a donation.



SHOPPING

- Go to www.goodshop.com for an online shopping mall.
- Shop and buy instantly, and choose Beth El as the beneficiary to get a donation.



For more options and details about supporting Beth El Temple, visit www.bethelwesthartford.org/giving/waystogive.html.

Friends of Ari Santiago Temple Accessibility Fund

IN HONOR OF

Receiving Aliyah – **Arthur Freedman**

FOR THE YAHRZEIT OF

Maurice Newburger, father – **Betty Hoffman**
Harry Mark, grandfather; Lila Santiago, mother – **Robin & Rafi Santiago**

Prayerbook Fund

IN MEMORY OF

Hattie Kaufman, sister of Francine Stier – **Loren & Joel Gelber**

Rabbi Rosen's Discretionary Fund

IN APPRECIATION OF

Rabbi Rosen – **the Borden family, Alisha & Ronald Cipriano, Ellen & Ethan Foxman, Don Golden, Michele & Daniel Gottfried, Barbara & Bob Green, Vicki & Michael Konover, Michele & Dane Kostin, Robin & Leonard Oremland, Judy & Frank Resnick, Gail & Raymond Weinstein, Hilary Freedman & Howard Zern**

Rabbi Rosen for the bar mitzvah of son, Ben – **Kimberly & Jason DiBella**

IN HONOR OF

Bar mitzvah of son, Ben – **Kimberly & Jason DiBella**
40th wedding anniversary of Nancy & Rabbi Jim Rosen – **Jeanne & Marshall Elman, Annette Gavens**
Engagement of Rabbi Ariella Rosen, daughter of Nancy & Rabbi Jim Rosen, and Rabbi Becca Walker – **Jeanne & Marshall Elman**
90th birthday of Estelle Bernstein – **Emily & Stuart Rosen**
Birth of Solomon Ethan Steinhardt, grandson of Meryl & Mitchell Danitz – **Susan & Alan Solinsky**

IN MEMORY OF

Dr. David Satlof, husband of Judy, father of Josh – **Sandra Brook, Susan & Julian Lange & family**
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Marvin Weinberg – **Fredda & Jon Goldstein**
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Betty & Morris Shuch; Frank Shuch – **Shuch Family Foundation**

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IN HONOR OF

Bat mitzvah of Abby Rothstein, daughter of Tara & Daniel – **Bella Fink**

(continues)

★ Supporting Beth El, cont.

Temple Fund

IN APPRECIATION OF

Rabbi Rosen, Rabbi Sowalsky & Cantor Ness for the bar mitzvah of son, Alex – **Meryl & Scott Braunstein**
Receiving Aliyah – **Arthur Freedman**
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Beth El Temple community – **the Sheldon family, Ruth & Gilbert Small**

IN HONOR OF

Karen & Alan Tuvin for their hospitality – **Gayle Harris & Ariel Pinchover**
Birth of Jacob Henry Norman-Goldberg, grandson of Debbie Prince & David Goldberg – **Riva Lewinter & David Kruger**
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IN HONOR OF

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(continues)

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Carolyn & Stuart Bernstein's nourishing good wishes – Naomi & Michael Cohen

IN HONOR OF

Birth of Solomon Ethan Steinhardt, grandson of Meryl & Mitchell Danitz – Annette Gavens
Bar mitzvah of Jacob Barash, son of Laura & Dan – Monica & Lee Gold

IN MEMORY OF

Selma Stein – Annette Gavens, Sally & Fred Rotenberg
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Thomas Adam Epstein, brother of Ann Brandwein – Annette Gavens

Rhoda Resnick, mother of Frank – Carolyn & Jeffrey Weiser

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David Brandwein – Annette Gavens

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FOR THE YAHRZEIT OF

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Ann & David Brandwein Family Fund

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IN APPRECIATION OF

Judy Rosenthal's outstanding leadership through COVID-19 & the HH – Lois & Chuck Koteen

IN HONOR OF

Engagement of Daniel Chozick, son of Ayelet & Bruce, and Lindsey Stern; birth of Solomon Ethan Steinhardt, grandson of Meryl & Mitchell Danitz – Lee Ann & Claudio Benadiva

Our children & grandchildren – Alys & Jack Krichavsky

IN MEMORY OF

Carol Jeanne McMurrer, mother of Eileen; Marvin Weinberg; Annette Elbaum, mother of Robin Oremland – Lee Ann & Claudio Benadiva

Rochelle Lurie, sister of Andi Hotes; Linda Blum, cousin of Fran Landy – Joan & Paul Shapiro

FOR THE YAHRZEIT OF

Ann & Julius "Yuddy" Shapiro, parents – Joan & Paul Shapiro

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IN MEMORY OF

Thomas Adam Epstein, brother of Ann Brandwein – Diane & Richard Lieberfarb

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Abbey Kreinik – Annette Gavens

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IN HONOR OF

Engagement of Rabbi Ariella Rosen, daughter of Nancy & Rabbi Jim Rosen, and Rabbi Becca Walker – Barbara & Bob Green, Lisa & Michael Lenkiewicz
Birth of Solomon Ethan Steinhardt, grandson of Meryl & Mitchell Danitz; September birthdays of Nancy, Rabbi Jim & Dani Rosen – Lois & Chuck Koteen

Lewis A. Steinberg Family Fund

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Abigail's bat mitzvah journey – Laurie & Josh Kaufman
Abigail's Aliyah; Rabbi Rosen, Rabbi Sowalsky & Cantor Ness making Abigail's Aliyah an occasion we will cherish – Paula D. Steinberg

★ Supporting Beth El, cont.

Marc S. Levine & Tamara Kagan Levine
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FOR THE YAHRZEIT OF
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IN MEMORY OF
Selma Stein – **Susan & Michael Schenker**
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Dora Greenbaum, aunt – **Susan & Michael Schenker**

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Alvin Reiner, father of Gail & Jim; Rhoda Resnick, mother of Frank – **Sharon Levine-Shein & Bruce Shein**

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Hattie Kaufman, sister of Francine Stier – **Dorine & Marty Toyen**

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Nathan Sweedler, husband – **Ruth Sweedler**

We would like to thank all those who contributed to our special **Chagim-To-Go** project for the High Holy Days. We are blessed to be part of this *Community You Can Believe In!*



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Note: The calendar grid is a separate document and can be downloaded from our website. Each month is a separate page, designed for legal-sized paper (8.5"x14"). Copies are also available in the office.

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Please be sure to include:

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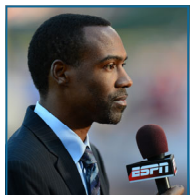
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★ Making Connections

Conversation and Q&A with ESPN Analyst and Former MLB Player Doug Glanville

Wednesday, January 13
8:00 – 9:00 PM

Baseball analyst, multi-media journalist, and retired MLB player, Doug Glanville will join us to discuss his days as a player and the relationship between sports, media, and the power to communicate for social justice. He brings a distinct vision that combines his long history of participating in and covering major league baseball, his lifelong work in civil rights, his extensive media work, and his experience as a college professor on the topics of athletes, society, activism, public

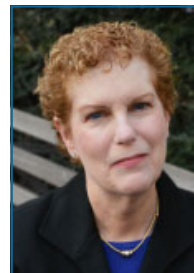


policy, and the media. Join us for this virtual event as we navigate today's demanding climate for social change and the opportunity to become better "teammates" in citizenship.

COST: no charge
REGISTER: by 1/13, tinyurl.com/BeTeammates
QUESTIONS: Dave Diamond, 860-965-3157,
daviddiamond2@comcast.net
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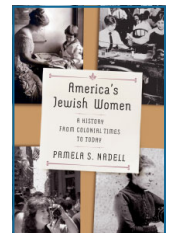
Celebration of America's Jewish Women

Wednesday, March 3
8:00 PM



Professor Pamela Nadell will celebrate Women's History Month with us and share insights from her recent book, *America's Jewish Women: A History from Colonial Times to Today*, which won the 2019 National Jewish

Book Award—Everett Family Foundation Jewish Book of the Year. Weaving together stories from the colonial era to the present, Nadell shows two threads binding the nation's Jewish women: a strong sense of self and a resolute commitment to making the world a better place. Nadell holds the Patrick Clendenen Chair in Women's and Gender History at American University where she directs the Jewish Studies Program and received the university's highest award, Scholar/Teacher of the Year.



COST: no charge
REGISTER: tinyurl.com/BETWomenMarch
QUESTIONS: Michelle Kunzman, 860-729-4201,
michellekunzman1@gmail.com
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