

Virtual Services

Sunday Morning Minyan (8:45am)
 Weekday Morning Minyan (Monday-Friday at 7am)
 Evening Minyan (Sunday-Thursday at 7:30pm)
 Friday Night Service (6pm)
 Saturday Havdalah (based on sunset, check website for time)

Weekly Classes

Lunch and Learn (Tuesdays at noon)
 Bible and Breakfast (Thursdays at 8am)
 Shababa (Fridays at 11am)
 Pirkei Avot (Fridays at 1:30pm)

For complete access information, please log in to your account and head to **BethElWestHartford.org/online**

Two Special Virtual Gatherings

Healing Circle

Tuesday, May 5 at 8pm

Join Rabbi Garber for a circle of prayer, chanting, healing, and hope. We pray for ourselves, our friends and family, our community, and our world. No pressure to share, just community and healing.

Challah Baking Workshop

Thursday, May 7 at 1pm

Join Rabbi Garber in her kitchen (via Zoom) as she walks you through the steps of making her famous challah. In this 1-hour session you will mix the ingredients and learn tips for braiding and other designs.

Both of these gatherings are free and open to all, but you must register in advance for Zoom access information. Details at BethElWestHartford.org/online.

Be★
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TEMPLE
 topics

May-June 2020

Iyar-Sivan-Tammuz 5780

★ From the Rabbi's Desk - Shining through our masks



I hope and pray that these words find you safe and healthy during this remarkable challenge that the COVID-19 virus has created. It is an unprecedented time of worry and fear – for some of us the most challenging time of our lives.

But it has also been a time of resilience and courage that has invited our very best selves and our true sense of community to shine brightly.

Each of us has a role to play in confronting the coronavirus challenge. Medical providers first and foremost. There are not nearly enough words of acclaim, thank you signs in windows, and evening rituals of applause to express our debt of gratitude to those who courageously risk their own lives so that we might survive and thrive.

Please know as well that by remaining at home, frequently washing our hands, and maintaining social distance, we help to contain the spread of this terrible affliction. In fact, by doing so we also fulfill the Jewish value of *Pikuah Nefesh* – saving our own lives and those of others around us.

As time goes by, it becomes an increasingly challenging task to embrace this “new normal.” We at Beth El especially feel the lack of physical community expressed in gathering for services, programs, and classes.

In the meantime, we offer, profusely, our thanks to all of the wonderful volunteers who have made the phone calls, delivered the meals, and helped us to keep in touch with you, our cherished Beth El family. And we are delighted to see so many of you at Beth El activities via zoom and live feed.

One day, please God let it be soon, we will be able to safely reenter a post COVID-19 world. In the meantime, as we strive to maintain our collective safety, let's take a moment of encouragement from a remarkable scene in the Torah.

After the Golden Calf episode, God calls Moses to re-ascend Mount Sinai to receive the 10 Commandments a second time. When he begins his second descent we are told that “Moses did not know that his face was shining.” Not only that, but when Moses conveyed God's Commandments to the people, at the moment of his greatest accessibility to his fellow Israelites, his face was covered with a *Masveh*, a veil or, if you will, a mask.

I think the message to us is clear. We at this point in time have no choice but to greet the world with our faces covered by a mask. All that is visible are our eyes that one moment might be brimming with tears or another twinkling with simple joy.

But however much our faces are covered, please know that we, your teachers, leaders, and partners in Jewish life, still see you. We see your humanity, your dignity. We see each other for all we might be.

Together with patience, courage, and hope we shall emerge into a better and healed world.

With blessings to you all,
Jim Rosen

Thank you to the Beth El volunteers who have made our congregation stronger by making calls, delivering meals, and helping members enjoy a Seder experience. See the next issue of Temple Topics for lists of our volunteers, from Purim to Pesach.

★ Supporting Beth El

We deeply appreciate the following Thoughtful Contributions.

Camp Ramah Fund

WISHING A COMPLETE RECOVERY TO

Daughter-in-law, Judy Kulakofsky –
Carolyn & Michael Kulakofsky

FOR THE YAHRZEIT OF

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IN HONOR OF

68th wedding anniversary of Annette &
Seymour z"l Gavens – Roz Rachlin &
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IN MEMORY OF

Seymour Gavens, husband of Annette –
Philip Post, Roz Rachlin & family
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Post

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IN APPRECIATION OF

Rabbi Garber & Cantor Ness for the
Mikvah of grandson, Luka Ferhat
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Arielle Kay – Rabbi Ilana Garber &
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Jane & Gary Rubin

Temple Fund

IN APPRECIATION OF

Meryl Danitz for her support; the book provided by the Clara & Mickey Sowalsky Gabbai Rishon Fund – **Loren Gelber**

Beth El Temple – **Eleanor Jainchill**

IN HONOR OF

Emmy & Steve Fast – **Harriet & Jack Fast**
Birth of Levi Starr Klau, grandson of Bobby & David Klau – **Hilary Freedman & Howard Zern**

68th wedding anniversary of Annette & Seymour z"l Gavens – **Lorraine Gavens**
Birth of Azalea, granddaughter of Renee Janow – **Loretta Levy**

Beth Papermaster & her wonderful Mah Jong Event – **Gilda Liebowitz**

96th birthday of Shirley Wachtel – **Barbara & Charles Wolfe**

IN MEMORY OF

Seymour Gavens, husband of Annette – **David, Nina & Esther Hoff, Elaine & Harry Lane, Ursula Marx, Karen & Jeff Polinsky**

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Florence Shakun, mother of Marshall, Harlan & Mitchell, sister of Joel Weisman – **Irene McCabe**

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FOR THE YAHRZEIT OF

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(continues)

✧ This list reflects contributions received and processed through March 17, 2020.

✧ For the next edition of Temple Topics, contributions need to be received in the office by May 19, 2020.

★ Supporting Beth El, cont.

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IN HONOR OF

Birthday of Elisa Wagner – **Marcia & Alan Cornell**

Birthday of Roz Rachlin; 68th wedding anniversary of Annette & Seymour z"l Gavens – **Alison & Alan Gittleman**

Bat mitzvah of daughter, Sari Goldstein – **Deborah & Scott Goldstein**

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Joshua Benadiva, son of Lee Ann & Dr. Claudio, speaking at Friends of the IDF program – **Meryl & Mitchell Danitz**

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IN APPRECIATION OF

Howard Weiner – **Cheryl & John Hinze**
Rabbi Elana Zaiman for her excellent writing workshop – **Bernice Matty**
Rabbi Rosen's birthday blessing – **Shirley Wachtel**

Rabbi Rosen – **Lenore Weisinger**

IN HONOR OF

96th birthday of Shirley Wachtel – **Gerri & Peter Apter**

Birth of great-grandson, Ryan Joseph Melius, son of Leah & Matthew, and great-granddaughter, Abigail Melius, daughter of Aimee & Jonathan – **Jeanne & Marshall Elman**

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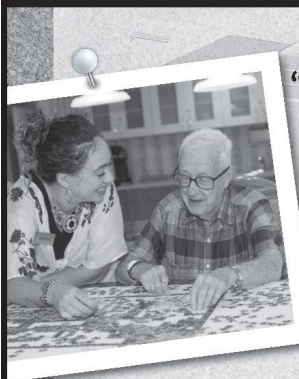


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IN MEMORY OF

Seymour Gavens, husband of Annette – Lorraine & Robert Albanesi, Helga Allweiss, Marci & Jonathan Alter, Shelley & Michael Barker, Sue & Bruce Bergman, Sonia & David Berke, Carolyn & Stuart Bernstein, Murray Bloom, Judith Borus, Sandra Brook, Barbara & David Brown, Shelley & Alan Cetel, Jean & Leon Chameides, Naomi & Michael Cohen, Linda & Henry Cohn, Marilyn Cremer, Meryl & Mitchell Danitz, Sheila & David Diamond, BJ & Leonard Diamond, Hollis Dorman, Jeanne & Marshall Elman, Emmy & Steve Fast, Korine & Ron Ferraro, the Flescher & Foxman families, Ronda Fox, Pamela Friedberg, Emily & Aaron Frumkin, Alex Frumkin, Matthew Friedman, Jane & Mark Gavens, Marlene & Larry Gavens, Sara, Andy, Melissa, Jennifer & Molly Gavens, Naomi Gaylor, Loren & Joel Gelber, Donald Gershman, Alison & Alan Gittleman, Susan & Paul Goldberg, Myrle & Robert Goodman, Ruth Ann & Harley Graime, Barbara & Bob Green, Amy & Joe Grimmer, Cindy & Randy Heller, Cheryl & John Hinz, Fran & David Jacobs, Eleanor Jainchill, Susan & Allen Kallor, Raelin & Jeff Kantor, Eva & Michael Kaplan, Lori & David Kass, Leah Katz, Myra & Bill Kleinman, Sharon & Neil Kochen, Michele & Dane Kostin, Lois & Chuck Koteen, Abbey Kreinik, Andrea Labinger, Barbara Lambert, Barbara & William Lavine, Linda & Robert Levy & family, Gilda Liebowitz, Arlene & Len Lippman, Barry Lovell, Lydia & Howard Lutt, Stacey & Steven Malitz, Anita & Bill Mancoll, Sheila & Howard Mark, Beatrice Mitlak, Bobbsie & Ben Monastersky, Norma Morganbesser, Roberta & Rafael Mori, Alice & Bob NaboiCHECK, Nina Narins, Leah Paretzky, Edward Pletman, Lori & Lance Reiser, Joanne & Arthur Rome, Sandra & Jerry Rome, Anja & Gene Rosenberg, Carol & Barry Rosenberg, Renana & Bob Rosenbloom, Deborah & Glen Rosenfeld, Judy & David Rosenthal, Richard Rosson, Bonnie & Jay Roston, Sandra & Marshall Rulnick, Judith & David Satlof, Susan & Michael Schenker, Naomi & Allen Schneider, Lea & Bernie Selig, Laurie & Marshall Shakun, Sarene Shanus & Harold Treiber, Linda & Neil Shapiro, Sue Shimelman, Elaine & Howard Smith, Dr. Jay Smith, Janet & John Spatcher, Lorraine & Farrel Vogelhut, Shirley Wachtel, Fran & Paul Weinberger, Carolyn & Jeff Weiser, Judith & Joel Weisman, Renee & Max Werber, Ellen & Tom Yeaser, Linda & Sheky Zelizer

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Lydia Lutt for her help during the Covid-
19 crisis and for the Israel Engagement
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The IDF training of Joshua Benadiva, son
of Lee Ann & Dr. Claudio – **Sheila
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FOR THE YAHRZEIT OF

Rose Levine, mother; Sylvia Levine, aunt – **Sharon Levine-Shein & Bruce Shein**

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Roz & Henry Borshy, grandparents; Mickey Sowalsky, grandfather – **Katie & Paul Schaeffer**

Laurie & Marshall Shakun Family Fund

IN MEMORY OF

Florence Shakun, mother of Harlan, Marshall & Mitchell, sister of Joel Weisman – **Marjorie & Bruce Abel, Phyllis & Robert Berman, Judith Borus, Sandra Brook, Catherine Carpino & James Christopher, Meryl & Mitchell Danitz, Ellen & Peter Donshik, Sharon & Bob Efron, Jan & Syd Elkin, Elyse & Steve Feltman, Gail & Bob Frahm, Annette Gavens, Shelly Ginsberg, Debbie & Richard Gutcheon, Charlotte & Brook Jason, Gerald Kargman, Maureen Klapatch & Gerald Roisman, Lois & Chuck Koteen, Abbey Kreinik, Jodi, Ali, Anna-Sophia & Andrea Kurtz, the Leshem family, Joyce & Mickey Libbin, Delly & Marty London, Naomi & Sam Rogers, Susan & Michael Schenker, Randy Schwartz, Alice & John Sherman, Lynn & Lee Sherman, Michelle & Bill Souza & family, Kathleen & Craig Stalk, Laurie & Steve Strauss, Rissa Wabaunsee & Richard McCullough, Carolyn & Jeff Weiser, Karen Wycoff**

FOR THE YAHRZEIT OF

Aaron Shakun, father – **Laurie & Marshall Shakun**

Gerald & Paula Steinberg Endowment Fund

FOR THE YAHRZEIT OF

Paula S. Steinberg, friend – **Naomi & Michael Cohen**

Lewis A. Steinberg Family Fund

IN MEMORY OF

Abe Hyman; Isidore Burton – **Eric Burton**

Sussman Families Fund

FOR THE YAHRZEIT OF

Bernard Sussman, father; Roslynn Sussman, sister – **Marc Sussman**

Nathan & Ruth Sweedler Family Endowment Fund

FOR THE YAHRZEIT OF

Wendy Joy Sweedler, daughter – **Ruth Sweedler**

Amy E. Toyen Endowment Fund

IN MEMORY OF

Seymour Gavens, husband of Annette – **Dorine & Marty Toyen**

FOR THE YAHRZEIT OF

Frieda Simon, mother; Molly Hammer, grandmother – **Marilyn & Alan Rothstein**

I. Milton Widem Adult Education Fund

FOR THE YAHRZEIT OF

Joseph Waxman, grandfather; Esther Marmer, aunt – **Susan Widem**

Beth El Temple of West Hartford Inc.

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1/25 for March-April
3/25 for May-June
5/25 for July-August
7/25 for September-October
9/25 for November-December
11/25 for January-February

Send Life Cycle announcements to:
LEsau@bethelwh.org

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.

We are pleased to share that Rabbi Garber has been hired by the Rabbinical Assembly in NY as the Director of Global Rabbinic Development. She begins working remotely on July 1. She and her family are thrilled that they will continue to live in West Hartford and to share in the blessings of our Beth El community.

★ Report from the Nominating Committee

As of this writing, our Annual Meeting is scheduled for June 9 at 7PM. At this point we do not know whether it will be in person or via

zoom. Depending on circumstances, we may also need to postpone the meeting. Please watch your email or check the

Beth El website as we approach June 9 and join us, one way or another, to welcome our new officers and trustees and honor those whose terms have expired.

Nominating Committee, 2019 – 2020

Sheila Diamond, <i>chair</i>	Stephen Kest	<i>ex-officio:</i>
Robert Gold	Denise Order	Stephen Rabb
Joshua Gottfried	Ila Sabino	Judith Rosenthal
	Sandra Stanfield [^]	[^] resigned upon nomination as an officer

Trustees to continue their terms through June 2021

Meryl Danitz	Sharon Neiberg	Marshall Shakun
Sheila Diamond	Elliott Pollack	Sandra Stanfield
Leonard Eisenfeld	Stephen Rabb	Stuart Wachtel
Sharon Efron		

Trustee nominated to fill a vacated position, through June 2021

Gayle Temkin*

Trustees nominated to serve new 2-year terms, July 2020 through June 2022

Ronald Apter*	Justin Kudler	Ellen Sanders-
Samuel Borden*	Jerry Leshem	Nirenstein
Marsha Fisher	Janel MacDermott	Alan Tuvim*
Shera Golder	Judith Resnick	Melissa Weinstock
Jeremy Kempner	Judith Rosenthal	

* new trustees

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

Carrie Berman	John Hinze
Lisa Harris	Rachel Leventhal-Weiner

Officers to continue their terms through June 2021

<i>President</i>	Judith Rosenthal
<i>1st Vice President</i>	Stephen Rabb
<i>Treasurer</i>	Stuart Wachtel
<i>Financial Secretary</i>	Meryl Danitz
<i>Secretary</i>	Ellen Sanders-Nirenstein
<i>Assistant Treasurer</i>	Jerry Leshem
<i>Asst. Financial Sect.</i>	Marshall Shakun

Officer nominated to fill a vacated term through June 2021

<i>2nd Vice President</i>	Sandra Stanfield
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Auxiliary Board Members

<i>Chai Sociey</i>	Susan Wachtel
<i>Men's Club</i>	Tom Falik
<i>Women's Network</i>	Michelle Kunzman

Eligible Past Presidents

Jonathan Alter	Diane Lieberfarb
Ann Brandwein	Michael Schenker
Lois Koteen	Gary Starr

Watch your email and check our website for information about this year's Annual Meeting.