

WE'RE
GETTING
BACK
IN
THE



At the Park

Swing OF THINGS



At the Ballpark



At Beth El

Be★

*Community You
Can Believe In*

TEMPLE
topics

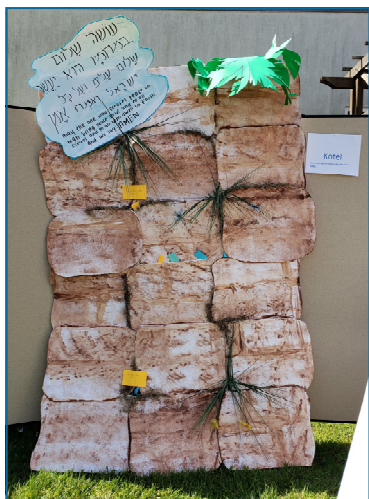
July - August 2021

Tammuz-Av-Elul 5781

- ★ BEMA Preseason Concert *page 3*
- ★ Lunch Date with Chai Society *page 6*
- ★ High Holidays Key Dates *page 16*

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

Celebrating the End of the Year



Learners left notes in our specially created *Kotel*, which educators Limor and Corin will take to Jerusalem to be left at the actual *Kotel*.



Amazing Andy entertained the children with his magic and balloon animals – the children brought chairs into a semi-circle to interact with him. There were “grab and go” breakfast bags for all attendees and tables set up in the courtyard allowing for social distancing as necessary.



On display were “selfie boards” of biblical themes that the children had learned about in SULAM, including one of Mt. Sinai to represent Shavuot which would begin that very evening.

Planning for Fall

Though it is hard to predict and accurately plan for the coming academic year, it is with the hope that the pandemic will be behind us and the danger contained, that we plan to be onsite, learning together in person. Our primary grades and middle school educators eagerly anticipate reconnecting with our SULAM learners.

We plan on Sundays to offer experiential learning, family programs, and social and communal opportunities for gathering. For our SULAM learners, we anticipate continuing online mid-week Hebrew lessons – but adding an on-site group learning opportunity for those who do better in person. Measurable data shows that the majority of learners exceeded benchmark expectations during this past academic year, and a recent parent survey reinforced this observation with anecdotal data.

7th Graders are our *bogrim* learners. The word *bogrim* is the plural of the word בוגר (*bogair*) an adolescent, one who is in the process of developing from a child into an adult. Pre-b’nai mitzvah learners are in transition, and the tenor of the SULAM curriculum reflects this emerging maturity. *Bogrim* learners begin a deep dive into Torah study, explore contemporary concerns with a Jewish lens of obligation and responsibility, and engage in social action projects as they prepare for their bar and bat mitzvah service and ceremony that acknowledges and marks their transformation.

Under consideration is a reimagined program for our 7th graders that will incorporate a once-a-month Saturday morning where learners will attend Shabbat services for part of the morning, then engage in learning and dialogue with members of Beth El’s clergy. A questionnaire will go out during the summer to ascertain parent preferences regarding revising class scheduling.

We learned a great deal over this past year. We learned to be adaptable, patient, kind, and hopeful. We built a tight on-line community; our educators developed close relationships with learners and their families. We look forward to embracing one another, figuratively and literally, when SULAM resumes in the fall.

B’vracha,
Michelle

★ Reflections from the President



I am both honored and humbled by the opportunity to lead Beth El as your president. I am excited to

assume this role as we transition out of COVID isolation and back to in-person services, events, classes, social action, and other activities. Beth El is a community which is enhanced when we can gather together. I am looking forward to seeing you at live events, as they occur, as well as via Zoom.

I want to start my term by acknowledging and thanking my predecessor, Judy Rosenthal. She performed remarkably through an unusually tumultuous two years, first with the search for an

Transitions

assistant Rabbi and then with keeping us engaged through more than a year of COVID distancing. It was a herculean task and she performed with dedication, effectiveness and grace. Thank you, Judy, for a job well done. Yasher Koach.

Next, I want to formally welcome Rabbi Rachel Zerin, our new Assistant Rabbi. I hope you are as excited as I am that she has joined us. During the interview process, I was struck by her intellect, enthusiasm, and warmth. I know she will fit right into Beth El and will be a tremendous asset to our outstanding clergy team. Please come to Shabbat services on a Friday night or Saturday morning and say hello.

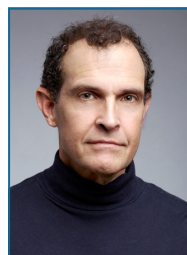
Finally, Beth El is blessed. We have terrific clergy, a forward-thinking Board of Trustees and, most importantly, a wonderful congregation. As we evolve into what will be the “new normal,” please remember that Beth El can be as much or as little as you want it to be. When we say we are a *Community You Can Believe In*, we mean it. And remember, community is a two-way street. We hope you will be there with us. Engaging. Worshipping. Learning. Socializing. And Supporting each other.

I am looking forward to getting to know as many of you as possible over the next two years. Let's chart together this, our new post-COVID course.

~ Steve Rabb

★ Cantor's Corner

The Max Wohlberg Award for Music Composition



At the 2021 (Virtual) Annual Cantors Assembly, our very own Cantor Ness was presented with the *Max Wohlberg Award for Music Composition* by his colleague Cantor Emeritus Sanford Cohn of The Emanuel Synagogue.

Cantor Ness gave an acceptance speech and presented an audio/video of his original work, *Esah Einei*.

BEMA Preseason Event:

SUNDAY, AUGUST 15 5:00 PM

LOCATION: In-person only

COST: \$10/person, family max of \$25

REGISTER: tinyurl.com/ConcertBBQ

CO-SPONSORS: Beth El Music & Arts, Men's Club



Join us for an outdoor family concert & BBQ with Israeli music! Enjoy the sounds of a seven-piece band featuring Alex Nakhomovsky on piano, and three special singers, including West Hartford native Cantor Talya Smilowitz. Men's Club and Howard Meyerowitz are manning the grill, with hamburgers, hot dogs, and all the fixins. There will be some tables set up, but feel free to bring blankets and beach chairs for this casual event!

★ Kosher Gluten-Free Recipe Blog



We're gathering recipes for an online, kosher, gluten-free recipe blog! Have a favorite kosher recipe (either gluten-free or easily converted) you'd like to share?

Visit the blog for details; send your recipes to Lydia (marketing@bethelwh.org) and she'll post them on the blog!

Connect to the blog at www.bethelwesthartford.org/recipes

★ Worshipping Together - Shabbat

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.

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*).

Coronavirus

As you know, we are beginning to reopen, but this is still 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

Candle Lighting & Havdalah Times; plus Havdalah Service Time

<u>Shabbat</u>	<u>Friday</u>	<u>Saturday</u>	
	<u>Candle</u>	<u>Havdalah</u>	<u>Service</u>
July 2-3	8:12 PM	9:09 PM	9:30 PM
July 9-10	8:10 PM	9:07 PM	9:30 PM
July 16-17	8:06 PM	9:03 PM	9:20 PM
July 23-24	8:00 PM	8:58 PM	9:15 PM
July 30-31	7:54 PM	8:51 PM	9:10 PM
Aug 6-7	7:45 PM	8:42 PM	9:00 PM
Aug 13-14	7:36 PM	8:33 PM	8:50 PM
Aug 20-21	7:26 PM	8:22 PM	8:40 PM
Aug 27-28	7:15 PM	8:11 PM	8:30 PM

Shabbat Services – Friday

Kabbalat Shabbat

6:00 PM

LOCATION: Chapel

Zoom or in-person

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

Shabbat in the Park

JULY 16, AUGUST 6

5:30 PM

LOCATION: Elizabeth Park

no Virtual Option

COST: no charge

REGISTER: tinyurl.com/BETintheParkJuly

tinyurl.com/BETintheParkAug

We'll bring the grape juice & challah and each family is invited to bring their own picnic dinner (due to COVID precautions, no sharing) to enjoy after some outdoor singing in a beautiful setting. Please RSVP to let us know how much to bring and whom to contact in case the weather is iffy. Meet at the Playground.

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

★ **Mazel Tots**

JULY 24

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

★ **Shabbat Club**

JULY 31

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

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. Mourner's Kaddish is recited at the beginning.

★ Worshipping Together - Daily

Mincha & Ma'ariv

SUNDAYS-THURSDAYS

7:30 PM

LOCATION: Chapel

Zoom or in-person

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

NOTE: Monday, July 5 @ 9:00 AM

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

★ Observing Together - Summer

The Three Weeks

An annual mourning period during the summer:

- ✧ It begins with **Shiva Asar B'Tammuz**, the Fast of the 17th of Tammuz. This is a "minor" fast (sunrise to sunset). June 27.
- ✧ It ends with **Tisha B'Av**, the Fast of the 9th of Av. It is a "major" fast, beginning at sundown the night before.



Tisha B'Av

Community observance with The Emanuel Synagogue and B'nai Tikvoh-Sholom

SATURDAY, JULY 17

8:15 PM *Mincha & Ma'ariv* Services, with reading of *Eicha*, Book of Lamentations
AT EMANUEL SYNAGOGUE & ZOOM
tinyurl.com/TishaBAvSaturday

SUNDAY, JULY 18

8:45 AM *Shacharit* Service CHAPEL & ZOOM
1:30 PM *Mincha* Service CHAPEL & ZOOM
tinyurl.com/TishaBAvMincha
7:30 PM Evening Minyan CHAPEL & ZOOM

Summertime. Days of memory, commemoration, and hope.

Each summer, the Jewish world pauses to ponder the impact of the events that have shaped our history and the past 2000 years. These two fast days, *Shiva Asar B'Tammuz* and *Tisha B'Av*, are dedicated to recalling the breach of Jerusalem's walls and the ultimate destruction of the Temple and Jewish independence.

The 17th of Tammuz is a daytime-only fast, whereas *Tisha B'Av* is a full-day fast. On both days, we recite special prayers of sorrow. In addition, on *Tisha B'Av* we read the mournful book of *Eicha*, Lamentations.

Tisha B'Av is often called the "Dark Fast" to differentiate it from *Yom Kippur* known as the

"White Fast." On the Day of Atonement (*Yom Kippur*), we are confident of forgiveness and so it has an element of "lightness." However, the 9th of Av has been linked with many different tragedies over time, including the failed Jewish rebellion against the Romans known as the Bar Kochba revolt, the expulsion of Jews from Spain, and key events in the Holocaust. As such, it is a day in which dark loss looms large in our collective hearts.

Still, tradition did not allow us to succumb to despair. During this period known as the *Three Weeks*, on *Shabbat* we read three *Haftarot* of warning. Following *Tisha B'Av* we read seven *Haftarot* of comfort. Even on the 9th of Av itself we turn to passages of hope, or even plant a tree in the afternoon, in asserting our hope for redemption.

Many wonder what role these days might have in steadfastly mourning our exile when we have a modern State of Israel. It's a fair question. But these days of remembrance allow us to consider the losses and pain that have marked the Jewish past. They help us to remember and feel the hunger and discomfort of those who struggled to persevere as Jews.

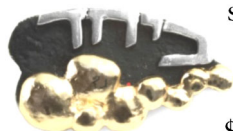
Moreover, the ultimate redemption of the Jewish world, and the world at large, remains incomplete. There is still much pain to address.

Join us for these days of memory and meaning. They can help us all to know and feel the rhythms of Jewish hurt and hope.

★ Making Connections

Women's Network

We are so grateful to the women of Beth El for this year's Torah Fund campaign! There has always been a strong connection between our congregation, Women's League, and the Conservative movement. Our rabbis, cantors, teachers, and members who have studied at the Jewish Theological Seminary are at the heart of our yearly campaign. They continue to teach, inspire, and motivate us; and we honor them and those who will come after them with our support of Torah Fund.



This year sixteen gifts were made and the campaign raised a total of \$2,686. The Torah Fund pin was given to the one donor at the Associate Patron level

and the ten Benefactors. In addition, there were several smaller but generous donations. All of these funds are used by the Seminary to support student life, the Women's League Library, dormitories, scholarships, and other programs. Thank you all so much for your generosity during this unique year.

~ Bobby Klau and Michelle Kunzman



Bette Jane
Diamond
Sharon Efron
Jeanne Elman
Annette Gavens
Robin Gelles

Jill Jones
Eva Kaplan
Leah Katz
Barbara Klau
Myra Kleinman
Lois Koteen

Michelle Kunzman
Beth Papermaster
Nancy Rosen
Sue Saidel
Marilyn Steinmetz

Chai Society

Picnic Lunch

THURSDAY, AUGUST 5

NOON

LOCATION: Kessler Hall

no Virtual Option

COST: no charge

NOTE: socially distanced seating

An in-person, catered picnic lunch with entertainment; inside and safe from the heat.

College Connection

Calling all parents of incoming and current college students! Please send us your child's email and their mailing address, as of September 2021 (if you have it), so they may be a recipient of holiday greetings and gifts from Beth El.

CONTACT: betcollegeconnections@gmail.com

SPONSOR: the Gavens Family College Youth Fund

Calling All Softball Players

SPRING/SUMMER

9:30 – 11:30 AM

LOCATION: CIGNA softball fields, off Simsbury Rd, Bloomfield

COST: no charge

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



Another fun season began in June and it isn't too late for congregants and friends, veterans and new players to join. We plan to continue to play pickup games throughout the summer and into the fall. The games are slow-pitch and co-ed.



Good player turnout from Beth El'ers and others for the 1st Synagogue Softball game of the season!

Pre-Olympic Tune-up Baseball with Team Israel

THURSDAY, JULY 15

10:30 AM

(GATES OPEN AT 9:30 AM)

LOCATION: Dunkin' Donuts Park,
1214 Main St, Hartford

COST: \$10 (includes \$2 for concessions/store)

REGISTER: tinyurl.com/BETIsraelBaseball

CO-SPONSORS: Israel Engagement Committee and Men's Club

Team Israel takes on the Bristol Blues! Baseball will be featured at this Summer's Olympics for the first time since the '08 Summer Games, and Team Israel is one of six national teams that will compete in the tournament.



The Team Israel current roster includes former Major League players such as

- ♦ C Ryan Lavarney (Red Sox, Orioles, Braves, Athletics, Pirates, Reds)
- ♦ INF Danny Valencia (Twins & Orioles)
- ♦ INF/OF Ty Kelly (Mets & Phillies)
- ♦ LHP Jeremy Bleich (Athletics)
- ♦ and Yard Goats infielder Scott Burcham

Team Israel will head to Tokyo, Japan on July 22, and the Opening Ceremonies will take place on July 24.

Hartford Yard Goats

SUNDAY, AUGUST 22

1:05 PM

LOCATION: Dunkin' Donuts Park,
1214 Main St, Hartford

COST: \$18 (no charge for children [13 and under] with paying adult – paid by Men's Club); includes \$2 for concessions/store

REGISTER: tinyurl.com/BETatYardGoats

QUESTIONS: Arthur Freedman, 860-716-8384,
drartf@aol.com

SPONSOR: Men's Club

Note: tickets are limited; order early!



The Hartford Yard Goats play the New Hampshire Fisher Cats! Our seats, in the Hartford Terrace section along the first-base side, are in a shaded, semi-private section. Your ticket includes access to the Yard Goats Club, an air conditioned indoor section with great views of the game, comfortable seating, and higher-end food and liquor options not available at the general concession stands. And yes, fries, hot dogs, and beer are also available there. Kosher sandwiches and hummus are available for purchase at this game as well.

The game is part of Faith and Family weekend at Dunkin Donuts Park. The Yard Goats team members will talk about what faith has meant in their lives. The PA announcer will mention that the Beth El Temple Men's Club is in attendance and will also name an individual from our Temple that we are honoring (and will receive a special certificate from the Yard Goats!). At the conclusion of the game, children are welcome to run the bases!

Returning this fall!!

Back to Beth El Carnival

MONDAY, AUGUST 30 5:30 – 7:00 PM

QUESTIONS: Temple office

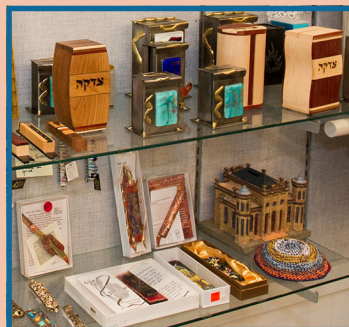
Men's Club

Walk Around the Reservoir, followed by coffee

TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS 9:15 AM

LOCATION: Reservoir on Route 44; meet
in parking lot

CONTACT: Stu Bernstein, 860-232-2012,
sbernste@aol.com



BETH EL TEMPLE CRAFT GALLERY

Come browse our collection of hand-selected items from some of Israel's top artists as well as artisans throughout the United States. From menorahs to mezuzahs, jewelry to Judaica, tallit to tzedakah

boxes, the Craft Gallery is here to support your needs.

BY APPOINTMENT ONLY: Shelley Barker, 860-232-6468;
Jill Jones, 860-922-7300

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

★ Doing Mitzvot

Chesed (Kindness) Comm. – Supporting Our Members

COORDINATOR: Leah Katz, lckatz@comcast.net
MEAL TRAIN: Barbara Checknoff, barbarachecknoff@aol.com

Beth El is a community that cares. We are prepared to provide assistance to our members, especially during periods of illness or the passing of a loved one, with a friendly phone call, preparing meals (Meal Train), or doing errands, such as grocery

shopping or for other essentials.

Unfortunately, with COVID restrictions we cannot provide any transportation at this time.

Contact us if you are need of assistance or if you want to be part of our volunteer corps.

KNITzvah Group

CONTACT: BJ & Fran,
knitzvahgrp@gmail.com



Our KNITzvah mission is making cozy gifts for people who might need a little extra love. We continue to work from home **to make strings into things** that give comfort and warmth to others!

3-Season Opportunities

Jessie's Community Garden at BET

Fresh organic produce for area food banks

VOLUNTEERING/SCHEDULING: Betty Hoffman,
860-233-4853, bhoffman3@comcast.net
GARDENING: Herb Hoffman, hhoffman1@comcast.net

We are looking for gardeners – we teach beginners – to weed, water, pick, and drive veggies to the drop-off sites. You can sign up for a regular day every week and/or for our substitute list. Whatever fits your interest and schedule will work for us.

Jessie's Garden provides fresh organic produce for the Kosher Food Pantry at Jewish Family Services and for other local food banks. Jessie's Garden was established by the Kostin family, longtime Beth El members, in memory of their daughter, Jessica.

Both of these outdoor activities make great bar/t mitzvah projects. Volunteers are invited to come with friends, as a family, or solo.

Garden Club News

Gardening has been shown to lengthen your life!

CONTACT: Sheila Fox, 860-828-3939; Alison Demarest, alisonsupermom@comcast.net, 860-810-2084; Robin Santiago, 860-490-7661, robin@rsantiagodmd.com

So many little jobs to do – raking, trimming, weeding, watering! Can you help? Do you have an hour a week you would like to spend in the gardens? You

can stroll the grounds, or work in one area. Or relax on a hot day by watering the various flower beds! Gardening is a healthy and COVID-friendly way to get beneficial exercise and vitamin D (don't forget your sunscreen!).

Donations invited:

We gratefully accept gently-used garden tools, or the funds to purchase them:

- ✓ Trowels ✓ Wheel barrows
- ✓ Hoses ✓ Garden decorations
- ✓ Pots

Beth El and Inclusiveness

Inclusiveness is one of our core values at Beth El. We do everything feasible to allow those with disabilities or special needs to participate in Services, classes and programs. Examples include the synagogue elevator, hearing devices, and periodic special services for those with disabilities. A less visible issue concerns those with fragrance sensitivities. This represents a significant group which includes Beth El members, staff, and undoubtedly, visitors. Fragrance sensitivity is a very common problem which causes a wide variety of health concerns; e.g. difficulty breathing.

Many institutions and businesses, and a growing number of houses of worship, 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 fragrances.

As more of our members return to synagogue, it's important to keep in mind that we are a fragrance-free space. Please do not apply perfume or cologne, or any scented products before coming to services. You may think it's just a little spritz of something nice, but it can be overpowering to others. Thank you for staying fragrance-free at Beth El!

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

★ Lifelong Learning

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

Ongoing Monthly Adult Class

Musical Chat with Cantor Ness

MONDAYS, 1:00 – 2:00 PM Zoom



JULY 5 *The History of Shliach Tzibur Ba'al Tfilah*

Hazzan Benjamin Maissner (Toronto)

How the Jewish musical traditions from Eastern and Western Europe influenced contemporary cantorial styles and the education of the modern cantorate.

AUGUST 16 *Escape Artists* Cantor Ness

A varied and interesting history of the musical personalities, most were composers who had escaped from Europe and settled in this country, who have been at the forefront of the history of film.

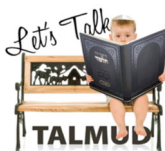
Ongoing Weekly Adult Classes

New participants welcome!
No registration, no charge.

Talmud Study

WEDNESDAYS

10:15 – 11:15 AM Zoom



We are a self-guided group of learners, currently studying the tractate Sanhedrin. 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. An ability to read Hebrew or knowledge of Hebrew text is not needed.

Library Corner

How to Understand Race

★ **Roberta J. Buland**



When Rabbi Rosen introduced the BET Women's Network's recent Zoom program about the book, *So You Want to Talk About Race*, by Ijeoma Oluo, he began with the Biblical quote, "Justice, justice you shall pursue and apply to all manner of society." This was the impetus to diverge from this column's framework about only reviewing Jewish books. Since race is a major conflict in society today, it was fitting that Michelle Kunzman, chair of the Women's Network, chose this timely and important book to help all of us, Jewish and non-Jewish alike, better understand systemic racism.

The presenter and moderator, Joy Wright, Principal of King Philip Middle School in West Hartford, actively took the audience on a trip through the book. We talked about the book as a guide to how to begin the change away from systemic racism, how to take the first steps even though it might mean an uncomfortable conversation and uncomfortable feelings. To change our country, we must choose alternative behaviors. It is important to think outside of our standard boxes, perhaps supporting a person running for election who is not a member of your own community, attending webinars about race, and giving to charities that support anti-racism efforts. After the overview, Ms. Wright divided us into smaller groups to discuss our thoughts about race and the themes of intersectionality and privilege.

Oluo's handbook on how to understand the "other" may put us into the heads of people of color. Chapter titles are jumping off places such as, "What Is Racism?" "What if I talk about Race Wrong?" "Is Police Brutality Really about Race?" She ends her book with the question, "Talking is great, but what else can I do?" Take action!

In the present atmosphere of our country, this valuable handbook can help everyone to not only understand race, but also to feel compassion within ourselves. We thank Michelle for donating the book to the BET library.

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

★ Supporting Beth El

We deeply appreciate the following Thoughtful Contributions.

- ✧ This list reflects contributions received and processed through May 18, 2021.
- ✧ For the next edition of Temple Topics, contributions need to be received in the office by July 20, 2021.

Beautification Fund

IN MEMORY OF

David Weintraub – Robert E. Farrelly
Dr. Stanley Stier, husband of Suzanne –
Lois & Chuck Koteen
Alisa Bursack Komsky, daughter of Elaine
Bursack – Susan & Michael Schenker,
Caryn Schenker Solomon

FOR THE YAHRZEIT OF

Leon Sundel, uncle – Carol Johnson

Camp Ramah Fund

IN MEMORY OF

Dr. Eleanor Klau, sister of David –
Annette Gavens

FOR THE YAHRZEIT OF

Marvin Lewis, father – Bonnie & Paul
Lewis

Cantor's Music Fund

IN APPRECIATION OF

Cantor Ness for our 40th wedding
anniversary – Judy & David Rosenthal

IN HONOR OF

Bat mitzvah of Ella Nemirow, daughter of
Mina & Barry, granddaughter of Maura –
Leah Katz

IN MEMORY OF

Dr. Eleanor Klau, sister of David – Jeanne
& Dan Kleinman, Sandra & Marshall
Rulnick

FOR THE YAHRZEIT OF

Rosalyn Palmbaum, mother – Nancy
Bernstein
Harry Druckman, father – Rosanne
Druckman & Larry Scherzer
Toby Hoffman, mother – Herb Hoffman

Friends of Ari Santiago Building Accessibility Fund

IN MEMORY OF

Alisa Bursack Komsky, daughter of Elaine
Bursack – Sheila & Howard Mark

Taste of Shabbat Fund

IN HONOR OF

Wonderful new job for Ariel Gelber,
daughter of Loren & Joel – Meryl &
Mitchell Danitz

Joseph Springut Security Fund

IN MEMORY OF

Wendy Schulman, wife of Jed – Honey
Sue Springut

FOR THE YAHRZEIT OF

Harold Moglove, father; Helen Springut,
mother-in-law – Honey Sue Springut

WISHING A SPEEDY RECOVERY TO

Bruce Shein – Honey Sue Springut

Cemetery Fund

FOR THE YAHRZEIT OF

Ruth Steinberg, mother – Cheryl Altman

Chai Society

IN HONOR OF

The 100th birthday of Dr. Norman Mann –
Sharon Berg

Rabbi Rosen's Discretionary Fund

IN APPRECIATION OF

Rabbi Rosen – Shelley & Michael Barker,
Larry David & family
Rabbi Rosen for our 40th wedding
anniversary – Judy & David Rosenthal

IN HONOR OF

Dr. Mark Shekman; Howard Weiner –
Shelley & Michael Barker
Dr. Elizabeth Rafalowsky for her friendship
– Debbie & Rich Gutcheon
Nancy & Rabbi Jim Rosen – Helen &
Brian Schwartz

IN MEMORY OF

Dr. Eleanor Klau, sister of David –
Carolyn & Stuart Bernstein, Gail &
Barry Deutsch, Jeanne & Marshall
Elman, Linda & Bruce Stanger
Elsie Farber, mother of Nancy Rosen –
Fredda & Jon Goldstein, Jill & Brad
Hutensky

Alisa Bursack Komsky, daughter of Elaine
Bursack – Arlene & Lenny Lippman

FOR THE YAHRZEIT OF

Ann K. Cohen, mother – Sherri & Lewis
Cohen
Toby Hoffman, mother – Herb Hoffman
Sara D. Jason, mother – Charlotte & Bud
Jason
Solomon Shore, father – Stacey & Eric
Shore

Education Fund

FOR THE YAHRZEIT OF

Lillian Lustgarten, mother – Marlena
Derosa

Library Fund

IN MEMORY OF

Dr. Eleanor Klau, sister of David – Meryl
& Elliot Rosenberg

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IN HONOR OF

Judy & David Rosenthal – Sherri Pliskin

Youth Activities Fund

IN APPRECIATION OF

Rabbi Garber – Peter Molin

IN HONOR OF

Bat mitzvah of Ellie Kay, daughter of
Arielle & Jason – Lois & Chuck Koteen

Temple Fund

IN APPRECIATION OF

Rabbi Howard Sowalsky – Nancy &
Dennis Gottfried

IN HONOR OF

Birth of our twin great-grandchildren,
Avery & Mannon Melius – Jeanne &
Marshall Elman
The 100th birthday of Dr. Norman Mann –
Michele & Dane Kostin
Silous Alvin Oliphant – Tanya Macher
Howard Weiner – Joanne & Arthur
Rome

IN MEMORY OF

Dr. Eleanor Klau, sister of David – Vida &
Eliot Barron, Hilary Freedman &
Howard Zern, Miriam & Richard
Goldberg, Michele & Dane Kostin,
Sheila & Howard Mark, Marilyn
Steinmetz
Rosalie Zetoff – Ellen Blumberg
Irene Salm, mother of Ronald – Shelley &
Alan Cetel
David Weintraub – Debra & Bruce
Fischman, Elizabeth & James
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Katz, Karen & Rob Ludgin, Gerald
Roisman, Eugene Rosenberg, Linda &
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Advisors
Selma Stein – Gerri & Fred Schiffman

You can make a donation in a variety of ways:

- ✧ Go to the Beth El website:
www.bethelwesthartford.org/giving
- ✧ Mail it in

Please be sure to include:

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

Print clearly – or even better, submit the information typed.

Every dollar contributed can
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The minimum donation
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benefit specific purposes and
objectives. For a complete
list of funds, and any specific
designations, please visit our
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Support Beth El by doing what you already do! (just a little bit differently)

GIFT CARDS

- Buy good-as-cash gift cards from Beth El for your own shopping and dining and for gifts.
- 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.

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Temple Fund (cont.)

FOR THE YAHRZEIT OF

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Morris Stollman, father; Bertha G. Berland, mother – **Harriet & Robert H. Berland**
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Miriam Abrahamson, mother – **Leslie Blumberg**
Samuel Kling, father & grandfather – **Shirley K. Brody & family**
Joseph Byer, husband – **Elizabeth Byer**
Benny Cremer, father; Helene Cremer, sister-in-law – **Reeva Cremer**
Adeline Lipkin, mother – **Gail Deutsch**
Joan Diamond, mother; Carol & Mel Tubis, parents – **Sheila & David Diamond**
Harold Falik, father – **Tom Falik**
Samuel B. Feldman, husband & father – **the Feldman family**
Diana Davidovici-Florescu, mother – **Alexandra Flowers**
Ethel Gold, mother; Carol & Arnold Rubman, parents; Anna Gorbovy – **Susan & Bob Gold**
Barry Kursman, father – **Pam & Barry Gordon**
Leonard Greenberg, brother – **Arnold Greenberg**
Mildred Gutcheon, mother – **Debbie & Richard Gutcheon**
Irving Karasik, father – **Robert Karasik**
Joseph Robbins, father – **Karen Katz**
Eugen Herz, grandfather – **Leah Katz**
Greta Meier, mother; Al Kleinman, uncle – **Debbie & Steven Kleinman**
Abraham Simon, father – **Gina Koppel**
Benjamin Kostin, father; Mollie Osias, grandmother; Bessie Goldstein, grandmother – **Michele & Dane Kostin**
William Levine, father – **Peter Levine**
Louis Cooper, father – **Judy Levy**
Kurt Simon, father; Helen Lindenberg, mother – **Andrea & Robert Lindenberg**
Selma Pariser, mother – **Carla & Ron Pariser**
Jean & Nathan Aronson, parents – **Faith Parker**
Art Peikes, father – **Ronald Peikes**
Abraham Piaker, father – **Steven Piaker**
Albert Rosenberg, father-in-law – **Lillian Rosenberg**
Molly Stack Schatz, grandmother – **Deborah R. Rosenfeld**
Sheldon Philip Saffer, husband – **Lois Saffer**
Anne Samberg, mother – **Ira Samberg**
Howard Merker, father – **Sharon & Michael Schloss**
Rose Elkind, grandmother – **Dr. Shari Roth & Russell Selzer**
Bertha Racher, grandmother – **Cyril Sheldon**
Edward Maron, brother – **Reba Stock**
Abe Leichman, father; Dorothy Berkowitz, sister – **Edythe Sussman**
Julius Wachtel, father; Pinkus Stein, Holocaust remembrance – **Sue & Stuart Wachtel**
Rachel Weisinger, mother; Mary Lange, aunt – **Lenore & Philip Weisinger**
David Miller, father – **Judith Zachs**
Elaine Zachs, wife – **Ted Zachs**
Esther Groman, mother – **Shirley Zelman**

ENDOWMENT FUNDS

General Unrestricted Endowment Fund

IN HONOR OF

Judy Rosenthal, a great Beth El President under difficult times – **Annette Gavens**

IN MEMORY OF

Dr. Eleanor Klau, sister of David – **Abbey Kreinik**
Andrew Moss – **Roberta Moss & Michael Isko**
Joyce Ross, mother of Susan Factor – **Karen & Jeffrey Polinsky**
Dr. Stanley Stier, husband of Suzanne – **Carolyn & Jeff Weiser**

(continues)

★ Supporting Beth El, cont.

Alter Family Fund

IN APPRECIATION OF

Judy Rosenthal's outstanding service as Beth El President – **Marci & Jonathan Alter**

IN MEMORY OF

Joyce Ross, mother of Susan Factor – **Marci & Jonathan Alter**

Bezalel Building Fund

IN HONOR OF

Engagement of Koreen Shoham, daughter of Ronit & Scott, to Colby McDonald – **Susan & Phillip Neuberg**

Judith & David Borus Family Endowment Fund

FOR THE YAHRZEIT OF

Joseph Borus, father-in-law – **Judy Borus**

Sharon & Bob Efron Family Fund

FOR THE YAHRZEIT OF

Harold Moses, father; Charlotte Efron, mother – **Sharon & Bob Efron**

Friends Fund for Members in Need

IN HONOR OF

Special wedding anniversary of Judy & David Rosenthal – **Joan & Paul Shapiro**

70th birthday of Richard Leibert; Judy Rosenthal's extraordinary leadership to Beth El – **Patti & Howard Weiner**

IN MEMORY OF

Michael Rothberg, father of Amy Goldman; Philip Friedman, father of Linda Levin – **Patti & Howard Weiner**

FOR THE YAHRZEIT OF

Rosalind Mishkin, mother – **Joan & Paul Shapiro**

Gavens Family College Youth Fund

IN HONOR OF

Marriage of Abigail Gavens, granddaughter of Annette, and Simon Jacob – **Barbara & Robert Green**

FOR THE YAHRZEIT OF

Pauline Kushnet, sister; Marion Gavensky, mother-in-law – **Anette Gavens**

Ruth & Harry Kleinman Endowment Fund

IN APPRECIATION OF

Myra & Bill Kleinman – **Lois & Chuck Koteen**

Diane & Richard Lieberfarb Endowment Fund

IN MEMORY OF

Rhoda Ferber, mother of Emily Sondheimer – **Diane & Richard Lieberfarb**

Mann Family Temple Organ Fund

IN HONOR OF

100th birthday of Dr. Norman Mann – **Cindy & Adam Cohen, Sharon & David Hessney**

Arthur & Stella Mostel Fund for Adult Education

FOR THE YAHRZEIT OF

Mollie Mollov, great aunt – **Carolyn & Jeff Weiser**

Papermaster Family Fund

IN MEMORY OF

Dr. Scott Bortman, son of Joan, brother of Charna Kaufman; Michael Rothberg, father of Amy Goldman; Miriam Klau, granddaughter of Bobby & David – **Beth & Dan Papermaster**

Marshall & Sandra Rulnick Endowment Fund

IN APPRECIATION OF

Sandy & Marshall Rulnick – **Susan & Michael Schenker**

Santiago Family Fund

FOR THE YAHRZEIT OF

Vincente Santiago, father; Samuel Berger, grandfather – **Robin & Rafi Santiago**

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★ Israel Engagement Committee

Arab-Israeli Coexistence – Signs of Hope

In May, violence erupted between Israeli Jews and Arabs within Israel.

Perpetrated by small groups, the majority watched in shock. Like the pines of the western U.S. that sprout after a fire, there are signs that this violence has renewed the sense of urgency in building a stronger more integrated and just society in Israel.

Uri Pilichowski (*Forward*) writes, “Arab Israelis are just as much a part of Israeli society as Israeli Jews are.

As in any country, there are built-in inequalities, but Israel is an improving democracy and tries to correct for them as we build a shared society. It is important for neighbors to find a way to get along.” He finds hope in the fact that the organs of two Israelis killed in the conflict (one Jew and one Arab) were donated by their families, benefiting both Jews and Arabs.

Activists like Shir Nosatzki firmly believe that Arabs and Jews can be good neighbors. They are determined to prove it to a world saturated with images and news accounts that seem to make the case for a hate-filled future.



Members of Debate for Peace, a mixed Jewish-Arab Model UN program in Israeli schools.
Photo courtesy of Debate For Peace

Eman Darawshi is a high school English teacher in the Israeli Arab town of Iksal, and a coordinator for Debate for Peace, a project of the Interfaith Encounter Association bringing Arab and Jewish students from some 70 municipalities together for Model United Nations. All these programs have the same objective: bridging the gap between Arabs and Jews.



Jewish and Arab medical staff at Haifa's Rambam Health Care Campus offer a message of solidarity. At top: “We have beaten Corona and we will come together even now.” Below, staffers hold signs reading “peace” in Arabic and Hebrew.

Photo courtesy of Rambam Health Care Campus

managers and senior executives from the leading companies in the economy, who rely on the cooperation of citizens, Jews and Arabs, side by side – call for an end to violence and a way to live together,” said a statement signed by dozens of Israeli business leaders.

Mohammed Darawshe of Iksal is the leader of the coexistence group, Givat Haviva. One project has put hundreds of Arab teachers into Jewish schools, giving students positive images of Palestinians. He is comforted by the publication recently of several statements in support of calm and cooperation

signed by Jewish and Arab business and civil-society leaders.

One of the new government's biggest challenges will be healing the Jewish-Arab divide. With the first Arab party in a governing coalition, Arab Israelis will have a voice in government decisions. This will ensure that the government will dedicate more resources to the Arab sector than ever before. Greater Arab participation can be the first step towards healing divisions – B'ezrat Hashem and Insha'allah.

It is up to everyday Israelis and Palestinians to make space for the other in their lives and together build a shared future.

Arabs and Jews protest the escalating violence and riots between the Arab and Jewish population, in Jaffa, on May 14, 2021.
Photo by Tomer Neuberg/Flash90



COMMITTEE CO-CHAIRS:

Sharon Efron, sgredancer@yahoo.com

Robin Santiago, Robin@rsantiagodmd.com

★ Engaging Generations

Congratulations

Arlene & Jerry Blum, on birth of granddaughter, Emma Yael Blum Zweig
 Kate & Howard Dietch, on birth of son Noah
 Edith Meade Shiffman, on birth of great-grandson, Chase Lawrence Emmons

Appreciation for Sponsoring a Grab and Go Kiddush

Rabbi Ilana Garber & Adam Berkowitz and family
 Joni Harris & Jonathan Harris, in honor of Sammie's Bat Mitzvah
 The Kay family, in honor of Ellie's Bat Mitzvah
 Michele & Dane Kostin
 Diane & Rich Lieberfarb
 Sheila & Dr. Howard Mark
 Dr. & Mrs. Harold Moskowitz
 The Nemirow family, in honor of Ella's Bat Mitzvah

For information our out Bar and Bat Mitzvah celebrations, please contact the office.

Welcome to New Members

Rena Citron
 Kate & Howard Dietch, with Noah
 Eugene Kagan
 Lorri & George Ominsky
 Ann Rosow-Lucchesi
 Jane & Joshua Zigman, with Charlotte and Sophia
 Zachary Zimmerman
 Phyllis & Joseph Zwarick

Of Blessed Memory

Laura Kinyon, wife of Rick Kinyon
 Evelyn Moglove, mother of Honey Sue Springut
 Alan Harvey Oremland, father of Len Oremland
 Linda Putterman, wife of Steve Putterman
 Irene Salm, mother of Ron Salm

Beth El Torah Goes to Camp

Some Torahs cannot wait for the fall when they get dressed up for the High Holidays. Other Torahs look forward to a particular Shabbat when their favorite Parsha is read. As for me, I cannot wait for summer. Especially this summer, I can return to Camp Ramah in New England for the first time in two years! The pandemic interrupted my annual trek to Palmer, MA. Oh, how I look forward to spending Shabbat with over 800 campers and 230 staff. It is the highlight of my year!

Joining me at Ramah this year from Beth El are 28 campers (from 17 families – love that siblings come together!), 3 bunk counselors, and 2 adult staff.



Here I am with one of my buddies on loan from another shul in New England. About a dozen of us are so privileged every summer!

Beth El Temple of West Hartford Inc.

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Stanley M. Kessler z"l, Rabbi Emeritus	
Rabbi Howard Sowalsky, Ritual & Executive Director	hsowalsky@bethelwh.org
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Published every two months. Following the deadline schedule below, please submit articles to:

TempleTopics@bethelwh.org

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

★ Preparing for the High Holy Days

TEMPLE TOPICS SPECIAL EDITION All About the High Holy Days

Arriving in Early August!

Everything you need to
know about services:
times, descriptions,
tickets, streaming,
etc.

HIGH HOLIDAYS AT A GLANCE

Mon, August 9	Beginning of Month of Elul
We blow the shofar Sunday-Friday at Morning Minyan.	
Sat, August 28	Selichot
After Shabbat, enjoy a special musical pre-High Holiday service (details to be announced).	
Mon, Sept 6	Erev Rosh Hashanah
Tue, Sept 7	Rosh Hashanah – Day 1
Wed, Sept 8	Rosh Hashanah – Day 2
Wed, Sept 15	Kol Nidre
Thur, Sept 16	Yom Kippur

EARLY HIGH HOLIDAYS = EARLY DEADLINES



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Yizkor Service on four
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for the Book of Remembrance.

NOTE: BOTH SUBMISSIONS ARE DUE TUESDAY, JULY 20.