



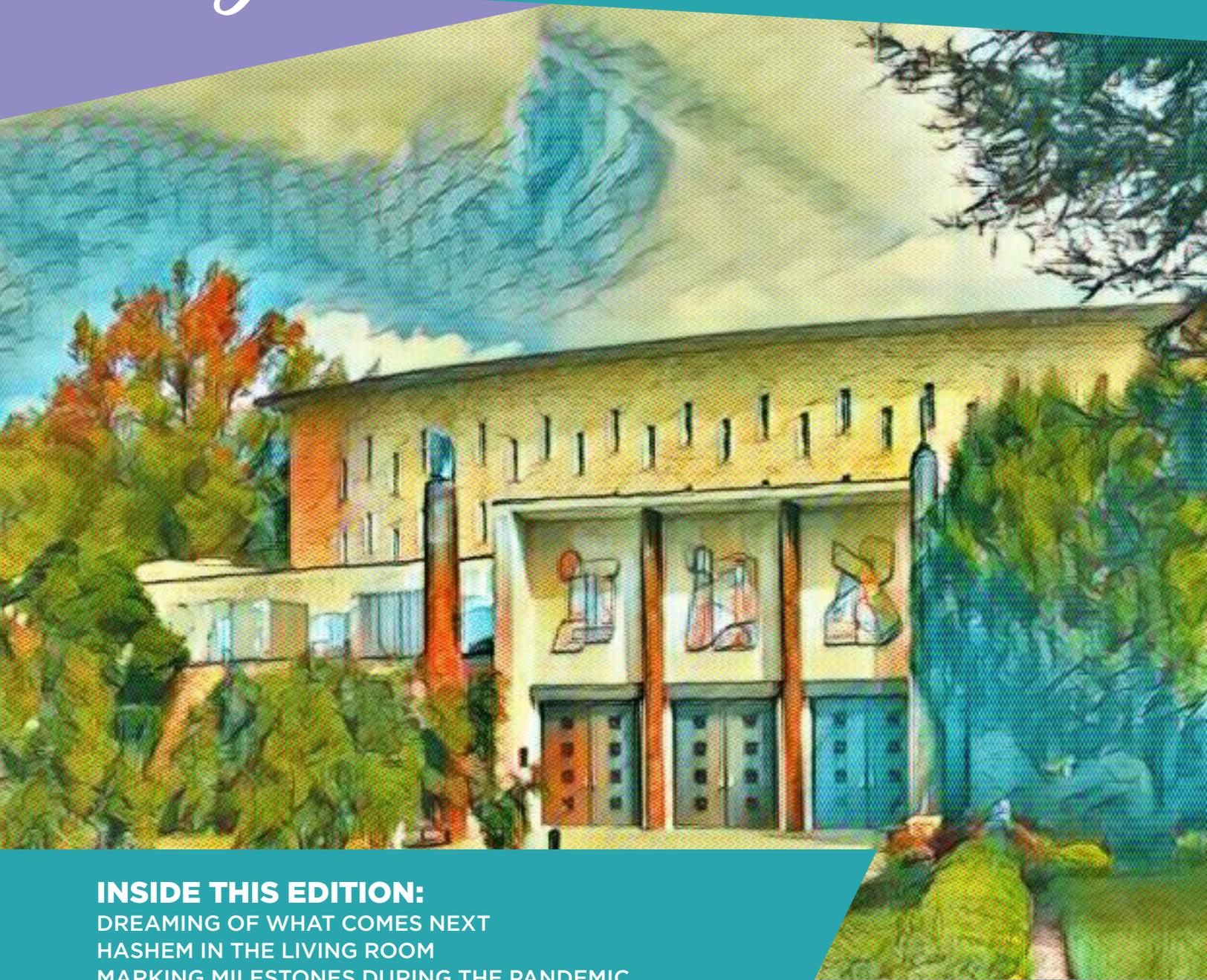
# The VOICE

SPECIAL EDITION

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## BETH EL GOES

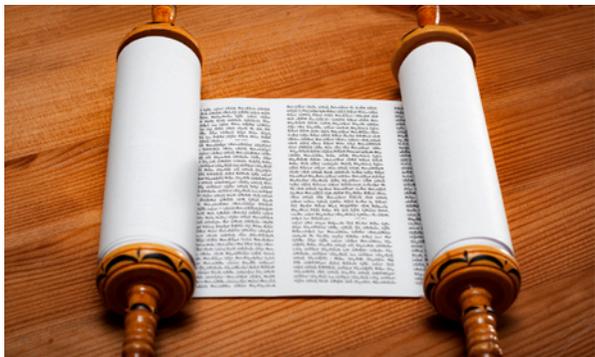
# *Beyond the Walls*



### **INSIDE THIS EDITION:**

- DREAMING OF WHAT COMES NEXT
- HASHEM IN THE LIVING ROOM
- MARKING MILESTONES DURING THE PANDEMIC

# A Look Into *The Voice*



## Hashem in the Living Room

Virtual prayer brought Beth El spiritually close, while socially distanced.

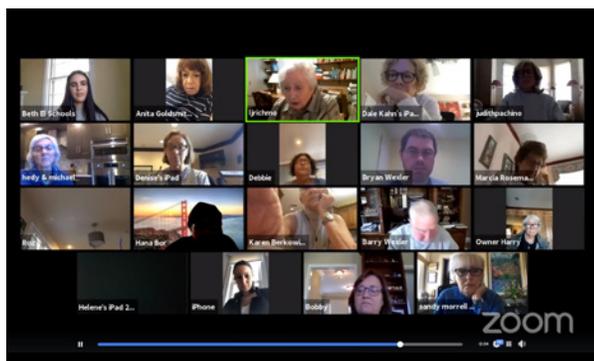
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## Life Goes On

Marking milestones anchored Beth El through the shutdown.

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## Learning through Lockdown

Beth El students of all ages embraced remote Jewish education.

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## Chesed in the Time of Corona

Beth El prioritized social action during social distance.

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## Anchors and Lillypads

The Soul Center helped members find calm and inner-peace during uncertain times.

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## Staff Reflections & Perspectives

Beth el professional staff share experiences through COVID-19 outbreak.

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# BETH EL GOES *Beyond the Walls*

**700+**

**CONTENT, GATHERINGS AND SERVICES**



Our community remains connected through a robust daily schedule of virtual content, gatherings and services.

**197,000+**

**PEOPLE REACHED**



Beyond the Walls has wide appeal, extending our digital footprint far beyond Baltimore.

**6,000+**

**HOURS OF VIDEO**



We interact with each other in real-time through live video streaming.

**1,000**

**NEW FACEBOOK FOLLOWERS**



Our virtual community continues to grow... "Beyond the Walls."

## CHESED INITIATIVES

### **Chesed**

{noun} pronounced che-sed

1. an act of kindness
2. the attribute of grace, benevolence, or compassion, especially (in Kabbalism) as one of the sephiroth.

**4,000+**

**BUNCHES OF LUNCHES**



Lunches were distributed to families in need from our Beth El members.  
*In partnership with JVC*

**2,000+**

**CARING CALLS**



Members of our congregation have been contacted through our *Caring Calls* initiative.

## CLERGY REFLECTION:

# Dreaming OF WHAT COMES Next

**By:** Rabbi Dana Saroken

As I write this reflection, imagining what could come next, it's Memorial Day weekend, and I sense that we're all poised in a liminal space between what was and what will be. It feels as if the people in our community and our country are ready: to return to the world that was, to see our friends again, to gather again, and to enjoy our freedom and the fullness of life. It makes sense, the sun is shining brighter, the weather getting warmer, and summer is finally here. Who among us isn't yearning to put this all behind us?

Yet I pray that we won't move too quickly; that we'll stay put a while longer until we're safer.

It always helps me to turn to the *Torah* for guidance, and the *Torah* has been a constant source of inspiration and hope to me as we've navigated this pandemic. I've revisited the stories of our ancestors when they faced countless plagues and the stories of their liberation when they least expected it. I've revisited the biblical stories that tell us how, in an effort to contain

the spread of infectious disease, our ancestors isolated themselves - often for 14 days - before returning to the community. And of course, I've repeatedly revisited the stories of *Bamidbar*, the Fourth Book of the *Torah*, which describes our ancestors' journey through the unknowns of the wilderness. In reading those stories, we are constantly reminded of human beings' struggles amidst uncertainty. Through all of these stories, though, I keep holding onto the end. Our ancestors eventually made it through the wilderness of the unknown and reached their Promised Land. It wasn't a quick or easy journey,

but our People ultimately endured. I pray that we will too.

In addition to the *Torah*, a poem has stayed with me through this pandemic, written by Kitty O'Meara:

*And the people stayed home. And read books, and listened, and rested, and exercised, and made art, and played games, and learned new ways of being, and were still. And listened more deeply. Some meditated, some prayed, some danced. Some met their shadows. And the people began*

“It wasn't a quick or easy journey. But our People ultimately endured. I pray that we will too.”

*to think differently. And the people healed. And, in the absence of people living in ignorant, dangerous, mindless, and heartless ways, the earth began to heal. And when the danger passed, and the people joined together again, they grieved their losses, and made new choices, and dreamed new images, and created new ways to live and heal the earth fully, as they had been healed.*

The brilliance of this poem to me is that it taps into the myriad of ways that we're all filling our days of social distancing and isolation, but then transitions us into another state of being. The line "And the people began to think differently" begins our shift toward healing, and then the poem takes us to a vision of a new day - a day that comes after "the danger passed."

There was a coming together, a communal grieving process and a reimagining, a reckoning. Eventually, a new way of living emerges.

While none of us know what the future will bring, I imagine that the months ahead will be filled with these stages. At some point, we will find healing, and then we will come together and grieve. I imagine that we will all need to tap into our ancient traditions and creatively construct new rituals that will help us with the crucial step of honoring the lives and witness the passings of husbands and wives, parents and children, siblings and family members and friends.

We will have to find time and ways to celebrate missed *simchot* and precious moments. We will have to find extraordinary ways to thank those people who are working tirelessly and courageously, who put their own lives at risk for the sake of the greater good. Then, we might exhale, dream again, and create new ways of being and maybe even a better, kinder world.

This pandemic has impacted us all, in ways that I don't think we are yet able even to realize. It has changed the way that we empathize with each other. We now understand that our lives indeed are inextricably linked. Most of all, it has made us aware of our vulnerabilities.

We have also seen human beings at our best. We have seen kindness and goodness and generosity and courage and love abound. We have affirmed that we all want to be a part of something bigger than ourselves. We have seen people creating space for faith, God, *Torah* and Jewish wisdom and community. We may not have been able to open up our doors to one another during this pandemic, but it seems that more people than usual opened up our doors and hearts for God.

Jewish life will continue. We will be so grateful to hear someone else saying "Amen" to our prayers, to count a *minyan* of ten people again together in physical space, to receive an invitation to someone else's *simcha*, to show up in-person for *shiva*. And can you imagine the next time we hold hands to dance the hora?! I think that will make me cry.

My hope for Judaism and for us is that we won't rush back too quickly to how things used to be, that we'll challenge ourselves to take precious and important lessons from our time in quarantine and find new ways to continue to tap into a Judaism that can be more accessible, more soulful and more creative while remaining an anchor and a source of hope and inspiration as we work to sustain this loving, kind, caring and connected new world.

## Looking to the Future: Beth El Congregation's Town Hall Meeting #2

We received such positive feedback from our community after our Town Hall Meeting a few weeks ago that we wanted to bring the congregation back

together for Looking to the Future: Beth El Congregation Town Hall Meeting #2. The virtual gathering will take place on **Thursday, June 25** from **5:00-6:00 PM** on Zoom.

*A Zoom invitation will be sent out via email to all members and school families.*

# TO THE PROMISED *Land*

**By:** Josh Bender, *Executive Director*

Almost a year ago to the day, at Beth El's 2019 annual meeting, the congregation adopted a new mission statement based on and inspired by three core Jewish values: *Torah*, *Chesed*, and *Kedusha*.

In a changing world, where the relationship Jews have with their synagogue is constantly evolving, it was and continues to be of the utmost importance for our community to continually reflect on who we are and who we want to become. That unified vision for our community guided us through a year of unprecedented growth, including the most successful Annual Appeal in the congregation's history. But when we adopted the new mission statement last May, we never expected just how much we could come to rely on it.

This year, for the first time in the congregation's history, Beth El did not convene for the annual meeting. The reason of course was the COVID-19 pandemic. From the very beginning of the outbreak, Beth El, bolstered by our mission and vision, acted decisively and instantaneously, closing our physical campus to the public, cancelling all in-person programs, and launching our Beyond the Walls virtual initiative, the extensive virtual synagogue community we created in the earliest days of social distancing to deliver content and gatherings around the clock, seven days a week throughout the quarantine.

While we could never have anticipated the specifics of our new reality, we crafted the synagogue's mission and vision specifically to help us rise to and meet any challenge, whether expected or unforeseen, personal or communal, local or global, spiritual or physical.

Let's be clear: our unified culture empowered us to act.

The COVID-19 crisis disrupted our lives in ways many of us have never experienced. Our synagogue - one that operates seven days a week, 365 days a year - immediately grappled with an existential threat to our very purpose: to serve the community. Without access to

our physical building, congregants wondered how Beth El would remain relevant or even solvent.

Not only has Beth El survived this pandemic, I would dare say it has thrived.

Our sacred community met this challenge together, galvanized by the wisdom of our tradition. Indeed, the core values which have ensured the continuity of the Jewish community and people for millennia, anchored and connected our Beth El family through the deeply disconcerting uncertainties of social distancing. At the center of our *kehillah* are the values that define us and inspire our work no matter where we find ourselves. At the end of the day, our essence exists "beyond the walls." Despite our beautiful campus, with its magnificent sanctuaries and gathering spaces, we define our identity as a synagogue community through the values we aspire to live every day.

The Jewish value of *Torah* continues to bring us together and guide our path. Though we could no longer gather in the Gorn Chapel for daily *minyanim*, virtual prayer services allowed us to *daven* together as a community, as the *Torah* commands. We continue to absorb and engage with the history and lessons of our tradition's collective wisdom, through weekly *Torah* readings, as well as transformative virtual educational experiences, organized by the Center for Lifelong Learning and the Soul Center. Our preschool and Hebrew school students, under the care of our dedicated educators, have continued studying Jewish tradition through distance learning.

Our community has continually shined in the area of *chesed*, demonstrating that compassion and kindness form the very foundation of Beth El's culture. Dozens of Beth El volunteers have made thousands of "Caring Calls" to their fellow homebound congregants, especially to our elderly members, and we continue to hear time and time again how cared for our members feel even from a social distance. When we asked our congregation to prepare and deliver bagged lunches to be donated to shelters throughout Baltimore as part of Jewish Volunteer Connection's community-wide *chesed* drive known as "Bunches of Lunches," we received over 1,000 meals.

The value of *kedusha* - elevating both the ordinary and sacred moments in our lives - has nourished our souls during this time of physical distance and social isolation. Though COVID-19 derailed much of our daily routines, Beth El continued to mark the transitions in the Jewish lives of our congregants, providing a much needed sense of normalcy. Through virtual gatherings on Facebook and Zoom, our community celebrated *B'nai Mitzvah*, weddings, and baby namings. Bereavement has been particularly painful during the time of coronavirus. While mourners are unable to feel the physical embrace of their friends and family, they have nevertheless been comforted by our clergy and community, through poignant virtual funerals, and *shiva minyanim*.

In many ways, Beth El's mission statement prepared us for the most difficult challenge in the congregation's history. Being a mission-driven organization helped us prioritize our efforts when facing unexpected challenges and obstacles, not least of which is our new financial reality. We are uncertain of what the new fiscal year will bring, and yet our community responded to our plea. To date, 200 donors have made over \$70,000 in gifts to the COVID-19 Emergency Relief Fund, which will support our operations.

Our mission-defined culture has also motivated potential members to join Beth El despite -- and in part because of -- the pandemic. I attribute their interest in membership during this challenging time to two things. First, we have expanded the congregation's digital footprint through our Beyond the Walls initiative, reaching over 130,000 individuals locally, nationally, and even globally. For many of these folks, Beyond the Walls was their first opportunity to experience the magic of Beth El. The second reason that we are drawing our current congregants closer and reaching new, potential members, is something we have known all along: that a synagogue community like Beth El -- with an incredibly

compassionate, and creative, clergy, staff, and lay leadership -- provides meaning and nourishment for the heart, mind, and soul.

No matter what the coming weeks and months have in store for us, one thing is certain: we will continue to be motivated and unified by our congregation's mission, itself informed by the ancient Jewish values that have carried our people for centuries through the desert to the Promised Land.

At the center of our *kehillah* are the values that define us and inspire our work no matter where we find ourselves. Our essence exists "beyond the walls."



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To learn about the Soul Center, go to [soulcenterbaltimore.org](https://soulcenterbaltimore.org). To contact us, click [here](#).

HASHEM IN THE LIVING ROOM:

BETH EL

# Embraces VIRTUAL PRAYER

## Experiences

By: Brandon Chiat, *Digital Media Manager*

Beth El Congregation balanced the desire to reopen and worship together against the health consequences of moving too fast.

For the first time in his rabbinate, Steve Schwartz delivered his *Shabbat* sermon into a camera lens. Far from the *bimah* of the magnificent Berman-Rubin Sanctuary or the intimate Gorn Chapel, Rabbi Schwartz greeted the congregation from the confines of his home office.

“Judaism encourages us to tap into eternal traditions that persist despite the goings-on of the wider world,” said Rabbi Steve Schwartz. “It is still *Shabbat* on Friday night and Saturday, no matter what’s going on, and no matter whether it is observed or not.”

While religious services are the core function of a synagogue, Beth El’s clergy realized that prayer experiences would take on greater importance during the COVID-19 crisis. The clergy, along with Beth El’s professional leadership, worked decisively and tirelessly to adapt the congregation’s sacred gatherings to a virtual space.

From daily *minyanim* and *Shabbat* services on Facebook Live to *Pesach*, *Shavuot*, and other holiday celebrations on Zoom, Beth El creatively found ways to broadcast Jewish traditions.

### **Celebrating Passover: This Night - and Holiday - Was Different From All Others**

For many Jews, the Passover holiday - a festival celebrating the identity, origin, and unity of the Jewish people - brought the realities of social distancing into stark focus. Typically a time of family gatherings, this year’s Passover *Seder* tables - including Beth El’s - were devoid of the corporal human presence that makes the

holiday so beloved.

“The hardest thing for me as a rabbi was knowing that there would be some people that were alone during *Pesach*,” said Rabbi Dana Saroken. “But the ancient rabbis predicted and understood that at points throughout the course of Jewish history, outside forces may prevent Jews from observing the holiday in full accordance with tradition. So they taught us that a person who is alone is still obligated to recite the key parts of the *Seder* and of the Jewish people’s story.”

Indeed, that ancient wisdom guided the Beth El community, as new social distancing norms meant a holiday intentionally designed to bring the Jewish community together would be observed apart. Though it was planned as an in-person event for over 200-guests, Cantor Thom King and his family hosted Beth El’s Community *Seder* remotely from their dining room. Instead of participating in what would have been the largest *Seder* gathering in the congregation’s history - and the first such event in over two decades - Beth El’s congregants welcomed Passover through Zoom and Facebook Live.

“We Jews have always adapted to the challenges of our specific reality,” said Cantor Thom King. “The current reality of the COVID-19 pandemic demanded that we change our approach to prayer and connecting to God.”

In reflecting on the Passover experience during this pandemic, Rabbi Saroken shared that many congregants experienced a range of emotions going into the holiday. “For many people there was some anxiety, and concern that lifelong traditions wouldn’t be upheld,” she

reflected. “There was some sadness that they would be distanced from the people with whom they typically shared the Passover experience.”

From the food to the songs to the empty chairs around the *Seder* table, there was an obvious and unavoidable answer to the central Passover question: “Why is this night different from all other nights?”

The glow of digital screens stood-in for the warmth of human faces, as social media allowed the Beth El community to connect with their loved ones. “I felt as if the power of the Passover story resonated with us in particularly meaningful ways this year,” Rabbi Saroken added.

Following the virtual *Seder*, Beth El’s clergy were at once relieved that its members were able to meaningfully embrace Passover traditions, and were inspired by the potential of remote worship.

### Moving ‘Beyond the Walls’ and Relearning the Value of Faith

Moving to an all-virtual prayer experience was no small adaptation. After all, Beth El Congregation has hosted daily *minyanim* and prayer services everyday since the synagogue first opened its doors in 1948.

Not even a pandemic could change that.

“We are learning again the value of faith,” Rabbi Schwartz reminded. “Our clergy has been astonished by the thousands upon thousands of people logging on for our weekday, Friday night, and *Shabbat* morning services.”

In addition to traditional *minyanim*, the shutdown provided an opportunity to explore alternative prayer gatherings designed to address the unprecedented spiritual needs of the pandemic.

“The Soul Center created our daily ‘Soul Boosts’ to provide people with a sense of gratitude amidst all the fear, loss, and suffering,” Rabbi Saroken explained. “Soul Boosts are an accessible way for anyone and everyone to center themselves as they approach a new day, to recognize the gift of their bodies and souls, to become mindful of the big and small kindnesses that people extend to each other, and to tap into the *Torah* as a source of inspiration.”

The groundswell in virtual engagement underscored a fundamental truth: while Beth El’s sacred community has a physical component, its ultimate meaning is far deeper.

“Part of it has to do with the subconscious search for hope and meaning during difficult times,” Rabbi Schwartz observed. “People are remembering that one place you might find those things is in your house of worship.”

Truly, there is comfort in community.

“The building at 8101 Park Heights Avenue is just that: a building,” said Cantor Melanie Blatt. “We are the synagogue.”

With that philosophy in mind, Beth El launched its Beyond the Walls initiative - a robust daily schedule of digital content, virtual gatherings, and remote prayer experiences - only a few short hours after the synagogue’s leadership announced it would close the campus indefinitely.

In doing so, Beth El’s sacred community learned about themselves. Not only were members amenable to their new reality - which for many congregants meant using technology platforms like Facebook, YouTube, and Zoom for the first time in their lives - but virtual prayer experiences also provided unforeseen benefits.

### Many Ways to Talk with God

“I’ve noticed that folks who are not regular synagogue attendees have become regular attendees of our virtual services,” observed Ritual Director Ben Kreshtool.

“Jewish services are sort of like a dance: If you don’t know the choreography, you’re not going to feel good about your dancing,” Cantor King illustrated. “Many parts of the service require an insider knowledge, such as knowing when to chant or rise. People watching from home now have the freedom to make mistakes.”

Freed from anxieties or judgements, Beth El members deepened their faith and explored their spirituality. Just as congregants reconnected with their spirituality, so too did Beth El’s clergy experiment with creative new avenues for its members to do so.

“*Ahava Rabbah* is a prayer about God loving us with abundance, which is something we needed to remind



Virtual Shabbat morning service

ourselves - and literally hold onto - during the pandemic,” Rabbi Saroken said. “When we get to *Ahava Rabbah* during Soul Boosts, I have people hug themselves. In a time when people are missing human touch, to feel someone’s arms wrapped around you - even if they’re your own - is a powerful manifestation of God’s love.”

Indeed, The Soul Boosts, as well as Beth El’s other daily virtual prayer experiences, are an exercise in mindfulness, reminding the community that a day like this has never before existed and will never again.

“The days, weeks, and months are blending together,” Rabbi Saroken added. “To be reminded that this day was given to us totally unique and distinct from all others, a gift from God, that for me, is breathtaking.”

While prayer during social distancing may have felt funny at first, Beth El’s sacred community learned that there’s no wrong way to talk with God.

“There’s a beautiful tradition in Judaism that encourages individual prayer,” Mr. Kreshtool explained. “Virtual services are the best of both worlds: you’re still a part of the communal experience, but if there are parts of the service that don’t speak to you, then perhaps you can read an English commentary in your *Siddur* or do some self-reflection.”

“Either way, *Hashem* is coming right into your living room, just like Walter Cronkite used to do,” Rabbi Schwartz joked.

### **Socially Distanced, Not Emotionally Isolated**

While virtual prayer gatherings brought familiar faces together, social distancing is unnatural for humans, and especially so for the Jewish people, whose tradition is rooted in the deeply fulfilling connections of community.

“Sometimes, after we conclude our virtual services - be it the morning Soul Boost or the congregational *minyanim* -

we’ll stay on the Zoom and give each other a quick update on our lives,” Rabbi Saroken shared. “It’s the most beautiful opportunity for people to know that no matter how they’re feeling - anxious, down, fearful, hopeless, stuck - their community is there to boost each other’s spirits, and to recognize the blessings and gifts of a new day.”

What began as virtual morning *minyanim* quickly evolved into a beautiful expression of community, including members who contracted COVID-19 or who had been hospitalized for other reasons, as well as people who had lost loved ones. Remote prayer services, then, were an opportunity for congregants to check-in on one another, and to ensure that while they were socially distanced, they would never be emotionally isolated.

“The *Torah* never singles out an individual, referring to us instead as the *Children* of Israel. We are always described as a group, a collective *people*,” Mr. Kreshtool noted.

“The tradition explains ‘all of Israel is responsible one for another,’ especially with respect to marginalized groups like the elderly, widows, or orphans.”

“Virtual services have been a tremendous resource for us during a time where we desperately needed our tradition to connect and ground us. But there are just some things you can never replicate or experience the same way through a screen,” Cantor King said. “Virtual prayer services have been a particular boon to *shiva minyanim*, and an expanded approach to remote services will make our community more accessible to those congregants who are homebound or live a great distance from Pikesville.”

Despite their invaluable role in helping the community remain connected through the shutdown, Beth El’s clergy realized that virtual prayer services have limitations.

### **Amen: I’m in this with You, We’re in this Together**

“The hardest part of this for me has been not being able to sing together with others,” Cantor Blatt admitted. “When we sing and harmonize, we create layers of sound waves that build on each other - that’s something that I crave and miss.”

Rabbi Saroken agreed with that sentiment, noting that certain intimate nuances can only be exchanged in the flesh. “One of my favorite things about our in-person services is watching someone return to their seat after an *aliyah* and seeing other congregants extend their hands in a *yasher koach*,” she said. “I miss hearing people saying Amen because there’s something about the word Amen that’s very affirming. It lifts up not only the prayer leader

but also the community. Amen means I'm in this with you, we're in this together."

While virtual worship will never replace in-person gatherings, clergy and congregation alike will carry with them the lessons learned during the COVID-19 shutdown. To that end, the congregation has only just scratched the surface on its creative use of technology.

During the congregation's *Shavuot* services, members leveraged Facebook Live to participate in an interactive *Yizkor* prayer service that moved clergy and congregants alike to tears. Using the chat feature, the clergy invited congregants to share the names of their deceased loved-ones, as well as a beautiful lesson or value they learned from that person.

"I read the sentiments and cried," Rabbi Saroken admitted. "Incorporating social media into our *Shavuot* service allowed our congregants to experience *Yizkor* as never before, by bearing and sharing their hearts and minds with the entire community."

Virtual gatherings also allowed Beth El to connect with the wider Baltimore Jewish community, as members of its clergy and professional staff joined with other Baltimore-area synagogues to offer a community-wide night of learning on *Shavuot* night.

"From 7:00 p.m. until dawn, the virtual classrooms were filled with people eager to study and grow together and to honor the *Torah* and *Shavuot* together," Rabbi Saroken said.

### Judaism Lives 'Beyond the Walls'

"The question we faced as a congregational community was in this time of social distancing, of physically staying apart, how could we come closer together, spiritually," Rabbi Schwartz posed? "The COVID-19 pandemic could very well become a watershed moment in history, and when it is over, everything will be different than it was before. But in the meantime, we are re-learning how to interact, how to meet, greet, support, care, pray, and connect."

By adapting digital expressions of its sacred community, Beth El responded to the stumbling blocks in its path, something the Jewish people have done for millennia.

"At various points in our history, the Jewish people have been prohibited from reading the *Torah* aloud, so we came up with the *Haftarah*, chantings that reflected the *parsha's* theme," Cantor King explained. "When it comes

to maintaining tradition, the Jewish people have always found innovative interpretations of our faith - whether creating the *Haftarah* or adding prayers to the *Siddur* - in order to meet the spiritual challenges of a given moment."

"In a time of crisis, our community searched for ways to connect with each other and with God," Cantor Blatt observed. "Our congregation came to rely on virtual prayer for consistent social connection, for a sense of familiarity that made us feel like we were home, and for the comforting melodies that gave us hope."

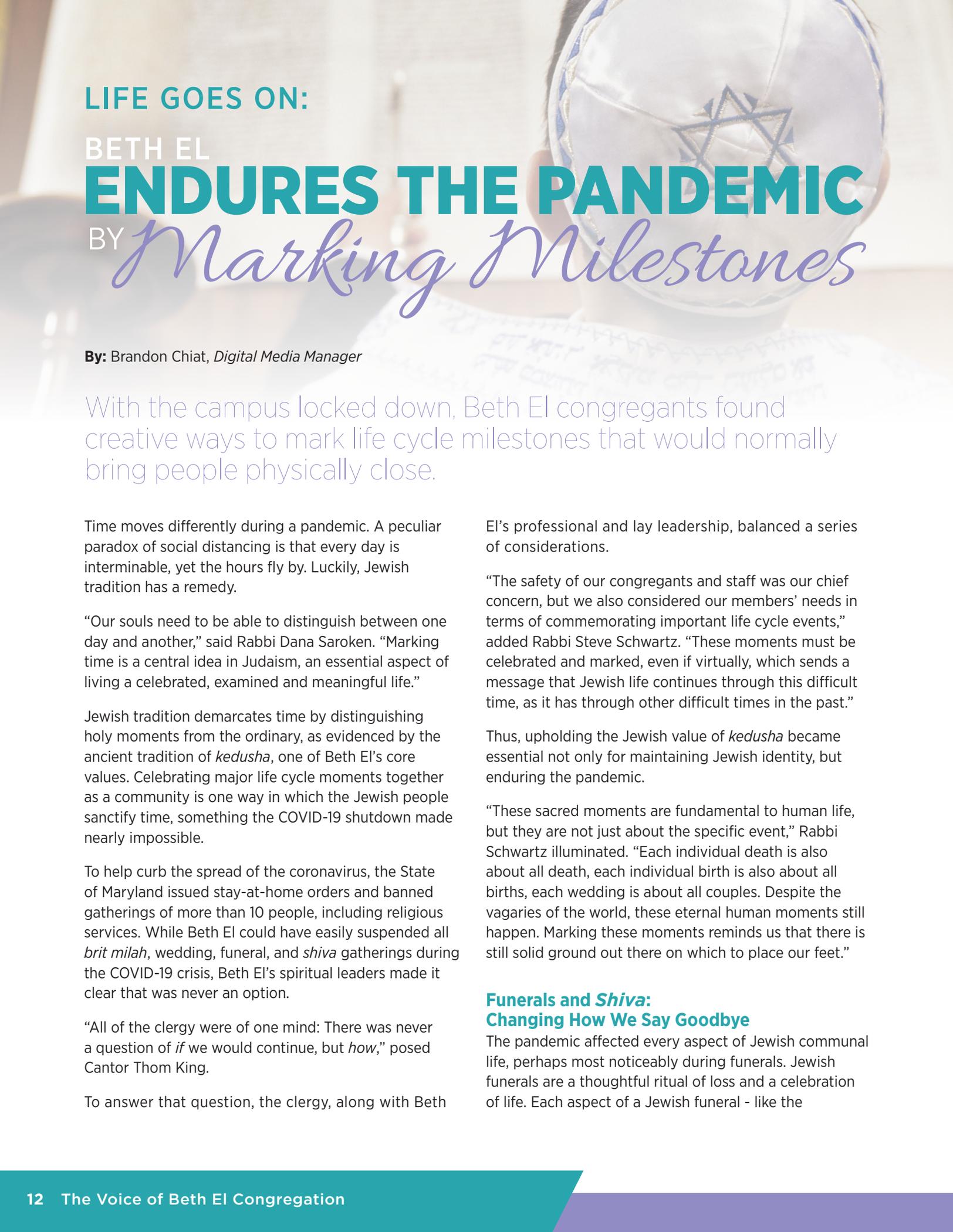
While the clergy anticipate that all Beth El services will incorporate some virtual component for the foreseeable future, they also strive to maintain the essence of tradition.

"Shabbat is the one day of the week when we traditionally unplug from technology, which makes it tricky to live in this virtual reality," Rabbi Saroken reminded. "Now, we're finding ourselves in a strange predicament: our minds and souls need a virtual day of rest but our spirits need to be uplifted during our social distancing or isolation - we need Judaism and each other."

As in so many sectors of American life that have been disrupted, sacred communities are stepping gingerly into the post-shutdown world. The coming days bring a significant test. Beth El has laid the groundwork for reopening its campus, by talking to health professionals and community leaders about how to safely gather again. Yet there is no time table for when congregants can expect to resume in-person activities. Though religious services have already resumed in more than half the states, many congregations, including Beth El, decided to remain closed.

"The Jewish people are defiant, the spirit of our people has been one of resilience," Mr. Kreshtool said. "When the Syrian Greeks under Antiochus told us not to study *Torah*, the Maccabees started a revolution. When the Romans destroyed the Second Temple, Rabbinic Judaism flourished, teaching us that Judaism does indeed live, *beyond the walls*."

"May we look back on this time and remember how we came together, how we supported one another and lifted each other up, how our sacred community remained strong by maintaining our faith and hope, how we sacrificed, and how we remembered - and once again prioritized - what was truly most important in life," Rabbi Schwartz concluded. "Because we did that, we may one day see a brave new world in the very best way."



LIFE GOES ON:

BETH EL

# ENDURES THE PANDEMIC

BY *Marking Milestones*

**By:** Brandon Chiat, *Digital Media Manager*

With the campus locked down, Beth El congregants found creative ways to mark life cycle milestones that would normally bring people physically close.

Time moves differently during a pandemic. A peculiar paradox of social distancing is that every day is interminable, yet the hours fly by. Luckily, Jewish tradition has a remedy.

“Our souls need to be able to distinguish between one day and another,” said Rabbi Dana Saroken. “Marking time is a central idea in Judaism, an essential aspect of living a celebrated, examined and meaningful life.”

Jewish tradition demarcates time by distinguishing holy moments from the ordinary, as evidenced by the ancient tradition of *kedusha*, one of Beth El’s core values. Celebrating major life cycle moments together as a community is one way in which the Jewish people sanctify time, something the COVID-19 shutdown made nearly impossible.

To help curb the spread of the coronavirus, the State of Maryland issued stay-at-home orders and banned gatherings of more than 10 people, including religious services. While Beth El could have easily suspended all *brit milah*, wedding, funeral, and *shiva* gatherings during the COVID-19 crisis, Beth El’s spiritual leaders made it clear that was never an option.

“All of the clergy were of one mind: There was never a question of *if* we would continue, but *how*,” posed Cantor Thom King.

To answer that question, the clergy, along with Beth

El’s professional and lay leadership, balanced a series of considerations.

“The safety of our congregants and staff was our chief concern, but we also considered our members’ needs in terms of commemorating important life cycle events,” added Rabbi Steve Schwartz. “These moments must be celebrated and marked, even if virtually, which sends a message that Jewish life continues through this difficult time, as it has through other difficult times in the past.”

Thus, upholding the Jewish value of *kedusha* became essential not only for maintaining Jewish identity, but enduring the pandemic.

“These sacred moments are fundamental to human life, but they are not just about the specific event,” Rabbi Schwartz illuminated. “Each individual death is also about all death, each individual birth is also about all births, each wedding is about all couples. Despite the vagaries of the world, these eternal human moments still happen. Marking these moments reminds us that there is still solid ground out there on which to place our feet.”

## **Funerals and *Shiva*: Changing How We Say Goodbye**

The pandemic affected every aspect of Jewish communal life, perhaps most noticeably during funerals. Jewish funerals are a thoughtful ritual of loss and a celebration of life. Each aspect of a Jewish funeral - like the

mourning process itself, from the memorial service and graveside burial to *shiva* and *yizkor* - intentionally guides the bereaved through their grief. But the coronavirus outbreak forced Beth El - and faith communities around the world - to reimagine end-of-life rituals and fundamentally altered the way in which its members said goodbye.

Social distancing measures dictated that no more than 10 people could gather for a funeral, forcing families to make heartbreaking decisions. Gone are public funeral services. So too are in-person *shiva* gatherings and their intimate moments of tears, laughter, longing, and reminiscing. Likewise, "*tahara*," the ritual washing of the body in preparation for burial by a sacred society called the "*chevra kadisha*," became a health risk.

"Navigating funeral arrangements during quarantine is complicated for sure, not only because families have to decide whom to invite to the cemetery, but also because they don't have their community at the graveside to, quite literally, hold them or provide any physical or emotional support," Rabbi Saroken observed.

While Facebook and Zoom allowed loved ones to be present from a safe social distance, Beth El congregants were initially reluctant to make the shift from in-person to virtual gatherings, according to Rabbi Saroken. "That's understandable, as none of us had ever experienced a baby naming, *B'nai Mitzvah*, wedding, funeral, or a *shiva* virtually, so we really had no idea how it would feel, what to expect, and what the experience would be like for the families and the community," she added.

"We heard from congregants who worried that their loved one's funeral or *Bar Mitzvah*, would lose a sense of meaning, or that it somehow wouldn't be as powerful as an in-person gathering," Rabbi Schwartz recalled. "They also wondered if it was truly 'authentic' to do it virtually. Yet, I've been surprised at how authentic, and even more so, how meaningful these virtual life cycle moments have been."

To that end, Cantor King feels remote access has been advantageous for one life cycle event in particular. "There can be a social aspect to [in-person] *shiva minyanim* which may detract from the holiness of the gathering. Guests naturally wind up talking to each other, and the bereaved may feel the added pressure of having to play host," Cantor King said. "But virtual *shiva minyanim* are different as friends and extended family are more fully present during the controlled environment of a virtual *shiva*."

"People have been extraordinary at being fully present, bearing witness to the mourners, listening wholeheartedly, and telling beautiful stories about the deceased,"

Traditionally, a Jewish funeral concludes with a message of hope, one that is particularly salient during these times of social distance: "may you find comfort and strength in the Jewish rituals and traditions."

"Our rituals and traditions still act as anchors in our lives, and provide a path that we can all walk in these important moments of our lives," Rabbi Saroken said. "Even though these traditions may look and feel different right now, my hope and prayer is that they are a comfort to people and make them feel less alone."

### **Smachot:** **Radiating Joy Through Difficult Times**

Just as end-of-life traditions helped anchor the Jewish community through uncertain times, so too did celebratory moments provide much-needed hope.

Lucille Goldberg radiates joy to every person she meets. So it should be no surprise that over 100 cars lined up for a socially-distant parade in celebration of the Beth El founding-member's 100th birthday.

"It was so marvelous," the birthday-girl said. "Car after car drove by my house to wish me a happy birthday and I knew every single one of them! It was remarkable and sensational."

Though Beth El's closure quickly put the kibosh on an in-person *kiddush* planned in Mrs. Goldberg's honor, her daughter Chippy Weiner said their family quickly pivoted to a celebration that complied with new social-distancing norms. After all, a milestone birthday deserves a spectacular celebration, pandemic or not.

But the resounding response illustrates the vibrancy of Beth El's community.

"We tried to keep [the guest list] under control, but word got out and so many Beth El friends showed-up," Mrs. Weiner said. "When I say friends they range from 18-years-old and up, because anyone my mother's ever met at Beth El is her friend, and she's met a lot of people there over the years!"

Led by firetrucks blaring their sirens and blasting their horns, the procession of cars slowly passed by Mrs. Goldberg, who sat shaded on her front lawn surrounded by her immediate family, and flanked by lawn signs touting the centenarian's many accomplishments including "Best Gefilte Fish" and "Biggest Orioles Fan."

"Sticking together is so important," said Mrs. Goldberg, speaking from a century's worth of perspective that includes the Great Depression and a World War. "We all feel the same way. We all want to get back together in person at the *shul*. But until then, we have to seek out joy in each other."

As Mrs. Goldberg so beautifully said, continuing to celebrate life's happy moments is one way in which the Beth El community persevered, something Rabbi Saroken experienced first-hand.

"The most beautiful experience I've had during quarantine is witnessing the joy of human life being created," Rabbi Saroken said. "Marking the arrival of new life has been so extraordinary in this moment in time, as there's something miraculously hopeful about doing it amidst this pandemic."

The Sheins found hope through *simcha* by celebrating their son Max's *Bar Mitzvah* during quarantine. When the Sheins first began tracking COVID-19 and its potential impact on Max's big-day, which was scheduled for April 18th, there were still several unknowns. Early on, the Beth El family separated their decisions regarding the service and the celebration.



Lucille Goldberg's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday parade

"Due to all of the uncertainty, we decided to postpone his celebration before Governor Hogan's Executive Order to close public spaces," said Max's father, Josh Shein. "At that point, we knew there was no way we could put our friends and family in harm's way."

Although they decided to postpone the party, the Sheins felt strongly about celebrating Max's *Bar Mitzvah* on its original date.

"Max's *Torah* portion, *Shemini*, was the same one that I read at my *Bat Mitzvah* 33 years ago, so there was a special significance to his date," said Keira Shein, mother of the *Bar Mitzvah* boy. "Additionally, I lost my father in late November and therefore I felt a stronger need for my family to have something to celebrate."

"We've reassured *B'nai Mitzvah* families that we would do everything possible to celebrate their lifecycle milestone, on the specific date they wanted it to happen," said Cantor King. "We focused less on the virtual format, and more on the idea that these moments *must* happen."

Still, the decision to host a virtual *Bar Mitzvah* was not an easy one for the Sheins, not least of all because of Max's dedication.

"I studied really hard to learn everything and I was disappointed that I wouldn't have an in-person *Bar Mitzvah*, but I was grateful to have an opportunity to do it virtually," Max admitted.

The only thing left for the *Bar Mitzvah* boy to do during the shutdown was to work on his *D'var Torah*, one that had an eerie connection to the pandemic. "I noticed a part of my *Torah* portion explained that a person should never eat a bat and something horrible would happen if you did," he said.

It seems the sages really do know what they're talking about after all.

"We experienced so many emotions: sadness that he wouldn't experience a traditional *Bar Mitzvah*, as well as the realization that his grandmothers' would not be able to be there in person for this *simcha*," Mr. Shein said. "Our main concern was that it would still be real and count as a *Bar Mitzvah*. We weren't sure how Beth El would handle having a *minyan* as well as not having a *Torah* but the clergy worked so closely with us, reassuring our family every step of the way."

"The authenticity issue takes care of itself, as people find their virtual life cycle experiences deeply moving," Rabbi Schwartz added.

“At this point, we can’t imagine having done things differently. Our experience was more meaningful, personal, and special than we could have imagined. We felt such connection and warmth among our family and friends on Zoom, and that permeated through to our Beth El community who joined us on Facebook. Our friends and family, many of whom had never before attended a Beth El service, felt it as well and commented not only on how well Max did, but how fortunate we are to have such a wonderful clergy,” said Mr. and Mrs. Shein. “Even though Max’s *Bar Mitzvah* wasn’t how we expected it to be, the virtual *simcha* provided a different sense of comfort and calmness during an uncertain time.”

The pandemic has seemingly led Beth El members to see their life cycle milestones in a new light.

“The fact that families are choosing to have their *B’nai Mitzvah* virtually, at the proper time, so their child can read the *Torah* portion they worked so hard to learn, has shown us and them that the service is more important than the celebration,” Cantor King said. “Truly the *Mitzvah* is more important than the *Bar*.”

### A Brave New World: Changed Forever, No Doubt

As Cantor King noted, virtual gatherings, by their nature, strip down the life cycle event to its core elements, a reminder that it is essential to mark these milestones in and of themselves.

“It’s not the trappings - the parties, food, or accoutrements - but the actual *mitzvah*, the event itself that is important,” Cantor King added.

Quarantine fatigue is real. Isolation, with its profound burden of extreme physical and social distancing, can severely damage a person’s psychological well-being. Therefore connecting directly to the tradition in its purest and most comforting essence became the clergy’s top priority during quarantine.

“The best thing we can hope for is that our tradition brings us comfort and strength and community into people’s lives,” Rabbi Saroken said. “This is a difficult time for so many people and yet amidst the suffering there is joy, amidst the loss of life, new lives are being created. Amidst the darkness there was light, in sadness there was also joy.”

The lessons learned while sheltering at home provide a glimpse into the future of Beth El’s offerings. The clergy agrees that most, if not all, life cycle moments



Beth El hosts a virtual Bar Mitzvah

will include some virtual component, certainly for the remainder of Beth El’s closure, but also beyond.

“In the end, I wonder if there will be a hybrid model, with some folks gathered in-person, while others join virtually,” Rabbi Schwartz pondered. “It’s a bit like Miranda’s line in Shakespeare’s *The Tempest*: How beautiful mankind is! O brave new world that has such people in’t. We are living in this brave new world, and the world that comes after this will be changed forever, no doubt.”

Regardless of Beth El’s future plans for virtual life cycle commemorations, one thing is certain: marking life’s milestones during the shutdown anchored and comforted the community through the pandemic.

“As long as people know that they have a reason to go on, and that they’re not alone, the human soul can endure the unimaginable,” Rabbi Saroken concluded.

### THE ANCIENT PRACTICE OF MIKVAH immersion honors the sacred nature of our bodies and experiences.



Immersion in a mikvah, or ritual bath, represents a spiritual transformation. Immersions can mark life transitions such as weddings, births, healing from illness or trauma, significant birthdays, b’nai mitzvah, divorce, pregnancy loss, fertility struggles, and mourning.

**Our mikvah is now open!** To schedule an immersion, go to [soulcenterbaltimore.org/mikvah](https://soulcenterbaltimore.org/mikvah)



# LEARNING

## THROUGH

# Lackdown

**By:** Brandon Chiat, *Digital Media Manager*

A bearded and bespectacled man, adorned in an apron and floppy chef's hat patterned with unmistakable *matzah* ridges, vigorously hand-mixed a vat of dough. His captivated audience of 40-families wriggled with anticipation.

The classes - from Beth El's religious school and preschool - seemed set to take their turn at a beloved annual field trip, albeit with one exception: the students were 30 miles away from their instructor, each safely sheltered in their respective homes.

"We were supposed to go to a *matzah* factory in Montgomery County. Instead, we had a virtual tour over Zoom," explained Mrs. Amy Goldberg, Director of Beth El Congregation's Berman-Lipavsky Religious School. "We also had a cooking demonstration about how to prepare a *Seder* plate when you might not have the right things. There was fantastic involvement, and it was nice to see the parents participating in their kitchens right alongside their kids."

In response to the COVID-19 outbreak, Beth El moved adult education, early childhood, and Hebrew school classes online, thrusting teachers, students, and families into somewhat unfamiliar territory.

**It** was never an option to suspend classes,"

Before the pandemic hit, Beth El Congregation's Berman-Lipavsky Religious School operated Tuesday and Sunday classes on its main Pikesville campus, as well once a week at its five "Hebrew School in Your Neighborhood" satellite locations. Early Childhood looked after 113 little ones across 12 classes. The Rabbi Mark G. Loeb Center for Lifelong Learning hosted hundreds of its Adult Education classes and cultural experiences, including its monthly "First Wednesdays" concerts.

"It was never an option to suspend classes," said Dr. Eyal Bor, Beth El's Director of Education and Director of The Rabbi Mark G. Loeb Center for Lifelong Learning. "It would have been the easier thing to close, to just walk away, but that would have been

giving up. We have a commitment to our community and genuinely want to uphold that commitment, to see it through.”

Crucially, Beth El’s leadership understood that the continuity of learning and the semblance of routine would be vital in supporting the continued emotional and social growth of its students.

“Beth El’s Early Childhood Program is a constant in the lives of our families,” explained Mandy Barish, the Director of Beth El’s Pauline Mash School for Early Childhood Education, and Jill Suffel, Early Childhood Programs Coordinator. “We are invested in the children and are there for them and their families every day. Just because we aren’t together in the same building, that doesn’t mean we aren’t present in their lives every day!”

“Beth El has gone above and beyond to keep our family feeling connected to our community,” explained long-time Beth El member Stacey Harvey. “When my 3-year-old sings familiar songs over Zoom with her classmates and *Morah* Becky, her smile radiates into all of us. Beth El is our family’s rock during the time we have been at home together.”

Beth El’s school administrators attributed the success of the congregation’s distance learning offerings to the tireless dedication of its teachers.

“On day one of the quarantine, our entire staff jumped in and adapted to this new normal,” Mrs. Barish and Mrs. Suffel recalled. “As time passed, the teachers tweaked things until they found a format that worked best for them, their children and families.”

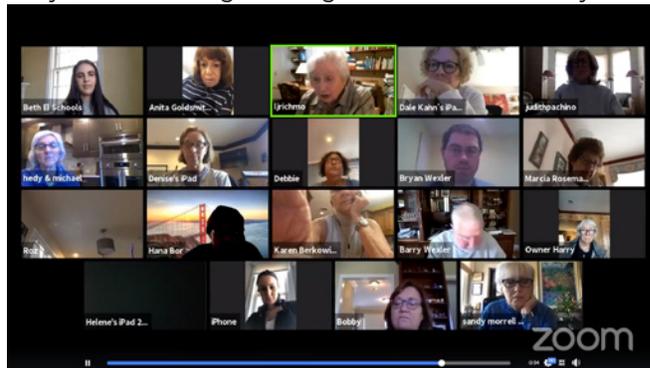
“Our Hebrew school teachers jumped on board immediately,” echoed Mrs. Goldberg, who explained that Beth El’s near-instantaneous migration to a virtual-learning environment was made possible by its dedicated staff. “The minute we sent out an email to our teachers and faculty that we would not be having Hebrew school on March 15th due to the congregation’s effort to social distance, I received emails and texts from Hebrew school teachers with ideas for continuing Jewish education and engagement virtually.”

Yet, Beth El’s teachers credit their success to a strong framework and a clearly articulated culture.

“I am so fortunate to be a part of the Beth El Family. During this craziness we are in, I have felt nothing but

great support from the administration and love from my co-teachers,” Janice Hurwitz said. “My directors have worked so hard day and *night*, even though they have their own families to support and are going through tough times as well. They are honestly the dream team and I appreciate them more than they know.”

“Beth El has helped me stay calm during this difficult time,” Susan Herskovitz added. “I look forward to our daily Zoom meetings. Seeing the sweet faces of my little



Virtual Adult Education class with Dr. Lee Richmond

students and talking to my co-workers has truly helped me feel connected to this wonderful community!”

As part of the Beyond the Walls initiative, the congregation’s educators planned a robust offering of virtual classes, experiences, and gatherings, including successful adaptations of previously scheduled, in-person Passover and graduation programs. Yet distance learning is not without its challenges.

Andy Shankman, Religious School Manager and *B’nai Mitzvah* Coordinator, explained that digital fatigue “is real,” and that teachers and students alike can get worn out from all the screen time. Still, the Beth El school community is adept at making the best out of difficult situations.

“During a remote *Achshav* class, we were all lamenting that we couldn’t be together in person,” Mr. Shankman said. “In response to the uncertainty of the times, one of the students said: it is what it is. We all repeated it throughout the class and thus bore us an inside joke.”

While some of Beth El’s teachers, students and their parents may be digital natives, the transition to an all-virtual learning environment was not as intuitive for some Adult Education students in the Center for Lifelong Learning.



Virtual Preschool Shabbat Celebration

“I am so proud of the Adult Education attendees who were able to get on Zoom and participate in all our classes, concerts, and lectures,” Dr. Bor enthused. “When I see those faces on the screen, I feel the vibrance of life and a desire to continue learning for years and years to come.”

“The mission of The Rabbi Mark G. Loeb Center for Lifelong Learning at Beth El has always been to perpetuate the legacy and passion for knowledge and learning that was so dear to Rabbi Loeb,” added Ellen Marks, Administrator for the Center for Lifelong Learning. “We believe Rabbi Loeb would be proud of the learning that has been taking place in his name during this difficult, most unusual time for all of us.”

In keeping with the spirit of its namesake founder, the Center for Lifelong Learning offered a stimulating schedule of virtual events and programs for every learning style and taste from the Presidential elections to the Israeli elections, from Jewish humor to Broadway shows, and from poetry and creative thinking to Jewish history.

“In this challenging time, Adult Education has not skipped a beat: our goal has been to provide high quality, stimulating, spiritual, interesting and entertaining programming and events to keep our community connected to Beth El while they are at home,” Mrs. Marks said.

Truly, the future is bright. Virtual programming is sure to benefit the Beth El community in the coming months, potentially allowing the schools to create personalized educational opportunities for students of all ages and learning styles, who may live near or far from Pikesville.

Despite the future opportunity for remote, one-on-one Hebrew tutoring or an entire curriculum of virtual Adult Education classes, the true blessing is how the educational community grew closer, even as they moved “Beyond the Walls.”

“Seeing parents, grandparents, and special friends join their kids on the programs is the silver lining of a virtual classroom,” Mrs. Goldberg said. “Whether it’s singing with Cantor Blatt or playing in a Kahoot review game, it was so wonderful to see family members participating with their children.”

“I am grateful for Beth El’s education team,” Dr. Bor said. “They truly rolled up their sleeves, jumped on the opportunity to reach the families and comforted them through all the critical changes. It has shown us that community extends beyond the school building and house of worship.”

## Register for the Berman-Lipavsky Religious School Now!

Now that the 2019-2020 school year has ended, Beth El is fully invested in preparing for the 2020-2021 school year. We hope to be back together again in the fall, both on our main Beth El campus and the five neighborhood school sites. Please join us in making the commitment for the future by registering for Hebrew School [here](#).

If you have any questions, please reach out to Amy Goldberg, Religious School Director at [amy@bethelbalto.com](mailto:amy@bethelbalto.com), Andy Shankman, Religious School Manager at [ashankman@bethelbalto.com](mailto:ashankman@bethelbalto.com), and Dr. Eyal Bor, Director of Education at [eyal@bethelbalto.com](mailto:eyal@bethelbalto.com)





# *Chesed* in the time of **CORONA**

**By:** Amy Payne, *Member Relations Specialist*

A year-and-a-half: that's approximately how long it took Beth El's leadership to contemplate all that the congregation is, challenge its limitations, and consider ways it should grow in the future.

The end result was a meticulously crafted mission statement and set of core values, which clearly articulated the culture of Beth El Congregation, one that thoroughly encapsulated all that is exceptional about its sacred community. While Beth El's mission, vision, and values guided the congregation through the best of times, the congregation's culture became a vital lifeline throughout the evolving COVID-19 crisis.

In the blink of an eye, as society shifted so drastically to accommodate stay-at-home orders, Beth El rapidly deployed an initiative to keep its sacred community connected through a robust schedule of digital content and virtual gatherings, known as Beyond the Walls. Beth El's professional staff, guided by the synagogue's values, immediately took action. Technology platforms like Facebook and Zoom allowed the congregation to live its values of *Torah* and *kedusha* through virtual prayer experiences, distance learning environments, and remote lifecycle celebrations. Less clear, was how Beth El would act on its value of *chesed*. One thing was certain: there was never a more appropriate or necessary time for the generosity, and kindness that are hallmarks of Beth El's culture.

While Beth El prioritized social action long before social distancing, *chesed* took on greater importance during the outbreak. One such pre-closure campaign to be repurposed was Caring Calls, a *chesed* effort organized by Cantor Melanie Blatt to make connections with congregants who were not able to come to Shabbat services. These simple calls to members were fulfilling to both the callers and the called. The effort quickly shifted from *Shabbat* calls to wellness check-ins, once the governor executed state-wide stay-at-home orders.

According to Cantor Blatt, "a simple phone call can bring light to anyone's day."

The first two-rounds of quarantine calls included 18 volunteers who made 600 calls to remind congregants - particularly elderly members who were most at risk for contracting COVID-19 - how loved and seen they were by

their synagogue community. Next, Cantor Blatt trained six "calling captains" to manage the growing team of volunteers, who now had the added responsibility of documenting the needs of homebound congregants. Callers were given resources to help homebound congregants trouble-shoot any challenges they might mention. Soon, there were more than 70 callers, including Beth El clergy, members, board members, and staff, who made over 2,000 calls.

Renee King is a Beth El member on the Caring Calls team. "In a time when we are missing our communities and voices from outside our homes, receiving a call from a Beth El member says: we are thinking of you," Mrs. King observed. "But this has also been so fulfilling to the callers whose normal lives suddenly stopped."

Sheryl Title fondly recalled one phone call and all of the good feelings of connectedness that it created. The husband who answered the phone told Mrs. Title that his wife was at her sewing machine, making face masks to donate to the University of Maryland Hospital, to supplement the supply for the hard-working hospital staff. Through Caring Calls, one act of kindness led to another, spinning a cycle of joyful connections.

Beth El's core values not only informed internal *chesed* initiatives, but also helped staff members prioritize their involvement in communal campaigns throughout the shutdown. Senior Events Manager Tali Adelstein sprang into action when she learned of the Jewish Volunteer Connection's "Bunches of Lunches" campaign, which provided brown bagged lunches to those families struggling with the economic impact of the COVID-19 outbreak. Mrs. Adelstein quickly assembled a team to organize Beth El's participation, thereby turning the Beth El kitchen into a production line of complete, nutritious lunches and creating a drop off system for those donating lunches to do so at a safe social distance. Beth El members donated over 4,000 bagged lunches - some ornately decorated with messages of hope - during the first and second collections.

The *Talmud* instructs every Jewish person to look out for each other, especially marginalized individuals, like the stranger, widow, orphan, as well as the sick, or isolated. Beth El, empowered by the value of *chesed*, practiced this teaching very well.

# ANCHORS AND Lily Pads

**By:** Rabbi Dana Saroken

I don't think I realized when I shut my office door on March 13th, that I wouldn't be going back. Not for my books, not for my belongings, not for anything. At the time, I was worried about my father, who was in Westchester, New York, then the epicenter of the epidemic. I was planning to drive up to Westchester to get him that night, but he found an Uber that would deliver him to my doorstep before I had the chance. My kids left their school lives and their lockers similarly. A few weeks later, we sat at our *Seder* and retold the story of the Exodus, and it resonated in amazing new ways: I knew what it felt like to feel vulnerable to a plague outside my door, to feel (relatively) safe inside while the suffering beyond my home felt profound, to leave the world that one knew unexpectedly and to realize that sometimes - life surprises us.

It didn't take long, though, to realize that this new state of affairs would last longer than we initially expected. We went from a couple of weeks to a month and then to two months, and now, it's unclear how and when we'll emerge from our quarantines. Throughout this uncertainty, The Soul Center (The Alvin & Lois Lapidus Center for Healing & Spirituality) and the congregation have been a step ahead, working to create meaningful, inspiring, and connective ways for us to continue to feel a sense of community and hope.

Switching from an in-person mindset to a virtual one was a big shift, but our Beth El team didn't miss a beat, and I am so proud of them. Our staff figured out how to tap into our unique gifts and to offer them up. We started dreaming, we got creative, and we reimagined what Jewish life could be, and then we began anew. All the while, you all were our biggest fans, our biggest supporters, and our reason for being and doing. We wanted you to feel our love. We wanted you to feel anchored in Judaism and our traditions, and we wanted you to feel the embrace of our community. Whatever came our way, we were with you.

Early on, Rachel Siegal, Julie Hettleman, and I were determined to be anchors and lily pads to our congregants and the Jewish community of Baltimore. At the Soul Center, we wanted to anchor people; to make everyone feel safe amidst the vulnerability and to feel supported even amidst the uncertainties. We also wanted to be lily pads; to offer soft landing places for people to find their calm, inner peace, exhale, and comfort, and uplift. For nearly three months now, The Soul Center has provided over 150 programs, and 7,000 participants and viewers experienced our offerings. We've hosted our Soul Boosts every morning and evening of the week, and daily meditations every afternoon. We've had weekly Real Talk lunch gatherings and weekly chair yoga classes. We've gathered for virtual happy hours and our Friday morning Spark *Torah* study. We've even had a *Shir Joy havdalah* experience. We promised you we would be with you on this journey, whatever came our way, and we meant it. Next week, we'll be revealing our summer calendar and can't wait to share our amazing plans!

Whatever came  
our way, we  
were with you.

None of these things would be possible without Rachel Siegal and Julie Hettleman. Rachel and Julie have worked every single day (and countless nights) to make sure that mindfulness, healing, rejuvenation, and growth are accessible to all of us. They have done the unimaginable with grace and patience, with a can-do spirit and extraordinary attention to every possible detail. They have made each and every day - the easy ones and the difficult ones - a true blessing and I am ineffably grateful. In the end, it turns out we can endure without the books, the stuff, the offices, and the lockers. The anchors, lily pads, and each other are all we need to endure, and I couldn't be more grateful to be making this journey together!

# Fighting COVID-19

## FROM THE FRONT LINES

**By:** Andy Shankman, *Religious School Manager & B'nai Mitzvah Coordinator*

Say it plainly: we live in a strange time. Looking back, we'll remember the difficulty of day-to-day life in lockdown, how time took on a new meaning, and moved differently. Perhaps we'll recall how each passing day tested our endurance and stretched our nerves.

But we would also do well to remember the doctors, nurses, therapists and first-responders who became our last line of defense in the fight against the novel coronavirus.

Beth El Congregation is proud to count many of these healthcare professionals among its members, three of whom shared their perspectives and stories from the frontlines of this unprecedented crisis: Julie Heyman, an Occupational Therapist for Geriatric Inpatient; Dr. Andrew Stolbach, M.P.H., an Associate Professor of Emergency Medicine at Johns Hopkins; Dr. Lauren Mendelsohn, a Pediatric Physician at the Maryland Pediatric Group. Their responses are set between words of empathy and supportive advice for those dealing with trauma.

**This isn't the end of the world, but it is our new normal.**

**Julie Heyman:** I am hanging in there. It has been difficult, to say the least. The first few weeks seemed to be the most difficult for me; frequent crying, consuming worries, feeling scared to go into work. Also, the challenge of balancing work and home life with my husband transitioning to working from home, as well as with my toddler and infant, who are accustomed to attending Beth El full time, suddenly at home 24/7. Now, it's almost like this is the new normal for us, and I'm handling the uncertainty of each day and our new routine better than I was before.

**Andrew Stolbach:** The hospital changed almost overnight: common areas and the cafeteria are empty and there are nearly no visitors or family. I used to shake hands with the patient's family members and check-in with patients a few times during their visit. Now, to prevent the spread of infection, we usually can't allow

visitors. I often used to wear a shirt and tie. Now, I wear hospital-issued scrubs with a new gown for each patient. You also see staff wearing masks everywhere in the hospital, not just in clinical areas. Interactions between staff have changed as well. Throughout this period, there has been a real sense of camaraderie and shared mission among the team, who are more likely to go out their way to help each other. We also feel the support from the community. Nearly every day, there is a meal donated from a local restaurant.

**Lauren Mendelsohn:** Up until the past few weeks, COVID-19 was felt to be milder for children, and children were not being tested for such a mild disease. Now with fears of Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome - a syndrome of inflammation seen in a small number of children, many of whom previously had COVID 19 - it has increased our need to be vigilant for new symptoms post-COVID infection.

**Try to remain calm, focused, and resourceful, despite anger, fatigue, and sadness.**

**JH:** At the beginning of March, my place of employment initiated a complete visitor ban. Group activities have also been halted. It's been eerily quiet and heartbreaking. Now, our staff has their temperatures checked on arrival. We are also given daily PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) at the door, including a walking mask that is required in the hallway. The only time it is acceptable to be unmasked is while you are eating or drinking. I find myself going four-to-five hour stretches in full gear without even sipping water because the process of donning and doffing PPE is so tedious. The N95 masks, in particular, are incredibly uncomfortable. I typically leave work feeling dehydrated, with indentations across my cheeks and bruising on my nose.

**AS:** Because many items, like gloves and disinfectant gowns, are trashed after each patient, taking care of COVID-19 patients requires a massive amount of PPE. I

have physician friends in other places who don't have enough protective equipment. I am lucky that planners at my hospital had the foresight to secure sufficient stocks of most of the equipment that we need. When we do have shortages, we have been able to improvise. For example, we switched to reusable towels with bleach solution because disinfectant wipes are tough to find. We are running low on disposable plastic gowns, so we obtained a supply of reusable gowns made by Ford Motor Company, out of airbag material! They are hot, but they get the job done. Early on, we obtained materials to make our own face shields. I've seen medical students and other volunteers come together to assemble them.

### **It's a process. It takes time.**

**LM:** There are days when it is hard to leave the house and know that you might come home and potentially expose your family to the virus. The hardest part is holding back on seeing extended family as we are worried we might inadvertently transmit illness to them. It is challenging to come home and not hug your children or help them until you've changed and showered.

**JH:** In recent weeks, patients and residents have begun wearing paper or surgical masks during treatment for extra protection. In some ways, we are still going through the motions of everyday work, but it feels totally foreign in other ways.

### **Take cues from loved ones. Lean on your community. Keep perspective and lean in.**

**AS:** During Passover, we talked about how Jews, who were strangers in the land of Egypt, should recognize - perhaps more than anyone - that those without power require others to look after them. Perhaps people never have less power than when they are sick, especially when they are in the unfamiliar surroundings of a hospital. I try to remember that and make the hospital a welcoming place and treat people with the dignity and respect that I would want.

**JH:** The Beth El community has been incredible. I have felt deeply supported by the regular check-ins and words of encouragement from the teachers, staff, and fellow parents. My husband, two young daughters, and my parents, along with the continued support from extended family and friends and the Beth El community, have kept me afloat. I am grateful for the virtual programming and regular check-ins from the Beth El teachers and administrators in the pre-school and infant-toddler programs. I am comforted by the fact that my daughters can experience a piece of their school life at home. They

have continued relationships with the teachers and friends who are so vital to them.

**LM:** We are starting to see the mental health effects, not only of the anxiety of contracting COVID-19 but also the effects of the shutdown on the economy, our children, and ourselves. My community has really helped me to stay in the moment and to appreciate the things I do have. The many offerings to remain connected are so crucial to that mental health component.

### **Remember, we're all in this together. Our social contract is to keep each other safe.**

**LM:** I have a great appreciation for what everyone has sacrificed to keep us all safe. Many of our colleagues working around the country have chosen to distance themselves from their immediate families for a more significant amount of time due to their exposures in regularly caring for COVID-19 positive patients. While it is easy to get frustrated after all of these weeks of social distancing, staying the course is critical to saving lives. Watching how my friends and family have done this with so much care and kindness for others, has been incredible.

**JH:** There is still so much we do not know about coronavirus. I have seen "unwell" individuals show very mild symptoms or none at all. But I have seen otherwise "healthy" individuals end up on ventilators.

**AS:** In medicine, we are used to different specialists concentrating on certain diseases in their corner of the medical world and not thinking about everything else. Now, COVID-19 is on everyone's mind. I have never before seen a single disease become the singular focus of everyone in the hospital. We used to be intensivists, internists, and nephrologists. Now, we are all COVID-19 doctors. As a community, we need to be patient and be flexible. Everyone - including me - is getting antsy and wants everything to return to normal. Still, there is another wave of infection that could overwhelm us if we aren't careful. We will get past this, but I fear that even with the most optimistic projections for completion of a vaccine, this disease will be with us and disrupting our lives for the rest of this year or longer.

# Mazal Tov to Our 2020 Pre-K Graduates!



Yale



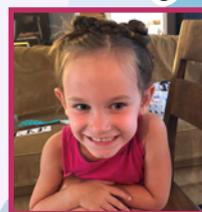
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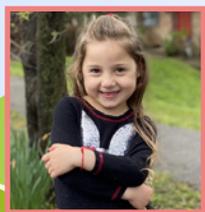
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Naava



Ethan



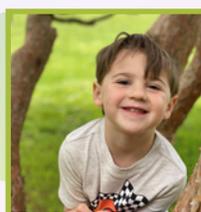
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Jacob



Talia



Gram



Winnie



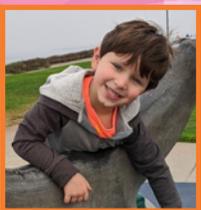
Jake



Nathan



Rebecca



Eli



Caroline



Yankel



Arielle

## Dear **PRE-K** Graduates,

We can't believe its time for you all to get ready for Kindergarten! Some of you have been with us since you were 3 months old, some just recently joined us. We know that each and everyone of you will shine in everything you do! From the opening of the new playground, to celebrating your 100th day of school, we have loved every moment spent with you **and wish we had more!** The visits to Mandy's office for an afternoon snack or knocks on Jill's window are the highlights of our days. To the families, thank you for providing us with the honor of watching your children grow over the years. Your trust and commitment to our program speaks volumes for what the Beth El Community stands for.

A very special thank you to Shelby Laugtug and Melinda McGlothlin, who have volunteered their time to chair our FTO (family teacher organization). Your dedication, creativity and support has been so appreciated and will be missed. Melinda, we will miss you terribly, but look forward to seeing you and your children on Sunday Mornings. Shelby, we are excited to have you continue your amazing leadership!

While this graduation celebration may be different, we can not express how excited we are for you to begin the next chapters of your life. **We are SO fortunate to have been part of your journey so far.** We love each and every one of you and hope that you please come and visit often!

With love,

*Mandy and Jill*

# REFLECTIONS & PERSPECTIVES

FROM OUR STAFF



## My thoughts on the pandemic...

I remember thinking at one point over the winter, how much I would love a snow day. Just ONE day at home to get my house in order! I wanted ONE day... I left my office after 6 pm on Friday, March 13. Nine weeks have passed. 63 days.

Instead of focusing on the things that are lost, high school sports season, junior prom, events with extended family, a quarantine birthday, seeing the children at Beth El every day... we decided to focus on what we will gain during this time.

I have always been a “glass is half full” person, as is my husband and our 17-year-old sons. My family decided on day one that we were going to embrace this time together. Dinner together 7 nights a week, home cooked meals (6 nights a week, I am not perfect). Binge watching shows we’ve wanted to watch for years, doing puzzles, Zentangling, new art projects, daily walks with my family, connecting with neighbors as they walk by, Facetimes and Zooms with families in the infant toddler program and preschool, drive-by visits with students, Zoom happy hours with coworkers and old friends, volunteer opportunities. Without a doubt, the extra time with my children, so close to them being on the brink of adulthood, is a gift that I will be forever grateful for. The list could go on and on and each thing has brought joy into my world during a very strange time.

I recognize that I am lucky and I don’t take that luck for granted. I am aware that many people in our community have faced terrible sadness, pain and unimaginable difficulties during this time. I hope with everything inside me that I can continue to keep my glass half full!

*Jill Suffel*

Early Childhood Programs Coordinator



## How has COVID affected me?

As many people may know, I am not Jewish. But during this time, Beth El, which already felt like a second-home, became my sanctuary. It has also presented me with the opportunity to help. Whether a phone call, an email, or even a Zoom call I’ll try my hardest to assist if I can. Even though we are further apart than ever I have never felt closer to Beth El.

*Josh Powell*

Accounting/IT Associate



## My Experience

Maternity leave 2.0 that’s what my husband Pete and I are calling quarantine life. We had our first child, Ellie in September and she’s been the greatest gift we have ever received. I had so many plans for our maternity leave 1.0 with Ellie but the realities of having a newborn made what I thought would be days full of walking around the neighborhood and snuggling and laughing was really exhaustion and learning how to care for a newborn. Don’t get me wrong, my maternity leave was wonderful and the bonding with our daughter was amazing, just not exactly what I thought it would be and it also went by way too fast. This time around maternity leave 2.0 has been full of morning snuggles after Ellie wakes up, no rushing to get out the door and passing her off to one another. We have breakfast every morning at the table and enjoy an afternoon walk around our neighborhood every day that the weather allows. Watching our daughter grow who is now almost 8 months old and spending every minute of every day with her has taught us as parents a new way of being patient and appreciating the slower pace of life that maternity leave 2.0 has given us. While we deeply miss the hugs and kisses from our families and friends, we will always remember and cherish this time with our little girl.

*Amanda Beitman*

Director of Development



### **Bridging Distances:**

“Take it one moment at a time,” I kept telling myself when the stay-at-home order was put in place. I love my job, my colleagues, our lunch chats, the office pop-ins, etc., so I will be happy to go back into the office. However, I really have enjoyed and cherished this time at home.

I wake up each morning to the smell of my mom cooking breakfast, the sound of one my dog’s nails against the floor as he stretches and the other howling “good morning, mom!” or so I assume that is what she is telling me. I realize I am extremely fortunate. I am fortunate enough to still have a job, a roof over my head, clothes on my back, warm meals throughout the day, and a plethora of snacks :). Yet, there is one thing, rather someone, who I have truly missed during this stay-at-home order and that is my grandpa. My Pop. Everyone who knows me, knows how special my Pop is to me. The only time we are apart for more than a day is typically when I am travelling to a different country or working late. Obviously, that is not the case now. He is at the Weinberg Village in Owings Mills, and I am here at my parent’s house in Towson. We are only 15 minutes away from each other, but unable to spend time together. On the bright side, we have technology. My Pop learned how to use an I-Pad and is now able to tune in to Beth El’s virtual services where he finds comfort in prayer. We are able to have our daily phone calls that always end in the battle of “I love you more!” and we even FaceTimed for the first time the other day (even if I was only able to see his forehead).

Over the past several weeks, I’ve had a lot of time for reflection about what I am most grateful for in this life. I wake up each morning and write one thing I am grateful for, no matter how small or big. This time apart has been difficult for each of us, especially emotionally, so as I “take [quarantine] one moment at a time,” today, I am grateful for the future moments I will have with my Pop.

*Rebekah Waltemeyer*  
Development Associate



### **Social distancing**

Social distancing has improved my juggling skills! As I have engaged in my regular work of providing mental health support to the Beth El and Beth Israel communities but in new and expanded ways, I have learned to toggle even more swiftly back and forth between congregations to address needs as they emerge. I have always admired the clergy and staff with whom I work and this experience has only made me appreciate their commitment and compassion even more.

Similarly, I have always been in awe of nature but my daily walks have only increased my love of the great outdoors; seeing the trees and flowers in bloom never fails to bring a smile to my face. I miss being with family and friends and having in-person gatherings of my book clubs and exercise classes, but I am so grateful to be able to connect with my children, siblings, extended family, and friends over FaceTime and Zoom, even catching up with some I haven’t seen in quite a while. Hopefully when we are once again able to engage in normal activities I will no longer take for granted the simple things like shopping for groceries, running errands, getting a haircut (!), and greeting people face to face. I look forward to returning to Beth El soon!

*Sarah Shapiro*  
Social Work Consultant



### **The Pandemic**

WOW – Who would have every thought we would be experiencing this in our world? Well, we are so we have had to deal with it.

Acutally we have everything we need in our homes – love, food, shelter. But I think that most of us have realized that we are missing something we probably always took for granted. The daily interaction with others. This is what feeds our minds and our bodies.

The phrase, absence makes the hearty grow fonder, is so true. I miss our wonderful Senior Staff, my colleagues, and the amazing congregants.

Hopefully, soon we will be able to see everyone and perhaps really value our relationships with one another and start to live the NEW normal in our lives.

*Yvonne Epstein*  
Assistant to the Clergy & Memorial Park Associate

## Coronavirus IMPACTS BETH EL Sisterhood

In early March Beth El Sisterhood, and the rest of the world, were all hit by coronavirus pandemic and were forced to experience a whole new way of life. As a result, our Sisterhood had to cancel eight events, including our outstanding Unique Boutique, one of our biggest fundraisers. Our Trip Committee had worked tirelessly to plan four wonderful spring trips, all of which had to be cancelled. A wonderful group of officers worked tirelessly to compile names, send emails, make phone calls, and mail refunds to the three hundred plus members who had paid for any or all of these cancelled events. It was a fabulous joint effort and a major accomplishment achieved by many dedicated people. Many members generously donated the money that they had paid. In addition, our spring "No Donor Donor," was highly successful, raising a substantial amount of money to support both our synagogue and schools. In May, we held our last Board meeting of the year via Zoom. That was followed by our members honoring and thanking our outgoing Co-president, Gloria Luchinsky for her two years of service. Finally, we held a wonderful Installation of officers at our Zoom Installation meeting.

Beth El Sisterhood extends wishes for love, peace, good health, and safety to our members and to our entire Beth El family. We miss everyone and eagerly await the time when we can see each other in person again. We extend our heartfelt thank you to all of our clergy, leaders, teachers, and many others who have devoted their time, energy, and efforts to providing services, courses, meetings, and other engaging programs to keep us busy. What a great difference you have made in our lives during these unusual times!

With love and gratitude,

*Gloria Luchinsky and Cherie Stewart*

**Co-Presidents**

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## Men's Club STAYING ACTIVE DURING COVID Lockdown

The Beth El Men's Club extends its best wishes to the entire Beth El community. We hope you and all your loved ones remain safe and secure during this challenging time.

The Men's Club looks forward to reconnecting with all our members. We hope for a productive year after ending this special period in our lives. We hope many of our members can directly participate in the development of our activity schedule during the coming year.

*Elliot Merenbloom and Rene Daniel*

**Beth El Men's Club Co-Presidents**

## BETH EL Seniors

As the Co-Presidents of the Seniors, we thought it would be nice to hear from some of our members as to how they are coping and what they are doing during this terrible time.

Irene Snyder celebrated her 93rd birthday. She was sad as her birthday approached knowing she was going to be alone. But that's not what happened. What really turned the day into one of the best was when her son and daughter called her and told her to come outside. Waiting there was her entire family singing happy birthday and throwing kisses from 6' away.

Jerry Goodman also celebrated his birthday. Normally this means a great dinner at Tio Pepe. But that was not possible. So Sonya did the next best thing. She surprised Jerry by having the Tio Pepe dinner brought to them.

Passover was definitely a challenge this year. Kenny and Anita Baum zoomed their Seder was 25 family members. Everyone got to participate and a Seder everyone will remember for a long time.

Ed and Barbara Berkowitz also celebrated Passover in a non-conventional way. They zoomed 3 different seders over 2 days using the password Charoses. With their Seder table set, they connected with many family members coast-to-coast and even had a new guest join them this year - their I-Pad.

But there was more going on than just zooming and social distancing. There is time for reflection. Virginia McIntire is taking this time to find a new purpose in life; i.e., hope, kindness, friendship and caring. That seems to say it all.

We hope that everyone is staying safe and well.

*Luthye and Ellen*

**Co-Presents of the Seniors**

# OUR *Deepest* SYMPATHY

Beth El extends our deepest sympathy to all the families who endured a loss of a loved one during this difficult and unprecedented time. May God console the bereaved together with everyone who mourns for Zion and Jerusalem, may peace be upon them, and may their memory be a blessing.

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## *In Memoriam*

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Sylvan H. Sack

Milton Moses

Beverly Polt

Harry T. Kellman

Israel Freedman

Harold Trippe

Walter Weinstein

Stanley E. Sugarman

Ruth Denick

Norman Levin

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## *Sympathy*

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**Lisa Zolet** on the loss of her beloved father, Mark Grebow.

**Paula Jandorf** on the loss of her beloved mother, Janet Eva Pollekoff.

**Sheldon Langsam** and Stephanie Langsam on the loss of their beloved mother and grandmother, Tedi Langsam.

**Michael Feldman** on the loss of his beloved mother, Edith Zelda Feldman.

**Lewis Scharff** on the loss of his beloved father, Aaron R. Scharff, Jr.

**Lillian Seidman** on the loss of her beloved mother, Bluma Rosen.

**Linda Kaufman** on the loss of her beloved sister, Trudy Greenberg.

**Susan Schreier** on the loss of her beloved father, Dr. Irving Leonard Cooperstein.

**Sharon Bass** on the loss of her beloved mother, Martha Berman.

**Cherie Stewart** on the loss of her beloved sister, Fran Tompakov.

**Michael Kinstlinger** on the loss of his beloved mother, Marilyn Kinstlinger.

**Linda Kaufman** on the loss of her beloved mother, Trudy Greenberg.

**Shannon Kreshtool** on the loss of her beloved father, Stephen Howard Brickell.

**Susan Schreier** on the loss of her beloved father, Robert Steinberg.

**To make a contribution in their memory, please email Rebekah Waltemeyer at [rwaltemeyer@bethelbalto.com](mailto:rwaltemeyer@bethelbalto.com)**

# Beth El Family

## B'NAI MITZVAH



**BAYLIN PEARL FIDLER**, daughter of Sara and Joel Fidler, will be called to the Torah as a *Bat Mitzvah* on **June 6, 2020**.



**MADISON TAYLOR ROTTMAN**, daughter of Brooke and Dr. Steven Rottman, will be called to the Torah as a *Bat Mitzvah* on **June 20, 2020**.

## OUR HEARTIEST MAZAL TOV TO

**Barry And Pearl Gendason** on the Bat Mitzvah of their granddaughter, Skyler Gendason.

**Howard and Susan Goldberg** on the birth of their grandson, Wesley Tucker Gail. Great-Grandmother is Lucille Goldberg.

**Hal and Susan Hackerman** on the birth of their granddaughter, Julia Brynn Diamond.

**Sara and Joel Fidler** on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter, Baylin Pearl Fidler. Grandparents are Fran & Ron Fidler and Gary Cohen.

**Brooke and Dr. Steven Rottman** on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter Madison Taylor Rottman. Grandparents are Arnold & Renee Wagenheim and Joyce & Arnold Rottman.

**Richard and Leslie Monfred** on the birth of their grandson, Cameron James Dewitt.

**Dr. Benjamin Schultz and Dr. Julie Taylor Schultz** on the birth of their son, Henry Taylor Schultz. Grandparents are Dr. Michael and Joan Schultz.

**Marc and Faye Sherman** on the birth of their grandsons, Evan Louis Sherman and Asher Max Weltman.

**Jason and Jessica Weintraub** on the birth of their daughter, Annabelle Eigenberg Weintraub. Grandparents are Steve and Susie Weintraub

**Ellen and Myron Asher** on the birth of their granddaughter, Brooklyn Shelly Bounan.

**Dr. Robert and Sharon Solof** on their son, Jeffrey Solof's engagement to Samantha Schwartz.

**Dr. Joseph and Linda Napora** on the birth of their great-grandson Tyler Jet Napora.

**Charles and Phyllis Fine** on the birth of their granddaughter, Adina Rachel Fine-Cohn.

**Joy Hyman** on the birth of her great-granddaughter, Felicity Kagan.

**Cantor Thom and Shazy King** on the engagement of their daughter, Tovah to Asher Aranbayev.

**Drs. Eyal and Hana Bor** on the birth of their granddaughter, Emily Nina Wilkins. Parents are Dr. Nurit and Drew Wilkins. Big brother is Ben.

**Amy and Ben Goldberg** on the birth of their daughter, Lilah Sadie Goldberg. Big brother is Asher.

**Debra and Joseph Weinberg** on the birth of their granddaughter, Shay Lana Dixon. Great-grandmother is Sandy Silberman.

## MILESTONE ANNIVERSARIES

**Jim and Debbie Edwards** on their 15th.

**Dr. Steven and Danielle Epstein** on their 15th.

**Neal and Rebecca Fruman** on their 15th.

**Jamie and Ilene Leon** on their 15th.

**Dr. Daniel and Miryam Wagner** on their 15th.

**Joel and Jill Alperstein** on their 20th.

**Dr. Scott and Lori Baylin** on their 20th.

**Keith and Mandy Miller** on their 20th.

**Jonathan and Ilene Rosenberg** on their 20th.

**Charles and Franni Kaplan** on their 25th.

**Dr. Richard and Monica Levine** on their 25th.

**Richard and Elizabeth Caplan** on their 30th.

**Andrew and Cheryl Chernoff** on their 30th.

**Stephen and Rona Kaufman** on their 30th.

**Gary and Jacqueline Lessing** on their 30th.

**Dr. David and Valerie Goodman** on their 35th.

**Lester and Sandra Guthorn** on their 35th.

**Charles and Elizabeth Jacobs** on their 35th.

**James and Ellen Marmer** on their 35th.

**Howard and Janet Blum** on their 40th.

**Melvyn and Nancy Highstein** on their 40th.

**Dr. David and Sheryl Reicher** on their 40th.

**Myron and Ellen Asher** on their 45th.

**Michael and Barbara Feldman** on their 45th.

**Dr. Arthur and Martha Kovens** on their 45th.

**Dr. Edward and Ann Mishner** on their 45th.

**Steven and Susie Weintraub** on their 45th.

**Myron and Sandra Kreitzer** on their 50th.

**Dr. Robert and Roberta Kodeck** on their 50th.

**Kenneth and Nancy Niman** on their 50th.

**Robert and Patricia Schulman** on their 50th.

**David and Glenda Goldberg** on their 55th.

**Dr. Felix and Sharon Kaufman** on their 55th.

**Drs. Robert and Gail Liss** on their 55th.

**Jonas and Renee Cohen** on their 60th.

**Dr. Melvin and Judy Kopilnick** on their 60th.

**Harvey and Marcia Lipman** on their 60th.

**Lloyd and Nancy Mailman** on their 60th.

**Larry and Rona Snyder** on their 60th.

**Arthur and Joan Janofsky** on their 65th.

**David and Helene Levi** on their 65th.

2019-2020

# ANNUAL APPEAL *Honor Roll*

Thank you to our generous donors!

## Development during a pandemic. You stood by us and we are forever grateful.

We started our 2019-2020 Annual Appeal strong and reached new goals we never thought possible at our annual Yom Kippur Presidential appeal. Your dollars help make it possible each year for us to provide scholarships, cover operational costs, maintain our facilities and so much more. The days of our building being packed with our congregants and students was put to a stop because of COVID-19. Our immediate response was to start our COVID-19 Emergency Relief Fund, which would provide dollars to help with staffing and operational costs that we were no longer able to cover from fees collected from programs and school.

Our Annual Appeal filled more gaps in the budget than we had expected and we would not have been able to finish the year as we did had we not raised such a large amount of money during the year that helped us finish our 2019 fiscal year.

We are anticipating the upcoming year to be one of the hardest fiscal years in our history, and your continued support of our Annual Appeal will be critical and deeply appreciated as we continue to serve our community during a time when community means everything. Please consider making your gift to the 2020-2021 Annual Appeal now so that we can better budget for the upcoming year.

## To make a gift please contact Amanda or Rebekah in our Development Office:



**Amanda Beitman,**  
*Director of Development at*  
amanda@bethelbalto.com



**Rebekah Waltemeyer,**  
*Development Associate at*  
rwaltemeyer@bethelbalto.com

### BENEFACTORS (\$16,000 AND UP)

Dr. Avraham Cohen

### PATRONS (\$10,000-\$15,999)

Anonymous

John Davison

Donald E. Gordon Charitable Foundation

### SUSTAINERS (\$4,000-\$9,999)

Anonymous (3)

Barton and Michelle Azwalinsky

Estate of Jerome and Sonia Baum

Sandra and Malcolm Berman

Richard and Deborah Edlow

Jeffrey and Saralyn Elkin

Dr. Stanley and Gail Friedler

Arnold and Joyce Fruman

Marc and Nancy Gertner

Edward and Jennifer Goldmeier

Harold and Susan Hackerman

Charles and Elizabeth Jacobs

Robert and Paula Jandorf

Arnold and Sue Kohn

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Michael and Karen Norman

Morris and Nancy Offit

Jay Rosengarden

Sanford and Jane Siegel

Ellwood and Thelma Sinsky

Barry and Lisa Stoler

Leonard and Roslyn Stoler

### PROVIDERS (\$2,000-\$3,999)

Jeffrey and Sima Abarbanel

Benjamin and Deborah Abrams

James and Lisa Abrams

Steven and Robin Bass

Dr. Michael and Judith Baylin

James and Harriet Berg

Drs. Myles and Rosemarie Brager

Jeffrey and Jodi Brodie

Craig and Lauren Colton

Myra Coonin

"We hosted our first ever Virtual Town Hall Meeting which over 1,000 members attended to learn about how we are keeping our community connected and engaged during the Covid crisis"

Joseph and Annette Cooper  
Dr. Michael and Marianne Fingerhood  
Keith and Denise Franz  
Dr. Sheldon and Saralynn Glass  
Burton and Myra Gold  
Sandra M. Gordon  
Henry and Lana Greenberg  
Elliot and Jeri Hirshman  
Raphael and Dale Kahn  
Dr. Robert and Carol Keehn  
Dr. Richard and Phyllis Kline  
Joseph and Lynn Koff  
Dr. Shari Kohn  
Steven and Melissa Kravet  
Jeffrey and Christine Lafferman  
Dr. Sheldon Lerman and. Carol Macht  
Joel and Carol Matz  
Sidney and Jill Molofsky  
Ira and Nancy Oring  
David and Marla Oros  
Judy Pachino  
Beverly Penn  
Stanley and Cecilia Schocket  
Kenneth and Ilene Schwartz  
Robert and Eva Slatkin  
Michael and Barbara Steinhardt  
Lonny and Jane Tiedeman  
Dennis and Amanda Weinman  
Joseph and Debra Weinberg  
Morry and Lisa Zolet

#### **SUPPORTERS (\$1,000-\$1,999)**

Anonymous (2)  
Marshall and Carol Asher  
Steven and Heidi Berman  
Herbert and Michele Better  
Howard and Janet Blum  
Mark and Amy Bond  
Harry and Eileen Brafmann  
Michael and Gail Brooks  
Drs. Steven and Maya Brooks  
Dr. Gary Cassel and Dr. Lois Ratner-Cassel  
Larry and Joan Cohen  
Robb Cohen and Gail Schwartz & Family  
S. Jerry and Joan Cohn

Carol Cummins  
Rene and Yvonne Daniel  
Bernard and Judith Davis  
Alan and Sharon Dorenfeld  
Dr. Dan Drachman  
Brian Eisenberg  
Dr. Ralph and Beverly Epstein  
Dr. Marvin "Jack" Feldman  
Dr. Charles and Phyllis Fine  
Ronald and Mindy Fishkind  
Charles and Beverly Freeland  
Sidney and Eunice Friedman  
Ira and Yasmin Geller  
Edward and Jean Ginsberg  
Ronnie Glaser  
Stella Gold  
Howard and Susan Goldberg  
David and Valerie Goodman  
Shari and Alan Grabush  
Benjamin and Barbara Green  
Lawrence and Michele Greenberg  
Mark and Saralee Greenberg  
Dr. Ned and Deborah Greenberg  
Richard and Susan and Grilli  
Burton and Linda Halpert  
Howard and Patricia Hauptman  
Harry and Marcia Hochman  
Todd and Marni Hyatt  
Richard and Merle Intner  
Howard and Rina<sup>Z<sup>L</sup></sup> Janet  
Dr. Leon and Gail Katz  
Marc and Leslie Katz  
Arnold and Linda Kaufman

Dr. Dan and Marlene Kessler  
Michael and Clara Klein  
Frederick and Wendy Kobb  
Matthew and Elissa Kohel  
Jonathan Kolker  
Myron and Sandra Kreitzer  
David and Lisa Kuntz  
Michael and Debra Kuntz  
Howard and Roslyn Kurman  
Esther Layton  
Stephen and Abby Lazinsky  
Frederick and Jill Leiner  
Ira and Debra Levinson  
Matt and Katelyn Levinson  
Roger and Janet Levin  
Stephen and Linda Levin  
Mark and Susan Levy  
Marc and Leslie Lichtenberg  
Myles and Cheryl Lichtenberg  
Drs. Robert and Gail Liss  
Jeffrey and Honey Litman  
Ira and Gloria Luchinsky  
Randall and Helene Lutz  
Lois Macht  
Lloyd and Nancy Mailman  
Louis Frock and Brenda Mandel  
Charles and Susan Mann  
H. Lee and Ann Mantelmacher  
Matthew and Eileen Margolies  
Marjorie Massing  
David and Catherine Max  
Bernard and Sandra Meizlish  
Elliot and Ilene Merenbloom

Dr. Ed and Ann Mishner  
 Dr. Joseph and Linda Napora  
 Louis and Betsy Narrow  
 Stephen and Terry Needel  
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 Dr. Karl and Marilyn Pick  
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 Lee and Judy Rosenberg  
 Michael Rubenstein and Hedy From  
 A. Ronald and Marjorie Rubin  
 Jay and Janet Salkin  
 Laraine Satisky  
 Jeffrey and Cindy Saval  
 Dr. Charles and Dana Schnee  
 Jerome and Tamara Schnydmann  
 Roger Schneider and Melissa Hollander  
 Sidney and Rebecca Seidman  
 Erwin and Marianne Sekulow  
 Dr. Paul and Fern Sheitel  
 Steven and Freddy Silverman  
 David and Ruth Simon  
 Robert and Jacqueline Smelkinson  
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 Robin and Ron Soffer  
 Gregory and Audrey Sperr  
 Michael and Jodi Stappler  
 Melvin and Anita Steinberg  
 Herbert Sweren  
 David and Beth Swirnow  
 Gary and Susan Talles  
 Marc and Diana Terrill  
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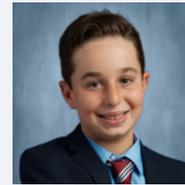
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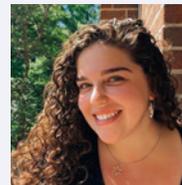
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Bluma Rosen by Barbara and Benjy Green

### **IN OBSERVANCE OF THE YAHRZEIT OF:**

Florence Schwartzman by Benjy and Barbara Green

## **THE HARK - UHLFELDER FAMILY FUND**

### **IN MEMORY OF:**

Kenny Kreshtool by Joan and David Uhlfelder

### **IN OBSERVANCE OF THE YAHRZEIT OF:**

Sara Uhlfelder by David and Joan Uhlfelder

## **THE ARTHUR E. KLAFF MEMORIAL FUND**

### **IN OBSERVANCE OF THE YAHRZEIT OF:**

Bertha Mondell by Gerald and Linda Mondell

## **THE ADAM KRONTHAL SPECIAL NEEDS FUND**

### **IN MEMORY OF:**

Herbert Kronthal by Alan J. Kronthal

## **THE SUSAN FINE LANGSAM MEMORIAL FUND**

### **IN MEMORY OF:**

Tedi Langsam by Glenda Chernoff

## **THE DR. HARRY AND ZELDA LEVIN FACULTY DEVELOPMENT FUND**

### **IN MEMORY OF:**

Alice Levin by Charles Bernstein, Dr. Arthur and Meryl Goldvarg, Carol Macht, Joanne and David Michaelson & Family, Betsy and Lou Narrow, Lisa Perlin, Emelie Schwab, Charles Silberstein, Henry B. Thomas, and Brenda Fisher Wetmore

## **THE HARRY LICHTER CHESD FUND**

### **IN MEMORY OF:**

Mark Grebow by Saralyn and Jeff Elkin, Bobbie Lichter, and Sheryl and Stuart Title

Beverly Polt by Saralyn and Jeff Elkin

Janet Eva Pollekoff by Saralyn and Jeff Elkin, and Sheryl and Stuart Title

Barbara Samuelson by Beverly and Alfred Gersh, Saralyn and Jeff Elkin, and Sheryl and Stuart Title

### **IN OBSERVANCE OF THE YAHRZEIT OF:**

Irwin Herman by Bobbie Lichter

## **THE H. ALLAN LIPSITZ ENDOWED ADULT EDUCATION FUND**

### **IN APPRECIATION OF:**

Lee Richmond, "Wise Aging" class leader by Debra Vodenos

### **IN MEMORY OF:**

Ruth Denick by Frona Greenspun

Milton Moses by Gail Lipstiz

**IN OBSERVANCE OF THE  
Yahrzeit OF:**

Arnold Better by Michele and Herb Better  
Harvey B. Cummins by Carol A. Cummins  
Freida Dobres Himmelfarb by Carol A.  
Cummins  
Arthur Kaplan by Robin Kaplan  
Bea Kaplan by Robin Kaplan

**RABBI MARK G. LOEB  
MEMORIAL FUND**

**IN MEMORY OF:**

Allan Sachs by Sylvia Schneider  
Harold Trippe by Arleen and Michael  
Cohen

**IN OBSERVANCE OF THE  
Yahrzeit OF:**

Jerome Silberman by Susan S. Sugarman  
Morris Silberman by Susan S. Sugarman  
Pearl Lowitz Silberman by Susan S. Sugarman

**THE NATHAN AND  
PAULINE MASH PRE-  
SCHOOL FUND**

**IN HONOR OF:**

Bar Mitzvah of Jeff and Phyllis Cramer's  
grandson by Helen Saltzman

**THE MITZVAH FUND**

**IN HONOR OF:**

Birth of Julia Brynn Diamond,  
granddaughter of Hal and Susan  
Hackerman by Nancy Hackerman  
Birth of Annabelle, granddaughter of  
Susie and Steve Weintraub by Nancy  
Hackerman

**IN MEMORY OF:**

Arthur H. Ascher by Renee Ascher  
Milton Moses by Millicent Cierler, Harold  
Rottman, Janet Steinberg, and Amy  
Yontef-McGrath  
Aaron Scharff, Jr. by Patti and Ira Friedman  
Fran Tompakov by Joan and Jerry Cohn

**THE MORNING MINYAN  
FUND**

**IN HONOR OF:**

55th Wedding Anniversary of Howard and  
Sheila Saval by Howard and Sheila Saval

**IN MEMORY OF:**

Milton Moses by Sonia Obstler, and  
Patricia Posner

**IN OBSERVANCE OF THE  
Yahrzeit OF:**

Irene Klein by Audrey Lifcovich

**THE BATYA AND HADAS  
NIGRIN MEMORIAL  
SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

**IN HONOR OF:**

Birth of Julia Brynn Diamond,  
granddaughter of Hal and Susan  
Hackerman by Joyce and Arnold Fruman

**IN MEMORY OF:**

Joannie Friedman by Lisi and Albert Nigrin  
Mark Grebow by Lisi and Albert Nigrin  
Linda Putter by Lisi and Albert Nigrin

**THE ISAAC AND  
FANNIE PEVER  
HEBREW EDUCATION  
SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

**IN OBSERVANCE OF THE  
Yahrzeit OF:**

Fannie Kalish by Judith Kalish  
Dora Lorber by Judith Kalish

**THE PRAYER BOOK FUND**

**IN HONOR OF:**

100th Birthday of Lucille Goldberg  
Birth of Julia Brynn Diamond,  
granddaughter of Hal and Susan  
Hackerman by Elaine and Daniel Liebfeld  
The Sherman's new Grandsons by Faye  
and Marc Sherman

**IN MEMORY OF:**

David Abrams by Yvonne and Eddie  
Epstein  
Charles Baumel by Lorraine Baumel  
Cantor Alvin Donald and Cindy and  
Joshua Hiller

Charlie Dreizen by Ilene and Ted Meyers  
Mark Grebow by Jane Krosin  
Ray Katzen by Wendy Branoff  
Milton Moses by Cindy and Joshua Hiller  
Bluma Rosen by Elaine and Danny Liebfeld  
Fran Tompakov by Ellie Spind

**IN OBSERVANCE OF THE  
Yahrzeit OF:**

Charles Baumel by Lorraine Baumel  
Jacob Small by Shirley and Leon Cohen

**THE A. OTTO AND  
LILLIAN SALAMON  
GEMELUT CHASSADIM  
FUND**

**IN MEMORY OF:**

Milton Moses by Kathy Chelst

**THE EDDY SCHUSTER  
MEMORIAL LIBRARY  
FUND**

**IN MEMORY OF:**

Janet Eva Pollekoff by Joanne and  
Fred Felton

**THE RABBI STEVEN  
SCHWARTZ TRIBUTE  
FUND**

**IN HONOR OF:**

90th Birthday of Dr. Arnold Feldman by  
Herta and Arthur Baitch  
100th Birthday of Lucille Goldberg by  
Mitzi and Normal Glick & Family, Sonia  
Obstler, Lisa Pintzuk, and Irene Snyder  
Bar Mitzvah of Max Shein by  
Lois Schlaffer  
Birth of Julia Brynn Diamond,  
granddaughter of Susan and Hal  
Hackerman by Hedy From and Michael  
Rubenstein, Elissa, Matt, Lily, and Sadie  
Kohel, Sonia Obstler, and Sara Fran  
Richman  
Special birthday of Lucille Goldberg by  
Ellen and Sidney Cohen  
Special birthday of Jay Marks by Ellen  
and Jay Marks

### IN APPRECIATION OF:

Beth El and Beth El Beyond the Walls by Sandy Feldman

Leslie Denrich by Ira Smelkinson

Rabbi Schwartz by Michael Blumenfeld

Rabbi Schwartz's officiating by Marilyn Shapiro and family

### A SPEEDY RECOVERY TO:

Rita Fellerman by Lisa Pintzuk

### IN MEMORY OF:

Martha Berman by Denise and Keith Franz

Ruth Denick and Denise and Keith Franz, and Hedy From and Michael Rubenstein, and Partners of Rextar LLC.

Edith Feldman by Ed and Ann Mishner, and Joanne & Marshall Rief and family

Edward Geltman by Sheldon and Shelley Goldseker

Mark Grebow by Renee and Burt King, and Helen Saltzman

Harry Kellman by Lewis and Laury Scharff

Alice Levin by John and Robin Denick

Milton Moses by Diane and Joel Aronson, Evelyn and Gary Brager, Hedy From and Michael Rubenstein, Ellen and Ed Gold, Michelle and David Margolis, Deedee Remenick, and Debbie and Myles Uszerowicz

Dr. Sheldon Erwin Pollekoff by Neil Godberg and Robin Kleiman, and Debra Vodenos

Janet Eva Pollekoff by Joan and Fred Cohen, Hedy From and Michael Rubenstein, Ann and Jay Goldscher, Jeff and Heller Kreshtool, Joanna & Marshall Rief and family, Janet and Jay Salkin, Beth and Michael Sellman, and Lewis and Laury Scharff

Beverly Polt by Diane and Joel Aronson, Michele and Herb Better, Evelyn and Gary Brager, H. Dean Boulard, Sheldon and Shelley Goldseker, Adele and Howard Kass, and Alfred and Rachel Meisels

Bluma Rosen by Denise and Keith Franz, and Ed and Ann Mishner

Aaron R. Scharff, Jr. by Denise and Keith Franz, and the entire Siegel Family

Stephanie Share by Joanie and David Greenberg

Maxine Solomon by Hedy From and Michael Rubenstein

Beloved mother of Mr. and Mrs. Elliott Bloom by Martha Pritzker

Fran Tompakov by Eunice and Sidney Friedman

### IN OBSERVANCE OF THE YAHRZEIT OF:

Nathan Cohen by Maysh Fried

Rose Friedman by Donald Friedman

Charles J. Mailman by Lloyd and Nancy Mailman

Sam Nusinov by Mark and Marlene Nusinov

Anita A. Potemken by Rabbi Linda Potemken

Guss Reamer by Madge Reamer Kolman & Family

Marvin Reamer by Madge Reamer Kolman & Family

Stuart Renbaum by Judi and Bruce Kletz & Family

Beatrice Schaffer by Mark and Marlene Nusinov

## THE SELTZER GOLD PRESCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

### IN OBSERVANCE OF THE YAHRZEIT OF:

Morris I. Seltzer by Stella Vodenos Gold

## THE AILENE SHER SOUL CENTER FUND

### IN HONOR OF:

100th Birthday of Lucille Goldberg by Sandy and David Gordon

Birth of the Sherman's grandsons by Robin and Karl Mindel

Birth of Julia Brynn Diamond, granddaughter of Susan and Hal Hackerman by Arlene and Sheldon Bearman

Birth of Annabelle, granddaughter of Susie and Steve Weintraub by Arlene and Sheldon Bearman and Louise and Jay Weinberg

Birthday of Stanley Rutko by Audrey and Greg Sperr

Birthday of Irene Snyder by Audrey and Greg Sperr

Special Birthday of Howard Moffet by Ann and Ira Robinson

Engagement of Lana and Henry Greenberg's grandson by Arlene and Sheldon Bearman

### IN APPRECIATION OF:

Rabbi Saroken by Sharon and Marty Bass

Rabbi Dana Saroken by Michael and Barbara Feldman and Marc and Nancy Muser

Soul Center programming by Denise and Keith Franz

Soul Center by Hedy From and Michael Rubenstein

### IN MEMORY OF:

Ruth Denick by Nancy Theodore

Ed Dworkin by Jay and Ellen Morstein

Steve Glubo by Judy and Bob Cohen

Esther P. Miller by Margie and Bobby Daniels

Milton Moses by Lorraine and Earl Raffel

Janet Eva Pollekoff by Robin and Steven Bass, Margie and Bobby Daniels, and Sherri and Paul Weinblatt

Beverly Polt by Arlene Bekman, and Laury and Lewis Scharff

Cara Shenton's beloved mother on this Mother's Day by Cara Shenton

Fran Tompakov by Sandy and David Gordon

### IN OBSERVANCE OF THE YAHRZEIT OF:

William Cogan by Bev Cogan

Theodore Dunn by Judy Dworkin

Jay Schechter by Jack and Amy Lebowitz

## THE RICKY SIEGEL MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

### IN HONOR OF:

60th Birthday of Sherri Weinblatt by Lisi and Albert Nigrin, and Ken and Ilene Oken

The Wedding Anniversary of Laurie and Steven Simon by Sherri and Paul Weinblatt

### A SPEEDY RECOVERY TO:

Amy Harris by Sherri and Paul Weinblatt

Ally Robinson by Sherri and Paul Weinblatt

Sherri Weinblatt by Renee and Burt King

#### IN MEMORY OF:

Michel Meir Tordjman by Victor Weinblatt

#### IN OBSERVANCE OF THE YAHRZEIT OF:

Victor Miles Siegel by Sherri and Paul Weinblatt

### THE SISTERHOOD PAST PRESIDENTS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

#### IN MEMORY OF:

Ruth Denick by Herb and Michele Better, Frida and Moises Fraiman, and Miriam Lowenberg

Alice Levin by Frida and Moises Fraiman

Dr. Sheldon Erwin Pollekoff by Ray and Dale Kahn

Fran Tompakov by Frida and Moises Fraiman, Denise and Keith Franz, and Dale and Ray Kahn

### THE DENNIS AND RONA WEINER SOCIAL WELFARE FUND

#### IN HONOR OF:

Special Birthday of Ann Kurlander by Marsha Pinson & Family

#### IN MEMORY OF:

Pedro Socolovsky by Leon Socolovsky

#### IN OBSERVANCE OF THE YAHRZEIT OF:

Sadye Cohen Cheslock by Gilbert P. Cohen

### THE ELLIOT & SUSAN WEINSTEIN SCHOLARSHIP FUND

#### IN MEMORY OF:

Martha Berman by Steve and Julie Weinstein

Bluma Rosen by Steve and Julie Weinstein

### THE DR. MICHAEL WEINTRAUB MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

#### IN MEMORY OF:

Fran Tompakov by Steve and Susan Weintraub

### THE YAHRZEIT FUND

#### IN MEMORY OF:

Janet Eva Pollekoff by Patti and Ira Friedman

Beverly Polt by Myra and Burt Gold

Bluma Rosen by Patti and Ira Friedman

#### IN OBSERVANCE OF THE YAHRZEIT OF:

Susan Meckley Allen by James Meckley

Rose Alpert by Marvin and Barbara Hurwitz

Sylvia Altman by Lisa Pintzuk

Hilda Amster by Howard and Emily Goren, and Jay and Louise Weinberg

Sam Appelbaum by Howard Appelbaum

Morris Bass by Rita Lehr

Melvin Berger by Jeanne Berger and Mindy Berger

Sophie Berger by Mindy Berger

Jane Berlin by Ellen and Jay Marmer

Nathan Bloom by Phyllis and Fred London

Stanley D. Bond by Debbie, Michael, Taylor, and Kendall Kuntz

Barry Bondroff by Joyce, Brad, Jonathan, Courtney, and Emily Bondroff

Helen Brown by Linda Oravec

Hyman Carpman by Sandy Glass

Victor Cohen by Barbara Berman

Mack Dunie by Carol and Marshall Asher

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Joan Fiddle by Nanci Seff and Joseph Marzouk

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Ellis Friedler by Stanley Friedler

Carol Friedman by Don Friedman

Leonard S. Friedman by Denise and Keith Franz

Irving From by Hedy From and Michael Rubenstein

Esther Glick by Carole and Billy Glick

Myra Goldfein by Betty Steller

Linda Ruth Hayden by Doris Schwartz

Howard Jochman by Nancy Jochman

Hilda Jochnowitz by Martha J. Siegel

Reuben Joffe by Stuart and Adrienne Joffe

Abraham Kaplan by Marsye Kaplan

David Kaplan by Ronald and Sheila Weinberg

Jerome Kaplan by Ronald and Sheila Weinberg

Max Kaplan by Alan Kaplan

Herbert Kaufman by Linda and Buddy Kaufman

Anne Klatsky by Stanley Klatsky

Frank Kobb by Fred and Wendy Kobb

Samuel Kresser by Ellwood and Thelma Sinsky

Leon Kuryk by David Kuryk

Rosita Samuelovma Laznick by Janice Portney

Jack Lebowitz by Donna and Edwin Lebowitz

Mildred Lessans by Marsha and Gene Modell

Celia Levine by Marsha Levin

Lillian Lichter by Debbie and Gerald Lichter

Cantor Hillel Lipsicas by Harold Lipsicas

Marc Lubovsky by Judith Lubovsky

Ida Marks by Marvin and Donna Marks

Theodore Marks by Marvin and Donna Marks

Irving C. Marmer by Jay and Ellen Marmer

Faye Millman by Sidney Millman

Gloria Naiditch by Beverly and Arnold Feldman

Julius Nelson by Temma Rubin

Edward Obstler by Sonia Obstler

Samuel Oletsky by Phyllis Franklin

Donald Evans Olley by Rivka Olley

Ruth Polansky by Barry Polansky

Leonard Pondfield by Carol Pondfield

Irving Pritzker by Martha Pritzker

Mary Roseman by Mishel S. Roseman

Esther Rosen by Ellen and Robert Rosen & Family

Sidney Rosen by Ellen and Robert Rosen & Family

Harold T. Rubin by Michael Rubenstein and Hedy From

Reuben Rudick by Faye and Harold<sup>ZL</sup> Trippe

Stanley Scherr by Frances Scherr

Henry Schlein by Joseph and Anna Schlein

Marvin Schnitzer by Debbie and Gerald Lichter, and Lynn and Jerry Schnitzer & Sons

Dr. Jerome Schwartzman by Donna and Greogy Eisenstadt

Charles Seigel by Martha J. Siegel

Herbert Shalek by Ruth and Richard Shalek

Samuel Shapiro by Helene and David Levi

Albert Shillman by Norman and Joy Shillman

Joseph Stark by Phyllis Gold

Cynthia Swan by James Meckley

Melvin Weisberg by Susan Himmel

Ethel Weisblatt by Denise Thrope

Kent Williams by Carolyn Williams & Family

Leon Zerolnick by Lawrence Zerolnick

Morris Zimlin by Terry and Jerry Zimlin

## THE YOUTH EDUCATION

### IN HONOR OF:

Birth of Julia Brynn Diamond, granddaughter of Hal and Susan Hackerman by Debbie and Ira Levenson

### IN MEMORY OF:

Sidney Abrams by Denise, Keith, Linda, and Scott Franz

Ed Dworkin by Michael and Judith Baylin

Risa Gottlieb's stepfather by Marcia Katz

Norman Levin by Michael and Judith Baylin, Donald and Marla Goldman, and Madge Reamer Kolman

Milton Moses by Leslie Glickman

Dr. Sheldon E. Pollekoff by Denise and Keith Franz

Janet Eva Pollekoff by Elisa DuBay, Denise and Keith Franz, Lori Gerstley, Terri and Mel Lorden, Robin Pollekoff, and Louise Shulack

Beverly Polt by Michael and Judith Baylin

### IN OBSERVANCE OF THE YAHRZEIT OF:

Leonard S. Friedman by Marcia Katz

## THE BETTY AND AL ZLOTOWITZ CHAPEL MAINTENANCE FUND

### IN MEMORY OF:

Marlyn Chazen by Ellen and Myron Asher

Ronald Levy by Herbert Berkow and Martha Siegel

### IN OBSERVANCE OF THE YAHRZEIT OF:

Samuel Zlotowitz by Daniel Zlotowitz

## LEAF ON THE TREE OF LIFE

### IN HONOR OF THE 75TH BIRTHDAY OF LINDA ROBBINS LEVIN BY HER LOVING FRIENDS

To make a contribution, please email Rebekah Waltemeyer at [rwaltemeyer@bethelbalto.com](mailto:rwaltemeyer@bethelbalto.com) or click [here](#)

# BETH EL Memorial Park

9700 Liberty Road, Randallstown

For generations the Beth El Memorial Park has served the needs of Beth El Congregation and the entire Baltimore Jewish community. Our cemetery is divided into sixteen beautifully landscaped gardens, including family estate plots and two gardens for inter-married families.

For more information or to schedule a tour of Beth El Memorial Park, please contact **Ben Kreshtool** at [Ben@bethelbalto.com](mailto:Ben@bethelbalto.com) or **Yvonne Epstein** at [Yvonne@bethelbalto.com](mailto:Yvonne@bethelbalto.com) or call 410-484-0411.



## BETH EL SENIOR STAFF AND BOARD

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<b>Rabbi</b>	Dana Saroken
<b>Cantor</b>	Thom D. King
<b>Cantor Educator</b>	Melanie Blatt
<b>Executive Director</b>	Joshua Bender
<b>Director of Education</b>	Eyal Bor, Ph.D.
<b>Ritual Director</b>	Ben Kreshtool
<b>Director of Development</b>	Amanda Beitman

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*Milton Snyder	Louis Glick	Beverly S. Penn	
*Ira Askin	Elliot Merenbloom	Richard S. Hollander	<i>*Deceased</i>



קהילת בית אל דבאלטימור  
BETH EL CONGREGATION

8101 Park Heights Avenue • Baltimore, MD 21208

**Rabbi Jacob B. Agus, z"l**  
(1911-1986) Founding Rabbi

**Rabbi Mark G. Loeb, z"l**  
(1944-2009)

**Cantor Saul Z. Hammerman, z"l**  
(1926-2008)

We are a progressive, egalitarian, and inclusive congregation affiliated with the Conservative Movement. We embrace the interplay between innovation and tradition. We strive to create a community in which Judaism feels central, indispensable, and relevant to 21st century life. We believe that Torah (exploring the accumulated wisdom of our tradition), Chesed (extending kindness, hospitality, and generosity to others) and Kedusha (bringing God and holiness into life's every day and sacred moments) can provide us with direction, meaning, and connection in an evolving world.

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