

The Shofar



The Publication of Congregation Beth El of Bucks County

January/February 2018

Tevet/Shevat/Adar 5778



Congregation Beth El is turning 65 years old!

Celebrate with a weekend of festivities
on

April 27 - 29, 2018

Mark your calendars for a weekend you won't want to miss. Activities include a Special Friday Night Shabbat, Luncheon on Saturday, followed by a Sunday evening gala-style dinner with cocktails, food, entertainment and more!

Want to join a planning committee?

Contact:

Penny Bardfeld - pennyandlenny@comcast.net or
Barbara Fineman - bfineman15@verizon.net or
the Beth El office.

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Morning Minyan

Sunday 8:00am
Monday - Friday 7:00am

Evening Minyan

Monday - Thursday 7:30pm

Shabbat Services

Friday 6:00pm
Saturday 9:30am

SYNAGOGUE HOURS

Monday - Thursday 8:30am - 4:30pm
Friday 8:30am - 2:00pm

BUBBES' JUDAICA SHOP HOURS

Sunday 9:00am - noon
Wednesday 10:00am - noon
Friday 10:00am - noon

To schedule an appointment, please
contact Michelle Flash at
michelleflash@me.com

Check out Our Event Calendar

[http://www.bethelyardley.org/
info/calendar.html](http://www.bethelyardley.org/info/calendar.html)

NEXT SHOFAR DEADLINE

Deadline for the
March/April Shofar
is February 14

**HAPPY
NEW
YEAR
2018**

Winter Office Hours

Monday, December 25th &
Monday, January 1st
Closed

Tuesday, December 26th -
Friday, December 29th
8:30am - Noon

President's Message

Shalom,

The amazing Whitney Houston begins her song "Greatest Love of All" by talking about our kids; 'I believe the children are our future teach them well and let them lead the way'. At Beth El, we are doing a lot to keep the truth in these words. We have many activities each week dedicated to our children. The week starts for them with FJLC Hebrew School for all grades K – 7 on Sunday morning. Here the children begin by learning some Hebrew language, tefillah (or prayer) and about happenings in Israel. This continues on Wednesday nights for the older kids with FJLC, and for our teens with HaMoadon, our Hebrew High School. Here we are able to engage our young adults in lively discussions about Israel and current events. On Shabbat morning, we open with monthly Minions Congo and B'nai Mitzvah University (BMU). At Minion Congo the children and their families are always very engaged by Liz Ravitch, who expertly inaugurates the children into the world of Conservative tefillah. BMU is an opportunity for upcoming B'nai Mitzvah families (sixth and seventh graders) to learn from one of our B'nai Mitzvah tutors Phyllis Schachter, and our education director Karen Lewin, about what to expect from, and how to prepare for, their upcoming simcha (special occasion).

On any given day, night or weekend, USY may have an event as well. Our Chaverim (3rd and 4th grades), Kadima (5th - 7th grades) and USY (8th – 12th grades) chapters are all very successful. They hold events for each age group though the month and year. While our Chaverim and Kadima have individual chapter events, our USYers have local and regional events. By the time you all are reading this edition of The Shofar, many of our USYers are participating in an International event being held in Chicago. Several of our youth will be experiencing this wonderful sharing of ideas, learning and forming a life-time of friendships. Finally the year ends with summer experiences at Camp Ramah. We have many children that spend 4 or 8 weeks each summer experiencing our core Conservative Jewish values in communal life with several hundred other Jews; it is an experience that cannot be matched.

If you would like to introduce any of this to your children, or if you just want to get a taste of the Ramah experience, we will be having our own Ramah Shabbat during the weekend of January 5 - 6, led by our own Ramahniks, people who have experienced summers at Camp Ramah. We will also be welcoming a special guest over the weekend, Rabbi Joel Seltzer, the director of Camp Ramah in the Poconos. He will be speaking about Camp Ramah and will also be available to answer questions about the summer camp experience.

I wish you all a happy and healthy New Year.



Laurence H. Schachter

Rabbi Search Committee Members:

Brian Levey and Leon Weissman, Co - Chairs
 Randall Flager
 Phil Freidenreich
 Galit Kantor Green
 Sylvia Goldberg
 Amy Kaissar
 Michael Jelen
 Carol Benderson-Lighter

Debbie Lubin
 Rachael Oring
 Elizabeth Ravitch
 Shari Senior
 Debbie Sokol
 Dan Wachspress
 Michael Weinberger
 Steve Young
 Larry Schachter, ex officio

Education & Youth

B'nai Mitzvah at Beth El

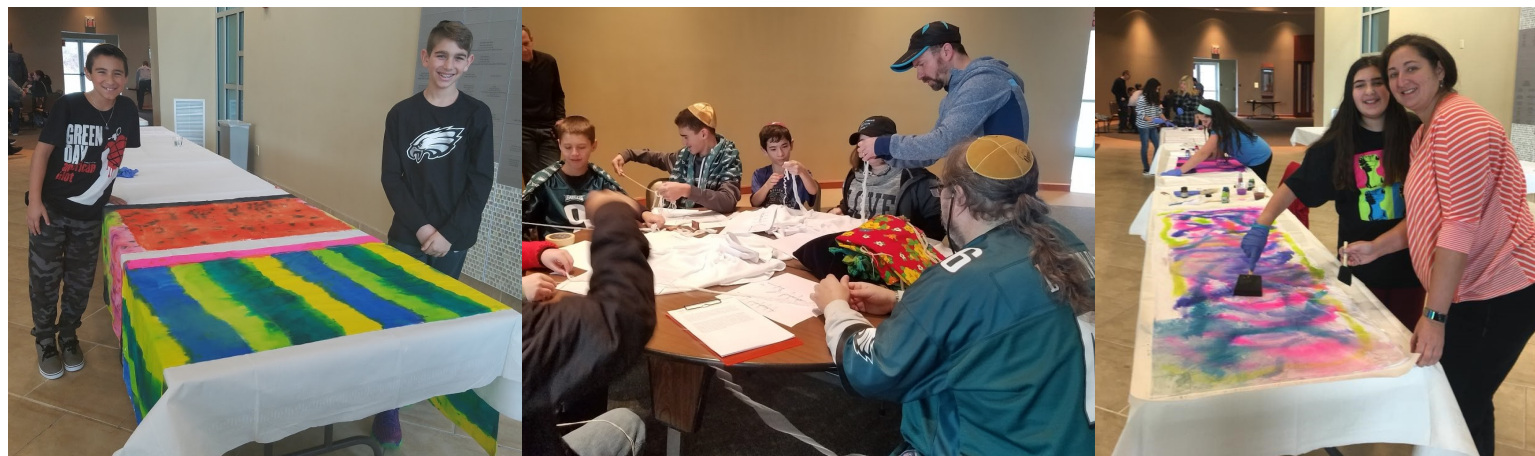


Dorian Apfelbaum, son of Erica Apfelbaum, will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on Saturday, January 29, 2018. Dorian is passionate about helping Israel. For his mitzvah project, Dorian has been raising money for the soldiers of the Israel Defense Forces. He has raised almost \$1,000 to date. Mazal Tov!

FJLC Celebrates Hanukkah



FJLC 6th Grade Tallit Making Workshop





Congregation Beth El
Presents



Ramah Shabbat
Experience Camp Ramah in the Winter!!

Friday, January 5th at 6:00pm

Shabbat Services

followed by Dinner and Ramah-Style Ruach

\$18 per adult; \$12 per child 3-13

Saturday, January 6th

***9:30am - Main Sanctuary led by Ramahniks**

***10:45am - ShabbaTeen: Songs, Stories, Schmooze
for children up to 10 years old & caregivers**

***Luncheon following Services**

***Meet & Greet with**

Rabbi Joel Seltzer, Executive Director

and Elana Rivel, Ramah Day Camp Director

**8th-12th Grade Teens: At lunch find out about our
Counselor-in-training and staff opportunities!**

All are welcome!

RSVP online at BethElyardley.org

Questions? Contact Karen Lewin,

215-493-1707 x3 or Karen@BethElyardley.org



**Gesher Ramah is a program of the
National Ramah Commission
supported by generous funding from
the AVI CHAI Foundation.**

Education & Youth



Does a child in your family have
a birthday coming up?

How about dedicating a book to the Beth El library
in honor of your child's birthday?

A book plate with your dedication will be placed in the book.

The book will be shared with your child's class as well as the
Beth El community.

Suggested donation \$18

**Any support is appreciated as it will go towards
educational programs for Pre-K to 7th graders.**

Personalize your dedication & make a payment by going to the this link:
<http://www.bethelyardley.org/FJLCdonate>



Congregation Beth El PRESENTING... **minions congo**

an educational and fun Shabbat program
for children pre-K to 5th Grades

Shabbat Prayers & Songs
Engaging Activities
Story Time
Torah Lessons
Oneg Shabbat



A SHABBAT CULTURAL ENRICHMENT EXPERIENCE!
LED BY LIZ RAVITCH IN ROOM 209

10:00 am to 12:00 pm on the following Saturdays

Feb. 24 Mar. 17 Apr. 28 May 12

We ask that parents of children pre-K to 2nd grades
accompany their child(ren) to minions congo.

BAR-BAT MITZVAH UNIVERSITY 2017-2018

Preparing Congregation Beth El's 6th & 7th Graders
and their Parents for that Special Simcha!



Sunday Mornings

Four Sunday mornings
this year we will come
together to study and
explore the themes of
Bar/Bat Mitzvah with
Rabbi Gruenberg.

Join us for Brunch &
Learn 10am-12pm

Jan. 21
Mar. 18

Shabbat Mornings

One Shabbat morning a month we will
come together to pray, to learn and to
share. Each Shabbat we will focus on
an important aspect of the Bar/Bat
Mitzvah journey in an effort to create a
meaningful experience for all.

Join us in the Chapel 10am-12pm

Jan. 6 Feb. 24 Mar. 17

Apr. 28 May 12

In the 6th & 7th grades, it is strongly recommended that B'nai Mitzvah learners attend Shabbat morning service at least once a month in order to become familiar with the service and gain comfort as both a participant and leader. For more information, contact Karen Lewin, Karen@BethElYardley.org or 215-493-1707 x3.

Hazak



Hazak had seventy five attendees come out on Sunday, December 3rd for a deli brunch and to hear Klingon Klez, Philadelphia's best-known jazz, funk, and Dixieland musicians. Klingon Klez takes the tradition of Klezmer music from 500 years ago and rocks it into the future. It was a fun and uplifting day.



Barbara Fineman, Chairperson
of Hazak, welcomes guests
and Klingon Klez

Save the Date

Sunday, January 21 10:15 am

Mike Miller, Magician

Mike Miller combines magical effects with his imaginative sense of humor. It is a show that is sure to make you say to yourself and others, "How did he do that?" Audience participation adds to the magical experience of this show.

For more information about Hazak contact Barbara Fineman, bfine15@verizon.net

Save these dates for upcoming Hazak Programs: March 18 & May 6 (more information will follow)

Adult Education: Beth El's Israel Forum



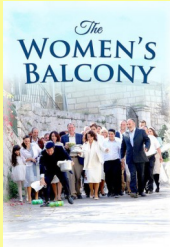
Beth El's newly formed Israel Forum got off to a great start on Tuesday, November 21st, with an evening program based on a video presentation making the case for the state of Israel. The video featured the well-known liberal Democratic lawyer, Alan Dershowitz. The video was followed by a lively discussion.

Our Israel Forum will continue presenting programs discussing the pros and cons of Israel and our relation to it.

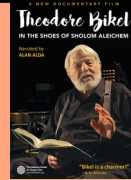
If you are interested in learning more about our Israel Forum, please feel free to speak to Rabbi Gruenberg, Albert Algazi, 267-981-4548, or Mark Melmed 215-359-5772, who will be glad to answer any of your questions.



Adult Education

***The Women's Balcony*****February 10, 2018 7:00 pm**

When the women's balcony in an Orthodox synagogue collapses at a Bar Mitzvah, leaving the rabbi's wife in a coma and the rabbi in shock, the congregation falls into crisis.

**Theodore Bikel**
IN THE SHOES OF SHOLOM ALEICHEM**February 17, 2018 7:15 pm**

Portraits of two beloved icons - Sholom Aleichem and Theodore Bikel are woven together in this enchanting new documentary.

***Ahead of Time****The Extraordinary Journey of Ruth Gruber***March 3, 2018 8:30pm**

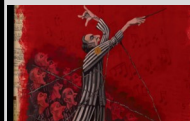
A documentary on the remarkable life of Ruth Gruber. At 97 years old, Brooklyn-born Ruth still has that same intellect and moxie that propelled her to become the world's youngest PhD.

**MAKING TROUBLE****Three Generations of Funny Women****March 10, 2018 8:15 pm**

The story of six of the greatest female comic performers of the last century; Molly Picon, Fanny Brice, Sophie Tucker, Joan Rivers, Gilda Radner, and Wendy Wasserstein.

**THE WEDDING PLAN****March 17, 2018 8:15 pm**

30 days, 1 wedding, no groom. A poignant, funny, romantic comedy about love, marriage, and faith in life's infinite possibilities.

DEFIANT REQUIEM**March 24, 2018 8:30pm**

Defiant Requiem, the little-known story of the Nazi concentration camp, Terezín. Led by imprisoned conductor, Rafael Schachter & the inmates, who fought back with art and music.

NAME _____ PHONE# _____

ADDRESS _____ EMAIL _____

\$36 per person, for the series; \$10 per person/per movie**Includes popcorn, snacks & drinks**

Indicate number of tickets: ____2/10 ____2/17 ____3/3 ____3/10 ____3/17 ____3/24

Total \$_____ check made payable/mail to: Congregation Beth El 375 Stony Hill Road Yardley, PA 19067

Tickets will be at the door the night of the film.

If you would like to volunteer or have any questions contact: Judy Nussbaum cell# 215 - 431 - 4729

Adult Education

BROADEN YOUR HORIZONS
Adult Education
Presented by The Schwarz-Kurz-Zeller
Adult Education Institute

CURRENT EVENTS CLASS
with
RABBI GRUENBERG

EVERY WEDNESDAY
10:30AM
ONEG ROOM



Shabbat Adult Learning Service

*An alternative prayer and learning experience led
by Rabbi Gruenberg and Karen Lewin*

- ★ Learn the "how to's" of praying
- ★ Explore the structure of the service
- ★ Familiarize yourself with the prayers
- ★ Explore the meanings of the prayers

Warm atmosphere and comfortable setting
Interactive Discussions
Open to all adults

Saturday Mornings in the Teen Lounge

10:15am - 11:30am

January 20th, February 24th, March 17th
April 28th May 12th

Congregation Beth El 375 Stony Hill Road
Yardley, PA 19067

215-493-1707 ∞ info@BethElYardley.org



For the literary omnivore who likes to graze

BOOK NOSH JEWISH BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

ALL ARE WELCOME

SUNDAY, JANUARY 14 10:30am

Beth El is pleased to announce our new and different Jewish Book Discussion Group.
Have you read a book that has Jewish themes, a Jewish author or Jewish characters?

Then this book group is for you.

Even if you haven't read anything come join in the
conversation and have a nosh!

Mark your calendars for these upcoming Book Nosh dates

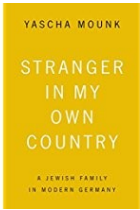
FEBRUARY 11 MARCH 11 APRIL 22

For more information contact:

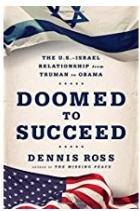
Alexander Geiger alexandergeiger@aol.com

Adult Education: Book Nosh Notes from November 19th

Beth El's Book Nosh Discussion Group met for the first time on Sunday, November 19th. Fourteen attendees noshed on bagels and had a great discussion about the following five books. We hope you can make our next Book Nosh Discussion Group on **Sunday, January 14 at 10:30 am**. For more information contact: Alexander Geiger at alexandergeiger@aol.com.



Stranger in My Own Country: A Jewish Family in Modern Germany, by Yascha Mounk. The book deals with the legacy of the Third Reich and discusses how anti-Semitism and far-right extremism coexist with feelings of shame and self-conscious philo-Semitism in postwar Germany. Several of our participants described their own experiences with the life of Jews in post-war Germany.



Doomed to Succeed: The U.S. - Israel Relationship from Truman to Obama by Dennis Ross. The author is a US diplomat who has been dealing with US policy toward Israel for nearly 30 years. In this book, he describes the policies and attitudes toward Israel of every administration from Truman to Obama. After listening to a report on this book by one of our participants, a lively group discussion ensued about the history of the US/Israeli relations over the past seven decades and our perceptions of the relative levels of support for Israel by various US presidents who have been in office during that period of time.

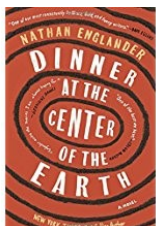


Small Great Things: A Novel, by Jodi Picoult. After a report on this story, we discussed the personal experiences of some of our participants with racism and anti-Semitism in our society.

Special Program in May, see page 13

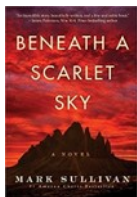


And After the Fire: A Novel, by Lauren Belfer. This story hopscotches from Prussian Berlin in the 1790's to present-day America, with stops inbetween at Weimar in the immediate aftermath of the defeat of Germany and at academic institutions in post-war United States. Although fiction, the book is based on meticulous historical research and sheds lights on some 200 years of Jewish life in what is now Germany, with interesting sidelights on some famous German composers. This book is this year's One Book One Jewish Community selection of the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia. In addition to the book, the participants discussed upcoming events, included at Congregation Beth El, scheduled in connection with the OBOJC program for this year.



Dinner at the Center of the Earth: A Novel, by Nathan Englander. We briefly mentioned the latest book by this author – just out – and discussed his previous literary output. One of Mr. Englander's earlier books, **What We Talk About When We Talk About Anne Frank: Stories**, was a previous OBOJC selection. We discussed the possibility of inviting Mr. Englander for a book-signing event at Beth El.

Adult Education: Book Nosh Notes from December 10th



Beneath a Scarlet Sky, by Mark Sullivan. This best-selling novel (soon to be a “major motion picture”) is based on the true story of an Italian teenager who, during World War II, risked his life guiding Jews across the Alps into Switzerland and also became a spy inside the German High Command. There is the requisite romance subplot as well. An entertaining, fun read; recommended by our reviewer.



Srugim, An Israel TV Series. In an important conceptual breakthrough, we decided that there was no reason to limit our discussion to books only. We talked about ***Srugim***, which is a great Israeli TV series (it ran for 3 seasons) about the lives of young, orthodox men and women, living in Jerusalem. It is kind of a Jerry Seinfeld show, except much more interesting. Available on Amazon.



Menashe is a 2017 movie set in New York’s Hasidic community. The title character is a kind, hapless grocery store clerk who struggles to raise his young son following his wife’s death. In Yiddish, with subtitles. An insightful, sympathetic, touching look at a way of life about which we have heard a great deal but understand very little. Should be added to Beth El’s film festival next year.



One of Us, a movie about the Hasidic community. Again, a documentary, but a tougher, more unflinching look at three young people who are trying to transform themselves into secular Americans living life in the mainstream. A very good movie. Available on Netflix.

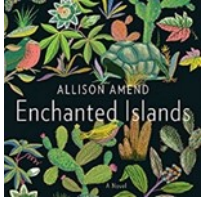


The popular GPS navigation app, beloved by many was developed and popularized by Waze Mobile, an Israeli company founded by Ehud Shabtai, Amir Shinar, and Uri Levine. It was acquired by Google in 2013 for \$966 million. The founders are popular heroes in Israel because they insisted that, as a condition of the sale, Google guarantee that all Israeli Waze jobs would stay in Israel.



First Book Nosh Meeting from November 19th.

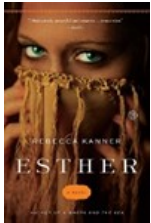
Adult Education: Book Nosh Notes from December 10th



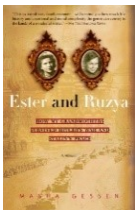
Enchanted Islands: A Novel, by Allison Amend. The story of Frances Frankowski who works for the Office of Naval Intelligence and who is given a top-secret assignment to marry handsome spy Ainslie Conway and move to the Galápagos Islands to investigate the Germans living there in the build-up to World War II.



A Place to Call Home is an Australian TV show about a young woman who has been banned from home by her mother for the “sin” of converting to Judaism. After 20 years of living in Europe, she returns to Australia, hijinx ensue, and many scandalous family secrets are revealed.



Esther: A Novel, by Rebecca Kanner. This is the familiar story of Esther, told from her point of view. A fun read with many interesting tidbits on what the author imagines life would have been like for the “lucky” girls taken by Persian troops to become inmates in the emperor’s harem. Likely to appeal to readers who enjoyed **The Red Tent**, by Anita Diamant.



Ester and Ruzya: How My Grandmothers Survived Hitler’s War and Stalin’s Peace, by Masha Gessen. A memoir by a New York Times journalist who left Russia in 1981, when she was 14, went back 10 years later, and eventually reconnected with her relatives. Rather than tell her own story, she weaves together the stories of her two Jewish grandmothers, who lived through the turmoil and terror of the first half of the 20th century.



For the literary omnivore who likes to graze

For more information contact:
Alexander Geiger alexandergeiger@aol.com

SAVE THE DATE: SUNDAY, MAY 6TH

Volunteers Needed *One Book One Jewish Community- Bucks County*

Every year, Jewish Learning Venture selects one significant book for everyone in the Jewish Community to read and discuss. The 2018 One Book One Jewish Community selection is *"And After the Fire"* by Lauren Belfer. It's a book about music, bullying & anti-semitism, and the power of art.

This year, a number of Synagogues in Lower Bucks County will sponsor a community-wide event relating to the book. The event will be held in the spring of 2018 at Congregation Beth El, Yardley.

Our vision is to create a powerful event that opens meaningful conversations across our entire community, from teenagers to adults.

We need volunteers to help develop the program – and then make that vision a reality.

***Program development *Publicity *Event logistics
*Communications**

To volunteer – and help us to shape this important Community-wide conversation – please contact:

Congregation Beth El Office 215 - 493 - 1707



Social Action Opportunities

COOK FOR A FRIEND

TUESDAY, JANUARY 9 4:00 pm

Join us in the Beth El kitchen, the first Tuesday of the month.

No experience required.

Come spend an hour or two and help prepare nutritious Kosher meals for homebound seniors.

February 6 March 6

**Questions? Contact Beth Sadoff at
bjaws999@gmail.com or
215-208-8006**



Thank you once again for participating in this year's High Holiday Food Drive! With your support, we collected approximately 50,000 lbs of food (that's 25 TONS!) that will be distributed through our five Mitzvah Food Project (MFP) pantry sites over the next few months and we could not have done this without you!

- Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia



American Friends of Kaplan Medical Center

"HEART & SOLE" CAMPAIGN

The American Friends of Kaplan Medical Center was incorporated in 2008 as a not-for-profit 501(c)(3). It is running a "Brick-by-Brick" campaign to raise \$15 million, over the next two years, for this new high-tech cardiac center costing \$45 million. Citizens of the State of Israel will match each U.S. dollar with two of their own – more than enough to cover the cost. Construction will begin in 2018, and Israel needs our help! In addition to major fund-raising efforts, the AFKMC is launching the "*Heart and Sole*" Campaign at the grass roots level to involve donors and create awareness of KMC. "Gently worn" shoes collected will be recycled to more than 50 countries overseas. In return, based upon the total weight of shoes collected, the AFKMC will receive a check from the recycling agency, located in Bensalem, PA.

**All proceeds go directly to the
"Brick-by-Brick" fund.**

By contributing to this effort, community members perform a "triple" Mitzvah: money is donated to the Kaplan Medical Center project – a less fortunate individual receives the recycled shoes – and recycling the shoes is eco-friendly.

For more information contact Lou Balcher lbalcher@afkmc.com

Social Action Opportunities

GOT NEEDS?

We want to help!

Beth El's Hesed Community is here for you! Each member of Congregation Beth El is a vital part of our caring community. We gladly share in each other's simchas and seek to be supportive of one another when we are experiencing challenges in our lives.

Please let us know if you or someone you know needs assistance. We offer:

- *rides to doctor appointments, Shabbat Services, hospital visits, airport & more!
- *occasional food shopping *set up for a shiva house *babysitter referrals *meals

The possibilities are endless!



HESED COMMUNITY IS HERE FOR YOU!

Please reach out for help when needed

Contact:

- *Barbara or Marian in the office; 215 - 493 - 1707
- *Barbara Schwartz; barbara@bethelyardley.org
- *Marian Berger; mberger@bethelyardley.org

DO A MITZVAH!

Become part of the Hesed Community!

Volunteer to help someone in our community? Call the office.

Social Action Opportunities



**DO YOU HAVE A GREEN THUMB
or KNOW SOMETHING ABOUT GARDENS or
JUST LIKE SITTING BY A GARDEN?**

Jake Holzberg, a member of Beth El built a beautiful garden on the synagogue's grounds for his Eagle Scout project last spring. If you have a garden of your own, or wish you had one, then this is the committee for you.

We are looking for volunteers to help form a garden committee that will help with all aspects of the garden.

Call the office 215-493-1707, if you are interested in volunteering.



Beth El Garden built by Jake Holzberg



Latkes &Vodka

Hanukkah Celebration
December 9th

The snow didn't stop us from coming out!

Women of Beth El

WOMEN OF BETH EL

Let's Unwind

**SUNDAY,
JANUARY 7TH**

**1:00 - 3:00 PM
SNACK. DRINKS. FUN.**

**AT THE HOME OF
MICHELLE FLASH**

**101 Pinewood Circle,
New Hope, PA 18938**



Kindly RSVP by December 30th

**LINDA
GREENBERG**

**215-321-0503
fivegreenbergs@msn.com**

Women of Beth El

Mid-Atlantic Region Women's League Torah Fund Event at Beth El



Beth El welcomed the Mid-Atlantic Region Women's League for their Torah Fund Event. Our very own Education Director, Karen Lewin and Beth El Synagogue Member Ruth Rosenberg, joined Nancy Fagan, Rabbi Rachel Kobrin and Debbi Kaner Goldich, as part of a panel discussion about Interfaith Marriage. It was an enlightening and open dialogue.

The Women of Beth El have much to be proud of.

This year we received A Torah Fund Award for reaching our donation goal. Torah Fund supports the Education of Conservative Rabbis and Cantors.

Thank you to everyone who participated in this great event.

For more information about The Women of Beth El contact:

Gloria Feldman gsf512@netzero.net Michelle Flash michelleflash@me.com
Debbie Lubin dzlubin@comcast.net



Special Shabbat Happenings

Share Shabbat Dinner

Friday, January 26, 2018 6:45 pm

We are embarking on our 6th season of the Share Shabbat Dinner program. This program has been extremely successful in fulfilling the goal of our Beth El community; to have members of our congregation meet new people in order to feel a true sense of community within our congregation. There have been numerous friendships formed since the inception of the Share Shabbat program.

Save the Dates:

March 9

June 1

(Our culminating Pot Luck Dinner will be June 1st)

We look forward to another successful Share Shabbat Dinner season and hope you will be able to join us!

Barbara Melmed, Susan Strouse, Cara Weissman
Share Shabbat Dinner Committee

RSVP by January 14th
shareshabbat@yahoo.com or
call Susan Strouse at 215 - 355 - 8999



Special Shabbat Happenings at Beth El: ALL ARE WELCOME!

Join us for community - wide Shabbat Luncheons
Following Shabbat Morning Services



January 6

February 24

March 17

April 28

May 19

Join Congregation Beth El
on Friday, March 2 6:00pm
for an awesome Shabbat!

a Prayerful, Joyful,
Musical, Moving, Spiritual
Shabbat Experience!

Following services we will have a *Pot Luck Dinner*
Please bring a dairy/vegetarian main course, side
dish or salad to serve at least
8 - 10 people to enjoy!
Beth El will provide the dessert!

Shiru
La' Adonai

Mark these dates on your calendar!
May 4

SPONSOR A SHABBAT

In honor of a birthday, anniversary or
any other occasion!



Each Shabbat we have a list of Oneg and Kiddush sponsors included in our Shabbat Flyer, TV monitor and weekly email. The sponsorship helps to offset the cost of Kosher challah and cakes. The cost is \$18. To sponsor, please contact Carol Benderson - Lighter 215-702-1361 or Marc Shoemaker 215-493-6207.

Men's Club

MEN'S CLUB



Join the Men's Club and
Rabbi Gruenberg for
Torah on Tap.
Discuss the weekly Torah
portion while enjoying
some spirits!

Men's Club meets monthly
on Thursdays

7:30pm

January 18 - Continental Tavern
February 15 - Beth El
March 22 - Continental Tavern
April 19 - Rabbi Gruenberg's home
May 3 - Beth El

For more information,
contact
Ian Schachter at
bonnians@verizon.net

Or

215-208-9531

Visit www.bethelyardley.org for updates



Join the Men's Club on
Sunday, January 7 for a
Men's Club Meeting
at 9:00 am
followed by a
Poker Game
10:00am - 12:00pm



BETH EL COMMUNITY CARES

Our Community Mourns the Loss of:



William Hurwitz, brother of Helene Geiger
and brother-in-law to Alexander



Philip Sherman, father of Eric Sherman, father-in-law to
Liza, grandfather to Sam and Matthew

Vera Glick, longtime member of Beth El

We are looking for a few good Minyaners

Congregation Beth El holds both morning and evening minyan services open to our members and friends in the community. We invite you to join us and become a regular volunteer. Take some time from your busy day or week, come to our chapel and pray with friends and neighbors, and be there to support a person saying kaddish or yarhzeit.

**It's a mitzvah... It's good for you and it's
good for our community.**



Morning Services

Monday - Friday at 7:00 AM

Evening Services

Monday - Thursday at 7:30 PM

Sunday Morning Services

8:00 AM

Please give Brian Levey, our Minyan
Committee Leader, a call.

Home: 215-321-8670

Cell: 267-250-7526

Email: blevey1000@gmail.com or visit
www.bethelyardley.org



Mazel Tov to Gary & Randy Laevsky & Family on the occasion of Jaden becoming a Bar Mitzvah

Mazel Tov to Marc & Gretchen Merchiere & Family on the occasion of Sydney becoming a Bat Mitzvah

Mazel Tov to Lee & Stacy Kirsh & Family on the occasion of Leyna becoming a Bat Mitzvah

Mazel Tov to Joan Zuckerman on the occasion of her grandson, Ryan becoming a Bar Mitzvah

Mazel Tov to Ben Lomas on his engagement to Lauren Kreisberg

Mazel Tov to Joy Lomas on the engagement of her son Ben Lomas to Lauren Kreisberg

Mazel Tov to Warren & Rocio Flax & Family on the occasion of Julia & Joshua becoming B'nai Mitzvah

Mazel Tov to Lee & Michelle Schachter & Family on the occasion of Jacob becoming Bar Mitzvah

Mazel Tov to David & Marlyn Gelb & Family on the occasion of Arielle becoming a Bat Mitzvah

Mazel Tov to Erica Apfelbaum & Family on the occasion of Dorian becoming a Bar Mitzvah

Mazel Tov to Mitchell & Nina Apfelbaum on the occasion of their grandson, Dorian becoming a Bar Mitzvah



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*Birthday *Anniversary

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Barbara Schwartz,

Synagogue Administrator

barbara@bethelyardley.org

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Barbara Schwartz at
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email barbara@bethelyardley.org

Cemetery Plot



No one really expects the need of having to buy cemetery plots. It is a wonderful benefit of belonging to Congregation Beth El of Yardley. There is no better time to buy than the present time, before you have the need. We want to help you make the choice before the emotional time after a death. Many Funeral directors encourage the pre-need

arrangements of all of the aspects of the funeral, burial, and monuments. The Cemetery Committee can offer you the time to select a plot at the cemetery or just by reviewing our plot maps and photographs. King David Memorial Park is located in Bensalem, PA. Beth El has over 400 plots in section R. Effective September 1, 2016 the Board of Directors approved a price increase to \$1800 per plot. This is far below the price for the general public making a request at King David. A Family Gravesite includes four plots and costs \$7200. Sign up now for the reduced prices. These charges are transacted with the synagogue only and you may not deal with King David or other congregants directly for the purchase or sale of any plots in Section R. When a plot is paid in full the owner is granted the rights of sepulcher and these rights are shared with their heirs even if they are not members. Beth El does not sell plots to non-members of the congregation. In the event of an owner moving or not needing their plots, they may return their papers for a refund less 10% of the purchase price. The price of the plot does not include any services, openings, burial, vault, or monument charges.

For more information please call Michael Weinberg, Cemetery Committee Chairman @215-321-1312

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JEWISH FEDERATION FOOD PANTRY

The Jewish Federation's food pantry at KleinLife in Northeast Philadelphia is currently seeking volunteers on select Fridays from 10am–1pm as it expands its hours to serve more clients. The Choice Food Pantry at KleinLife features an innovative model where the clients get to choose what food they receive (rather than a pre-packaged box) and use a touchscreen to make their selection. Anyone interested in volunteering can email Jeremy Heller directly at mail@jeremyheller.com.



Ideas or submissions for The Shofar?

Email feedback, articles and pictures to:
barbara@bethelyardley.org

If you would like to receive a hard copy of *The Shofar* via regular U.S. mail, do not hesitate to request an issue to be delivered to your door.

Simply call the synagogue office,
215-493-1707 x4 or
email barbara@bethelyardley.org

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*JANUARY 2018 CALENDAR

visit www.bethelyardley.org

(*subject to change - always check website)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	14th of Tevet New Year's Day OFFICE CLOSED 8:00am Morning Minyan	215th of Tevet 7:00am Morning Minyan 7:30pm Evening Minyan	316th of Tevet No FJLC No HaMoadon Hebrew High 7:00am Morning Minyan 10:00am - Noon Gift Shop Open 10:30am Current Events with Rabbi Gruenberg 7:30pm Evening Minyan	417th of Tevet 7:00am Morning Minyan 10:30am - Noon Jewish Bereavement Group 7:30pm Evening Minyan	518th of Tevet Ramah Weekend & Shabbat Celebration 7:00am Morning Minyan 10:30am - Noon Gift Shop Open 4:30pm Candle Lighting 6:00pm Shabbat Services	619th of Tevet Parashat Shemot Ramah Weekend Shabbat Celebration 9:30am Shabbat Services with luncheon 10:00am BMU 10:45am ShabbaTeeny (Mini Congo) 5:31pm Havdalah
720th of Tevet 8:00am Morning Minyan 9:00am - Noon FJLC (PreK - 7th) 9:00am Men's Club Meeting 10:00am - 12:00pm Men's Club Poker Game 9:00am - Noon Gift Shop Open 9:15am FJLC Board meeting 1:00pm - 3:00pm Women of Beth El Get together - Michelle Flash's home	821st of Tevet 7:00am Morning Minyan 7:30pm Evening Minyan 7:30pm Executive Board Meeting	922nd of Tevet 7:00am Morning Minyan 7:30pm Evening Minyan	1023rd of Tevet 7:00am Morning Minyan 10:00am - Noon Gift Shop Open 10:30am - Current Events with Rabbi Gruenberg 4:30pm - 6:30pm FJLC (3rd - 7th) 6:30pm - 8:45pm HaMoadon Hebrew High	1124th of Tevet 7:00am Morning Minyan 7:30pm Evening Minyan	1225th of Tevet 7:00am Morning Minyan 10:00am - Noon Gift Shop Open 4:37pm Candle Lighting 6:00pm Shabbat Services	1326th of Tevet Parashat Vayera 9:30am Shabbat Services 5:38pm Havdalah
1427th of Tevet 8:00am Morning Minyan 9:00am - Noon FJLC (PreK - 7th) 9:00am - Noon Gift Shop Open 10:30am - Noon Book Nosh	1528th of Tevet Martin Luther King Day OFFICE CLOSED 8:00am Morning Minyan	1629th of Tevet 7:00am Morning Minyan 7:30pm Evening Minyan	171st of Shevat ROSH CHODESH SHEVAT 7:00am Morning Minyan 10:00am - Noon Gift Shop Open 10:30am Current Events with Rabbi Gruenberg 1:00pm - 3:00pm Jewish Federation meeting at Beth El 4:30pm - 6:30pm FJLC (3rd - 7th) 6:30pm - 8:45pm HaMoadon Hebrew High 7:30pm Evening Minyan	182nd of Shevat 7:00am Morning Minyan 7:30pm Evening Minyan 7:30pm Men's Club Torah on Tap at Continental Tavern	193rd of Shevat 7:00am Morning Minyan 10:00am - Noon Gift Shop Open 4:45pm Candle Lighting 6:00pm Shabbat Services	204th of Shevat Parashat Bo 9:30am Shabbat Services 5:46pm Havdalah
215th of Shevat 8:00am Morning Minyan 9:00am - Noon FJLC (PreK - 7th) 9:00am - Noon Gift Shop Open 10:00am BMU 10:30am Hazak Program	226th of Shevat 7:00am Morning Minyan 7:30pm Evening Minyan 7:30pm Executive Board Meeting	237th of Shevat 7:00am Morning Minyan 7:30pm Evening Minyan	248th of Shevat 7:00am Morning Minyan 10:00am - Noon Gift Shop Open 10:30am Current Events with Rabbi Gruenberg 4:30pm - 6:30pm FJLC (3rd - 7th) 6:30pm - 8:45pm HaMoadon Hebrew High 7:30pm Evening Minyan	259th of Shevat 7:00am Morning Minyan 7:30pm Evening Minyan	2610th of Shevat EPA/HaGeshet USY Winter Kinus 7:00am Morning Minyan 10:00am - Noon Gift Shop Open 4:45pm Candle Lighting 6:00pm Shabbat Services 6:45pm Share Shabbat	2711th of Shevat Parashat Beshalach EPA/HaGeshet USY Winter Kinus 9:30am Shabbat Services Bar Mitzvah of Dorian Apfelbaum 5:54pm Havdalah
2812th of Shevat EPA/HaGeshet USY Winter Kinus 8:00am Morning Minyan 9:00am - Noon FJLC (PreK - 7th) 9:00am - Noon Gift Shop Open	2913th of Shevat 7:00am Morning Minyan 7:30pm Evening Minyan	3014th of Shevat Erev Tu B'Shevat 7:00am Morning Minyan 7:30pm Evening Minyan	3115th of Shevat Tu B'Shevat 7:00am Morning Minyan 10:00am - Noon Gift Shop Open 10:30am - Current Events with Rabbi Gruenberg 4:30pm - 6:30pm FJLC (3rd - 7th) 6:30pm - 8:45pm HaMoadon Hebrew High 7:30pm Evening Minyan			

*FEBRUARY 2018 CALENDAR

visit www.bethelyardley.org

(*subject to change - always check website)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 16th of Shevat 7:00am Morning Minyan 7:30pm Evening Minyan	2 17th of Shevat 7:00am Morning Minyan 10:00am - Noon Gift Shop Open 5:01pm Candle lighting 6:00pm Shabbat Services	3 18th of Shevat Parashat Yitro 9:30am Shabbat Morning Services 6:03pm Havdalah
4 19th of Shevat 8:00am Morning Minyan 9:00am - Noon FJLC (PreK - 7th) 9:00am - Noon Gift shop Open 9:15am FJLC Board Meeting 11:00am FJLC PTO Meeting	5 20th of Shevat 7:00am Morning Minyan 7:30pm Evening Minyan 7:30pm Executive Board Meeting	6 21st of Shevat 7:00am Morning Minyan 4:00pm Cook for a Friend 7:30pm Evening Minyan	7 22nd of Shevat 7:00am Morning Minyan 10:00am - Noon Gift Shop Open 10:30am Current events with Rabbi Gruenberg 4:30pm - 6:00pm FJLC (3rd-7th) 6:30pm - 8:45pm HaMoadon Hebrew High 7:30pm Evening Minyan	8 23rd of Shevat 7:00am Morning Minyan 9:00am - Noon Gift shop Open 7:30pm Evening Minyan	9 24th of Shevat 7:00am Morning Minyan 10:00am - Noon Gift Shop Open 5:10pm Candle lighting 6:00pm Kid - ish Club Shabbat 6:00pm Shabbat Services	10 25th of Shevat Parashat Mishpatim Shabbat Shekalim 9:30am Shabbat services 6:11pm Havdalah 7:00pm Film Festival
11 26th of Shevat 8:00am Morning Minyan 9:00am - Noon FJLC (PreK - 7th) 9:00am - Noon Gift shop Open 10:30am - Noon Book Nosh	12 27th of Shevat 7:00am Morning Minyan 9:00am - Noon Gift shop Open 7:30pm Evening Minyan 7:30pm Board Meeting	13 28th of Shevat 7:00am Morning Minyan 7:30pm Evening Minyan	14 29th of Shevat 7:00am Morning Minyan 10:00am - Noon Gift Shop Open 10:30am Current events with Rabbi Gruenberg 4:30pm - 6:00pm FJLC (3rd-7th) 6:30pm - 8:45pm HaMoadon Hebrew High 7:30pm Evening Minyan	15 30th of Shevat Rosh Chodesh Adar 7:00am Morning Minyan 7:30pm Evening Minyan 7:30pm Men's Club Torah On Tap at Beth El	16 1st of Adar Rosh Chodesh Adar 7:00am Morning Minyan 10:00am - Noon Gift Shop Open 5:18pm Candle lighting 6:00pm Shabbat Services	17 2nd of Adar Parashat Terumah 9:30am Shabbat services 6:19pm Havdalah 7:30pm Film Festival
18 3rd of Adar 8:00am Morning Minyan Gift Shop Closed No FJLC	19 4th of Adar President's Day OFFICE CLOSED 8:00am Morning Minyan	20 5th of Adar 7:00am Morning Minyan 9:00am - Noon Gift Shop Open 7:30pm Evening Minyan	21 6th of Adar 7:00am Morning Minyan 10:00am - Noon Gift Shop Open 10:30am Current events with Rabbi Gruenberg 4:30pm - 6:00pm FJLC (3rd-7th) 6:30pm - 8:45pm HaMoadon Hebrew High 7:30pm Evening Minyan 7:45pm Greenwood House Having the Talk with aging loved ones	22 7th of Adar 7:00am Morning Minyan 9:00am - Noon Gift shop Open 7:30pm Evening Minyan	23 8th of Adar 7:00am Morning Minyan 10:00am - Noon Gift Shop Open 5:26pm Candle lighting 6:00pm Shabbat Services	24 9th of Adar Parashat Tetzaveh Shabbat Zochor 9:30am Shabbat Morning Services with Shabbat Luncheon 10:00am BMU 10:00am Minions Congo 10:15am - 11:30am Shabbat Adult Learning with Rabbi Gruenberg & Karen Lewin 6:26pm Havdalah
25 10th of Adar Purim Carnival 8:00am Morning Minyan 9:00am - Noon FJLC (PreK - 7th) 9:00am - Noon Gift shop Open	26 11th of Adar 7:00am Morning Minyan 7:30pm Evening Minyan	27 12th of Adar 7:00am Morning Minyan 7:30pm Evening Minyan	28 13th of Adar Erev Purim 7:00am Morning Minyan 10:00am - Noon Gift Shop Open 10:30am Current events with Rabbi Gruenberg 4:30pm - 6:00pm FJLC (3rd - 7th) 5:15pm Children's Purim Megillah Reading 6:00pm Erev Purim Dinner 6:30pm - 8:45pm HaMoadon Hebrew High 6:45pm Adult/Teen Purim Megillah Reading			

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(continued)

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In Memory of:

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Continued on next page

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Sydney Merchiore's Bat Mitzvah on

October 28, 2017

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Marcia Gildar, sister of Harold

Denenberg and Marvin Denenberg, brother of Harold Denenberg

Charlotte & Harold Denenberg

Andy Flager

Judith & Steve Minsky

Jules Safir, Grandfather of Francine Safir

Francine Safir

*Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

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Rabbi Gruenberg for officiating at the unveiling of Claryne Weinberg

Michelle, Michael & Jeanette Weinberg

In Honor of:

Rabbi Gruenberg

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Rob Lightman's stepdaughter

Jill Smolen

In Memory of:

Vickie Zagorin

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The Rhoda & Morris Volk Camp Ramah Scholarship Fund

In Memory of:

Vickie Zagorin

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Greenwood House

Having **THE TALK** with your aging loved one

The when, where, how and why of starting the conversation



Wednesday, February 21, 2018

7:45 pm

Congregation Beth El, 375 Stony Hill Rd, Yardley, PA 19067

FREE EVENT

Get tips on how to help this awkward conversation go as smoothly as possible.
The right time to talk about the future is now—even if it's uncomfortable.

Please RSVP to Paula Levinsky at plevinsky@greenwoodhouse.org or 609.883.5391 ext. 393. Co-sponsored with Congregation Beth El and Greenwood House.

***Your donations are greatly appreciated.**

When making a donation to Rabbi Gruenberg's Discretionary Fund, please make the check payable to:
Rabbi Gruenberg's Discretionary Fund



CONGREGATION BETH EL GIFT OPPORTUNITIES

Tree of Life Honor a birthday, anniversary, wedding, Bar/Bat Mitzvah or any other happy occasion with an engraved leaf on our tree of life for \$180 or a boulder for \$750.

Donation Cards Our donation cards are a wonderful way to recognize important life-cycle events, extend wishes for speedy recovery or show your appreciation for someone's kindness and helps fulfill the mitzvah of tzedakah. There are two different cards to choose from - a beautiful Menorah card (\$7) and a colorful picture of three of our Torot (\$18). Your gift can also be designated to one of the following funds:

Building Fund	Cook for a Friend Project Fund
Eric J. Marinoff College Outreach Fund	Fierverker Education Fund
Golda Meir Religious Books & Articles Fund	Heidi Mittleman Memorial Library Fund
Morning Minyan Fund	Oring Family Hesed Fund
Perez Youth Scholarship Fund	Rabbi Gruenberg's Discretionary Fund
(for Jewish camp & USY programs)	The Rhoda and Morris Volk Camp Ramah Scholarship Fund

Book Dedications There are also opportunities to have a bookplate placed on the back of the front cover of a Siddur (Prayer Book), or Mahzor (High Holiday Prayer Book) - any time someone opens the book, they will learn of your donation: Prayer Book: \$54 High Holiday Mahzor: \$54

Yahrzeit Plaques Among the customs to help us with loss and bereavement is the commemoration of a loved one on a Yahrzeit plaque. These plaques, which are affixed to a special memorial board in our Chapel, are an expression of love and devotion. The plaque will be mounted on our Yahrzeit board in perpetuity. Each year you will receive a notice of the date of the yahrzeit, it will be announced during Shabbat services, and the plaque will be lit in memory of your loved one for a full month. The cost is \$750 for members and \$900 for non-members. Contact the office to receive a form.

Cemetery Plots - Beth El owns cemetery plots at King David Memorial Park in Bensalem. Call the office for further details and pricing information.

CONGREGATION BETH EL DONATION FORM

Enclosed is my gift of \$_____ (Menorah card \$7 - \$17, Torot card \$18+)

- | | |
|---|--|
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Eric J. Marinoff College Outreach Fund | <input type="checkbox"/> Fierverker Education Fund |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Golda Meir Religious Books & Articles Fund | <input type="checkbox"/> Heidi Mittleman Memorial Library Fund |
| <input type="checkbox"/> High Holiday Mahzor/Prayerbook(\$54) | <input type="checkbox"/> Morning Minyan Fund |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Oring Family Hesed Fund | <input type="checkbox"/> Perez Youth Scholarship Fund |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rabbi Gruenberg's Discretionary Fund | <input type="checkbox"/> Rhoda & Morris Volk Camp Ramah Scholarship Fund |

Recipient _____ Occasion _____

Recipient Address _____

Donor Name (s) _____

Donor Address _____

I would like more information on:

- ☐ Tree of Life ☐ Yahrzeit Plaques ☐ Cemetery Plots ☐ Other Ways I Can Give



Congregation Beth El
375 Stony Hill Road
Yardley, PA 19067
215 - 493 - 1707

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Charlotte Denenberg, Barbara Fineman, Sara Pollock

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Fax 215-493-7717
E-mail Office@BethElYardley.org
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