

December 2021, Volume No. 10  
Kislev - Tevet 5782



# echo

B E T H E L C O N G R E G A T I O N



*Hanukkah Party! December 4*  
*5:30pm Dinner, Games, & Candlelighting*



## Beth El Services

## SERVICES

### **PLEASE NOTE:**

**In light of the everchanging circumstances, details concerning services may change during the month. Please consult our weekly Shabbat email for the most current information.**

### **Mi-ketz | Rosh Hodesh Shabbat Hanukkah Saturday, December 4**

9:30 am Shabbat Shaharit\*  
5:30 pm Hanukkah Dinner, Game Night & Candlelighting  
5:51 pm Havdalah

### **Va-yiggash Saturday, December 11**

Birthday Shabbat  
9:30 am Shabbat Shaharit\*  
5:52 pm Havdalah  
6:00 pm Zoomdalah - Dance into the week  
6:30 pm Musical Ma'ariv & Havdalah

### **Va-y'hi Saturday, December 18 Bar Mitzvah of Joshua Goldfarb**

9:30 am Shabbat Shaharit\*  
5:54 pm Havdalah  
6:00 pm Zoomdalah - Dance into the week  
6:30 pm Musical Ma'ariv & Havdalah

### **Sh'mot Saturday, December 25**

Anniversary Shabbat  
9:30 am Shabbat Shaharit\*  
5:58 pm Havdalah  
6:00 pm Zoomdalah - Dance into the week  
6:30 pm Musical Ma'ariv & Havdalah

### **Kabbalat Shabbat every Friday at 5:45 pm**

#### **Candlelighting times:**

**Friday, December 3 | 5:02 pm**

**Friday, December 10 | 5:02 pm**

**Friday, December 17 | 5:04 pm**

**Friday, December 24 | 5:08 pm**

**Friday, December 31 | 5:12 pm**

## **HOW TO PARTICIPATE:**

### **Shabbat Shaharit Saturdays | 9:30 am**

**\*\*Live and in-person.**

Virtual access through Beth El's Facebook page at:  
[facebook.com/bethel.phoenix](https://facebook.com/bethel.phoenix)

### **Daily Minyan and Kabbalat Shabbat\* Monday - Friday 7:15 am and 5:45 pm Sunday 8:15 am and 5:45 pm**

Join us on your computer, tablet, or cellphone at the following link: <https://zoom.us/j/92408568672>

### **ZOOM information for Daily Minyan & Kabbalat Shabbat Services:**

Meeting ID: 924 0856 8672

Passcode: minyan

Call in: (253) 215-8782

Call in Passcode: 649433

### **Beginning Wednesday, December 1**

Weekday evening minyan, Kabbalat Shabbat,  
Shaharit on Mondays & Thursdays  
will be IN-PERSON and on Zoom!

### **MINYAN TIME CHANGES:**

Monday - Friday, November 29 - December 3  
7:00 am (Hanukkah)

Sunday, December 5 | 8:00 am (Hanukkah)

Monday, December 6 | 7:00 am (Hanukkah)

Tuesday, December 14 - Asarah B'Tevet (Fast Day)

Fast begins 6:05 am

Fast ends 5:55 pm

ECHO (USPS 4360) is published for congregants of Beth El Congregation monthly throughout the year, with the exception of combined issues in June/July and September/October by Beth El Congregation, 1118 W Glendale Ave, Phoenix, AZ 85021. Periodicals postage paid at: Phoenix Main Post Office, 4949 E VanBuren, Phoenix, AZ 85026. Postmaster: send address changes to: ECHO at Beth El Congregation, 1118 W Glendale Ave, Phoenix, AZ 85021. Attn: Korina or call 602.944.3359, ext. 106. Reproduction in whole or in part without permission is prohibited.

# December

## Adult Education & Programming

Register at [bethelphoenix.com](http://bethelphoenix.com)  
or call (602) 944-3359

12/1

### Holocaust Memory & Its Misuse During COVID-19 Wednesday | 5:30 pm

Join ADL Arizona for a discussion on the recent rise of Holocaust comparison used to describe COVID-19 health mandates by both local and national elected officials. Featuring Arizona Rep. Alma Hernandez, Holocaust Survivor Oskar Knobach and ADL Holocaust education and civil rights experts, our panel will describe the danger of these analogies and ways to combat them.

Register @ <https://tinyurl.com/m52b2xap>

12/2, 12/9, 12/16 & 12/23

### The World of Talmud Thursdays | 8:00 am

Learn Talmud with Rabbi Stein Kokin  
Email [rabbib@bethelphoenix.com](mailto:rabbib@bethelphoenix.com) to register  
and receive source sheets

Meeting link: [zoom.us/j/92408568672](https://zoom.us/j/92408568672)  
Call in: (669) 900-6833

12/6

### VBM x Beth El: Disability and the Politics of Healing ? Monday | 1:00 pm

Join Beth El and Valley Beit Midrash for this co-hosted event with a presentation by Rabbi Julia Watts Belser!

by Register with VBM: <https://tinyurl.com/yyzf8ta5>

12/6 & 12/20



### Hebrew 102 Mondays | 6:30 pm



Meeting link: [zoom.us/j/659102971](https://zoom.us/j/659102971)  
Call in: (669) 900-6833

12/8



### Book Group Wednesday | 6:45 pm

Love reading? Love schmoozing?

Join us with a glass of wine (or your favorite refreshment) as we discuss the book of the month.

See the enclosed flyer for the December book title.

Meeting link: [zoom.us/j/948321834](https://zoom.us/j/948321834) | Call n: (669) 900-6833

12/12 & 12/26



### Blanket Boosters Sundays | 1:00 pm



Volunteer crochet and knitting club!

All blankets created are donated to those in need.

Meeting link: [zoom.us/j/92408568672](https://zoom.us/j/92408568672)  
Call in: (669) 900-6833

12/16

### LUNCH & LEARN: THE JUDGES THURSDAYS @ 12:00 PM



Join Wendy Rozov and your Beth El friends for a hybrid learning session. Study the Book of Judges with us!

In person available without lunch.

Register with Wendy @ [wrozov@bethelphoenix.com](mailto:wrozov@bethelphoenix.com)

Meeting link: [zoom.us/j/881238825](https://zoom.us/j/881238825) | Call in: (669) 900-6833

12/19

### Chai Tea Women's Study Group Sunday | 12:30 pm



What's in Your Jewish Spiritual Toolbox?

There are many Jewish spiritual practices that allow us to open ourselves to find the holy in our lives. Hybrid learning sessions. In-person at Beth El.

Meeting link: [zoom.us/j/948321834](https://zoom.us/j/948321834) | Call in: (669) 900-6833





**A. Nitzan Stein Kokin**  
Rabbi

## Dear Friends,

### Nes Hanukkah - The Hidden Miracles

This year Hanukkah comes early, at a time when the solstice is still almost a month away and the nights are still growing longer. While darkness still prevails over light we start lighting our candles, setting a trend - that one small light out of darkness will spark more flames to grow steadily day by day, with persistence and dedication. So what is the miracle of Hanukkah?

In the ancient days, when Hanukkah first was established, it seemed to be the miracle of the victory of a small group of persevering guerilla warriors fighting for their identity and culture who overcame the overpowering Seleucid military forces at the time. But over a short span of several generations the descendents of the Maccabees themselves turned into power hungry corrupt rulers. Ultimately, the little Jewish kingdom of Judea was absorbed into the larger Roman empire - self-determination sold out.

What was left of the once spectacular victory by the time the rabbis came around, was the miracle of the small flask of oil outlasting the darkness beyond all expectations. The blessing we say over lighting the Hanukkah candles thanks the Eternal One who “performed miracles for our ancestors in those days and at this time.” If we look closely at the text of the words of the blessing, we notice its peculiarity: it refers both to past miracles and to the miracles of our own time!

**What are the miracles of our time?**

**What is a miracle at all?**

**What experiences in your life would you consider a miracle?**

The Hasidic commentary of *Kedushat HaLevi* clarifies for us:

“...There are hidden miracles and revealed ones.....The revealed miracle...involved a change in the natural order. Everybody witnessed these miracles. ...But then there are hidden miracles. ...the Hanukkah miracle as mentioned in the *al-hanissim* prayer, ‘He handed over the many to the few, the defiled to the holy....’ is a hidden miracle. It came about partly through battle, i.e. ...partly through natural means.”

Or, as Rabbi Moses ben Nachman (Ramban), the great medieval Torah commentator and philosopher, explains:

“Revealed miracles are the obvious ones, those around which sacred narratives and great sagas are written: the plagues of Egypt, the splitting of

the Reed Sea,...the sun standing still amid Joshua’s battle. **Hidden miracles are those cases where you have to look hard to see the divine hand in events that seem like they might just be following the course of nature.**”<sup>1</sup>

The tricky thing with hidden miracles is that we only recognize them in the aftermath. As Arthur Green writes: “The miracle is in the eye of the beholder. No one can perform a hidden miracle for you. Only in retrospect, as you see an event unfolding, can you declare it such a miracle. That has everything to do **with an awakening sense of wonder within you, a moment when you feel in the event the presence of a greatness that transcends the ordinary.** What is happening may be entirely natural, yet completely extraordinary.”<sup>2</sup>

As we light the candles this year while natural darkness is still growing around us, I encourage you to look at the small, yet bright shining flames, and reflect which miracles are in your life - big and small.

Happy Hanukkah!

Warmly, Rabbi Nitzan Stein Kokin

<sup>1</sup> Nachmanides Commentary on Exodus 13:16. Quoted from Arthur Green, *Judaism for the World*, p. 154.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid. p. 155

## LUNCH AND LEARN



### THE JUDGES

WHO WERE THE SHOFTIM OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE BEFORE THE MONARCHY ROSE? THEY WERE WARRIORS, MILITARY LEADERS, PROPHETS, MEDIATORS, AND LONE VIGILANTES. THIS SEASON WE STUDY THE BOOK OF JUDGES, PART OF NEVI'IM (THE PROPHETS) THAT ENCOMPASSES THE PERIOD FROM JOSHUA'S DEATH TO THE ANOINTING OF SAUL. GET A GOOD TASTE OF WHAT A PREFERRED LEADER MAY, OR MAY NOT, BE LIKE.

THURSDAYS AT 12:00 PM

2021 DATE: 12/16

2022 DATES: 1/20, 2/17, 3/17, 4/21, 5/12

ZOOM ID: 881 238 825





**Jonathan Angress  
Cantor**

## Dear Friends,

Now that we have just celebrated Thanksgiving and we are in the beginning of December, we are looking ahead to Hanukkah! In fact, by the time you read this, we will most likely be at the tail end of the holiday.

Hanukkah has always been a big celebration in my house growing up, as it is for the vast majority of Jews throughout the world. As a child, we always displayed multiple Hanukkiot - menorahs in our living room, one for each of us - my mother, my father, my sister, and me. We even had one for our little chihuahua, Didi, several years ago. On the Saturday night of Hanukkah, my family would either host a Hanukkah party or we would go to my cousins' home for a large party. Cooking latkes - potato pancakes, and sufganiyot - jelly donuts, was a staple in our family...especially since my father is a retired professional pastry chef and we had other talented culinary artists in the family.

This year, Mayra and I are very much looking forward to experiencing our first Hanukkah as a married couple, and we intend to make Hanukkah as big of a celebration in our home as it was during my childhood. I am very lucky that this year I have the added benefit of both my wife and my stepson being very talented in the kitchen. I have tried both of their homemade latkes and jelly donuts which I am VERY much looking forward to this year!

During the lighting of the Hanukkiah - the menorah, there are different types of melodies I like to use when we light the candles in my home. Of course there are the standard melodies that are used in the majority of communities. But there are other melodies that can also be used. One of my favorite Hanukkah music albums is one produced by the Western Wind Ensemble, a professional classical vocal ensemble based out of New York City. In 2007, Western Wind produced an album called "The Channukah Story" with narration by Theodore Bikel and with music sung by the ensemble. On this album, they sing an arrangement of *Hanerot Hallalu* composed by Baruch J. Cohen, which has now become my favorite melody, behind the choral composition by Louis Lewandowski.

While I was growing up, my family didn't always recite *Hanerot Hallalu* until I began to become familiar with the Cohen composition sung by Western Wind. It has now become my family's tradition, both in Florida and in Arizona, to sing this version. In the spirit of Hanukkah this year, I would like to share this melody with you. "The Channukah Story" by the Western Wind has been uploaded to the recorded sound archive of the Judaics department at Florida Atlantic

University. This archive is available online and "The Channukah Story" album in its entirety is available in the archive. The album can be viewed and listened to by entering this link on your internet browser online: <https://rsa.fau.edu/album/36933>. You will need to play track #11 for *Hanerot Halalu*, but of course the entire album is available for your listening pleasure!

I hope that this new and upbeat melody for *Hanerot Halalu* will bring you joy and possibly fond memories of your Hanukkah celebrations from years past. My family and I would like to wish you a freilich and Happy Hanukkah - may we all shine as brightly as the Hanukkah lights kindled every year!

Chag Sameach,  
Cantor Angress



## Bar Mitzvah

Joshua Morgan Goldfarb, son of David and Lara Goldfarb, will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on December 18, 2021.

Grandparents are Karen Berger Goldfarb of Cooper City, Florida and Stan and Shirley Grossman of Phoenix, Arizona. Joshua has an older sister, Sydney. Joshua is a seventh grader at Stetson Hills Elementary School and in the Beth El Talmud Torah program. He enjoys soccer, volleyball, Boy Scouts, playing his trombone, scuba diving, traveling, and animals.

For his Mitzvah Project, Joshua initiated a collections drive where he is collecting books for UMOM, a charitable organization to assist with distribution of books to underprivileged families to read.

Please see below for a note from Josh:

Since its inception in 1964, UMOM has grown to include several different types of programs including emergency shelter, supportive services such as job training, education, and healthcare, and affordable housing. UMOM assists a wide variety of people facing homelessness by providing housing first and then addressing the issues that caused the individuals to find themselves in such a situation.

Many people think of donating clothing and hygiene items and in this time of year, toys, to families. However, books are also an invaluable resource toward assisting the future generations.

Therefore, I would like your assistance in donating new or gently used books of all ages. Such books will be collected and donated to UMOM to give to the many children that pass through their doors during the year.

Thank you in advance,  
Joshua Goldfarb



**Gregory Harris**  
**Board President**

## Giving thanks for the Festival of Lights

As we round the turn for the last lap of this year – 2021 – we all stand ready to marvel at what we’ve accomplished over the last 12 months – and what awaits us in the new year. As I look forward to the coming year, I am filled with hope and anticipation.

First and foremost, having been compelled to be patient for our celebration of Rabbi Stein Kokin’s arrival, we wait no more!. Although we had planned to mark this event in March 2020, events got in the way. The wait will soon be over. Please be ready to join us on Erev Shabbat on February 4 to be a part of the crowd to participate in and offer enthusiastic support of our NEW Rabbi. Her excellent choice was our good fortune, our Rabbi has shown us and the entire community that not even the pandemic could dampen her spirit, energy, faith, and drive. We need only to match her expectations and our own capacity for doing good and doing well as we speed ahead into the future.

Second, the end of the year marks the next stage in our congregation’s evolution from one in which services were once only live, and then virtual, and then became hybrid too. We are truly at a crossroads. With our hope for a return to services in person, we also must take stock of what we’ve learned from this episode, what returns to normal, what changes remains in place and what additional changes are to be made. Living at a time in which more things are possible than ever before, we have choices never considered or possible. Just because we haven’t done them yet doesn’t mean we *can’t* do something new. And just because we *can* doesn’t mean we *will, should, or won’t* do something new. Instead, we need to plot a course that aligns with our values and our longstanding reason for being together, coming together and staying together as a community. We can’t and don’t need to be engaged in the same way; anymore than an orchestra can get by with everyone playing the same instrument. Instead, we need to find and pursue the many ways open to us to help satisfy our unmet needs.

Third, the coming year will give each of us the chance to shine a little brighter in our own eyes, in the thoughts and feelings of the congregation. Think about Risa Mallin, and the magic she’s sparked within herself and our fellow congregants – the callers and the call recipients alike – with her inspired genius that is the Chesed Committee. There is no stronger bond than the one which connects us to one another. Again, it’s our community that matters, and what we do to forge and strengthen the things which unite us!

As we prepare to say our thanks as we gather round the menorah, and prepare to eat a latke or two, we must remember that this time, too, is a time of miracles and wonders! In keeping with the holiday, and in the words of one Board member smarter than me: *Great Miracles Happen Here!* Please stay healthy!

L’shalom,  
Greg Harris | President



## GIFT SHOP NEWS

### HANUKKAH OH HANUKKAH COME LIGHT THE MENORAH

Hanukkah starts November 28

We have a wonderful variety of Hanukkiah’s – traditional, modern, electric and oil. Do not forget the candles. Candles from Israel, and Candles for a Cause (pink for breast cancer, multi color for Autism, camouflage for Kosher meals for our troops.) Also available are dreidels, decorations, cookie cutters and more.

We are always stocked with Shabbat candles, candlesticks, Kiddush cups, Challah trays, Havdalah candles, memorial candles, Tallit sets and Kippot.

#### REASONS TO SHOP AT OUR GIFT SHOP:

1. Amazing merchandise
2. Convenient
3. No sales tax
4. Support BETH EL

Gift Shop is open during Beth El’s office hours

### News from Wendy Rozov’s 7th and 8th Grade Talmud Torah class:

We helped make meals for 100 Afghan asylum seekers two times this semester. Before cooking, we studied 1) Torah texts and 2) a piece written by renowned Jewish scholar Judith Plaskow (*Remembering the Stranger*, 2011). We tried to understand the importance of BOTH being reminded (often) that we were once slaves, AND not letting our freedoms and liberties make us ambivalent. The students were asked to write comments after our discussion about how to best balance the two scenarios. Here are some of the their responses:

*“We can change history by making new history.”*  
- Mikey Ulan

*“Having freedom and privilege allows us to assist to help others.”* - Sarah Melkin

*“The best way to help is to use our choices to do good for others.”* - Cadie Arnold

*“We must view people in the same light.”* - Tessa Caplan

*“If we forget about our past we might become what we hate.”* - Ethan Philo

*“We are obligated to help.”* - Randy Tuttle

*“We can use our experiences to know we have suffered.”* - Josh Goldfarb

Thank you everyone for your donations to the Mitzvah Meals!



## Dear Friends,

As I write my column this month, it coincides with a valuable professional development opportunity for me that I would like to share with you.

**Alicia Moskowitz**

**Executive  
Director**

A couple of years ago, I was a mentee in the Women's Leadership Institute and as part of my commitment to the program, I was required to create and complete a service project. I chose to help my fellow executive director colleagues from Temple Kol Ami, Nancy Drapin, and from Temple Solel, Peter Pishko, in their planning for the National Association of Temple Administrators (NATA) Annual Conference to be held in Scottsdale. This conference was originally to take place in November of 2020. However, it was delayed by a year to this November due to COVID.

The majority of my time was spent planning and coordinating the "NATA Cares" portion of the event which will include a presentation by a local non-profit. This year, we will be supporting the Arizona Humane Society. This organization is close to my heart and was introduced to me by my grandmother, of blessed memory, Della MacMillan. Her love and care for animals and nature were immense and she shared that special reverence with me as I was growing up. I have since adopted many pets from the Arizona Humane Society and love to support their organization whenever I can. Hence, hooking them up with the NATA conference was a natural fit.

I also look forward to attending the actual professional content of the conference which includes many excellent speakers and workshops on such topics as leadership, innovation, mentality, and vision. In addition to the big picture leadership development, there will also be shul-specific workshops and content including information on databases, management, fundraising, engagement, structure, and ethics. There will also be some fun networking dinners and events sprinkled throughout to keep us engaged. I look forward to meeting colleagues from around the nation and finding out about other organizations and synagogues.

I am very grateful for this amazing opportunity to learn from some of the top CEOs and Executive Directors in the field. It will be my pleasure to bring back what I learn to utilize in making Beth El the best it can be.

Wishing you a Happy Hanukkah!

# BETH EL WOMEN'S LEAGUE

Be Well with BEWL

Thanks to Rabbi Stein Kokin for her enlightening Rosh Chodesh Cheshvan study session on October 10. Those in attendance learned of many references to fragrance in the Torah. We also talked about the healing qualities of various essential oils as we put together our own aromatherapy necklaces. We hope to be able to offer more Rosh Chodesh programs in 2022. If you have any suggestions, please contact me or any BEWL board member.

I hope to see you at Beth El's Hanukkah Game Night on Saturday, December 4. BEWL will be setting up mahjong tables as part of the fun. If you want to play, please bring your mahjong card and maybe a set to make sure there are enough spots to accommodate all players.

There may be a few spots left to register for BEWL's Glass Workshop on December 12, 2021, from 9:30am - 12:30pm at Art For Fun! Studio. Class size is limited to 16, but Barbara Becker has offered to schedule another session if there is enough interest.

I would like to welcome back Kathy Miller who has renewed her BEWL membership after moving back to Phoenix. Thank you to all of you who have renewed so far. I am happy to report that our membership is now up to 58. Please join or renew online at [www.bethelphoenix.com/about/bewl](http://www.bethelphoenix.com/about/bewl).

The holidays at the end of the year bring back many happy childhood memories for me. Every Thanksgiving, we would wait for my Uncle Douglas to thank us for coming "because this is the first good meal I've had since the last time you were here." My Grandma Rose would complement my aunt that "Martha, the turkey is not a bit dry." Even though they were the same lines every year, my brothers, cousins, and I looked forward to them. I wish you many warm and happy celebrations as we approach 2022. Happy New Year!

Eileen Bloom  
President, BEWL





**Nanci Siegel Manson**  
Talmud Torah  
Director

## Dear Friends,

Despite the many differences between Christmas and Hanukkah, the two holidays actually have a good deal in common.

Many people think the two holidays are related because they both occur in the winter and commonly in the month of December.

If you think of either holiday, the family is a big part of the celebration, Christmas and Hanukkah prioritize time with family during the holidays.

The holiday spirit of giving is present for both the Jews celebrating Hanukkah and for Christians celebrating Christmas. Giving of time and money around the holiday season are valued by both holidays.

It is a big deal around Christmas time for those celebrating Christmas to put up lights on your tree and around your house, Hanukkah is also called the festival of lights and values lights as well.

Looking at the way Christians celebrate and Jews celebrate can highlight the differences, but there are also many similarities involved as well. Big delicious meals are involved that you get to eat with the family. It is a time to relax and enjoy each others' company. The exact type may be different but they both include delicious foods.

Changes occur all the time, and we can see this a lot with holidays as the world is constantly changing around us. Traditions and the way some families celebrate these holidays are changing as well. Christmas, for example, has changed a lot through the years, and many families who celebrate Christmas do not do it for the birth of Christ but the giving of gifts and getting the family together.

Hanukkah remains a very Jewish holiday, but because of the wide celebration of Christmas, sometimes those who celebrate Hanukkah also enjoy some of the Christmas festivities.

There are also Christians today who also celebrate Hanukkah, and for the same reason as Jews. Christians believe in the same Old Testament as those who are Jewish, so some Christians celebrate Hanukkah because they are simply celebrating the God of miracles that the Jews are celebrating as well.

Many years ago, the December holiday books for our children focused on either Christmas, or Hanukkah but no longer as times are changing where many children growing up in Jewish families are celebrating Christmas

with Christian grandparents. Or, they grow up in Christian families celebrating Hanukkah with Jewish grandparents. Or, they grow up in interfaith families celebrating both. Here is a list of three Hanukkah and Christmas books, in order to help you find the right book to fit your families unique needs. Until next time...enjoy these new reads.

1. The first popular book on this topic is titled, Light the Lights! A Story About Celebrating Hanukkah and Christmas. This simple story, for your littlest ones, focuses on a girl participating in both holidays at home, but does not go into the underlying religious meaning of either one.

2. The next book is titled, Daddy Christmas and Hanukkah Mama, features jazzy illustrations and a recipe for cranberry kugel. The "hipster like" parents in this book mix the holidays up in a sort of Chrismukkah mash-up. Candy canes on the menorah, and leaving latkes out for Santa are just two of the ways this family blends the celebration of two holidays into one. But for families trying to help kids understand and respect the differences between the two religions and celebrations, this is definitely not your book.

3. New this season is, Nonna's Hanukkah Surprise which features the most dramatic and emotionally satisfying plot of any book for youngsters celebrating both holidays in the home. Young Rachel is flying with her family to celebrate Hanukkah and Christmas with her father's family. Rachel is upset as she discovers that she left her menorah on the airplane, but her kind Nonna, (Italian for grandma), saves the day by creating her a new menorah made of recycled perfume bottles. Her Christian cousins gather around the menorah as it is lit and prayers are said, modeling bridge building across the religious divide. This is an excellent book for interfaith children being raised Jewish, who celebrate Christmas only with the extended family.

Wishing you a happy holiday season and a happy and healthy 2022.



Pictured above:  
Talmud Torah students help make meals for Asylum Seekers.





**Joanie Charnow**  
**Preschool Director**

## Preschool News

November was a very busy month as we celebrated both Thanksgiving and Hanukkah.

We applied and were accepted to be part of the SAGE research project. They will come to our school twice a month to COVID test our teachers.

We are still being as careful as possible - we do not let parents in the building and they do have to wear masks to drop off or pick up their children. We now know children can have and transmit the virus so being tested is just another precaution we are taking. The SAGE group also came to our school and built an above-ground garden and provided us with a garden curriculum that includes simple maintenance (watering, identifying problems, and reporting pests) to promote sustainability of the garden. We also had our own gardens in which we planted new vegetables. Being able to return to school safely is a big part of the program and working and playing outside helps. We will use our vegetables for our snacks, send some home, and even donate some to a food bank.

The beautiful Arizona weather allows our students to spend more time outside. We have made a rock "river" where water from our pump flows. They are able to do science experiments and math projects with our new areas. There is an area for reading and even one for art and writing. Our school is lucky to have such a large outside area.

Watching the news, it seems that everywhere no matter what profession are having trouble hiring employees. Our school has been no exception. Because we have a strong base of tenured teachers, I was able to hire people wanting a career in early childhood education. Our experienced teachers along with our coaches and outside classes we are able to train them.

Beth El and I pride ourselves on having a school that is a great place to work and learn.

Teaching Jewish values and ethical behaviors to staff and students makes us a school where everyone can learn not only academics but how to be a good person.





## Beth El Announcements

### Yom Huledet Same'ach to our December Birthdays

#### Date

- 3 Maryjane Sandler  
Edward DuBrow  
Marcia Newman  
Beth Rosenberg  
Bryan Littlepage
- 4 Jesse Cohen
- 7 Sherman Adler
- 8 Gloria Feld  
Barbara Goldstein
- 9 Benjamin Zlochower  
Bernice Rozov
- 10 Ronald Serbin
- 11 S. Gary Serbin  
Shirley Sheinkopf
- 12 Ethan Bindelglas
- 13 Joseph Cohen  
William Weese
- 14 Janice Nash
- 15 Stuart Meckler
- 16 Elaine Weiss
- 18 Barry Becker
- 20 Sue Rosen
- 21 Bryan Hill  
Robert Garman  
Mathis Becker  
Vicki Cabot
- 23 Lewis Brown
- 25 Pam Raphael
- 26 Beth Shernoff
- 28 Ari Hoffman
- 29 Elaine Gordon
- 30 Carolyn Lieberman
- 31 Barry Aarons  
Aaron Moskowitz  
Gregory Posniack

### Birthday Shabbat is December 11

### Mazal Tov to:

Cantor Jonathan Angress and Mayra Ramos on their wedding in November.

The Stein Kokin Family on the anniversary of Salome's Bat Mitzvah.



### Mazal Tov to our December Anniversaries

#### Date

#### Years Married

2	Selma & Jerome Targovnik	60
8	Sue & David Rosen	59
12	Diane & Gregory Posniack	56
	Beth Rosenberg & Dan Shein	39
14	Rosalyn & Martin Slovin	41
16	Gayle & Jay Weiss	57
	Megan & Joel Gotfried	5
	Lorraine & Mark Shwer	51
18	Sharon & Scott Steingard	38
	Rona & Lawrence Green	60
22	Nancy & Robert Kravetz	64
	Ann & Marvin Gechman	53
23	Etta & Arnold Silver	59
24	Barbara Kluger & Carl Gotlieb	32
28	Barbara & Lewis Brown	63

### Anniversary Shabbat is December 25

*Please note: If your name is not listed, please contact us so that we can update your information in our database.*

### We Mourn:

Leah Center, mother of Carol Bell.

Kathy Feld, daughter of Gloria Feld.

Longtime member Avis Schlar, mother of Anna (Erez) Kessler.

David Holstein, brother of members Diane and Gregory Posniack.



**Thank you for the following  
Beth El Contributions:**

### **General Fund**

For the speedy recovery of  
Linda Barzilai

*Steve & Marti Nathan*  
In honor of the marriage of  
Cantor Angress & Mayra  
Ramos

*Bernice Rozov*  
In honor of the B'nai Mitzvah  
of her 3 grandchildren:

Hayden, Morgan & Noah

*Edie Wade*  
In memory of Charles Bloom  
*Eileen Bloom*

In memory of Mary A. Davis  
*Robert Davis*

In memory of Irving Friedman  
*Stuart & Aviah Friedman*

In memory of Esther Friedman  
*Stuart & Aviah Friedman*

In memory of Minnie Hesch  
*Morrie Hesch*

In memory of David Kuschner  
*Selina & Eli Kaminsky*

In memory of Saralyn Lasner  
*Bart Lasner*

In memory of Gertrude  
Kosowsky

*Wendy Mars*  
In memory of Kathy Feld

*Bob & Marcia Mallin*  
In memory of Joan Silver

*Bob & Marcia Mallin*  
In memory of Michelle

Newman  
*Bob & Marcia Mallin*

In memory of Florrie Amster  
*Martha Mendelsohn*

In memory of Bertha Fink  
*Rhoda Morris*

In memory of Seymour Sacks  
*Steve & Marti Nathan*

In memory of Isadore Richman  
*Dvorah Richman*

In memory of Stephen C.  
Richman

*Dvorah Richman*  
In memory of Lena Tanach

*Bernice Rozov*  
In memory of William Rozov

*Bernice Rozov*  
In memory of Leonard H.

Wolfe  
*John & Debbie Wolfe*

In memory of Rosalie  
Taubman

*John & Debbie Wolfe*  
In memory of Irving Dorfman

*Lynda Ziskin*  
In memory of Marcus Jacober

*Judy Zola*

### **Blanket Boosters**

In memory of Barry Leverant  
*Louise Leverant*

In memory of Rose Firestone  
*Louise Leverant*

### **Rabbi Stein Kokin's Discretionary Fund**

In memory of Pearl Isaac

*Mel Isaac*  
In memory of David L.  
Greenberg  
*Anne & Norman Zaslow*

### **Preschool Fund**

In memory of Alex Charnow

*Joan Charnow*  
In memory of Thelma

Charnow  
*Joan Charnow*

In memory of Mole Ioshpa  
*Nina Zamoshkin*

### **Music Fund**

In honor of Cantor Angress's  
marriage

*Etta & Arnold Silver*

### **Talmud Torah Fund**

In honor of Randy Tuttle's Bar  
Mitzvah

*Nanci Siegel Manson*

In honor of Rhys Yablon's Bar  
Mitzvah

*Nanci Siegel Manson*

In memory of Avis Schlar

*Etta & Arnold Silver*

In memory of Kathy Feld  
Robenstein

*Leah Wiesen*

### **Trees for Israel**

In memory of Howard  
Schwartz

*The Mallin Family*

In memory of Rabbi Barton  
Lee

*Risa Mallin*

### **Cantor Angress' Discretionary Fund**

In honor of the marriage of  
Cantor Angress & Mayra

Ramos  
*Joan & André Klein*

*Stuart Meckler &  
Edlyn Soderman*

### **Yizkor Appeal**

*Wendy Sher*

### **Kiddush Fund**

In honor of Evie & Daniel  
Rosen's Anniversary

*Charlotte Adelman*  
In honor of Eileen Bloom's  
birthday

*Charlotte Adelman*  
In honor of her October

birthday  
*Shelley Frankel*

In honor of their November  
birthdays

*Phyllis Fotinos*  
*Edlyn Soderman*

In honor of Cantor Angress &  
Mayra Ramos' Aufruf

*Zachary Mushkatel &  
Heather Baker*

*Patti & Herb Dreiszun*  
*Eileen Bloom &  
Marvin Siegel*

*Sam & Rona Goldman*  
*Charleen & Chuck Holt*

*Bonnie & Allyn Kluger*  
*Kim & John Mertens*

*The Siroky Family*  
In honor of Risa Mallin's

special birthday  
*Etta & Arnold Silver*

In honor of Cantor Angress &  
Mayra Ramos's Wedding

*The Ulan Family*  
In honor of Sam Goldman

*John & Debbie Wolfe*

### **Yahrzeit Fund**

In memory of Esther Battock  
*Irwin Battock*

In memory of Rony Ghanooni  
*The Behboodi Family*

In memory of Morris Ernst  
*Ira & Ed Ernst*

In memory of Fay Goldstein  
*Louis & Barbara Goldstein*

In memory of Frieda Flax  
*Joan & Robert Kalish*

In memory of Herzl Flax  
*Joan & Robert Kalish*

In memory of Nathan Kalish  
*Joan & Robert Kalish*

In memory of Julie Ellyn Kanter  
*Anne Kanter*

In memory of Marvin Miller  
*Sandra & Gerald Levy*

In memory of Leonard  
Markiewicz

*Hank & Nancy Markiewicz &  
Great Grandkids*

In memory of Harold Ober  
*Gail Gordon & Ron Ober*

In memory of Sid Gordon  
*Gail Gordon & Ron Ober*

In memory of John Rosen  
*Merle Shore*

In memory of Morris Silver  
*Etta & Arnold Silver*

In memory of Elizabeth  
Soderman

*Edlyn Soderman*  
In memory of Nathan Wise

*Edie Stoneman*  
In memory of Annie Rozencwajg

*Edie Wade*

### **Tzedakah Fund**

In memory of Esther Leah  
Cohen Abromovitz

*Gary & Paula Abromovitz*

In memory of Herbert Liston  
*Seema Liston*

In memory of Norman "Nissie"  
Mattisinko

*Joan Mattisinko & Family*  
In memory of Samuel Wolicki

*Sheldon & Eva Miller*  
In memory of Abram Albert

*Gayle & Jay Weiss*

### **Women's League Fund**

In honor of Eileen Bloom's  
birthday

*Lynn Levin*

In memory of Rabbi Barton  
Lee

*Morton Silver*

In memory of Howard  
Schwartz

*Morton Silver*

**THANK YOU ALL  
FOR YOUR  
CONTINUED  
SUPPORT  
OF BETH EL -  
ESPECIALLY IN  
THESE  
CHALLENGING  
TIMES!**

# **YJP HAVDALLAH & HAPPY HOUR**



**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11**

**7:00 PM – 10:00 PM**

**MOISHE HOUSE DOWNTOWN PHOENIX POD  
1225 E. MCKINLEY ST. | PHOENIX, AZ 85006**

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Join us for a musical Havdalah followed by a fun, engaging happy hour to kick off our first Beth El Young Jewish Professionals x Moishe House collaborative event! Drinks and light refreshments will be provided.

# **Connect with the Beth El Staff and Board of Directors**

## **Office phone number: (602) 944-3359**

### **Beth El Staff**

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**A. Nitzan Stein Kokin**  
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**Erin Curnutte**  
Preschool Office  
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### **Beth El Executive Board**

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**Gregory Harris**  
President  
gharris@bethelphoenix.com  
(602) 254-3268

**Audrey Wolff**  
Executive Vice President  
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(602) 944-9033

**Barry Becker**  
Treasurer  
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**Eileen Bloom**  
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**Ben Cooper**  
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**Herb Dreiseszun**  
Facilities VP  
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(602) 957-3159 FAX

**Charleen Holt**  
Secretary  
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**Allyn Kluger**  
Ritual VP  
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(602) 995-3338

**Kim Mertens**  
Education VP  
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(602) 340-8234

### **Beth El Board of Directors**

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**Heather Baker-Mushkatel**  
**Alana Berrett**  
**Joseph (Rich) Cohen**  
**David Goldfarb**  
**David Siroky**  
**José Tafla**  
**Gail Ulan**  
**Sara Zilversmit**

**Immediate Past Presidents:**  
**Linda Barzilai & Kim Mertens**

**Cantor Emeritus:**  
**Sam Goldman**

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**Eli Barzilai**  
Cemetery Administrator  
ebarz@msn.com  
(602) 309-0763

**Mathis Becker**  
Endowment Committee  
becker.mathis@gmail.com  
(602) 256-7829

**Charleen Holt**  
Gift Shop  
cholt@bethelphoenix.com

**Eileen Bloom**  
Women's League President  
ebloom@bethelphoenix.com  
(602) 997-1274





# BETH EL WOMEN'S LEAGUE GLASS WORKSHOP

**DECEMBER 12, 2021 | 9:30AM-12:30PM**

**ART FOR FUN! STUDIO**

**3508 N. 7TH ST., STE 115 S | PHOENIX, AZ 85014**

Join your BEWL friends at Barbara Becker's Art For Fun! Studio as we create our own fused-glass plant stakes or plates. All supplies, instruction, and light refreshments are included. Thank you very much to Barbara who has generously reduced her fee for this event.

Please RSVP by December 7. There are 16 spots available.

\$45 for plant stake

\$55 for plate

Please make checks out to BEWL, or register online at [www.bethelphoenix.com/bewl](http://www.bethelphoenix.com/bewl)  
.....

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ I want to make a plant stake (\$45)

☐ I want to make a plate (\$55)

CC#: \_\_\_\_\_

Exp: \_\_\_\_\_ CCV: \_\_\_\_\_

1118 West Glendale Avenue  
Phoenix, Arizona 85021-8635  
www.bethelphoenix.com

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## *Many Thanks to our Golden Givers!*

### **LIFE MEMBERS**

Herb & Patti Dreiseszun, Bryan Hill & Leah Pallin-Hill,  
Sheldon & Ronda Kottle, Bruce (z"l) & Risa Mallin,  
Samuel Pallin, Sheldon & Maddy (z"l) Roth,  
Paul (z"l) & Maryjane Sandler, Leon & Evelyn Zeitzer,  
Dan & Lynda Ziskin

### **GIBBORIM**

Anonymous, Ben & Leslie Cooper,  
Louis & Barbara Goldstein, Gary & Lisa Serbin

### **SHOMRIM**

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Lewis & Barbara Brown, Ed & Cynthia DuBrow, Ellen Goot,  
Terry & Rochelle Kelman,  
Marvin Siegel & Eileen Bloom, Sara Ziskin

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Barbara Lewkowitz & Geoffrey Gonsher, Greg & Susan Harris,  
John & Kim Mertens, Denton Simmons,  
Morton & Joan (z"l) Sitver, Paul & Gail Ulan,  
The Witenstein Family, John & Deborah Wolfe