



echo

B E T H E L P H O E N I X

December 2023
Volume No. 10 | Kislev/Tevet 5784

Hanukkah Kabbalat Shabbat In the Round and Dinner

Friday, December 8
5:00 pm candle lighting
6:30 pm dinner



Register at bethelphoenix.com/hanukkah

Services Schedule

Shabbatot & Yom Tovim



Kabbalat Shabbat on Fridays at 5:45 pm is virtual only at tinyurl.com/BEC-minyan

Shabbat morning is in-person or streaming at youtube.com/@bethelphoenix5024/streams

Zoomdalah, Havdalah and Saturday evening Ma'ariv are virtual only at tinyurl.com/BEC-minyan

12/2: Shabbat Vayishlach

9:30 am | Shaharit
5:45 pm | Zoomdalah
6:15 pm | Maariv & Havdalah
6:30 | USY Teen Havdalah

12/8: Kabbalat Shabbat in the Round and Dinner

5:00 pm | Hanukkah Candle Lighting
6:30 pm | Dinner

12/9: Shabbat Vayeshev | Mevarchim Chodesh | Birthday Shabbat

9:30 am | Shaharit
5:45 pm | Zoomdalah
6:15 pm | Maariv & Havdalah

12/13: Rosh Chodesh Tevet

7:00 am | Shaharit (Hybrid)
5:30 pm | Hanukkah Party
5:45 pm | Mincha & Maariv (Hybrid)

12/16: Shabbat Miketz

9:30 am | Shaharit
10:00 am | Dorot Service with Teen-led Activity
11:00 am | Young Family Shabbat Picnic at Preschool
12:30 pm | Be'er HaTorah (after Kiddush)
5:45 pm | Zoomdalah
6:15 pm | Maariv & Havdalah

12/23: Shabbat Vayigash

9:30 am | Shaharit with Cantorial Soloist Jessi Grossman-Giordano
5:45 pm | Zoomdalah
6:15 pm | Maariv & Havdalah

12/30: Shabbat Vayechi | Anniversary Shabbat

9:30 am | Shaharit with Cantorial Soloist Jessi Grossman-Giordano
5:45 pm | Zoomdalah
6:15 pm | Maariv & Havdalah

Hanukkah

12/8 and 12/11-15: 7:00am Shaharit

12/10: 8:00am Shaharit

In-person or virtual at tinyurl.com/BEC-minyan

Candle Lighting Times

Thursday, December 7 | 5:48 pm
Friday, December 8 | 5:02 pm (light Hanukkah candles before Shabbat candles)
Saturday, December 9 | 6:01 pm
Sunday, December 10 | 5:48 pm
Monday, December 11 | 5:48 pm
Tuesday, December 12 | 5:48 pm
Wednesday, December 13 | 5:49 pm
Thursday, December 14 | 5:49 pm

Daily Community Minyan

All Daily Community Minyanim are on Zoom with hybrid meetings on Torah reading days and Wednesday evenings when Hebrew school is in session.

Join the virtual minyan at:
tinyurl.com/BEC-minyan

Sunday & National Holidays

8:15 am and 5:45 pm

Monday

7:15 am (Hybrid) and 5:45 pm

Tuesday

7:15 am and 5:45 pm

Wednesday

7:15 am and 5:45 pm (Hybrid, student led; 12/27 zoom only)

Thursday

7:15 am (Hybrid) and 5:45 pm

Friday

7:15 am and Kabbalat Shabbat 5:45 pm

Shabbat & Yom Tov

Candlelighting

12/1 | 5:02 pm
12/8 | 5:02 pm
12/15 | 5:03 pm
12/22 | 5:06 pm
12/29 | 5:10 pm

Havdalah

12/2 | 6:00 pm
12/9 | 6:01 pm
12/16 | 6:03 pm
12/24 | 6:06 pm
12/30 | 6:10 pm

Please check our website and weekly emails for service updates and Minyan requests

December Learning

12/7, 12/14 & 12/21

WORLD OF TALMUD **THURSDAYS | 8:00 AM**



Weekly Talmud Study with
Rabbi Stein Kokin
At Beth El and on the daily minyan link at
tinyurl.com/bec-minyan

Hebrew 101: 12/4 & 12/18

Intro to Judaism: 12/11

HEBREW 101/INTRO TO JUDAISM **MONDAYS | 7:00 PM**

Hebrew 101 is a great class for beginning readers or those looking to refresh their skills. Intro to Judaism is for those considering conversion or those wishing to learn more. Register
bethelphoenix.com/event/intro-to-judaism/hebrew-101.html



12/7

FINDING LIGHT IN DARKNESS **COLLABORATION WITH VALLEY BEIT MIDRASH** **THURSDAY | 1:00 PM**

Executive Director of Kabbalah Experience, Melanie Gruenwald will lead this presentation on Kabbalistic and contemporary sources and conversations about light, darkness, hope, grief and resilience. Register at valleybeitmidrash.org/registration/

12/10 & 12/24

BLANKET BOOSTERS **SUNDAYS | 1:00 PM**



Volunteer crochet and knitting club!
All blankets created are donated to children in crisis.
Click to join <https://zoom.us/j/92408568672>

12/20

BOOK GROUP **WEDNESDAY | 6:45 PM**



Love reading? Love schmoozing?
Join us as this month we discuss the book *A Horse Walks Into a Bar* by David Grossman. Register at bethelphoenix.com/event/book-group2.html

12/14



Chair Yoga **Thursday | 2:00 pm**

Join us for a Chair Yoga session.
Stretch, breathe,
and clear your mind in this low-impact class.
Register at bethelphoenix.com/event/chair-yoga.html

12/17

Chai Tea Women's Study **SUNDAYS | 12:30 PM**



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. Register at bethelphoenix.com/event/chai-tea1.html

12/14



Lunch & Learn **THURSDAY | 12:00 PM**

Enjoy lunch and learn with Wendy Rozov
\$8 per person for lunch.
bethelphoenix.com/event/lunch-and-learn.html



Rabbi Nitza
Stein-Kokin

Dear Chaverim,

this Hanukkah feels very different than other years. Many of us never would have thought that we would live through and witness a time with such outspoken antisemitism and atrocities against the Jewish people within not even a century since the Shoah.

What story will we tell this year? I do not find myself in the glorious national triumph of the Maccabees, as I have in years past. Rather, I feel that

we, as a people, are in grief over too many losses. Israeli society will take a long time to heal, even though, as a nation, we ultimately have to and will prevail - אין ברירה. We have no other choice, an expression heard now so often in Israel.

Here in the diaspora we are weary of what the future will hold for us living as a minority in countries outside of Israel. How will we overcome rising antisemitism? Will our western democracy protect us? Yet, I will not hide my Hanukkiyah away from the street-facing window. Rather I will light it with Jewish pride, quiet persistence and enduring resilience.

So no, this is not the story of the Maccabees this year. Maybe we once again resume the story of the miracle of the tiny vessel of oil lasting through the 8 days? A story that was made prominent by our ancient sages in times of national defeat and lack of Jewish sovereignty. This story also feels out of place this year. We can't just wait for a miracle, we are together in this war effort and we need to push through rebuilding and maintaining Jewish courage.

So here is the story I will tell this year: The dreidel that we spin every year while watching the candles burn has four letters that are short for, "A great miracle happened there," or in Hebrew, "Nes Gadol Hayah Sham." Usually we translate "Nes" as "miracle." But the word "Nes" in biblical Hebrew actually means "banner" or "sign." In a military formation it is the standards that the troops rally around. Or when the Israelites were plagued with poisonous snakes in the wilderness, Moses fashioned the copper serpent and put in on a "Nes," a signal post: "Then the Eternal said to Moses: Make a *seraph* figure and mount it on a standard. And anyone who was bitten who then looks at it shall recover." (Numbers 21:8).

So "Nes" is a banner, or maybe as Rabbi Arthur Green puts it, "The miracle is a 'banner moment,' one that sticks out, rising above the rest and calls out, 'HERE I see the divine presence! Let me wave its banner.'"

So Hanukkah this year is about us seeing or rediscovering the miracle in our time and holding it up high, for everyone to see.

After all, most miracles are a question of perspective. It is when I open my heart and soul to see the light. This Hanukkah has a special call - that when we find such a moment of light, to make it into a "banner moment" - to hold it up high, so others can see, too. To publicize it! To let the good radiate into the world.

For me, this past week seeing the start of hostages return is such a light. The Bible tells us that

נֶר יְהוָה נִשְׁמַת אָדָם חָפֵשׂ כָּל־חֲדָרֵי־בֶטֶן:
The soul of a human is the lamp of God, revealing all of their innermost parts. (Mishlei 20:27)

With every hostage released a little bit of light illuminates the darkness of the war and trauma in Israel. With every donation of resources a ray of light pierces the darkness. With every minute or hour donated of our time to listen to our Israeli brothers and sisters and to reach out to each other brings such a light and can rekindle our spirits. And here at Beth El we are working on establishing a deeper connection with our partner congregation Magen Avraham in Omer (near Beer Sheva).

As they say these days in Israel "ביחד ננצח" (Beyachad Nenatzeach) - together we will prevail!"

חג אורים שמח!

A joyful holiday of light to you all!

Rabbi Nitza Stein-Kokin



Eight Ways to Give to Yourself This Hanukkah from The Blue Dove Foundation

Take time to "do nothing." Give yourself time to recharge. A little free space can go a long way for your mental health.

Give yourself a compliment. It might feel awkward, but acknowledging a job well done is good for your brain. It can even help you accomplish more in the future.

Enjoy your "guilty pleasures." A rom-com or simple activity after a stressful day is nothing to be ashamed of. In fact, studies have shown that downtime an increase both happiness and productivity.

Spend some time outside. Nature is great for your mental health. Not only are green landscapes beautiful; they engage our parasympathetic nervous system, lowering stress levels.

Move more. Physical exercise benefits both the body and the mind. It can help improve sleep and blood flow while releasing endorphins.

Live in the moment. When things are not going well, try to enjoy the moment. Waiting in misery for the "other shoe to drop" won't help, even if it does.

Unplug. Turn off your phone and computer for half an hour before bed can help you sleep better and give you space to reflect healthily on your day.

Reframe your regret. You can't escape regret. Instead, try engaging with it in a journal and think about what you can learn from it for the future.

Experiencing Israel at War: Personal Reflections

Daniel Stein Kokin

On October 3, I did something I have been privileged to do on quite a few occasions: I purchased a plane ticket to Tel Aviv. Four days later, Hamas attacked and war commenced. On October 30, I boarded my flight to Israel anyway and arrived the following day. To be sure, in the days leading up to my departure, I wondered whether I should, in fact, come. Family and friends feared for my safety, while I agonized over the anxiety my visit would inevitably arouse for them. I was also concerned that my presence in a beleaguered country would be of more burden than benefit. In the end, however, I felt that it would be wrong to cancel on an Israel in crisis, that friends and colleagues there would be happy to see me, and that being in the country at this momentous time would be especially meaningful. Plus, having initially deliberated among many different airlines, I had decided back on the 3rd for El Al. That meant I actually still had a flight, a sign—it seemed—that I was meant to go. The original purpose of my visit was to explore the life and work of the Polish-German-Israeli-American artist Perli Pelzig (1917-2009)—some of whose creations I had encountered in my native Los Angeles—for which I had received a modest grant. His son, Arik Pelzig, lives in Jerusalem, has collected a vast trove of materials pertaining to his father, and had offered to be my host. The war would therefore not interfere with my work, but I resolved that alongside my research I would seek out opportunities to help out while in the country.

Already at the Newark check-in counter, signs of the conflict were evident. An ad-hoc stand offered travellers free snacks and support (I grabbed a clementine), and someone ahead of me in line was asked to accept responsibility for six suitcases full of supplies that had been collected for Israel. On board, each personal screen displayed the national airline's contribution to the cause.



While passport control upon arrival was a breeze, typically bustling Ben-Gurion was virtually empty. My host had kindly offered to pick me up and was waiting outside when I arrived with my suitcase. We stopped for a few hours to visit friends of his who live near Modi'in, and arrived in a nearly deserted Jerusalem shortly after nightfall. While many shops and cultural institutions were closed, new forms of gathering had emerged. At Zion Square in the city center, for example, I encountered mostly young people engaged in a wartime rendition of the popular Israeli pastime "shira betzibur" (sing-along) and producing patriotic signs.



On one of my first days in Jerusalem, the weather strangely sympathized with the wartime conditions. Around noon, I heard what I presumed must be the sound of military jets streaking across the sky. In any other place, I thought to myself, this would be thunder. But not here, where the morning had been sunny, storms are rare, and I had not heard a forecast for inclement weather (by contrast, the chance of war was 100%). As the "planes" continued with surprising frequency, I eventually went outside to take a look and discovered that a thunderstorm was, in fact, approaching. Before long, it was raining and for several hours the sound of thunder continued virtually uninterrupted. How tragically appropriate, I thought!

My many friends and colleagues in Israel had all been touched in some way by the war, some very directly. The wife of my closest Israeli friend had lost one of her nephews in the fighting at Kibbutz Be'eri, the son of a family we have known for years was one of the first enter into Gaza in a tank, and a fellow historian told me that three of his five children were serving in the Strip simultaneously. Yet another friend apologized that she was so distraught by the situation that she found herself unable to make plans in advance and was therefore unsure she would be able to see me. (A deeply religious person, she eventually decided she would like to meet and prayed to God that He would make that happen; a few hours later we ran into each other in the Mahane Yehudah shuk and conversed over red kubbeh soup.)

Prominent throughout Israel were pictures and pleas pertaining to the hostages. Posted at bus stops, at the airport, in the beautiful new National Library (that opened its doors while I was in the country), and projected onto buildings, the faces and names were everywhere, so much so that I began to feel that I know many of them.

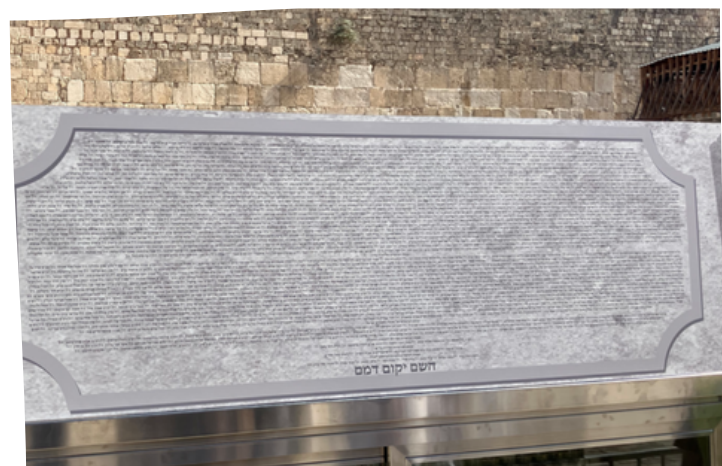


On my first Saturday night in Jerusalem, I attended a large protest on their behalf. Amid a sea of Israeli flags and signs proclaiming "there's no greater mitzvah (i.e. religious commandment) than the redemption of

captives,” the crowd chanted “Eyn od rega, eyn od z’man / mahzirim otam akhsav” (“There’s no more moment, no more time/bring them back now”). Only afterwards did I realize that the date of this gathering, November 4, was that of the Rabin assassination back in 1995.



Throughout my stay I observed how impromptu shrines for the fallen and captured had been erected at prominent locations, such as Jerusalem City Hall and the Kotel (Western Wall).



Also visible at times were signs of appreciation for America’s support, as well as some uncomfortable messages.



As I explored opportunities to volunteer, I was introduced to the concept of the civilian war room (“hamal ezrahi”), numerous examples of which had been set up across the country. One evening early on in my stay, I walked over to the main war room headquarters in Jerusalem to offer my services via QR code. Shortly thereafter, I was asked over WhatsApp if I could join a group helping to coordinate play areas for children temporarily housed in Jerusalem. Nearly 200,000 Israelis have been internally displaced due to fighting in both the north and south of the country, and many of them are living in hotels vacant due to the current pause in tourism. My job was to call people who had signed up to help at these play areas; to confirm their interest and availability; guide them through a form that assessed their experience, skills, and needs; and to schedule when and where they would volunteer.

A few days later, I was brought in again, this time to a group coordinating the war-related transport of people and goods, e.g. soldiers who needed to get back to their

base, materials that required delivery to the military, evacuees needing assistance to get to a medical appointment. In this hamal, I was in essence trying to broker deals between those who had requested help and those who had offered it. In one case, I located a driver who could bring supplies donated by a father to his son’s base in the north. In another, a recent French immigrant agreed to bring a soldier to the sprawling Nevatim air base near Be’er Sheva and seven large boxes to other nearby locations. In that case, the hamal driver and I actually brought the items to the man’s apartment and spent a good half hour figuring out how to fit them all in his car. (I feel bad for that soldier, who needed to hold a big box on her lap for the entire ride down south.)



In these war rooms, I saw the strength of Israeli civil society on full display. While predominantly staffed by university students (the start of whose fall semester has been postponed until December), they had attracted people from all walks of life. Looking around at the transport hamal soon after my arrival there, I was surprised to see a famous historian at work at the next table over.

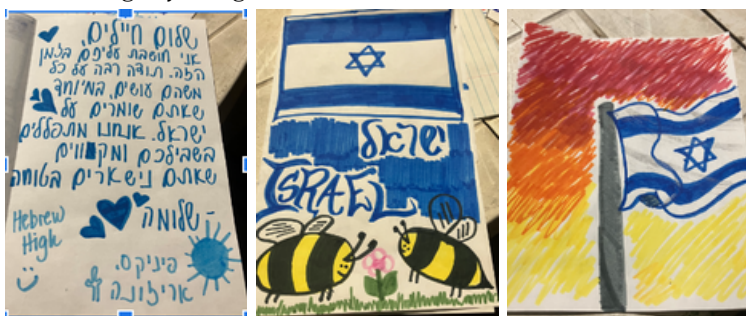


While in Israel, I also learned of the dire shortage of agricultural labor in the wake of the departure of thousands of Thai and Nepali—and Gazan—workers. A friend of mine had organized a group that has been picking vegetables every Wednesday on Moshav Ein HaBsr and I decided to join along one week. This moshav (a cooperative agricultural community comprised of privately owned farms) is located in the Gaza Envelope, a mere four miles from the Strip, and had

managed to ward off the Hamas terrorists on October 7, suffering only two injuries. (If only neighboring communities had been so lucky). We spent the day there harvesting zucchini and cherry tomatoes, as well as helping to clear out Pelemix grow bags from a hothouse that had been abandoned soon after the start of the war. (That last task left us filthy and fatigued!) The distant sound of explosions from the fighting in Gaza was ongoing the entire time. During the lunch break, a busload of journalists from around the world arrived and began speaking with moshav residents and volunteers alike. I gave interviews in English, French, and Italian, and while I have no idea if they were at all used (probably not), I welcomed the opportunity to speak about my experiences in Israel.



In addition to conducting research and volunteering, I had an important delivery to make, namely of letters prepared by students from “Hebrew High of Greater Phoenix” (including my daughter Salome) for Israeli soldiers:

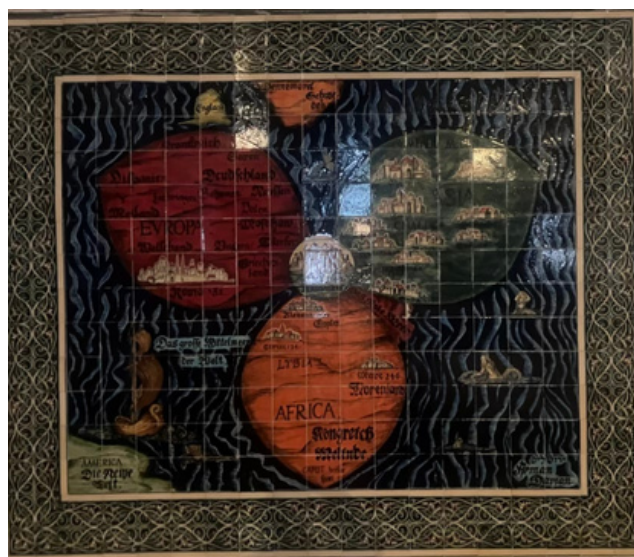


While it was no surprise to encounter traces of the war at almost every turn, there were nonetheless moments where its impact was unexpected and, for that reason, all the more powerful. On one Saturday, a fellow guest and I met up in advance to head to our Shabbat lunch meal together. The apartment we sought was in a large complex and at first we knocked on the wrong door. The woman who opened after a long delay appeared absolutely traumatized by our presence at her door and was practically hyperventilating. We immediately apologized for our mistake and, after catching her breath, she informed us that Dalia lived at the next entrance over. “That was scary,” she then proceeded to confess, thereafter clarifying that her son was currently fighting in Gaza. She had feared we were emissaries from the army, come to report his death! In war, even a simple knock can take on dramatic dimensions.

But even in war, the sun still shines and even small countries are big places. There are few things in life that I enjoy more than walking around Jerusalem, and I was pleased on this visit, too, to have several lovely discoveries. I can’t wait to go back and have some more!



Larger-than-life vintage radio near city hall: it works!



As the Prophet Ezekiel (5:5) said: “Thus says the LORD God: This is Jerusalem; I have set her in the center of the nations, with countries all around her.”





Audrey Wolff
President

Dear Friends,

How is it possible that Thanksgiving has come and gone, and we are approaching Hanukkah and the “holiday” season? Maybe it’s the speed of time passing, or the events of the past month, but I find myself not yet in the holiday spirit. And still my heart grows every day as I Zoom our daily minyan, attend committee meetings, see the diversity of programming in the *Echo* and our website, hear our children on the playground, hear acts of

kindness from our congregants, or experience us participating in tzedaka like our Turkey Train, the mitzvah projects for the Lone Soldiers, Save a Child’s Heart, and food and blanket collections.

Two weeks ago, our Beth El community experienced some tremendous highs and lows. On Saturday, November 11, we gathered in an overflowing sanctuary at Beth El to celebrate the bat mitzvah of Sara Klein with friends, community, and family. To be surrounded with so much joy and optimism was a blessing. Then, two days later, our community gathered to an overflow at Beth El Cemetery to mourn and bury our beloved friend, and truly righteous man, Mort Sitver, alav ha-shalom. We came together for shiva minyans to comfort and celebrate his life with the Sitver family and community from near and far. What a convergence of beginnings and endings, sadness and joy, with the strength of our Jewish community ever present.

This month, we have other ways to find meaning and community at Beth El. On Friday, December 8 and on Wednesday, December 13 we can all light Hanukkah candles together, and celebrate the Festival of Lights. Then, on the morning of December 25, please join us for our annual Mitzvah Project where we make sandwiches and pack food bags for those in need.

Someone once asked the anthropologist Margaret Meade what she considered to be the first evidence of civilization. Was it a cooking utensil? A clay pot? Some writing? No. The first evidence of civilization was a human thigh bone with a healed fracture from an archaeological site 15,000 years old. Why this?

She pointed out that for a person to survive a broken femur, the individual had to have been cared for long enough for that bone to heal. Other people must have provided shelter, protection, food, and drink over an extended period of time.



Today, this may still be the best indication of community: caring, over time, for those who are broken, and in need. Clay pots, stone tools, alphabets, turbines, smartphones—they are all very nice. But being a community – civilized, you might say – means kindness and caring.

Such acts are the bedrock of our faith. As we look towards our Hanukkah celebrations let’s remind ourselves that we at Beth El can do our part. I wish to thank all of you, for being kind, caring, and giving. Because now more than ever, it matters.

Audrey Wolff

Building Our Community

Looking back on the past year, the Community Building/Membership Committee has worked hard at growing connections and building meaning for the members of our community. Over the last year, we created four new Chavurahs, reached out to new members of our community and planned several fun events. Our plan next year is to focus on holding multiple fun community building events and continuing to help members connect to our community.

Keep an eye out for upcoming news. And, of course, If you want to help us build our community, just call the synagogue office. We would love to have your help.

Save the Date for Mitzvah Day!

Monday, December 25 | 9:00 am - 11:30 am

The Social Action Committee will be making lunches for Arizona Friends of Homeless and doing other philanthropic projects!

Gift Shop

HANUKKAH OH HANUKKAH COME LIGHT THE MENORAH

The first night of Hanukkah is December 7, so be sure you are ready! We have even more CANDLES this year: candles from Israel, Candles For A Cause (pink for breast cancer, camouflage for kosher meals for our troops, multi-color for autism and Kids For Courage). We have an amazing variety of Hanukkiot – traditional, modern, electric, and oil. Also available are dreidels, decorations, cookie cutters, and more. We are always stocked with Shabbat candlesticks and candles, memorial candles, kiddush cups, challah trays, kippot and tallit sets.

Reasons to Support Beth El Gift Shop

Exceptional Merchandise, Convenience, and Tax-Free!

Open during Beth El’s regular office hours.



Alicia Moskowitz
Executive Director

Dear Friends,

It is hard to believe that 2023 is coming to an end. We will soon be lighting our Hanukkiyot to bring light into a darker world than last year. As we continue to stand strong against antisemitism and in support of Israel, there are many opportunities to connect and spread our light into the world this year.

Join us for a Hanukkah event on Friday, December 8 at 5:00 pm for a Hanukkah Kabbalat Shabbat in the Round and dinner. Bring in Shabbat

Hanukkah with some ruach, songs, and a delicious dinner to follow. On Wednesday, December 13 at 5:30 pm, join us for a Hanukkah Party. Bring your Hanukkiah to light and enjoy some music, food, and games. On Monday, December 25 at 9:00 am, join us for our annual Mitzvah Day where we will end the year with some tikkun olam projects benefitting the homeless and others who need help in our community. Enjoy a pancake breakfast following the mitzvah projects.

We thank you for all of your support and dedication to Beth El throughout the year.

Happy Hanukkah!
Alicia Moskowitz

THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR LEV SHALEM SIDDUR DONORS

Kay Abramsohn	Stewart Meckler &
Mathis & Barbara Becker	Edlyn Soderman
Michael Berman	John & Kim Mertens
Ben & Leslie Cooper	Kathy Miller
Herb & Patti Dreiseszun	Jenny Millinger
Rona Goldman	Myra Millinger
Geoffrey Gonsler &	Jeanne Milstein
Barbara Lewkowitz	Steve & Marti Nathan
Ellen Goot	Anita Ostrow
Gilda Harris	Mel & Ann Polunsky
Reagan Healy	Greg & Diane Posniack
Hebrew 101 Class	Brenda Schwartz
Deborah Hickman	Marvin Siegel & Eileen Bloom
Arnold & Judy Hoffman	Bill Tuttle & Emily Bogusch
Carolyn Kaplan	Paul & Gail Ulan
Andre & Joan Klein	Steve Winkelman &
Robert & Nancy Kravetz	Audrey Wolff
Risa Mallin	Dan & Lynda Ziskin



BETH EL WOMEN'S LEAGUE

20 women attended the tea held at The Spicery in Glendale to support Torah Fund and honor Rabbi Stein Kokin!





Susan Finks
Hebrew School
Director

לדור ודור. Teaching our children the Hanukkah story of resistance and resilience of the Maccabees can help them understand the importance of Judaism and faith.

*What is the memory that's valued so highly
 That we keep it alive in that flame?...
 ...We have come this far always believing
 That justice would somehow prevail
 This is the burden, this is the promise
 This is why we will not fail!*

Children are our future of Judaism. Tell the story of Hanukkah to your children, of the Maccabee warriors who kept the hope of the land of Israel and fought for its freedom. In Hebrew School the children are learning HaTikvah, singing it at the end of T'fillah on Sundays. Why HaTikvah, the Israeli national anthem? Because it literally translates “the hope,” the hope for a homeland, ארץ ישראל.

*Light one candle for the Maccabee children
 With thanks that their light didn't die*

We have so many great events for Hanukkah at Beth El.

- Friday, December 8 at 5:00 pm: Hanukkah Candle Lighting Kabbalat Shabbat in the Round and Dinner. A fun, song-filled Hanukkah service for everyone.
- Sunday, December 10: Hebrew School will celebrate Hanukah with our rotating Hanukkah rooms. The children will make Hanukkah candles from bees wax with Wendy and edible hanukkiot with Michele.
- Wednesday, December 13 at 5:30 PM: Beth El's Hanukkah Party for all ages!

*Don't let the light go out!
 It's lasted for so many years!
 Don't let the light go out!
 Let it shine through our love and our tears.*

May the light of Hanukkah shine brightly on you,
 Susan Finks

Dear Families,

Hanukkah is almost upon us! I have been listening to Peter Yarrow's song “Light One Candle.” A tribute to the Maccabee resistance and resilience in a time of persecution and war, it seems so apropos this year, with the Israel-Hamas War, and antisemitism on the rise.

But it is a song of hope as well. Our hope, our light for the future, is our children. Our children are the light that passes Judaism on from generation to generation,



Elijah Costales-Chevalier
Youth Engagement
Coordinator

to reflect on the role of darkness—amplifying light. I pray that during this difficult season, which feels like global darkness, we remember to see the lights of our lives shining brightly. For me, that light is our young Jewish community. Just as the parshiyot this month are jam packed with dreamers, our community is blessed to be full of dreamers. Our children are uninhibited in creativity, dreams, and laughter. Helping execute their dreams and ideas for a Jewish experience here at Beth El is a blessing and joy to me. I invite you to engage your children in all of our available youth activities and resources. As adults, we must remember that miracles still happen for Am Yisrael - they happen when young dreamers come together to improve themselves and our world.

Chag Chanukah Sameach!

I am eager to celebrate with you all,
 Elijah Costales-Chevalier

Shalom,

The month of Kislev is often referred to as the month of dreams, dreamers, and miracles. During this time, we are inspired by the commemoration of our miraculous triumph over a mighty empire. We are also inspired as we remember the eternal and true power light has over darkness. During the longest and coldest nights the lights of our Hanukiot will shine bright. This time reminds us





Joanie Charnow
Preschool Director

Dear Families,

The month of November seemed to go by so fast. Last month, the children learned and discussed being thankful for what we have, where we live, and how to help others.

Every year in December, focus on tikkun olam by adopting families to provide holiday gifts and learn about tzedakah and giving to organizations. Three years ago, we realized that we had several local families that could use our

help with the holidays, so we started collecting for them directly. There are also many organizations and causes in need of help. Each of our classes picks a cause, collects tzedakah, and then learns about where their donations will go and how they will help.

One of the important things we do at our school is teach and practice ethics. We want all children to learn how important it is to have respect, be kind, and tell the truth. Teaching children to love to learn gives them the basis to continue learning for a lifetime.

Our parent-teacher organization is working on our annual fundraiser. This year, it is on February 4, 2024, and will be a "Taste of Italy." There will be a fun run where the preschoolers will have sponsors pay them to run, hop, and walk around the chalk track in front of the preschool. Then we will all go over to the stage, and the classes will perform a few songs.

Everyone is invited to join us and enjoy an Italian lunch, train ride, bounce house, a raffle for the kiddos, and of course an amazing silent auction. This year, the much-needed money we earn will be used to finish the toddler playground and fund the continuing presence of our security guard.

We have already received many prizes for the auction and promises for more donations after the New Year. I hope you will save the date and consider coming, even if it is just to bid on the auction and eat the food. If you or anyone you know has a store, restaurant, or services they would like to donate to our auction, please call the school office (602) 944-2464 or mail it to us.

I love my job and feel so lucky that I get to go to work every day and see the smiling faces of the littles in my school. They are always there with a big smile and willing to hug me whenever I need one.

Have a fantastic month, stay positive, and hug the ones you love!

L'Shalom
Joanie Charnow



Smachot



December Anniversary Shabbat: 12/30

Date	Name	Years Married
2	Selma & Jerome Targovnik	62
8	David & Sue Rosen	61
12	Gregory & Diane Posniack	58
12	Dan Shein & Beth Rosenberg	41
14	Martin & Ros Slovin	43
16	Jay & Gayle Weiss	59
16	Mark & Lorraine Shwer	53
18	Scott & Sharon Steingard	40
18	Benjamin & Belinda Goldberg	2
18	Lawrence & Rona Green	62
22	Robert & Nancy Kravetz	66
22	Marvin & Ann Gechman	55
23	Arnold & Etta Silver	61
24	Carl & Barbara Kluger	34
28	Lewis & Barbara Brown	65



December Birthday Shabbat: 12/11

Date	Name	Date	Name
3	Maryjane Sandler	16	Leah Fregulia
3	Bryan Littlepage	18	Barry Becker
3	Edward DuBrow	19	Anita Gutkin
3	Marcia Newman	20	Sue Rosen
3	Beth Rosenberg	21	Mathis Becker
4	Jesse Cohen	21	Vicki Cabot
4	Roberta Freed	21	Bryan Hill
8	Barbara Goldstein	22	Barbara Landau
9	Bernice Rozov	22	Nicole Hayes
9	Benjamin Zlochow	23	Lewis Brown
10	Ronald Serbin	25	Pam Raphael
11	Gary Serbin	26	Beth Shernoff
11	Shirley Sheinkopf	28	Ari Hoffman
13	Rich Cohen	29	Elaine Gordon
13	William Weese	30	Carolyn Lieberman
14	Jan Nash	31	Barry Aarons
15	Stuart Meckler	31	Aaron Moskowitz
16	Elaine Weiss	31	Gregory Posniack



Mazal Tov to Sara Klein and the Mallin-Klein family on Sara's Bat Mitzvah which took place November 11.

Mazal Tov to parents Josh and Lily Schoen and grandparents Dean and Fay Behboodi on the birth of Ayla Schoen on October 3.

Mazal Tov to parents Wendy Rozov and Eric Lynn and grandmother Bernice Rozov on Sadie Lynn's engagement to Liran Amzaleg. The two will be married in Israel in January 2024.

Welcome to our new members Noah & Abby Burbank, Jordan & Megan Cruse, Peter Jacob Ferraro, Mark & Sara Goldsen, Allan Gutkin & Leah Fregulia, Jerome & Anita Gutkin, Craig Hibbs, Kelly McDowell & Lawrence Hale, Tracey & Jacob Powers.



ZOOMDALAH! SATURDAYS @ 5:45 PM

Bring in the new week with a burst of positive energy on Saturday nights before Havdalah. Meet fun people of ALL ages & dance your way into the new week!

[TINYURL.COM/BEC-MINYAN](https://tinyurl.com/bec-minyan)

Meeting ID: 924 0856 8672 | Password: minyan | Call-in: (669)- 900 - 6833



Thank you to all who donated this month!

General Fund

In Memory of Mort Sitver

Robert Mautner & Nancy Herman

Anne Schafer

Barry & Georgy Silverman

Cindy & Harvey Faber

Aaron & Alicia Moskowitz

The U.S District Court of Arizona

Yahrzeit of Ethel Kaplan

Bunny Kaplan

In Honor of Ros Slovin's Birthday

Bonnie and Allyn Kluger

Yahrzeit of Mole Ioshpa

Nina & Igor Zamoshkin

Yahrzeit of Samuel Woliski

Sheldon & Eva Miller

Yahrzeit of Nathan Wise

Eddie Stoneman

Yahrzeit of Nany Groben

Paul Levin

Yahrzeit of Selma Levinson

Benjamin & Esther Zlochower

Yahrzeit of William Schwartz

Jonathan Schwartz

Yahrzeit of Leonard H. Wolfe

John & Deborah Wolfe

Yahrzeit of Alfred Englander

Hank & Nancy Markiewicz

Yahrzeit of Erna Englander

Hank & Nancy Markiewicz

Women's League

In Memory of Theo Kuperman

Renee Cooperman

In Honor of Ros Slovin's Birthday

Renee Cooperman

Zendle Fund

Yahrzeit of Shirley Kahn

Lee Zendle

Yahrzeit Fund

Yahrzeit of Joseph Gimbel

Marilyn Gimbel

Yahrzeit of Louis Zack

Zack William

Yahrzeit of Esther Gortler

Morris & Marcelle Gortler

Yahrzeit of Stuart H. Aarons

Barry & Jody Aarons

Yahrzeit of Charlee Minkoff

Howard Minkoff

Yahrzeit of Esther Battock

Irwin Battock

Yahrzeit of Hal Ober

Ron Ober & Gail Gordon

Yahrzeit of Bertha Fink

Rhoda Morris

Yahrzeit of Mary Wernick

Howard & Noreen Wernick

Yahrzeit of Julie Ellyn Kanter

Anne Kanter

Yahrzeit of Minnie Hesch

Morris Hesch

Yahrzeit of Julius Rosenberg

Edward and Merle Shore

Yahrzeit of Gertrude Kosowsky

Wendy Mars

Yahrzeit of Annie Schatz Rozenewajg

Edith Wade

Yahrzeit of William Rozov

Bernice Rozov

In Memory of Mort Sitver

Andre & Joan Klein

Yahrzeit of Pearl Isaac

Melvin Isaac

Yahrzeit of Rosmary Isaac

Melvin Isaac

Yahrzeit of Rita Rosen

M. Miriam Mell

Yahrzeit of Lena Tanach

Bernice Rozov

Thoughtful donation

Alan & Yaffa Nadel

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

A thoughtful donation

Gerald & Caryll Webner

In Memory of Mort Sitver

Leslie & Bennett Cooper

Bruce & Barbara Holzman

Myra Millinger

Jenny Millinger

In appreciation

Risa Mallin

Kiddush Fund

In Honor of Shelley Frankel's Birthday

Barry & Shelley Frankel

In Honor of Dean Behboodi's Birthday

Charlotte Adelman

In Honor of Eileen Bloom's Birthday

Charlotte Adelman

In Honor of Their Anniversary

Daniel & Evie Rosen

In Honor of Steven Gelbart's Birthday

Charlotte Adelman

A Thoughtful Gift

Charlotte Adelman

Tzedekah Fund

Yahrzeit of Nany Groben

Paul Levin

Yahrzeit of Selma Levinson

Benjamin & Esther Zlochower

Yahrzeit of Tillie Rothman

Allen & Reba Rothman

Yahrzeit of Irving Dorfman

Dan & Lynda Ziskin

Yahrzeit of Howard Schwartz

Brenda Schwartz

Yahrzeit of Fannie Katcher

Brenda Schwartz

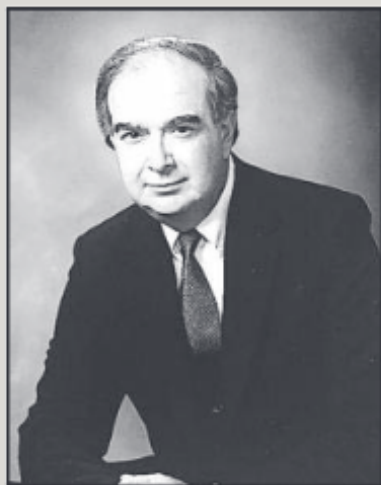
In appreciation of Bonnie Kluger

Linda & Eli Barzilai

We extend our heartfelt condolences and prayers of comfort and healing to the families of Theo Kuperman and Mort Sitver. May their memories be for a blessing and may their families be comforted among the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem.

Morton Sitver

Retired U.S. Magistrate Judge Morton Sitver died November 9, 2023 at the age of 87. Though modest and humble in all that he did, Mort had a prestigious law career and lived a remarkable life of service.



Mort was born July 13, 1936 in Queens, NY. He earned a B.S. in accounting from Queens College, and then worked as a substitute teacher putting himself through law school at New York University where he earned his law degree in 1960, followed by a Masters in Education the following year at Columbia University.

In Arizona, Mort worked as an Assistant U.S. Attorney from 1965-1972. In 1973, he was appointed as Deputy Chief of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs for the Department of Justice in Washington, D.C. In 1976, he and his wife Joan Gries Sitver (deceased), and their family, relocated back to Arizona upon his selection to be the First Assistant U.S. Attorney under then U.S. Attorney Michael D. Hawkins. Starting in 1979, Mort served three consecutive eight year terms as a U.S. Magistrate Judge. In 2010, Mort was honored for his Distinguished Service to the U.S. District Court.

Throughout his life, and long into his retirement, Mort was extremely involved in leadership and volunteering with dozens of local, national, and international charitable organizations. He was also a very dedicated and loving husband, son, father, grandfather, and uncle, taking pride in guiding and celebrating his family, and always showing himself to be an honest, kind, dependable, and trustworthy pillar in the community. Mort is survived by his three children and six grandchildren. He was loved and respected by all who knew him and will be greatly missed.



**Be remembered forever by Beth El Phoenix
with a gift in your will, trust, retirement
account or life insurance policy.**

**Contact legacy@bethelphoenix.com
for more information.**



"The proper response, as Hanukkah teaches, is not to curse the darkness but to light a candle."

- Irving Greenberg



Add mental health to your holiday experience with our Hanukkah and mental health resources.

Join Beth El Congregation and Valley Beit Midrash for this co-hosted virtual event!

Finding Light in Darkness



presentation by Melanie Gruenwald

December 7 @ 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm MST

register at <https://www.valleybeitmidrash.org/registration/>



Kadima Lounge

December 6, 6:30pm - 7:30pm
after Hebrew School

JEWISH LEARNING AND
SOCIAL GROUP FOR
GRADES 1-5



[BETHELPHOENIX.COM/FORM/KADIMA-LOUNGE](https://bethelphoenix.com/form/kadima-lounge)

BETH EL USY HANUKKAH *Bowling Night*



AMF DESERT HILLS LANES

2959 E. Bell Rd. Phoenix, AZ 85032



FREE FOR BETH EL USY MEMBERS
\$20 FOR NON-MEMBERS

[BETHELPHOENIX.COM/FORM/USY-BOWL.HTML](https://bethelphoenix.com/form/usy-bowl.html)

USY Lunch & Learn

December 10, 12:30 pm - 2:00 pm

JEWISH LEARNING
FOR TEENS



[BETHELPHOENIX.COM/FORM/USY-LUNCH-LEARN](https://bethelphoenix.com/form/usy-lunch-learn)



BETH EL HANUKKAH PARTY

DECEMBER 13 AT 5:30 PM

THE SEVENTH NIGHT OF HANUKKAH

LIGHT THE HANUKKIAH AND CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAY
WITH YOUR BETH EL COMMUNITY

[BETHELPHOENIX.COM/FORM/HANUKKAH-PARTY.HTML](https://bethelphoenix.com/form/hanukkah-party.html)



★ DOROT ★

FAMILY SHABBAT SERVICE

RELIGIOUS SERVICE ADAPTED FOR ALL AGES
WITH PARTICIPATION FROM USY TEEN LEADERSHIP

DECEMBER 16, 10:00 AM

[BETHELPHOENIX.COM/EVENT/DOROT-FAMILY-SERVICE.HTML](https://bethelphoenix.com/event/dorot-family-service.html)

Hebrew School students build wells while learning about Eliezer and Rivkah



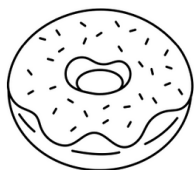
Kafe Kadima Fundraiser



Turkey Train Donation Drive



HANUKKAH COLORING PAGE



Connect With Us!

office: (602) 944-3359 | email: info@bethelphoenix.com
1118 W. Glendale Ave. | Phoenix, AZ 85021

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Synagogue Staff

A. Nitzan Stein Kokin

Rabbi

rabbi@bethelphoenix.com | ext. 101

Alicia Moskowitz

Executive Director

alicia@bethelphoenix.com | ext. 102

Nina Zamoshkin

Controller

nzamoshkin@bethelphoenix.com | ext. 103

Andela Jovovic-Einck

Office Manager

office@bethelphoenix.com | ext. 104

M Zavos-Costales

Marketing Coordinator

mzavos-costales@bethelphoenix.com | ext. 106

Ben Ulan

Program Assistant

bulan@bethelphoenix.com

Wendy Rozov

Adult Education Coordinator

wrozov@bethelphoenix.com | ext. 123

Sam Goldman (z"l)

Cantor Emeritus

Beth El Cemetery

Eli Barzilai

Cemetery Administrator

ebarz@msn.com

Hebrew School & Youth

Susan Finks

Interim Hebrew School Director

sfinks@bethelphoenix.com | ext. 120

Wendy Adair

Hebrew School Assistant

talmudtorah@bethelphoenix.com | ext. 121

Wendy Rozov

Hebrew School Teacher

wrozov@bethelphoenix.com | ext. 123

Elijah Costales-Chevalier

Youth Advisor

elijah@bethelphoenix.com | ext. 124

Michele Gusdorff

Hebrew School Teacher

michele@gusdorff.com

Gail Offenhartz

Hebrew School Teacher

gohartz1@gmail.com

Early Childhood Center

Joanie Charnow

Preschool Director

jcharnow@bethelphoenix.com | ext. 130

Rachel Lamb

Preschool Office Manager

preschool@bethelphoenix.com | ext. 131

Committee Contacts

Steve Winkelman

Membership Chair

swinkelman@cox.net

Emily Bogusch

Hebrew School Chair

emily.bogusch@gmail.com

Board of Directors

Alana Berrett

Ari Hoffman

Brad Ostrow

José Tafla

William Tuttle

Gail Ulan

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Executive Committee

Audrey Wolff

President

awolff@bethelphoenix.com

(602) 944-9033

Barry Becker

Treasurer

barrybeckerlaw@gmail.com

(602) 430-1663

Eileen Bloom

Financial VP

ebloom@bethelphoenix.com

(602) 370-4108

Herb Dreiseszun

Facilities VP

(602) 954-0321

(602) 957-3159 (fax)

Charleen Holt

Secretary

cholt@bethelphoenix.com

(602) 695-6462

Kim Mertens

Education VP

kmertens@bethelphoenix.com

(602) 340-8234

December Board Meeting:

Wednesday, December 20 | 6:30 pm

Board meetings are open to congregants.

Meeting notes will be published online.

Upcoming Committee Meetings:

Education: December 3, 9:30 am

Social Action: December 6, 6:00 pm

Membership: January 4, 7:00 pm

We are in need of security volunteers.

Please contact Ben Cooper at bcooper@bethelphoenix.com for more information.



Siddur Lev Shalem

Engaging in Jewish prayer, tefillah, is an experience that engages our minds, our bodies, and perhaps most of all – it engages the lev (Hebrew for “heart”). Beth El is excited to have begun using Siddur Lev Shalem for our religious services. Lev Shalem will transform the way we, both as individual congregants and as a communal congregation, engage and interact with Jewish prayer. Please consider sponsoring one of our new Siddurim, dedicated to Cantor Sam Goldman (z”l). Visit bethelphoenix.com/siddurim to sponsor a prayer book.

Why are we making the switch? In a word, Lev Shalem is *More*:

More Accessible

Lev Shalem is an inclusive siddur that is user-friendly regardless of your Hebrew knowledge or familiarity with our services. Equipped with enhanced transliteration, Lev Shalem allows members and visitors of all backgrounds and Hebrew proficiency levels with a greater opportunity to participate and sing throughout our services.

More Understandable

Lev Shalem has easy-to-read, contemporary English translations that fosters a greater connection to the Hebrew liturgy. In most cases, the translations are structured to match the formatting of the corresponding Hebrew, which helps make the correlation between the Hebrew and the English much easier to follow.

Lev Shalem also includes easy-to-follow instructions for congregational participation and choreography that takes place throughout the services.

More Relatable

Filled with traditional and modern commentaries, poems, and reflections from some of the most respected Jewish scholars, Lev Shalem fosters opportunities for a deepened awareness and connection to our liturgy. Thanks to these meaningful enhancements, we are confident that you will:

- Learn new things about our liturgy and ritual practices.
- View specific prayers and psalms with a whole new perspective and understanding.
- Further appreciate the richness, wisdom, and beauty of our liturgy.

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,
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