



THE CENTER OF JEWISH LIFE IN FORT BEND COUNTY

# CHAI AT BETHEL

VOL 32 - FEBRUARY 2021



# Setting an Example

Throughout history, even in our lifetime, Jews have been feared, hated, and disrespected, just for being Jewish. Case in point - the Story of Purim. The Jewish people of Persia were citizens and they felt like they were part of the community. A narcissist, Haman, comes along and tries to create a movement to have all the Jews who would not bow down to him, killed. I am simplifying the story, but you get my drift. Similar situations have occurred over and over, for centuries. Have you ever been harassed or picked on because someone did not "like" something about you? How did that make you feel? Did you feel hurt or angry? What did you do with those feelings? Did those feelings contribute to forming your opinions of the world today?

Intolerance of the differences of others has proven to be dangerous, even deadly. But through education, life experiences, communication, and active listening, change can happen!

Diversity is what makes each one of us unique. It is about all of the things that make us who we are. Diversity is also about recognizing, respecting, and valuing each person's differences.

Torah teaches us that all of humanity descended from one man and one woman, who was created in G-d's image. This means that each one of us is an image of G-d, equally loved and cherished by G-d.

The true measure of a person lies within their heart and soul - it is what makes up their character.

People can take away your legal rights, your liberty, your physical possessions, your life, BUT, they cannot take away the person you really are inside. They cannot take away the true you, your values, and what truly counts with G-d.

Anne Frank said, "I still believe that people are really good at heart." And Eleanor Roosevelt said, "One's philosophy is best expressed, not in words, but in choices, one makes in daily living." Putting these two thoughts together, let us open our hearts and minds, endeavoring to be more accepting, and less judgmental.

*Keyn yehi ratzon*  
Jodi Kessler



# WELCOME

to another look into our active community

Affiliated with the Union for Reform Judaism, Congregation Beth El strives to fulfill its mission of helping each member connect with what is important to them as Jews and as part of the global community.

We seek to do this by offering engaging and spiritually-uplifting Shabbat and holiday services, a vibrant educational program for children and adults, and opportunities to perform acts of tikkun olam, repairing the world.

Most importantly, Beth El provides a warm, welcoming, and inclusive environment for all our members, Jewish or non-Jewish, as we seek to create a close-knit community bonded together by the highest ideals of our faith.

## CONTACT US

### CONGREGATION BETH EL

*3900 Raoul Wallenberg Lane  
Missouri City, TX 77459*

*281.499.5066  
admin@betheltx.org  
www.betheltx.org*

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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# S H I R   S H A B B A T

h o n o r i n g   c a n t o r   r a l p h   k a t z



**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 5  
7PM**

**Cantor Renee Waghalter**

**Shir Shabbat Singers**

**Many friends and family**

**[WWW.BETHELTX.ORG/EVENT/VIRTUALSHABBAT](http://WWW.BETHELTX.ORG/EVENT/VIRTUALSHABBAT)**



## RELIGIOUS SCHOOL NEWS

The month of January has zoomed by and led us into the month of February. Although February is a shorter month it will be packed full of learning. Purim will be our major focus. Additionally, we will continue to learn and understand the purpose and meaning of the prayers within our service. To do this we will discuss as well as participate in services. Furthermore, there will be an Interactive Shabbat Service for our fourth thru seventh graders. All are welcome to join us!

**[Click here to join the Interactive Shabbat Morning service on February 6, 2021, at 10:00 am.](#)**

Thank you to Rabbi Sholklapper for our Ask the Rabbi session!

The Post B'nei Mitzvah classes will resume for the spring semester. Continued conversations about ethics and what Jewish law suggests we should do. Rabbi Sholklapper will be joining us for some of our classes this spring.

Thursday, February 4, at 7:30 PM

Sunday, March 7, at 11:30 AM

Thursday, April 1, at 7:30 PM

Sunday, May 2, at 11:30 AM

If you have any questions about these events or Religious School, please feel free to reach out to me at [Religiousschool@betheltx.org](mailto:Religiousschool@betheltx.org)

B'Shalom,

Michele Croft

**STAY ACTIVE**

**AT HOME**

**SUNDAY  
FEBRUARY 21  
10:00AM**



**[CLICK HERE FOR ZOOM INFORMATION](#)**

**[WWW.BETHELTX.ORG/EVENT/STRONGFIT](http://WWW.BETHELTX.ORG/EVENT/STRONGFIT)**

Congregation Beth El's very own Yaffa Steubinger will offer another one of her "Strong & Fit Strength Training" classes, a total body workout using light weights and repetition. Dress comfortably and wear your athletic shoes, grab your weights or dumbbells (or a couple of cans of soup), and your mat and Zoom into this meeting on **Sunday, February 21**.

The actual class is from 10 a.m. – 11 a.m. but try to log on about 9:45 a.m. in order for Yaffa to acquaint you with some form techniques. No experience necessary! The class is designed for beginners to intermediate exercisers, as well as teens and adults. Yaffa will offer ways to modify some of the moves to accommodate different abilities.

The CBE Active Older Adults group invites members and friends 65+ to our virtual Current Events lunch and discussion.

**UPCOMING MEETINGS**

**February 9 and 23**

**March 9 and 23**



The Zoom meeting room will open at 12:30 pm so we can have lunch together, then move into a lively current event discussion at approximately 1:30pm.

Again, lunch is Optional. An adult beverage, however, **IS HIGHLY recommended.**

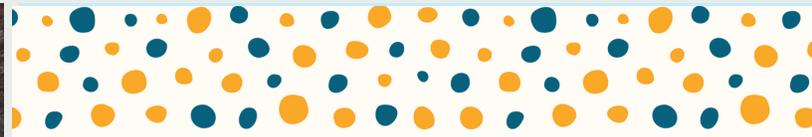
**[CLICK HERE FOR ZOOM INFORMATION](#)**

**[WWW.BETHELTX.ORG/EVENT/AOA](http://WWW.BETHELTX.ORG/EVENT/AOA)**

DON'T FORGET

**The CBE  
Temple Treasures  
gift shop is open  
online**

**[www.betheltx.org/cbegiftshop](http://www.betheltx.org/cbegiftshop)**



CONGREGATION BETH-EL OF FORT WORTH,  
CONGREGATION BETH ISRAEL, HOUSTON  
CONGREGATION FOR REFORM JUDAISM,  
AND CONGREGATION BETH EL OF MISSOURI  
CITY PRESENT: A VIRTUAL EVENING WITH



**COMEDIAN  
PAM SCHULLER**

February 20, 2021 8:30 PM

Comedian Pamela Rae Schuller is relentlessly funny. Her observations on disability, mental illness, dating, family, and past misadventures have led to brutally honest confessions about what it's like being 4 foot 6 (and a half) and having a whole lot of Tourette Syndrome.

This event is **FREE** of charge, but your donation of any amount will enable us to continue to bring fun and exciting virtual content. You can RSVP at the link below and the Zoom link will be sent to you Friday, February 19.

**<https://www.betheltx.org/event/pamelaschueller>**



# Joanne's Yenta Center

To all those who are fortunate enough to have a significant other- Linus and I want to wish you a happy Valentine's Day. For those of us who don't----well who needs the extra caloric intake of chocolate when we have our Covid-19 stash.

As I mentioned in my first column, it is my goal to "introduce or re-introduce" members of our community. This month I want to highlight one of my most favorite people. She is one of our oldest members, a Friday night faithful, always has an amazing smile for everyone, and is the best Shabbat candle lighters I know. Please read 10 things you may not know about ROBERTA ROSEN! (Thank you Joy Carraway for this idea).



1. Roberta was born in Chicago, Illinois.
  2. She spent a little time in an orphanage during the Depression -- the orphanage was strikingly similar to the one portrayed in the musical Annie.
  3. Roberta worked in a lab and various offices to help put her husband Bernie through medical school.
  4. Bernie and Roberta married in May 1945 at the "Plaza Hotel" in Houston- no longer here, but a beautiful hotel built-in 1929 by architect Joseph Finger.
  5. The couple helped raise their niece, Barbara Mees.
  6. Roberta finished her college degree in 1968, with a major in Home Economics.
  7. She was President of the Sisterhood, as well as a "Young Judea" youth adviser, at Agudas Achim Synagogue in Corsicana, Texas.
  8. Roberta studied for and had a Bat Mitzvah at the age of 52 (also at Agudas Achim);
  9. She also ran Bernie's business office in Corsicana for many years while he was a traveling radiologist.
  10. The family moved to Sugar Land in 1998-- the same year she beat colon cancer, and then two years later, beat breast cancer in 2000! 😊
- (WE ARE SO HAPPY SHE DID)
- Also, Roberta is the mother of our great Shir Shabbat singer David Rosen, and also Dale Rosen, and the mother in law of one of our Queen Esthers-Rachel Rosen.



# JONAH AND THE MEANING OF OUR LIVES WITH RABBI STEVEN BOB

## VIRTUAL SCHOLAR IN RESIDENCE WEEKEND

### FEBRUARY 12 & 13, 2021

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In Pirke Avot 5:26 Ben Bag Bag famously teaches, "Turn it Turn it for it contains everything." While most people take these words to describe the Torah, for Rabbi Steven Bob they describe the Book of Jonah. This short book of the Bible along with the explanations of the classic commentators provides answers to the most important questions which people ask about their lives: Who am I? Why am I here? What provides meaning to my life? In his presentation Rabbi Bob will explore these Big Questions drawing upon the commentaries to Jonah, other biblical and rabbinic sources as well as, personal anecdotes, literature, history, and popular culture. Rabbi Steven Bob is the author of 'Jonah and the Meaning of Our Lives: A verse by Verse Contemporary Commentary JPS 2016 and Go To Nineveh: Medieval Jewish Commentaries on the Book of Jonah Wipf and Stock 2013. Rabbi Bob served as Senior Rabbi of Congregation Etz Chaim in Lombard, Il. for 35 years.



Rabbi Bob is currently an adjunct faculty member at Wheaton College and Elmhurst University, where he is also a founder of the Holocaust Education Program. He is a leader of the faculty of Olin-Sang-Ruby Union Institute and a recipient of the Samuel Cook Award for Lifetime Achievement in Youth Work from the CCAR and Rabbi Mordecai Simon Award from the Chicago Board of Rabbis.

**Rabbi Bob will be speaking at the Friday night service, Feb 12 at 7pm and at Torah Study, Saturday, Feb 13 at 10 am - [Zoom link here](#)**

# How can you celebrate Purim without Hamentashen?

Delicious hamentashen will be available for sale this Purim, thanks to partners, Bagel Express and Kenny & Ziggy's Cakeworks.

All net proceeds will be donated back to CBE.

All orders must be placed through the synagogue by February 15th. (Sold only by the pound ) Available for pickup at BagelExpress beginning February 21st.

Order your Hamentashen today!

\$17.95/pound

Order online at  
[betheltx.org/bagelexpress](http://betheltx.org/bagelexpress)  
or by calling the synagogue office



4670 Highway 6 Sugar Land, TX 77478

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[www.bagelexpresssugarland.com](http://www.bagelexpresssugarland.com)



2327 Post Oak Blvd., Houston, TX 77056

713-871-8883

[www.kennyandziggys.com](http://www.kennyandziggys.com)



# CBE Purim Shpiel

## Thursday, February 25

### 7pm

We will begin the evening with a brief service, LIVE on Zoom.

You can show off your costumes and delicious hamentaschen.

We will hear the megillah in Hebrew and English and you get to BOO Hamman!

Don't forget your groggers!

A link will be shared in the chat for you to head on over to YouTube and watch our pre-recorded Purimshpiel.

This year's theme is  
***Shushan Squares and the Purim Bunch.***

<https://zoom.us/j/93601892747?pwd=V1hKRnQ1VnJtRVBDSkQrU0RpOU1GZz09>

Meeting ID: 936 0189 2747, Passcode: 4Ltsb3



# UPCOMING EVENTS

## FEBRUARY 2021

5: Shir Shabbat Service, 7p

6: Torah Study, 10a

Interactive Shabbat for 4-8th grade families, 10a

7: RS, 9a

9: AOA, 12:30p

12: Shabbat Service, 7p

13: Torah Study, 10a

SCHOLAR IN RESIDENCE WEEKEND 12 - 13

14: NO RS - YOM LIMMUD

19: Shabbat Service, 7p

20: Comedy Night, 8:30p

21: RS, 9am

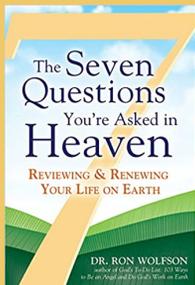
Strong & Fit, 10a

23: AOA, 12:30p

25: Purim Shpiel, 7p

26: Shabbat Service, 7p

28: RS, 9a



## COMING IN MARCH

### Small-Group Discussion

Our first book to talk about will be Dr. Ron Wolfson's *The Seven Questions You are Asked in Heaven* Reviewing and Renewing your Life on Earth. Participants will receive a FREE copy of the book.

# J @Home Platform

J @Home is your personal portal to all of your virtual programs at the J. Purchase a ticket, log into your portal and your content will all be in one place with no Zoom links required! Films will all be available for a 48-hour window, and several include a Q&A with the filmmaker.

[erjcchouston.org/virtual](http://erjcchouston.org/virtual)

## FUNDERS & SUPPORTERS

Evelyn Rubenstein JCC  
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Foundation



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FOUNDATION



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EVELYN RUBENSTEIN JCC  
HOUSTON

@HOME

## Houston Jewish Film Festival

FEBRUARY 28-MARCH 11, 2021

*Celebrating 17 Years of the Best Jewish and Israeli Films*

[erjcchouston.org](http://erjcchouston.org)



Honeymoon



Black Mercedes



When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit



My Name is Sara

Asia



Email us at  
[caringcommittee@betheltx.org](mailto:caringcommittee@betheltx.org)

*"The feeling of isolation is very destructive. It has the power to crush one's body and spirit, silence one's spiritual powers, and stop up the wellsprings of one's inner creativity." Rabbi Joseph B. Soloveitchik*

Who knew in mid-March 2020 that we'd still be isolating at home almost a year later?! We all miss seeing and schmoozing with each other during Shabbat onegs and gathering at the synagogue for other events including the High Holy Days, Sukkot, Simchat Torah, etc. Those occasions gave us the opportunity to pray together as well as to catch up with each other, give hugs, share stories and just visit. But this pandemic has changed all that.

We are all busy dealing with this situation to the best of our abilities. Some of us are handling it better than others. But as the quote above illustrates, isolation can be devastating – especially for our homebound members.

But you can help! Reach out to someone you have not seen or heard from in a while. Their contact information is in our directory. Just a few minutes, even once a week, can brighten someone's life and make this terrible pandemic just a little easier to deal with. It makes folks feel good to know that someone cares about them. And it will make you feel good, too, because "when you give, you get."

Think about contacting a member, whether you know them or not, and check-in with them regularly. Then, make a commitment to meet each other face to face when we're back in our spiritual home. Won't that be a wonderful time?! Also, please let us know if you would like someone to reach out to you.

The Beth El Caring Committee

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: YAFFA STEUBINGER, CAROL COOPER, MEG ROSENZWEIG

## FEBRUARY 2021

February 2  
Shelley Frank  
Laurie Mucasey

February 17  
Alan Croft  
Martha Raskin  
Reagan Mothner

February 4  
Carol Cooper

February 20  
William Asnes

February 9  
Suzanne Levine

February 21  
Sandra Green

February 10  
Micki Schnitzer

February 24  
Seth Gratz

February 14  
Dorothea Abels

February 25  
Joseph Okie

February 15  
Christopher Wade

February 27  
Laura Scheiner  
Ruth Brown

Happy  
Birthdays



# Happy Anniversary!

## FEBRUARY 2021

February 5  
John & Alison Hernandez

February 14  
Darrell & Joy Caraway



# YAHREZEITS

FEBRUARY 2021

**February 1**

Luisa Kreisberg

**February 2**

Fred Dreyfuss  
Rae Kline

**February 3**

Harry Schnitzer  
Joseph Spiegel

**February 4**

Julie Shulamit Rosen  
Jeff Hale  
Dorothy Feldman

**February 6**

Louis Dvoretzky  
Dale Soffar

**February 7**

Sarah Brateman  
Joseph Must

**February 8**

Esther Soffar

**February 9**

Betty Salomon

**February 12**

Esther Goldman

**February 13**

Trude Rowsey  
Susan Neider

**February 14**

Howard Pomerantz

**February 15**

Irmgard Dvoretzky

**February 17**

Vincent Dzubquevich

**February 18**

Nathan Goldman  
Marie Ronsheim  
Jose Lacs

**February 19**

Marjorie Weisman  
Melvin Zack  
Lynette Weissman  
Maynard Neider

**February 20**

Justin Kessler  
Margaret Staub

**February 24**

Dottie Rothberg

**February 26**

Helen Kipp

**February 28**

Jerry Abels  
Beverly Kraus





Join us for  
Houston's largest  
day of virtual  
Jewish learning!



# YOM LIMMUD

GENEROUSLY  
ENDOWED BY **chair king**  
BACKYARD STORE  
& THE BARISH FAMILY

## Jews Around The World

Sunday, February 14, 2021 | 9 am – 4 pm

Via Zoom

Virtually connect with unique Jewish stories and culture from around the globe through music, art, cooking, and general education.

The Federation's Yom Limmud (Day of Learning) provides a unique opportunity for people across our community to come together virtually to learn, exchange ideas, and share experiences. Sessions featuring presentations about Jews around the world by rabbis, cantors, Jewish educators, college professors, cultural arts specialists, and other experts will be facilitated throughout the day. Programming for all ages will be available including families, teens, and adults.



For the full class schedule and to register, visit [houstonjewish.org/yomlimmud](https://houstonjewish.org/yomlimmud) or scan the QR code.