



chai

FROM
CONGREGATION BETH EL

THE CENTER OF JEWISH LIFE IN FORT BEND COUNTY

DECEMBER 2023
BETHELTX.ORG



WELCOME

to another look into our active community

The mission of Congregation Beth El shall be to maintain a place of worship for the Reform Jewish Community, as the Center of Jewish Life in Fort Bend, County. It is to advance Jewish education, promote Jewish Culture and provide facilities for social interaction. We will achieve this by conducting ourselves in accordance with our name "House of GOD."

Congregation Beth El is affiliated with the Union for Reform Judaism. Becoming a synagogue member and joining a Jewish community is a deeply personal experience. We warmly welcome those who seek to be part of our congregation, regardless of age, marital status, race, or sexual orientation. We encourage you to meet the many wonderful people who are a part of our *kehillah k'dosha*. We seek to create a close-knit community bonded together by the highest ideals of our faith. Most importantly, Beth El provides a warm and welcoming environment that like family is ready to extend a hand to all who seek to enrich their faith in Judaism, support for the State of Israel, and become engaged in the community.

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

IRENE HELSINGER

President

DEB PARAS

CRAIG GOODMAN

DANIELLE KRANTZ

Vice Presidents

MARK SHAPIRO

Treasurer

CAROL SCHORN

Secretary

ANN SCHNEIDER

LETICIA HIMMELSTEIN

Members at Large

JODI KESSLER

Immediate Past President

CLERGY & STAFF

CANTOR RENEE

WAGHALTER

Clergy

MARILYN GOREL

Office Manager

ERIN BERSIN

Finance Manager

NORMA GONZALES

Digital Specialist

MICHELLE RENFROW

Youth Program Director

A Message From Our President

All of us were horrified by the Oct 7th brutal Hamas attacks on Israel.

I was in shock, and I bet you were too. I knew that Hamas was a terrorist group, but the extent of their evilness was beyond words. So many Israelis were savagely murdered, tortured, raped, or wounded. Children and Jews of all ages were dragged out of their homes and kidnapped. Thousands of innocent, precious Jewish lives were destroyed on that day.

I felt helpless. What could we do?

Of course, we could send money, and we did.

We could gather our Congregation to pray, and we did.

We could contact our family and friends in Israel, and we did.

The Cantor could send a message of love and hope to our Congregation, and she did.

It wasn't enough.

I got an email from the Jewish Federation of Greater Houston inviting me to travel with other leaders of Jewish organizations and Federation Staff to a rally to show support for Israel the following week in Washington, DC. If I wanted to go, I needed to tell them immediately. And I did.

It was my first time attending a demonstration, rally, march, or protest. And it will be a day I will never forget. Two hundred ninety thousand supporters of Israel crowded the area in front of the Capitol. Despite the short notice, people came from all parts of the country, about 300 from Greater Houston. Carol Schorn designed a CBE T-shirt for me, and the Jewish Federation also provided sweatshirts. It was such a joy to travel with about 150 enthusiastic Jews, who sang Am Yisrael Chai as the plane landed. We encountered other Jewish groups at the airport, all anxious to show our love and support for Israel. Once we left the airport, we walked to the train station, where we saw thousands of Jews singing and chanting familiar Hebrew melodies. For me, it was breathtaking and very inspiring.

When we got to the rally site, I was pumped with energy and gratitude that I could make this trip. Every speaker delivered an inspirational message of love for Israel, the importance of Israel's existence, Jewish values, or the bond between American Jews and Israel. At many appropriate moments, the quiet crowd burst into chants of Am Yisrael Chai, Bring them home, or No ceasefire. The passion in the voices was clear and loud. This was a time when Orthodox, Conservative, and Reform Jews sang and chanted in one voice, a spiritual, beautiful voice. Leading Democrats and Republicans also spoke in one voice in support of Israel.

We sang Hatikvah, and I was impressed that everyone around me knew the words. We said the mourner's Kaddish together and prayed for Israel together. Being immersed in togetherness, unity, and love for Israel was a joy.

Realistically, I know that attending a rally doesn't alleviate the pain that Israeli families are feeling or minimize our concern about the rising number of Jewish Hate incidents happening in Texas, the USA, and the rest of the world. However, it did awaken an even deeper commitment in me that Judaism must survive and thrive in our Fort Bend community and our nation. We need to do more. If you have ideas about how we can energize more Jewish families to join us or would like to chat, please get in touch with me at president@betheltx.org or 713-817-8299.

עם ישראל חי

Irene

Fort Bend Meals on Wheels

Coffee Drive

November 27 - December 11
hosted by
Congregation Beth El

DROP OFF SCHEDULE
WEDNESDAYS, NOV 29 & DEC 6: 9a - 12p

FRIDAYS, DEC 1 & 8
11a - 1p or 6:30p before Shabbat service

SUNDAYS, DEC 3 & 10: 9a - 12p

Please Donate

Big Cans of ground coffee
(think Costco size or largest can buy at the grocery)

8oz Styrofoam cups

Sugar and Creamer
(individual packets or big containers)

Kleenex and Paper Towels
(to be used at the centers and also for Bingo Prizes)

Questions? Call the synagogue at
281-499-5066 or
email admin@betheltx.org

To learn about Ft Bend Meals on Wheels
visit www.fortbendseniors.org

Shopping Made Easy!



**Click on the Amazon logo and see
our wish list. Your orders will be
delivered to CBE and included in
our collection delivery to the
Meals on Wheels congregate
center in Richmond, TX**



**Thank You for
Your Donation...**

Hanukkah SHOP & SCHMOOZE

Sunday, Dec 3
9a - Noon
CBE Sanctuary

CLOTHING - CANDLES
JEWELRY - GIFTS & MORE

ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT THE
CBE RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

VENDORS, CLICK HERE FOR
MORE INFORMATION





Congregation Beth El Confirmation

The Hopeful Young Generation

Wednesday December 6

6:30 - 8:30pm

Meet Cantor Waghalter and
Michelle Renfrow at Beth El
for some Chanukah baking
delight!

Bring a friend to share in
the celebration of all things
Chanukah!

RSVP here





Hanukkah House of Ft Bend

Traveling to Houston is unnecessary to see an INCREDIBLE
Hannukah-decorated house.

There is a great one in Fort Bend County!

Where is this GREAT HOUSE?

Well, it is located at 2023 Cannonbury Lane in Richmond.

We are the Hanukkah House of Fort Bend County.

Come and bask in the spirit of Hanukkah.

We have a couple of bears, many dreidels, menorahs, and
a person can take a picture as our hero, a Macabee.

MINZAH

classes for Adults

December 7 & 21
7p - 9p

Email Cantor Waghalter for more information

Shabbat at Beth El

FRIDAYS AT 7 PM

December 1: Shabbat Service in person*

**December 8: Community Menorah Lighting and
Shabbat service with Consecration in person***

December 15: Shabbat via Zoom

December 22: Shabbat via Zoom

December 29: Shabbat via Zoom

****In-person services will not be live-streamed***

Friends and Guests of CBE can request the Zoom link [here](#).

CURRENT EVENTS December 13 & 27

**BRING YOUR LUNCH AND SMOOZE AT 12:30
DISCUSSION STARTS AT 1:00
BRING A TOPIC AND JOIN IN.
OPEN TO ALL ADULTS**



**WE'LL MEET IN THE
LIBRARY AT BETH EL.**

**HAVE QUESTIONS? CONTACT
ED CARLIN AT EDWRCAR@YAHOO.COM, (832) 886-4666 OR
BARB ZACK AT BARBARA3132001@YAHOO.COM, 813-340-8819**



SEEDS OF SERENITY

GARDEN CLUB

*The Garden Club will gather again on
Sunday, December 17 at 9am!*

Join Angie Perry as the group continues to care for our garden.

Questions? Contact Angie Perry at angiebperry@gmail.com





J.U.L.I.E.T.

**Jewish Uber-fun Ladies
Interested in
Eating Together**

Our next Juliet lunch will be
Wednesday, December 20 at 11:30 am
Corelli's Italian Cafe, 3229 Hwy 6 Sugar Land, TX 77478

For more information, feel free to call
Jan Poscovsly at 281.468.9185 with questions.

RSVP to www.betheltx.org/event/juliet so we can set up appropriately.
We are looking forward to schmoozing with everyone.

R.O.M.E.O.

RETIREED OLD MEN EATING OUT

A get-together for schmoozing & interfacing
The R.O.M.E.O. group will be meeting for lunch
Friday, December 29 - 12p
location to be announced

For more information
Call or text
Steve Raskin
713-822-1883



Save the Date



*Trivia
Night*

Get your thinking caps ready for a night of fun!

Saturday, Jan 20

7p-9p

*Scholar in
Residence*



Yom Limmud Barish Scholar, Rabbi Menachem Cohen,
spiritual leader of Mitziut/Makom Shalom

February 2-4, 2024 at Beth El

SL HAPPY BIRTHDAY



**DECEMBER
2023**

December 4
Reena Church

December 20
Beyla Meyerson

December 6
Richard Friedman

December 21
Marvin Greenfield
Simone Braun

December 7
Michael Mucasey

December 25
Jan Lipson

December 11
Dwight Janoff

December 27
Marc Ellison
David Rosen

December 15
Debra Linzer
Anderson Baram

December 28
Erin Bersin

December 16
Alan Schneider
Maury Marlowe

December 29
Braeden Rabinovitz
Dylan Rabinovitz
Sharon Shapiro

December 18
Frada Boxer
Thaddeus Nickels

December 30
David O'Brien
Michelle Michener

December 19
Ed Carlin





*Happy
Anniversary*

DECEMBER 2023

**December 17
Dean & Danielle Krantz**

**December 28
Nicole & Timothy Hardesty**

**December 30
Jeff & Peggy Novy**

*'Blessed art thou, O Lord our God, King of the universe,
who hath created joy & gladness,
bridegroom and bride, mirth and exultation,
pleasure and delight, love and brotherhood,
peace and friendship.'*



DECEMBER 2023

Yahrzeits

*May their
memory be
for a blessing.*

December 1

Ruth Dobrin

December 2

David Finberg

December 4

Michael Boxer
Sonnie Schencker

December 5

Joseph Rochman

December 6

Joseph Altman

December 7

Edwin Bersin
Harry Kostner

December 8

Elaine Mothner

December 9

Jay Cohen
Norman Pomerantz

December 10

William Hyman
Frances Greenberg Ray

December 13

Philip Helsinger

December 15

Morris J Barenbaum
Mary Schwartz

December 16

Sylvia Cohen

December 17

Pauline Cooper
Doris Spiegel

December 18

Bayla Eidelberg
Sam Weisman

December 20

John Fackeldey
Maria Leon
Irene Nathaniel

December 21

Cheryl Reznick

December 23

Marcie Cohen
Sophie Rodriguez

December 25

George Harr
Robert Mothner

December 26

Woodrow Melasky
Bessie Must

December 27

Larry Morgan

December 28

Nathan Starkschall
Gerald Weissman

December 29

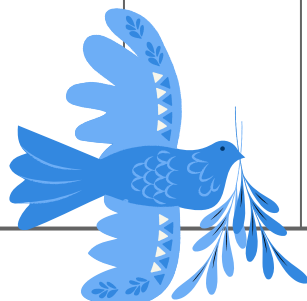
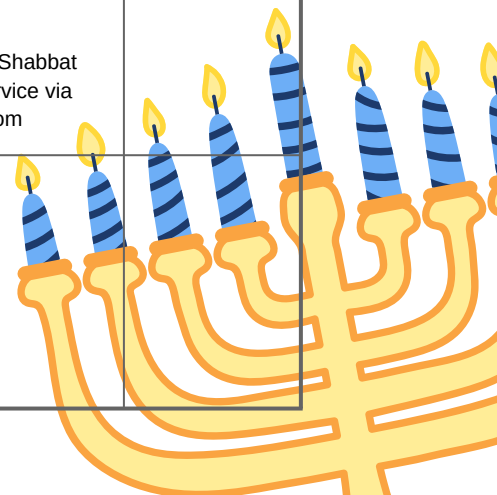
Anna Sarah Cohen

December 31

Eugene Salomon
Ricardo Teverovsky

2023 December

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1 7p Shabbat Service	2
3 9a Religious School 9:30a Shop & Schmooze 1p Private Event	4	5	6 6:30p Confirmation class	7 HAPPY HANUKKAH 6p Menorah Lighting, Sugar Land Town Ctr 7p Adult B'nai Mitzvah Class	8 7p Community Menorah Lighting & Shabbat Service with Consecration	9 5:30p Private Event
10 9a Religious School 1p Private Event	11 Menorah	12 Menorah	13 12:30p Current Events 6:30p Cub Scouts	14 Menorah	15 7p Shabbat Service via Zoom	16 9:30a Shabbat Playdate
17 1p Private Event	18	19	20 11:30a JULIET luncheon	21 7p Adult B'nai Mitzvah Class	22 7p Shabbat Service via Zoom	23
24 1p Private Event	25 SYNAGOGUE OFFICE CLOSED	26	27 12:30p Current Events 5:30p Private Event	28	29 7p Shabbat Service via Zoom	30
31 1p Private Event						



**BETH EL
DONATIONS
NOVEMBER
2023**

Dora & Daniel Soffar Operating Fund

Mr. & Mrs. Barry Finberg

Mr. & Bert Hoffman

In memory of Yetta Sporn

Mr. & Mrs. Jim Paras

In memory of Isak Sporn

Mr. & Mrs. Jim Paras

In honor of Frada Boxer's birthday

Ms. Carol Katz

In memory of Jack Cohen

Irv Berger

Tree Trimming

Anonymous Donor

Caring Committee Fund

In memory of Honey Agar

Ms. Yaffa Steubinger

In memory of June Must

Ms. Joanne Must

Oneg Fund

Harry and Leticia Himmelstein

Security Fund

In memory of Adrienne Bernstein

Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Gratz

Torah Fund

In honor of Frada Boxer's birthday

Davida Goldner

