

Chai at
BETH EL
APRIL 2023





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*

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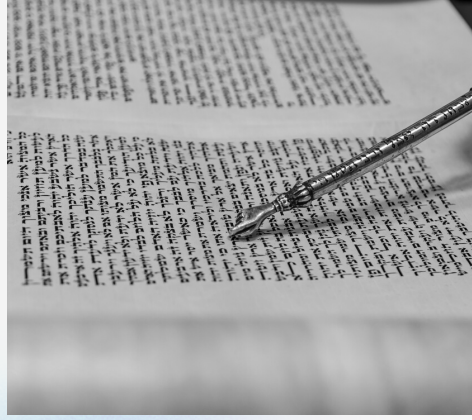
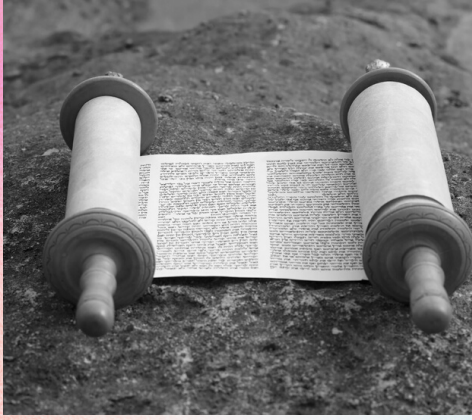
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A MESSAGE FROM CANTOR WAGHALTER

We've all heard of the *Megillah*, the story of Esther, which we read on Purim. Well, this month brings a holiday that has its own megillah. Did you know that there are four other *megillot*?

The word *Megillah* means "scroll" (plural *megillot*). The full name of the scroll we call "the *Megillah*" is "*Megillat Ester*," the "scroll of Esther." We read *Megillat Ester* on *Purim* since it tells the *Purim* story. Makes total sense, right? Right.

The remaining lesser-known scrolls are *Eicha* (Lamentations), *Rut* (Ruth), *Shir haShirim* (Song of Songs), and *Kohelet* (Ecclesiastes).

Lamentations is the scroll we chant on *Tish'a B'Av*, a solemn observance mourning the sacking of Jerusalem and the destruction of the first Temple in 586 BCE, the destruction of the Second Temple in about 70 CE, and other calamities that have befallen our people through the ages. Lamentations describes the events when the First Temple was destroyed, so this one totally makes sense too.

In the next three scrolls, Ruth, Song of Songs, and Ecclesiastes, we read about the major pilgrimage holidays: Shavuot, Passover, and Sukkot. They are extra readings in addition to the *Torah* and *Haftarah* (prophetic) readings. This group of holidays is called, collectively, *Shalosh Regalim* (literally "three legs").

Three legs is the minimum number needed to have a sturdy table, and the *Shalosh Regalim* is the table upon which the whole year rests.

Ruth ("Whither thou goest I shall go") is a narrative about a Moabite woman (named Ruth) and her mother-in-law, Naomi, that takes place at the time of the Judges, before the monarchy. Ruth is a widow and must find a close kinsman to marry. So we read Ruth on *Shavuot*, the holiday marking the wheat harvest and celebrating the giving of the Torah on Mount Sinai. Huh?

Song of Songs ("I am my beloved's and he is mine"), a long poem about two people passionately in love, is read on Passover, which celebrates the barley harvest and the exodus from Egypt. OK.

Ecclesiastes ("To everything, there is a season...a time to be born, a time to die") is an existential musing on the meaning and purpose of life. So we read Ecclesiastes on Sukkot, which commemorates the gathering of the fall harvest and our 40 years of wandering in the desert after being freed from Egypt. What?

Hmmm. Why do we read these scrolls on these holidays?

Well, in *Megillat Rut*, Ruth does a lot of gleaning in barley and wheat fields. And Ruth is the ancestor of King David, who led the Jewish people like Moses did, so I guess we can make a case for that one.

CANTOR WAGHALTER MESSAGE CONTINUES

Song of Songs takes place in the springtime, and Passover is also in the spring. The traditional interpretation of this kind-of-racey poem is that it symbolizes the love between God and Israel. So, love between God and Israel, God freed Israel from slavery. You don't tend to free people whom you don't like. More tenuous connection, but I'll take it.

Then here comes Ecclesiastes, with its famous cheerful sentiment, "Vanity of vanities all is vanity and emptiness". We read it on Sukkot. The Festival of Booths. Sukkot celebrates the fall harvest. Really? What is the connection here?

One answer comes from Malkie Janowski:

A major theme of Ecclesiastes is the futility of mundane pursuits and pleasures, and the search for deeper meaning to life. Sukkot is also known as Chag ha-Asif—the Festival of Ingathering. It's the time of year when the harvest has ended, and the crops are gathered and stored for the coming year. It's a moment of great satisfaction, as one can see the fruits of his labor before him.

Ecclesiastes shakes our contentment with the reminder that mundane accomplishments are fleeting and empty. Even at the close of the harvest, we must seek real achievement and fulfillment.

Sukkot itself demonstrates this theme by the commandment to live in temporary dwellings. We move outside our home, which provides a sense of permanence and comfort, and instead dwell in a flimsy hut. This recalls the transience of physicality, as does the book of Ecclesiastes.

Seems a bit like twisting ourselves into knots, reaching to make it work, but that's the tradition, and it's our job to find meaning in it.

If you were creating the liturgical calendar, what might you choose to read on these holidays from the Tanach (Hebrew Bible) or other sacred texts? How about other holidays?

Dave, Zev, and I wish you all a zissen (sweet) Pesach!



CONGREGATION BETH EL

THE CENTER OF JEWISH LIFE IN FORT BEND COUNTY

2023 ANNUAL MEETING

Please plan to attend Congregation Beth El's Annual Meeting.

This year's meeting will be in-person, and we are looking forward to seeing YOU Sunday, April 2nd, at 9:30 am. Light refreshments will be served. Kibbitzing before and after the meeting is encouraged. There is one vote per family unit. No proxies are allowed. A quorum of 20% of the membership is required.

ALL MEMBERS ARE WELCOME!

AGENDA

- Opening Prayer
- Approval of minutes from the preceding year
- Pertinent annual reports from Officers and committees.
- Religious School Report
- President's report
- Nomination of Officers
- Election of Officers
- Reading of the proposed budget for the next fiscal year and approval
- Old Business
- New Business
- Good and welfare
- Closing Prayer

SLATE OF NOMINATED OFFICERS

The nominating committee submits the following list of nominees for presentation at the 2023 annual congregational meeting:

Board of Trustees 2023 – 2024

President – IRENE HELSINGER

Vice President (Administration) – CRAIG GOODMAN

Vice President (Education) – DANIELLE KRANTZ

Vice President (Membership) – DEB PARAS

Secretary – CAROL SCHORN

Treasurer – MARK SHAPIRO

Member At Large #1 – ANN SCHNEIDER

Member At Large #2 – LETICIA HIMMELSTEIN

Immediate Past President – JODI KESSLER

In compliance with the bylaws, nominations may also be made from the floor, provided that the person receiving such nomination is present at the Annual Meeting to accept it. Officers shall be elected by a vote of the members in good standing present at the Annual Meeting.

CONGREGATION BETH EL

Yom HaShoah

Remembering the Past
Standing Up to Antisemitism
and Hate Today

Guest speaker

KEVIN LIPSON

co-founder of the
Jewish Advocacy Center



3900 Raoul Wallenberg, Missouri City 77459

APR 18TH

7^{PM}

2023

To read about Mr. Lipson and to RSVP go to
www.betheltx.org/event/yom-hashvah





CBE SMILE Service

Shabbat Morning
Interactive Learning
Experiential Service

Saturday, April 15, 11AM



geared towards B Mitzvah
families 4th-7th but open
to the whole community.

8th-12th invited to be role
models.

SUNDAY, 16 APRIL

9:00 AM

VIA ZOOM

JEWISH PLURALISM

**HOSTED BY
CONGREGATION B'NAI HARIM
AND MODERATOR
RABBI PEG KERSHENBAUM**



**DR. ORA
HORN PROUSER**

Dr. Prouser is the Academy for Jewish Religion's Executive Vice President and Academic Dean. She has published numerous scholarly articles and is the author of *Esau's Blessing: How the Bible Embraces Those with Special Needs*.

Click [HERE](#) to register.



**CONGREGATION
B'NAI HARIM**



YOM HASHOAH OBSERVANCE

SUNDAY, APRIL 16, 2023

3:00 P.M.

Congregation Emanu El

1500 Sunset Blvd, Houston, Texas 77005

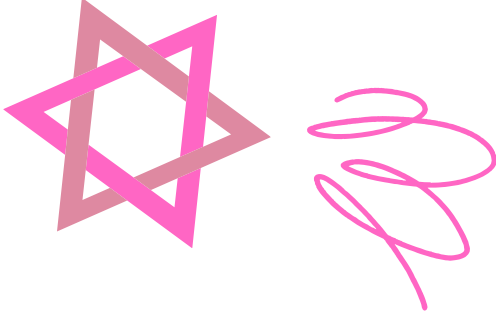
Please join us in observance of Yom HaShoah, a day of remembrance for the 6,000,000 Jewish people who lost their lives during the Holocaust. During this annual commemoration, we will mourn the loss of all who perished, honor those who survived and come together as a community to remember and reflect.

Coordinated by the Yom HaShoah Steering Committee
and Holocaust Museum Houston

Funding for this service is generously provided by:
The Morgan Family Endowment Fund, the Morgan
Family Center and the Morgan Family Foundation

To live stream this event please visit:
hmh.org/livestream





MEET

Sophia Bersin

Sophia Bersin will become a Bat Mitzvah on April 22nd. She is excited for the weekend and cannot wait to share it with her family, friends, and the entire congregation. Sophia is a 7th grader at Fort Settlement Middle School and is active in their theater program. She loved performing in the UIL play 'For Feet's Sake' and the student-directed play 'No Horse Town' this year and is excited to see what next year brings. She is an accomplished competitive gymnast and just finished a very successful year at Iron Cross Gymnastics as a Level 6 gymnast. Sophia has been a Girl Scout since kindergarten and loves camping with her troop, as there is nothing like cooking over the campfire! She loves to cook and bake at home as well. Sophia loves animals of all sizes, especially her two pups, Sandy and Rascal, and guinea pig Peanut Butter.

Sophia has been a part of CBE since preschool and has grown up in the Religious School. She loves all the baking and crafts that they do and spending time with her friends in class. Her favorite Jewish holiday is Hanukkah because she enjoys having her family together and loves the holiday food.

Her family is very proud of her and looks forward to celebrating with her in April.

✦ A AVI ABRAHAM BENLOLO'S DOCUMENTARY ✦

THE FUTURE OF ISRAEL AND ITS DEFENDERS



**JOIN US VIA ZOOM.
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26, 7:00 PM CST**

**for a private screening of
THE FUTURE OF ISRAEL AND ITS DEFENDERS**

CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION & TO RSVP





ShabbART

A celebration of the great artistic talent in our congregational family!

We're transforming our sanctuary into a showcase of works of art produced by members of our community--kids and adults.

Experience a lively musical Shabbat service--featuring our young people-- in an art-gallery atmosphere with a performance space. Following the service, we will have an "open mic" for songs, musical performances, dance, poetry, comedy, and monologues.

The only limit is your imagination!

Please send photographs, dimensions, and titles of up to three pieces of fine art to be displayed and/or a description and title of one performance piece of 3-5 minutes to be included in the open mic to cantor@betheltx.org.

Submissions are due by April 16, 2023

Saturday, Apr 15

9:30am



**SHABBAT FUN
FOR CHILDREN**

AGES BIRTH-2ND GRADE

OPEN TO THE COMMUNITY!

Shabbat at Beth El

FRIDAYS AT 7PM

In-person* Shabbat

April 14: Shabbat LIVE

**April 21: Shabbat LIVE with
Bat Mitzvah Sophia Bersin**

April 28: Shabbat LIVE

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

Virtual Shabbat

April 7: Shabbat via Zoom



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

Jewish Uber-fun Ladies Interested in Eating Together

Our next Juliet lunch will be
Wednesday, April 19, 11:30 am
at Longhorn Steakhouse
Hey 59 @ Sweetwater

[click here to RSVP](#)

R.O.M.E.O.

RETIRED OLD MEN EATING OUT

A get-together for schmoozing & interfacing
The R.O.M.E.O. group will be meeting for lunch
Friday, April 28 at Noon.

Willi's Grill
945 Highway 6
(at Hwy 90)

Questions?
Call or text
Steve Raskin
713-822-1883





APRIL EVENTS

11th

REGULAR CURRENT EVENTS - IN PERSON AT BETH EL

12:30p Bring Your Lunch

1:00p Discussion starts

25th

REGULAR CURRENT EVENTS - IN PERSON

AT THE GRAND LIVING IN RIVERSTONE

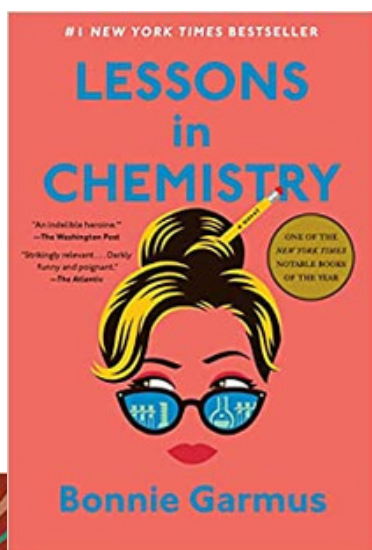
4828 LJ PKWY, SUGAR LAND, TX 77479, ROOM TO BE ANNOUNCED

12:30p Bring Your Lunch

1:00p Discussion starts

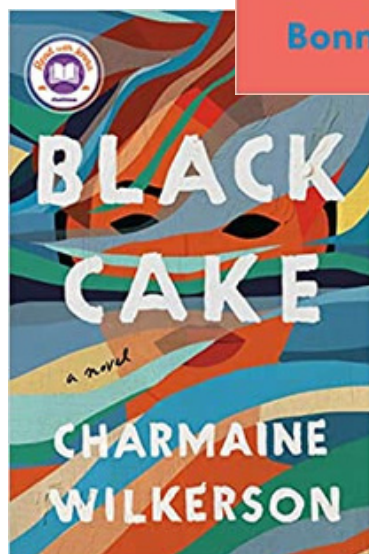


CONTACT BARB ZACK
WITH ANY QUESTIONS
OR CONCERNS
813-340-8819



the BETH EL **BOOK CLUB**

Tuesday | 7 PM
hosted by Marilyn Carlin



Apr 25 - Black Cake
May 16 - Lessons in Chemistry

CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION
ABOUT THE BOOK AND TO RSVP

50+ years

MCTXPARKS.COM

SENIOR TRIP

**The Grand 1894
Opera House
"Fiddler on the Roof"**



**Sunday, May 7
10:30 am - 6:30 pm
Bus + Ticket: \$65
Lunch on your own**



About the trip

Come on this extra special outing down to Galveston to watch a classic musical in a historic opera house. The Grand was built in 1894 and is still standing in splendor. We will be stopping for lunch on the seawall before the show.

Sign Up Today!

Check-in begins at 10:00 am at the Rec & Tennis Center (2701 Cypress Point Dr.).

Reserve your seat on the bus by signing up at the Rec & Tennis Center, or by calling 281-403-8637.



PURIM 2023



Seth Gratz

Senior Harp Recital



Sunday May 21
5 o'clock in the evening
Congregation Beth El
3900 Raoul Wallenberg Lane
Missouri City

22 HAPPY BIRTHDAY



**APRIL
2023**

**April 3
Dean Krantz**

**April 20
Andrea Croft
John Hernandez**

**April 10
Beverly Lestz**

**April 21
Rachel Schneider**

**April 11
Alan Morgan**

**April 24
Cyndee Satter**

**April 14
Carol Schorn**

**April 25
David Satter**

**April 16
Jonathan Elitzky**

**April 27
Mark Meyerson**

**April 18
Beau Newlin**

**April 29
Melissa Cohen-Nickels**

**April 19
Max Dushkin**





*Happy
Anniversary*

APRIL 2023

APRIL 6

FRADA BOXER & GEORGE STARKSCHALL

APRIL 11

DANIELLE RAY & EUGENE CASTORINA

APRIL 18

SHARON & RALPH MOTHNER

*'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.'*



APRIL 2023

Yahrzeits

*May their
memory be
for a
blessing.*

April 1
Sharon Nearby
Richard Steubinger

April 4
Samuel Panansky

April 5
Erv Shulkin
Carol Starkschall

April 9
Fern Carol Schneider

April 11
Eugene Mullin

April 12
Marcus Hochman

April 17
Joseph Maurice Asnes
Nathan Beckman
Marjean Rembert
Erna Stern

April 19
Gertrude Golden

April 21
Stanley Spiegel
Roy Spiegel

April 24
Ellen Goodman
Julia Milewits
Steven Lee Rosen

April 26
Ruth Cohen
Richard Jaffee

April 27
Joseph Rosky

April 28
Irving Lichtenstein

April 29
Morris Goldman

April 30
Regina Osher
Morris Wolch

April 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 8a Private Event
2 9:00a Religious School 9:30a Annual Meeting 1:00p Private Event	3	4	5  EREV PESACH	6  PESACH 2nd Night	7 7:00p Shabbat via Zoom	8
9 NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL 10:00a Private Event	10	11	12 6:30p Confirmation Class	13	14 7:00p Shabbat in-person	15 9:30a Playdate Shabbat 11:00a SMILE Shabbat service
16 9:00a Religious School 1:00p Private Event 3:00p City Wide Yom HaShoah Observance	17	18  YOM HASHOAH 7:00p Anti Semitism Conversation	19 11:30a JULIET Luncheon	20	21 7:00p Shabbat in-person	22  10:30a Shabbat Morning & Bat Mitzvah Service
23 9:00a Religious School 10:30a Shofar Lessons 1:00p Private Event	24	25 YOM HAZIKARON  7:00p Book Club	26 YOM HA'ATZMAUT  5:30p Private Event 6:30p Cub Scouts 7:00p Future of Israel movie	27	28 12p ROMEO luncheon 7:00p ShabbatART (in person)	29
30 9:00a Religious School 1:00p Private Event						

BETH EL DONATIONS

MARCH
2023

2022/2023 Dora & Daniel Soffar Operating Fund

In memory of Dora Soffar

Mr. & Mrs. Jim Paras

In memory of Erv Shulkin, grandfather of Erin Bersin

Mr. & Mrs. Michael Bersin

2022/2023 Caring Committee Fund

In memory of Richard Steubinger

Yaffa Steubinger

2022/2023 Oneg Sponsor

Mr. & Mrs. Harry Himmelstein

2023 Purim Carnival

In memory of Gina Osher

Mr. & Mrs. Marc Frank

2022/2023 Torah Fund

In memory of Max and Helen Kipp

Mr. & Mrs. Larry Rushefsky

THANK
YOU

Exchange Club of Sugar Land 36th Spaghetti Fundraiser
Saturday, April 22nd at Fluor Cafeteria 5:30-8:30 pm

**Wine, Food and Fun! Raffle, Silent Auction, Live Auction,
Children's Area, Entertainment And Sauce Competition**



**Tickets, Raffle Tickets and
Silent Auction Links at WWW.ECSL.ORG
OR TEXT Noodle to 71777**

Presented by



AND



Operation Transformation Outreach

Saturday, April 15th 10 am - 2 pm
Landmark Community Center
100 Louisiana St, Missouri City, TX 77489

AVAILABLE RESOURCES:

RENTAL ASSISTANCE
MORTGAGE ASSISTANCE
UTILITY ASSISTANCE
MENTAL HEALTH
HEALTH CARE
DENTAL CARE
PET FOOD DISTRIBUTION
LEGAL AID CLINIC
VACCINATIONS
VOTERS' REGISTRATION
COVID-19
ARPA ASSISTANCE

Questions - ds@fbtchurch.org



FT. BEND TRANSFORMATION CHURCH
ADVOCACY NOW RACE, RELIGION, RECONCILIATION

