



CHAI AT

— Beth El —

MAY 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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Message from Our President

Irene Helsinger



There is so much that I love about Congregation Beth El, but to enable CBE to thrive as the Center of Jewish life in Fort Bend County in the future, it is necessary for us to grow stronger. To me, stronger means having to set more chairs for Shabbat services, more children learning the joys of being Jewish in our religious school, and more CBE spiritual, holiday and social activities. It also means attracting more Jewish families to move to Fort Bend, knowing that a vibrant Jewish community will welcome and support their spiritual and religious needs. We also need to reintroduce ourselves to Jewish families who left CBE in years past and show them who we are today.

Spreading the word about CBE throughout the county is also essential. There are many unaffiliated families. How many times have we heard people say they didn't know a synagogue existed here?

Before we reach out externally, we need to check our internal congregational health. To begin this process, we are scheduling several open conversations, which I will facilitate, along with other members of the Board. For us to move forward effectively, we need to know what you really think. If you are unable to attend one of these meetings or if you want to reach me, I am available at 713-817-8299. If I am unable to pick up, please leave a message.

Topics include, but are not limited to:

- Shabbat Services.....I would attend more often if.....
- Communications/ Social Media.....How can we improve?
- Membership—Ideas to attract more members
- Religious school-Ideas for now and the future
- Social gatherings - What would you like to see offered?
- Fundraising - Ideas, successful experiences
- Other suggested topics

Schedule of Meetings:
May 10th 7PM on Zoom
May 18th 7PM on Zoom
May 23rd 7PM At CBE

Please click [here](#) to RSVP for the meeting of your choice.

I very much look forward to our conversations.

All the best, Irene



Thank You to these CBE members for their commitment to the Chai Program for the 2023-2024 fiscal year.



thank
you

George Starkschall and Frada Boxer

Joyce and Doug Baysinger

Michael and Erin Bersin

Ed and Marilyn Carlin

Darrell and Joy Caraway

Carol Cooper

Barry and Monica Finberg

Marc and Shelley Frank

Richard and Teresa Friedman

Craig and Colleen Goodman

Lance and Marilyn Gorel

Andrew and Alison Gratz

Marc and Irene Helsing

Harry and Leticia Himmelstein

Glenn and Jodi Kessler

Larry and Judy Ostrow

Brian and Angie Perry

Alan and Ann Schneider

Mark and Missy Shapiro

Jeff and Wendy Wormser

Barbara Zack

There is still time to add your name to this
list. [Click here for more information.](#)

CURRENT EVENTS MAY 9 & 23

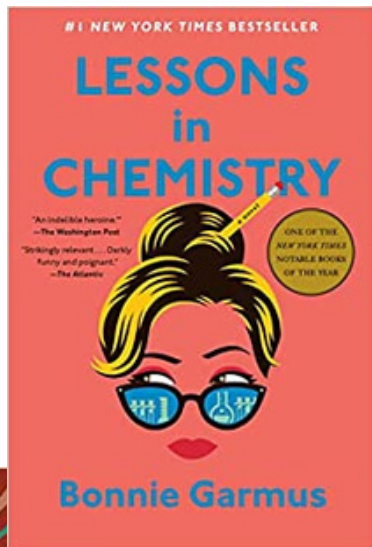
BRING YOUR LUNCH AND SMOOZE AT 12:30
DISCUSSION STARTS AT 1:00
BRING A TOPIC AND JOIN IN.
OPEN TO ALL ADULTS



QUESTIONS?

ED CARLIN AT EDWRCAR@YAHOO.COM OR (832) 886-4666

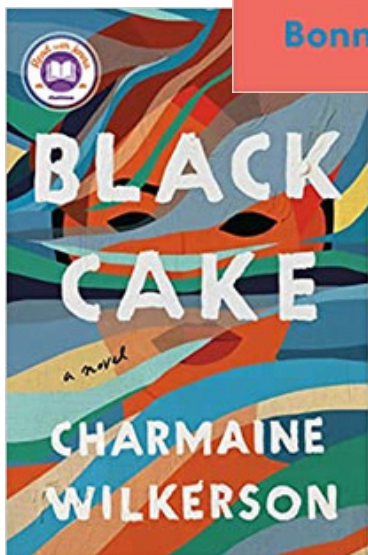
BARB ZACK AT BARBARA3132001@YAHOO.COM OR 813-340-8819



the BETH EL **BOOK CLUB**

Tuesday | 7 PM
hosted by Marilyn Carlin

May 16 - Black Cake &
Lessons in Chemistry



Everyone is welcome, even if you have yet to read the books. Everyone brings something for the group to snack on. Desert and drinks will be available. Please let me know what you plan to bring.

Contact Marilyn Carlin at marilyn@katiebear.net

CONGREGATION BETH EL'S
FRIDAY NIGHT
SHIR SHABBAT

WITH A SPECIAL BLESSING FOR
MAY BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

MAY 5

7 PM

IN PERSON

**THE BEAUTIFUL
VOICES OF
ALAN & ANNIE
SCHNEIDER
WILL BE
LEADING THE
SERVICE**



Seth Gratz

Senior Harp Recital



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



SHAVUOT COOK & SING – SEPHARDIC STYLE!

*Learn to make cheese bourekas with
Special Guest: Sarah Aroeste*

MAY 24 - 7:30 PM VIA ZOOM



Sarah Aroeste is an international Ladino singer/songwriter, author and speaker. She will teach us how to make the iconic cheese bureka while singing related and festive Ladino songs in this interactive workshop highlighting the Sephardic experience from past to present. Recipe will be sent prior to the program

Inspired by her family's roots in N. Macedonia and Greece, Sarah Aroeste is determined to bring Sephardic culture to new audiences. Since 2001, Aroeste has toured the globe presenting traditional and original Ladino songs with her unique blend of Balkan sounds, pop, and jazz.

She has recorded eight albums, including the first bilingual Ladino/English holiday album Together/Endjuntos. Sarah is currently co-directing her newest initiative, Savor: A Sephardic Music & Food Experience, which unites Sephardic song and cuisine in multi-sensory platforms.

www.betheltx.org/event/cookandsing

**THIS PROGRAM IS FREE AND OPEN
TO ALL BETH EL MEMBERS & FRIENDS**

This program is co-sponsored by participating members of a national consortium of Jewish organizations.



The poster features several colorful butterflies: a monarch-like butterfly with orange and black wings in the top left, a large teal and yellow butterfly in the top right, a monarch-like butterfly with orange and black wings in the middle left, and a yellow and orange butterfly in the bottom left. There are also yellow star-shaped flowers scattered around the text and a cluster of orange and yellow flowers in the bottom right corner.

BUTTERFLY GARDEN

DEDICATION IN HONOR OF ETHAN PERRY

WITH LIVE BUTTERFLY RELEASE

May 26, 7 PM

Join us for a special Shavuot
Shabbat service with a dairy
oneg sponsored by
the Perry family.

April Events-!- ✨



Saturday, May 13

9:30am



**SHABBAT FUN
FOR CHILDREN**

AGES BIRTH-2ND GRADE

OPEN TO THE COMMUNITY!



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

Jewish Uber-fun Ladies Interested in Eating Together

Our next Juliet lunch will be
Wednesday, May 17, 11:30 am
at Spring Creek BBQ
4895 Hwy 6

[click here to RSVP](#)

Shabbat at Beth El
FRIDAYS AT 7PM

In-person* Shabbat
May 5: Shir Shabbat
**May 26: Shabbat service &
Butterfly Garden education**

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

Virtual Shabbat
May 12: Shabbat via Zoom
May 19: Shabbat via Zoom

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, May 26 at Noon.

**Contact Steve
for location**

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



THANK YOU TO PJ LIBRARY FOR DONATING BOOKS TO OUR CHILDREN!

DOES YOUR CHILD EVER GET RESTLESS AND WANT TO READ SOMETHING OTHER THAN THE SIDDUR? WE NOW HAVE A SMALL BOOKCASE IN THE SANCTUARY IN CASE THEY WANT SOMETHING TO BORROW AND READ SOMETHING DURING SERVICES!

THE BOOKS ARE NEXT TO THE FIDGET CART NEAR THE MEMORIAL PLAQUE.

WE HOPE YOU AND YOUR FAMILY ENJOY THESE NEW READS!

IF YOUR CHILDREN ARE NOT SIGNED UP FOR FREE BOOKS FROM PJ LIBRARY, PLEASE VISIT [PJ LIBRARY.ORG](https://pjlibrary.org) FOR MORE INFORMATION. BOOKS ARE MAILED OUT MONTHLY TO EACH CHILD IN YOUR FAMILY AT NO CHARGE, AND KIDS LOVE RECEIVING MAIL ADDRESSED TO THEM.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY



**MAY
2023**

**May 1
Danielle Krantz**

**May 20
Ellen Ellison**

**May 3
Barry Shapiro**

**May 21
Marc Helsinger
Douglas Scheiner**

**May 5
Amy Okie**

**May 26
Russell Schnitzer
Sarah Kass
Cindy Sugar**

**May 9
Joanne Must**

**May 11
Debra Pacht**

**May 27
Douglas Baysinger
Sophie Friedman**

**May 17
Peggy Novy
Denise Linzer
Janice Poscovsky**

**May 28
Steven Lang
May 31
Jim Paras**

**May 18
Lillian (Lily) Friedensohn
Larry Rushefsky
Avi Ettinger
Jodi Kessler**





Happy Anniversary

MAY 2023

MAY 8

BEAU & ELIZABETH NEWLIN

MAY 15

MAURY & MICHELLE MARLOWE

MICHAEL & ERIN BERSIN

MAY 20

MARK & LORIN NUSSBAUM

MAY 25

ALAN & FRANCINE ROSENTHAL

MAY 28

ALAN & ANN SCHNEIDER

JONATHAN & AMY OKIE

MAY 30

RONALD & SANDRA SANDERS

*'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.'*



MAY 2023

Yahrzeits

*May their
memory be
for a
blessing.*

May 1
Bertha Notowich

May 2
Edward Fink
James Moody

May 5
Ann Studna

May 6
Vera Helena Rosenheim

May 8
Gladys Feldstein
Teddy Harris
Murrel Warren Koushel

May 9
Linda Levy

May 10
Jane Shane

May 12
Ruth Tawil

May 13
Alan Chapman
Eli Rothberg

May 14
Esther Gamache
Joseph Nicholas

May 16
Daniel Soffar

May 17
Brenda Blagman
Morrie Selbst

May 18
Jack Dorshaw
Mitchell Gordon
Pati Mandell

May 19
Bobbie Eisenberg

May 20
Pearl Altman
Raymond Levin
Betty Weltman

May 22
Benny Goldman
Sylvia Kostner

May 23
Sam Batogower

May 24
Helen Amhowitz Rosenfeldt

May 26
Esther Melasky
Leona Rushefsky

May 27
David Abels

May 30
Dorothy Raderman

May 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 6:30p Confirmation Class	4	5 7:00p Shabbat in-person	6
7 9:00a LAST Religious School 1:00p Private Event	8	9	10	11	12 7:00p Shabbat via Zoom	13 9:30a Playdate Shabbat
14  10:00a Private Event	15	16 7:00p Book Club	17 11:30a JULIET Luncheon 6:30p Cub Scouts	18	19 7:00p Shabbat via Zoom	20
21 10:00a Private Event 5:00p Seth Gratz Harp Recital	22	23	24 5:00p Private Event 7:30p Shavuot Cook & Sing via Zoom	25 	26 12:00p ROMEO luncheon 7:00p Shabbat & Butterfly Garden Dedication, in-person	27 
28 10:00a Private Event	29  Memorial DAY SYNAGOGUE OFFICE CLOSED	30	31 5:30p Private Event			

BETH EL DONATIONS

APRIL
2023

Cantor's Discretionary Fund

In honor of Cantor Renee Waghalter for all her friendship and support.
Mr. & Mrs. William Asnes

Caring Committee Fund

In memory of Steven Lee Rosen, brother of David Rosen and Dale Rosen.
Mr. & Mrs. David Rosen

In honor of Our many friends at CBE and the Caring Committee for all their help and concern over our family in recent months. CBE is indeed a "village," for which we are truly thankful.

Mr. & Mrs. David Rosen

In honor of the members of the Caring Committee and all others whose support and assistance with Reena's Shiva was greatly appreciated.

Mr. & Mrs. William Asnes

Dora & Daniel Soffar Operating Fund

In honor of the Bat Mitzvah of Sophia Bersin

Mr. & Mrs. Randy Shulkin

In honor of Ann and Alan Schneider for sharing their beautiful voices and love at Sophia Bersin's Bat Mitzvah.

Mr. & Mrs. Michael Bersin

In honor of Cantor Waghalter and all her amazing teaching and patience for Sophia Bersin's Bat Mitzvah

Mr. & Mrs. Michael Bersin

In honor of Jodi Kessler and the CBE Board and Staff for outstanding leadership during Jodi's tenure as President and wishing Irene Helsinger and the new Board Mazel Tov and much success!

Mr. & Mrs. David Rosen

In memory of Reena Appelberg

Ms. Carol Katz

Marilyn Gorel

Mr. & Mrs. Glenn Kessler

Elaine and Jay Silver

Mr. & Mrs. David Rosen

Ms. Carol Cooper

In memory of Bertha Notowich

Mr. & Mrs. Darrell Caraway

Security Fund

In memory of Reena Appelberg

Mr. & Mrs. Harry Himmelstein

THANK
YOU



BBYO Reunion

NOVEMBER 25, 2023

Houston BBYO alumni who graduated high school between 1975-1980:

AN EPIC REUNION IS IN THE WORKS!

Scan here to receive updates and to make sure your name is on the invitation list!



SCAN ME

The event is being sponsored by AZA #136 alum, Craig Howard.



FORT BEND INTERFAITH COUNCIL

DINNER & DIALOGUE

THERE'S A CHAIR WAITING FOR YOU

Friday May 19 | 5:30-7:30 PM | Horizon Baptist Church
2223 FM 1092, Missouri City, TX 77459

\$20 PER TICKET

Register With Your Congregation

FBINTERFAITHCOUNCIL@GMAIL.COM