The Star
April 2019 • Volume 41, Number 9

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Congregation Beth Elohim
133 Prospect Street
Acton, MA 01720

Michael Rothbaum, Rabbi
Sarra Spierer, Cantor
Beth R. Goldstein, RJE, Director of Education
Susan C. Perry, Director, Early Learning Center
Ezra Habif, Administrator
Lewis Mintz, Rabbi Emeritus
Spring Clean-up Day

Sunday April 14, 9:30 AM – noonish

Please pray that we have enough volunteers to spruce up our beloved synagogue for Passover…

But it is even better if you can show up yourself, preferably with family members!

Please mark your calendar and join in April 14. Bagels and coffee served. So take your pick—pray or show up to help out in this satisfying work.

Young and Old
Parents and Children
Planting, Clearing, Organizing, Fixing, and Arranging

Let’s get our synagogue in great shape!

Many hands make light work

RSVP if you can to:
Bob & Deena Ferrara at rferrara@mit.edu or 617-513-9355, or
George Morton at george@bethelohim.org or 978-201-9164
Moishe, Purim, and “de pushke”

The holiday of Purim follows the canonical Jewish holiday pattern: they tried to kill us; we won; let’s eat. On Purim, it is traditional to bring each other gifts of food and drinks. We call these gifts shalach manos. A traditional snack often included in shalach manos is hamantaschen, baked triangular treats with sweet filling. Hamen is the villain of the Purim story, and in Hebrew the treat is called המן אוזן (ozen Haman) meaning Haman’s ear.

When I was growing up, hamantaschen were pastries (think triangular croissant) filled with prunes, poppyseed (mohn, pronounced something between moon and mun), or maybe fruit preserves. That was what bakeries made. At home, people typically made a cookie variety (triangular, of course), with similar fillings, tending toward fruit preserves.

It’s been years since I saw the pastry variety of hamantaschen. Since I’ve spent the last few years in NYC, last year I tried to track down the hamantaschen of my youth. On Second Avenue, just south of 7th Street, I found Moishe’s Bake Shop, and when I showed up on Purim morning last year, they had both pastry and cookie hamantaschen, but they were made the day before, and pastry pretty much has to be fresh.

The cookie variety is more robust.

This year, I arrived at Moishe’s early, the morning before Purim began (one day earlier than last year), and the place looked closed. Not just after hours closed, but windows papered with plain brown paper closed. Are you kidding me? Well, they have another shop on the Lower East Side on Grand Street, Moishe’s Bakery, so I went there, arriving around 8 AM, but they were also closed. However, it was a normal looking closed. I was disappointed though, and Siri did not have an answer for “hamantaschen near me.” So I headed for work.

But wait; there’s more. Mid afternoon, I called Moishe’s, and I asked about the shops and the hours. An older man answered, and when I mentioned the shop had been closed in the morning, he started aggressively asking me questions, “What do you mean it wasn’t open? What time were you there?” I asked if this was Moishe, and it was! I wished him שמח פורים (Purim sameach or happy Purim) and said I just wanted hamantaschen. He said to go back to the shop and tell them Moishe sent me, and they’ll give me a good deal. An hour or two later, I called the shop directly and confirmed they’d be open until 6 PM, and they still had plenty of hamantaschen.

At 5:15 or so, I left work for the CitiBike station, and bumped into two colleagues preparing to ride, Bill to Grand Central, and Enrique along Grand Street.

(continued on the next page)
Enrique and I rode 2/3 of my route together before he broke off to take a bridge to Brooklyn. Enrique rode off calling Purim sameach (with an excellent accent).

I arrived at Moishe’s around 5:40, delighted to see pastry hamantaschen on the counter and boxes and boxes of cookie hamantaschen on the shelf. The proprietor, had begun his Purim celebration early with a little wine (or a lot), I think. He was nice enough, and I told him I wanted a dozen pastry hamantaschen and a couple of dozen of the smaller cookie variety. “You have mohn?” ,”Only in the cookies. This morning we had everything”. (But you weren’t open!!!)

The customer after me was also interested in a pastry hamantaschen, but was hesitant to take one I might have ordered. I told him I was buying his hamantaschen for him as a gift, and he balked, thanking me but declining. I didn’t take no for an answer, saying it was Purim, and it would taste better as a gift. The proprietor backed me up, "It's Purim; he's right!" My new friend accepted; we introduced ourselves, and had a nice chat.

When the bill came (~$56), I whipped out my credit card ... cash or check only . I don't have the cash ... . The proprietor said, “I’ll give you my address, and you'll send a check later”. There was an ATM across the street, but the fellow protested, "They charge a dollar and a half; you'll send a check later." I just wanted to settle my bill, so I went for the cash. I returned a few minutes later, and the proprietor said the fellow I treated, who had left, was so happy that he insisted on putting $5 "in de pushke," a charity box, "for your health!" I thanked him for telling me and gestured to put my change in de pushke as well. While it’s always good to give charity, it’s especially so on Purim.

I got my pastry hamantaschen, and ate it too. I think by the next day I ate it three.

(Thanks to Heidi for helping me turn my random thoughts into English with a bit of Yiddish & a bit of Hebrew.)

Yiddish & Contemporary Israeli Music: WERS, 88.9 FM, broadcasts Chagigah, Sunday mornings 8:00–11:00.

It’s CBE’s 50th Anniversary! Who knew?

Did you know that CBE will celebrate its 50th anniversary on December 1, 2019? Time flies! We are seeking volunteers for various 50th anniversary committees who can help organize events, execute fund raising, research CBE’s history, and more. We will want to mark this significant milestone in multiple ways throughout 2019.

No experience is required to serve on a committee but we hope some of the volunteers enjoy event planning, fund raising, publicity, graphic design, history, and all around being creative, etc. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact development@bethelohim.org. We will launch the effort with a brainstorming meeting in January. We hope you will join us!

The next time you want to buy a book—or practically anything else.

When you shop using Amazon Smile, Amazon will donate 0.5% of your purchase amount to Congregation Beth Elohim. For easy, one-time directions, visit www.bethelohim.org. Pull down the “Give” menu at the upper right, and click on “Shop Amazon.”

How to Reach Us

Telephone

The congregation office telephone number is 978–263–3061. Dial these extensions for:

- Ezra Habif 1
- Rabbi Rothbaum 2
- Cantor Spierer 3
- Beth Goldstein 4
- Susan C. Perry & ELC 5

Web Site

Our congregation web site, www.bethelohim.org, includes the online edition of The Star as well as a variety of other information including a bookstore link (Amazon.com) and a donation form.
## Donations

The congregation thanks our members, their relatives and friends, and the larger community for donations recently received...

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>To the General Fund from:</th>
<th>To the Cantoral Fund from:</th>
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<tr>
<td>Ronni Kenger in honor of Doris &amp; Fred Goldstein’s new granddaughter, Brooke, daughter of Carri &amp; Rob.</td>
<td>Aliza Lamdan &amp; Paul Orr in honor of Samara Orr’s Bat Mitzvah.</td>
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### To the Hineni Capital Campaign Fund Raiser:

Pam & Jonah Laufer in memory of my uncle, Harold Brown.

### To the Rabbi’s Discretionary Fund from:

Aliza Lamdan & Paul Orr in honor of Samara Orr’s Bat Mitzvah.


Herman & Suzanne Kabakoff

### To the Adult Ed Fund from:

Doris & Fred Goldstein in memory of Jerome Saks, father of Ronni Kenger, with deepest sympathy.

Doris & Fred Goldstein in memory of Dr. Harold Homefield, father of Joan Gluck, with deepest sympathy.

Doris & Fred Goldstein in memory of Henry Lee Berliner, father of Susan Goldman, with deepest sympathy.

### To the Cantoral Fund from:

Aliza Lamdan & Paul Orr in honor of Samara Orr’s Bat Mitzvah.


### To the Choir Fund from:

Aliza Lamdan & Paul Orr in honor of Samara Orr’s Bat Mitzvah.

Bob & Kathie Becker in honor of Naomi Katz Mintz on the occasion of her birthday.

### To the Chessed Fund from:

Dan & Shelley Klein in memory of my cousin, Naomi Newman, on the occasion of her yahrzeit.

### To the Amy Naparstek Fund from:

Chips & David Naparstek: “Best wishes to Meryl Widman for a complete and speedy recovery.”

Chips & David Naparstek: “Best wishes to Risa Brooks for a complete and speedy recovery.”

Chips & David Naparstek: “Best wishes to Naomi Katz Mintz for her special birthday, with love.”

Chips & David Naparstek: “Wishing a hearty mazal tov to Doris & Freddy Goldstein and their family, on the birth of their granddaughter, Brooke, with love.”
Shabbat B’Yachad!!
A Shabbat evening of praying, singing, and eating together!

Friday, April 5, 2019

@ 5:30pm... All of our youngest children and their grownups are invited to sing, dance, and pray with Rabbi Mike and Beth Goldstein.

@ 6:10pm.... This is a bring your own dairy/vegetarian dinner. Tot Shabbat families stay for dinner and Ruach Shabbat participants come early. We will have Challah and Grape Juice. Blessings begin at 6:10pm.

@ 7:00pm. Join together for a joyous Shabbat service for all ages.

For more information contact Beth Goldstein, Director of Education at bethg@bethelohim.org.
CBE CHOIR ANNUAL MUSIC SHABBAT

MUZIKA DEL SHABAT

SEPHARDIC AND LADINO MELODIES FROM SPAIN TO SOUTH AMERICA

FRIDAY, MAY 17, 7:30 PM
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<td>Candle Lighting Time—7:14 EDT</td>
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# — Denotes services conducted by both Rabbi and Cantor

The congregation calendar is also online at http://www.bethelohim.org/calendar.html
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April 2019

The deadline for the May issue of *The Star* is April 15

Articles submitted to *The Star* must include a contact name in case of questions.

Congregant email addresses listed in the CBE Directory are to be used solely for CBE matters.