



Bulletin

Happy Passover

April 10th-18th

**Our first Seder is
Monday, April 10**



Save the Date! *Tikkun Leil Shavuot*

*A night of study and a
community dinner.*

Tuesday evening, May 30

*Mark your calendars now and
watch your email for details!*



**Shabbat Under the Stars is coming!!
Watch email for details.**

At the home of Sandy Levy & Joe Brachfeld

Inside

Rabbi's Table3
President's Greeting.....4

School & Youth News5
Donations14

April/May 2017 Service Schedule

April

April 7

7:07pm Candle Lighting
6:30pm Kabbalat Shabbat Service

April 8

9:30am Shabbat Service
10:30am Shabbat Youth Service

April 10, Fast of the Firstborn

7:30am Minyan, including Siyyum for firstborns
10:44am Last time to eat chametz
11:49am Chametz must be burned/ disposed of (a fire will be available for burning chametz after the siyyum)
7:10pm Candlelighting and First Seder

April 11

9:30am Yom Tov Service
10:30am Pesach Youth Service
8:19pm Candlelighting from pre-existing flame, 2nd Seder

April 12

9:30am Yom Tov Service

April 14

7:14pm Candle Lighting
6:30pm Kabbalat Shabbat Service

April 15

9:30am Shabbat Service

April 16

7:17pm Candlelighting for 7th Day Pesach

April 17

9:30am Yom Tov Service
8:26pm Candlelighting from pre-existing flame

April 18

9:30am Yom Tov Service, including Yizkor
8:27pm Havdalah for the end of Pesach
8:30pm Chametz ownership returns to those who sold

April 21

7:22pm Candle Lighting
6:30pm Kabbalat Shabbat Service

April 22

9:30am Shabbat Service
10:30am Shabbat Youth Service

April 28

7:29pm Candle Lighting
6:30pm Kabbalat Shabbat Service

April 29

9:30am Shabbat Service
Bat Mitzvah of Gillian Lipsky

Office Closed: April 11, 12, 17 & 18

May

May 5

7:37pm Candle Lighting
6:30pm Kabbalat Shabbat Service

May 6

9:30am Shabbat Service
Bar Mitzvah of Nathan Meyers

May 12

7:44pm Candle Lighting
6:30pm Kabbalat Shabbat Service

May 13

9:30am Shabbat Services
Bat Mitzvah of Lia Gordon
10:30am Shabbat Youth Service

May 19

7:51pm Candle Lighting
6:30pm Kabbalat Shabbat Service

May 20

9:30am Congregational Bat Mitzvah celebration of Talia Moss
10:30am Shabbat Youth Service

May 26

7:57pm Candle Lighting
6:30pm Kabbalat Shabbat Service

May 27

9:30am Shabbat Service
Bat Mitzvah of Lily Fanwick

May 29

8:00am Minyan
9:30am Bat Mitzvah of Talia Moss

May 30, Erev Shavuot

8:00pm Candle Lighting
Tikkun Leil Shavuot (community dinner & night of study), details to come

May 31, Shavuot

9:30am Yom Tov Service
9:09pm Candlelighting

Office Closed: May 29

June 1

9:30am Yom Tov Service, including Yizkor

THE BETH EL BULLETIN

Congregation Beth El

Affiliated with the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism and the Jewish Theological Seminary of America

109 East Avenue, Norwalk, CT 06851
(203) 838-2710 • www.congbethel.org

RABBI Ita Paskind
ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR Jody Dietch
NAVASKY DIRECTOR Alfred Treidel
NITZAN SCHOOL DIRECTOR Amy SantaLucia

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT Sharon DeFala
1st VP FUNDRAISING Josh Lander
2nd VP HR/RITUAL David Loewenberg
VP EDUCATION Dina Fleischmann, Stephanie Gordon
VP STRATEGIC PLANNING Gary Mozer
TREASURER Hilary Shaefitz
FINANCIAL SECRETARY Ellen Wasserman
RECORDING SECRETARY David Rossen
CORRESPONDING SECRETARY Esther Lester

TRUSTEES

Term expiring 2017	Term expiring 2018	Term expiring 2019
Winthrop Baum	Marguerite Felsenfeld	Michelle Fanwick
Albert Eskenazi	Josh Kesselman	Stuart Garrelick
Steven Freshman	Linda Lerman	Paul Ginsberg
Noah Goldman	Andrew Meyers	Josh Hurwitz
Howard Greenberg	Robert Neumann	Melissa Marlowe
Sean McDonnell	Sharon Rosen	Andrew Moss
Jessica Rutherford	Regina Young	Nancy Oberst
Sam Shukovsky		Alison Sherman
		David Weinstein

Lifetime Trustee

Harold Morgenthaler

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

ADULT EDUCATION	Linda Lerman
B'NAI MITZVAH	Danielle DeCrette, Jennifer Lipsky
BUDGET	Hilary Shaefitz
CALENDAR	Esther Lester
CHAI SOCIETY	TBD
COLLEGE CONNECTION	Michelle Fanwick, Marcia Helfand
COMMUNICATIONS	David Rossen
DINNER/KITCHEN	Ellen Wasserman
FRIDAY NIGHT	David Lester, Esther Lester
FUNDRAISING	Nancy Oberst
HIGH HOLIDAY	Marvin Rosenbaum, Riva Silverman, James Sugarman
HOUSE	Winthrop Baum
INVESTMENT ADV. COMMITTEE	TBD
L'CHAIM SOCIETY	TBD
MEMBERSHIP	Melissa Marlowe, Ali Hurwitz
MEMORIAL PARK	Paul Ginsberg, Dr. Stephen Green, Abram Heisler, Keith Satter
MITZVAH DAY	Jessica Rutherford
NAVASKY RELIGIOUS SCHOOL	Marguerite Felsenfeld, Naomi Heftler
NITZAN NURSERY SCHOOL	Lindsey Rossen
NOMINATING	Keith Satter
OFFICE	David Weinstein
PROGRAMMING	Stuart Garrelick
PUBLICITY/MARKETING	Alison Sherman
RITUAL COMMITTEE	David Hirshfield, Andrew Moss, Marvin Rosenbaum
SECURITY	Steven Freshman
SOCIAL COMMITTEE	Stuart Garrelick
TOT SHABBAT/YOUTH SERVICE	Andrea Goldman
TRUST FUND/SPECIAL FUNDS	Robert Gordon
WEBSITE	Andrew Meyers
YOUTH	Michelle Fanwick

Join us for Minyan Monday-Friday at 8:00am

Rabbi's Table by Rabbi Ita Paskind

Welcoming Guests to Our Seder

Pesach is right around the corner, and we will either welcome guests or be guests ourselves around the seder table.

There is a story in the midrash (Leviticus Rabbah) about a rabbi, Rabbi Yanai, who came across a distinguished man while walking on the road, and invited him home. He wine and dined him, and then tested his knowledge of biblical and rabbinic literature. The man knew nothing. Rabbi Yanai invited him to lead Birkat HaMazon, the grace after meals, and the man declined, suggesting that Rabbi Yanai should be the leader in his own home. Yanai then asked, "Can you repeat what I'm about to say?" The man agreed. Yanai said: "A dog has eaten the bread of Yanai." The man replied: "My inheritance is in your possession and you withhold it from me?"

We must consider this interaction from both Rabbi Yanai's perspective and that of his guest. Rabbi Yanai clearly wanted to interact with a knowledgeable person, someone from whom he could learn or at least have an engaging conversation. His guest, on the other hand, wasn't interested in showing off, but in genuine deepening of his own understanding of Jewish tradition and text. Unfortunately, he was rejected by his host for his lack of knowledge.

This story is crucially important for us Jews as we head into Pesach, a holiday focused on the home, on hospitality, and on learning and teaching. The seder nights are a big opportunity to engage in deep conversations and to draw out the opinions of every person around the table, regardless of age, level of Jewish knowledge, or even religion. In order to keep everyone engaged, we must prepare. If you lead a seder, select some conversation topics related to the seder. Ask your guests to prepare to lead a section of the haggadah, or ask them an interesting question in advance, to be answered while sitting around the table. While none of us would dream of behaving like Rabbi Yanai in the midrash, we must be conscious of the skills and talents of those around the table, and we must work—like all teachers—to draw out each participant and make him or her know that they are valued.

Chag Kasher v'Sameach,
Rabbi Ita Paskind

Thank you to our sponsors for our very successful Paul Singer Memorial Artist in Residence Weekend

A huge Todah Rabah to Michelle Fanwick and Naomi Heftler for co-chairing, to our program main sponsors, Susan & Gary Singer and Linda & Stephen Stein, and to the committee: Caryn Edelman, Eric Fanwick, Lily Fanwick, Kate Greenberg, Jeff Heftler, Tammy Heftler, Barbara Lenchek, Aviva Moss, Linda Stein, and Ellen Wasserman.

Kiddush Sponsors:

Leon Berkowitz
Helen & Stephen Chodroff
The DeFala Family
Caryn & Daniel Edelman
Michelle & Eric Fanwick
Feldstein-Loewenberg family
Arthur & Ellen Gerstein
Rhonda & Larry Ginsberg
Stephanie & Neil Gordon
Leona & Hazel Lepofsky
Harvey & Lisa Luft
Harry Morgenthaler
Rabbi Ita Paskind
Sharon & Marc Rosen
Hilary & Don Shaefitz
Linda & Stephen Stein
Irma & Joe Schachter
Kim Krieger & Brian Tyson
Ellen & Joel Wasserman

Seudah Shlishit-Havdallah Sponsors:

The Eskenazi Family
Stuart Garrelick
Ellen & Arthur Gerstein
Riva Silverman & Abram Heisler
Harvey & Lisa Luft

Save the Date!
Congregation Beth El-Norwalk
2017 Annual Meeting
Tuesday night, April 25, 7:30 pm

Thank you to our teen service leaders who come and lead Shabbat ShaBOOM and Mini Minyan:

Noah Morgan, Nate Edelman, Carolina Hirshfield,
Gabi Hirshfield, Sarah Bernstein, Lily Meyers
and Sara Helfand

President's Greeting by Sharon DeFala

On Tuesday night May 24, 2016, the newest iteration of the Beth El Board of Trustees was impaneled for the first time. Plenty of returning veterans sat around the table, and a small crop of new recruits entered our ranks for the first time. Our leadership structure includes nine officers and 24 trustees, plus all past presidents are permanently invited to attend board meetings. We were all there for the same reason, and we were also there for as many different reasons as the number of people in the room.

Our officers each have a portfolio for which they are responsible all year long, and they attend an Executive Committee meeting every month. Our trustees volunteer by chairing some events or committees, serving on other committees – either long term standing committees, or one-off items – and by lending their voice, perspective, and leadership at the monthly Board meetings.

Some people join the Board because they are passionate about an issue – such as Hebrew school or adult education, ritual or social action – or because it is an opportunity to be social with other Jews after a long day/week/month of structure and deadlines, or out of a sense of obligation to our community. Some people volunteer because it makes them feel closer to parents or grandparents; others to set an example for their own children and grandchildren.

That first meeting, we stood in the social hall and we wrote a mission statement. Not the mission of Beth El as a whole, but just for the 12 months that this group of people would be working together. We brainstormed all of the reasons to leave our families and trek to shul on a Tuesday night in rain or snow or any other weather after a long day of work or kids or both, and facing another similar day in 12 hours. And then we fulfilled one of the great jokes about a room full of Jews – we argued! And, eventually, we narrowed our focus to three primary points: people in one corner of the room said that our mission as a Board was to be fiscally responsible. Another corner's group said that our guiding purpose needed to be increasing membership. And the third group steadfastly held that we need to make events, programs, and even our services so engaging and attractive that everyone – members and non-members alike – would want to be here.

Eventually, we realized that the three remaining priorities all support each other, and none is realistic without the other two. This was the resulting statement:

Mission of the Board of Trustees 2016 – 2017: Increase and retain membership by making Beth El engaging and attractive while continuing to be fiscally responsible.

And it has been the guiding principle of every meeting of the Board of Trustees, written right at the top of every month's

agenda. I am proud of the work this Board has done. Some decisions were difficult, some were easy. Some meetings were more fun than others. But all of our officers, trustees, and volunteers have given freely of their time, money, opinions (plenty of opinions!), patience and generosity to make our shul, our own Jewish community tucked into the larger global Jewish world.

We currently have approximately 210 member families. I would hazard a guess that at least one representative from one-half of our member families volunteered in one way or another over the past year. Whether hosting or working on a dinner, oneg Shabbat, Kiddush, fundraiser, or social event, organizing or running events for Shavuot, Sukkot, Simchat Torah, Hanukkah and Purim, Navasky and Nitzan events, baking hamentaschen, leading a book group or Hebrew class, providing free legal services, stuffing envelopes, making a minyan, visiting a shiva house, driving a friend, and leading services, reading or teaching Torah, and learning to lead a new part of the service, our volunteers make us a vital, engaged, and vibrant community.

On Tuesday night, April 25, 2017, a new slate of officers and trustees will be elected at our annual meeting. Some officers will be continuing, or moving to new roles. Josh Lander will be stepping down from the Executive Board after 10 years as VP House and two years as VP fundraising. Gary Mozer, who has been on and off the Executive Committee over the years in various roles such as VP Strategic Planning and VP membership, will be continuing to chair the Strategic Planning Committee as a trustee.

We will also be honoring a few of our outstanding volunteers from the past year.

Please join us. The annual meeting is Tuesday night, April 25 at 7:30 pm. Help us thank the volunteers who made this year wonderful. Get a sneak preview of the coming year! Maybe you'll find your passion, too.

Thank you to those who helped with shopping and set up for Friday night Oneg Shabbats and Saturday Kiddush:

February:

Karen Schwam
Sharon Rosen
Alison Sherman
Hilary Shaefitz
Ellen Wasserman

March:

Kate Greenberg
Kathie Oberst

Navasky News by Al Treidel, Director of Education

There are so many great things planned between now and the end of the school year that I am excited to share with you. First, our Navasky Chants Challenge: our youngsters have been mastering so many lines of Siddur that we diverted the El Al jet flying from Israel to Norwalk to Florida (to pick me up and bring me to Norwalk to celebrate with our youngsters another wonderful year in our new Siddur program). Some classes have been doing so well that they have been advanced to the next grade level's curriculum. It looks like the enrichment curriculum that Rabbi Paskind recorded for our ESiddur program this past summer will be put to great use earlier than expected.

We kicked off the month of April with the presentation of Siddurim with covers that were decorated by parents, to our third graders. On Sunday, April 2, our Kindergarten through Grade 2 youngsters and their parents observed a wonderful Model Seder together that was age-appropriate and provided great fun for all those in attendance. Our grades 3 through 7 youngsters were involved in our Third Annual Passover Round Robin Competition. Youngsters organized into multi-grade teams that travelled to 6 or 7 Passover Challenge Centers to be engaged in learning and review challenges. Among the centers were inventing Passover Raps that must include certain specific words in them. At the very end of the challenge, everyone gathered in the Sanctuary to watch the different groups perform their raps. Other challenge centers included: Passover Scavenger Hunt, Passover Music Competition, Passover Quiz Challenge and much more. What a great way to enrich your knowledge of such an important Jewish Holiday! On Saturday, April 8, our 4th and 5th graders will assume the role of Jewish heroes for our Wax Museum Simulation during the congregational Kiddush. It promises to be a lot of fun for everyone in attendance.

On Sunday, April 23, our 7th graders and their parents will have an opportunity to meet with Holocaust survivor Betty Deutsche, who will share her experiences during one of the darkest times in our people's history. Betty was here last year, and every person in the room was moved by what they heard. Yom HaShoah is the next day. The following week, in honor of Yom HaAtzmaut (Israel Independence Day), our youngsters will join Jewish children from all over Fairfield County for a special set of activities and observances taking place at the Shelton Sports Center. Parents are invited to join us there or can meet the bus when it returns to Beth El. It promises to be a memorable experience which is being coordinated by educational directors from various synagogues and our four Young Israeli Emissaries. All children in grades Kindergarten and up, along with our teachers and madrichim, will be participating in this awesome event.

The excitement continues the following week, on May 7, with our Grade 6 Parsha Expo. Each 6th grader is responsible to create an exhibit that shares the meaning of part or all his/her Bar/Bat Mitzvah Parsha. Our youngsters are so very creative and clever. In the past, many 6th graders utilized technology to enhance their project. Join us between 9:45 and 11:00 am to see what our youngsters have created and hear all about their specific Parshiot. Our pre-K through 2nd grade families will have a special Shabbat Dinner at 5:30 pm on Friday, May 19. The children will demonstrate some of what they have learned this year and, with their families, will enjoy a child-friendly dairy dinner. What a wonderful way of celebrating a great year! We end the school year with a special moving up assembly for all our youngsters and their parents on Sunday, May 21. Children will receive moving-up certificates and special awards and recognitions will be presented and we will honor our 7th graders as they progress to the next important milestone of Jewish learning. There is still so much going on at Navasky Explorers right up until the final day of school. Join us when you can and help us to celebrate another very exciting year.



The Amazing 4th & 5th grade!

Navasky Annual Passover Round Robin



Students are challenged to sing as many Passover songs and chant as many Haggadah prayers and Blessings as they can for the Passover Round Robin Competition



Prizes are awarded to the winning Round Robin Team



Kindergarten, 1st, and 2nd Graders lead a joyous Seder with Rabbi Paskind and Morah Danette. Many thanks to the parents who prepared the meal!

Nitzan News by Amy SantaLucia, Director

Such wonderful things have been going on at Nitzan. Every day brings new and exciting adventures not only for the children, but for the teachers as well. Our school is a very warm, family-like environment where the children grow and develop at their own pace. We are currently accepting registration for the 2017-2018 school year. If you know anyone with pre-school aged children, please tell them about Nitzan or have them stop by. We are always open for tours. We will also be running our Summer Fun camp program starting June 14th. Don't miss any of the fun... become part of the Nitzan family.



Believe it or not, the tooth fairy made a surprise visit to Nitzan. She sprinkled pixie dust all over the children. While visiting she taught them the importance of brushing carefully and going to the dentist on a regular basis. The children were quite mesmerized by her fairy dress.

We spent a lot of time learning about Tu B'Shevat/the birthday of the trees. We had a big celebration to honor the day which even entailed tree hats. The students traveled to different centers. Each center had an activity that taught them about taking care of the earth and the trees. They even decorated a canvas grocery bag that their parents can use at the store. I think their favorite activity was the fruit tasting graph that we made. YUMMY!!

The Darien Nature Center came to visit us. We had the children guess what animals they might bring to share with



Keep those BoxTops coming... Nitzan earns 10 cents for each one we collect!

us. Some of their guesses were interesting!! We did get to see AND TOUCH a hedgehog, a bunny, a bird, a turtle and a ferret. The children had a blast!!

Despite the storm that was brewing, we were able to hold our Pizza and Movie Night. The children arrived ready to

have some fun. We showed the movie "Rio 2". Lots of playing went on, some movie viewing and a whole lot of pizza and ice-cream eating occurred.



Boy, did we have fun building up some excitement for Purim. The week before Purim, we had a Weird Wacky Week. Monday was pajama day, Tuesday was mismatched day, Wednesday was hat day, Thursday was sunglasses day and Friday was school spirit day. By the time Purim rolled around, we were ready to wear our costumes to school. Besides having fun at our carnival and jumping in the bounce house, we also enjoyed listening to the story of Purim and interacting with the Haman, Queen Esther, Mordechai and Vashti puppets. We sang a lot of silly Purim songs as well and had ample opportunity to use the groggers that we made (BOO!!). Of course, baking and eating our very own Hamantashen was the biggest hit.

Next up...Passover. We will be holding a very special model Seder on April 5th. At the Seder, the children will be acting out the story of Passover and singing Passover songs. Each child will get to bring home their very own Seder plate, matzah cover and Elijah cup. They will be all set for their Seders in their own homes.

This Spring we will also be flying to Israel – stay tuned for our flight information and itinerary.

Don't forget...please help us to recruit new children for Nitzan. Spread the word about all the fun, exciting things we do here at Nitzan!!



B'nai Mitzvah



Gillian Lipsky

Gillian Lipsky will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on Saturday, April 29, 2017. Gillian is the daughter of David and Jennifer Lipsky, Granddaughter of Mark and Paulette Brachman and sister of Cole Lipsky. Gillian lives in Wilton and is a seventh grade student at Middlebrook School.

Gillian enjoys gymnastics and dancing as well as spending time with friends and family.

For her Mitzvah project Gillian has joined forces with Isabella Sabatino and an amazing group of individuals starting a new organization called Kids for Kids. This organization is charged with raising funds to provide youth with the opportunity to attend summer camp.

Becoming a Bat Mitzvah is the culmination of all of Gillian's hard work and education and the ability to participate as an adult at Congregation Beth El.

Thank you to all of her Hebrew School teachers, Rabbi Paskind and Bracha Moshe for all of their help and support in reaching this special day.

To Lia becoming a Bat Mitzvah means a lot of important things. One of them is having the responsibility of being a Jewish adult, whether she is in synagogue or life in general. Another one she believes in, is the importance to carry out Jewish traditions for further generations to come. Overall Lia is very overjoyed that she gets to celebrate this occasion together with all of her family and friends.



Nathan Meyers

Nathan Meyers will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on Saturday, May 6, 2017. Nathan is the son of Andrea Tolchinsky and Andy Meyers. Nathan lives in Wilton, CT with his parents and sister, Lily.

Nathan is a 7th grader at Hopkins School in New Haven and enjoys many activities – when he's not doing homework – including swimming as a member of the Wilton Wahoos swim team, cross country running for his school team, cooking and travel. On the latter, Nathan enjoys preparing family vacations arrangements which typically include out-of-the-way museums and cultural highlights. For instance, on a recent trip to two Civil War battlefields, Manassas and Gettysburg, Nathan researched all elements of each battle in advance so he could serve as the trip guide. Nathan is also an avid "storm tracker," routinely analyzing and discussing extreme weather patterns.

For Nathan, becoming a Bar Mitzvah means taking on the responsibility of being a Jewish adult and celebrating an important occasion with family and friends. For his Bar Mitzvah project, Nathan is writing and translating letters to two girls in India for whom his family sponsors education. Nathan felt he would like to get to know the girls and create a stronger connection beyond financial support his family provides and is looking forward to building a pen pal relationship with them.

Nathan looks forward to "the big day" and continues to prepare diligently for his call to the Bimah. Nathan would like to thank for Rabbi Paskind and Neima Hirsch for their terrific support through his Bar Mitzvah preparation.



Lia Gordon

Lia Gordon is very excited to be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on May 13, 2017. She lives in Wilton with her parents, Neil and Stephanie Gordon, her sister Rachel who is a freshman in college, and their dog Freddie a labradoodle. She enjoys dance, especially hip hop, hanging out with her friends, and playing lacrosse. She will spend her 5th summer at Camp Schodack this year, which she loves.

For her mitzvah project, Lia is going to be a volunteer with Food Rescue US. There she will help deliver food that would otherwise go to waste, to help end hunger in America.

B'nai Mitzvah

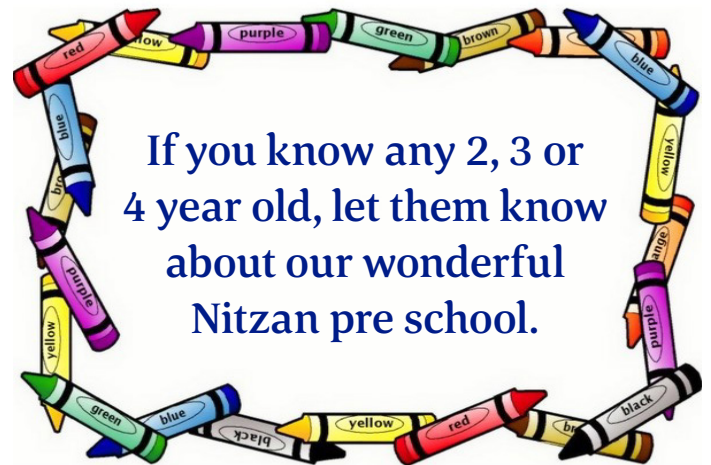


Talia Moss

Hello, my name is Talia Moss. I live in Stamford with my parents, Caryn and Andrew, my younger sister, Aviva, and my dog, Timmy. I am a 7th grader at Carmel Academy Day School. My Bat Mitzvah is on Monday, May 29th and my parsha will be Nasso. I will also be chanting the haftorah for the congregation on Saturday, May 20th. The congregation is invited to join us for kiddush lunch following the service on the 20th.

Services, stuffing envelopes, and setting tables for dinners. This year she made Super Sunday phone calls for Jewish Philanthropy of Upper Fairfield County. Lily also gives a helping hand to Hadassah whenever the need arises, even making and selling origami earrings for their Sukkot Dinner.

For her Mitzvah Project, Lily will be raising funds for the Child Life Department at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. Child Life provides activities for the patients at CHOP and also teaches patients how to take care of themselves. Lily looks forward to continuing her participation at Congregation Beth El.



If you know any 2, 3 or 4 year old, let them know about our wonderful Nitzan pre school.



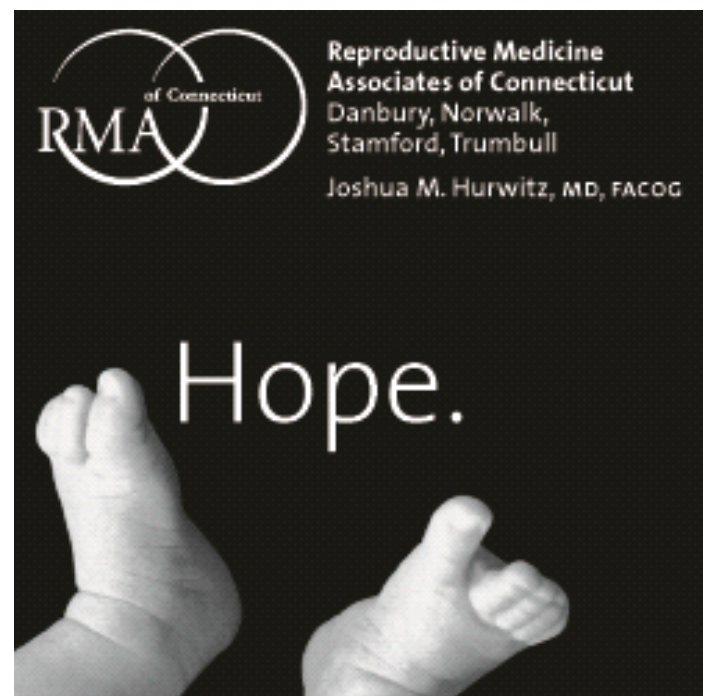
Lily Fanwick

Lily Shoshanah Tichauer Fanwick lives in Wilton, CT and is the daughter of Michelle Tichauer Fanwick and Eric Fanwick. She follows her siblings Max, Joan and Emily in being a Bat Mitzvah at Congregation Beth El. Lily has spent a lot of time in this building; it is truly her second home!

Lily began her Jewish education in this very building at the Nitzan Pre-School (Thank you Beverly

Stein and Rabbi Ron Fish). She has had the privilege of attending Carmel Academy since Kindergarten, where her Jewish studies are intertwined with the secular studies. The amazing teachers at Carmel Academy have inspired Lily and shared their love of learning and Yiddishkeit. A special thank you to Rabbi Ita Paskind and Bracha Moshe for providing their knowledge and guidance in helping Lily to complete her Bat Mitzvah preparation.

During the summer, Lily attends Surprise Lake Camp. At school Lily is a motivator and Ruach Leader for Angels and Prophets, the Carmel Academy Band. Following in her sister's footsteps, Lily has been dancing since she was three years old; tap, ballet, toe and jazz at Dance Dimensions. Lily has volunteered at CBE helping with Tot Shabbat and Youth



NEW! OPINION/EDITORIAL

There are times when it feels that the currents and tides of events in the outside world are far removed from the “sanctuary” of our house of worship. 2017 America is not one of those times. From the doors we use to enter our building and the choices we make about telephone access, from the way we promote our ritual celebrations to the budget discussions surrounding our schools – life at Congregation Beth El is directly impacted by current events in the United States and in the world today.

Each week at the end of the Torah service we pray for our country with these words: “We ask Your blessing for our country, for its government, for its leader and advisors, and for all who exercise just and rightful authority.”

Recently, Beth El has begun to receive an increase in the letters and emails from our congregants commenting on the political world in which we find ourselves. We, as American Jews in the Conservative movement, suddenly feel that we are on the front lines of the news, and that it is important to our own survival and that of Israel that we take an active role in understanding what this moment is and what it means.

Here is an opportunity for us to address the government, its leaders and advisors in our own back yard. We have decided to try a new page in our beloved Beth El Bulletin, this Op/Ed page, as a platform for some of the interesting and considered opinions we receive from our congregants. We are hoping to create a place for current discourse from a broader range of voices.

We encourage you to read the opinions expressed here and consider adding your own insights and perspective to the conversation. We are seeking discussion that enlightens the conversation about what it means to be a Conservative Jew in Fairfield County today.

The views and opinions expressed on this page are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of Congregation Beth El-Norwalk, its clergy, staff, or volunteers.

The page itself, as part of this whole endeavor, is with the same goal we recite every Shabbat: “May this land under Your Providence be an influence for good throughout the world, uniting all men in peace and freedom.”

Disclaimer: *The views and opinions expressed on this page are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of Congregation Beth El-Norwalk, its clergy, staff, or volunteers.*

Letter to the Editor

After hundreds of bomb threats to hundreds of Jewish institutions across the nation and desecration of hundreds of gravestones in half a dozen cemeteries since beginning of the year along with a letter by 100 Senators to the President many asking for help what's next. Polls show 70% of Americans see rising anti-Semitism. Are we recreating the 1930's when America closed its doors to European Jewry facing annihilation?

If history is any guide it always begins with desecrating cemeteries. Thousands were destroyed in the 1930's throughout Germany. By War's end an untouched Jewish cemetery in Europe was hard to find. When a million Jews were expelled by Arab nations in 1948 with the creation of Israel, their cemeteries were destroyed. And when the Israelis captured Jerusalem in 1967 they found half the 150,000 graves in the 3000 year old Mount Olive cemetery destroyed. Now hundreds of cameras and high fences protect this ancient cemetery.

What's next? Will we need to protect our cemeteries? Will we see armed soldiers protecting Jewish institutions as common throughout France? Will Jews holding services at their local Temples require police protection? Or will we see vigorous demands across America to stop the hatred? Or will our elected leaders just wait and see if the hatred escalates? If history is any guide rising hatred never stops without effective action.

Peter I. Berman, Norwalk

Mr. Berman is a current member and former Trustee of Beth El-Norwalk.

March 7, 2017 12:42pm – *The following news brief appeared at:*
<https://www.google.com/amp/www.jta.org/2017/03/07/news-opinion/politics/senate-unanimously-signs-on-to-letter-urging-action-on-threats-to-jewish-institutions/amp>

Senate unanimously signs letter urging action on threats to Jewish institutions

WASHINGTON (JTA) — The U.S. Senate unanimously joined in urging the Trump administration to take action to stem the wave of threats against Jewish community centers and other institutions, saying their viability had been made vulnerable by the harassment.

“We are concerned that the number of incidents is accelerating and failure to address and deter these threats will place

Article continues on page 11

Op/Ed continued from page 10

innocent people at risk and threaten the financial viability of JCCs, many of which are institutions in their communities,” said the letter sent Tuesday.

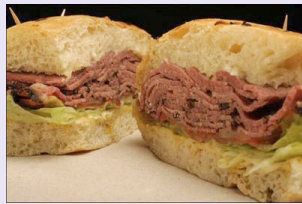
The letter, which was coincident with a sixth wave of nationwide threats against Jewish institutions on Tuesday, was signed by all 100 senators and addressed to Homeland Security Secretary John Kelly, Attorney General Jeff Sessions and FBI Director James Comey.

“We encourage you to communicate with individual JCCs, the JCC Association of North America, Jewish Day Schools, Synagogues and other Jewish community institutions regarding victim assistance, grant opportunities or other federal assistance that may be available to enhance security measures and improve preparedness,” the statement said. “We also recognize the anti-Semitic sentiment behind this spate of threats and encourage your Departments to continue to inform state and local law enforcement organizations of their obligations under the Hate Crime Statistics Act and other federal laws.”

The letter was spearheaded by Sens. Gary Peters, D-Mich., Rob Portman, R-Ohio, Marco Rubio, R-Fla., and Bill Nelson, D-Fla.

The threats, which have reached well over 100 institutions since the beginning of the year, are under investigation by the FBI and other federal authorities. Federal officials have briefed Jewish community leaders.

Lawmakers in recent weeks have suggested additional measures. Last week, members of the U.S. House of Representatives caucus to combat anti-Semitism proposed that Trump name someone to coordinate the investigation across government agencies. A separate Senate letter is circulating that proposes more than doubling the \$20 million now available to non-profits for security upgrades, from \$20 million to \$50 million.



Join us on May 21 for an evening of **DELicate**, **DELightful** and **DELicious** deli and a nostalgic look back at the history of delicatessens with the film *Deli Man*. Join guide Ziggy Gruber, owner of Kenny and Ziggy's Deli (as featured on *Diners, Drive-Ins, and Dives*) in Houston, Texas, as he takes us through the evolution of the delicatessen. Enjoy **DELicious** deli from Ben's Delicatessen prior to the movie.

Read about the movie at www.delimanmovie.com.

Beth El-Norwalk's Back to Nature Series Part 2: Weir Farm Tour and Painting Session



Join us for part 2 of Beth El-Norwalk's Back to Nature series: a guided tour and painting session at Weir Farm, Connecticut's only national park and the only national park dedicated to painting.

Weir Farm encompasses 60 acres of spectacular gardens, lush forests, historic stone walls, and verdant meadows. It also features a pond and 16 buildings, including the Weir house, barn, two studios and outbuildings.

We will begin with a 15 minute guided tour of the grounds led by a park ranger. At the conclusion of the tour, the park will provide art supplies and everyone can pick their favorite spot at the park to paint the beautiful scenery.

The event is free and all congregants and members of the Jewish community are invited. Meet new friends and reconnect with old ones.

Wear sneakers and bring a bottle of water.

Date: Sunday, May 7

Time: 3:00 PM

Place and Parking: Meet at the intersection of Granite Drive and Nod Hill Rd in Wilton. It is an approx. 0.4 mile walk from the intersection to the entrance to the park. Alternatively, we can meet here and carpool/shuttle one another to the park. When you RSVP, please let the office know if you are interested in carpooling from the parking location to the park entrance. Please do not park at the Weir Farm Parking lot. We are only allocated 3 parking spots, so we will carpool from the meeting location to the park.

RSVP: Call the office by Monday, May 1 at 203-838-2710 or email office@congbethel.org



Congregation Beth El-Norwalk's Gift & Simcha Shop

Is always ready and waiting for you!!!!

Passover is just around the corner... the first Seder is Monday April 10th! And then don't forget Mother's Day and graduations! We are stocked with all your needs to help you celebrate!

We have...

- Seder and Matzoh Plates
- Candlesticks, Kiddush Cups & Havdalah Sets
- Haggadot & Afikomen Gifts
- Tallitot and Studio Jere Kippot
- Mezzuzot
- And so much more!!!

The Gift Shop will be open in the Lobby displaying all of our beautiful wares March 26th from 9:30 am – Noon!!

Always remember...Need an appointment?

Contact Nancy Oberst (nancy@oberstlaw.com) or Hilary Shaeftitz (shaef@optonline.net) and we will be glad to meet with you!!

Purim Thank You

Thank you to our Purim Co-chairs Andrea Goldman and Valerie Shukovsky.

Todah Rabah also to our Mishloach Manot Committee for a tremendous job: Sharon Kesselman, Lindsey Rossen, Mary Lester, Samantha Eskenazi and to our Purim tech gurus: Noah Goldman and Sam Shukovsky.

Also thanks to our Megillah readers, David Loewenberg, Niema Hirsch, Rabbi Paskind, Jessica Rutherford, Kim Krieger, Eliza Loewenberg.

Purim Carnival volunteers: Josh & Jill Lander, Caryn & Dan Edelman, Naomi & Jeffrey Heftler, Stephanie Gordon, Marguerite Felsenfeld, Sharon & Josh Kesselman, Dina Fleischmann, Fran Charlip, Lindsey & David Rossen, David Loewenberg and to the multiple teenagers who helped as well.



Hazel and Isabella baking Hamantaschen for Purim.

Comedy Night was tons of fun and we want to thank Stuart Garrelick for chairing and to his Social Committee for planning: Josh Lander, Barbara Lencheck, David Lester, Esther Lester, Kathie Oberst, Mary Oster, Karen Schwam, Ellen Wasserman. And to the numerous to-remain-nameless attendees who were good sports when the comedians included them in their routine.

Also to our Comedy Night Sponsors: Stuart Garrelick, Nancy & Gary Oberst, Kate & Howard Greenberg, Joan Herman-London & Don London, Hilary & Don Shaeftitz, Janis & Michael Siegel.

April 7, 2017

Dear Beth El Congregant:

We are writing to inform you that the 2017 Annual Meeting of Congregation Beth El will be held on Tuesday evening, April 25, at 7:30 p.m. The Agenda for the meeting is included here.

In addition to the presentation of the proposed budget, during which the Congregation will vote on the proposed level of dues for the year 2017/2018, there will be a presentation of the slate of nominees for next year's Board of Trustees and Executive Committee. The slate will need to be voted upon. The proposed slate is included below as well.

New this year, we will be recognizing our volunteers. First will be the Volunteer Appreciation presentation followed by the Outstanding Volunteer Award. Please come and show your support for our tremendous team of volunteers. Their commitment to Congregation Beth El is integral to our success.

Lastly, the annual meeting is the best opportunity for congregation to join with leadership (Rabbinic, Professional and Board) in a discussion of how the shul has done this year, future hopes, as well as financial planning and budgetary needs.

We hope very much that you will plan to join us on Tuesday evening, April 25th. Your presence is a valued necessity to the proceedings.

Sincerely,

Keith Satter

Keith Satter, President

David Rossen

David Rossen, Corresponding Secretary

Report of the Nominating Committee

Officers for 2017-2018

President	Sharon DeFala
1st VP Ritual	David Loewenberg
VP Membership	Dina Fleischmann
VP Fundraising	Stephanie Gordon
VP Education	Marguerite Felsenfeld
Treasurer	Hilary Shaefitz
Financial Secretary	Ellen Wasserman
Recording Secretary	David Rossen
Corresponding Secretary	Esther Lester

Trustees whose term expires in 2018

Josh Kesselman	Nancy Oberst
Linda Lerman	Sharon Rosen
Andy Meyers	Regina Young
Robert Neumann	

Trustees whose term expires in 2019

Michelle Fanwick	Melissa Marlowe
Stuart Garrelick	Andrew Moss
Paul Ginsberg	Alison Sherman
Josh Hurwitz	David Weinstein

Trustees whose term expires in 2020

Win Baum	Josh Lander
Brian Berger	Barrett Lester
Michael Charlip	Gary Mozer
Steve Freshman	Sam Shukovsky
Howard Greenberg	

Stepping down from Executive Committee to Board with our thanks for their years of hard work and dedication:

Josh Lander, Gary Mozer

Sincere thank you to those Trustees completing their Board Service:

Noah Goldman, Sean McDonnell,
Jessica Rutherford

Respectfully submitted,

Keith Satter

Keith Satter, Nominating Committee Chairman

Donations

Thank you to the following congregants whose generosity helps to maintain our Congregation.

Building Fund

Beth Billig in memory of Arnold Weinstein
Joseph & Irma Schachter in memory of Dr. Abraham Klein
Joseph & Irma Schachter in memory of Jennie Polley Schachter

General Fund

Rabbi Ita Paskind in honor of Dan Noble for creating Beth El's Purim video
Linda Boyar with thanks for the Adult Hebrew class
Linda Boyar with thanks for the Cecilia Kemp Hebrew
Dr. Neil & Stephanie Gordon
Joel & Ellen Wasserman in memory of Marilyn Hyman
Leona Lepofsky & Hazel Lepofsky for their donation of a Bagel & Jam Brunch
Josephine Deignan in memory of Ron Bayer
Barbara & Jeff Schwab in memory of Dr. Lee Starr
The Reichgut Family in memory of Butch Layman
Michael & Janis Siegel in memory of Carol Cohen
Michael & Janis Siegel in memory of Lee Hyman
Jeffrey & Barbara Schwab in memory of Dr. Lee Starr

Marvin & Sarah Rosenbaum Kiddush Fund

Hilda Schwartz in memory of Joseph Schwartz
Steve Rotstein & Marguerite Felsenfeld in memory of Rita Felsenfeld

The Karp Family in memory of Arlene Haims Karp
The Karp Family in memory of Lillian Vallon Haims
Lauren Karp & Andrew Bonnesen in appreciation of David Hirshfield's kind donation
Dr. Sharon Karp & Doug Karp in appreciation of Marguerite Felsenfeld's support of Rosenbaum Kiddush Fund
Dr. Sharon Karp & Doug Karp in honor of Marvin Rosenbaum's support of the Rosenbaum Kiddush Fund
Dr. Sharon Karp and Doug Karp in honor of the Wassermans' support of the Rosenbaum Kiddush Fund
Dr Sharon Karp & Doug Karp in appreciation of Dr. Stephen & Linda Stein's support of the Rosenbaum Kiddush Fund
Dr. Sharon Karp & Doug Karp in appreciation of Dr. Marc & Sharon Rosen's support of the Rosenbaum Kiddush Fund
Dr. Sharon Karp & Doug Karp in appreciation of The Schwam Family's support of the Rosenbaum Kiddush Fund
Dr. Sharon Karp & Doug Karp in appreciation of Andrew Meyers & Andrea Tolchinsky Family's support of the Rosenbaum Kiddush Fund
Dr. Sharon Karp & Doug Karp in appreciation of the Lerman Family's support of the Rosenbaum Kiddush Fund
Dr. Sharon Karp & Doug Karp in appreciation of the Reichgut Family's support of the Rosenbaum Kiddush Fund
Dr. Sharon Karp & Doug Karp in appreciation of the Rotstein Family's support of the Rosenbaum Kiddush Fund
Dr. Sharon Karp & Doug Karp in appreciation of Karen & Harold Jackson's support of the Rosenbaum Kiddush Fund

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Philip J. & Maria Thierman
Leona Lepofsky & Hazel Lepofsky
Michael & Janis Siegel
Robert Krantz
Brian & Layla Berger
Robert Neumann & Vittoria Gassman in memory of Shelley Winters
Barney & Louise Corwin in memory of Dr. Daniel Corwin
Barney & Louise Corwin in memory of Nancy Corwin Gordon
Dr. Stephen & Linda Stein
Linda Boyar
Marc & Sharon Rosen
Eric & Michelle Fanwick

Hesed Fund

Donald & Hilary Shaefitz in memory of Marilyn Hyman
David & Kathelyn Oberst in memory of Marilyn Hyman

Soup Kitchen Fund

Philip J. Thierman
Gerald & Elaine Rosenberg in memory of Bernard Rosenberg
Raquel Stabinski-Leib in memory of Belina Stabinski
Raquel Stabinski-Leib in memory of Frieda Lieb
Raquel Stabinski-Leib in memory of Max Leib
Raquel Stabinski-Leib in memory of Dorothy Scott's mother
The Stabinski-Leib Family in honor of Joanne Kozak's birthday

The deadline for the June/July/August Bulletin is **May 10**. Please submit articles on disk or via email to bulletins@congbethel.org. All charitable contributions must be submitted to the office by the last day of the month (**April 30**) to be included. Donations made between **March 1 - April 30** will be included. Charitable contributions to all funds received after the deadline will be included in the following issue's Bulletin Funds listing.

Donations (continued)

Alan & Sonya Rich in memory of
Beatrice Shadlen

Yahrzeit

Dr. Fred & Margaret Kaplan in memory
of Sidney Kaplan

Jeffrey & Shari Ulman in memory of
Marvin Gerbitz

Winthrop & Stefanie Baum in memory
of Lola Rosenthal Miller

Winthrop & Stefanie Baum in memory of
Alice Baum

Donald London & Joan Herman-London in
memory of Moe Herman

Donald London & Joan Herman-London in
memory of Claire London

Alvin & Susan Epstein in memory of
Joseph Epstein

Alvin & Susan Epstein in memory of
Harry Rothpearl

Andrew Meyers & Andrea Tolchinsky in
memory of Murray Meyers

Gloria Berman in memory of Samuel Berman

Gloria Berman in memory of Herman Berger

Irwin & Lilia Kfare in memory of
Rebecca Kfare

Charles Housman & Robert Housman in
memory of Gertrude Housman

Charles Housman & Robert Housman
in memory of Lee Housman

Robert & Fira Wagman in memory of Sam Fox

Jack Werchadlo in memory of
Charles Werchadlo

Jack Werchadlo in memory of Sylvia Goldberg

Jack Werchadlo in memory of
Edith Rose Werchadlo

Phyllis Gitlin in memory of Sam Sbinowitz

The Karp Family in memory of Bessie Karp

Fran Charlip in memory of Burton Appelbaum

Helen Wallerstein in memory of
William Schoenberger

Joanne Kozak in memory of Frieda Lieb

Joanne Kozak in memory of Max Leib

Renée Golub in memory of Sarah Horn

Howard & Kate Greenberg's Family
in memory of Max Greenberg

Michael & Janis Siegel in memory of
Murray Siegel

Michael & Janis Siegel in memory of
Beatrice Siegel

Ronni & Paul Ginsberg in memory of
Ina Heller

Ellen & Arthur Gerstein in memory of
Marilyn Berman

The Low Family in memory of Ellen Eras

The Low Family in memory of Elaine Low
Stephen & Susan Switkin Kaye in memory
of David Switkin

The Lerman-Silberman Family in memory
of Arlene Lerman

Gloria Walkoff in memory of Jack Samowitz

Gloria Walkoff in memory of Richard Walkoff

Marvin & Harriette Goldstein in memory
Estelle Weisberg

Richard & Phyllis Weisberg in memory of
Sam Farhi

Naomi Karp in memory of Bessie Karp

Food and Gift Card Certificates



Don't forget to buy your Food and Gift Cards! To order, call the synagogue at 203-838-2710 or fill out the form below.

Beth El Food Certificate Program

Please return this form to:
Congregation Beth El, 109 East Ave, Norwalk, CT 06851

Please consider joining the growing number of congregants participating in the Food Certificate program of the Synagogue. We earn a profit of 5-10% on your purchase of **Acme, Caraluzzi, Fairway, ShopRite, Stew Leonard's, Stop & Shop, Whole Foods** and **Fresh Market** certificates. It doesn't cost you a penny, because the profit comes to us directly from the stores when we purchase the certificates. Please fill out the form below and we will enroll you in the program. You may pick up the certificates at the Synagogue or from one of our volunteer sellers, or we will be happy to DELIVER them to you on a regular basis. Remember, it doesn't cost you anything; you buy the certificates at face value from the Synagogue. Use them as cash at the participating stores and the Synagogue earns money! This all goes to help support our various programs. Call the office at 838-2710 with any questions. Thank you!

Name _____ Telephone _____

Address _____ City _____

Acme \$ _____ Fresh Market \$ _____ Stop & Shop \$ _____

Caraluzzi \$ _____ ShopRite \$ _____ Whole Foods \$ _____

Fairway \$ _____ Stew Leonard's \$ _____

Please set up delivery of the certificates on the _____ of each month. I will pick up the certificates from the Synagogue on the _____ of each month.
_____ I would prefer to pick up the certificates from one of the Synagogue's sellers. Please tell me the name and phone number of the closest seller.



Beth El-Norwalk



109 East Avenue, Norwalk, CT 06851

Non Profit
U.S. Postage
PAID
Norwalk, CT
Permit No. 38