



# HOUSE Key

**Congregation Beth El**  
**Program Guide**  
MARCH - MAY 2020

CONGREGATION  
  
**Beth El**





# Dear Friends,

It's soon the time of year for Megillah and Haggadah. Purim and Passover capture our attention and guide our values as spring begins. We celebrate distinctive traits of Jewish identity and universal visions of goodness and equality. Busy in the routines and activities of our lives, at this season our Jewish calendar helps us to discover joys in being Jewish and reasons for living as Jews. Two special programs in the coming months highlight these feelings and purposes.

During the weekend of March 26 through 28, we welcome Rabbi Shai Held as our Scholar-In-Residence. Rabbi Held will teach us, "God Is About Love – People Should be, Too" during three sessions. A most in demand and compelling teacher, we are excited to learn with Rabbi Held. (Please see pages 22-23 for more information.)

In May, we're going away. Join us on our Weekend Retreat at the Welk Resort in Escondido for a family and friends camp-style Shabbat experience. Families and adult couples or individuals, all of us are invited to enjoy the resort's activities as well as meaningful ritual and personal time with one another. (Please see page 21 for more information.)

These experiences and so much more are described in this quarter's House Key which includes Beth El events and activities for March through May, 2020. Beth El is Tantalizing us with a variety of quality synagogue programs to engage in.

Look through the pages of this Spring House Key for new and familiar services for Shabbat and holiday celebration. Choose to attend the variety of classes and cultural experiences we offer for adults, families, and teens in our Beth El Is Thursday program, BEIT. Participate with friends and peers in our different affiliate and affinity groups. Join us in the work of Tikkun Olam and our programmatic ties to Israel.

Many people and a variety of Jewish values comprise Congregation Beth El. That's why we've made a list. Beth El Is...Together, Torah, Tikkun Olam, Tefillah, Tziyonut, Tarbut, Thoughtful, Transformative, Thankful, Tremendous, and Tantalizing! The acronym for all we celebrate about our synagogue is BEIT, which means house. We hope you'll use this key to enter your house and engage in Jewish life with your synagogue family.

We are thankful for the devoted efforts of our synagogue staff and lay leadership which make this guide, and the programs we hope to enjoy, possible. Enjoy springtime with our wishes for a Happy Purim and Passover, and so much more.

Welcome home!

**Rabbi Ron Shulman**

**Rabbi Avi Libman**

# Welcome Home,

*Congregation Beth El is our spiritual home.  
As a synagogue family, together we...  
celebrate and learn,  
rejoice and gather for many occasions,  
care for one another, serve others and society.*

*In Hebrew, home or house is Bayit, **BEIT** for short.  
As taught by Jewish tradition,  
we divide our synagogue home into three areas.  
We engage in Jewish life in three ways.*



**BEIT Tefillah**  
House of Prayer  
*Celebration*



**BEIT Midrash**  
House of Study  
*Learning*



**BEIT Knesset**  
House of Assembly  
*Community*

Ours is a large and beautiful home filled with many things. A warm and welcoming home for every soul. A home in which we celebrate, learn, and create community. A home in which we seek to live meaningful Jewish lives.

In this **House Key** of services, classes, and programs you'll find a variety of ways to participate with our synagogue family here in our home at Congregation Beth El.

**Welcome home!**

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## SHABBAT PRAYER AND CELEBRATION

We call Shabbat a delight, a day to refresh and renew. At Congregation Beth El, on Shabbat we join together as a synagogue family to rejoice in the gift of our lives, to reflect on the week gone by, and to sense God's presence through our prayer and celebration. You are welcome to join us each


week for Shabbat prayer on Friday evenings at 6:15 pm and Saturday mornings at 9:30 am in the Stone Family Sanctuary. Rabbi Ron Shulman and Rabbi Avi Libman, Ba'al Tefillah David Lipsitz, and synagogue members lead us in warm, participatory services.

### Friday Evenings

We welcome Shabbat each Friday at 6:15 pm taking leave of the busy routine of our week. We enjoy Kabbalat Shabbat with Hebrew prayer, song, and music. Our rabbis share insights of Jewish wisdom as we reflect on the week gone by. Following our service, we gather for friendship and refreshments at an Oneg Shabbat. Each month we offer a variety of additional settings for celebrating Shabbat. We provide different opportunities for all of us, and for particular personal or family interests.

### Young Family Shabbat

 Fridays | March 6, April 3


 5:45 pm | Service

6:15 pm | Dinner

A musical half hour of song and story for our youngest children and their families. We meet in the Stone Family Sanctuary for family-friendly prayer and activities before a dairy/pareve potluck Shabbat dinner. We will celebrate birthdays, friendship, and Shabbat together.


### Oneg School Shabbat


 Friday, March 20

 6:15 pm

Parents and children are welcome to join us for a new and fun Friday night program where we can schmooze, eat (parents can enjoy a glass of wine) and welcome Shabbat. This program is geared towards families with children in Grades 2 through 6.

### Chai Shabbat

 Fridays | March 27, April 24, May 22

 6:30 pm

Chai 20s/30s celebrates Shabbat and community with an evening service and dinner on the fourth Friday evening of each month.


Shabbat  
Shalom

## Shabbat Mornings

Our Shabbat Morning Service begins each week at 9:30 am. We join together for prayer and reflection, Torah reading, and the exploration of Jewish wisdom for our lives. Each week our service embraces individuals and families who come to celebrate personal milestones. A Torah Study session precedes our Shabbat Morning Service at 9:00 am. As Rabbi Shulman teaches, “Two things are all you really need to know in order to pray: who you are and what it is you feel today. In God’s presence we stand and wonder and sway; taking from our lives and dreams the words we want to say.” As our style of communal prayer evolves, we strive to create innovative settings for personal prayer and meaning while honoring the liturgical rhythms and feel of Jewish tradition.

### Family Services

 Saturdays | March 28, May 30

 10:30 - 11:15 am

Introduce your children to the joy of Shabbat Morning Services. This family-friendly service incorporates music and song, storytelling and Torah learning. A family service meets each month at 10:30 am and joins the Sanctuary service at its conclusion. Afterwards, we join as a whole community for a Kiddush luncheon, often followed by Huggim – Shabbat Activities.

### Shabbat Morning Torah Study

 Saturdays

 9:00 am

Gather together before Shabbat Morning Services with our Rabbis to study the weekly Torah reading based on traditional commentary, contemporary issues, and insights that participants bring to the discussion.

## Huggim – Shabbat Activities

Twice this spring we offer guest speakers, recreational, and family activities to enhance and enjoy Shabbat together as a synagogue community.

 March 28

 9:00 am | Torah Study

9:30 am | Shabbat Yoga with Sharon Segal  
Gentle stretching and unwinding from the busy week including a Shabbat Savasana.

9:30 am | Shabbat Morning Service

10:30 am | Family Service

11:45 am | Shabbat Kiddush & Lunch

12:30 pm | Scholar-In-Residence  
Rabbi Shai Held

12:30 pm | Sport Court Games for Parents and Children

 May 30

 9:00 am | Torah Study

9:30 am | Shabbat Yoga with Sharon Segal  
Gentle stretching and unwinding from the busy week including a Shabbat Savasana.

9:30 am | Shabbat Morning Service

10:30 am | Family Service

11:45 am | Shabbat Kiddush & Lunch

12:30 pm | Shabbat Shiur  
Join Rabbi Shulman for a Shavuot discussion about what the Ten Commandments ought to be in 2020.

12:30 pm | Interactive Torah Experience for Families



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## Daily Minyan

Our Daily Minyan gathers every morning for prayer in the Beit Midrash.

Tuesdays ■ Wednesdays ■ Fridays | 7:30 am

Mondays ■ Thursdays | 7:20 am

Sundays | 9:00 am

*On Rosh Hodesh, Intermediate Festival Days, Hanukkah, and Purim weekday morning services are held at 7:20 am.*

A study session and light breakfast follows Minyan on each weekday morning.

## Minyan Study Sessions

Weekdays

8:00 - 8:30 am

## Study of Jewish Law

Rabbi Avi Libman

Mondays

We use the Shulhan Arukh as a beginning point for our conversation, which covers current questions and topics of interest.

## Talmud Study Class

Rabbi Ron Shulman

Wednesdays

Come enjoy the steady and slow experience of studying the core text of Rabbinic Judaism, the Talmud. We learn what the Talmud is and how it informs Jewish life today. Though we study in English, references to Hebrew are useful as we make our way in discussing and understanding the texts we read.

## Study of Texts and Topics

Tuesdays | Thursdays | Fridays

Minyan participants offer their insights and knowledge on many Jewish texts and topics and enjoy learning from each other.

## Synagogue Honors

Celebrating Shabbat each week, and gathering for prayer every day, we enjoy marking special personal and family occasions by sharing them with our Congregation Beth El family. Please contact the Rabbinic office at 858-452-1734:

- If you would like to receive a synagogue honor during a Shabbat or Daily Minyan service.
- If you would like to participate in Shabbat services by helping to lead our prayer or reading Torah or Haftarah, or serving as a Gabbai or Host.
- If you would like to learn or improve any of these skills.



## Passover Food Drive

February 1 - March 9

Donate food and holiday items to be included in packages for homebound seniors, in collaboration with the Foodmobile Program at Jewish Family Service. See [cbe.org](http://cbe.org) for a full list of items being collected this year. If you'd like to help assemble the Passover packages, contact [Tikkun@cbe.org](mailto:Tikkun@cbe.org)



Photos from Left to Right:

- Mighty Mitzvah Sunday
- Pre-Hanukkah Celebration
- Here All Along:  
A Reintroduction to Judaism  
Sarah Hurwitz
- Hanukkah Pre-Celebration
- Hanukkah Pre-Celebration

### HOLIDAY CELEBRATIONS

We observe the sacred occasions of the Jewish year each season. Our prayer services and events for each Jewish holiday feature their unique ritual symbols and commemorations. Throughout the

year, our observances include opportunities for all ages to share in the particular spirit, happiness and meaning of every holiday.

### Purim

Purim recounts an ancient tale of humor and challenge remembering Queen Esther, Mordecai and the Jews of Shushan. Purim encourages us to stand proud as Jews and ever vigilant against prejudice and injustice.

#### Community Purim Carnival

 March 8


 11:00 am – 2:00 pm

Celebrate Purim at the Community Purim Carnival. Bring your families and friends to the Lawrence Family Jewish Community Center for games, rides, food trucks, and lots of Purim fun!

#### The Whole Megillah | A Purim Circus

 March 9

This year the Circus comes to Beth El for Purim. In our festivities we'll enjoy clowns, jugglers, and Circus entertainment. We'll also honor Mordecai and Esther, the stars of the Purim story every year. Come dressed as your favorite Purim character, Circus animal or performer, or any other fun character.

 5:45 pm | Family Circus Megillah Reading and program in the Stone Family Sanctuary.

6:30 pm | Esther's Feast - Dinner buffet for everyone in the Jacobs Family Community Hall followed by Circus entertainment and fun with games and Purim silliness.

7:30 pm | Traditional Megillah reading and Purim Shpiel in the Stone Family Sanctuary.

8:30 pm | Esther's Party. In the Jacobs Family Community Hall. Rabbi Shulman and Rabbi Avi invite you to a l'hayim in honor of Mordecai and Esther, the main acts of the Purim story. Enjoy Purim treats, libations, and holiday merriment.

 Suggested donation \$18/adult

 Register at [cbe.org](http://cbe.org)





**AT CONGREGATION BETH EL**

**MARCH 9<sup>TH</sup>**

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*Stone Family Sanctuary*

**8:30 pm | Esther's Party**  
*Jacobs Family Community Hall*  
Rabbi Shulman and Rabbi Avi invite you to a L'chaim in honor of Mordecai and Esther, the main acts of the Purim story. Enjoy Purim treats, libations, and holiday merriment.

Suggested  
donation  
\$18/adult

**REGISTER**

at

**CBE.ORG**

**CLOWNS**

**GAMES**

**FUN**

**JUGGLERS**


**FOOD**

### Passover

Passover is a holiday of hope, renewal, and life. Nature's spring is the backdrop for our people's Exodus story of beginnings and freedom. Passover's message and mood encourage and inspire us. As spring begins, Passover reminds us. We are keepers of a vision, advocates for redemption. Celebrating Pesah by gathering with family and friends around our Seder tables and joining in community, we attach our personal lives and concerns to the grand and potent moral principles for which God brought our ancestors out of Egypt.


### Siyyum B'khorim


 Wednesday April 8

 7:30 am

A morning minyan and brief study session followed by a light breakfast, the last hametz meal before Passover. The tradition of participating in a Siyyum B'khorim marks the role of the first born of both Israel and Egypt in the Exodus story. Attendance at this minyan is a special mitzvah for all first-born males. First born daughters and everyone else are also welcome.

### Passover Festival Morning Services

 April 9 and 10, 15 and 16

 9:30 am

We invite you to join warm and special times to experience the meaning, spirit and beauty of celebrating Passover with your synagogue family. On our Festival Services in prayer, celebration and reflection, we'll rejoice in the purpose and joy of Passover. During our service on Shabbat April 16, we recite Yizkor Memorial Prayers.

### Yom HaShoah

#### Holocaust Remembrance Day



On Tuesday evening, April 21 we pause to commemorate the tragedy of the Shoah, remember those beloved our families lost, honor our cherished survivors and their descendants, and strive to reclaim goodness and dignity for our world.

Following a remembrance commemoration in front of our congregation's Holocaust Memorial Wall at 7:00 pm, we welcome Howard Reich who will speak with us about his book: *The Art of Inventing Hope: Intimate Conversations with Elie Wiesel*



*Howard Reich is an Emmy award winning critic for the Chicago Tribune who reflects on his in-depth conversations with Elie Wiesel during the last four years of Mr. Wiesel's life. Reich's father, Robert Reich, and Elie Wiesel were both liberated from Buchenwald on April 11, 1945.*

### Yom Ha'Atzmaut



#### Israel Independence Day

Yom Ha'Atzmaut is a holy day in the modern history of the Jewish people. On Yom Ha'Atzmaut we focus on the meaning of Israel. We celebrate Israel's achievements in the world. We rejoice in the promise and purpose of Israel as we rejoice in the State of Israel's 72 Independence Day – this year celebrated on April 29th.

On Friday evening April 24, we'll enjoy a lively celebration of Israel's Independence, featuring a musical Friday evening Shabbat service, an Israeli menu Shabbat dinner, song, dance, and appreciation of the many cultures and ethnicities that thrive in Israel today.

 Adults | \$18

Children 5-12 years old | \$10

Children 5 years old and under | no charge

 Register at [cbe.org](http://cbe.org)





## Shavuot

Shavuot commemorates the giving of the Torah, the content and meaning of Judaism for each of us and our world. It also marks the brighter and pleasant days of spring turning into summer, of a world turning fresh and green with life and beauty.

### Tikkun Leil Shavuot

 May 28

We conclude our year of learning at BEIT and begin Shavuot with an exploration of Torah for Today. Participate with us in discussing the “written and oral Torah” as we discover relevant teachings from the past and create new interpretations of Jewish tradition for our lives today.

### Tikkun Leil Shavuot:

#### Shavuot Evening of Study and Celebration

 5:30 pm | VTS Siyyum

We conclude our school year of Torah learning.

6:00 pm | Shavuot Holiday Dinner

6:30 pm | Torah for Today Study Sessions I

7:30 pm | Ceremony of Receiving the Torah  
We'll share in a creative ritual for Shavuot

7:45 pm | Torah for Today Study Sessions II


8:30 pm | Cheesecake Café  
We'll enjoy desert and friendship.

9:00 pm | Torah for Today Study Session  
Continuing our learning with Rabbi Shulman

 Register at [cbe.org](http://cbe.org)

### Shavuot Festival Services

 May 29 and 30

 9:30 am

At Congregation Beth El we enjoy Shavuot as a joyous festival of Torah study, creative expression, and happy celebration. On Shavuot we imagine ourselves at Mt. Sinai and rejoice in the gift of Torah. To honor our holiday's spirit, before we take the Torah scrolls out of the Ark, our Shavuot Festival Morning Service on May 29 will include a special opportunity to sit together around tables and study the Ten Commandments. During our service on May 30, we recite Yizkor Memorial Prayers. A holiday luncheon will follow our service after which we join Rabbi Shulman for a Shavuot discussion about what the Ten Commandments ought to be in 2020.



### INSPIRING JEWISH JOURNEYS

As we launch our new Jewish learning program, we strive to support kids and youth to make friends and build their Jewish identities in all aspects of our school and synagogue programming. We do not believe social activities or educational programs should be separated. Rather, we want our children to connect with their Jewish identity, make friends and be intellectually stimulated in all

they experience, whether enjoying a Lag B'omer bonfire, playing gaga, bringing Jewish texts to life, competing in a synagogue campus scavenger hunt, joining together for prayer and celebration or taking a field trip to Disneyland. We invite you and your family to join us on this exciting new endeavor for an inspiring Jewish journey.

### Lifelong Jewish Learning










#### Viterbi Torah School K-8

This year we begin a new approach to Jewish learning at Congregation Beth El. In formal and informal settings, our vision is to provide our students, and their families, with holistic Jewish experiences integrating engaging classroom time, the acquisition of Hebrew language skills, authentic moments of prayer, exploration of what it means to be Jewish in our world today, and the celebration of Shabbat and our tradition's holidays.

This year we offer new programs including:

- **Shabbat Swap (Gan-6th Grade)**  
Each grade will lead a family service or a Shabbat dinner as an opportunity to put into practice what they learn in the classroom through an authentic prayer experience.
- **Family Program (Gan-6th Grade)**  
An alternative hands-on program in which parents will engage in Jewish learning alongside their children. This will take place during normal VTS Sunday hours.
- **Oneg Shabbat**  
Welcome Shabbat by joining us for an Oneg Shabbat before our Friday evening family service. Families can schmooze, have an appetizer (and a glass of wine for parents) and then participate in a Friday night Shabbat service.


We offer these opportunities to provide you and your family with multiple paths of Jewish expression and engagement. Our Jewish Experiential Learning programs offer a range of authentic and relevant opportunities to discover and engage in Jewish living.


-  March 14 | 2nd Grade Shabbat Swap and Family Service
-  March 15 | VTS Family Program for Aleph, 1st Grade
-  March 20 | 4th Grade Shabbat Swap and Oneg Shabbat
-  March 22 | VTS Family Program for Hay, 5th Grade
-  April 19 | VTS for Tots (Pre-school)  
Pre-schoolers and parents are invited to get a taste of VTS.
-  April 25 | "Passing the Torah"  
Family Program, 6th & 7th Grade
-  April 26 | VTS Family Program for Gimmel, 3rd Grade
-  May 1 – 3 | Beth El Retreat  
VTS Families are invited for a family-friendly weekend of activities, see page 21 for details.
-  May 28 | Tikkun Leil Shavuot and Last Day of VTS for Grades 2-6

## Youth

Joining our Youth groups offers Beth El children and teens the chance to develop friendships and connections within the Jewish community and a safe space to socialize learn, and explore their Jewish identity. We seek to build an immersive Jewish experience on our campus where kids will live, laugh, and learn in a rich Jewish environment. We offer Beth El programs for Grades K-12 on campus, off campus, and we participate in regional programs for Grades 4-12.

### Kadima & Jr. USY Programs

 March 1 | Following VTS, Kadima Grades 2-3 are invited to spend time with their friends while learning and having fun.

 March 7 | **Jr USY & Kadima Mall Crawl**  
Grades 4-8 will take over the UTC mall on a Scavenger Hunt night!

 March 22 | **Kadima Program for Grades K-1**

### Beth El Teens & USY (Grades 9-12)

Beth El Teens participate together in a safe, fun, and Jewish environment. Teens can connect with their peers and have authentic Jewish experiences. Our integrated educational and social programming prepares Jewish teens to be confident and thoughtful Jewish adults. Through Thursday Night Teens (TNT), the Madrich program, and United Synagogue Youth (USY), Grades 9-12 connect with peers and create experiences rooted in Jewish culture and values.

The wide array of programming available to Beth El Teens includes social justice programs, leadership development, holiday and Shabbat celebrations, and discussions of current and hot topics. Beth El Teens experience Judaism in the broader San Diego community through the Jewish Film Festival, collaborative events with other synagogues, and regional Youth group programming. The Madrich program offers opportunities for those interested in volunteering here at Beth El to assist in educating VTS students. Teens can also volunteer at local Jewish communal and organizational events.


Our TNT (Thursday Night Teens) program joins on Thursdays at 6-8 pm and offers time for teens to hang out, eat dinner and have discussions or special programs together. Some weeks we have the opportunity to hear from a special BEIT speaker. Other weeks we may hear from a panel, have a discussion about Israel, or explore what it means to be a leader.

On March 12, our TNT will focus on Jewish life on college campuses. On March 5th, we will have a program about Israel. On March 26, we will hear from our Scholar in Residence, Shai Held.

On April 23, we will explore the meaning of Yom HaShoah and Yom HaZikaron and how they relate to us today.

 March 29 | **Good Deeds Day**

Beth El Teens will join teens from all over the world in spending a day volunteering and helping others.

 April 26 | **Beth El Teens join the Walk Against Hate**

Our teens will join thousands from across San Diego county to celebrate diversity and stop hate. We join with the greater community to say that San Diego is truly no place for hate.



## WELCOME TO BEIT: BETH EL IS THURSDAY

All are welcome to join us for our BEIT Midrash on Thursday evenings. On each Beth El is Thursday evening you'll choose from a variety of experiences and courses. Come for dinner at our BEIT Café, create your own schedule, do as much or as little as you like.

Sign-up to dine on a weekly themed menu at our BEIT Café, from 6:00 to 7:00 pm. You may register on-line for dinner \$8 in advance, \$10 at the door. From 7:30 to 7:45 pm enjoy coffee, conversation, and nosh during our BEIT Break.

BEIT learning experiences take place during two time slots. At 6:30 pm choose one from a number of experiences. At 7:45 pm attend the weekly BEIT feature: Rabbi Shulman's class, a guest lecture or presentation, or a special program.


Weekly schedules are available online and are emailed. Session locations are available at the BEIT Café each week.


*BEIT is sponsored in loving memory of Paula & Jerry Mandell, devoted to Congregation Beth El and dedicated to Jewish scholarship.*

### BEIT Parent Programs | 5:30 pm

Watch for periodic sessions with Rabbis Shulman and Libman in which we'll explore topics of Jewish interest for ourselves and our families. Parents will be able to learn with our rabbis, learn together with their children, and stay for dinner or other BEIT experiences as desired. Students will be welcome in study hall (6:15-8:30 pm) while their parents are learning.

### BEIT Family Program

 Thursday, April 2

 5:30 - 6:30 pm


Prepare for Passover by exploring themes and imagery of the holiday as a family to enrich your seder experience.

### BEIT Experience I | 6:30 pm

#### Together and Apart:

#### The Future of Jewish Peoplehood

 Dr. Ray Fink

 March 5, 12, 19; May 14, 21

'Together & Apart: The Future of Jewish Peoplehood' explores how we tell stories of Jewish belonging. It addresses the difficulties of understanding "Peoplehood" in an era when we have moved from a reality of no home, to a reality of two homes: an established nation-state for the Jews and a diaspora that includes the diverse and powerful North American community. We consider what it means to be a member of the Jewish people, the core values that animate Jewish peoplehood, and the contemporary challenges to Jewish unity.




*Dr. Ray Fink is a Past President of Congregation Beth El, a respected physician in our community, and a member of the Board of Directors of the Shalom Hartman Institute.*

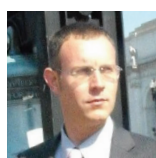
## Timeless Torah:

### Ancient Midrash and Modern Meaning

 Ian Merles

 March 5, 12, 19; May 14, 21

This six-part class will look at the weekly Torah Portion and the classic Midrashic texts that explain, expand, and enrich it. We will see what meaning the rabbinic Sages gleaned from the Torah 2000 years ago and compare this Rabbinic exegetical lore and the lessons contained therein, to how we would explain, expand, and enrich it today in 2020.



*Ian Merles has a BA in Religious studies, Philosophy, and Jewish studies from SUNY Stony Brook and an MA in Rabbinic literature from the Shechter Institute in Jerusalem. He is currently the West Coast Annual Giving Officer for Hadassah. Ian lived in Israel for ten years where he served as a lone soldier in the Nahal infantry brigade of the Israeli army during the 2nd Intifada.*

### Talmud Torah - Text Studies

 Rabbi Gary Oren

 March 5 | Purim

**Are We Allowed to be Drunk on Purim?**

 March 19 | Passover

**A Close Read on How We Left Egypt**

Join with Rabbi Oren to revisit themes of Purim and Passover by a careful reading of the Torah and Talmudic texts describing them.



*Rabbi Gary Oren is a former Vice President and Dean of AJU's Whizin Center for Continuing Education. Rabbi Oren is an alumnus of California State University, Fullerton where he completed his undergraduate degree, and Tel Aviv University where he studied towards an M.A. of Middle Eastern Studies. In 2008 he received rabbinical ordination from the Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies. Prior to his time as Dean of the Whizin Center, Rabbi Oren spent 7 years serving as a Rabbi of Temple Aliyah in Woodland Hills, California.*

## Synagogue Skills & Song

 David Lipsitz

 Begins March 5

and continues each week BEIT meets

Learn the melodies and meanings of the weekly Shabbat services. Grow in your ability to participate with us and enjoy synagogue prayer and community.

### Hebrew Reading

 Robin Shulman

 Begins March 5

and continues each week BEIT meets

Learn basic Hebrew reading for synagogue services. Discover or rediscover your ability to read Hebrew and participate in synagogue prayer and community.

### Intermediate Hebrew Reading & Conversation

 Orli Moses

 Begins March 5

and continues each week BEIT meets

Strengthen your Hebrew reading and conversation skills.

### Torah Reading

 Dr. Ran Anbar

 Begins March 5


and continues each week BEIT meets

Learn to read Torah or grow your Torah reading skills. If you wish, read Torah on occasional Shabbat mornings as member of our Torah reading squad. We meet on a regular basis to teach Torah trope to beginners, review trope with more experienced readers, and practice upcoming Torah readings.

## Introduction to Judaism

 Rabbi Avi Libman

 March 5, 12, 19; April 2

 7:00 pm

Join us for an educational journey for Jews and non-Jews interested in gaining knowledge of Jewish History, life, and culture. In this course we cover topics like Jewish history, theology, and philosophy, as well as holidays and life-cycle events, practices, and rituals. The course is geared to anyone who wants to learn more about Judaism, in addition to those considering conversion.

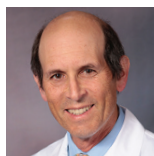
## Don't Tread on Us:

### Flags in Jewish Tradition and Modernity

 Dr. Bard Cosman

 March 12 & 19

Come understand the role flags play in Jewish tradition and the role Jewish tradition plays in modern flags. What do they symbolize? What are their origins? Dr. Cosman bases this fun class on an article of his that won the 2019 best paper award from the North American Vexillological (study of the history, symbolism, and usage of flags) Association.



*Bard Cosman, MD, FACS, FASCRS, is a board-certified surgeon and professor in the Department of Surgery at UC San Diego School of Medicine. He teaches students and residents and trains fellows in surgical procedures. He has authored or coauthored more than 50 articles that have been published in a variety of journals. Bard is an active member of Congregation Beth El who often teaches following morning minyan and delivers occasional sermons on Shabbat.*

## Dancing Between Identities

 Rabbi Chaya Gilboa

 March 12


A session about new trends in Israeli society of the younger generation that seeks to expand the discourse concerning identity including various components within the definition of identity. We will begin to study a Talmudic episode and from there we will move on to contemporary poetry of young people of Mizrahi identity and Russian identity, if possible we will view a few videos.



*Chaya Gilboa is the Director of Jewish Engagement at the Leichtag Foundation. Chaya was born in Jerusalem to an ultra-Orthodox family. Her B.A. in Jewish Philosophy from Ben Gurion University in 2008 was followed by a stint as a Hillel International Israel Fellow at Berkeley University and an M.A. in Public Policy from Hebrew University in 2013, where she wrote her thesis on Haredi women, religion and state. In 2012, she was Scholar-In-Residence at the Paideia Institute in Sweden, where she taught Talmud and established an educators' track. In 2014, Chaya became Founding Director of Hevruta, a pluralistic, integrated gap-year program for Israeli and North American post-high school students at the Hartman Institute.*

## American Jewish History: 1800-1880

 Professor Joellyn Zollman

 May 7, 14, 21

The 19th century saw 250,000 Jews come to the United States from Central Europe. How did these new American Jews shape American Jewish life? Join us as we follow the American Jewish experience out west, through the Civil War and into the rag trade.



*Joellyn Zollman, Ph.D has taught Jewish history at SDSU, UCSD, and the San Diego Center for Jewish Culture. She recently curated*

*Celebrate, Commemorate! The History and Heritage of San Diego's Jewish Community, an exhibition at the San Diego History Center.*

## BEIT Tefillah | Ma'ariv Minyan

 7:30 pm - each week BEIT meets

We gather in the BEIT Midrash for Ma'ariv, an evening prayer Minyan. Join us for a brief spiritual break between sessions followed by coffee, conversation, and nosh during our BEIT Break.

## BEIT Experience II | 7:45 pm

### The Path to the 2020 Election

 Professor Samuel Popkin

 March 5

Following the California Primary, and in the midst of "election season," we hear analysis and insights from a leading political scientist, and Congregation Beth El member.



*Dr. Samuel Popkin is an active participant as well as an academic analyst of presidential elections.*

*Dr. Popkin is Professor Emeritus of Political Science at UCSD. Before coming to UCSD, Prof. Samuel Popkin taught at Yale, Harvard and the University of Texas. He received his B.S. in Mathematics and Political Science and his Ph.D. in Political Science from MIT. Dr. Popkin is author of The Republican Crackup and the Future of Presidential Politics (forthcoming). He is also author of The Candidate. He has also served as consultant to political parties in Canada and Europe and to the Departments of State and Defense. His current research focuses on presidential campaigns and the relationship of public opinion to foreign policy.*



## Israel Advocacy

 Nicole Bernstein

 March 12

AIPAC San Diego Director, Nicole Bernstein, interviews our own Beth El members about their experiences at the AIPAC Policy Conference. What did they learn? Who did they meet? What insights can they share about American-Israeli relations?

## What is Jewish Spirituality?

 Rabbi Ron Shulman

 March 19

Join Rabbi Shulman to explore and discuss:

- What is spirituality in Judaism?
- Is Jewish spirituality connected to belief in God?
- Is Jewish spirituality an expression of Jewish identity?
- Is being spiritual different than being religious?
- Is there a relationship between prayer, ritual observance, and spirituality?
- What are the sources of Jewish spirituality and how do we access them?

## Love Your Neighbor

 Scholar-In-Residence Rabbi Shai Held

 March 26

No words in the Torah are better known than “love your neighbor as yourself” and no words are generally seen as more significant. And yet for all its manifest centrality in Jewish spirituality and ethics, the precise meaning of the verse is actually quite elusive. What does it mean to “love” your neighbor? Does the Torah command our emotions as well as our actions? Given emotions can’t be controlled, can they even be commanded at all?

## The Ethiopian Jewish Community and Israeli Society

### ETZLEINU: Film & Discussion with Roey Yamin of the World Zionist Organization


 Roey Yamin

 April 2

We’ll watch, and then discuss, a film about Assegedu, a 40 year old Ethiopian woman, who makes her living cleaning the homes of rich people. Her 17 year old daughter Haile joins her after school. One afternoon Assegedu and Haile find a microphone and play with it, listening to the sound of their voices. Soon enough things go wrong and Assegedu finds herself in a moral and economical dilemma that will decide her future and her relationship with her daughter.

## Ask the Rabbi

 Rabbi Ron Shulman

 May 7, 14, 21

Join Rabbi Shulman for three open and unscripted question and answer sessions. He will provide the initial study subject and text each week, after which participants may choose the topics and ask their questions. Rabbi Shulman looks forward to frank and revealing discussions about Jewish beliefs (God, Afterlife, Messiah, Human Purpose etc.), Jewish traditions and ritual practices (Lifecycle ceremonies, Home and Synagogue Rituals), and issues in Jewish life today (there are so many!).

 May 7

Questions of Jewish Belief

 May 14

Questions of Jewish Customs & Ceremonies

 May 21

Questions of Jewish Life & Community



CONGREGATION BETH EL



Weekend

RETREAT



MAY 1-3, 2020



As a synagogue family, we'll meet up at the Welk Resort for a beautiful Shabbat and fun-filled weekend. Adults, individuals, and families of all shapes and sizes will enjoy activities the resort has to offer, as well as meaningful ritual time and discussions with our rabbis and our community.

We will enjoy water slides, pools, Shabbat walks & talks, and lots of outdoor recreation. We will gather for informal Shabbat services and meals as we blend the warmth of Congregation Beth El with the spirit of Jewish summer camps.

Bond with your synagogue friends over a campfire, meet new friends on a hike, and enjoy being a part of our close-knit Beth El family.

## REGISTRATION & PROGRAM INFORMATION:

### PROGRAM COST

**\$100/Adult ★ \$250/Household**

Full itinerary can be found at [cbe.org](http://cbe.org)

Includes all meals for the weekend

Register at [CBE.ORG](http://CBE.ORG) or 858-452-1734



### ACCOMMODATIONS

**\$149-\$239 + tax per night**

Please book online at [CBE.ORG](http://CBE.ORG)  
for discounted CBE room rate until 3/30/20.

Must book 2 nights to qualify for discounted room rate.

# SCHOLAR in RESIDENCE

March 26-28



**W**e're excited to welcome Rabbi Shai Held to Congregation Beth El this spring. Dr. Shai Held is a theologian, scholar, and educator and one of the most in demand Jewish teachers of his generation. Rabbi Shai Held – theologian, scholar, and educator—is President, Dean, and Chair in Jewish Thought at Hadar, where he also directs the Center for Jewish Leadership and Ideas. Previously, he served for six years as Scholar-In-Residence at Kehilat Hadar in New York City, and taught both theology and Halakhah at the Jewish Theological Seminary. He also served as Director of Education at Harvard Hillel. A 2011 recipient of the prestigious Covenant Award for excellence in Jewish education, he holds a doctorate in religion from Harvard; his main academic interests are in modern Jewish and Christian thought, in biblical theology, and in the history of Zionism. Rabbi Held's first book, *Abraham Joshua Heschel: The Call of Transcendence*, was published by Indiana University Press in 2013; *The Heart of Torah*, a collection of essays on the Torah in two volumes, was published by JPS in 2017.

## Scholar-In-Residence Shabbaton with

# Rabbi/Dr. SHAI HELD

## “God Is About Love – People Should Be, Too”

On Thursday evening  
March 26, 7:45 pm

### “Love Your Neighbor”

No words in the Torah are better known than “love your neighbor as yourself” and no words are generally seen as more significant. And yet for all its manifest centrality in Jewish spirituality and ethics, the precise meaning of the verse is actually quite elusive. What does it mean to “love” your neighbor? Does the Torah command our emotions as well as our actions? Given emotions can’t be controlled, can they even be commanded at all?

On Friday evening  
March 27, 8:00 pm following  
a communal Shabbat dinner,  
Rabbi Held will speak about:

### “The Gifts of God Flow Through You”

In this session, Dr. Held will explore the connection between grace, gratitude, and generosity of spirit and think together with us about how they animate (or should animate) our religious lives. We’ll think through the idea that we are not meant to rest content with being recipients of God’s gifts but are asked to become givers ourselves. God’s gifts are meant to flow through us, and not just to us.

Finally, on Shabbat afternoon  
March 28, 12:30 pm following a  
communal Shabbat lunch,  
Dr. Held will speak about:

### “The God of Judaism is a God of Love”

It is one of the last acceptable prejudices in American culture: the God of the “Old Testament” is a God of vengeance, focused on strict justice rather than mercy, given to anger rather than love. This perception is as mistaken as it is widespread. In this session, we’ll encounter a series of biblical texts that make the stunning claim that what makes God unique, what makes God God, is God’s unfathomable capacity for love, mercy, and forgiveness. We’ll explore the common complaint that a God of love is (too) anthropomorphic, and we’ll ask whether belief in a God of love is still plausible in this day and age.

### Program registration information:

Thursday | RSVP at [cbe.org](http://cbe.org)

Friday | RSVP at [cbe.org](http://cbe.org)

Adults | \$18

Children 5-12 years old | \$10


Children 5 years old and under | no charge

Saturday | RSVP at [cbe.org](http://cbe.org)

## Tikkun Olam

### Tikkun Olam Open Forum

 Sundays | March 1, June 7

 9:45 - 10:45 am

The Tikkun Olam/Social Action Committee at Congregation Beth El invites you to participate in our Open Forum committee meetings. We gather to discuss and plan our future social action projects. The Tikkun Olam Committee organizes small and large volunteer projects throughout the year. We strive to help those in need by sheltering the homeless, feeding the hungry, and providing for the underprivileged. Make a difference in your community. Tell us what you are passionate about. Beth El wants to participate in volunteer efforts that are important to you.


### Passover Food Drive

 Now through March 9

Donate food and holiday items to be included in packages for homebound seniors, in collaboration with the Foodmobile Program at Jewish Family Service. See [cbe.org](http://cbe.org) for a full list of items being collected this year. If you'd like to help assemble the Passover packages, contact [Tikkun@cbe.org](mailto:Tikkun@cbe.org).


### Rachel's Women's Shelter

Volunteers prepare and serve Sunday dinner once a month to the residents of Rachel's Women's Shelter.

 For more information about this project and other volunteer opportunities at Rachel's Women's Shelter, contact Dr. Ruth Covell at [rcovell@ucsd.edu](mailto:rcovell@ucsd.edu).


### StandUp for Kids

Each month, volunteers deliver a hot dinner from a well-loved restaurant to StandUp for Kids, an organization serving homeless youth in San Diego.

 For more information and to volunteer, contact [Tikkun@cbe.org](mailto:Tikkun@cbe.org).

### Volunteer at the Safe Parking Program


 Sundays | March 1, May 31

 5:30 - 8:00pm

Help prepare, serve, and clean up dinner for 60 children and adults who are currently living in their cars.

Every night at two secured lots, Jewish Family Service operates a Safe Parking Program for unsheltered San Diegans living in their vehicles. As these individuals and families work to lift themselves up out of a difficult situation, many are making nightly choices between purchasing food, gas, and other essentials. Creating further barriers to stability are the isolation and lack of social support that so often accompany homelessness. By providing meals, we will provide both nutritious food and a sense of community. With a focus on stopping the downward spiral of homelessness, Safe Parking offers not just a reliable place to stay, but also a welcoming environment, meaningful resources, and dignified support to create a pathway to housing while meeting people where they are now.

Volunteer opportunities include cooking/preparing food prior to arrival, providing paper goods and utensils, serving, and cleaning up. There is something for anyone who is interested in helping.


 To sign up, contact Jane Connors at [janeconnors@mac.com](mailto:janeconnors@mac.com)


### Volunteer at the Ronald McDonald House

 Sunday | May 17

Help prepare, cook, serve, and clean-up a meal for 150+ guests. Ronald McDonald House provides a place to stay, meals, and home necessities so families can focus on caring for their critically ill or injured child being treated at Rady Children's Hospital.

 First shift | 3:00-6:00 pm - Prep and cook dinner

 Second shift | 5:30-8:00 pm - Set up, serve, and clean up dinner

 To sign up, contact Sam Jacobs at [Shabatai@aol.com](mailto:Shabatai@aol.com).



Photos from Left to Right:

- Hanukkah gifts for Meals on Wheels and Jews in retirement as part of Congregation Beth El's ongoing Tikkun Olam/Social Action projects
- Hanukkah Pre-Celebration
- Fall Festival
- Mighty Mitzvah Sunday
- TNT Thursday Night Teens

## Israel

### The Ethiopian Jewish Community and Israeli Society

#### ETZLEINU: Film & Discussion with Roey Yamin of the World Zionist Organization


 Roey Yamin

 Thursday | April 2

We'll watch, and then discuss, a film about Assegedu, a 40 year old Ethiopian woman, who makes her living cleaning the homes of rich people. Her 17 year old daughter Haile joins her after school. One afternoon Assegedu and Haile find a microphone and play with it, listening to the sound of their voices. Soon enough things go wrong and Assegedu finds herself in a moral and economical dilemma that will decide her future and her relationship with her daughter.

### Yom Ha'Atzmaut Celebration

 Friday, April 24

 6:15 pm | Shabbat Service featuring Israeli songs and spirit

 7:00 pm | Dinner and program

Join us for a lively Shabbat evening commemorating Israel's Independence. We will celebrate Israel's cultural diversity through food, music, and stories shared by our members. Throughout the evening, we will hear from members representing various cultures that make up Israel's rich community. Enjoy a delicious dinner, Israeli folk dancing, and holiday time together with your synagogue family.

### Israel Open Forum

 Tuesday, May 19


 4:00 pm

The Israel Committee at Congregation Beth El invites you to participate in our Open Forum Committee meetings. We gather to discuss and plan Israel-related programming for our community. Our mission is to engage Congregation Beth El members and inspire a connection with Israel through advocacy and education.

## Young Families

### Young Family Shabbat

 Fridays | March 6, April 3

 5:45 pm | Service

 6:15 pm | Dinner

A musical half hour of song and story for our youngest children and their families. We meet in the Stone Family Sanctuary for family-friendly prayer and activities before a dairy/pareve potluck Shabbat dinner. We will celebrate birthdays, friendship, and Shabbat together


### Family Service at Shabbat Huggim


 Saturdays | March 28, May 30

Introduce your children to the joy of Shabbat morning services. This family-friendly service incorporates music and song, storytelling and Torah learning. A family service meets each month at 10:30 am and joins the Sanctuary service at its conclusion. Afterwards, we join as a whole community for a Kiddush luncheon, often followed by Huggim – Shabbat Activities (see page 7 for more info about Huggim – Shabbat activities). On Shavuot we celebrate the gift of the Torah as a community of learners. Join us for family friendly activities as we sing, learn about how a torah scroll is made and take a tour of the Torah!

### Baby & Me at Gymboree

 Sunday | May 31

 3:30-5:30pm

 4340 Genessee Ave., Suite 103,  
San Diego, CA 92117

Laugh and learn with your little ones during a private session of structured and free play at Gymboree! We will enjoy circle time activities, music, and bubbles. Adults and kids – remember to bring socks! Snacks will be provided.



## Playdate at G3 Kids Gym

📅 Sunday | June 14

🕒 2:15 - 3:45 pm

📍 4313 La Jolla Village Dr, Ste 3270  
San Diego, CA 92122

(in the Westfield UTC mall)

Jump, balance, twirl, and play with us at G3 Kids Gym. We'll participate in parachute games, instructor led activities, and free play.

*Thank you to Nicole and Paul Britvar for sponsoring this program at their gym!*

## Youth

Congregation Beth El's newly-formed Jewish Learning Department offers programs for our youth to develop strong bonds with their Jewish friends while understanding and connecting to their Jewish identity. We believe social activities and educational programs should be integrated. For more information on community and social programming for youth and teens, turn to page 14 to learn more about our integrated educational and social approach.



## Chai 20's/30's

Chai @ Beth El provides spiritual, cultural, and educational programming for adults in their 20s and 30s.

### Chai Shabbat

📅 Friday, March 27

🕒 6:30 pm

Chai Shabbat returns with a special evening of socializing and learning. We have the opportunity to join with the larger Beth El community and hear a talk from visiting scholar, Dr. Shai Held, one of the most acclaimed Jewish teachers and thinkers of his generation. The fully catered dinner is free for Chai members and \$18 for guests.

📅 Friday, April 24

🕒 6:30 pm

Too much Matzah on Passover? Enjoy some warm doughy Challah at Chai Shabbat and shake off the macaroon blues. Let's gather back together with our Chai community and share in a festive meal. Beth El will provide the main course, you bring a dairy side or dessert.

📅 Friday, May 22

🕒 6:30 pm

Escape the dreary May Grey by coming back to Beth El for our monthly Chai Shabbat. When we join together here, we'll never be gloomy. Bring a dairy or parve side or dessert, we'll take care of the rest.

### Chai Lag Ba'Omer Bonfire

📅 May 12


🕒 7:00 pm


📍 Mission Bay

Celebrate our freedom and indulge your pyromaniac tendencies. We'll gather down by the beach for a fun night of song, stories, and flames. Who knows what new friendships might be kindled? BYOB.


## Women's Connection

### Festival Art Series


 Sunday, March 15


 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

Learn new art techniques and explore your creative side during our sixth Festival Art Series led by award-winning artists. In the past, we created various projects with Judaic themes including wire and bead “Trees of Life” during Sukkot with Hannah Anbar; paintings celebrating Sukkot and Hanukkah with Keri Goldsmid; Miriam’s and Elijah’s Cups for Pesah, Mezuzah covers, celebratory beads, Taliit clips. and hamsas with Varda Levram-Ellisman; crafted books for Pesah and painted silk with Jacqueline Jacobs; stitched books with Joanne Steinhardt; and, glass Hamsas with Ilanit Shalev. This year we are creating beautiful art with these artists and/or others working with polymer clay, beads, acrylics, fabric painting, and more. Watch for more project details. Come celebrate and learn with us—even if you do not want to do the art! All women are welcome.


 \$38 includes all art materials;  
\$20 to nosh and watch (\$42/\$22 at the door).

### Knit ‘n’ Nosh

 Monthly | 2nd Thursdays  
when the office is open


 1:00 - 3:00 pm

Learn and perfect creative yarn knitting and crocheting skills while creating Tikkun projects including caps for premature babies, scarves for women facing breast cancer, and hats for Israeli soldiers.


 For information contact Joy Wasserman Polun at [wassermanjoy3@gmail.com](mailto:wassermanjoy3@gmail.com)

### Monthly Rosh Chodesh Gatherings


 March 25, April 23, May 26


 6:00 - 8:30 pm

Celebrate the new moon, new friends, and new spiritual connections. We begin with a dairy/pareve potluck and end with a celebration under the stars! Over the past years more than 150 women of all ages have joined in sharing in large and small group discussion, education, Torah study, meditation, dance, prayer, presentations about international Jewish communities, and more. Special Guests and topics to be announced including a panel of women IDF veterans on April 23.

 For information contact Karen Bohrer at [kbohrer@usa.net](mailto:kbohrer@usa.net).

### Mah Jongg

 Weekly | Mondays when the office is open

 Noon - 4:00 pm

Women of all ages continue Beth El’s 60-plus year tradition of playing Mah Jongg. Enhance game skills and friendships.

Mark your calendars for our 3rd “Mah Jongg & Games Day” scheduled Sunday, June 28.





## Men's Club

The Men's Club is an auxiliary organization of Congregation Beth El. Our primary purpose is to provide social, educational, cultural and spiritual services for the men of Beth El, as well as for the broader Beth El community. While we provide opportunities for men in our congregation to gather together for fellowship, recreation, personal growth and mutual support, we also work to support the mission, services and activities of Congregation Beth El.

## Men Talking to Men

📅 March 17, April 23, May 21

🕒 6:30 pm

At each session participants select the topic. Men of all ages and backgrounds comprise this diverse and interesting group who come to share and listen in a safe space. New participants are always welcome. Men only, please.

## Affinity Groups

### Wise Aging:

### Living with Joy, Resilience, and Spirit

👤 Dr. Sandra Block

📅 Wednesdays | March 4, April 1, May 6

🕒 10:30 am - 12:00 pm

How can aging be a good thing? Aging all too often feels like drifting downhill to a place we don't want to go. But each year new doors open with opportunities, even while others close with loss. We have the power to prepare, to become stronger, more resilient, and navigate these challenges. Will we turn toward the opportunities, and find new joy and meaning in life? How can we make the most of this time, and develop into deeper, wiser people?

## Short Stories

📅 Sundays | March 22, April 19, May 17

🕒 10:30 am - Noon

A lively and interactive monthly discussion of short stories. The stories are sent to participants one week in advance. Volunteer presenters from within the group rotate monthly.

📍 For more information, contact Linda Kozin at [linda@kozin.net](mailto:linda@kozin.net) or Joy Wasserman Polun at [wassermanjoy3@gmail.com](mailto:wassermanjoy3@gmail.com).  
*No registration required.*

## Women Talking with Women

👤 Renee Ravich and Sandra Block

📅 March 31, May 19

Explore what it means to be a Jewish woman today within relationships, community and family-traditional and nontraditional- in a safe and supportive environment. We will provide text from various books and resources as discussion prompts. Women only, please.

## Community Hike

📅 April 12th 📅 May 31st

🕒 8:00 am 🕒 9:00 am

The Beth El Hiking group returns for two more fun hikes, a more intense ascent of Iron Mountain in April and a moderate walk through Oak Canyon in May.

📍 Contact [david@cbe.org](mailto:david@cbe.org) for details and trailhead information.





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### March

- 1** Tikkun Olam Open Forum | 24
- 1** Kadima (Grades 2-3) Program | 15
- 1** Safe Parking Program | 24
- 2** Mah Jongg | 28
- 4** Wise Aging | 29
- 5** BEIT Midrash | 16-20
- 6** Young Family Shabbat | 6, 24
- 7** Mall Crawl - Jr USY and Kadima (Grades 4-8) | 15
- 8** Community Purim Carnival | 10
- 9** The Whole Megillah: A Purim Circus | 10
- 9** Mah Jongg | 28
- 12** Knit 'n' Nosh | 28
- 12** BEIT Midrash | 16-20
- 14** 2nd Grade Shabbat Swap | 14
- 15** VTS 1st Grade Family Program | 14
- 15** Women's Connection Festival Art Series | 28
- 16** Mah Jongg | 28
- 17** Men Talking to Men | 29
- 19** BEIT Midrash | 16-20
- 20** Oneg School Shabbat - led by 4th Grade Class | 6, 14
- 22** VTS 5th Grade Family Program | 14
- 22** Short Stories | 29
- 22** Kadima program for Grades K & 1 | 15
- 23** Mah Jongg | 28
- 25** Women's Connection Rosh Chodesh Gathering | 28
- 26** Scholar-In-Residence with Rabbi/Dr. Shai Held | 22-23
- 27** Chai Shabbat | 6, 27
- 27** Shabbat Dinner & Scholar-In-Residence with Rabbi/Dr. Shai Held | 22-23

- 28** Shabbat Lunch & Huggim: Scholar-In-Residence with Rabbi/Dr. Shai Held | 7, 22-23
- 29** Good Deeds Day with Beth El Teens | 15
- 30** Mah Jongg | 28
- 31** Women Talking with Women | 29

### April

- 1** Wise Aging | 29
- 2** Knit 'n' Nosh | 28
- 2** BEIT Family Program | 16
- 2** BEIT Midrash | 20
- 3** Young Family Shabbat | 26
- 6** Mah Jongg | 28
- 9** Passover Festival Morning Service | 12
- 10** Passover Festival Morning Service | 12
- 12** Beth El Community Hike | 29
- 13** Mah Jongg | 28
- 15** Passover Festival Morning Service | 12
- 16** Passover Festival Morning Service/ Yizkor Memorial Prayers | 12
- 19** Short Stories | 29
- 20** Mah Jongg | 28
- 21** Yom HaShoah Holocaust Remembrance Day | 12
- 23** Women's Connection Rosh Chodesh Gathering | 28
- 23** Men Talking to Men | 29
- 24** Kabbalat Shabbat Service & Israel Independence Day Celebration | 12, 26
- 24** Chai Shabbat | 27
- 25** Passing the Torah - 6th & 7th Grades | 14
- 26** Beth El Teens join the Walk Against Hate | 15
- 26** VTS 3rd Grade Family Program | 14
- 27** Mah Jongg | 28

## May

- 1** Weekend Retreat | 21
- 4** Mah Jongg | 28
- 6** Wise Aging | 29
- 7** BEIT Midrash | 16-20
- 11** Mah Jongg | 28
- 12** Chai Lag B'omer Bonfire | 27
- 14** BEIT Midrash | 16-20
- 14** Knit 'n' Nosh | 28
- 14** VTS - Lag B'omer BBQ
- 17** VTS - Last Sunday VTS Classes (K&1)
- 17** Volunteer at Ronald McDonald House | 24
- 17** Short Stories | 29
- 18** Mah Jongg | 28
- 19** Women Talking with Women | 29
- 19** Israel Open Forum | 26
- 21** BEIT Midrash | 16-20
- 21** Men Talking to Men | 29
- 22** Chai Shabbat | 27
- 26** Women's Connection  
Rosh Chodesh Gathering | 28
- 28** VTS - Shavuot Celebration  
& Last Day of VTS | 14
- 28** Tikkun Leil Shavuot: Shavuot Evening  
of Study and Celebration | 13
- 29** Shavuot Festival Service | 13
- 30** Shavuot Festival Service/  
Yizkor Memorial Prayers | 13
- 30** Shabbat Lunch & Huggim:  
Shabbat Shiur | 7, 26
- 31** Safe Parking Program | 24
- 31** Beth El Community Hike | 29

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