



HOUSE KEY

**Congregation Beth El
Program Guide**

AUGUST - NOVEMBER 2019

DEAR FRIENDS,

Beth El Is Tremendous! That's what the Torah says. When our Biblical patriarch Jacob startles and wakes up from his sleep after dreaming about God's presence in his life he declares, "*Mah nora haMakom hazeh!*" This is a tremendous place! This is none other than the House of God, Beth El."

These words are woven onto the beautiful Ark curtain in our Sanctuary. They are our aspiration, to be a tremendous synagogue community. Our synagogue program grows more and more ambitious each year. We provide new and familiar services for Shabbat and holiday celebration. We add to the variety of classes and cultural experiences we offer for adults, families, and teens in our Beth El Is Thursday program, BEIT. We seek better ways for all of us to engage with and be responsive to each other. We plan more opportunities to engage with Israel and in the work of Tikkun Olam.

We will publish **House Key** quarterly this year. This Program Guide includes Beth El events and activities for August through November, 2019. Look for more publicity and information about each particular program and event. As you read through these pages now, we invite you to keep this guide for reference and to enter programs of interest into your personal calendar.

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, and Tremendous!** 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.

Our vision for Congregation Beth El reflects yours. To be a center of Jewish life in San Diego, pursuing excellence in our synagogue activities, innovation in our synagogue services and programs, and genuine bonds of care and connection in our 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.

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!



Together



Torah



Tikkun Olam



Thoughtful



Transformative

Beth El is...



Thankful



Tefillah
(Prayer)



Tziyonut
(Israel)



Tarbut
(Culture)



Tots to Teens,
and everyone else!

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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 p.m. and Saturday mornings at 9:30 a.m. 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 p.m. 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 | September 6, October 4, November 1

🕒 5:45pm | Service
6:15pm | 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 Shabbat for School Families

📅 Periodic Friday evenings throughout the school year

🕒 6:15pm

Welcome Shabbat by joining us for an Oneg Shabbat (Hors d'oeuvres) before our Friday evening family service. You can schmooze, have an appetizer (and a glass of wine for parents) and then participate in a Friday night Shabbat service.

Chai Shabbat

📅 Fridays | September 27, October 25, November 22

🕒 6:30pm

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

Our Final Two Summer Friday Evenings of the Season

Beach Shabbat

📅 Friday, August 16

🕒 6:15pm

📍 Playa Pacifica, Mission Bay

Join us on Mission Bay for informal and upbeat prayer and the fun of welcoming Shabbat with family and friends relaxing on the shore. A dairy/vegetarian potluck dinner follows our service. Be sure to bring beach chairs, blankets, and your best summer smiles.

Plaza Prayer and Picnic

📅 Friday | August 30

🕒 6:15pm

We gather outside on the Turk Family Plaza for the last time this summer as we celebrate an informal upbeat prayer service and enjoy a summer BBQ dinner. Come prepared to share some summer memories and stories.

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 | October 19, November 9

🕒 10:30-11:15am

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 a.m. 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

🗓 Saturday mornings

🕒 9:00am

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

🗓 Saturday mornings | October 19, November 9

🕒 9:00am

Each month we offer guest speakers, recreational, and family activities to enhance and enjoy Shabbat together as a synagogue community. A schedule of Shabbat Huggim is announced before each month's date.

Huggim – Shabbat Activities for October 19

🕒 9:00am | Torah Study in the Sukkah

🕒 9:30am | Shabbat Morning Service

🕒 10:30am | Family Service

🕒 11:30am | Sukkot Sanctuary Parade

🕒 11:45am | Shabbat Kiddush &
Lunch in the Sukkah

🕒 12:30pm | Story and Games in the Sukkah

🕒 12:30pm | Personal Relationships with Israel

Personal Relationships with Israel - Reflections After Visiting Israel

This past spring and summer a number of Beth El members traveled to Israel for a variety of reasons and on different programs. Come into the Sukkah to hear a panel of travelers tell about their experiences as we consider their impressions, moderated by Rabbi Libman. Together we'll explore the nature of our personal relationships with Israel.

Huggim – Shabbat Activities for November 9

🕒 9:00am | Torah Study

🕒 9:30am | Shabbat Morning Service

🕒 10:30am | Family Service

🕒 11:45am | Shabbat Kiddush & Lunch

🕒 12:30pm | "The City of Light" with Aimee Bikel
(details on page 10)

🕒 12:30pm | Circle time activities for
young families





November 9th Guest Speaker:



👤 Aimee Ginsburg Bikel | The City of Light

In commemoration of Kristallnacht, Aimee Ginsburg Bikel will share Theodore Bikel's Hanukkah story, "The City of Light." The story follows a young Jewish boy strolling through Vienna witnessing acts of anti-Semitism during Hanukkah. Then he has a dream and awakens to a different recognition about Jewish life and the meaning of light. Children ages 10 and older, and all adults, will be touched by this special presentation.



Aimee Ginsburg Bikel is an American-Israeli writer and journalist, a veteran of the IDF, and a graduate of the Hebrew University. Her late husband, Theodore Bikel, was an admired actor and musician.

Shabbat San Diego

📅 November 15 & 16, 2019

🕒 7:00pm



Share the joy and beauty of Shabbat as our synagogue community participates in the city-wide and international Shabbat Project. We honor Shabbat San Diego with a musical Shabbat Eve service at 6:15 pm followed by a lovely Shabbat Dinner at 7:00 pm. Our dinner will feature the rituals and warmth of Shabbat celebration. Rabbis Shulman and Libman, along with Ba'al Tefillah David Lipsitz will offer Shabbat inspiration in thought and song as we renew for ourselves the meaning of celebrating Shabbat.

Daily Minyan

Our Daily Minyan gathers every morning for prayer in the Beit Midrash. On Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at 7:30am, on Mondays and Thursdays at 7:20am, and on Sundays at 9:00am (on Rosh Hodesh, Intermediate Festival Days, Hanukkah, and Purim weekday morning services are held at 7:20am). A study session and light breakfast follows Minyan on each weekday morning.

Minyan participants will celebrate their bond by leading a Shabbat Morning Service for the congregation on November 2 and enjoy time socially at the annual Minyanaires Dinner on November 3.

Minyan Study

📅 Weekdays **🕒 8:00-8:30am**

Study of Jewish Law

👤 Rabbi Avi Libman

📅 Mondays

We use the Shulkhan 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.

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 and meaning of every holiday.

Observing Tisha B'Av - The Ninth of Av

We will observe Tisha B'Av with prayer and reflection on Saturday evening August 10, 2019 at 8:30pm. During the Evening Service for Tisha B'Av we recite the Bible's Book of Lamentations, Eikhah. We will also consider the meanings of this occasion for today with Rabbi Shulman.

Tisha B'Av is our calendar's date of mourning. On the ninth day of the Hebrew month of Av we recall tragic events in Jewish history and their legacies which have shaped our identity and values. Foremost among the events we remember are the destructions of the two Temples in Jerusalem. The Babylonians destroyed the First Temple in the year 586 BCE. The Romans destroyed the Second Temple in 70 CE.

We will also gather in observance of Tisha B'Av on Sunday, August 11th. Our 9 am Morning Minyan will include the prayer customs of this solemn day. We don't wear Tallit or Tefillin on the morning of Tisha B'Av as a sign of mourning.

At 9:45am we'll join together in study and discussion about issues in contemporary Jewish life as we reflect on the meanings of Jewish history for today.

At 1:00pm we'll return for a special Minhah, afternoon prayer minyan, during which we do wear Tallit and Tefillin.

Tisha B'Av is a full or partial day of fasting and introspection observed with emotion as we transform trauma into wisdom through ritual and conversation.





High Holy Days

Looking forward to the annual reunion of our synagogue community, we anticipate our High Holy Day celebrations for 2019, beginning the new Jewish year 5780.

Our Selihot Service and Program will be held on Saturday evening September 21, 2019.

Rosh HaShanah, the Jewish New Year, begins Sunday evening September 29, 2019.

We'll celebrate Rosh HaShanah on Monday and Tuesday September 30 & October 1, 2019.

Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement, will begin with Kol Nidre on Tuesday evening October 8, 2019.

Yom Kippur will be observed on Wednesday, October 9, 2019.

At Congregation Beth El we provide a variety of services, settings, and activities for all ages to welcome the Jewish New Year and observe Rosh HaShanah and Yom Kippur. For more information, please refer to the 2019 | 5780 High Holy Day Guide.

Rosh HaShanah and Yom Kippur bring us together. During the High Holy Days we are reminded that we belong to a community of Jews with whom we share values and history. We greet and meet one another at the synagogue with the purpose of measuring the course of our lives and the condition of our world.

Our prayer is unique on the High Holy Days. The liturgy's themes address our vulnerabilities and fears, our strengths and hopes. We face the future mindful of the past and present in an honest process of introspection and repentance. On Rosh HaShanah and Yom Kippur we seek a familiar synagogue service while hoping we have changed. We merge our vastly different backgrounds, experiences, and memories into one whole and holy congregation.





Hadesh Yameinu

חדש ימינו
RENEW our days
REVITALIZE
our ways

Preparing for the High Holy Days 2019 | 5780

Come explore the spiritual and moral significance of the High Holy Day season with Rabbi Shulman.

Each year as summer turns into fall, Jews turn inward. For generations, in synagogue and at home, Jewish individuals and families have celebrated the beginning of a New Year by reflecting on the course of their lives. Why? How?

Session 1: Renew Our Days

📅 Thursday | September 12

🕒 7:00pm

What's the purpose of Rosh HaShanah and Yom Kippur? What are these days supposed to be about? What meanings and purposes can we find in them for ourselves?

Session 2: Revitalize Our Ways

📅 Thursday | September 19

🕒 7:00pm

Out of habit and a sense of tradition we attend synagogue High Holy Day services. What's happening in these prayer services? What personal connections and religious relevance can we discover when we are present?

Selihot: An Evening of Renewal and Revitalization

📅 Saturday | September 21

The High Holy Days approach, but are we ready? The New Year calls, but what will be different?

Havdalah & Dessert Reception

🕒 8:00pm

We gather to enjoy the spirit of Havdalah following the conclusion of Shabbat and enjoy our bonds as a synagogue family.

Listen & Reflect: "This Is Real and You Are Completely Unprepared"

🕒 8:30pm

We listen to the recorded thoughts and reflect on the ideas taught by the late Rabbi Alan Lew in his book, "This Is Real and You Are Completely Unprepared." Our rabbis will add their insights as we seek inspiration and direction at the start of our sacred season.

Selihot Service

🕒 9:00pm

Selihot is a unique, musical, and evocative "Service of Forgiveness." The spiritual aura of the Selihot Service encourages introspection as we anticipate new beginnings. Rabbi Ron Shulman and Rabbi Avi Libman along with Ba'al Tefillah David Lipsitz lead the service which concludes with the sounding of the Shofar.



BEIT Tefillah • House of Prayer • Celebration



Sukkot

October 14 thru 22, 2018 (Erev Sukkot October 13)

Sukkot is a time of thanksgiving and hospitality when we celebrate the natural bounties of our world and all that sustains our lives. Immersed in the joys of community, environmental awareness and gratitude to God, we also demonstrate sensitivity to others and their needs for shelter and well-being.

Join with our Congregation Beth El community in the joy of celebrating Sukkot at Festival Services, communal meals, and holiday programs.

Festival Morning Services on October 15 & 16 at 9:30 am touch our imaginations as we wave the Lulav and Etrog, share in joyous prayer and song, and afterward gather in the Sukkah to enjoy holiday time together.

Sukkot Dinner & Symposium

📅 Thursday | October 17

🕒 **6:15pm** | Dinner in the Sukkah

Join us for a spirited communal dinner in the Sukkah.

🕒 **7:30pm** | Symposium

Then join us for this year's Sukkot Symposium:

New and Not So New Anti-Semitism

All of us are aware of the increase in anti-Semitic incidents and tropes throughout society and around the world. Many of us seek perspective and personal tools. We need to monitor, respond, and help our families and friends recognize what's new and not so new in anti-Semitism today.

Tammy Gilles, Anti-Defamation League Regional Director joins Rabbi Ron Shulman to help all of us think through what we're witnessing and experiencing. Through presentation, dialogue, and small group discussion this Sukkot Symposium will provide useful insights and mutual support.

One aspect of the Sukkot festival is to gather together in Jewish community and consider shared concerns and needs. Historically, Sukkot was a time of great community meetings. This is the purpose of our Sukkot Symposium, to honor the holiday we celebrate by thinking together about the condition of our Jewish lives and the world in which we live.

Shemini Atzeret concludes our Sukkot holiday with a **Festival Morning Service on October 21 at 9:30 am** when we mark the fall season and remember our loved ones during Yizkor Memorial Prayers.

Simhat Torah

We rejoice and dance with our children in the reading of Torah.

📅 Monday | October 21

🕒 **5:45pm** | SimTot Torah

Our families and youngest children celebrate Torah with songs, Torah toys, and family fun.

🕒 **6:15pm** | Family Festival Dinner

Everyone is welcome to enjoy holiday dinner with our synagogue family.

🕒 **7:00pm** | Hakaftot – Torah Parades, Torah Tour & Torah Reading for all ages

🕒 **7:45pm** | Torah Treats – Dessert and Israeli Dancing

On the morning of **October 22** we continue to celebrate our heritage of Torah at a joyous **Festival Morning Service at 9:30 am**.





Inspiring Jewish Journeys

At Congregation Beth El we believe that we learn best through experience. True for children and adults alike, it is through experiential education, learning in immersive settings, and quality relationships that we strive to provide engaging, fun, and meaningful Jewish education and programming.

We believe children and teens should not have to choose between fun and learning; instead, we are developing an integrated experience in which social programs are infused with content, and educational programs are infused with activities and friends. The formation of a new Jewish Learning department at Congregation Beth El signifies our commitment to creating a real and relevant learning environment. We believe that a more holistic combination of formal and informal education will help our children experience and connect with the beauty and wisdom of our ancient and ageless tradition while sharing in the joy of community. This cohesive strategy strives to leave a Jewish imprint on every child engaging with us at Congregation Beth El.

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

For Grades K-8, Judaism is brought to life in our Viterbi Torah School (VTS) and Kadima/USY programs. At VTS, our teachers create inviting and interactive classroom environments in which foundational skills are built. In Kadima/USY, children experience what makes it fun and cool to be Jewish in a safe space.

In the Viterbi Torah School (VTS), rabbis and teachers strive to develop responsible and knowledgeable individuals with positive Jewish identities who participate actively and joyfully in Jewish life. Our curriculum offers classes and programs to impart religious character, ethical awareness, and a love of Judaism. Our focus is to provide learning settings that tell the Jewish story as our students learn Hebrew, prayer, Jewish celebrations, texts, ideas, ethics, and values specifically designed for their age. While learning and experiencing together, our youth form friendships and create Jewish community. Special social experiences including Shabbat and holiday gatherings, moments of prayer, social justice programs, field trips and Kadima/USY events, reinforce the skills and knowledge our students gain in the classroom. Congregation Beth El families will enjoy new opportunities to participate in supplementary family programming exploring Jewish ideas and customs.

We understand the commitment required to prioritize Jewish education and social experiences in a busy family schedule. Our program seeks to make every moment a student spends with us at Congregation Beth El a meaningful and enriching one.

📅 **September 15** | First day of VTS (K-6)

📅 **September 19** | First day of VTS (2-8)

📅 **September 21** | First Bar/Bat Mitzvah session
for 7th graders

📅 **October 19** | Sukkot Night for Kadima

Kadima Day | 🗓 November 17

Grades 4-6.

A community-wide event in collaboration with all Conservative synagogues throughout San Diego.

Details and information on year-round Youth programming will be shared by email and on the website as they are confirmed.

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.

USY Goes to Disneyland

🗓 September 1 | Grades 7-12

First Thursday Night Teens (TNT) program

🗓 September 19 | 🕒 6:00pm | Grades 9 - 12

USY Leadership Training Institute at American Jewish University

🗓 September 13-15

Grades 9-12. USY Board members are eligible to attend. Anyone interested in learning about Board opportunities, please contact Ariel Moritz, Director of Jewish Learning at ariel@cbe.org.

Senior USY Encampment at Camp Ramah

🗓 November 8-10 | Grades 9 - 12

Details and information on additional year-round Teen programming will be shared by email and on the website as they are confirmed.

Bar and Bat Mitzvah Program

Our children become Bar and Bat Mitzvah (Son or Daughter of the Commandments) at a formative time in their lives. As they become Jewish teenagers, this ceremony marks a transition for them from the learning and joys of their childhoods to the moral consciousness, religious privileges, and imperative of their responsibilities as maturing Jews.

At Congregation Beth El our Bar and Bat Mitzvah Preparation Program seeks to guide our students toward the development of ethical awareness as they master the synagogue skills and Jewish concepts for living and celebrating their lives.

Bar and Bat Mitzvah celebrations take place within the context of each child's family, our synagogue community, and Shabbat Services. Bar and Bat Mitzvah is a joyous event for every student's family and our entire synagogue family.

All B'nei Mitzvah candidates at Congregation Beth El are enrolled in a formal program of Jewish education, a Jewish Day School, or some other form of Beth El approved Religious and Hebrew instruction. 7th grade students meet on Shabbat mornings to enhance their prayer skills and attend Shabbat Morning Services. Before services, 7th grade students and their parents enjoy a Bar and Bat Mitzvah preparation class taught by Rabbis Shulman and Libman. Specific class dates will be made available prior to the first class. All class sessions will begin at 9:00 a.m.

For detailed information about celebrating your child's Bar or Bat Mitzvah at Congregation Beth El, please call Rabbi Avi Libman.



Adult learning at Congregation Beth El welcomes everyone, aware that we each come to Jewish learning from our different personal backgrounds. For us, adult Jewish learning is about applying our intellectual and spiritual curiosities in order achieve new personal insights and Jewish literacy. For each of us to strive according to our own interests for deeper understanding about our Jewish identities, renewed religious or spiritual character, heightened ethical awareness, and a love of Judaism. As we each may desire, to be able to see the experiences of our lives through the lens of the Jewish People's story, ideas, and values.

Beth El Is Thursday, our BEIT Midrash program, offers courses that tell the Jewish story. Classes rotate throughout the year selected from a variety of subjects including Bible, Rabbinic Texts, Jewish Ethics and Values, Liturgy and Synagogue Skills, Celebrations and Observances, History and Modernity, Jewish Thought, Arts and Culture, and the Hebrew language. Throughout the year we welcome and learn with a variety of scholars and guest speakers.

We hope our courses intrigue, our teachers inspire, and our learning is meaningful.

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

🕒 5:30pm

Watch for periodic sessions with Rabbis Shulman and Libman during 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 (6:15-8:30pm) while their parents are learning.

BEIT Experience I 6:30 pm



Martin Buber: The Person and His Writings with Professor David Barzilai

📅 November 7, 14
December 5, 12

Come explore the thought of the important 20th century Jewish thinker Martin Buber.

Dr. David Barzilai has been teaching philosophy courses for over twenty-five years at Virginia Tech, UCSD, and SDSU. Professor Barzilai holds a Ph.D. in Philosophy and Jewish Thought and an MA in Jewish History and Holocaust Studies and a BA in education and Jewish history from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. This course is based in his book Homo Dialogicus: Martin Buber's Contribution to Philosophy.



Studying Torah from Iberia to La Jolla with Ian Merles

📅 November 7, 14
December 5, 12
🕒 7:00pm

This class will look at the weekly Torah Portion with the commentaries of three great Sephardic Medieval Biblical commentators: the poet Rabbi Abraham Ibn Ezra, the Kabbalist Rabbi Moses ben Nachman (Ramban or Nahmanides), and the Renaissance philosopher Rabbi Don Isaac Abarbanel. We will examine what lessons these Spanish Sages learned from the Torah 1,000 years ago and compare those lessons to how we understand the Torah today in San Diego, CA.

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.



American Jewish History: 1654-1800 with Professor Joellyn Zollman

📅 November 7, 14
December 5, 12

The genesis of the American Jewish experience contains many of the building blocks that continue to shape and define the community today. Come learn about the adventurous Jews who settled in the British colonies, fought in the American Revolution, and launched American Jewish life.

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.



Gender and Judaism with Rabbi Yael Ridberg

📅 November 7

Jewish tradition has long engaged with gender diversity and the idea of gender beyond a binary concept. This lecture & discussion will explore the difference between sex and gender, looking at Jewish texts and various interpretations of gender fluidity from the Torah to today.

Yael Ridberg is the Rabbi of Congregation Dor Hadash and the immediate Past President of the Board at San Diego Jewish Academy. She and her husband, Mark Laska, are also members of Congregation Beth El, and live in La Jolla with their 4 daughters.

Beginning Hebrew Reading Prayer Book Hebrew Reading

👤 Robin Shulman

📅 Begins November 7 and continues each week
BEIT meets

Learn basic Hebrew reading for synagogue services. This is a comfortable first step for discovering or rediscovering your ability to read Hebrew.

Intermediate Hebrew Reading & Conversation

👤 Orli Moses

📅 Begins November 7 and continues each week
BEIT meets

Strengthen your Hebrew reading and conversation skills.

Torah Reading

👤 Ran Anbar

📅 Begins November 7 and continues each week
BEIT meets

Learn to read Torah or enhance 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.

BEIT Tefillah: Ma'ariv Minyan

Begins November 7 and continues each week
BEIT meets

7:30pm

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

ReJEWvinate

Rabbi Ron Shulman

November 7

Rabbi Shulman's Yom Kippur message is for us to rejuvenate Jewish life, or to ReJEWvinate. In order to do this we need to be engaged in the 21st century multi-faceted Jewish conversation swirling around us about our values, our people, and our traditions. We must learn to speak with one another not at each other. We need to unpack our beliefs and assumptions while reclaiming authentic Jewish visions of social ethics, communal purpose, and personal meaning. To ReJEWvinate includes conversations about prayer and celebration, theology and social justice, Israel and the Diaspora, technology and individuality, the individual and the community. Join with Rabbi Shulman and synagogue friends to engage in the conversation.

Light and Truth (Urim VeTumim) A Screening and conversation with Screenwriter Shuki Ben-Naim



Shuki Ben-Naim

November 14

SDII Murray Gallinson San Diego-Israeli Initiative

The Israeli television series "Light

and Truth (Urim VeTumim)" takes

viewers deep inside the secret world of a yeshiva, an elite Orthodox boarding school devoted to producing the next generation of scholars of the religious Zionist movement. The series follows the lives of the yeshiva's teachers, rabbis, students and parents through a series of twists and turns as they

grapple with changing times, declining enrollment, financial hardship and soul-searing scandal. The series creator and head screenwriter Shuki Ben-Naim is a Murray Gallinson San Diego-Israeli Initiative (MGSDII) Visiting Professor at SDSU this fall. Ben-Naim has also written for the series "Nuyork," "A Touch Away," "Meorav Yerushalmi" and "Five Men and a Wedding." He is currently writing for a new HBO show called "Our Boys," based on the true story and the aftermath of the kidnapping and murder of three Jewish teenagers by Hamas militants in the summer of 2014.

CRYING HANDS: The Deaf Experience Under Nazi Oppression

Marla Petal and Michelle Baron in collaboration with the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

December 5

In the 1980s, motivated by the uncovering of remarkable information in Germany, Marla Petal and Michelle Baron embarked on a journey to rescue the history of the Deaf Holocaust Experience. They have recently entrusted their extensive collection to The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, sparking a groundbreaking collaborative effort with the National Technical Institute for the Deaf and researchers in Israel and Europe to gather dispersed testimonies and artifacts, ensuring the most complete archive possible is preserved and accessible for generations to come.

Through video testimony, contemporaneous photographs, and compelling works of deaf artists, Marla and Michelle, Museum staff, and members of Temple Beth Solomon Synagogue for the Deaf, introduce audiences to the once-vibrant European Jewish deaf community and invite all to witness the cunning immorality of Nazi eugenics and extermination efforts through their eyes. Those who once suffered the deadly stigma of disability have much to teach us today as we strive to create a more just and inclusive society.

BEIT Talks

Heard of TED Talks? Welcome to BEIT Talks! Periodically we meet a member of our synagogue community who reflects on the wisdom of his or her personal and/or professional experiences. BEIT Talks celebrates the diversity and achievements of our synagogue family.



American Political Theatre in the Age of Terrorism

 Allan Havis

 December 12

Allan Havis' plays have been produced at the nation's leading playhouses and overseas. He has 20 full length plays published, and is the editor of three American Political Plays anthologies beginning in 2001. He writes opera libretti in collaboration with renowned composer Anthony Davis. His first publication was a novel for young readers – Albert the Astronomer –from Harper/Collins. His book on Cult Films came out ten years ago. His most produced play – Morocco - received HBO Playwrights USA Award, Foundation of the Dramatist Guild/CBS Award, and Kennedy Center production grant. He is the recipient of Guggenheim, Rockefeller, and National Endowment of the Arts fellowships. Half of his plays are sharply political with several on Jewish identity in the world and life in Israel. He received an MFA from Yale Drama School, and is the Chair of Theatre and Dance at UC San Diego, where he has taught playwriting and film studies for 30 years.



A Dreidel in Time: A New Spin on an Old Tale

 Marcia Berneger

 December 12



A Hanukkah story session with the author for our children and their parents.

Devorah and Benjamin are excited to open their Hanukkah present, but it's only an ugly old dreidel. It's a big disappointment, until it transports them out of their home town to join the Maccabees!

Save the date for our Spring Scholar in Residence



Dr. Shai Held Spring Scholar-in-Residence

 March 26-28, 2020

We're excited to welcome Dr. Shai Held to Congregation Beth El this spring. Rabbi Shai Held is a theologian, scholar, and educator and one of the most in demand Jewish teachers of his generation. He is President, Dean, and Chair in Jewish Thought at Hadar, an institute of Jewish learning in New York City. Hadar empowers Jews to create and sustain vibrant, practicing, egalitarian communities of Torah, Avodah, and Hesed. Rabbi Held also directs the Center for Jewish Leadership and Ideas. Previously, he 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, Rabbi Held 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.



As summer is ending and we look forward to a new year, we celebrate the Fall season as a synagogue community with fun for all ages. Activities include a delicious brunch, bounce houses, balloon animals, Fall crafts, magic, entertainment, A Taste of Women's Connection, and more!

11:30am | The Festival begins! Fun and activities for all ages

12:00pm | Brunch buffet is open

Mimosa bar for the adults

12:15-1:00 | Magic Show

1:00-2:00 | Timber Expressions Workshop:**

Make a painted wood sign for your sukkah, or your home!

1:30-2:30 | Hosted Ice Cream Truck

2:00-3:00 | Rosh HaShanah Dessert Demo

ADMISSION: \$10*; children 2 and under are free.

*Max family price \$36

**Timber Expressions Workshop – additional cost of \$10.
Space is limited, reserve your spot early.

Tikkun Olam

Tikkun Olam Open Forum

📅 Sundays | August 4, September 22, November 3

🕒 10:30-11:30am

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.

Volunteer at the Ronald McDonald House

📅 Sunday | September 8

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

🕒 **First shift** | 3:00-6:00pm

Prep and cook dinner

🕒 **Second shift** | 5:30-8:00pm

Set up, serve, and clean up dinner

To sign up, contact Sam Jacobs at Shabatai@gmail.com.





High Holy Day Food Drive

📅 September 29 - October 9

As we begin a new year, help us fulfill the Mitzvah of Tzedakah. On Rosh HaShanah, empty bags are provided for you to fill with non-perishable food items. You may return the full bags on Yom Kippur as you arrive on campus, or prior to Yom Kippur by bringing them to the Administration Office. These gifts of food will be distributed to the Hand Up Food Pantry at Jewish Family Service, and to Western Service Workers Association, an organization assisting families in need in San Diego.

Volunteer at the Safe Parking Program

📅 Sunday | October 27

🕒 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 Conners at janeconners@mac.com.**

Mighty Mitzvah Sunday

📅 Sunday | November 10

🕒 9:30am

A day of *Tikkun Olam*/Social Action. Begin your morning at Congregation Beth El with a light breakfast before participating in your Mitzvah of choice. This year we will be focusing our efforts on veterans and active duty military personnel. Please see the Tikkun website at cbe.org for a full list of projects.

Thanksgiving Food Drive

📅 November 1-20

Congregation Beth El helps Western Service Workers Association collect food so families in need may have a bountiful Thanksgiving holiday. A list of items being collected this year can be found on our Tikkun website.

San Diego Run for the Hungry

📅 Thursday | November 28

📍 Downtown San Diego, Horton Plaza

🕒 7:00am | 10k Run begins

🕒 8:15am | 5k Walk begins

Walk/run with the Beth El Kosher Turkeys! Sign up at sdrunforthehungry.org and register with our team, the Beth El Kosher Turkeys. Funds raised will help support the North County Food Bank and the Jacobs and Cushman San Diego Food Bank.

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 Ruth Covell at 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, contact Tikkun@cbe.org.

Israel

The Israel Committee aims to engage and inspire a connection with Israel through advocacy and education. Connect with each other, and with Israel, through the variety of social, cultural, and educational programming.

Visit and Volunteer at the House of Israel

📅 Sunday | September 22

🕒 11:00am - 4:00pm

📍 2156 Pan American Plaza, San Diego

Members of Congregation Beth El, through Women's Connection, have been volunteering at the House of Israel in Balboa Park for decades. Join our community to continue this tradition. We'll provide a welcoming environment, serve Israeli snacks, and share about Israel's history and culture. For more information contact Israel@cbe.org.

Personal Relationships with Israel - Reflections After Visiting Israel

📅 Saturday | October 19

🕒 12:30pm

This past spring and summer a number of Beth El members traveled to Israel for a variety of reasons and on different programs. Come into the Sukkah to hear a panel of travelers tell about their experiences as we consider their impressions, moderated by Rabbi Libman. Together we'll explore the nature of our personal relationships with Israel.

Israel Open Forum Committee Meeting

📅 Tuesday | November 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.

Beth El Babies

Beth El Babies programming is targeted towards families with children ages 0-3. Older siblings are always welcome. We gather at Beth El, and at various locations around San Diego to make connections, and enjoy family-friendly social, cultural, and holiday programming.

Annual New Babies Brunch

📅 August 25

🕒 10:15am - 12:00pm

📍 Congregation Beth El

Welcome to the world, baby! We celebrate and welcome our newest little members to the Congregation Beth El family. Families with children 0-18 months are invited to participate in this special event, featuring a delicious brunch, circle time activities, and more. Meet new friends, see familiar faces, and find out what's in store for you and your families this year.

Blessing of Our New Babies

📅 Rosh Hashanah | September 30

🕒 Approximately 10:45am

After the sounding of the Shofar, we invite all families with babies born this year to join the Rabbis on the Bimah for a blessing. Each family will introduce their little one to the congregation and we will sing and rejoice together.

Parent & Me Yoga

📅 Sunday | November 17

🕒 10:00am - 12:00pm

📍 Congregation Beth El

Find your balance with your little ones, and have fun stretching and moving together in a gentle environment. Ms. JuJu of Beginner's Mind will lead us in exercises of focus, balance, and mindfulness.

Be sure to check out the Young Family programming on the next page! If your kiddos are ready for some bigger-kid activities, please join us!



Young Families

Young Family programming is targeted towards families with children 3-7. Younger and older siblings are always welcome. Parents and kids will have a wonderful time getting to know each other during family-friendly social, cultural, and holiday programming.

Fall Festival

📅 Sunday | September 15

🕒 11:00am - 2:00pm

As summer is ending and we look forward to a new year, we celebrate the Fall season as a synagogue community with fun for all ages. Activities include a delicious brunch, bounce houses, balloon animals, Fall crafts, magic, entertainment, and more!

Snapology

📅 Sunday | October 27

🕒 12:00 - 2:00pm

📍 Congregation Beth El

Children will enjoy building, designing, and inventing with LEGO bricks and K'nex. Participants will be actively engaged in a hands-on activity led by a Snapology instructor.

See Family Shabbat services on page 9.

High Holy Day programming for young families will be listed in our High Holiday Preview Guide.

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 offer Beth El children and teens an engaging and immersive social and educational experience to strengthen their foundational bonds to their tradition and community. We seek to build an immersive Jewish experience on our campus where kids will live, laugh and learn in a Jewish environment. Congregation Beth El's newly formed Jewish Learning Department, creates programs so that our Youth can develop strong bonds with their Jewish friends while understanding and connecting to their Jewish identity.

For more information on community and social programming for youth and teens, turn to page 17 to learn more about our integrated educational and social approach.



Chai 20s/30s

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

Chai Member Summer BBQ

📅 Sunday | August 18

🕒 4:00pm - 6:00pm

📍 Libman home

Come reconnect with all of your Chai friends at our kickoff BBQ at Rabbi Avi's home. Let's share some beers and burgers and prepare for a year full of great activities and fun.

Newlyweds Dinner

📅 Friday | September 13

🕒 6:15pm

📍 Congregation Beth El

Are you a Beth El member who has gotten married in the past two years? Join us for a musical Kabbalat Shabbat service and dinner honoring the newlyweds in our community. Get to know each other as couples and explore the experience of married life in the context of our Beth El family. Hosted by Rabbis Avi Libman and Ron Shulman.

Chai Shabbat

📅 Fridays | September 27, October 25,
November 22, December 27

🕒 6:30pm

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

Chai Kol Nidre Service

📅 Tuesday | October 8

🕒 8:30pm

Our annual Kol Nidrei Service. Reflect on your experiences from last Yom Kippur to this Yom Kippur during a musical service led by our new Chai Coordinator, David Lipsitz.

Chai Hike

📅 Sunday | October 13

🕒 9:00am

📍 Fortuna Mountain

Get ready for Sukkot with a fun moderate hike with your Chai friends. Let's enjoy some nice views and pleasant Fall weather. Parking will be at Mission Trails Regional Park Visitor Center.

Women's Connection

Monthly Rosh Chodesh Gatherings

📅 August 29, October 28

🕒 6:00- 8:30pm

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. For information contact Karen Bohrer kbohrer@usa.net.

Celebrate the Judaica Shop's 18th Anniversary at the Fall Festival

📅 Sunday | September 15

🕒 11:00am- 3:00pm

Help us kick off the 18th Anniversary Year of our decades-old Judaica Shop's re-dedication. Meet our team of "Personal Judaica Shoppers"; view our extensive inventory; and, look for specials on your favorite Judaica, hostess, holiday, baby, gift, and other items...including everything for the High Holy Days! Fall hours begin Sept. 15:

- Tuesdays 9:30am-12:30pm
- Sundays 9:00am-12:00pm
- Thursdays 4:00pm-6:00pm when VTS or BEIT are in session.

For information or appointments contact giftshop@cbe.org or 858-452-1734.

Proceeds benefit Educational, Youth, Women's, and other programs at Beth El.



Women's Connection, cont'd

Mah Jongg

📅 Weekly | Mondays when the office is open

🕒 12:00 - 4:00pm

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

Knit 'n' Nosh

📅 Monthly | 2nd Thursdays when the office is open

🕒 1:00 - 3:00pm

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.

Visit and Volunteer at the House of Israel

📅 Sunday | September 22

See page 25 for more information.

Festival Art Series

📅 Sunday | October 20

🕒 10:00am - 2:00pm

Learn new techniques and explore your creative side during the first session of our 6th Festival Arts Series led by award-winning artists. In past years, we created Judaic themed projects 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, Yads, and Tallit clips with Varda Levram-Ellisman; crafted books and painted silk with Jacqueline Jacobs; and, glass Hamsas with Ilanit Shalev. This year we will create with these artists and/or others working with polymer clay, acrylics, fabric painting, and more. 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). Watch for more project details.

Men's Club

Men Talking to Men

👤 Bernardo Bicas

📅 August 29, September 26, October 24

🕒 6:30pm

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 | August 7, September 4, November 6

🕒 11:00am - 12:30pm

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? No registration required.

Fall Community Hike

👤 David Lipsitz

📅 Sunday | September 8

🕒 8:00am

📍 3661 Sunset Dr, Escondido

Do you enjoy the outdoors? Meet up at Lake Hodges Run Trailhead for a fun hike for all ages and skill levels. Those who enjoy a leisurely walk can stroll through the meadows while the more ambitious can hike to the summit of Bernardo Mountain, a minor peak with expansive views.

Newlyweds Dinner

📅 Friday | September 13

🕒 6:15pm

Are you a Beth El member who has gotten married in the past two years? Join us for a musical Kabbalat Shabbat service and dinner honoring the newlyweds in our community. Get to know each other as couples and explore the experience of married life in the context of our Beth El family. Hosted by Rabbis Avi Libman and Ron Shulman.

Short Stories

📅 Sundays | September 15, October 27,
November 17

🕒 10:30am - 12:00pm

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 or Joy Wasserman at wassermanjoy3@gmail.com. No registration required.

Women Talking with Women

👤 Renee Ravich and Sandra Block

📅 Thursdays | November 7, December 5

🕒 6:30pm

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.

Intro to Judaism

👤 Rabbi Avi Libman

📅 December 5, 12

🕒 7:30pm

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



Programs By Date

August

- 04** Tikkun Olam Open Forum
- 07** Wise Aging
- 08** Knit 'n' Nosh
- 10** Erev Tisha B'Av
- 11** Tisha B'Av
- 16** Beach Shabbat
- 18** Chai Summer BBQ
- 29** Women's Connection Monthly Rosh
Chodesh Gathering
Men Talking to Men
- 30** Plaza Prayer & Picnic

September

- 01** USY Goes to Disneyland
- 04** Wise Aging
- 06** Young Family Shabbat
- 08** Volunteer at the Ronald McDonald House
Fall Community Hike
- 12** High Holy Day Prep
Knit 'n' Nosh
- 13** Newlyweds Dinner
USY Leadership Training Institute at
American Jewish University
- 15** Fall Festival
Short Stories
First Sunday of VTS (K-6)
- 19** High Holy Day Prep
First Thursday of VTS (2-8)
First Thursday Night Teens
- 21** First Bar/Bat Mitzvah Session for 7th Graders
Seliḥot Program & Service

September, cont'd

- 22** Tikkun Olam Open Forum
Volunteer at the House of Israel
- 26** Men Talking to Men
- 27** Chai Shabbat
- 29** Erev Rosh HaShanah
- 29-9** High Holy Day Food Drive
- 30** Rosh HaShanah

October

- 01** Rosh HaShanah
- 04** Young Family Shabbat
- 08** Erev Yom Kippur
- 09** Yom Kippur
- 10** Knit 'n' Nosh
- 13** Chai Hike
- 14-22** Sukkot
- 17** Sukkot Dinner & Symposium
- 19** Family Shabbat Services
Huggim – Shabbat Activities
Personal Relationships with Israel Panel
Sukkot Night for Kadima
- 20** Women's Connection Festival Arts Series
- 21** Simḥat Torah Dinner and Celebration
- 24** Men Talking to Men
- 25** Chai Shabbat
- 27** Young Families Snapology
Short Stories
- 28** Women's Connection Monthly Rosh
Chodesh Gathering

November

- 1-20** Thanksgiving Family Food Drive
- 01** Young Family Shabbat
- 03** Tikkun Olam Open Forum
- 06** Wise Aging
- 07** BEIT Midrash
Women Talking with Women
Kadima Day
- 08** Senior USY Encampment
- 09** Family Shabbat Services
Huggim – Shabbat Activities
Aimee Ginsburg Bikel, The City of Light
- 10** Mighty Mitzvah Sunday
- 14** BEIT Midrash
Knit 'n' Nosh
- 15-16** Shabbat San Diego
- 17** Beth El Babies Parent & Me Yoga
Short Stories
- 22** Chai Shabbat
- 28** San Diego Run for the Hungry

December

- 05** BEIT Midrash
Intro to Judaism
- 12** BEIT Midrash
Intro to Judaism

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