

Winter Events at Beth El

WE'RE EXCITED TO HAVE A FULL CALENDAR OF SPECIAL EVENTS at Beth El and with the Beth El community to get us through the winter. Come celebrate **Israel's 70th anniversary** with thought-provoking conversations, study with friends at our **Beth El Beit Midrash**, learn about comedy as Holocaust resistance or participate in **Talmud study with Rabbi Olitzky**. This winter we'll also welcome back **Shabbat Across Beth El**, and our annual **Young Family Havdalah**. And of course, social events are on the calendar including **Sisterhood, Men's Club**, and **Boomers & Beyond** events—not to mention **Purim zaniness** and the return of **The Big Quiz Thing!**

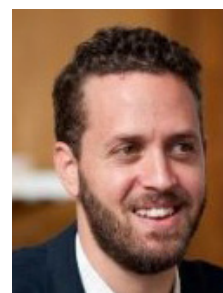
Most of our events are free and open to all! Join us! *Please note: sometimes event details change or bad weather causes postponement—please check your email or our Facebook page for latest information.*



THE FIGHT FOR RELIGIOUS PLURALISM IN ISRAEL: RECOGNIZING ALL FORMS OF JEWISH EXPRESSION
with Rabbi Arie Hasit
January 16 • 7:30pm

Rabbi Arie Hasit grew up in Cherry Hill, New Jersey, and made aliyah in 2005.

He currently serves as the founding rabbi of the Masorti community in Mazkeret Batya and the educational coordinator for Rav Siach, a program designed to connect Israeli and Diaspora Jews. Rabbi Arie will discuss the challenges of being a non-Orthodox rabbi in Israel, the struggle for equality among all forms of Jewish expression in Israel, and what the American Jewish community can do to support diverse Jewish expression.



THE FUTURE OF THE MILLENNIAL JEWISH RELATIONSHIP WITH THE STATE OF ISRAEL

with Dr. Hillel Gruenberg
February 4 • 9:30am

Dr. Hillel Gruenberg, the Director of Israel Engagement at the Jewish

Theological Seminary and Hebrew Union College, will speak about the challenging trends of affiliation, commitment, and support among the American Jewish community towards Israel and why there seems to be a schism among millennial Jews and the modern Jewish state. He will also explore what the future might hold and what the American Jewish community can do to shape the future of that relationship.

Watch your email and other announcements for our Yom Ha'atzmaut celebration!

LIFELONG LEARNING



AFTER CHARLOTTESVILLE: TALKING TO OUR CHILDREN IN TUMULTUOUS TIMES

with Peter Nelson

Thursday, January 25 • 7:30pm

This workshop for parents of elementary, middle and high school students will help us make sense of increased anti-Semitism, bigotry and hate speech. Beth El member Peter Nelson served for 24 years as the Director of the New York office of Facing History and Ourselves, the renowned international educational program that works with schools and teachers to equip students to make good choices and become upstanders. Free and open to the community

Congregation **Beth El**

Preserving Tradition...Embracing Change

Golda and Michael Och Campus
222 Irvington Avenue
South Orange, NJ 07079
973-763-0111 • bethelnj.org

LIFELONG LEARNING (CONTINUED)

פרויקט זוג PROJECT ZUG

**BETH EL BEIT MIDRASH CHAVRUTA STUDY WITH PROJECT ZUG:
KICKOFF BREAKFAST** featuring Mechon Hadar Founder Rabbi Elie Kaunfer
Sunday, January 28 • 10:00am

We're excited to begin our third year of the Beth El Beit Midrash, our chavruta/partnered study in partnership with Mechon Hadar's Project Zug. The word "zug" means pair or couple, and since ancient times, Jews have met in dedicated pairs for discussion and study. Sign up as a pair, or ask to be paired with a partner who wants to study the same course. Studying can take place in person, over the phone, by Skype or FaceTime! Each pair will pick up one of the 28 11-week Project Zug courses, with a wide range for every interest and knowledge level, from "Love, Sex, and Relationships in Jewish Tradition" to "Theology of the Psalms," and more. Knowledge of Hebrew is not necessary. Sign up and find more information at: bethelnj.org/form/projectzug

OTHER LIFELONG LEARNING EVENTS

**COMEDY AS RESISTANCE IN
HOLOCAUST CINEMA**
with Stuart Weinstock
Saturday, February 3 • 7:30pm
Congregant Stuart Weinstock is a writer, director and professor of Film and film programmer at Columbia University and Ramapo College, whose short films have won awards at film festivals worldwide.

WORLD WIDE WRAP
Sunday, February 4 • 8:00am
We invite our students and families to join us for Morning Minyan and the World Wide Wrap, an event co-sponsored by Men's Club and Sisterhood and celebrated by congregations around the world. If you have tefillin, bring yours. Otherwise, we will have extra pairs to share and volunteers to help teach you how to wrap. Minyan is followed by breakfast and the Israel program with Dr. Hillel Gruenberg at 9:30am.

TORAH TALK
Saturday Mornings • 8:45am
We kick off most Shabbat mornings with our lively and popular Torah study sessions. Teachers include congregants, Rabbi Olitzky and our Rabbinic Intern Sam Hollander. Join us for hot coffee and great conversation.

TALMUD AND TOAST WITH RABBI OLITZKY
Winter Dates: January 24; February 14 and 28;
March 14 and 28
Meets 9:30am at Village Coffee, Maplewood
Join Rabbi O for twice-a-month Talmud study of Tractate Sukkah over breakfast. Open to everyone, at all knowledge levels.

YOUNG FAMILIES

**YOUNG FAMILY HAVDALAH, FOLLOWED BY
PARENTS' NIGHT OUT**
Saturday, January 27 • 5:00-8:00pm
Families with children up to Grade 2 are invited to come celebrate Havdalah with songs, snacks and a craft to take home: your own Havdalah candle! The craft project will begin at 5:00pm, followed by Havdalah at 5:45pm. Then from 6:00-8:00pm, we'll provide babysitting for kids from 18 months through Grade 2, so parents can enjoy a night out! Suggested donation of \$10 per child; all proceeds will be given to tzedakah. Registration required for babysitting only: bethelnj.org/form/PNO

BUMPS & BABIES
Winter Dates: January 19; February 2 and 23;
March 9 and 23, all at 9:30am
Join us for our drop-in baby group. Meet other parents and parents-to-be from our community!
Light refreshments served.

YOUNG FAMILY FRIDAY
Friday, March 2 • 6:00pm
For families with children through Grade 2, join us for songs and blessings to which all are invited, followed by dinner for those with reservations. Watch your email for sign up.

CELEBRATE SHABBAT

SHABBAT ACROSS BETH EL

Friday, January 26

Shabbat Across Beth El is a wonderful opportunity for Beth El members to spend a Shabbat dinner with someone they may not already know intimately! You sign up, offer to be a host or a guest—whichever works best for you—and then we match you with another Beth El member who we think you might not already know. Young, old, new, established, families, individuals—everyone is welcome and encouraged to participate. This is a beautiful and informal way to strengthen our community and build connections with each other by sharing Shabbat. You will get a follow up email with your match about a week prior to the event.

Sign up to host or be hosted at: <http://bit.ly/2EamMxz>

SHABBAT BABAYIT

at the home of Noah Marcus and Rachel Klinghoffer Marcus

Friday, February 2 • 5:30pm

Join us for an early Shabbat dinner followed by family-friendly singing and services. Watch your email for address and RSVP information

FRIDAY NIGHTS AT BETH EL

Our Friday night events continue to include a range of opportunities to welcome Shabbat as a community, including Welcome Friday Night Meditation services with Rabbi Olitzky, Neighborhood Shabbat in members' homes, and opportunities for our Golda Och Academy and Jewish Learning Center students to help lead services and enjoy dinner together, to which all are welcome. Mark your calendars for these dates:

January 19: Grade 2-3 Service and Dinner

March 16: Grade 4-5 Service and Dinner

Please also watch your email and other announcements for upcoming Shabbatot that will include participation by candidates for our assistant clergy search.

BETH EL CELEBRATES PURIM

Sunday, February 25 • 12:00-2:30pm

Annual Purim Carnival

Wednesday, February 28

Evening Service and Megillah reading, with pizza and kids activities, followed by our adults-only after party!

Thursday, March 1

Morning Service and Megillah reading

Watch your email and other announcements for complete Purim details!

SOCIAL ACTION & TIKKUN OLAM

INTERFAITH HOSPITALITY NETWORK HOSTING MEETING

Thursday, January 18 • 7:30pm

We are excited to announce that Beth El will host four families from the Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN) for the first time (July 29–August 5). Come to our volunteer kick-off meeting at the home of Adena and Matt Traub. You are not obligated to volunteer if you attend the meeting, but this is a great opportunity to learn more about an exciting new Beth El undertaking. For information, contact Reba Auslander (rauslander2@gmail.com), or Adena Traub (adenatraub@gmail.com).

SOCIAL ACTION & TIKKUN OLAM (CONTINUED)

BETH EL'S MONTHLY SESSION AT THE INTERFAITH FOOD PANTRY

Church of the Epiphany, 105 Main Street, Orange

Winter Dates: Wednesdays, January 17, February 21, March 21 • 8:15-11:00am

Beth El partners with other congregations to help run the Interfaith Food Pantry, which helps meet the urgent need for food in our area. Beth El's monthly staffing responsibility is the third Wednesday of each month, and volunteers can attend for as much of the morning as they are able. Help is also needed on Tuesday night for fresh bread and produce pick-ups from local restaurants and markets. Contact Diane Stein (dianehstein@aol.com) or Shayna Schmidt (shaynar15@aol.com) to be added to their list of volunteers. Children age 8 and up are welcome to participate during school vacations.

PRETEENS & TEENS



SOCIAL AND SERVICE ACTIVITIES FOR GRADES 3-12

CHAVERIM CONNECTIONS TRIP TO THE SMILE FOOD PANTRY

Monday, January 15 • 10:00am-12:30pm

Chaverim Connections is our youth group for 3rd, 4th and 5th graders. They will celebrate MLK Day with a service trip. Please bring some of the most needed items, including olive oil, rice, or diapers. Sign up at: bethelnj.org/form/chaverimtikkun or chaverimconnections@bethelnj.org



GRADE 8-12 LEARNING LOUNGES & DINNER:

January 17, 31; February 7; March 14, 21 at 6:00pm

KADIMA & USY TRIP TO THE INTERFAITH FOOD PANTRY: January 21

KADIMA CUPCAKE WARS: January 24

SOCIAL ACTION TRIP (GRADES 8-12) TO RUTGERS/NEW BRUNSWICK:

February 16-19 President's Day Weekend

HELP STAFF THE PURIM CARNIVAL: February 25

KADIMA SOCIAL ACTION EVENT: March 7

USY ICE SKATING EVENT: March 11

USY & KADIMA FUNPLEX TRIP: March 18

INTERFAITH YOUTH HOLOCAUST EVENT:

March 11, at Morrow Memorial Church

LET'S GET TOGETHER

SISTERHOOD LADIES NIGHT OUT

Saturday, January 20 • 7:30pm

Fed up with the cold? Warm up with Sisterhood and enjoy a little social time with us at the Hills Tavern, 40 Main Street in Millburn.



Saturday, March 3 • 8:30pm

Back by popular demand: Beth El's own live trivia game show! Who will be crowned the trivia champs this year? Watch your email and other announcements for info.

Watch your email and other announcements for upcoming Sisterhood, Men's Club and Boomers & Beyond activities.

STAY IN TOUCH!

FOLLOW BETH EL ON FACEBOOK FOR EVENT INFORMATION AND MORE!



Beth El: [facebook.com/bethelnj](https://www.facebook.com/bethelnj)

Thelma K. Reisman Preschool: [facebook.com/Thelma.K.Reisman.Preschool](https://www.facebook.com/Thelma.K.Reisman.Preschool)

Men's Club: [facebook.com/BethElMens](https://www.facebook.com/BethElMens)

Sisterhood: [facebook.com/BethElSisterhood](https://www.facebook.com/BethElSisterhood)

Teen program: [facebook.com/SOMAJewishTeens](https://www.facebook.com/SOMAJewishTeens)

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Do we have your current email?
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