



Celebrations for All Ages • New Adult Comedy Jam!

Saturday, February 23

6:30pm: Young Families program with Ira Levin and costume parade

6:45pm: Ma'ariv service

7:15pm: Megillah reading

Treats for everyone provided by Sisterhood and special prizes for the most creative costumes!

Please contact Rabbi Roston if you would like to be a Megillah reader

8:30pm: Adult Comedy Jam (*Contact Rabbi Roston to sign up for microphone time*)

Sunday, February 24

8:15am: Start of morning service, with Megillah reading and Seudat Purim (*Purim feast*)

9:00am: Deliver Mishloach Manot

12:00 - 3:00pm: Purim Carnival at Oheb Shalom

Games, food, and fun for all ages! Sponsored by So. Orange Kadima and USY. Proceeds to USY Tikkun Olam Fund.

And Do a Mitzvah – Send Mishloach Manot! Details on page 7.



New *Sundays@7* Programs

Sunday, January 20, 7:00pm: Rabbi Jeffrey Salkin, *“The Oldest Ism. That would be Anti-Semitism”*

Rabbi Salkin is head of the Anti-Defamation League, New Jersey office, and previously rabbi at Temple Israel, Columbus, GA.



Sunday, February 10, 7:00pm: Rabbi Barry Schwartz, *“Where the Debate on Modern Judaism Really Began”*

Rabbi Schwartz is the director of The Jewish Publication Society in Philadelphia and rabbi of Congregation Adas Emuno in Leonia, NJ.

SISTERHOOD SHABBAT • SATURDAY, JANUARY 26

Join us for Shabbat services when Sisterhood will lead prayers, read the Torah, and chant the Haftarah. A cantorial student from the Jewish Theological Seminary will participate and share with us how funds we raise help her and others.

MORE GREAT INFORMATION INSIDE!

Meet Ira Levin, our new Musical Mini-Minyan leader, pages 3 and 19
Great recipes from the Beth El Shabbat “home-made” Kiddush menu, page 8
Meet our new members, page 14

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Morning Minyan

Monday through Friday 7:45am
Sundays/legal holidays 8:15am

Shabbat Evening Service

Every Friday at 6:15pm
Note: Shabbat in the 'Hood starts at 7:30pm

Shabbat Morning

Torah Talk, 8:45am
Services begin at 9:30am

Shabbat Morning Children's Schedule

Mini-Minyan

11:00am (up to age 6)

Musical Mini-Minyan with Ira Levin

January 5, 26; February 2,9,23; March 2

Shabbat B'Yachad

11:00am (grades 2-6)

Updates

Friday, January 4, 7:30pm: Shabbat in the 'Hood

Saturday, January 5, 5:00pm: Young Family Havdalah

Saturday, January 12, 9:30am: Shabbat of Welcome

Saturday January 26, 9:30am: Sisterhood Shabbat

Friday, February 1, 6:15pm: Friday Night Live! and Communal Dinner

Friday, February 8, 6:15pm: Friday Night Unplugged

Saturday, February 23, 6:30pm: Young Families Program, Megillah Reading

Sunday, February 24, 8:15pm: Megillah Reading and Seudah

Friday, March 1, 7:30pm: Shabbat in the 'Hood



FROM OUR RABBI

Purim is Here! Eat, Drink and Do Mitzvot!

Although Purim is not a yontiff, during which work is prohibited, it is a *yom tov* – a good day. It is a day upon which we are commanded to celebrate and rejoice the survival of the Jewish people. We dress up in costumes no matter how old we are! We are commanded to make noise in synagogue—cheering for Mordecai and Esther and booing at Haman and Zeresh. We are supposed to eat, drink, and be merry!

There are four mitzvot which we are commanded to perform on Purim. Each mitzvah teaches us about the importance of community in Judaism.

First, we are commanded to listen to the reading of the Megillah. We are not supposed to just know the story and read it on our own, but we are supposed to hear the Megillah read within a synagogue with our community. This is to teach us that the victories of the Jewish people are only achieved when there is unity among the Jewish people. Mordecai and Esther are the heroes of the Book of Esther, but their victory was not accomplished without the support and prayers of the entire community. This year, we will read the Megillah on Saturday night, February 23. There will be a Young Families Program at 6:30pm. Traditional Evening/Maariv services will begin at 6:45pm, and we will all join together for the Megillah reading around 7:15pm. Following the Megillah reading will be an Adult Comedy Jam at approximately 8:30pm. (Please contact me to sign up for mike time!) There will be treats for congregants of all ages and a special prize for the most creative costume. If you are a Megillah reader and would like to read a chapter, please contact me.

The second and third mitzvot of Purim are stated in the Book of Esther, 9:22: “It was on these historic days that the Jews were saved from their enemies, and it was the month when their sorrow was changed to joy, and their mourning to happiness, making them into days of feasting and joy, and of exchanging gifts – Shalach Manot – and of giving tzedekah to the poor – Matanot L’Evyonim.”

We are supposed to give gifts, Mishloach Manot, of at least two different foods to at least two people in our community and to give gifts to the poor, Matanot L’Evyonim. These gifts acknowledge that we are all connected to and responsible for each other. Just as we feel joy and celebration, we should share it with others. Just as we are able to enjoy the gifts we have, we must help others realize that they have a community that supports them and helps them to celebrate. I hope you will be able to contribute canned goods or money to help the poor when you attend Purim festivities and that you enjoy creating mishloach manot on your own to share with neighbors, friends, and family.

On Purim morning, Sunday, February 24, we will continue our celebration. Morning services begin at 8:15am, with the megillah reading to begin around 9:00am. We will then end the festivities with a *Seudat Purim* – a Purim feast.

The Seudat Purim is the fourth mitzvah of Purim. As with many other holidays we are commanded to make a celebratory meal on Purim. We often joke about the predominance of food in Jewish life, but there are important lessons to learn from it. There is a Jewish approach to food and meals. We are supposed to sit down at a table, eat with family and community, and say blessings to remind us of God’s creation from which we are benefiting. Food is meant to unite us as a community just as the other Purim observances do.

On Purim, we celebrate the survival of the Jewish community in the face of threatened extermination. As we boo Haman and Zeresh and cheer Mordecai and Esther, we must condemn all leaders who preach hatred and bigotry and support those who strive for peace and unity for the Jewish people. As we celebrate together, may we remember those in our community in need of cheer and support. As we fulfill the mitzvot of Purim, may we all have a joyous holiday!

Top Ten Reasons for Celebrating Purim:

1. Making noise in shul is a mitzvah.
2. Levity is not reserved for the Levites.
3. If you’re having a bad hair day, you can always wear a mask and no one will know who you are.
4. Purim is easier to spell than Khanuka, Chanukah, Hanuka... the Hebrew name for the Festival of Lights.
5. You don’t have to shlep and kasher all your pots and dishes.
6. You don’t have to build a sukkah and eat outside.
7. You get to drink wine and you don’t have to stand for Kiddush.
8. You won’t get hit in the eye by a lulav.
9. Mordechai—1; Haman—0.
10. You can’t eat hamentaschen on Yom Kippur.

Reprinted from the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism, by Kenneth Goldrich

My daughter Abigail will be celebrating becoming a Bat Mitzvah on Shabbat Zachor, February 22 and 23. This is the special Shabbat that precedes Purim, which begins the 23rd at sundown. It is also a special Shabbat because the entire congregation, along with our family and friends are invited to our beautiful synagogue to celebrate with us. Please watch your inbox for an invitation from our family and we look forward to sharing this incredible milestone in our family’s life, with the congregation!

With Blessings,
Rabbi Francine Roston

Please visit www.bethelnj.org to read a selection of Rabbi Roston’s sermons, divrei Torah and special prayers. If you know of a Beth El member who is ill, hospitalized, or homebound, please call Rabbi Roston to let her know. Beth El members are our source of information.



FROM OUR SYNAGOGUE PRESIDENT

What kind of people are we who say to our children that at age 13, each has to learn to read and chant an ancient language and then interpret ancient texts in front of everyone they know—and lots of people they don't? And why do these children all rise to the occasion?

I have had the honor and privilege of sitting on the bima as a parade of our children have become b'nai mitzvah. It is the largest class we have had in some time (please see page tk to read about our group in February and March). There are many more to come as the year proceeds and large classes in the years ahead.

Two things are particularly interesting to me. First is how accomplished all of our children are in their skills. This is a testament to Sherri Morris and her expert staff at the Jewish Learning Center. It is also a tribute to a group of tutors whose love for what they do and for their students is palpable. Howard Cooper, Sherri Morris, Mike Morris, and Jamie Breitman inspire these kids – and it shows!

Second, each b'nai mitzvah's words are his or her own. You can hear it in their choice of words and in their presentation. Each one is different; each reflects unique interests and personalities and has been a revealing window into their individual minds and souls. I have been especially amazed by the depth of their analyses. This is not "out-of-the-mouths-of-babes" stuff – this is real d'var torah. Nothing else describes it. I listen and hear interpretations that are new, fresh and of today, and they make me think about things in ways I had not before. I marvel at how Rabbi Roston brings

this out in every child week after week, with nothing redundant or stale. That she neither censors nor judges is also clear. I do not know if these teens realize how lucky they are to have such a rabbi at this special moment in their lives, but I am confident that they will as they get older and wiser.

So this is really what it is about, and I have the best seat in the house to witness it all. I get to look into the parents' eyes as the Torah is passed down. By now, I know exactly when the mother will cry. I get to look at the grandparents' faces as they kvell—wistful, proud, amazed and happy beyond words—and at the bored younger siblings as they anticipate when they get to throw the candy. I get to look at the bar or bat mitzvah's hands as he or she glides the yad across the parchment and at parents as they watch, rightly assured they have done their job as good parents.

Lastly, I get to sit next to the b'nai mitzvahs to offer the congregation's congratulations, tell them what a great job they have done, and watch as they wind down and start to return to the children they still really are. It's a strange thing we do, to temporarily and prematurely make our children adults as if by magic. I am delighted to see them return to being children at their well-deserved celebrations, knowing they have experienced growing up, even if only briefly, and that they are on the right road to adulthood. I am grateful to see this growth at Beth El and to play even a small part in it all.

B'Shalom,
Bill Gold
president@bethelnj.org



Meet Ira Levin!

Leader of our new Musical Mini-Minyan
January 5, 26 • February 2, 9, 23 • March 2

The reviews are in – Ira Levin is a huge hit!

Ira is a singing storyteller and song leader who has performed and recorded in many venues, and worked and celebrated with Jewish communities from Miami to the San Francisco Bay area. Ira and his wife Julia also tour as a harmony-driven acoustic folk rock group called *The Levins*. A theater major, Ira has appeared on PBS as his alter-persona, Uncle Eye, and on the nationally syndicated children's show *Jaker's! Piggley's Storyteller's Playhouse*.

See page 19 for more on Ira's outlook on Shabbat for youngsters.

Kids and Parents – Join us for an upbeat service, with some surprises!

EDUCATION



Sherri Morris, Director of Congregational Learning, 973-763-0119, smorris@bethelnj.org

One day this summer, Hannah Anthony in Kitah Hay came to Beth El with her mom for a visit. Hannah exuberantly told me that she and her brother Josh, who is in Kitah Zayin, were talking about the Jewish Learning Center. They

thought that we needed to have a student council. She went on to explain why a student council was necessary and what it could do to benefit the JLC.

As I listened, I was beaming from ear to ear not only because it was an excellent idea but also because two students were talking about the JLC—and school had not yet even started! One of our goals at the JLC is to empower children to have a voice in their Jewish journeys. Hannah made it clear that she and Josh have gotten that message. A student council will allow our students to practice leadership skills, which are important for our next generation of synagogue leaders.

On Wednesdays, the upper grades (third through seventh) have electives for the last 30 minutes of JLC. Ideas for the electives, which last for six to seven weeks per quarter, come from students and teachers. We added the student council as an elective in the second quarter.

Morah Leemor Ellman is leading this group as they write by-laws, create a name and brainstorm fundraising ideas.

They want to raise money so that we can have more variety of snacks, which is essential for the children! The student council will also explore ideas to help increase attendance at Shabbat services. While I have asked for input about services from parents, I haven't yet heard from the students. The council will also make a presentation to the JLC board. This is certainly the type of learner-centered experiences that we want to provide in our program.

At our closing day last May, I asked the children if they were only Jewish when they were at Beth El. When I asked when are we Jewish, everyone responded with a resounding all of the time! I encouraged the students to notice and record all the ways that they are Jewish, such as helping neighbors, recycling, and saying a blessing when they see something amazing in nature. The teachers and I are always modeling and reinforcing ways to turn commonplace moments into sacred moments. We stress infusing Judaism into all that we do in our lives. Creating a student council embraces this idea by bringing an idea from our students' secular experience into their Jewish world. That truly makes me smile!

B'vracha,
Morah Sherri



JLC students serve guests at soup kitchen

(L to R) Eric Binder, Brian Levine and Zeke Winitzky volunteered with other students and parents at the Soup Kitchen in East Orange in late October. Parents Elizabeth Samet and Suzi Silver also helped on the serving line.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

JLC Book Fair and Book Drive

Sunday, March 3 - Tuesday, March 5: A fantastic selection of Jewish-themed books and other materials for children and adults! Help JLC stock its own shelves by donating one or more books! Thank you!

SATURDAY, JANUARY 12 SHABBAT OF WELCOME

Please join us as we meet, welcome and honor Beth El's newest members in a special celebration of Shabbat. Traditional Sanctuary service led by Cantorial Intern Brian Kalver at 9:30am, Musical Mini-Minyan will start at 11:00 am for our youngest congregants with Ira Levin our spirited song leader. Everyone will come together in the Sanctuary at the conclusion of services. Then, enjoy a "homemade" Kiddush luncheon with games for the kids and an ice cream sundae bar.

EDUCATION



Sandy Sachs, Director, Thelma K. Reisman Preschool, 973-763-0113, sandysachs@bethelnj.org

It's been several months since Hurricane Sandy made a huge impact on the Preschool, but I still think about the storm's enormity and how it affected so many people. I know how fortunate I was, as well as most of the people that I know. We didn't have electricity, but our homes did not have severe damage, our jobs continued, and no one was hurt.

Life as we know it changed drastically for a few weeks. Some of us were cold, misplaced, and worried about our health and safety. I was touched by all the people who reached out to support others in many different ways: by offering a warm place to stay or a hot meal, taking time to listen, and trying to relieve others' stress. Beth El was one of the places without electricity for a long while, but both employees and members pitched in to reach congregants and be helpful. I was touched by the outpouring of support for so many, by so many.

While the Preschool was without power, I decided that it would be helpful for the children and their families to have a warm place to go and a routine back in their lives. I made a phone call to my friend and colleague Carol Paster, the preschool director at Temple Sharey Tefilo-Israel in South Orange. She asked what she could do for me and I answered "Let me have school with you." Without skipping a beat, she said, "Of course, no problem." Immediately, there were many preschool parents from the synagogue to welcome us to their school and to help us find our way. We ended up spending the whole week there, a great experience for all.

One important mitzvah that we teach our children is Hachnasot Orchim, the welcoming of guests. This time we were recipients of this important Jewish value that originates from the story of Abraham and Sarah. We were treated with respect and kindness, and a sense of community grew as the days went by. As new friendships began and old ties were strengthened, I had an opportunity to brainstorm ideas and spend time with colleagues I don't often see.

Even as we now have readjusted to our regular day-to-day routines, the hurricane will not be quickly forgotten by adults or children. An important "take away" for me has been how everyone pitched in to make things easier and to help people cope throughout the ordeal. I am also proud to say that we focused our Shabbat Tzedakah on donating the monies collected to the Hurricane Relief Fund at United Jewish Communities. We made a sizable donation in honor of the people at Temple Sharey Tefilo-Israel who helped us in both the Preschool and the JLC.

I hope that we never experience anything like this again, but I will say that being the recipient of much thoughtful generosity from our neighbors is a takeaway that I am glad I experienced.

We have begun our registration for the summer of 2013 and for the 2013-2014 school years. Please pass the word to any neighbors or friends with children that are ready for these programs. I am happy to give tours, and we will have an Open House on Sunday, February 3 during our PlaySpace time.

B'Shalom
Sandy

NOTE: If you missed Rabbi Roston's article in the NJ Jewish News – "What Jewish Communities Learned From Sandy", please find it online at:

<http://www.njewishnews.com/article/15341/what-jewish-communities-learned-from-sandy#.UMydhbapgkc>

Winter is the perfect time for the BETH EL PLAYSPACE

January 6 and 20 • February 3 • March 3

Drop in from 12:00 - 3:00pm

Our indoor facility lets kids of kindergarten age and younger climb, slide, run, and ride! Parents can use free WiFi in the Beth El Café. Snacks, juice, and gourmet coffee available for purchase. \$5 per child/max \$15 per family. All Children MUST be accompanied by an adult.

Join Us at the Preschool Open House

Sunday, February 3, 12:00 - 3:00pm

Enjoy the Playspace...tour our Preschool...and ask about our award-winning program! Questions?

Contact Sandy Sachs, 973-763-0113 • sandysachs@bethelnj.org

ADULT EDUCATION

Crash Course in Hebrew Reading with Rabbi Roston

Sundays, January 6, 13, 20, 27; February 3,
9:00-10:30am

In just five 90 minute sessions, we will cover the basics of Hebrew reading and you'll be proficient if you commit to attending the courses and practicing a few minutes each day. Rabbi Roston is a great teacher, motivator, and cheerleader. Don't miss this opportunity to start the new year with a new skill!

Come Use Beth El's Jewish Bookshelf

Did you know that there is a bookshelf in the hallway between the preschool and clergy offices that holds Jewish books for you to borrow, share and enjoy. Take a book. Leave a book. Enjoy a book. It's a great way to share good Jewish books. Most books on the shelf now are from Rabbi Roston's library and she is happy to give you recommendations!

New *Sundays@7* Programs



Sunday, January 20, 7:00pm: Rabbi Jeffrey Salkin, "The Oldest Ism. That would be Anti-Semitism" and yes, it is even older than Judaism itself. The number of incidents are falling in the United States, but rising in New Jersey. Why? And what can we learn from this? Rabbi Salkin is head of the Anti-Defamation League, New Jersey office, and previously rabbi at Temple Israel, Columbus, GA.



Sunday, February 10, 7:00pm: Rabbi Barry Schwartz, "Where the Debate on Modern Judaism Really Began" Rabbi Schwartz is the director of The Jewish Publication Society in Philadelphia and rabbi of Congregation Adas Emuno in Leonia, NJ.

Beth El Boomers & beyond

Sunday, January 27, 7:00pm

Join this new social group for adult members (55+) and catch your 'second wind'!

Are your days of religious school car pooling a distant (and somewhat exhausting) memory? Whether those days ended last year or decades ago, we hope you've caught your breath and are ready to establish, strengthen, and renew your social relationships at Beth El.

Connect with friends both new and old! Catch up over wine, home-made desserts, and coffee, have fun learning about those folks you may see around shul but whom you don't really know, PLUS – Hear Mitch Greenberg, Beth El member and actor, present a light-hearted reading.

Our format will be fluid and can change to meet the needs of our members. We look forward to enjoying activities together ranging from wine-tastings and board games to theater outings, movies, pot luck dinners, and more. Age and marital status are not determining factors. You just need to be a member of Beth El looking for meaningful and fun social connections with other adults. We will meet at the home of Joan and Harvey Bucholtz, 130 Wyoming Ave., Maplewood. RSVP to joanbucholtz@gmail.com or 973-761-1275.



Camp Ramah Berkshires Is Turning 50!

Join us on Shabbat, March 9 to celebrate!

Did you ever attend Camp Ramah in the Berkshires, or do you know someone who did? We'd like anyone with any connection to Camp Ramah to join us in the Beth El Sanctuary on Saturday, March 9 for a celebration as the camp kicks off its year of Golden Anniversary events. Come reminisce. If you'd like to assist with planning our event or for more information, contact Joan Bucholtz at joanbucholtz@gmail.com or 973-761-1275; or Eda Chodrow, echodrow@verizon.net or 973-762-6997.

For more information on the Camp Ramah year of celebration, including its June 9 Festival@50 event at the camp site, visit <http://www.ramahberkshires.org/50anniversary>.



FROM OUR INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Mary Beth Goff, 973-763-0111 x10, mbgoff@bethelnj.org

(Our interim executive director answers questions about life at Beth El.)

*Dear Mary Beth,
I've heard my friends and neighbor's names mentioned from the bima because they have something to do with the delicious kiddush luncheon or with the bima decorations. What's the difference between sponsoring and enhancing the kiddush and who decorates the bima?*

Curious

Dear Curious,
First, let me compliment you on listening to the announcements; not everyone does. Second, the difference between sponsoring and enhancing kiddush is a matter of degrees. Beth El is committed to continuing the friendly (and yummy) luncheon after Shabbat services as a time to socialize and catch up with friends and meet our many new members. While we are lucky to have a Kitchen Cabinet committee who plans, buys and creates the delicious and healthy dishes, there are costs. One way to defray them is to sponsor, or pay for the entire cost of the kiddush, or to enhance, or pay for part of it. It's our custom that bar and bat mitzvah families sponsor kiddush on the day of their celebration. Other reasons to sponsor or enhance include weddings, engagements, in memory of a loved one's yahrzeit, the anniversary of a bar or bat mitzvah, the birth of a child or grandchild, graduations, the occasion of a first time aliyah, reading Torah or Haftarah, or in the case of one congregant—because she appreciated having lunch served each week. Bima decorations are another upbeat way to contribute. The flowers you see are then used by the Sisterhood Flower committee to make smaller arrangements that are delivered to members who have suffered a loss, are ill, are celebrating an occasion, or have done something special for our community. Please contact me about kiddush or bima flower sponsorship see the bulletin for contacts to help with kiddush preparation or flower repurposing.

Today Rabah,
Mary Beth Goff

*Dear Mary Beth,
I wore a coat to services and went home without it. When I came back to find it, it seems to have disappeared. Did you take it? I think I left my eyeglasses there, too and maybe a scarf, I'm not sure.
Lost and found in South Orange*

Dear Lost,
Was it a soft, black cashmere jacket that fits me perfectly? I haven't seen it. As for the scarf and glasses – you may want to write your name in permanent marker on your belongings. Seriously, when coats are left in the coatroom, they stay there to be easily located on your next visit. If we find belongings such as outerwear, glasses or scarves in other areas such as the Social Hall or Sanctuary, they are brought to the office to await collection. After a reasonable amount of time, usually a month, we donate items to local social services so those in need can benefit.

*Dear Mary Beth,
I've noticed that there can be a lot of food left over after a bar/bat mitzvah kiddush. Can I bring Tupperware to bring some home or is it better to use the synagogue's ZipLock bags?
Hate to see food wasted*

Dear Wasted,
As you know Jews can't order too little food! When there's food left over from a family simcha, the family comes on Sunday to take what they want. We encourage families to take only as much as they actually need. The rest is donated to the Soup Kitchen so others can share in the family's good fortune.

Shabbat in the 'Hood

Fridays, January 4, March 1 at 7:30pm

Join us for a wonderful Friday night service experience that our congregants lead in their homes! This friendly, intimate service replaces the service at Beth El just for these nights. Watch weekly emails for names/addresses of congregant hosts.



Take Time for Yourself...

Call the Beth El Babysitter's Club!

The Beth El Babysitter's Club wants to link those in need of part-time babysitting to our responsible teens and young adults who are available to sit. Our

list will indicate sitters' names, ages, schools, grades, contact info, and day and time availabilities as well as ability to drive and if they are First Aid certified. Families who need a sitter from our updated list and teens who would like to be added to the list please contact marcy.felsenfeld@gmail.com.

SISTERHOOD

...for women of all ages, for women at all stages

Thank you to everyone who made donations to the Sisterhood Winter Clothing and the Holiday Gift and Food Drives. This year, many more families are depending on the Interfaith Food Pantry of the Oranges for groceries for their tables. The food, clothing and gifts you donated brought warmth to their lives. Also, special thanks to those who packed their cars and drove dozens of bags full of donations to the Food Pantry.

Sisterhood Shabbat January 26

Since this is Shabbat Shira, the Torah reading will include the beautiful chanting of *The Song of Moses* at the crossing of the sea, which is sung in a special melody different from the usual Torah trope. Our cantorial student will lead the *z'mirot*.

Calling all cooks, bakers and bottle washers. Come during the week of January 20 and help prepare the Sisterhood Shabbat kiddush. Please contact Joy Markel, joy@joymarkel.com or 973-763-3267 for days and times.

Your participation is eagerly anticipated and greatly appreciated!



Joy Markel and Sam Convissor make a donation into Sisterhood's new wood collection boxes for our holiday gift drives. Sam donated the boxes to Beth El and Joy created the lettering for the Interfaith Food Pantry.

Purim is coming! Purim is Coming!

Help Sisterhood's Mishloach Manot Project!

The Mishloach Manot project is Sisterhood's biggest fundraiser of the year. What you help us raise goes directly back to Beth El to support Jewish Learning Center programs, preschool equipment, the capital building campaign, upgrades to the Social Hall and grounds, salaries for staff specialists including our new Musicial Mini Minyan Leader Ira Levin, and kitchen equipment, to name just a few items!

Your Mishloach Manot order forms will arrive soon!

Friday, January 11: Order forms and instructions to be sent by email

Monday, February 4: Deadline for placing orders using paper order forms

Friday, February 8: Deadline for placing electronic orders

Wednesday and Thursday

February 20-21, 7:00pm Packing bags at Beth El

Sunday, February 24, 9:00am:

Start deliveries to congregants in the community

When placing your order, please indicate if you can help pack gift bags and/or help with deliveries.

Please volunteer to be a part of the Mishloach Manot project. It's fun and worthwhile, and we need your help!

For more info on orders, contact Joan Bucholtz, 973-761-1275 or joanbucholtz@aol.com or Robin Cohen, 908-377-8476 or rcohen72@hotmail.com. Questions on packing/deliveries, contact Norma Aronson, 973-325-3342 or glpboardwalk@aol.com or Amy Dixon, 973-763-6614 or [pwmom3@yahoo.com](mailto:pwdmom3@yahoo.com).

Women's Seder, Sunday, March 10

Volunteers are needed to plan, make purchases, cook, and set up. There is a job for everyone. More details to come.

Sisterhood Flower Project

In January and February, there will be bima flowers to deliver to congregants who are in need of comfort, cheer, condolences, or thanks. Please help us make bouquets and deliver them on a Sunday morning. It is a great mitzvah to do, particularly with your children. Contact Debbie Rubin, 973-432-3211, rubind@mcgraw-hill.com, Norma Aronson, 973-325-3342 or glpboardwalk@aol.com to be notified of dates.

Norma Aronson

Board member and Immediate Past President

glpboardwalk@aol.com

Sisterhood Judaica Gift Shop

January Jewelry Jubilee

Great discounts on all in-stock jewelry!



From sterling silver to semi-precious stones and ancient roman glass, the selection is amazing. Come see for yourself! The Gift Shop is open on many Sunday mornings and some Thursday nights.

See our selection of

*Shofarot • Apples & Honey plates • Candles • Baby presents • B'nai Mitzvah presents
Holiday decorations and gifts • Jewelry
"Just because" gifts • great Kipot and Tallitot collection*

Contact Lauren Morris for a personal shopping appt. at giftshop@bethelnj.org or 973-763-5343 or Norma Aronson, glpboardwalk@aol.com or 973-325-3342, to visit the gift shop or to volunteer to help with sales or display.



Search "**Beth El Sisterhood Gift Shop**"

Beth El Sisterhood's 2012-2013 Torah Fund Campaign:

Please participate to ensure the future supply of Conservative/Masorti rabbis, cantors, educators and other professionals. Donors of at least \$180 receive a beautiful Torah Fund pin! Thanks for your continued support of this campaign!

Francine Levine
973-564-9710

Abby Nagel
973-713-7442 or abbynagel@aol.com

Torah Fund co-Chairs

Kitchen Cabinet Cuisine

You can make these Beth El Shabbat Kiddush favorites at home!

To assist in Kiddush preparation for future Shabbatot, contact Joy Markel, joy@joymarkel.com or 973-763-3267

Fruity Tuna Salad

Ingredients

3 tbs. mayonnaise
1 tsp. lemon juice
dash ground black pepper
1 tsp Dijon mustard
2 cans of tuna, drained
1/4 cup diced celery
1/4 cup dried cranberries or raisins
2 tbs. minced green onions
1 8 oz. can unsweetened crushed pineapple, drained

Preparation: Combine first 4 ingredients and set aside. Flake the tuna in a large bowl; add the remaining ingredients. Add the mayonnaise mixture to the tuna mixture. Blend well. Refrigerate if not serving immediately.

Three-Bean Vegetarian Chili

Yield: 6 servings (serving size: about 1 1/2 cups)

Ingredients

2 red bell peppers
3 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
1 cup chopped onion
2 teaspoons ground cumin
1 teaspoon crushed red pepper
1 teaspoon paprika; 1/4 teaspoon salt
4 garlic cloves, thinly sliced
2 cups organic vegetable broth
1 1/2 cups (1/2-inch) cubed peeled butternut squash
1 (28-oz) can no-salt-added tomatoes, undrained, chopped
1 (15-ounce) can pinto beans, rinsed and drained
1 (15-ounce) can cannellini beans, rinsed and drained
1 (15-ounce) can red kidney beans, rinsed and drained
1/2 cup thinly sliced green onions

Preparation: Preheat broiler. Cut bell peppers in half lengthwise. Remove and discard seeds and membranes. Place pepper halves, skin sides up, on a foil-lined baking sheet. Broil 15 minutes or until blackened. Place pepper halves in a zip-top plastic bag; seal. Let stand 15 minutes. Peel and chop peppers. Heat a Dutch oven over medium-low heat. Add oil to pan; swirl to coat. Add onion; cook 15 minutes, stirring occasionally. Stir in cumin and next 4 ingredients (through garlic); cook 2 minutes, stirring frequently. Add bell peppers, broth, squash, and tomatoes; bring to a simmer. Cook 20 minutes, stirring occasionally. Add beans; simmer 25 minutes or until slightly thick, stirring occasionally. Sprinkle with green onions.

TIKKUN OLAM/SOCIAL ACTION

Rich Kuperman, Vice President Tikkun Olam, 973-762-2896, mashuggana@yahoo.com



**It's not too late to make a personal pledge:
"I will make a difference in the lives of others.
I will participate in a Tikkun Olam project at Beth El."**

See Tikkun Olam opportunities on next page.



Interfaith Hospitality Network serves the homeless at Prospect Presbyterian Church in Maplewood every 2 or 3 months. Shelter and meals are provided for guests to relax, socialize, do homework, and watch TV. Many of these families are just like us – adults, teens, preschoolers and babies – but simply have no home.

Contact: Claire Asarnow, 973-762-3780, casarnow1@aol.com

Social Action Committee regularly extends a helping hand to members who need a friendly visit, a get-well card or a drive to services.

Contact: Dan Segal, 973-761-8826, daniel_segal@yahoo.com

Interfaith Food Pantry provides bags of groceries and vegetables (from the Beth El Garden, when in season) to 80 needy guests in Orange once monthly on Wednesdays.

Contact: Diane Stein, 973-376-3136, dianehstein@aol.com

Blood Drive is conducted once yearly so that members and neighbors can give the “gift of life.” Last year, we had 38 people come to donate! The beds and phlebotomists in our front hall were constantly busy. Almost any adult can organize this or donate.

Contact: Rich Kuperman, 973-762-2896, mashuggana@yahoo.com

Community Soup Kitchen is staffed by Beth El every 6 to 8 weeks on Sundays. Depending on the time of month, 50 to 75 hungry guests come to an East Orange church for a hot meal and friendly faces. For some guests it is the only large, hot meal they will get all week. Everything is accomplished between 11:00am and 1:00pm

Contact: Leah Kuperman, 973-762-2896, ferenkup@gmail.com

Beth El Garden is less than one year old, and already more people have volunteered and worked in it than in any other project above! Bushels of produce have been distributed to our Kitchen Cabinet, Interfaith Hospitality Network and Community Soup Kitchen—and progress will be made for many more years. Volunteers are needed to plant, water, harvest, and promote.

Contact: Sherri Morris, 973-763-0111, smorris@bethelnj.org

Chevra Kadisha volunteers honor the dead and comfort mourners. They can sit and read sacred texts from death until burial, cleanse and dress the body for burial, or help a bereaving family. One hour or one day can help a grieving Beth El family in a special way.

Contact: David Beyth, 973-327-4959, iowa1977@aol.com

Kitchen Cabinet convenes regularly in the Beth El kitchen to prepare foods for the Shabbat Kiddush and other occasions. Kosher foods are purchased and prepared, and vegetables are harvested from the Beth El Garden.

Contact: Joy Markel, 973-763-3267, joy@joymarkel.com

Flower Mitzvah Project volunteers repurpose Shabbat flowers from the bima and arrange them into bouquets for delivery to the home of someone who is mourning, ill, or celebrating a simcha.

Contact: Debbie Rubin, 973-762-1121, debra_rubin@mcgraw-hill.com

Please read our Beth El Social Action brochure at bethelnj.org. We hope you'll take it home and consider how you and/or your family can make a difference in your world, your community, your synagogue.

Congregation Beth El is now on LinkedIn!

Please search for "Congregation Beth El Professional Networking Group" on LinkedIn and join us to share job opportunities at your company with fellow congregants, participate in career-related discussions, post info on job fairs, industry-specific events and resources of interest, and build stronger personal relationships and broader professional networks within our diverse and talented Beth El community. If you have any questions, please email

Irina Gomelskaya at igomelskaya@gmail.com.

YOUTH ACTIVITIES



South Orange USY

For more information and to join in on the fun next year, contact USY Advisor Linda Ripps at sousy@gmail.com or Kadima Advisor Yehuda Webster, southorangekadima@gmail.com!

Join us for these upcoming events:

Saturday, January 19: USY Hagalil Regional SATO Dance, Beth El synagogue, East Windsor

February: mid-winter Kinnus, date and location to come

Sunday, February 24: Purim Carnival at Oheb Shalom Congregation

Saturday, March 2: Hagalil Regional Junior/Senior Prom, Beth Ahm, Aberdeen

To get on our email list and to join our great chapter, contact USY Advisor **Linda Ripps** at sousy@gmail.com

BE PART OF WHAT'S GOING ON NEXT YEAR AT SOUTH ORANGE KADIMA!

South Orange Kadima invites all 6th-8th graders to hang out with us! Meetings are held once a month. Members can also participate in great Northern New Jersey Region events.

Sunday, January 6: Kadima Regional Roller-Rama in Edison

Saturday night, January 12 or 19: Kadima Lock-In

Saturday, January 26: Kadima Saturday Night Live at Neve Shalom, Metuchen

Saturday, January 25-27 OR March 8-10: Regional Spring Weekend. Watch your emails for final date.

Sunday, February 24: Purim Carnival, Oheb Shalom congregation

Details for upcoming meetings and events will appear in the weekly e-blasts.

Contact advisor **Yehuda Webster**,
southorangekadima@gmail.com, for more information and to join up!

Beth El's Teen Scene: 5773

Sign up NOW

Only \$25 per teen per session

Sign up for all five sessions and get a promotional price of \$100 for all five sessions. That's one session for free! We will start each session with dinner and then delve into the engaging curriculum listed below.

Open to members and their friends!

January 16 – iTunes Israel Style – from hip-hop to oldies learn about contemporary Israeli life through its music.

JTEEN mw at Beth El with Rabbi Shmueli Green

February 27 – Open Mike/Music/Comedy – at Winchester Gardens. Come join us as we entertain and learn from all the amazing residents at Winchester Gardens!

March 20 – The Hunger Games, Murder and Self Defense – does Judaism play along? Rabbi Roston will lead this intriguing discussion

April 24 – Israel: Behind the LENS – Movies tell a story that sometimes books or pictures can't. What do Israel's movies have to say? JTEEN mw at Beth El with Rabbi Shmueli Green Planning for the Midnight Run (Teens bring your parents!)

May 4 – The Midnight Run (Parents and Teens Welcome!) Come join us as we feed the homeless in New York City

Join your friends in these great Beth El Teen events!

Please RSVP to smorris@bethelnj.org and send the form along with a check payable to "Congregation Beth El" with "Beth El Teen Scene: 5773" in memo line to Sherri Morris.

Mazel Tov to Our B'nai Mitzvah



My name is **Esme Bikales**. I am in the seventh grade at the Golda Och Academy middle school. My bat mitzvah date is February 2, and my Parashat is Yitro, which is very special because it contains the Ten Commandments. For fun, I compete on the Synchronettes synchronized skating team. I also enjoy playing soccer, listening to music, and hanging out with my friends. For my mitzvah project, I am assisting with various efforts to help kids who were displaced by Hurricane Sandy, which occurred on my 13th birthday. I want to thank Rabbi Roston and my tutor, Howard Cooper, for helping me prepare for this day, and also my mother and father and two younger brothers, Emmett and Elias, for their support.



My name is **Abigail Roston**, and I will be called to the Torah on February 23, which is also Shabbat Zachor, the Sabbath of Remembrance. This is the special Shabbat before Purim, which starts Saturday night! I am in 7th grade at Golda Och Academy where I am also on the middle school volleyball team. I like volunteering for the Interfaith Food Pantry and Soup Kitchen. For my mitzvah project, I am going to be baking--one of my favorite things to do--and having a bake sale to support Share Our Strength and their work to end childhood hunger in America, by connecting kids to effective nutrition programs such as school breakfast and summer meals. You can find out more at www.nokidhungry.org. I am grateful to all my teachers who are helping me prepare for my bat mitzvah service: Jamie Breitman, Alan Cooper, Rabbi Roston ("mom" to me!) and all my Academy teachers. I also want to thank my dad Marc, my brother Simon, and all my family and friends for celebrating with me.



Shalom! My name is **Andie Weiser-Schlesinger**, and I will be called to the bimah as a Bat Mitzvah on Shabbat Shekalim, which is February 9. Shabbat Shekalim is read in preparation for Purim, and it requests each adult male Jew to contribute half of a Biblical shekel for the upkeep of the Tent of Meeting. My Parashat is Mishpatim, which is when God gave Moses a list of civil, criminal, ritual, financial, and family laws. I'm a seventh grader at Heritage Middle School in Livingston, and in my free time, I enjoy reading, singing, playing violin, horseback riding, playing soccer and hanging out with friends. For my mitzvah project I am participating in the Twin with a Survivor program where I will interview and listen to a survivor of the Holocaust. I am looking forward to this program and will share my experience in my D'var Torah. I am very excited about my bat mitzvah and would like to thank Rabbi Roston, my tutor Rabbi Erica Lebovitz, my parents Ellen and Brian, my family and friends and all of Congregation Beth El for helping me get to this point and sharing this meaningful time in my life.



Hi. My name is **Alex Moskowitz** and I will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on March 2. My Torah portion is Ki Tisa. I am currently in the 7th grade at the Golda Och Academy. I love to play sports, particularly basketball, sing and hang out with my friends. For my mitzvah project, I am visiting senior citizens in West Orange, helping them by shopping for groceries and spending time with them. One woman that I visit every Sunday loves to play poker and other card games with me. I would like to thank Rabbi Roston and my tutor Howard Cooper for helping me to prepare for my bar mitzvah. I would also like to thank my mom and dad, Jodi and Andrew Moskowitz, and my sister Jessica for practicing with me and for making my bar mitzvah even more special.



Cantorial Intern Brian Kalver Returns to Beth El Saturdays, January 12 and February 2

Brian Kalver will lead services with Rabbi Roston the first Shabbat of each month.

He is in his second year in the cantorial program at the Academy for Jewish Religion in Yonkers, N.Y. Last year, he was the cantorial soloist at Barnert Temple in Franklin Lakes, N.J., and this year he was the High Holiday Hazzan at the Roosevelt Island (N.Y.) Jewish Congregation.

Brian lives in Morristown with his wife of 21 years, Susan Och, daughter of Beth El congregants Michael Och and Golda Och (z"l). Brian and Susan have three children – ages 10, 14 and 17. They are members of Adath Shalom in Morris Plains. In his prior life, Brian was an attorney specializing in corporate and health care law for 20 years. He feels incredibly lucky to be able to devote his voice to singing in the synagogue instead of arguing on the telephone, and he is truly honored to be singing with Congregation Beth El.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS



Mike Finesilver

Beth El welcomes Mike, who lives in South Orange, to our Congregation. Mike, who is originally from Great Britain, and has lived in New York City and Atlanta, says living in South Orange now is his first “suburban experience.” Mike is a legal manager for the law firm of Lowenstein Sandler in Roseland, but started his career in acting. He connected with Beth El by meeting Marcy Felsenfeld, and has attended our High Holy Day and Shabbat services, and Morning Minyan. While Mike says he was raised “Conservadox,” he grew up in a non-Jewish section of London and, for the last four years, has been involved in weekly phone-based Torah study through a program called Partners in Torah. “It’s been a wonderful experience,” says Mike, who looks forward to attending more synagogue services and programs.



Jonathon and Kristine Ostroff

We are also pleased to have as new members Jonathon and Kristine, also of South Orange. Jonathon, who is from Merrick, L.I., teaches graphic arts skills and photography to learning disabled students at the Churchill School in New York City. Kristine is a commercial, wedding, and portrait photographer who runs her own studio, Kristine Foley Photography, (<http://kfoleyphotography.com/>). She is originally from Quincy, Massachusetts. The Ostroffs have a son, Owen, who is three and in our Preschool, and they recently became parents of another son, Eli. Kristine says Eli will have a conversion ceremony this month and then a baby naming at Beth El later on. Owen is having a great time at school, says Kristine. He is becoming familiar with the traditions and “loves to make challah.” “We have felt very welcome at Beth El,” says Kristine.



Daina and Andrew Borteck

Also say hello to the Borteck family of South Orange. Daina is a litigator in Newark with the law firm of Patton Boggs. She is originally from Huntington Woods, Michigan, near Detroit. Andrew, who grew up in West Orange and Pine Brook, is an attorney for NBC Universal in New York, specializing in digital and technology transfer issues. Also part of the family is Ethan, who will be six in February, and is in kindergarten at the South Mountain Annex and the Jewish Learning Center. He attended our Preschool, as his four-year-old sister, Marisa, now does. Daina and Andrew became acquainted with Beth El through their friends, Amy and Jeremy Biloan, but Daina says she grew up near Rabbi Roston’s hometown and knows members of her family. The Borteks attended our Sukkah decorating event last fall and the

Torah unrolling at Simchat Torah. “We loved the Preschool, and it was already our community, so it made sense to join the synagogue,” she says.

A Really Simple Way to Support Beth El

Did you know that you can pay down your dues by purchasing scrip gift cards? Use at local supermarkets including ShopRite, Kings, Pathmark, Eden Gourmet, and Maple Kosher. This is an easy way to support Beth El. Stop by the office and get your scrip today!

BETH EL FAMILY NEWS

The Beth El family wants to respond to your life cycle milestones, both happy and sad, with expressions of mazel tov, refuah shlayma or condolence. Please alert the office of these events at info@bethelnj.org or 973-763-0111, and please send a synagogue tribute to acknowledge these occasions of fellow congregants. It is greatly appreciated!

Happy January Birthdays!

- 1 Abraham Alakani, Rona Goldfarb, Jeffrey Markel
- 2 Michael Kober, Claudia Nesin, Samara Salomon, Jeremy Schatten
- 3 Amy Halperin, Claire Hirsh, Gabriel Hirsh
- 4 Todd Gutnick, Scott Kessler, Marjorie Nathanson
- 5 Richard Goldstein, Sheryl Parker, Matthew Schwartz
- 6 Ariela Ellman, Ethan Goldberg, Alan Yohalem
- 8 Sheryl Hoffman, Atara Jacobson
- 10 Stuart Gantman, Bradley Goldman
- 11 Michelle Weiss
- 12 Greg DePaul, Marvin Lustbader
- 13 Amy Biloon, Danica Davidman, Eleanor Pashelinsky, Adam Shapiro
- 14 Jonah Heimowitz, John Sands
- 15 Claire Emmons, Stacey Greenblatt, Susanlisa Kessler
- 16 Audrey DeLeon, Leah Gendler, Murray Karstadt, Suzy Silver
- 17 Ezekiel Winitzky
- 18 Amy Forman, Richard Lander, Harold Sommer
- 20 Lloyd Alterman, Maia Lehrman, Hallie Mann, Ronald Meier
- 21 Harold Colton-Max, Gabriella Schloff
- 22 Yael Ben-Adi
- 23 Jerome Deener, Sharona Mallach, Michael Roth
- 24 Jesse Cooper, David Suskauer, Andie Weiser-Schlesinger
- 26 Aileen Binder, David Mallach, Matai Zorel
- 27 Jason Roth
- 28 Michael Schloff
- 29 William Gold, Jeffrey Greenblatt
- 30 Gail Klebanoff, Ethan Rednik, Abigail Roston
- 31 Sophia Heimowitz

Happy February Birthdays!

- 1 Ari Jacobs, Marissa Jacobs, Ilya Manoim, Carly Paternite
- 2 Craig Binder, Julia Binder, Jerry Demel, Howard Hoffman, Jeffrey Kessler, David Rostan, Ellen Solomon
- 3 Howard August, Andy Yonteff
- 4 Norma Aronson, Erika Gold, Leslie Miller
- 5 Maury Ginsberg, Erica Jacobson, Leni Knutsen
- 6 Abbott Brown, Mia Deutsch, Zachary Dranove, Zoe Dranove, Michael Goldberg, Zachary Urist
- 7 Harriett Baillin, Angela McKinney
- 8 Aliza Bieber
- 9 Stephen Lieberman
- 10 Aaron Fischer, Frances Kaplan, Mark Tolpin
- 11 Robin Cohen, Thomas Kover, Kora Licht
- 12 Marc Kurschner, Richard Squires
- 13 Raphael Aronson, Daniel Campeas, Liam Kent-Pomerantz
- 14 Mary Beth Goff, Alice Saltzman-Halperin, Glenn Silver
- 15 Richard Baime, Shaun Kessler, Allison Kessler-Slavin, Eric Leipzig, Hannah Wolff
- 16 Mia Biloon, Lily Dranoff, Paula Green, Flynn Nagel
- 17 Eloise Baum-Joseph
- 18 Naomi Fair, Florence Weisz
- 19 Jeremy Biloon, Dara Goldstein
- 20 Rachel Gutnick
- 21 Tracy Levine
- 22 Edward Stein
- 23 Ethan Borteck, David Gomberg, Alexander Schiftic
- 24 Carly Goldberg, Steve Levine, Irvin Solondz
- 26 Javier Ferrandiz, Rabbi Jehiel Orenstein
- 25 Carol Dranove, Rachel Rostan, Diana Sands
- 27 Ron Katoni, Samuel Kischelev, Martin Reiman
- 28 Sammy Gonzalez-Freedson, Jackie Greenberg, Molly Hoffman, Ilena Kasdan, Linda Solondz, Steven Weber, Joseph Wildman
- 29 Celia Feinberg

Happy January Anniversaries!

- 1 Les & Jackie Greenberg
- 2 Ilena & Michael Kasdan
- 6 Laurie Levine & Ron Fastov
- 9 Ryan & Suzanne Goldberg
- 15 Shelley Rappaport & Melissa Comerchero
- 27 Susan Rosenthal-Jay & Mark Jay
- 29 Jason Kent & James Pomeranz,
Mel & Marjorie Nathanson

Happy February Anniversaries!

- 10 Robin & Allan Chernoff
- 13 Amy & Gary Forman
- 15 Douglas & Paula Green,
Marc Schiffman & Rachel Schwarz
- 27 Elizabeth Samet & David Winitzky

Wishing a complete healing *Refuah Shelema* to:

Rob Aden, Nancy Gad-Harf, Leni Knutsen,
Lester Lieberman, Steve Levine, Iris Levitt,
Rabbi Jehiel Orenstein, Elana Schipper, Scott Srager
(brother of Sherri Morris)

Condolences to:

Cindy Chazan and Jay Leipzig and family on the loss of
Cindy's father, Aaron Leipzig.

Willa and Jeff Brucker and Bill and Erika Gold, and family
on the loss of Anita Cohen, Willa's mother and Bill's aunt.

Rosemary Cerrachio on the loss of her brother, Dr.
Michelangelo Vaccaro.

Lynn and Lowell Jacobs, on the death of Lynn's father.
Melvin Josephs.

Dennis and Gail Roth and family on the loss of Dennis'
mother Ruth Roth.

Mazel Tov to:

Rachel and Bradley Goldman on the birth of their
new daughter, Emmy Lila.

Kristine and Jonathon Ostroff on the birth of their son,
Eli.

Treasure and Rich Cohen on the marriage of their
daughter Jessica to Alex Stern.

Sharon and Steve Seiden on the birth of their
granddaughter, Eliana Hallie, on November 12. Proud
parents are Amelia and Cory Perlstein.

Esme Bikales on her bat mitzvah on February 2, and
to her parents, Ellen Bikales and Edward Bikales,
and her family.

Andie Weiser-Schlesinger on her bat mitzvah on
February 9, and to her parents, Ellen Weiser and
Brian Schlesinger, and her family.

Abigail Roston on her bat mitzvah on February 23,
and to her parents, Rabbi Francine Roston and Marc
Roston, and her family.

Alex Moskowitz on his upcoming bar mitzvah on
March 2, and to his parents, Andrew and Jodi
Moskowitz, and family.

Jonathan and Sherry Woocher on the engagement
of their son Ben to Leah Zilbergeld.

Louise and Stuart Gantman on the birth of their
new grandson, Eli Liss Gantman. Proud parents are
Marjorie Gantman and Harley Liss Gantman.

Ben Davidman on his conversion to Judaism

Rosemary Cerrachio on the birth of her grandson
Santino.

Joseph and Margot Wildman on the birth of their
grandson Elliot Repetti. Preschool parents Rebecca
and Michael Repetti are the proud parents.

CORRECTION: In the Mazel Tov listing in the November-December Bulletin for the bar mitzvah of Max Dichter on December 1, his parents should have been listed as Scott and Laura Dichter. Our apologies to the Dichter family.

You Can Now Send Your Own Tree of Life Tribute Cards



**Buy in 10-Packs – Save Money, Honor More Family and Friends,
and Support Beth EI!**

Take home a 10-pack (or buy multiples) of our new Tree of Life tribute cards for all occasions and send your personal message to special friends and family. Stop into the office to buy them or contact the office at 973-763-0111. The 10-pack can be purchased for a discounted price of \$72. These donations will not be noted in the bulletin.

You can still have the office inscribe and mail these beautiful cards and designate contributions to our funds that are listed in the bulletin by clicking on the website link or calling the office.

BETH EL'S ANNUAL PARTNERSHIP CAMPAIGN NEEDS YOU!

Annual dues and tuition paid to the JLC or the Preschool are necessary to keep Beth El a vibrant center of Jewish learning, community, and prayer—but these revenues by themselves are not enough to cover all of our expenses. The Annual Partnership Campaign, going on now, is critically important to meeting our annual expenses and keeping Beth El on a strong financial footing.

Please respond to phone calls from our Board of Trustees asking for your 2013 pledge. We also want to make these an opportunity for you to share any questions and feedback as a dedicated member of our congregation. Both your donation and your voice are critical. Each board member has already made his or her pledge. Our goal is 100% participation from all Beth El members at a level that recognizes our needs and your financial circumstances.

If you can double (or more) what you've generously donated during past campaigns, that would be great. If you cannot, please do what you can to extend yourself with a generous commitment. If this is your first time participating, welcome! We are glad that you are partnering with us.

We would like to add your name to this list of Partnership supporters. If you have not already done so, you can make your donation at the Beth El website or call the office at 973-763-0111 with your credit card information to charge it. We very much appreciate all you can do to keep Beth El strong for our community now and for generations to come.

In gratitude for your support,

Mike Schloff

VP Fundraising

The following donors have made their pledges to Beth El's Annual Partnership Campaign as of December 21, 2013.

Robert & Cindy Aden	Maury Ginsberg & Angela McKinney	Josh & Stacey Nadell
Gabriel & Erica Anthony	Bill & Erika Gold	Aaron & Claire Neirenberg
David & Joani Ascher	Ken Gold & Marcy Felsenfeld	Michael Och
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Harold & Nomi Colton-Max	Marty & Sheryl Hoffman	David & Ellen Solomon
Charles & Ada Beth Cutler	Marilynn Jacobs	Joel Sperber
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Andrew Fair & Ellen Weisbord	Rich & Leah Kuperman	Matthew & Adena Traub
Michael Finesilver	Francine Levine	Steve & June Volk
Gary & Amy Forman	Tracey & Fred Levine	Chris Walker & Llyn Bank
Stuart & Jodi Fox	Barry Levinson & Donna Ritter	Steven Weber & Leah Gendler
Jim & Marsha Gardner	Michael & Jackie Levinson	William & Florence Weisz
Stuarty & Louise Gantman	Ronald Meier & Joyce Raynor	Jon & Sherry Woocher
Stephen & Karen Gevartz	Gabriel & Jill Mendelberg	Alan & Rita Yohalem
	Gabriel & Samantha Migdal	

**THE CONGREGATION GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGES
THE FOLLOWING CONTRIBUTIONS. THANK YOU FOR CARING.**

DOUBLE CHAI FUND

In Memory Of

Rose Blacker from Natalie Tambor
Aline Gersh from Richard Baime
Emil Leepson from Peter Leepson
Ernest Livingstone from Erika Gold
Bess Morcheles from Florence Weisz and Bernard Morcheles
Murray Morcheles from Florence Weisz and Bernard Morcheles
Morgan Swirsky from Cindy Aden

In Honor Of

Ben Davidman on your conversion to Judaism from the Mamlet Family

CHAI FUND

In Memory Of

Patrick Butler from Ellen Bikales
Aaron Chasin from Judy and Lester Lieberman
David Convissor from Sam Convissor
David Dantsker from Steve Tamaroff
Claire Derrick from Evelyn Eisenstein
Samuel Jacobs from Marvin Jacobs and Gladys Jacobs
Sophie Kalafa from Rita Blotner
Hyman Segal from Charles Segal
Reuben Sperber from Joel and Diane Sperber

TRIBUTE FUND

In Memory Of

Mildred Levine from Francine Levine
Lorna Reiss from Howard August

In Honor Of

Rosemary Cerracchio on the birth of her grandson Santino from Treasure and Richard Cohen
Treasure and Richard Cohen on the marriage of their daughter Jessica from Sharon and Stephen Seiden
Howard Cooper for helping Sophie to prepare so beautifully for her bat mitzvah from Jodi and Stuart Fox
Scott and Laura Dichter on the bar mitzvah of their son Max from Debbie and David Rubin
Stuart and Jodi Fox on the bat mitzvah of their daughter Sophie from Treasure and Richard Cohen
Mary Beth Goff for your support during Sophie's bat mitzvah from Jodi and Stuart Fox
Mitchell Greenberg and Irene Langlois on the bat mitzvah of their daughter Eve from Treasure and Richard Cohen
Julie Levine in honor of her bat mitzvah from Karen Botkin Charipper
Sheryl Parker and James Grayer on the bar mitzvah of their son Theo from Debbie and David Rubin

Rabbi Francine Roston for your support during Sophie's bat mitzvah from Jodi and Stuart Fox
Stephen and Sharon Seiden on the birth of their new granddaughter Eliana Hallie from Jackie and Michael Levinson

ANN DEENER FUND FOR

CAMP RAMAH

In Honor Of

Atara Jacobson and Scott Bieber – Thank you for your hospitality during the aftermath of Sandy, from Joan and Harvey Bucholtz
Rosemary Cerracchio on the birth of her new grandson Michael from Joan and Harvey Bucholtz
Sam Convissor on the bat mitzvah of his granddaughter Molly from Joan and Harvey Bucholtz
Stuart and Jodi Fox on the bat mitzvah of their daughter Sophie from Joan and Harvey Bucholtz
Jackie and Michael Levinson Thank you for your hospitality during the aftermath of Sandy, from Joan and Harvey Bucholtz
Claire and Arnie Nierenberg Thank you for your hospitality during the aftermath of Sandy, from Joan and Harvey Bucholtz
Joseph and Margot Wildman on the birth of their new grandson Elliot Repetti from Joan and Harvey Bucholtz
Jon and Sherry Woocher Thank you for your hospitality during the aftermath of Sandy, from Joan and Harvey Bucholtz

DOROTHY AMDURER FUND FOR THE HOMELESS

In Memory Of

Nettie Amdurer from Treasure and Rich Cohen

In Honor Of

Treasure and Rich Cohen on the wedding of their daughter Jessica Cohen to Alex Stern from Claire and Arnie Nierenberg
Sheryl Parker and Richard Grayer on their son's bar mitzvah from Gail and Dennis Roth

ELAYNE BURRIS PRESCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In Memory Of

Jonathan Frankel from Louise and Stuart Gantman
Marion Sommer from Louise and Stuart Gantman

JLC FUND

In Honor Of

Sherri Morris for all her help from Alvah Parker

As Seen Online at Barista Kids Education, December 14, 2012

Ira Levin Does Shabbat for Tots at Beth El's Mini-Minyan



When it comes to getting kids interested in Jewish holidays, Hanukkah is a pretty easy pitch: it's got presents, candles, games, and it's only once a year. But the weekly Shabbat is a little trickier for little ones, which is why Congregation Beth El in South Orange has brought in Ira Levin to lead a Mini-Minyan.

Levin is a professional musician and singing storyteller who also occasionally works as a cantorial soloist, so he's got the right combination of musical chops, kid-friendly performing skills, and Jewish know-how to lead a group of toddlers through first-graders in a scaled-down Shabbat service. (He is also part of The Levins, a musical duo with his wife Julia.)

And how do you translate the traditional Saturday Sabbath service for youngsters? "I do my best to remember what it felt like when I was a little kid," says Levin. "I come from the place where I think it would be exciting for me if I was a kid." Which means when my son and I walked in the door, Levin was already playing his guitar and singing upbeat Jewish melodies, with a big smile and infectious energy that doesn't let up for close to an hour.

But it's not just random singalongs. Levin puts in some key Jewish prayers (like the Sh'ma), discusses core Jewish values (like mitzvot, which are good deeds), and even has a introductory Torah service, in which the kids pick up plush stuffed Torahs and march around the room singing. "I

want to convey the elements of a good service, give them a good feeling, and create a community," Levin says of his approach—and based on my son's request Sunday morning to go back to temple, I'd say it's working.

And while the kids are having fun singing and dancing, Levin notes that the older folks in the room aren't just standing on the sidelines. By singing the traditional melodies and songs that the parents grew up with, Levin is using the Mini-Minyan to lay important groundwork for a Jewish education. "The kids are enjoying themselves, and the moms and dads and grandparents are able to sing along, because they're hearing melodies they learned as kids," he says. "We're weaving in stuff for the kids, and introducing melodies they'll be able to grow into as teenagers and adults."

But throughout the service, Levin keeps the focus on fun. "At this level, a lot of people are scared of dogma or worried that it will feel very heavy," he says, "but this is very light. It's very inclusive, taking the best elements of what you get in a longer service and condensing them down into the littler service."

Levin has done the Mini-Minyan just three times so far, but it's already proving to be popular, well-attended, and—most importantly—fun. He says that the new program has exceeded his expectations, and he's looking forward to adding in new songs and stories each week and discussing different Jewish holidays as they come up on the calendar. "By weaving in Jewish values within the context of having fun, it's less of sitting for a lesson than a great experience where you take away something meaningful," he says.

The Beth El Mini-Minyan runs most Saturday mornings at 11 am, at 222 Irvington Avenue, South Orange. Contact the synagogue at info@bethel.org or 973.763.0111 to get scheduling info.

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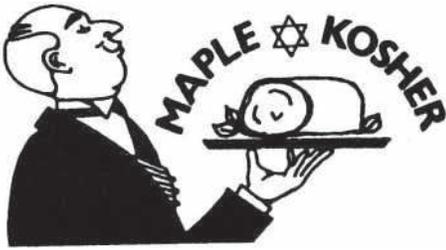


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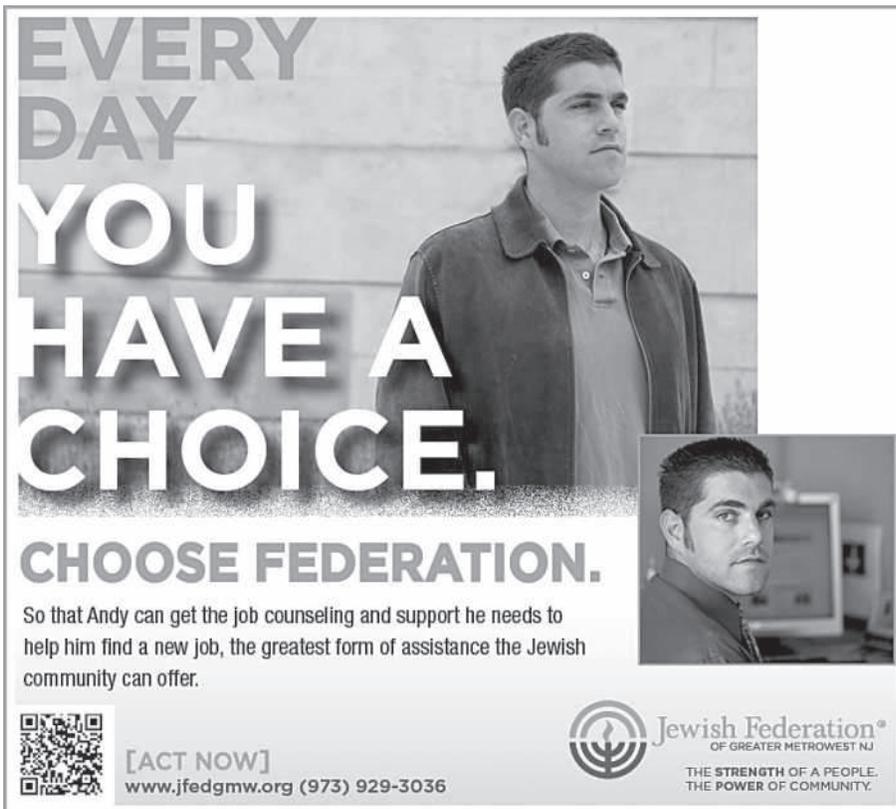
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