**Shabbat Announcements**

**Saturday Morning, Feb. 10, 2018**

**Parashat Mishpatim / Shabbat Shekalim**
Second Scroll:
Exodus 30:11-16, pp. 523-524
**Haftarah:**
II Kings 12:1-17 pp. 1277-1279

9:00am Birthday Shabbat
9:00am **Niggun HaLev**
(Melody of the Heart) Morning Service
9:30am Shabbat SPACE
10:15am Pre-Service Oneg Shabbat
10:45am Family Kehillah Services
10:45am Tot Shabbat
12:00pm Shabbat Tween Lounge
12:00pm Kiddush
12:30pm Daf Shevui
12:30pm **Women and Tallitot**
with Deborah Sacks Mintz
5:00pm Mincha/Maariv
6:05pm Havdalah
8:00pm Trivia Night

**This week’s Kiddush is sponsored by:**
Beth El Synagogue Center

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**NIGGUN HALEV ~ MELODY OF THE HEART ~**

Due to the positive feedback that we received and the large turnout last month to Niggun HaLev, we have decided to combine all services into one for this coming shabbat. Please join Deborah Sacks Mintz, Jack Klebanow and Rabbi David A. Schuck for this intimate, song-filled service in the Wiener Lounge at 9:00am. If there are too many people for the Wiener Lounge at 9:00am, we will begin instead in the Crystal Ballroom. When we get to the Torah reading, there will be two options for people: the traditional Torah reading or an interactive prayer experience /reflection. We will then join together again as one service for Musaf.

The following people are assisting this Shabbat:
Michael Wechsler, Gabbai; Abe Bartell and Mark Silver, Greeters; Elise Schepp, Sol Haber and Aaron Fleishaker, Ushers

Those marking a simcha, observing the loss of a loved one, or recovering from an illness have been delighted/comforted that their lifecycle event has inspired generosity. If you would like to make a donation to Beth El in honor or in memory, please click here.
A Word of Torah
From Torah Sparks
_Rabbi Mordechai Silverstein, Conservative Yeshiva Faculty_

This Shabbat, Shabbat Shekalim, marks the first of four special Shabbatot which precede Pesah. Its purpose was to remind the people to pay the special 'Machatzit Hashekel - half shekel' tax incumbent on the people to pay for the communal needs of the Temple, both sacrificial and for upkeep purposes. It was paid before Pesach, because Pesach is the first of the 'Shelosh Regalim' - the three pilgrimage festivals and hence was the beginning of the Temple's fiscal year.

The haftarah for this special Shabbat is a bittersweet one. It recounts a period in biblical history where the Davidic monarchy had become corrupt and, consequently, the people's faith in the nation's institutions, including the Temple was at a low ebb. The previous king, Ahaziah, was murdered in a conspiracy. His mother, Athaliah, usurped the throne, murdering all other potential claimants to the throne, except for one, Jehoash, a seven-year-old child, who was protected by the high priest. Amidst all of this intrigue, the Temple fell into disrepair.

Rabbi David Kimche (12th century Provence) describes the situation: "The wicked Athaliah and her sons had broken into [and raided] the Temple of its riches. This made it necessary to rebuild [the Temple and replenish its treasury]. For the Temple was only one hundred and fifty years old and had been built well... [On this account,] Jehoash [who became king] set about restoring it. This is why it was necessary [for Jehoash] to assemble to holy ones of Israel (the priests), that they should sanctify "Shekalim" for this purpose..."(adapted) This significance of this "sanctification" was that the king wanted to ensure that the money was used for its intended purpose: "The king Jehoash called for Jehoiada the priest and the other priests and said to them: 'Why don't you repair the Temple? Now, no longer should you take the money for yourselves; it should be given over to the restoration of the Temple.'" (2 Kings 12:8) This action restored credibility to the Temple allotments.

It is interesting to note that this reading is incorporated into the liturgical reading to remind people to make their mandatory contributions. It is intended not only that the people have an obligation to give, but also, equally important, that those who are charged with responsibility for the dispersal of funds must make sure that the funds are used with proper "sanctity and integrity."
BESC Featured and New Announcements

(Please follow us: Facebook.com/bethelsynagoguecenter and spread the word about news, events, and information by “liking” or “sharing!”)

Follow links to enlarge images or visit respective event pages.

LISTENING FORUMS THIS SUNDAY!
February 11th
9:15am-12:15pm - on Beth El’s future and our crucial questions
6:45pm-9:45pm - on multi-faith families

Your Voice is Important.
Please RSVP now!
www.bethelnr.org/listeningforums

This is an opportunity to speak and to listen closely to other voices in our community to help guide us through building a vibrant future. Members of the 60-person Journey Vision Team will help bring forward the key insights of these conversations to guide our overall strategic visioning process.

We will hear your voice and perspectives on topics that are most important to those present, in support of our future, and build understanding of the Journey we are on.

ALL ARE WELCOME TO JOIN ONE OR MORE CONVERSATION.
For more on our Journey, visit www.bethelnr.org/journey.

TRIVIA NIGHT THIS SATURDAY!
Show off your smarts, win prizes, and so much more on Saturday, Feb. 10 at Trivia Night! For more details, visit www.bethelnr.org/trivianight.

OPEN BEIT MIDRASH Our next scheduled “OBM” is Thursday, Feb. 15. We begin at 7:30pm with drinks and a nosh followed by learning promptly at 8:00pm. Tradition teaches that we can honor a person’s life by learning a text in their memory. This OBM will be sponsored by Barbara and Robert Ehudin in memory of Robert’s father, Irv Ehudin.

OBM is held on alternating Tuesdays and Thursdays with Rabbis Schuck and Sitkin, and Rabbi Ethan Linden of Ramah Berkshires, simultaneously teaching on different areas of Jewish texts. On the last week of the month, there is a scholar teaches on a specific topic in their field. Free and open to the public. The OBM is subsidized by the Rabbi Melvin and Lenore Sirner Fund for Jewish Inspiration and the Sylvia and Harry Halpern Lecture Fund. For more information or to sponsor a night of learning, visit bethelnr.org/openbeit or contact Rabbi Sitkin at zsitkin@bethelnr.org.

Upcoming Date: February 27
PURIM CENTRAL
Don’t miss your chance to help others through the Beth El Purim Campaign!
Each year, Beth El helps our members to fulfill an important mitzvah of Purim - Matanot Leevyonim, helping those whose needs are greater than our own by contributing to major tzedakah organizations and building our Youth Community. You received an email with your username and password.

Simply log on to www.purimproject.com to participate. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Jen at jvegh@bethelnr.org or 914-235-2700 ext.247. All orders must be placed by February 16. We thank you in advance for your participation!

PURIM PALOOZA!

CELEBRATE PURIM WITH US!

GALA AUCTION ITEMS This year’s Gala, on March 18, honors Donald J. Fleishaker, President’s Ne’emanim Service Award recipients Lori and Steven Schwartz, and the new Lapid Award recipients Robyn and Daniel Yairi. We will once again be holding a top-notch Silent Auction. With your help, we can truly catapult Beth El’s annual fundraiser to new heights.

If you have access to any of the items listed below, or other worthy items we may not have mentioned, and are able to contribute them to our auction, we will be most appreciative and will recognize you at the Gala: sports tickets and/or memorabilia, behind-the-scenes TV show tapings/studio tour, a round of golf, theatre tickets, airline miles, hotel/inn rooms, timeshare weeks, a weekend at your summer or beach house, a ski weekend at your winter house, new electronics, new handbags or accessories, jewelry, limousine services, or artwork.

If you have something to donate please contact Shery Rosenstein (s.rosenstein@yahoo.com) no later than Monday, Feb. 26.

www.bethelnr.org/purimcarnival
Interested in being a part of singing a parody during the Megillah reading? Want to know more? Contact Abby Wise at awise@bethelnr.org
**PEACE GARDEN PROJECT**  Beth El is co-sponsoring the Peace Garden Project a project with the United Methodist Church, in which we will be planting over 50 garden boxes at three different locations in New Rochelle. Before gardening begins, there will be several joint communal interfaith learning sessions at the United Methodist Church on the following tentative dates: Sunday, Feb. 18 at 12:30pm, and Sunday, Feb. 25 12:30pm (community meal with a few Kosher meals available). Dates are subject to change. This initiative is led by Rabbi Zach Sitkin and Rev. Michelle Lewis. All are welcome.

**NURSERY SCHOOL** Register now for the 2018-19 school year! There is no time to delay. Sign up now and save. Inquire about “Toddler Time” as well! Contact Director Ronnie Becher at 235.2700, x250 or nursery@bethelnr.org for details.

**TAX RECEIPTS** The 2017 tax receipts were emailed several weeks ago. Please make sure to check your inbox and your SPAM folder. If you need another copy via email, please email accounting@bethelnr.org.

**HOPE** Project HOPE will be preparing a meal on Tuesday, Feb. 13 at 8:30am in Beth El’s dairy kitchen. All are welcome! For questions, contact Barbara Engelson, BLE229@aol.com.

**DAY CAMP** Best. Days. Ever. Our camp doesn’t have the best reputation in Southern Westchester for nothing! Registration is open now. Camp is now eight weeks and will provide towel service! Visit, www.betheldaycamp.org.

**SISTERHOOD BAGELS AND BOOKS** The next discussion will be Monday, Feb. 26 at 9:30am regarding Cathedral of the Sea, by Ildefonso Falcones. Books are available at the New Rochelle Public Library - mention that you are a member of Beth El Sisterhood’s Bagels & Books Group. Questions? Contact Arlene Salman at aesalman@aol.com or 914.235.2485.

**WINE** The Israel Affairs Committee presents *A Passover Wine Tasting and Wine Sale* on Thursday, March 15 from 7:00pm–9:00pm. Join us for a short presentation, sample some of the offerings, and place your order! 20% off! Wines supplied by The Grape Exchange. For more information, visit www.bethelnr.org/passoverwines.
OUR ANNUAL MINYAN BREAKFAST will be held on Sunday, March 18. Morning minyan will be at 8:00am followed by breakfast in the Wiener Lounge. We will honor long-time Beth El member and Minyanaite Bernard Katz for his constant support of the minyan for more than 30 years.

At the breakfast, you can reconnect with old friends, enjoy bagels and spreads, and hear Rabbi Schuck and Cantor Aqua talk about the minyan and give out siddurim to members who finished reciting Kadish for their loved one.

We invite you to volunteer to help with our minyan to ensure its continuity. If you can make it once a week or even several times a month, you would be a great support. Contact Cantor Aqua for more information at uaqua@bethelnr.org.

RABBI SCHUCK HONOR This year’s HOPE Gala will honor Rabbi David Schuck. It will be held on Thursday, April 26 at 50 Washington Ave. in New Rochelle. Questions? Contact Carole Troum at ctroum@hope-cs.org.

ONLINE BETH EL SIGNUP; FULFILL THE MITZVAH OF READING TORAH Joining our rotation of Torah and Haftarah readers is now easier than ever. We have launched a new online signup sheet that allows you to sign up to read from the Torah or chant the Haftarah at Beth El on Shabbat and holidays. Simply click on the link that follows and you will be taken to a list of available aliyot and Haftarot: www.bethelnr.org/torahsignup. Just select the aliyah (or aliyyot) you want to read and enter your name and email address. That is all it takes. Cantor Aqua will reach out to you to confirm your signup and offer any assistance you may need. If you wish to read in honor of your birthday, anniversary, to fulfill a mitzvah on any Shabbat, or discuss this new system for fulfilling the mitzvah of reading Torah and Haftorah, please contact Cantor Aqua (uaqua@bethelnr.org) or Alan Kellman (alan@twoals.com).

TALMUD DAF SHEVUI STUDY SESSION This study session occurs every Shabbat at 12:30pm in the Library. New participants are welcome. We discuss a page (daf) of the Talmud. Download the weekly portion: www.conservativeyeshiva.org/category/daf-shevui.

ON YOUR RADAR College-Age Committee will be packing for Purim on Thursday, Feb. 15 7:00pm.
After Feb. 10, our next song-filled Shabbat morning service led by Deborah Sacks Mintz, Jack Klebanow and Rabbi David A. Schuck will be March 10 followed by April 14, and May 5. For more details, contact rabbiadmin@bethelnr.org.

CARD ROOM The weekly Sisterhood Canasta group plays at 12:45pm on Mondays while the Mah Jongg group plays on Tuesdays at the same time. Beginners, as well as experienced players, are always welcome. Contact Arlene Salman at aesalman@aol.com or 914.235.2485.

SPECIAL NEEDS SEDER will be held Wednesday, March 14 from 5:30-7:30pm. For many years, special needs residents of local group homes have been guests of our synagogue at a very unique Lower Westchester seder sponsored by the Havorah Program of Westchester Jewish Community Services and our own Sylvia and Robert Scher Chesed Community. We need people to assist prior to the seder, as well as during the event and at the conclusion. If you are unable to participate physically, financial donations are always needed. Checks should be made payable to the Sylvia and Robert Scher Chesed Community and mailed to Sandy Gruenberg at Beth El. If you would like to volunteer, contact Seder co-chairs Ellen Gelboim, esgelboim@gmail.com or Sandy Gruenberg, gamson36@gmail.com, or visit bethelnr.org/specialneedseder.

Note: we are also collecting Passover foods to go to the group homes. When you shop for your Passover foods, please buy something extra for those in need. Matzo, candies, crackers, desserts are all welcome. Drop-off at bridal room.

GIFT SHOP Visit the Beth El Sisterhood Baum Judaica Gift Shop for ALL your Judaica needs. Open by appointment. Email giftshop@bethelnr.org, or call Erica Epstein (914.633.3161), Carole Graham (914.576.6617), and/or Ellen Hollander (914.632.4658).
AIPAC CONFERENCE DISCOUNT
The American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) will hold their Policy Conference at the Washington Convention Center from March 4-6. We are always appreciative to have a strong representation on-hand. AIPAC is giving a special 10-day promotional discount of $100 off for our members from now until Feb. 10. To register and take advantage, members can either register through the website (www.policyconference.org) and enter the code PC18BENR at check out, or they can call 646.360.1534 and register.

Visit www.policyconference.org or contact zsitkin@bethelnr.org for more.

WHEREVER WE STAND, WE STAND WITH ISRAEL
Beth El's Israel Affairs Committee would like to share interesting and exciting news regarding the week's developments in business, culture, technology, agriculture, sports and the environment in Israel.


Limmud and Other Learning Opportunities

FUTURE TENSE Rabbi Molly Karp’s Future Tense: Jews, Judaism, and Israel in the 21st Century; A Vision for Jews and Judaism in the Global Culture. Class focuses on the book written by Lord Rabbi Jonathan Sacks. It meets Wednesday mornings from 10:00am-12:15pm Classes are Feb. 14, 21, 28; March 7, 14, 21. Cost: $350, which includes audio recordings of all class sessions. To learn more about Rabbi Karp, visit rabbimollykarp.com or contact her at rabbimollykarp@gmail.com.

ISRAELI DANCING Held Sundays 10:00-11:00 am with Cantor Aqua. $10/class. Wear comfy clothes and sneakers. Note: There is no class on Feb. 11. Questions? Email uaqua@bethelnr.org.

ZUMBA is back at Beth El Sundays from 9:30-10:30 am. Classes are held every Sunday through March 25 except on Feb. 18. Drop-in rate is $10 per class. No need to RSVP. For more information, contact Carrie Fox at csfox99@gmail.com.

LEARN HEBREW IN OUR ULPAN CLASSES Classes with Miri Ben Avi are ongoing Mondays and Wednesdays - classes are for learners at all levels. Beginners: 6:30-7:30pm/ Intermediate: 7:30-8:30pm/ Advanced: 8:30-9:30pm Contact miriulpan@gmail.com or 914.602.1503.

All classes are at Beth El unless otherwise indicated.
Additional Beth El and Community Events and Information

TEEN LEARNING AND ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM
This options-based model creates a menu of choices for Jewish learning and engagement, including niche-specific opportunities as well as opportunities for social engagement. In this way, we will address the varied interests and schedules of our teens in a manner that allows us to reach each of them personally. Questions? Visit www.bethelnr.org/teens or contact Rebekkah Gold at rgold@bethelnr.org.

SEEKING JOB OPPORTUNITY FOR NEWLY-ARRIVED AFGHAN REFUGEE
This family has settled in White Plains under the auspices of HIAS-NY and is sponsored by a consortium of local synagogues and churches. (Fully authorized for permanent work in the US.) Fluent in English; skilled in use of Microsoft Suite (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Access, Outlook); some experience with QuickBooks. Extensive managerial, administrative and logistical experience in projects with the American military, United Nations and Afghan government.

If you have or know of an available position, please contact Jeff Swarz at jswarz@mmdillon.com or Gene Tozzi at etozzi@gmail.com or 914-672-1088. Thank you.

JEWISH FILM AJC Westchester/Fairfield will hold the 17th annual Westchester Celebrates Jewish Film Festival at the Jacob Burns Film Center in Pleasantville from March 13 to March 29. This two-week festival is the largest annual Jewish event in Westchester. Last year, close to 9,000 tickets were sold. The festival brings not only the best new Jewish films to Westchester every spring, but also an extraordinary array of top-notch speakers and other programming. More than 38 films will be shown. Questions? Contact AJC Westchester Associate Director Jill Friedman by email (friedmanj@AJC.org) or phone (914-948-5585).
More announcements can be found at www.bethelnr.org/ongoing.