

# Shabbat Announcements



**Saturday Morning, March 3, 2018**

**Parashat Ki Tissa:**

Exodus 30:11-34:35 pp. 523-546

**Haftarah:**

I Kings 18:1-39 pp. 548-551

- 9:00am Bat Mitzvah Anna Barlis
- 9:00am Shabbat Morning Services
- 9:00am BE Mitzvah Experience
- 9:30am Shabbat SPACE
- 10:15am Pre-Service Oneg Shabbat
- 10:15am Shabbat Morning Discussion Group with Jack Gruenberg
- 10:45am Family Kehillah Services
- 10:45am Tot Shabbat
- 12:00pm Shabbat Tween Lounge
- 12:00pm Kiddush
- 12:30pm Daf Shevui
- 5:30pm Mincha/Maariv
- 6:30pm Havdalah

**This week's Kiddush is sponsored by:**

Ellen and Rick Barlis in honor of their daughter Anna Faye's Bat Mitzvah.

**Mazal Tovs, Condolences, & Refuah Shleimah:**

Mazal Tov to Julia Keltz and Zach Seiden on the birth of daughter Zoe Raquel Seiden, and to grandparents Beth Breakstone and Ted Keltz, and aunts and uncles Lynn and Marty Keltz and Elise and Barry Richman.

Mazal Tov to Anna Barlis on her Bat Mitzvah, and to her parents Ellen and Rick.

Condolences to Yvette Gordon on the passing of her brother Michael Hirsch.

**The following people are assisting this Shabbat:**

Mark Seidenfeld, President's Chair, Sandy Gruenberg, VP's Chair; Donna Levy, Gabbai; Rachel Casanova and Michael Wechsler, Greeters; Mark Silver and Elise Richman, Ushers

[Those marking a simcha, observing the loss of a loved one, or who is sick or recovering from an illness have 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.](#)

**Minyan Times**



- Sunday 8:00am Shacharit;  
5:40pm Mincha/Maariv
- Monday 6:55am Shacharit;  
5:40pm Mincha/Maariv
- Tuesday 7:00am Shacharit;  
5:40pm Mincha/Maariv
- Wednesday 7:00am Shacharit; 5:40pm  
Mincha/Maariv
- Thursday 6:55am Shacharit ; 5:40pm  
Mincha/Maariv
- Friday 7:00am Shacharit;  
5:40pm Mincha/Maariv

## **A Word of Torah -**

*From Torah Sparks -*

### **The Gift of Oral Torah**

*Rabbi Mordechai Silverstein, Conservative Yeshiva Faculty*

Very discerning readers of the Torah, the rabbinic sages sought to plumb the depths and uncover the significance of each and every word and expression. Seemingly difficult language provided them with opportunities to thrash out God's will. In Parashat Ki Tissa, a verse describing the giving of the second set of tablets after the sin of the golden calf seems to have particularly intrigued them: "And the Lord said to Moses: 'Write for yourself (*k'tav lekha*) these words, for according to (*al pi*) these words I have sealed a covenant (*brit*) with you and with Israel'" (Exodus 34:27) The idiom "*al pi*" means "according to," but it is built from the word "*pi*" whose literal meaning is "mouth."

The juxtaposition of *k'tav*/write, *pi*/mouth, and *brit*/covenant prompted voices within the rabbinic tradition to discuss the relationship between the Written Torah and the Oral Torah and, in particular, the significance of the Oral Torah. (The Written Torah, or Torah *she'bikhtav*, is the term given by our tradition for the Tanakh or Bible - a collection of fixed texts subject to an infinite number of creative readings. The Oral Torah, or Torah *she'b'alpeh*, is the term given for the rabbinic tradition which was originally preserved and passed from generation to generation in oral form.) Exodus Rabbah 47:1 reads the inclusion of the word "*pi*" as teaching that the Oral Torah was **also** included in the revelation at Mount Sinai: "When the Holy One Blessed be He was revealed at Sinai to give the Torah to Israel, He spoke to Moshe about Scripture, Mishnah, Talmud, and Aggadah (nonlegal

lore) ... and even that which a student will ask his teacher."

Rabbi Yohanan, perhaps the most important sage in Eretz Yisrael in Talmud times, took things a step further. He taught that this verse shows the **centrality** of the Oral Torah: "The Holy One Blessed be He **only** made a *brit*/covenant with Israel on account of the things which were taught orally..." (Gittin 60b). What accounts for Rabbi Yohanan's elevation of Judaism's oral tradition at the expense of written tradition? One midrashic account suggests that the non-Jewish world had already taken over the "Bible" as its own. Consequently, the Oral Torah was God's "secret" covenant, preserved exclusively for the Jewish people; it is what gives the Jews their unique identity (See Exodus Rabbah 47:1;3) Another midrash suggests that the great effort required for learning the Oral Torah made it indicative of the effort the Jews were willing to expend in order to maintain their covenant with God. (Exodus Rabbah 47:4)

The late Chancellor of the Jewish Theological Seminary, Rabbi Gerson Cohen gave voice to this unique attachment to the Oral Torah. He noted that Rabbinic Judaism was responsible for two incredible religious innovations. First, it introduced the idea of universal study as a religious discipline and means for communicating with God. Study and, in particular, the study of Judaism's Oral tradition, was meant to be a way for everyone to commune with God, not just a wealthy or scholarly elite.

The other great innovation of the rabbinic "oral" tradition, according to Cohen, was the idea that Judaism does not have a priestly class. Sure, we still have our "kohanim" and "leviim", but we do not live our Jewish religious lives vicariously through them. Nor are rabbis supposed to mediate for us between us and God. Religious observance is democratic - the privilege and responsibility of the mitzvot is for every Jew. (See Cohen's essay, "The Rabbinic Heritage" in Studies in the Varieties of Rabbinic Culture)

The embrace of "Oral Torah" as the central expression of the Jewish People's covenant with God is what makes rabbinic Judaism unique and our covenant with God special.

## BESC Featured and New Announcements

(Please follow us:

[Facebook.com/bethelsynagoguecenter](https://www.facebook.com/bethelsynagoguecenter) and spread the word about news, events, and information by "liking" or "sharing!")



Communal Singing. Open Hearts. Open Minds.

**BETH EL SPIRITUAL PRACTICES**  
Spring 2018

The RABBI MELVIN & LENORE SIRNER Fund for Jewish Inspiration

**Niggun HaLev (Music of the Heart):** An intimate, song-filled Shabbat morning service led by Deborah Sacks Mintz, Jack Klebanow and Rabbi David A. Schuck - **March 10, April 14, and May 5**

**Spiritual Singing Shabbat:** A Friday evening of communal singing with Rabbi Schuck, Jack Klebanow, and Cantorial Intern Anna Silverman - **February 16, March 9, April 27, May 25, and June 22** (Appetizers and Drinks at 6:00pm Services at 6:30pm)

**Singing as Spiritual Practice:** Music has deepened our ability to pray from the depths of our souls. All are welcome to join us for the power music can bring. Facilitated by Rabbi Schuck and Jack Klebanow. Classes are from 7:30-9:00pm on **Wednesday March 28, Thursday, April 19, Tuesday, May 29, and Thursday, June 7**

**Contemplative Service:** Join us at this slower-paced service to learn how we can pay better attention to living our lives with intention. Dress as you like! Held Shabbat morning at 10:45am:  
**March 17, April 28, May 19, and June 30**

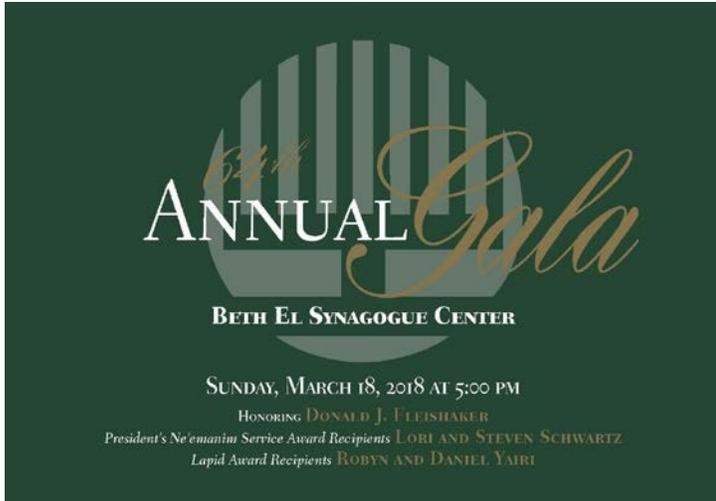
1324 North Avenue, New Rochelle  
[www.bethelnr.org/spiritualpractices](http://www.bethelnr.org/spiritualpractices)

**SISTERHOOD FUNDRAISER:** Join the Sisterhood on Friday, March 9 at Lord & Taylor. Buy a \$5 ticket, which will serve as your savings pass, and receive 25% off most purchases storewide; 15% on cosmetics and fragrances. Contact Linda Resnick at [cosa48@yahoo.com](mailto:cosa48@yahoo.com) or come to the Beth El front office.

**CONTEMPLATIVE SERVICE** Our next one will be Saturday, March 17 at 10:45am led by Rabbi Sitkin. For a list of our spiritual practices, visit [www.bethelnr.org/spiritualpractices](http://www.bethelnr.org/spiritualpractices)

**OPEN BEIT MIDRASH** Our next "OBM" is Thursday, March 8. We begin at 7:30pm with drinks and a nosh followed by learning promptly at 8:00pm. This upcoming evening is sponsored by Ted Keltz and Beth Breakstone in memory of Ted's father Harold Keltz. 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, a scholar teaches on a specific topic in their field. Free and open to all. *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](http://bethelnr.org/openbeit) or contact Rabbi Sitkin at [zsitkin@bethelnr.org](mailto:zsitkin@bethelnr.org).

**AIPAC** The American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) Policy Conference at the Washington Convention Center is March 4-6. We're appreciative to have a strong representation on-hand. Register at [www.policyconference.org](http://www.policyconference.org) and enter the code **PC18BENR**, or call 646.360.1534 and register. Contact [zsitkin@bethelnr.org](mailto:zsitkin@bethelnr.org) for more.



**GALA!** Beth El Synagogue Center Invites You to our 64th Annual Gala Honoring **Donald J. Fleishaker for Distinguished Leadership and Devoted Service**



**Lori and Steven Schwartz,  
President's Ne'emanim Service Award  
Recipients**



**Robyn and Daniel Yairi,  
Lapid Award Recipients**



Visit [www.bethelnr.org/Gala2018](http://www.bethelnr.org/Gala2018) to place your ad, make your reservation, and purchase raffle tickets! You can read about our honorees, view the letters of tribute, and get Gala details. We will once again be holding a top-notch Silent Auction.

With your help, we can truly catapult Beth El Synagogue Center's annual fundraiser to new heights. If you have access to worthy items, and you are able to contribute them to our auction, we will be most appreciative and will recognize you at the Gala. Help us raise funds by donating an auction item! **If you have something to donate please contact Shery Rosenstein ([s.rosenstein@yahoo.com](mailto:s.rosenstein@yahoo.com)) ASAP!**

**JOIN US ON**

**SUNDAY, MARCH 18 AT 5:00PM,**

**Be There or, well, Just Be There!**



**WELCOMES YOU TO VASHTI'S BANQUET**

**TUESDAY, MARCH 6, 2018, 6:30 P.M.**

**An evening of fun and celebration!**

**Featuring festive Middle Eastern Cuisine with Entertainment and a Lesson in Belly Dancing by Bina the Belly Dancer**

**\$25 per person**  
**\*\$18 for those 18 and under!**  
**RSVP a must!**  
**Register at [bethelnr.org/vashti](http://bethelnr.org/vashti)**

[www.bethelnr.org/vashti](http://www.bethelnr.org/vashti)

**CONGRATULATIONS** to our members Ron Burton, Marc Klee, and Mark Silver, who will be honored at this year's Julian Y. Bernstein Distinguished Service Awards by the Westchester Jewish Council. The three will be honored for their outstanding volunteer work. Burton for the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC), Klee for United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism – METNY, and Silver for Beth El.

The awards ceremony will be held Thursday, March 8 at 7:30pm at Temple Israel Center of White Plains at 280 Old Mamaroneck Road. Please show your support. It's free and open to the entire community. RSVP here: <https://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/eventReg?oeidk=a07ef1n9jzd17148db9&oseq=&c=&ch=>.

**DAY CAMP** *Best. Days. Ever.* Our camp doesn't have the best reputation in Southern Westchester for nothing! Camp is now eight weeks and will provide towel service! Visit, [www.betheldaycamp.org](http://www.betheldaycamp.org).

**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](mailto:accounting@bethelnr.org).

BETH EL ISRAEL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE PRESENTS

## A Passover Wine Tasting & Wine Sale

Thursday, March 15th  
7:00 - 9:00 p.m.



**Join us for a short presentation about wine, sample some of the offerings, and then place your order!**

**20% OFF BOTTLES!**

**FREE... but must RSVP to: [bethelnr.org/passoverwine](http://bethelnr.org/passoverwine) or call (914) 235-2700**



\*Wine pick-up at Beth El

program organized by



**WINE** The Israel Affairs Committee presents *A Passover Wine Tasting and Wine Sale* on Thursday, March 15 from 7:00pm–9:00pm. 20% off bottles and cases! Visit [www.bethelnr.org/passoverwines](http://www.bethelnr.org/passoverwines) for more.



**OUR ANNUAL MINYAN BREAKFAST** will be held on Sunday, March 18. Morning minyan will be at 8:00 am followed by breakfast in the Wiener Lounge. We will honor long-time Beth El member and Minyanaites 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 *Kaddish* for their loved one .

We invite you to volunteer to help with our minyan to ensure its continuity. Please let Cantor Aqua know which day and time would work best for you by emailing him at [uaqua@bethelnr.org](mailto:uaqua@bethelnr.org).

**SISTERHOOD BAGELS AND BOOKS**  
The next discussion will be Monday, March 26 at 9:30am regarding *The Thing We Cherished*, by Pam Jenoff. 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](mailto:aesalman@aol.com) or 914.235.2485.

**LET'S TALK ABOUT IT!** Join us Monday, March 12 at 7:30pm to discuss the relationships between our children and their partners who are not Jewish. Share your story or learn from others. All are welcome. Facilitated by Shari Baum, L.M.S.W. WJCS Coordinator of Partners in Caring, at the home of Barbara and Bob Cohen (29 Cherry Lawn Blvd. in New Rochelle, NY) RSVP to Elise Schepp at [LCmoocow@aol.com](mailto:LCmoocow@aol.com) Questions? Contact Nina Luban at [nina.luban@gmail.com](mailto:nina.luban@gmail.com) or Elise K. Richman at [elisekrichman@gmail.com](mailto:elisekrichman@gmail.com). *Generously funded by UJA-Federation of New York Sponsored by the Keruv Committee*

**EXHIBIT** Israeli Artist Gregory Niemetz's new exhibit will be open from now through March 25. Outside of Israel he exhibited in Germany, Great Britain, Argentina, South Africa, and the United States. He was not only financially successful, but also donated paintings for Israel's war effort and to the Ilan-Israhel Foundation for Handicapped Children. Dr. Will Sandberg, the Art Advisor to the Israel Museum, chose four paintings that Gregory donated to the museum. He died in Israel in 1978. You can visit the museum at any time the synagogue is open. If the room is locked, get the key from the office.

**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](http://www.conservativeyeshiva.org/category/daf-shevui).



**FULLFILL THE MITZVAH OF READING TORAH ONLINE** We have launched a sheet that allows you to signup to read from the Torah or chant the Haftarah at Beth El on Shabbat and holidays online. Click the link and you will see a list of availability: [www.bethelnr.org/torahsignup](http://www.bethelnr.org/torahsignup). Select the aliyah (or aliyot) you want to read and enter your name and email address. Cantor Aqua will contact you to confirm. 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 Haftarah, please contact Cantor Aqua ([uaqua@bethelnr.org](mailto:uaqua@bethelnr.org)) or Alan Kellman ([alan@twoals.com](mailto:alan@twoals.com)).

**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](mailto:aesalman@aol.com) or 914.235.2485.

*It'll be here before you know it!*



Our Special Needs Seder is around the corner on Wednesday, March 14 from 5:30-7:30pm.

Special needs residents of local group homes will be guests of our synagogue at a very unique Lower Westchester seder, and we need people to prepare beforehand, during, and after the event.

We are also collecting Passover foods to go to the group homes. When you shop for your Passover foods, please buy something extra and drop off donations in the bridal room off the main lobby. If you are unable to participate physically, financial donations are always needed. Checks should be made payable to the Chesed Community Seder and mailed to Sandy Gruenberg at Beth El.

If you would like to volunteer, click [here](#). You may also contact Seder co-chairs Ellen Gelboim ([esgelboim@gmail.com](mailto:esgelboim@gmail.com)) or Sandy Gruenberg ([gamson36@gmail.com](mailto:gamson36@gmail.com)).



[www.bethelnr.org/specialneedseder](http://www.bethelnr.org/specialneedseder)

**GIFT SHOP** Visit the Beth El Sisterhood Baum Judaica Gift Shop for ALL your Judaica needs. Open by appointment. Email [giftshop@bethelnr.org](mailto:giftshop@bethelnr.org), or call Erica Epstein (914.633.3161), Carole Graham (914.576.6617), and/or Ellen Hollander (914.632.4658).

**\*RABBI SCHUCK AND BETH EL HONOR** This year's HOPE Gala will honor Rabbi David Schuck and Beth El Synagogue Center. It will be held on Thursday, April 26 - location TBD. Questions? Contact Carole Troum at [ctroum@hope-cs.org](mailto:ctroum@hope-cs.org).

## 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.

Artists 4 Israel travels to Indonesia in latest mural-making venture

<http://www.jpost.com/International/Artists-for-Israel-travels-to-Indonesia-in-latest-mural-making-venture-543453>

Previously Unknown Stretch of 2,500-year-old Incense Route Found in Israel's Negev Desert

<https://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/unknown-stretch-of-2-500-year-old-incense-route-found-in-negev-1.5847863>

## 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. Remaining classes: March 14, 21 To learn more about Rabbi Karp, visit [rabbimollykarp.com](http://rabbimollykarp.com) or contact her at [rabbimollykarp@gmail.com](mailto:rabbimollykarp@gmail.com).



Sunday mornings at Beth El 9:30-10:30 a.m. with your instructor Maria!

**A Fun & Exciting way to exercise!**

All net proceeds of the class benefit the Beth El Religious School Parent organization, so you are doing something good for your health AND for your community!

Beth El Synagogue Center  
1324 North Ave.  
New Rochelle, NY 10804

For more information, please contact Carrie Fox at [csfox99@gmail.com](mailto:csfox99@gmail.com).



**DON'T FORGET TO ZUMBA!** It's back at Beth El Sundays from 9:30-10:30am. 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](mailto: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](mailto:miriulpan@gmail.com) or 914.602.1503.

**ISRAELI DANCING** Held Sundays 10:00-11:00 am with Cantor Aqua. \$10/class. Wear comfy clothes and sneakers. Questions? E-mail [uaqua@bethelnr.org](mailto:uaqua@bethelnr.org).

*All classes are at Beth El unless otherwise indicated.*

## Additional Beth El and Community Events and Information

**NEW PRODUCTION** This Sunday, March 4 at 4:00pm, Shames JCC on the Hudson at 371 S. Broadway in Tarrytown will present TRYmester, a new production that features poignant stories and the inner-dialogue of people wrestling with the physical, emotional, and financial challenges of infertility. Through the generous support of the UJA, TRYmester is a partnership of the Shames JCC, WJCS, and the Westchester Jewish Council. Tickets (\$18) can be purchased at [shamesjcc.org/trymester](http://shamesjcc.org/trymester).

**CONNECT** Bring your baby for an informal parent playdate and music session at Schechter Westchester Dr. Elliot Spiegel Lower School in White Plains on Friday, March 16 from 9:15-10:45am. RSVP to Diana Schutt at [lsadmissions@schechterwestchester.org](mailto:lsadmissions@schechterwestchester.org) or call 914.948.3111, x.4370.

**ROCK ON** Anshe Shalom Synagogue at 50 North Ave. in New Rochelle will host a concert with award-winning folk rock band Rogers Park on Sunday, March 11 at 7:00pm. Tickets (\$30) can be purchased at <http://anshesholomnewrochelle.org/4037-2/>.

**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 13-29. This two-week festival is the largest annual Jewish event in Westchester. Last year, close to 9,000 tickets sold. The festival also brings extraordinary array of top-notch speakers and other programming. Over 38 films will be shown. Contact AJC Westchester Associate Director Jill Friedman by email ([friedmanj@AJC.org](mailto:friedmanj@AJC.org)) or phone (914-948-5585).

## SEEKING JOB FOR 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](mailto:jswarz@mmdillon.com) or Gene Tozzi at [etozzi@gmail.com](mailto:etozzi@gmail.com) or 914-672-1088.

For Adults 60 and over

**mainstream** 

the institute for mature adults at Westchester Community College

Presents at Beth El in New Rochelle

**The Beauty, Diversity and Traditions of Africa**

**FREE EVENT!**

**VISIT AFRICA WITHOUT LEAVING HOME!**

Dates: Tuesdays, March 6, 13, & 20 2018  
Time: 10:30am - 12:30pm  
Enjoy Africa-themed snacks



Walk-ins welcome/ RSVPs appreciated  
Contact Julie Rockowitz at [jrockowitz@bethelnr.org](mailto:jrockowitz@bethelnr.org)  
or 914.235.2700, x256

Beth El Synagogue Center  
1324 North Avenue, New Rochelle, NY 10804

*More announcements can be found at*  
[www.bethelnr.org/ongoing](http://www.bethelnr.org/ongoing).