

Beth El Synagogue Center

Shabbat Announcements



Saturday Morning, Oct. 28, 2017

Daniel Patchen's Bar Mitzvah - 9:00am

Lech Lecha:

Genesis 12:1-17:27 pp. 69-93

Haftarah:

Isaiah 40:27-41:16pp. 95-98

9:00am *Daniel Patchen's Bar Mitzvah* (Main Sanctuary)

9:00am Shabbat Morning Services (Main Sanctuary)

9:30am Shabbat Space (Kasakove)

10:15am Pre-Service Oneg Shabbat

10:15am Shabbat Discussion with Jack Gruenberg

10:45am Family Kehillah Services (Goldberger Chapel)

10:45am Torah for Tots (Levenson Chapel)

12:30pm Daf Shevui (Library)

5:40pm Mincha/Maariv

6:38pm Havdalah

This week's Kiddush is sponsored by:

Lisa and Robert Patchen in honor of the Bar Mitzvah of their son Daniel.

The following people are assisting this Shabbat:

Mark Seidenfeld, President's Chair; Jayne Peister, Vice President's Chair;
Lauren Freeman-Bosworth, Gabbai; Amy O'Malley and David Lacher, Greeters;
Carrie Fox and Marjorie Seidenfeld, Ushers.

Mazal Tovs, Condolences, & Refuah Shleimah

MAZAL TOV TO:

Lisa and Robert Patchen in honor of the Bar Mitzvah of their son Daniel.

CONDOLENCES TO:

Elise and Bob Schepp on the loss of their brother-in-law,
Paul Wasley, beloved husband of Sandie Wasley.

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



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

“God said to Abram: Go forth from your native land and from your father’s house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, And I will bless you; I will make your name great, And you shall be a blessing.” (Genesis 12:1-2)

In this week’s parasha, *Lekh Lekha*, we learn about one man’s journey of self-exploration. In an instant of divine revelation, Abraham (or Abram as he was then known), hears a voice calling out to him from the depths saying, “Go Forth and leave your land- the place of your birth- your father’s house, to a place that I will show you”. What’s interesting about Abraham’s initial act of departure is how it is shrouded in mystery - Abraham is not told where to go, but only that he must leave and that he will know the right place when he sees it. Avivah Zornberg emphasizes this when she writes, “Here begins the journey of *Lekh lekha*- with its strange order of abandonments-first land, then community, and finally, father’s house...For what is most striking here is the *indeterminacy* of the journey. What is left behind...is defined, clearly circled on the map of Abram’s being; but his destination is merely “the land that I shall show you”: [It is as if

God says go] from “your land,” the landscape of your basic self-awareness, to a place that you will know only when the light falls on it with a difference.” It’s only in “*difference*” that Abraham will come to know the place for which he is destined.

Perhaps, this is what leads Rashi to translate the words, *Lekh Lekha*, as “Go for yourself”. Meaning, Abraham must leave for his own good and benefit; because as long as he remains in his father’s house he will be limited in his experiences. This moment in Abraham’s life is what psychiatrist Murray Bowen called self-differentiation. As long as Abraham lives in his father’s house, in the land of his birth, surrounded by people who think and feel the same about the world, he will never distinguish himself from them; the pressure to conform will be too great. This is why Rashi continues his commentary saying, “There [in the land of Canaan], God will make of Abraham a great nation. Whereas here [in his father’s house], Abraham will not merit children. Moreover, [Abraham will benefit from going] because God will show Abraham’s true nature in the world.” In leaving, Abraham will discover his truest self. Abraham will never be able to write the story of his own life until he leaves home.

And this is a valuable lesson we all learn at some point in our lives- the stories of our lives tend to unfold when we are bold enough to “go forth.” Most of the time the destination is hidden from us, we have no idea what the journey of our lives will reveal, but we know that we must leave nevertheless. As a community, we are in the very beginning of our own journey of self-exploration. With the help of Insyte Partners, we will spend the year reflecting on our values and the changing reality of the American Jewish community. We will try to answer tough, but necessary, questions in the hopes that we can position ourselves for a vibrant future. This is a *Lekh Lekha* moment in the life of Beth El. At times the journey will be challenging, but we step into it with the faith that together, this journey will culminate in a vibrant and sustainable future for future generations.

BESC Featured and New Announcements

CAFE SHABBAT "A Friday Happening for Young Families" will take place **TONIGHT** Friday, Oct. 27 from 4:00-5:30pm. The event is geared toward first graders and younger, and their families. There will be a musical service followed by dinner for children and parents. The price is \$20 for adults. Children are free. Please RSVP at bethelnr.org/cafe.

RABBI SITKIN INSTALLATION Join us this Sunday, Oct. 29, 12:00-2:00pm to celebrate Rabbi Sitkin as he is installed as Beth El Synagogue Center's Assistant Rabbi. The event begins by studying Torah in honor of this joyous moment. You can choose from two learning sessions: one taught by Rabbi Yoni Dahlen (Congregation Shaarey Zedek in Detroit) and another by Rabbi Danny Nevins (Jewish Theological Seminary). Rabbi Dahlen's topic will be *When There's Hope: Leadership and the Jewish Future*, while Rabbi Nevins will teach Torah from Rabbi Sitkin's favorite Hasidic masters. At 1:00pm, we'll come together for a nosh, mimosas and have an informal installation in which Rabbi Schuck and President Mark Seidenfeld will both speak.

OPEN BEIT MIDRASH On Nov. 7 from 8:00-9:30pm, we are launching our Open Beit Midrash experience. This will be a free learning opportunity in a non-judgmental space in the hopes of finding answers to questions we didn't even know we had. One night each week, Rabbi Schuck; Rabbi Ethan Linden, the executive director of Ramah Berkshires; and Rabbi Zach Sitkin will teach a class covering different areas of Jewish literature. On the last week of each month a scholar will come and teach everyone something related to his or her field. Food and drinks will be provided. **We are looking for sponsors to cover costs for each of our sessions in honor of or in memory of loved ones.*

For more information or to sponsor a session, visit bethelnr.org/openbeit or contact Rabbi Sitkin at zsitkin@bethelnr.org.

ISRAELI ART FESTIVAL & SALE: A piece, or pieces to be exact, of Israel will be coming to New Rochelle this November as Beth El welcomes its first ever Israeli Art Festival and Sale. The event, which will take place from Nov. 8 until Nov. 13, will showcase artwork from the Safrai Art Gallery in Jerusalem, a renowned gallery just steps away from the King David Hotel. Highlights from the festival will include two evenings of drinks, live music, and fun!

The Festival will begin on Nov. 8 with a private sponsor preview (to sponsor the event, please contact marketing@bethelnr.org). The following night will be the first of two large-scale events dubbed the "First Public Viewing." This event starts at 6:15 p.m. It will feature music, food, and give patrons the opportunity to have their first choice on the artwork. The second fundraiser will be "Beth El's Speakeasy: Art, Drinks, & Live Jazz" on Nov. 11 at 7:30pm. There will be additional sale hours in-between those dates on Nov. 10 and Nov. 12. Babysitting is also available for the Thursday and Saturday events. Visit bethelnr.org/art for details.

AND WE NEED VOLUNTEERS...to take checks from purchasers of the Israeli artwork to be displayed at Beth El for the following times: 1. During the day on Friday, Nov. 10 and Sunday, Nov. 12. 2. On the evening(s) of Wednesday, Nov. 8, Thursday, Nov. 9 and Saturday, Nov. 10. If you can help, please contact Abby Wise at awise@bethelnr.org. Thank you for helping Beth El raise funds.

EARLY BIRD CAMP REGISTRATION We had such an outstanding camp season that we are already excited to be thinking about 2018. Just as a reminder, we're happy to share a special offer with you! Returning families who sign up **by Oct. 31** will benefit from the 2017 regular rates for Beth El Day Camp Summer 2018! This offer is valid only if you (1) register online by Oct. 31 AND (2) send a non-refundable \$500 payment, per camper, which must be received by Oct. 31. You can either pay online or by check to "Beth El Day Camp." Visit bethelnr.org/campreg2018 to take advantage of this offer!

***NEW - HOT TOPICS** The Keruv Committee will present a new series entitled "Hot Topics in Conservative Judaism: What Keeps Your Rabbi Up at Night?" The series, which is co-sponsored by the Beth El Sisterhood and Men's Club, will meet Sundays at 7:00pm starting on Nov. 5 with the topic of Israel and the Diaspora. This event in particular is sponsored by the Israel Action Committee. RSVPs are encouraged but walk-ins are welcomed. For more information, or to register, contact Keruv co-chairs Elise Richman or Nina Luban respectively at elisekrichman@gmail.com and nina.luban@gmail.com.

TODDLER TIME EXPANDS! In response to demand for additional toddler programming, we have expanded our program to become Toddler Time Plus. Families may sign up for our Toddler Time program and then three additional classes. For more information, please visit bethelnr.org/toddvertime. And please note: there are still spots open for our Nursery School (Register at www.bethelnr.org/nsregistration). Every Nursery School family now receives free membership to Beth El! Questions? Email Director Ronnie Becher at nursery@bethelnr.org.

BETH EL TEEN LEARNING AND ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM We are happy to present an options-based model for our teen population. We have created a menu of options for Jewish learning and engagement for ALL of our Beth El teens, including niche-specific opportunities and social engagement as well. In this way, we will be able to address the varied interests and schedules of our teens in a manner that allows us to reach each of them personally. Visit bethelnr.org/teens to learn more.

SHARE A SHABBAT MEAL Shabbat is one of the Jewish people's most sacred and precious gifts. Every week we have the opportunity to carve out space for spiritual reflection and fellowship with others in our community. In this spirit, if you are looking to be hosted for a Shabbat meal in order to enrich your Shabbat experience please contact Rabbi Zach Sitkin at zsitkin@bethelnr.org or 914-235-2700, ext. 338.

OPPORTUNITY TO FULFILL THE MITZVAH OF READING TORAH



If you wish to read in honor of your birthday, anniversary, or just to fulfill a mitzvah on any Shabbat, please contact Cantor Aqua at uaqua@bethelnr.org, or 914-235-2700, ext. 222. He will be happy to work with you or e-mail you a recording.

ON YOUR RADAR...

Join our next Contemplative Service with
Rabbi Schuck Saturday, Nov. 4, 10:45am!

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).

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.

Israeli TV Makes Huge Inroads Stateside

<http://variety.com/2017/tv/awards/israeli-tv-makes-huge-inroads-stateside-emmis-wisdom-crowd-1202457550/amp/>

10 Hidden Gems You'll Want to Visit in Haifa

https://www.israel21c.org/10-hidden-gems-youll-want-to-visit-in-haifa/?utm_content=buffer40fda&utm_medium=social&utm_source=twitter.com&utm_campaign=buffer



As you may already know, Beth El is embarking on a collaborative visioning and strategic planning process, which will engage all of us in a creative reimagining of what it means to be a vibrant congregation – relevant to the lives of its members, to the Jewish future, and to the wider community. The entire Beth El family and broader community will be invited into this process. Contact journey@bethelnr.org with any comments. Learn more: www.bethelnr.org/journey

Limmud and Other Learning Opportunities

JERUSALEM IN BIBLICAL/RABBINIC SOURCES...AND IN MODERN ISRAELI

LITERATURE Taught by Rabbis Schuck and Sitkin and Dr. Carol Diament. Thursdays at 9:30am. \$65 for Beth El members, \$100 for others. For more, visit www.bethelnr.org/literature.

SINGING AS A SPIRITUAL PRACTICE Music has deepened our ability to pray from the depths of our souls, sometimes with words and sometimes with melodies alone. This group will learn how singing can itself be a Jewish spiritual practice, and we will practice different techniques that help to unleash the power of communal singing. Everyone is welcome. No prior knowledge required.

Facilitated by Rabbi Schuck and Jack Klebanow. The next class is Sunday, Nov. 5 from 9:30-11:00am. Additional class: Dec.13 from 7:30-9:00pm. For information on this program, email RabbiAdmin@bethelnr.org, or call 914-235-2700, ext. 228.

PHILO AND JOSEPHUS: LIVING IN A NON-JEWISH WORLD This course, taught by Rabbi Molly Karp, will explore two important voices of the 1st century CE: Philo of Alexandria, a Hellenistic Jewish philosopher who lived from 20 BCE–50 CE in Alexandria, and Josephus, a Jewish aristocrat born into a priestly family, who also lived in the 1st century and led the Jewish forces against Rome in Galilee. Captured by Rome, Josephus was an important historian of ancient Judaism. His book *The Jewish War*, on which we will focus, tells the story of ancient Israel and early Judaism from the beginning of the second century BCE, and continuing through the siege at Masada.

The class meets Wednesday mornings from 10:00am-12:15pm Nov. 1, 8,15, 22, and 29, Dec. 6, 13 and 20, and Jan. 3. Cost: \$350, which includes audio recordings of all class sessions. To learn more about Rabbi Karp, visit rabbimollykarp.com. Contact Rabbi Karp at rabbimollykarp@gmail.com for more information.

TALMUD CLASS Rabbi David Hojda will teach *Talmud from the Inside Out: A Class for the Inquiring Mind* on Thursdays through Nov. 30 from 1:00-3:15pm. The initial goal is to analyze the Talmud's account of why Jerusalem was destroyed. Rabbi Hodja is a teacher, translator, editor, and author. Tuition is \$215. For more information, contact Sam Berger at sam.hr.berger@gmail.com.

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

IAC TO HOST SCHOLAR The Israeli Affairs Committee (IAC) will host Dov Maisel of United Hatzalah to be their scholar-in-residence on Saturday, Nov. 18. He will give the D'var Torah on Shabbat morning. Maisel is the senior VP of International Operations for United Hatzalah/United Rescue volunteer emergency response organizations. He is an active Combat Medic and a Company Commander in the Israel Defense Forces (Res.) and specializes in mass disaster, rescue, and recovery training for both the civilian and military arenas. Watch a video on Mr. Maisel, here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=126&v=OPAV17m-o00.

ISRAELI DANCING is held Sundays 10:00-11:00am with Cantor Aqua. \$10/class. Wear comfy clothes and sneakers. Questions? Email uaqua@bethelnr.org.

LEARN HEBREW IN OUR ULPAN CLASSES Classes with Miri Ben Avi began Sept. 6 - newcomers welcome. Classes are for beginner, intermediate, and advanced learners.

Beginners: 6:30pm-7:30pm

Intermediate: 7:30-8:30pm

Advanced: 8:30-9:30pm

Questions? Contact Miri at miriulpan@gmail.com or 914-602-1503.

All classes are at Beth El unless otherwise indicated.

Additional Events, Community News, and General Information

EXHIBITS IN THE KANNER-KURZON MUSEUM *Kahnstructions* will be presented from now until Nov. 2 featuring the works of Marcia Kahn. This will be the fourth exhibit by Kahn, a Beth El member from 1960-2003 whose three children became a bar/bat mitvah here. She has exhibited her acrylic paintings, drawings, wood sculptures and books at Beth El, Gallery RG in Curacao, Arrow Louver in Puerto Rico, and Baruch College, among other places. She has generously offered to donate proceeds to Beth El from the sale of any of her artwork on display. An Artist Reception will be held Sunday, Oct. 22 from 2:00-4:30pm.

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. **Please note: Orders must be placed for 2018 Mah Jongg cards by Jan. 1, 2018. Large print cards are \$9 each. Standard are \$8. Cards will be mailed directly to you from the National Mah Jongg League.** Contact Arlene Salman at aesalman@aol.com or 914.235.2485.

**** Sisterhood members who purchased a Lord & Taylor shopping pass can pick it up in the office.

The Sisterhood is kicking off the 2017-2018 Torah Fund Campaign with a new message: **IT'S NOT JUST A PIN!** Our Sisterhood is a member of the Women's League of Conservative Judaism. As the dedicated philanthropy of Women's League, Torah Fund's mission is to ensure Conservative Jewish education. Please donate to this wonderful initiative - all increments are welcome. For donations of \$180 or more, you'll receive a Torah Fund pin as a gift to you in recognition of your generous support. Questions? Contact Committee Co-Chairs Phoebe Gross (phoebegross@aol.com / 914.725.8711) or Susan Morris (sgmorris@optonline.net / 914.969.1591.) To watch a special video, click here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=994pCMHz61U>.

SISTERHOOD BAGELS AND BOOKS: The next installment is Monday, Oct. 30 at 9:30am with *The Marriage of Opposites* by Alice Hoffman. 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.

THANKSGIVING DIVERSITY BREAKFAST The Annual Westchester/Fairfield County Thanksgiving Diversity Breakfast (Healing Our Fractured Society) will take place Thursday, Nov. 16 from 7:30-10:00am at Manhattanville College in Purchase, NY. The event will feature a keynote speech by the Rev. Stephen W. Pogue of the Greater Centennial A.M.E. Zion Church in Mt. Vernon. Tickets are \$16 in advance and \$25 at the door. For more information, contact the Westchester Jewish Council at 914.328.7001.

DISCUSSION WITH AMBASSADOR DAN SHAPIRO AIPAC and Westchester Reform Temple will hold a special discussion with Ambassador Dan Shapiro on Nov. 7 at 8:00pm. Beth El is serving as a co-sponsor for the event. Ambassador Shapiro served as the United States Ambassador to Israel from July 2011 until the end of the Obama Administration. Among Amb. Shapiro's major contributions was the negotiation of the \$38 billion Memorandum of Understanding for U.S. military aid to Israel. Rabbi Jonathan Blake of Westchester Reform Temple and Amb. Shapiro will discuss the state of the U.S.-Israel relationship today, and will reflect on the Ambassador's experiences during his tenure. This event will take place at Westchester Reform Temple, 255 Mamaroneck Rd, Scarsdale, NY 10583. For more information, contact westchester@aipac.org.

CAREER CONNECT UJ Federation of NY's Career Connect at Westchester Jewish Services is a multi-faceted approach to helping those in the county's Jewish community who are experiencing employment instability. Some programs include Jewish Mindfulness Meditation and Stress Reduction on Mondays at 9:30-10:45am (excluding holidays). This is held at Temple Israel Center located at 280 Old Mamaroneck Road in White Plains. It is also held Thursdays at that time at Kol Ami located at 252 Soundview Ave. in White Plains. Contact rosenblum@wjcs.com for more information or RSVP to CareerConnect@wjcs.com.

