

There is a place for you at Beth El. We Belong Together.

Beth El Newsletter
December (Kislev/Tevet) 2019 and January (Tevet/Shevat) 2020—5780

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On October 6, we held a beautiful ceremony to dedicate a Torah that had been hidden during the Holocaust and lovingly restored by the Schwarz Family in honor of Campbell's Bat Mitzvah. The ceremony included Holocaust survivor Fred Behrend and many members of the community. We are so honored to have this special Torah here at Beth El.

Be Together This Winter!



HEALING SERVICE

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11. 7:00PM

HURTING? GRIEVING? LOST? FIND INNER PEACE THROUGH PRAYER AND MEDITATION WITH YOUR HAZZAN AND RABBIS.

PRE-CHANUKAH CELEBRATION

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12. 6:00PM

JOIN US AT BARNES & NOBLE FOR SERVICE FROM THE HEART, CRAFTS, ECC ART SHOW, RELIGIOUS SCHOOL CHOIR AND MORE!



MLK DAY OF SERVICE

MONDAY, JANUARY 20. 10:30AM

PARTICIPATE IN OUR BIGGEST COMMUNITY SERVICE DAY OF THE YEAR WITH A VARIETY OF HANDS-ON MITZVAH PROJECTS FOR ALL AGES!



LET'S DO SHABBAT: SOCIAL ACTION

FRIDAY, JANUARY 24. 6:00PM

JOIN US FOR OUR COMMUNITY-WIDE, FAMILY FRIENDLY SHABBAT FOCUSED ON SOCIAL ACTION!
REGISTRATION REQUIRED: BETHELSNJ.ORG/LETSDOSHABBAT

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Karen H. Schlessel
President

What a wonderful, awe-inspiring High Holiday season it was at Beth El! Thank you to our Dream Team Clergy, caring and hard-working staff, volunteers and each and every one of you! For some of you, these may have been your first High Holy Days at Beth El, while

others celebrated a time-honored tradition. Whatever your circumstances or history, I hope you felt warmly welcomed, enlightened, comforted, renewed, perhaps even transformed. Let's build on that!

I cherish our conversations about our spiritual and uplifting services as well as your Beth El stories. For example, Debra Kelberg shared that it may be intimidating walking into our building, especially if you don't already know other members. Debra put it this way, "The first time I stepped foot within the walls of Beth El eight years ago, I was scared - scared that I was making the right decision, scared about fitting in, wondering whether I would be included. Today, within these same walls, I feel a perpetual hug that lifts me up and carries me through my stressful weeks and greets me on Shabbat - not only in times of joy and sorrow, but all the times in between. Everyday moments are shared with people who have similar values, interests and a love for Judaism: Beth El people."

Rest assured that there is a place for you at Congregation Beth El. We belong together. You may have seen these words on our membership brochures and in emails. We are here to help you put them into action. Our clergy, our Engagement Director, Melissa Leibowitz, and I will help you navigate Beth El and connect you with prayer services, others who share your interests and chesed activities that strike a chord. Email addresses are listed in the directory opposite the back page of this and every Beth El News.

As you peruse the next pages, consider the many ways you are welcome and encouraged to participate. Let us get to know you better. Please reach out. Introduce yourself whether you are a new or longtime member or at any stage in between. Remember, you are better because of Beth El, and Beth El is better because of you. I look forward to seeing you soon!

Back to Debra: she has been serving on our Board of Trustees and is currently Sisterhood President. Debra concluded, "I often say, 'You get out what you put in,' but I get so much more from Beth El. Beth El has taught me more than I could have ever imagined. I've learned about spirituality and Torah. I've learned about friendship, parenting, patience and forgiveness. I've learned about community, philanthropy and how to be a volunteer. And the greatest lesson and gift? I learned how to expand my FAMILY."

JOIN OUR GROWING LIST OF SHOMRIM MEMBERS

PILLAR

The Brown Families – Sidney & Sandy and Jeff & Tracy
Donna & Richard Forman – Forman Foundation
Eva & Marvin Schlanger

VISIONARY

Marvin Samson Foundation

SUSTAINER

Jerome M. Katz
Alison & Andrew Keim

BUILDER

Susan & David Backal	Rabbi & Helene Krupnick
Cathy & Marc Backal	Judy & Donald Love
Donna & Richard Bell	Ellen & Michael Lowenberger
Beth & Josh Brodtkin	Miriam & Stan Meltzer
Marcia & Arnold Cohen	Sharon & Adam Sackstein
Betsy & Peter Fischer	Anonymous (1)
Elaine & Bart Greenspan	

BENEFACTOR

Iris & Steven Auerbach	Hazzan Alisa Pomerantz-Boro & Stephen Boro
Gloria & Ira Back	
Delores Gerstein	M. Zev Rose
Jennifer & Michael Gerstein	Karen & David Schlessel
Deborah & Ed Hochberg	Lauren & Jon Soll
Sharla & Morton Kanovsky	Elaine L. Waxman
Robert & Valerie Linden	Julie & Jason Whitney
Carol & Donald Meltzer	

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Gerry & Howard Abramsohn	Jamie & Darin Morgan
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The Bell Baeuerle Family	Ellen Podell
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Helene & Alan Blumenfeld	Joyce & Mel Ruthen
Jocelyn Borowsky	Sherry & Stuart Sauer
Sherri & Alan Breslow	Betsy & Robert Schwartz
Jennifer & Ari Brooks	Brandi & Gregory Seltzer
Staci & Jeffrey Cedar	Faye & Gary Shapiro
Amy & Eric Clayman	Shari & Jeffrey Shapiro
Leslie & Steven Cohen	Carol & Joel Silbert
Arlene & Harris Colton	Judy & Len Simkin
Fran & Neal Cupersmith	Juli & Glenn Sloves
Brenda & Chuck Driben	Barbara & Norman Some
Jennifer & Alex Greenwald	Tami Bogutz Steinberg
Ilene & Harry Grossman	Alison & Neil Tarnopol
Myra & David Gutin	Diane & Stuart Traster
Barbara & Mark Jacobs	Linda & David Wander
Sandra & Arnold Kaminer	Lynne & Diego Warszawski
Ziva & Haim Kantor	Cookie & Allan Weinberg
Gladys & Steve Krulik	Ilene & Michael Weinberg
Renee & David Lieberman	Jennifer & James Weiss
Merle & Fred Linden	Barb & Allen Wilen
Rachel & Stephen Miller	Judith & Leonard Wizmur
Andrea & Marc Millstein	Anonymous (3)

Contact Robin Berger at rberger@bethelsnj.org for more information on our dues inclusive giving program!

CLERGY CORNER



Rabbi Krupnick

Helene and I would like to thank, from the bottom of our hearts, our Beth El family who shared in one of the most amazing days of our lives - our daughter Ellie's *auf ruf*. Your outpouring of love touched not only the two of us, but our children, Daniel, and his family as well. Even though she grew up at Beth El, Ellie continually marveled at what she kept calling the "selfless love" that was shown to her and her fiancé throughout that special Shabbat.

Perhaps the greatest reflection of the love and support of our Beth El family for Ellie and ours, is the fact that Ellie and Daniel have joined a synagogue of their own in New York City and are becoming active there. They are meeting people, attending services and programs, and creating the kind of bonds that Ellie was privileged to have here at Beth El. A shul is so much more than where one comes to pray. It is indeed an all embracing family, and we felt the love of ours that magical morning. Thank You!



When I became the International President of the Cantors Assembly, my platform was "Col Kol: Every Voice." My goal then was to empower all of my colleagues, just as I continue to encourage every one of you, to use your voice for good. I believe that every voice has the power to make a difference.



Hazzan Pomerantz-Boro

During the High Holy Day season, we heard from so many voices; our rabbis, our magnificent choir, Rabbi Kahn, Cantor Sher, Harry Grossman, Max DuBoff, Jay Ruder, Ray Katz, and Sam Mandel. I hope you were able to feel what I felt! I experienced an extra level of *kedusha*, of holiness, while singing with Natalie Borowsky and Aviv Haroz. I loved singing with Tracy Bancroft, Susan Backal, and Stacy Garson (still searching for our "stage name"). Yoel Weiss and Joel Rudin brought extra solemnity to Yizkor and we were all blessed to hear so many beautiful Torah and Haftarah chanters, and shofar blowers.

Each year, a highlight for me is hearing all of your voices joining me in prayer. There was one moment, in particular, on Yom Kippur, when I walked around the sanctuary during Hineni. I want you to know that the power of your voices, your spirit, and your love filled my heart and soul and lifted my prayers even higher.

I recognize that not everyone loves to sing in public and I also appreciate active listening. There are many ways to use our voices. I am touched by the written word. I am motivated by your smiles. I am in awe of your mitzvah work. I am moved by a helping hand, a kind gesture, or a loving touch. I do believe that every voice can do its part. Even though every voice is different, we can all strive to be harmonious together.



Rabbi Green

After brainstorming with her family about a meaningful Tzedakah project for her Bat Mitzvah, Campbell Schwarz determined to restore a 200-year old Torah scroll that had survived the Holocaust. She filmed a video expressing why this project was so meaningful to her and raised funds to enable it to happen. Then, on the morning of October 6, Beth El welcomed this new Torah scroll to our community, and at her Bat Mitzvah on October 18, Campbell read from this Torah, the very first time it was read from at a Beth El service. Since then, we have read from this Torah again and again using it for regular services and numerous communal celebrations. The sages taught that the very last of the 613 mitzvot (commandments) in the Torah, is for each person to write a Torah scroll, a mitzvah that can be fulfilled by just completing a single letter in a scroll. At our Torah dedication, everyone present enjoyed the awe-inspiring opportunity to participate in this mitzvah. I was no exception.

In a moment of transcendence and awe, fellowship and blessing, Rabbi Krupnick, Hazzan Pomerantz Boro, and I filled the final letter of Torah, the lamed that ends the word Yisrael, Israel. Together, our hands, one atop another, helped bring new life to a sacred scroll thought to be lost. Just as we renewed this scroll, we prayed that our community and that all who touch it and come to know its story find spiritual renewal as well.

At the dedication ceremony, I shared this prayer: "Our God and God of our Ancestors: We ask that with this Torah, you bless the heroes, the martyrs, the survivors, and the victims. Reawaken our souls and theirs. Amplify our memory. Strengthen our resolve. Hear our prayer. Illumine our lives with your Torah. Open our hearts to Your commandments. Sustain this community with Your love and Your Teaching, as You have sustained our people Israel in every generation. *Eitz Chayyim Hi LaMachazikim Ba V'Tomcheha MeUshar*. It is a tree of life to those who hold fast to it; All who uphold the Torah are Blessed." May We All Be So Blessed - Amen



“Text People”

Abraham Joshua Heschel once taught, “What we need more than anything else is not textbooks but text-people. It is the personality of the teacher which is the text that the pupils read; the text that they will never forget.”

According to Abraham Joshua Heschel, teachers are the text because of their involvement in Jewish life. Heschel teaches that when Jewish educators think about their educational vision, they must recognize who they are as a person and by doing so will make a difference in their classroom.

Our teachers at the schools of Congregation Beth El strive every day to be text people. And to be the best “text people,” requires dedication, studying, and ongoing learning. Professional development and continuing education is a crucial part of what makes our teachers so great. I am proud to say that our teachers here at Beth El are always learning and bringing new ideas into their classrooms.

At the end of October, our Religious School teachers spent a Sunday morning at Kellman Brown Academy’s J-Stem Lab. They began with a team building exercise and then dove into learning about new and innovative teaching techniques and how to implement Stem in our Religious School classrooms. We are very excited to bring back to our classrooms a variety of apps from Jewish Interactive that will allow our students to create their own games related to the topics they are learning in class and practice at home reading Hebrew.



In addition, at the end of the program our teachers were able to create Jewish objects on the 3-D printer and laser cutter. I am thrilled that we too have access to our very own 3-D printer in our school and am looking forward to creating exciting Judaica together with our students.

Our ECC teachers are also continuing their learning in order to be the best “text people” they can be. In November three of our ECC lead teachers attended a Yom Iyyun, a conference for Jewish Early Childhood Educators in Philadelphia hosted by The Jewish Learning Venture. The title of the conference was, “Cultivating Environments for Teachers and Learners to Thrive.” At this conference the teachers were able to meet other Jewish ECC teachers and take courses that allow them to bring back new ideas into their classrooms.

Some of the topics of the sessions included:

- Building Jewish Values using Children's Literature
- Classroom Management for Preschool to K
- Did You STEM Today?
- Early Childhood Educators & Early Intervention Providers: Establishing Successful Collaboration Approaches for the Classroom
- Facilitating Functional Speech/Language/Social Communication for Young Learners
- Play in Nature: It's Good for All of Us!

In March, another group of our teachers will attend another Yom Iyyun in the Philadelphia area.

Just a couple of months ago, we finished reading the Torah. We did not simply close it up and put it away, rather we immediately began reading it from the beginning because we never stop learning in Judaism. Just as learning is important to our students, our teachers are always enhancing their education in order to enhance their teaching and to truly become “text people.”

As it says in the book of Songs of Songs, “Teachers and school children are society’s most beautiful ornaments.”



UPCOMING EVENTS:

BERS Secret Shop and Chanukah Celebration with Unique Game Show: Sunday, December 15

BERS Winter Break: Thursday, December 19-Wednesday, January 1

BERS Grandparents/Special Friends Day: Sunday, January 5

No Religious School: Sunday, January 19

AYELET MITTELMAN—EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER PRINCIPAL



It has been over 15 years since I visited Israel. What many of you don't know, is that I was raised there. I have many aunts and uncles there, who are secondary parents to me, and LOADS of cousins. Some of my fondest memories are from when I was a child living in Israel. There is something so special about being in Israel; it's almost difficult to find the words to

explain the feeling. It is a feeling of being home, but more than that, it is a feeling of belonging. I walk through the streets of Tel Aviv, smelling all of the different smells in the shuk. I listen to all of the vendors yelling out their prices, I sample all of the delicious fruits and vegetables, dried and fresh, and my childhood comes flooding back.

I was lucky enough to spend Sukkot in Israel this year with my husband Matt and my daughter Maya. Seeing Israel through Maya's eyes is something I will never ever forget. I carried all of Beth El with me, in my heart, as I stepped towards the Kotel and placed my hand on the wall.

Back home, the ECC had the BEST time celebrating all of the High Holy Days! Everyone celebrated Rosh Hashanah with apples and honey, songs and sweets. Rabbi Green and Alan Blumenfeld taught us about the shofar. We also enjoyed a visit from Rabbi Kahan from Chabad's Shofar Factory and got a chance to make our own shofars! For Yom Kippur, we learned a song about apologizing for anything we've done wrong, and we had a school-wide Tashlich where we threw our "sins" (bread) into a pool of water.



For Sukkot, we learned all about the Lulav and Etrog, ate snacks, and read stories in the Sukkah. Finally, for Simchat Torah, we made flags, had a parade, and celebrated the Torah!!

It was a busy couple of months, and we have even more wonderful events to look forward to! In November, we had a school-wide competition to see which class could collect the most books for BookSmiles. The winner got an ice cream party in their room!

We also have our Thanksgiving feast to look forward to! A great big preemptive thank you to all of the volunteers for helping to make it a special day!

We are kicking off December with a Scholastic Book Fair, our annual pre-Chanukah event at Barnes & Noble, and finally our Chanukah Celebration here at Beth El! We are so excited for the winter and the start of 2020!



In STEAM, our students learned about balance and instruments used for science. Morah Debbie also tied in the story of Noah to our lesson on sinking and floating!



Rabbi Green taught us about lulav and etrog in the sukkah. Many of our students got the chance to shake the lulav in the sukkah!



Our Simchat Torah celebration and parade was so much fun!



Our entire school got to visit with the Voorhees Township Fire Department, exploring the fire trucks, learning about fire safety, and even getting to sit in the driver's seat!



Our Dalia's Little Kitchen extra-curricular activity is deliciously popular! The kids have made cake pops, chocolate pops, cracker and candy sukkahs and so much more!



BETH EL MOURNS THE PASSING OF:

Bruce B. Faden

Father of Danielle Landau

Robin Chiprut Gray

Sister of Renee Rudoy

Mark Wilen

Father of Allen Wilen

May their memories be for a blessing.

**List as of November 4, 2019*



On October 29, Haddonfield Beth El families gathered at the home of Lauren Bell and Holger Baeuerle for a fun evening of learning and socializing!

Welcome New Members to Our Beth El Family!

ברוכים הבאים

- ◆ Doug, Jodi and Adira Appel
- ◆ Monica Barach and Philip Barach
- ◆ Jeremy, Rena and Luca Beyer
- ◆ Sol and Phyllis Cohen
- ◆ Harv Cohen
- ◆ Lewis, Jennifer and Noah Claps
- ◆ Adam, Lauren, Jaxson and Mila Cygler
- ◆ Jeff, Karen and Ayla Danziger
- ◆ Joshua Falcone, Karen Kaplan, Jace, Jonathan and Arielle
- ◆ Lyle, Allyson and Aubrey Feld
- ◆ David, Jamie, Charlotte and Claire Galemba
- ◆ Laura and Jeff Gottlieb
- ◆ Andrew, Danielle, Brant and Perri Inselman
- ◆ Brett, Katie and Max Kanoff
- ◆ Rachelle Mitchell and Leila Mitchell
- ◆ David, Tracey and Jacob Weiss
- ◆ Jason, Amy and Madison Weiss
- ◆ Jeremy, Dana, London and Sydney Weitz
- ◆ Gregg Wolfe

Many of our new members enjoyed a delicious brunch, behind-the-scenes tour and a meaningful welcome ceremony on the bima on Sunday, November 3 with our clergy and Engagement Director, Melissa Leibowitz. We are so thrilled to welcome all of these wonderful members to the Beth El community!



BETH EL MEMBERS IN THE COMMUNITY

If you know someone who deserves special recognition, please contact Alicia Drozen at adrozen@bethelsnj.org

Ed Hochberg, Jason Levine and Scott Schulman were installed as new members of the Board of Directors for the Jewish Federation of Southern New Jersey

Jason Levine received the Sigmund Livingston Award for Rising Star from the Anti-Defamation League

Ellen Lowenberger received the Alan Klein Next Generation New Leaders Award at JCC's Annual Meeting

Harry Platt was installed as President-Elect and Vice President of the Jewish Federation of Southern New Jersey

Ivy Brown Rovner was installed as Vice President of the Jewish Federation of Southern New Jersey

Michael Sherman received the Volunteer of the Year Award for Habitat for Humanity

Ben Sloves was recognized as Outstanding Camper of the Summer at Camp Ramah in the Poconos

Jennifer Dubrow Weiss was installed as Secretary of the Jewish Federation of Southern New Jersey

MAZEL TOV!

B'NAI MITZVAH FAMILIES

MEREDITH & ANDREW BECKER
BAR MITZVAH OF SON, SAMUEL

JODI & DAVID BERG
BAR MITZVAH OF SON, JACOB

BONNIE & DAVID GOLD
B'NAI MITZVAH OF GRANDCHILDREN,
LEO & LOLA HAMMER

SUSAN GORDON
BAR MITZVAH OF GRANDSON, SAMUEL BECKER

NICOLE & MICHAEL GRAY
BAR MITZVAH OF SON, ELI

ANDREA & DR. HOWARD HASSMAN
BAT MITZVAH OF DAUGHTER, MANUELA

LILLIAN & JOE HASSMAN
BAT MITZVAH OF GRANDDAUGHTER, MANUELA

NICOLE & ADAM LANDAU
BAT MITZVAH OF DAUGHTER, JESSICA

ANN ROSENBERG
BAT MITZVAH OF GRANDDAUGHTER, Yael ROSENBERG,
IN ISRAEL

AMY & DANIEL SCHWARZ
BAT MITZVAH OF DAUGHTER, CAMPBELL

STACY & MARC SHENKER
BAR MITZVAH OF SON, PAUL

KELLY & ERIC SHORE
BAR MITZVAH OF SON, JEREMY

BETH & ED VERNICK
BAT MITZVAH OF GRANDDAUGHTER, RILEY KOOPER

BIRTHS AND NAMINGS



JODI & DOUG APPEL
BABY NAMING OF DAUGHTER, ADIRA LANE

SAM ASBELL
BIRTH OF GRANDSON, JAMES RUDYARD ASBELL

JUNE & STEVE EISNER
BABY NAMING OF GRANDDAUGHTER, ADIRA LANE APPEL

LILA EISNER
BABY NAMING OF GREAT-GRANDDAUGHTER, ADIRA LANE APPEL

MELISSA & ERIC FEINBERG
NAMING OF DAUGHTER, SOPHIA ROSE

DONNA & RICK FORMAN
BIRTH OF GRANDCHILDREN, ADDISON BLAKE AND PARKER JAMES

ELLEN & JAY LEVY
NAMING OF GRANDDAUGHTER, SOPHIA ROSE FEINBERG

SHIRLEY YAFFA
BIRTH OF GREAT-GRANDSON, SHOHAN YAFFA, IN ISRAEL

MARRIAGES & ENGAGEMENTS

HELENE & RABBI AARON KRUPNICK
MARRIAGE OF DAUGHTER, ELLIE, TO DANIEL ARONHIME

CAROLE & JULES LIEBERMAN
MARRIAGE OF SON, JOSHUA, TO ALLISON ELLIOTT

SHIRLEY YAFFA
ENGAGEMENT OF GRANDSON, SIMCHA, TO GIL MAIMON



Mazel Tov to our
B'nai Mitzvah



ISAAC LINDEN

Son of Valerie & Robert Linden

December 7, 2019

Brother of: Aaron

Grandson of: Merle & Fred Linden, Pattie & Larry Feinerman, Michael Shaw & Nancy Carto Shaw

Great-Grandson of: Cy Corwin, Rose Linden

Mitzvah Project: Held a food drive for JFCS Betsy and Peter Fischer Food Pantries and will donate a portion of his Bar Mitzvah money toward the purchase of a new refrigerator and freezer for the food pantry.



MOLLY GROSSMAN

Daughter of Laurie & Eric Grossman

January 11, 2020

Sister of: Sam, Jordan and Zachary

Granddaughter of: Shelly & Bob Lev and Sheila & Jay Grossman

Mitzvah Project: Teamed up with Jared Miller to package and deliver food for Jewish Relief Agency, MLK Day Of Service events and others listed below. She will donate a portion of Bat Mitzvah money to the Lone Soldier Center in memory of Michael Levin.



ARI FEINSTEIN

Son of Deborah & David Feinstein

January 18, 2020

Brother of: Adam

Grandson of: Judith & Bernard Feinstein and Shellie & Mark Zimmerman

Mitzvah Project: Collected hooded sweatshirts with Operation Sweatshirt for the homeless in Philadelphia. Ari is also supporting ALEH, a school and home in Israel for children with special needs.



JARED MILLER

Son of Rachel & Stephen Miller

January 25, 2020

Brother of: Talia, Benjamin and Ari

Grandson of: Suzanne Miller, Sandy & Mark Levy

Great-Grandson of: Ray Volusher

Mitzvah Project: Along with Molly Grossman, team "MJ Mitzvah" led a series of mitzvah projects including blankets for war veterans and hamantaschen for older congregants. He will donate a portion of Bar Mitzvah money to Jewish Relief Agency.

Shabbat

WEEKLY

Friday Night Live
Kabbalat Shabbat
6:00pm

Shabbat Morning
9:00am

Torah Talk
10:15-11:00am
Join Rabbi Green to discuss fascinating topics from our weekly Torah portion.

Babysitting
9:30am - 12:00pm

FIRST FRIDAYS

Prayers And Pajamas
5:30pm
For families with kids ages 5 and under with Hazzan Pomerantz-Boro

SECOND & FORTH SATURDAYS

Junior Congregation
10:15-11:45am
with Chai Respes for K - 6th Graders

THIRD SATURDAYS

Bim Bam Shabbat
11:00-11:45am
with Rabbi Marshall for families with kids ages 5 and under

THIRD FRIDAYS

Singles Shabbat
8:00pm
Everyone is welcome.

STRATEGIC PLANNING UPDATE



Phase I of Sulam for Strategic Planning (SSP), Beth El's strategic planning process in collaboration with United Synagogue for Conservative Judaism (USCJ), is now complete. The first phase featured a synagogue-wide Congregational

Survey and a series of Community Conversations, which gathered together small groups of congregants to discuss their engagement in the synagogue.

Both the Congregational Survey and the Community Conversations generated a widespread response from Beth El members, with more than 325 people completing the survey and nearly 160 congregants participating in one of 18 different Community Conversations held either at Beth El or in members' homes.

"The response from our members has been fantastic," said Hedda Morton, Co-chair for the SSP Steering Committee. "We are thrilled that Beth El's level of participation has significantly exceeded USCJ's expectations."

The Congregational Survey and the Community Conversations captured input from members of all generations and length of membership at Beth El, yielding a variety of data points to be considered by the SSP Data Analysis Committee. An initial report was shared with the larger SSP Steering Committee, which will review the findings and determine key themes to explore in future phases of the planning process.

"As Beth El approaches its 100th anniversary, we are confident that the energy, enthusiasm and commitment of our community to this strategic planning process will ensure continued strength and vitality as we enter the next century," said Ilene Rosen, SSP Steering Committee member. "We hope many more congregants will get involved in the next phases of the process to fully represent our diverse membership."

In the next two months, Task Forces will be created to address each issue identified by the SSP Steering Committee, and there will be ample opportunity for members to become involved in this important process. Don't wait to be asked to join a Task Force – reach out now to David Backal (dcbacal@unitedplanners.com) or Hedda Morton (heddamorton@gmail.com) to learn how you can help.

The SSP Steering Committee wishes to say *rav todot* (many thanks) to the 23 congregants who were trained and served as facilitators or scribes for the Community Conversations, as well as the nine individuals who hosted gatherings at Beth El or in their homes. A special thanks to our wonderful office staff – especially Leora Waiche, Melissa Leibowitz, and Alicia Drozen – for their continued support of this priority project.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Please support those who support us!



To become a Community Partner, please contact Robin Berger, Events and Development Director at rberger@bethelsnj.org or (856) 675-1166 x 409

SWEET INDULGENCE

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By Amy Kaplan
Congregation Librarian

Grab your favorite fuzzy slippers and a warm drink, and settle in for a relaxing winter evening with a great book. We have plenty of brand-new novels that will keep you turning the pages. Here's a sampling to entice you; there are many more:

Melanie Benjamin's *Mistress of the Ritz* is based on the true story of an American woman who hosted Nazis at Paris' Ritz Hotel while secretly working for the French resistance in WWII. Intrigue, history, and of course, a lush hotel setting make this a winner.

The Guest Book by Sara Blake tells the story of three generations of a family that owns an island in Maine. The present-day generation may not have the funds to maintain the legacy, and family secrets complicate matters.

We haven't seen a new novel by Naomi Ragen in a few years, but now she's back with *An Unorthodox Match*. Here a modern, professional woman in California who longs for marriage and family makes an abrupt change and marries an ultra-Orthodox widowed Torah scholar from Boro Park. Is she ruining her life, as her mother warns, or creating a new way of living?

In a lighter vein, *The Floating Feldmans* by Elyssa Friedland brings the story of a family matriarch who decides to take the whole family on a cruise to celebrate her 70th birthday. The ideal meets the real when old rivalries, secrets and conflicts ensue in this laugh-out-loud look at the reality of efforts to be one big, happy family.

In honor of Jewish Book Month, we hope you'll consider making a donation to support the Bell Library. Book dedications make wonderful Chanukah presents!



Hope Morgan recently launched her new community service initiative, **Petals for a Purpose!** Hope created this wonderful program as a way to repurpose floral centerpieces from weddings and Bar/Bat Mitzvahs.

The inaugural event took place at Beth El on Sunday, October 20 with flowers that were donated by the **Schwarz Family** from Campbell's Bat Mitzvah the night before.

Volunteers turned the beautiful floral centerpieces into 60 lovely arrangements that were then delivered to residents at Lions Gate.

Adam Leibowitz and Ben Snyderman, both Beth El Hebrew High students, delivered the flowers and visited with the seniors. The seniors were so appreciative and it was clear that the flowers brightened their day!



Ways to get involved with Petals for a Purpose:

1. Donate flowers from your upcoming Bar/Bat Mitzvah or Wedding.
2. Volunteer to assemble flower arrangements.
3. Deliver arrangements to local senior living communities. This is a wonderful mitzvah opportunity for Bar/Bat Mitzvah teens!

Please reach out to Hope with any questions or to get involved:
hmorgan@jfedsnj.org or 856-751-9500 x 3039

We look forward to Petals for a Purpose blossoming!

BELL LIBRARY AT CONGREGATION BETH EL

BOOK DEDICATION SPECIAL!

Jewish Book Month Fundraiser



Special rate!
1 dedication for \$20
2 dedications for \$36
(Regular price \$25)
Ends December 31



Dedicate a book in honor or memory of a loved one
Commemorate a simcha with an inscribed bookplate



MITZVAH MALL

February 23, 2020

If you are connected to an agency doing great work, we want to ensure that your organization is invited to participate in this fantastic community service showcase event!

Please contact Leora at lwaiche@bethelsnj.org to register your organization.

FALL AT CONGREGATION BETH EL



COLEL MOVIE NIGHT



THE RED SEA DIVING RESORT WITH GUEST RABBI SETH FRISCH JANUARY 30. 7:00PM

Enjoy a cup of soup, popcorn, and a screening of the Netflix film inspired by true events, namely the Operation Brothers mission which ran from 1979 to 1984 and saved the lives of thousands of Ethiopian Jews.

After the film, enjoy a fascinating discussion with Rabbi Seth Frisch, who will share his first-hand experience of a harrowing rescue in 1983, coordinated by Mossad, that inspired this film.

Everyone is welcome!
Contact Rabbi Marshall with questions.

DECEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

PRIVATE TOUR NOTORIOUS RBG EXHIBIT
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5. BUS DEPARTS AT 4:45PM
Space is limited! bethelsnj.org/rbg

USY NINJA WARRIOR (GRADES 8-12)
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7. 6:30PM
Ninja obstacles, parkour challenges, and more at Warrior Gyms Mount Laurel. bethelsnj.org/usy

PENN MEDICINE LECTURE: BACK AND NECK PAIN
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8. 10:00-11:30AM
Free lecture on common conditions, causes, treatments with Dr. Michael Hodde and Diana Gardiner, DNP.

HEALING SERVICE WITH BETH EL CLERGY
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11. 7:00PM
Details on front cover.

LIBRARY DISCUSSION GROUP
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12. 1:30PM
Enjoy a lively discussion about an exciting short story!

PRE-CHANUKAH CELEBRATION AT BARNES & NOBLE
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12. 6:00PM
Details on front cover.

BRING-YOUR-KIDS CHALLAH BAKE
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12. 7:00PM
Share in the fun with your kids!

KADIMA LATKE SHABBAT (GRADES 4-7)
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13. 6:00PM
A pre-Chanukah dinner and sorting for BookSmiles!
bethelsnj.org/kadima

LATKEPALOOZA BAKE
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19. 7:00PM
Fry up a night of fun in the BE kitchen with Sisterhood!

SINGLES SHABBAT
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20. 8:00PM
A warm Shabbat service with Oneg open to all!

CHANUKAH PARTY WITH HABONIM
MONDAY, DECEMBER 23. 6:00PM
Light the candles and enjoy a delicious latke meal!
bethelsnj.org/habonim

SCOTCH & LATKES
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 26. 7:30PM
Celebrate Chanukah at this special Torah on Tap session here at Beth El with Rabbi Krupnick and Men's Club!



SAVE THE DATE:

**PHIL PODELL MEMORIAL
WORLD WIDE WRAP & BREAKFAST
FEBRUARY 2. 9:00AM**

Join Men's Clubs and Sisterhoods around the world for a "how to" service teaching the mitzvah of tallis and t'fillin. The World Wide Wrap unites men, women, and children in prayer. Everyone is welcome.



JANUARY HIGHLIGHTS

LOOKING
BACK AT...

RECENT BETH EL
EVENTS

DIY WITH CHARLENE GREEN

THURSDAY, JANUARY 9. 7:00PM

Paint your own coasters while enjoying a hot drink, friendship, and fun, sponsored by Sisterhood.

PIRKEI AVOT WITH RABBI KRUPNICK

WEDNESDAYS. 12:00PM

JANUARY 15, 22, 29, FEBRUARY 5, 26 AND MARCH 4

Enjoy this popular class focused on Jewish ethics.

MLK DAY OF SERVICE

MONDAY, JANUARY 20. 10:30AM

Participate in our biggest community service day with a variety of hands-on Mitzvah projects for all ages.

LIBRARY DISCUSSION GROUP

THURSDAY, JANUARY 23. 1:30PM

Enjoy a lively discussion about an exciting short story!

CHALLAH BAKE

THURSDAY, JANUARY 23. 7:00PM

Prepare your Shabbat challah with friendship and fun!

LET'S DO SHABBAT: SOCIAL ACTION

FRIDAY, JANUARY 24.

Community-wide family friendly services and dinner!

SINGLES SHABBAT

FRIDAY, JANUARY 24. 8:00PM

A warm Shabbat service with Oneg open to all!

ROSH CHODESH WITH HAZZAN POMERANTZ-BORO

MONDAY, JANUARY 27. 7:00PM

Celebrate the new month with Sisterhood!

TORAH ON TAP

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29. 7:30PM

Enjoy an enlightening Torah discussion with Rabbi Green over delicious beverages, hosted by Men's Club.

COLEL MOVIE NIGHT: THE RED SEA DIVING RESORT

THURSDAY, JANUARY 30. 7:00PM

Details on page 12.

SAVE THE DATE:

COLEL SPEAKER: DAVE SCHLOSSBERG

FEBRUARY 20. 7:00PM

Join us for this inspiring program for Jewish Disability Awareness and Inclusion Month "Facing the Music: How I Regained My Faith after a Life-Changing Injury."



On September 15, 25 kids grades 8-12 attended **USY Kick-Off BBQ** enjoying flag football and sorting more than 700 books for the non-profit BookSmiles! USY also enjoyed **Sushi in the Sukkah** at our Youth Director's home!



On September 17, A R Workshop led a packed room of over 80 women for the awesome **Sisterhood Kick Off Event!** Everyone made beautiful custom wood decorations for their homes.



On October 16, more than 70 attendees enjoyed **Habonim's Sukkot Dinner** and welcomed Rick Abrams from the JNF who spoke about the importance of water to the State of Israel.



On October 20, our **Kadima Sukkot Party** for 4-7 graders was so much fun! We learned with Rabbi Krupnick, played games relating to arba minim and ushpizin, had lunch, and made candy sukkahs!



On November 2, our **Young Families Group** enjoyed a night of socializing and Beatles music at the Vault in Berlin. YFG also held a Thanksgiving pie sale with pies from Diane's Patisserie.

BETH EL 100—GET TO KNOW OUR CHAIRS



Abby Belafsky

A few years after we moved to Cherry Hill, it was time for Tara, our daughter, to start Sunday school. Since my husband, Bob, and I were both

brought up in a conservative synagogue, Beth El was the perfect fit. That was 43 years ago and we're still proud members!

I've always been a volunteer and have chaired many events in our Jewish community (Jewish Federation of Southern New Jersey and Kellman Brown Academy) but never my synagogue. So, when David Backal approached me, I thought this was the perfect opportunity to get involved. Co-chairing with Joan and Lynn was a bonus. How could I say "no"?

Among my favorite memories were the B'not Mitzvah (officiated by Rabbi Kahn z"l and Cantor Shapiro z"l) and marriages (officiated by Rabbi Krupnick and Hazzan Pomerantz-Boro) of our daughters, Tara & Meredith. Simchas I will always remember.

To have survived 100 years is truly a milestone, and we plan to honor such with many festivities throughout the year. By participating, I hope the congregants will get a sense of togetherness and pride. Our synagogue and clergy are very special, and we are truly blessed to have them in OUR community.

My wish for the next 100 years is that Beth El continue to thrive and provide a strong Judaic foundation for the generations to come.



To quote Linda Creed: "I believe the children are our future. Teach them well and let them lead the way...."

Thanks to you, our dedicated congregants, Congregation Beth El is here to stay!



Joan Feinberg

I have been a member of Beth El my entire life.

I have always said I love my Beth El and JFed Family. Why not give back some of the warmth and love that I have received over the

years? Volunteering is in my blood. My parents were wonderful role models and I am just carrying the torch forward.

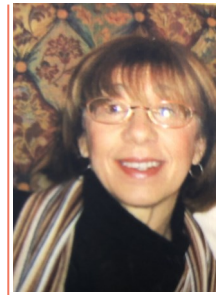
Growing up at Beth El, so many of my friends are Beth El friends that I have had for years. Beth El was the hub of activities. We all remember the Saturday night dances, when sororities, fraternities, youth groups, and young adults from Philadelphia and surrounding areas would all congregate in the Beth El auditorium for a wonderful evening. Beth El was the "place to be and be seen."

I hope the congregants of Beth El have the same wonderful feelings of Beth El that I have carried with me through the years. You get out more than you put in, if you participate and do not use the building just 2 days a year.

For the next 100 years, I wish that Beth El continues to thrive and maintains the same wonderful reputation that it has had for the past 100 years. It is quite a milestone. We should all hold our heads high, thank our *klei kodesh*, past and present, for continuing to keep Beth El in the forefront.



**Note: My past photo is from my Beth El Hebrew school graduation in 1956. Barbara Backal was next to me!*



Lynn Goldman Paul

I started Sunday school at Beth El in Camden 67 years ago and I am still going strong. From Religious School, to being married at Beth El on Chapel Ave,

joining Young Associates, celebrating the baby naming and Bat Mitzvahs of both of my daughters, becoming active in Sisterhood, the Board of Trustees, the Executive Committee and then becoming President, my life has always been centered around Beth El.

The thought of having an active part in the 100 year celebration was so exciting. I sometimes feel (and I am sure I am) over-committed in community and volunteer activities, but the opportunity to be a team with Joan and Abby made my decision to accept very easy.

I think my favorite memory is when I stood on the Bima and was installed as President of Beth El. My father stood on the Bima on Chapel Avenue 36 years prior and was also installed as President. I felt so proud. Looking out into the Congregation, I could close my eyes and picture my parents grinning with pride. It is truly a very special memory.

I hope the Congregation realizes what a gift we have in our synagogue. We have been blessed with clergy and members who have worked hard and dedicated themselves to securing our future. It is not an easy task, and we need everyone to join together to make sure we are here for at least another 100 years.



My wish for Beth El for the next 100 years is that our young members, and those members to come, remember the history our Synagogue has left for them. We need to ensure that our doors are always open and our clergy is there waiting to embrace those who enter our Beth El. We need to instill, *L'dor V'dor*.



SAVE THE DATE:
Beth El 100
Kick-Off Event
Everyone is invited!










Sunday, September 13, 2020

DAILY MINYAN TIMES

DECEMBER 2019 (KISLEV/TEVET) AND JANUARY 2020 (TEVET/SHEVAT) 5780

AM = Shacharit (Morning)
* = Mincha Only

PM = Mincha/Ma'ariv (Afternoon/Evening)
^ = Friday Night Live (Kabbalat Shabbat)

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 9:00AM 4:35PM	2 7:15AM 4:35PM	3 7:30AM 4:35PM	4 7:30AM 4:35PM	5 7:15AM 4:35PM	6 7:30AM 4:15PM* 6:00PM^  4:17PM	7 VAYETZE 9:00AM 4:25PM
8 9:00AM 4:35PM	9 7:15AM 4:35PM	10 7:30AM 4:35PM	11 7:30AM 4:35PM	12 7:15AM 4:35PM	13 7:30AM 4:15PM* 6:00PM^  4:18PM	14 VAYISHLACH 9:00AM 4:25PM
15 9:00AM 4:35PM	16 7:15AM 4:35PM	17 7:30AM 4:35PM	18 7:30AM 4:35PM	19 7:15AM 4:35PM	20 7:30AM 4:20PM* 6:00PM^  4:20PM	21 VAYESHEV 9:00AM 4:30PM
22 EREV CHANUKAH 9:00AM 4:35PM	23 CHANUKAH DAY 1 7:15AM 4:35PM	24 CHANUKAH DAY 2 7:15AM 4:35PM	25 CHANUKAH DAY 3 8:30AM 4:35PM	26 CHANUKAH DAY 4 7:15AM 4:35PM	27 CHANUKAH DAY 5 7:15AM 4:20PM* 6:00PM^  4:24PM	28 MIKETZ ROSH CHODESH CHANUKAH DAY 6 9:00AM 4:35PM
29 ROSH CHODESH CHANUKAH DAY 7 9:00AM 4:40PM	30 CHANUKAH DAY 8 7:15AM 4:40PM	31 7:30AM 4:40PM	JANUARY 1 NEW YEAR'S DAY 8:30AM 4:40PM	JANUARY 2 7:15AM 4:40PM	JANUARY 3 7:30AM 4:30PM 6:00PM^  4:30PM	JANUARY 4 VAYIGASH 9:00AM 4:35PM
5 9:00AM 4:50PM	6 7:15AM 4:50PM	7 FAST OF 10 TEVET 7:15AM 4:50PM <i>FAST ENDS 5:20PM</i>	8 7:30AM 4:50PM	9 7:15AM 4:50PM	10 7:30AM 4:35M* 6:00PM^  4:36PM	11 VAYECHI 9:00AM 4:45PM
12 9:00AM 4:55PM	13 7:15AM 4:55PM	14 7:30AM 4:55PM	15 7:30AM 4:55PM	16 7:15AM 4:55PM	17 7:30AM 4:40PM* 6:00PM^  4:44PM	18 SHEMOT 9:00AM 4:50PM
19 9:00AM 5:05PM	20 MLK DAY 8:30AM 5:05PM	21 7:30AM 5:05PM	22 7:30AM 5:05PM	23 7:15AM 5:05PM	24 7:30AM 4:50PM* 6:00PM^  4:51PM	25 VA'ERA 9:00AM 5:00PM
26 9:00AM 5:10PM	27 ROSH CHODESH 7:15AM 5:10PM	28 7:30AM 5:10PM	29 7:30AM 5:10PM	30 7:15AM 5:10PM	31 7:30AM 5:00PM 6:00PM^  5:00PM	FEBRUARY 1 Bo 9:00AM 5:05PM



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This year's Charles E. Trobman Memorial Scholarship recipient is Dr. Alexandra Satty. Dr. Satty is in her second year of a three year Fellowship Program at Memorial Sloan Kettering. Dr. Satty is working to improve gene therapy by growing and caring for stem cells to ensure that there are enough to safely perform gene therapy. Her efforts will continue to meet the ongoing challenge of the Hospital to control and ultimately eliminate cancers and other blood disorders affecting children and young adults. Suzanne Hershowitz, Associate Director of the Department of Pediatrics at Sloan Kettering, who has worked with our project since its inception over 20 years ago, appreciates Beth El's support of their Pediatric Fellows.



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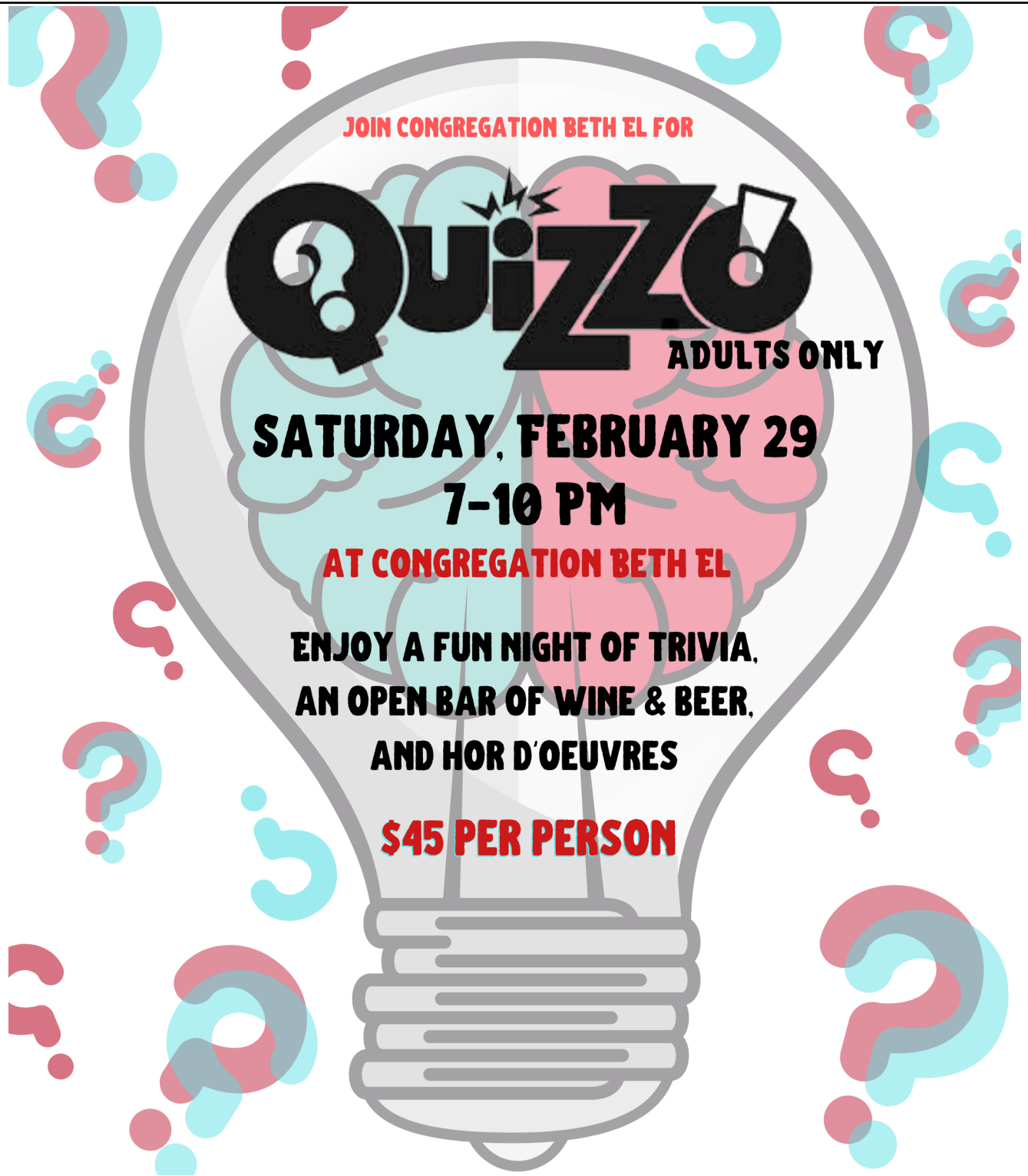


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