

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

Beth El Newsletter

March (Adar/Nisan) and April (Nisan/Iyar) 5781



PASSOVER IS COMING!

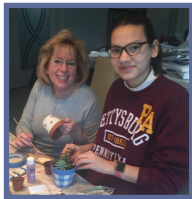
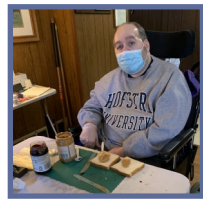
We are looking forward to another wonderful Passover with all of you this year! Planning is well underway for our virtual sederim. Passover schedule and Sale of Chametz form can be found on pages 6 and 7.

MLK DAY OF SERVICE



More than 150 congregants of all ages participated in a variety of service projects from the safety of their homes for our annual MLK Day of Service. This fabulously meaningful day was planned by our Social Action Committee and Achim Sheli led by Rachel Miller, Tameika Minor, Tonia Respes, and Tracy Bancroft. Participants drove up to Beth

El to pick up supplies for their pre-selected projects. We made dog toys for Animal Welfare Association, sandwiches for Cathedral Kitchen, and no-sew fleece blankets for veterans. We potted succulents for residents of Cadbury and also made beaded mask holders and decorated cards for seniors. In honor of the Beth El 100, we collected books for the Camden County Pop Up Library! Thank you to everyone who volunteered and to the staff who helped to ensure the event was a huge success!



CAFÉ 73: A CHAT WITH FAUDA STARS

In celebration of Yom HaAtzmaut, Israel's 73 Birthday, on Thursday, April 15 at 5:30pm we welcome Yaakov Zada Daniel and Boaz Konforty, actors in the hit Israeli Netflix show "Fauda", for an unforgettable zoom talk about their unique journeys to become actors, the significance of Jews and Arabs collaborating in the name of Art



and the impact of the TV series on Arabs, Israelis, and Jews. Daniel and Konforty will share their experiences on sacrifice, friendship, devotion, fear, and near death experiences. You will gain an intimate insight into how they have overcome struggles early in their lives and how, through hard work, persistence, and faith, they eventually turned their dreams into reality.



BETH EL 100

Do you remember 11 years ago on April 5, 2009, when we proudly marched 10 Torahs 6.5 miles from the Chapel Avenue location to our current Voorhees location? Eric Boory was the president. This milestone event was chaired by Ron Dubrow z"l and Lynn Goldman Paul.





Rabbi Andy Green

In February, I found myself teaching our Kittah Dalet b'Yachad program through Zoom on my phone. The snowstorm had cut power to the house, but, with my phone battery, I was able to share with our families about mezuzah and the words of the Shema within it. I

shared about the deeper meaning of the Shema: how Gd is deeply invested in each of us personally as 'ours' (*eloheinu*) and committed to all as the 'One' (*echad*) who creates and lifts us all. I shared also about the deeper meaning of mezuzah, that we are reminded of Gd's love for us when we enter our places of home and sanctuary (where Gd is imminent) and as we leave those spaces to engage in the broader world (where Gd is transcendent.) One of my mezuzot at home is made of Jerusalem stone and has the words '*baruch atah bevoecha; baruch atah betzeitecha*' etched upon it, meaning 'Blessed are you in your coming in; Blessed are you in your going out.'

For the past nearly six years, Beth El has been my home and you have blessed me in coming into this community. When I log onto a Zoom call and see your faces, like when I'd look at you in our chapel, our sanctuary, or our Social Hall high holiday set-up, you are a blessing to me. We've grown close through sharing moments of ecstatic joy and deep sorrow, of new Torah insight, and of intimate conversation. I've watched your children grow, mine too. I'm older now. (So are you, but I won't point it out...) Knowing you deeply, because you opened heart to me, is my most treasured gift and greatest privilege. I am awed and grateful. Though I am excited for the next step, leaving this home is bittersweet. As you have blessed me in my coming in, you have blessed me in my going out.

I arrived at Beth El just out of rabbinical school, and you empowered me, you trusted me, and you taught me to be your rabbi. It's different to learn about something

than to actually do it, and I'm the rabbi I am today because of you. I've also grown in my rabbinate because of incredible clergy partners in Rabbi Krupnick, Hazzan Pomerantz-Boro, Rabbi Marshall, and Rabbi Furman, of blessed memory.

Rabbi Furman z"l showered me with love, with kindness, with wisdom and good advice, and terrible puns, so terrible that I couldn't help but laugh with him. He was a grandfather figure for me, sitting next to me at minyan each day, telling stories of times past over breakfast at Starbucks or Short Hills or in our social hall, attending my kids' birthday parties, holding my hand on his deathbed... I know he meant so much to all of us. His wit and wisdom, his love and kindness -- his memory -- is an enduring blessing.

And our Beth El team is the best there is:

- Rabbi Marshall organizes the most dynamic youth and adult education initiatives. Her wisdom, humor, grace, kindness, humility, drive, and unparalleled skills inspire me and are a blessing to our community.
- Hazzan Pomerantz-Boro harnesses the power of music and voice to lift us. We have each experienced the magic of her song, the sweetness of her humor, the blessing of her guidance, and the special way she makes us all feel included in worship and ritual.
- And Rabbi Krupnick, my mentor. He talks to each of us like we are the only one in the world. Through his words and deed, he models, challenges, guides, and blesses us, in everything we do. Rabbi Krupnick is the model of being a truly great congregational rabbi - gracious, encouraging, brilliant, and wise.

In my next role, I anticipate asking myself: How would Rabbi Krupnick, Rabbi Marshall, and our Hazzan preach, teach, and reach us, respectively, in this moment... To my clergy partners and my Beth El family, thank you for being my mezuzah, my blessing going in and coming out. I will cherish you always.

SHARE YOUR MEMORIES OF BETH EL

Help us remember the past 100 years!
Send your memories to adrozen@bethelsnj.org



KAVOD's 1st BIRTHDAY SCRIP GIFT CARD COLLECTION FOR MAZZONI CENTER

Donate here: bethelsnj.org/kavod

Our wonderful group Kavod was established one year ago. Since then, the group has become an active and important part of our Beth El community.

To celebrate Kavod's 1st birthday, we are asking for donations of gift cards to Barnes and Noble and/or Amazon that will be used to purchase books for the Mazzoni Center for new families enrolling in their youth programming.



The Mazzoni Center provides quality comprehensive health and wellness services in an LGBTQ-focused environment.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Karen H. Schlessel
President

In my perpetual quest for wisdom, Rabbi Krupnick's class on Pirkei Avot (Chapters of Our Fathers/Teachers) is extraordinarily valuable. Rabbi has been teaching us a Mishna, which starts out as follows: "Ben Zoma said, 'Who is wise? The one who learns from everyone, as it is said, "From all who would teach me, have I gained understanding.'" [Psalms 119:99]" The timeless lessons we learn from Rabbi are enhanced by our discussion of experiences and perspectives.

This resonates for me as your president. What a wise, kind, busy, dedicated community we have right here at Beth El! Some activities are apparent, while many are being done behind the scenes. An excellent example is the Health & Safety Task Force. The task force is made up of experts in various fields. This group of volunteers, clergy, and staff, has been behind thoughtful decisions and responsible protocols. The task force reports at every meeting of the Executive Committee and Board of Trustees, making recommendations. The Executive Committee and Board meet regularly, even more often during this challenging year. Every aspect of our operations is considered, including the Early Childhood Center and Religious School, B'nai mitzvah, simchas, and services.

Beth El became greener, and is saving some green, by implementing solar and reducing and restructuring our debt. In addition, hundreds of you have been, and even more will become, involved in our strategic plan. And, even during this pandemic, new Beth El groups formed, celebrating our diversity and raising our awareness. Together, we are making Beth El, our 100-year-old sacred community, the best it can be.

As I look toward the final months as your president, I am grateful for this tremendous honor and the joy you've given me and guided me through. All the reasons we are celebrating 100 years are clear to me - it's you. The heart, creativity, resilience, generosity, wisdom, and kindness of every one of you, and those who came before us, brought us to this point and will guide us from strength to strength!

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



Josh Laster
Executive Director

One of my favorite movies is the 1999 classic, Office Space. It's a comedy about corporate culture in the tech industry and the various personalities at play in the heavily cubicled office. I find myself thinking of this movie as I write this article, because my responsibilities, like many others, have shifted and increased during the pandemic, and one of the more popular quotes from the movie comes to mind; What would you say you do here?

Prior to the start of this pandemic, there were many ways to answer this question. And now that we are a year into this pandemic, there are even more answers. I could sit here and list them all, and I'm sure that would make for a fascinating article. Although I have many responsibilities, my primary role as the Executive Director is to work together with our lay leaders, clergy and staff to connect people with our community and to each other.

Prior to our Covid related closures, it is fair to say that Beth El was alive with the hustle and bustle of our services and programs all taking place on site. If anyone had asked if there was a way to call in or stream, we likely would have said that it wasn't something we were offering. I would dare to say that were not engaging as many people as could have engaged had we embraced this technology sooner. Once we shut down, we went into hyper-technology mode. Our staff went remote, we turned to Zoom, Facebook Live, Google Meet, WhatsApp, and a few other platforms to connect and keep our community together.

Our clergy filmed videos daily, and we had staff editing and uploading those videos, to stay in touch and provide meaningful, spiritual moments. We had staff spending hours and hours using software to plan routes for clergy to walk miles and miles to visit congregants, neighborhood by neighborhood. We had volunteers and staff coordinating support for our congregants in need. We partnered with vendors to produce professional videos in preparation for High Holidays that were like no other. We held services outside, we held services inside, and we did so for people at home and at Beth El. And this was all done with technology that existed before the pandemic and will surely stay a part of our operations after the pandemic.

I think the quote I referenced earlier should be restated as: *What would you say WE do here?* My answer is taken from our mission statement. **We create a warm and welcoming community, where people of all generations are enriched by learning and inspired to discover their personal experience of Jewish life.** And now we do it even better, because of technology and the need to innovate. The pandemic has indeed changed us forever. And these changes all support our mission of connecting with our community, enriching their Jewish lives and maintaining our vibrant spiritual home.



Rabbi Nogah Marshall
Educational Director

Israel at 73

Israel education is an essential part of Congregation Beth El's educational mission. Beginning in the ECC, our youngest learners are introduced to the Jewish homeland through song, crafts, holidays, and Hebrew language. In Religious

School and Hebrew High School, we provide classes focusing on Israeli history, geography, and culture. In addition, Israel education is infused in daily lessons through a variety of ways including learning modern Hebrew and participating in a twinning program with a classroom in Israel with Israeli students. In our KaHaL adult education program, many of our classes and programs focus on Israel such as our weekly Live and Learn class; our recent Israeli Wine Tasting program; and our upcoming program with Kalman Samuels, the founder and president of Shalva, the Israel Association for the Care and Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities on **Sunday, April 18 at 10:00am.**

During the week of April 15, we will continue to connect with the Jewish homeland as we celebrate with Jews all over the world, Yom HaAtzmaut, Israel Independence Day, with our annual celebration of Café 73. We may be virtual, but nothing is going to stop us celebrating Israel's 73rd birthday.

This year, we have extended the festivities to a week-long Yom HaAtzmaut celebration beginning on Saturday evening, April 10, with Havdalah. The week will include events and programs for all ages. Our celebration will conclude on Yom HaAtzmaut, April 15, with an exciting event as we welcome to our community, virtually, two of the stars from the Israeli Netflix series "Fauda" - details on the front cover. We hope you will join us at one or all of these programs as we celebrate Israeli's 73rd birthday. Am Yisrael Chai!



Ayelet Mittelman
ECC Principal

Our year here at the ECC is moving right along! One of the most meaningful parts of our week is when we get to give tzedakah on Friday, in honor of Shabbat. The children bring in loose change

and every teacher sings their tzedakah song and the children place the pennies, nickels, dimes and quarters in the tzedakah box. Recently, Morah Shira Sklar and Morah Karen Hess decided to spearhead the tzedakah initiative. They collected our tzedakah money, and we were able to donate \$350 worth of food and gift cards to the Betsy and Peter Fischer Food Pantries at Jewish Family and Children's Services!! What a mitzvah our children and their families are fulfilling!!



Continuing the fun and excitement at the ECC, we are so looking forward to our amazing touch-free and safe Purim CARNIVAL!! Our drive through CARNIVAL is sure to be a hit with wonderful games, trivia, and treats, all from the comfort of your car!

We are so excited that our 2021-22 registration is open and those registrations are starting to come in. What a pleasure to look forward to another year at our ECC. Summer Camp will kick it off starting on June 23rd! We can't wait!



BERS & HEBREW HIGH

- Gimmel Chag HaSiddur—March 6
- Teen Summit—March 9
- Aleph B'yachad—March 14
- BERS Virtual Model Seder—March 21
- Spring/Passover Break—March 25-April 4
- Vav B'yachad—April 11



PHOTOGRAPHY

MODERN EVENT, PORTRAIT,
+ LIFESTYLE PHOTOGRAPHY

📞 856.810.0088

✉ info@studioknj.com

🌐 www.studioknj.com

📱 /studioknj

📷 instagram.com/studioknj



CONGREGATION BETH EL ECC

CAMP KAITANA

JUNE 23- AUGUST 24
2021

WHERE ALL ARE WELCOME
AND EVERYONE IS FAMILY!

HIGHLIGHTS

- SPLASH PAD
- COOKING
- GAMES
- SPORTS
- MUSIC
- CRAFTS
- JEWISH ENRICHMENT
- WEEKLY THEMES
- SPECIAL GUESTS
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LIFE & LEGACY

Please remember Beth El when you do your Estate Planning. Leaving a legacy is simple: Bequest in a Will, Gift of Life Insurance, Gift of IRA or Pension Funds, Gift of Cash or Assets, Charitable Remainder Trust

***Names in bold have formalized a commitment to Beth El**
Contact *Jocelyn Borowsky* at *jdm borowsky@comcast.net* or *Melissa Leibowitz* at *mleibowitz@bethelsnj.org* for details.

Mira & Aaron Aumiller
Susan & David Backal
Cathy & Marc Backal
Marcia Baruch
Donna & Richard Bell
Pam & Bob Benedon
Jodi Berman
Helene & Alan Blumenfeld
Jocelyn Borowsky
Marcia Baruch Bowen
Ronit & Chris Boyd
Beth & Josh Brodtkin
Amy & Eric Clayman
Herbert & Thalia Cohen
Arlene & Harris Colton
Fran & Neal Cupersmith
Leila & Adam Cupersmith
Marsha Dollinger
Alan Dias & Heidi Handler
June & Steven Eisner & Family
Myra & David Gutin
Phyllis Hecsh
Deborah & Edward Hochberg
Beth & Harvey Jacob
Adam Kaminer
Sharla & Mort Kanovsky
Amy & Barnard Kaplan
Jerome Katz
Alison & Andrew Keim
Debra Kelberg
Deborah Shore & Jonathan Korn
Helene & Rabbi Aaron Krupnick
Michael Landsburg
Fran & Leon L. Levy
Suzanne & Victor Levy
Judy & Donald (z"l) Love
Diane & Benjamin Mashioff
Rachel & Stephen Miller
Burt & Diane Nussbaum
Sheri & Jason Pecarsky
Lynn Goldman Paul
Arlene & Ed Plasky
Hilary & Harry Platt
Ilene Rosen & P. Todd Rowan
Sharon & Adam Sackstein
Stuart & Sherry Sauer
Karen & David Schlessel & Family
Harriet Schulman
Faye & Gary Shapiro
Jennifer Sholder
Michael Silver
Juli Mandel Sloves & Glenn Sloves
Lauren & Jonathan Soll
Tami Bogutz Steinberg
Judith & Stuart Wasserlauf
Jennifer & Jim Weiss
Leah & Jason Wolf
Jeffrey Zeiger
Anonymous (2)

PASSOVER SCHEDULE

2021—5781

Thursday, March 25

Siyum for First Born—7:00am
Search for Chametz
DUE: Sale of Chametz Form (*page 7*)

Friday, March 26

Burning of Chametz—8:30am
Kabbalat Shabbat and Ma'ariv—6:00pm
Candlelighting—6:58pm

Saturday, March 27

Last time to eat Chametz—11:00am
Ma'ariv and Havdalah—7:30pm
Candlelighting—7:58pm
1st Night Seder (*Pre-Recorded Video*)

Sunday, March 28: Yom Tov

Yom Tov Services—9:00am
Junior Congregation—10:30am
Ma'ariv—7:30pm
Candlelighting—7:59pm
2nd Night Seder (*Zoom*)
Family Seder—5:30pm
with Rabbi Green and Rabbi Marshall
Seder—6:30pm
with Rabbi Krupnick and Hazzan Pomerantz-Boro

Monday, March 29: Yom Tov

Yom Tov Services—9:00am
Junior Congregation—10:30am
Ma'ariv—7:30pm

Tuesday, March 30: Chol HaMoed

Shacharit—7:30am
Ma'ariv—7:30pm

Wednesday, March 31: Chol HaMoed

Shacharit—7:30am
Ma'ariv—7:30pm

Thursday, April 1: Chol HaMoed

Shacharit—7:30am
Ma'ariv—7:30pm

Friday, April 2: Chol HaMoed

Shacharit—7:30am
Kabbalat Shabbat and Ma'ariv—6:00pm
Candlelighting—7:06pm

Saturday, April 3: Shabbat Yom Tov

Shacharit—9:00am
Junior Congregation—10:30am
Ma'ariv & Yizkor—7:00pm
Candlelighting—8:06pm

Sunday, April 4: Yom Tov

Shacharit & Yizkor—9:00am
Junior Congregation—10:30am
Ma'ariv—7:30pm

PESACH ENDS SUNDAY, APRIL 4—8:07PM

PASSOVER INFORMATION



QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

by Rabbi Aaron Krupnick

Q: When is the Fast of the First Born?

A: The *Siyum* of the Fast of the First Born will be held on **Thursday, March 25 at 7:00am**. We will conclude a *seder* (order) of Mishna at the end of services so as to negate the need to fast.

Q: When do we search for Chametz?

A: Following a thorough cleaning of the house, the search for leaven is held on **Thursday evening, March 25 after night fall**. Breadcrumbs are placed conspicuously in rooms where food is normally eaten. Using a candle, a search is made and the crumbs are whisked with a feather onto a wooden spoon and then into a paper bag. The prayer said at this time is found in the Haggadah.

Q: What do we do with the crumbs in the bag? Where is Chametz burned?

A: Chametz should be burned on **Friday, March 26**. After morning Minyan (7:00am), we will have a small bonfire in a steel drum in the parking lot to burn your Chametz. Parents and children can come from 8:30—9:00am that morning to share in this ritual.

Q: How and why do I sell my Chametz?

A: On Pesach it is forbidden to possess Chametz.
B: All Chametz that will not be eaten or burned needs to be sold to a non-Jew through a transaction facilitated by the Rabbis of Beth El. (**Sale of Chametz form below or online at bethelsnj.org/passover**) It should be mailed or returned online no later than **Thursday, March 25 by noon**.

Foods During Pesach

The following foods are forbidden for use during **Pesach**: All uncertified products of the 5 specified grains traditionally identified as Chametz: oats, wheat, barley, rye and spelt. This includes such products as bread, cakes, biscuits, crackers, cereal, etc. Ashkenazic custom has us refraining from eating rice, corn, peas and legumes because when ground they can be confused for those grains listed above. However, in a different form, some of the derivative products of these foods are permitted such as peanut oil. With so much *hechshered* food available in our area, it is best just to look for the certification on foods.

Kashering Utensils

Pots and Pans: Silverware and pots must be thoroughly scrubbed, cleaned and then completely immersed in boiling water. Pots should not be used for a period of at least 24 hours between the cleaning and the immersion in boiling water. Metal baking utensils cannot be kashered.

Earthenware: China and pottery etc. may not be kashered.

Ovens & Ranges: Every part that comes in contact with food must be thoroughly scrubbed and cleansed. Oven and range should be on as hot as possible for ½ hour.

Microwaves: After a thorough cleansing, a cup of hot water should be brought to a boil until most of the water disappears.

Dishwasher: The Rabbinical Assembly has ruled that after not using the machine for 24 hours, running a full cycle through empty with detergent will kasher a dishwasher for Pesach.

Tables, Food, Closets & Counters: Should be thoroughly cleaned and covered for Pesach. Then they may be used.

Kitchen Sink: A metal sink can be kashered by thoroughly cleaning and then pouring boiling water over it. A porcelain sink should be cleaned and a sink rack used. If, however, dishes are to be soaked in a porcelain sink, a dish basin must be used.

DELEGATION OF POWER: SALE OF CHAMETZ FORM

I hereby authorize Rabbi Aaron Krupnick to be my agent to sell all kinds of Chametz including, but not limited to, any leavened food, dishes, pots, pans, and utensils used with leavened food, which may be in my possession at the address below. Rabbi Krupnick is also empowered to lease all places wherein Chametz owned by me may be his stead and said substitute shall have full right to sell and to lease as provided herein.

I understand that the sale will be effective at sundown on Saturday, March 27.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

This form is to be returned or faxed (856) 489-3280 to the Shul by Thursday, March 25 no later than noon.

MAZEL TOV!

B'NAI MITZVAH FAMILIES

Mira & Aaron Aumiller
Bat Mitzvah of daughter, Charli

Alisha & Anthony Bellezza
Bat Mitzvah of daughter, Samantha

Sara & Richard Botoff
Bat Mitzvah of granddaughter, Samantha Bellezza

Frances Eisenberg
Bat Mitzvah of great-granddaughter, Samantha Bellezza

Lisa & Jeff Enda
Bar Mitzvah of son, Sebastian

Rachael & David Green
B'nai Mitzvah of sons, Benjamin and Zachary

Brett Greenfield
Bar Mitzvah of son, Blake

Joanna Greenfield
Bar Mitzvah of son, Blake

Sharon & Robert Katz
Bar Mitzvah of grandson, Jonah Kutikov

Jessica & Alexander Kutikov
Bar Mitzvah of son, Jonah

Sandy Kellerman Levy
Bat Mitzvah of granddaughter, Charli Aumiller

Pam & Scott Rosenberg
Bar Mitzvah of daughter, Rachel

Marvin Samson
Bar Mitzvah of grandson, Blake Greenfield

Stacy & Jeremy Shubach
Bar Mitzvah of son, Kyle

Jenny & Brett Sholder
Bar Mitzvah of son, Blake

Carol & Joel Silbert
Bat Mitzvah of granddaughter, Charli Aumiller

Harriet Tepper
B'nai Mitzvah of grandsons, Benjamin & Zachary Green

Elaine Waxman
Bar Mitzvah of grandson, Blake Greenfield



ENGAGEMENTS & MARRIAGES

Sherri & Alan Breslow
engagement of son, Brandon, to Rachel Lonita

Miriam Kessler
marriage to Robert Cohen

Alison Platt-Tarnopol & Neil Tarnopol
engagement of daughter, Amanda Klein, to Chase Magaziner

Bonnie Richman
marriage of grandson, Zachary Silverberg, & Samantha Schiff

Marcy Sanders
engagement of grandson, Dr. Matthew Simon, to Grace Mangigian

Shirley Yaffa
marriage of grandson, Baruch Dov, & Nahora in Israel

BIRTHS & NAMINGS



June & Steven Eisner
birth of granddaughter, Emmy James Goldstein

Lila Eisner
birth of great-granddaughter, Emmy James Goldstein

Jessica & Scott Lermack
birth of son, Slater Jake

Stephanie & Brad Specter
birth of granddaughter, Eliza Nell Davis

Judi & Arie Weiss
birth of granddaughter, Brittany Jenna Hord

SPECIAL HONORS

Larry Abrams
Camden County Freedom Medal

Jon Cohen
"Realtor of the Year" by New Jersey Realtors

Andrew Ruder
Made partner at Pond Lehocky

Doris Schwartz
On the special occasion of her 100th Birthday

Debbi Silverman
Honored by the Jewish Educators Association

Bruce Tomar
"Man of the Year" by Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs Mid-Atlantic Region

South Jersey Magazine "Awesome Attorneys"

Jerold E. Rothkoff – Elder Law
Jamie Shuster Morgan – Elder Law
Eric Shore – Labor & Employment Law
Ronald Lieberman – Matrimonial Law
Scott Schulman – Personal Injury
Robert Schwartz – Real Estate Law



ARIEL STEINBERG

*Daughter of Tami Bogutz Steinberg
and Roy Steinberg*

March 20, 2021

Granddaughter of: Jerome Bogutz,
Helene Bogutz z"l, Marty & Tova Steinberg z"l
Mitzvah Project: Held a book drive for
BookSmiles. Made and sold dog toys to
benefit the Voorhees Animal Orphanage.



LANDON SCHUSTER

Son of Sheryl & Mark Schuster

April 10, 2021

Brother of: Brett and Ellie
Grandson of: Marcelle Tompakov,
Arline & Bruce Schuster
Mitzvah Project: Collected new and used
children's books for underprivileged
communities and donated them through
BookSmiles.



GUY SORASKY

Son of Mindy & Roey Sorasky

April 24, 2021

Brother of: Liam
Grandson of: Stephen Schwartz &
Adele Schwartz z"l, Shimon Sorasky
& Nurit Sorasky z"l
Mitzvah Project: Sent letters of gratitude to
thank and lift the spirits of first responders
during the pandemic including local nurses,
police, fire departments, and ambulances in
Cherry Hill.

WE MOURN THE PASSING OF:

Bernard Brown

*husband of Shirlee Greenblatt Brown
father of Sidney Brown and Jeffrey Brown*

Stacy Dunoff

wife of Keith Dunoff

Rosalie Gordon

*sister of Evelyn Glass
mother of Helene Gordon*

Leah Kalina

Alan G. Kaufman

husband of Carol Kaufman

WE SEND CONDOLENCES TO:

Daniel Goldman

loss of his father, Arnold Goldman

Marjorie Goldstein

loss of her brother, Robert Leder

Judi Keller

*loss of her sister, Carole Karen,
and brother-in-law, Maurice Karen*

Judy Love

loss of her daughter, Susan Love

Paula Luborsky

loss of her mother, Dena Luborsky

Andrea Millstein

loss of her mother, Syd Kneitel

Faye Shapiro

loss of her father, Arnold Levinson

Andrew Unterlack

loss of his father, Herb Unterlack

Judy Wetzler

loss of her father, Ronald Rosenthal

May Their Memories Be A Blessing

**List as of February 8, 2021*



U P C O M I N G E V E N T S

LEARN TOGETHER:

Intersectionality Torah Talk presented by Kavod and Achim Sheli: Bi-weekly. Mondays, 12:00pm

Live & Learn: How to Read the Bible (and Have It Speak To You): Weekly. Tuesdays, 6:30pm

Torah Talk with Rabbi Green: Weekly. Thursdays, 12:00pm

Kavod Gathering: Bi-weekly. Sundays, 11:00am

Hebrew Reading with Yaffa Fuchs: Weekly. Tuesdays, March 2—April 27, 11:00am. bethelsnj.org/hebrew



Sisterhood Book Club

Thursday, March 4. 7:30pm

The Girl from Berlin: A Novel, By Ronald H. Balson. Moderated by Cheryl Riley.

Torah Fund Brunch and Sisterhood Speaker Series: Racial Justice in the Jewish Community

Sunday, March 7. 11:30am

Pick up brunch at Beth El then zoom in from home for a conversation with Rabbi Stephanie Ruskay and Kendell Pinkney. Rabbi Ruskay, Associate Dean of the JTS Rabbinical School, leads the Hendel Center for Ethics and Justice. Kendell Pinkney is the first African American student on the way to ordination at JTS.

Broadway Up Close: A Live Interactive Experience on Zoom

Thursday, March 11. 8:00pm. \$18 per person.

Bring Broadway alive in the comfort of your home led by a Broadway actor! Learn how a show is created from its first rehearsal to opening night and all the craziness in between. Register: bethelsnj.org/habonim

Torah on Tap

Wednesday, March 17. 8:00pm

Grab a drink for a delightfully enlightening Torah conversation with Rabbi Green and Men's Club.

Community Wide Memorial Service

Thursday, March 18. 6:30pm

Tri-County Board of Clergy in cooperation with our Jewish Federation is hosting this special zoom.

Sisterhood Mindful Meditation

Thursday, March 18. 7:30pm

Center yourself with a meditation class led by Nancy Lubars.

Men's Club Shabbat

Saturday, April 3. 9:00am

Members of Men's Club participate in and lead parts of our Shabbat morning service.

Yom HaAtzmaut Café 73

Saturday, April 10—Thursday, April 15.

Celebrate Israel with festivities for all ages. Details for Thursday's event on front cover. Look out for more!

Red Cross Blood Drive

Friday, April 16. 9:00am-2:00pm

Be a Blood Hero. Participate in the life saving mitzvah of giving blood. Drive will be held at Voorhees Town Center. Register at redcrossblood.org. Use sponsor code *Beth El Voorhees*.

Community Conversation with Laura Gutin Peterson of *Black-Ish*

Wednesday, April 21. 8:00pm

Laura Gutin Peterson, Beth El native and daughter of Myra & David Gutin, discusses her experiences in Hollywood as a Jewish writer and executive producer on the award winning ABC comedy series *Black-Ish*. RSVP for Zoom link: achimshelicbe@gmail.com

Torah on Tap

Thursday, April 22. 8:00pm

Engage in a riveting Torah conversation and gather morsels of wisdom with Rabbi Green and Men's Club.

Annual Meeting

Sunday, April 25. 11:00am

Join us as we honor our outgoing president, Karen Schlessel, and welcome our incoming president.

Sisterhood Dine and Study

Thursday, April 29. 6:30pm

BYO dinner and enjoy a wonderful study session over Zoom with Rabbi Krupnick and Sisterhood.

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BETH EL 100 PAST PRESIDENT ROUNDTABLE AND MEMORIES

We asked our past presidents to share some memories with us. In our first Past Presidents Roundtable, we share excerpts from interviews with **Eric Clayman** (2013-2015), **David Gutin** (2003-2005), **Lynn Goldman Paul** (2001-2003) **Stuart Wasserlauf** (1983-1985), **Linda P. Weiss** (1st female president 1989-1991), and **Steve Wenick** (1993-1995):



When/Why did you join Beth El?

Eric: After their marriage, my parents, Irv and Natalie, bought a house on Chapel Avenue which was close to the synagogue being constructed, Beth El. My mom has now been a member for over 50 years. I spent one year taking a bus to Camden for Hebrew School and continued at Beth El

Eric Clayman

through my Bar Mitzvah, Hebrew High, and Confirmation.

Lynn: My family joined Beth El in 1955. When we moved here from New York, my parents became closest friends with Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Wenof. Mrs. Wenof's father was Herman Rappaport who was the president of Beth El. It was only natural we follow.

Stuart: My wife, Judy, and I joined Beth El in May of 1969. After belonging to the synagogue in Woodbury for one year, we wanted to be in a synagogue in a more populated Jewish area. A cousin recommended Beth El. We went there and were impressed with what Beth El had to offer, but the crowning moment was not the synagogue itself; it was when we went to a Young Associate BBQ and were greeted with open arms. It felt like we had always belonged there.

David: We joined in 1981 when my oldest child started to attend Kellman Academy at Beth El in Cherry Hill.

Linda: We joined Beth El in 1968 when my oldest son was 7 and ready for Hebrew School.

Steve: During the 1973 Yom Kippur War, Congregation Beth El opened its sanctuary to the entire South Jersey community in a display of solidarity with Israel. My wife, Bobbie, and I had recently moved from Philadelphia to Cherry Hill and were among a thousand people that evening comforted by the inspirational clergy during that extremely stressful time. It was then that we both knew Beth El was going to be our new spiritual home.

What do you think makes Beth El so special?

David: Our clergy make Beth El the special place that it is and our willingness to change with the times – becoming egalitarian, welcoming families where one spouse is not Jewish, LGBTQ Jews, and Jews of color to our community – all of these things make me especially proud of Beth El.

Stuart: Beth El is special for it being a community and, for us, a second home. We had an immensely popular lecture series. As Young Associates President, Rabbi Kahn and I picked up Jacob Javits at the train station for his dialogue with the Rabbi. I was privileged to interact with Elie Wiesel when we picked him up at the airport for the first time he was at Beth El. There were many notable people at the



synagogue during those years, including Chaim Potok, pictured to the left. At the end of my presidency, I was honored by Bonds for Israel featuring Ehud Olmert, future Prime Minister of Israel as presenter.



Steve Wenick

Steve: Its history of perpetuating and fostering our sacred practices and traditions under the revered leadership and guidance of Rabbi Kahn, Rabbi Furman, Cantor Herman, and Dov Gildin, all of blessed memory. Today's *klei kodesh* Rabbi Krupnick, Hazzan Pomerantz-Boro, and Rabbi Green have continued to foster

those traditions by welcoming those in our community with special needs, such as our daughter Jill and many others, while providing visionary programming for those who seek a meaningful Jewish experience.

Linda: Two weeks into the school term, Rabbi Furman z"l knew every child by name and there were over 400 children in our Hebrew School at that time - I felt that was very special.

What are some of your proudest moments of your time as President?

David: On my watch, we hired Hazzan Pomerantz-Boro and the architect who designed our synagogue in Voorhees. These were exciting events for our shul.

Eric: As far as my proudest moment as Beth El President, it would be nice to take credit for hiring Rabbi Green although credit (lots of credit!) belongs to Rabbi Krupnick who learned about and executed a much more sophisticated hiring campaign than we had previously used. Probably my proudest moments were all of the many moments when I had bima honors and got to meet and speak to the simcha families. I enjoyed every Shabbat I was fortunate to be on the bima.



Linda P. Weiss

Linda: After many years of being involved at Beth El on many levels, it was surprising and very complimentary to be asked to be a Vice-President with no thought to being a future President. Beth El was not an egalitarian congregation at that time and I was not hoping for it to become one. I accepted the limitations that were in place. We were about 1400 families and only a few tried to talk me out of being President. We handled many problems, among them asbestos that had to be removed (we held services in the Jewish Geriatric Home for a whole summer) and, another time, lightning hit the tower of the sanctuary, but we continued on.

Lynn: I think my proudest time was standing on the bima being installed as the second female president and remembering my father's installation and knowing we were the first father/daughter presidents of Beth El. I think it was 36 years in between!

Stuart: Being President, there were so many supportive people. I was especially grateful to the former Camdenites. One cannot take that kind of position without all of them. With Nikki Feldman at the helm of the Religious School Committee, we tried to give a lot of importance to the children of the synagogue in order to help perpetuate

BETH EL100 PAST PRESIDENT ROUNDTABLE CONTINUED



Judaism and the focus of my Kol Nidre Appeals was directly for that. After my first year as president, our Executive Director left and I was so grateful to Linda Weiss, a future President, for stepping in and taking over. When there was a turnover of the

Cantor, we were fortunate to hire the very mature and wonderful Cantor Jeffrey Shapiro. During those years, reflecting on Rabbi Furman z"l's advice, I had a committee start to explore the extension of the synagogue to the East side of Cherry Hill. Of course it did not happen then, but it was a grass roots endeavor. After my presidency, I was involved in the movement to bring women more involved in the service. When Rabbi Kahn accepted women's part in the service, Zalman Agus and I negotiated that the Chapel service would remain traditional. We wanted everyone to have a place at Beth El.

Steve: When we became an egalitarian synagogue, decided to relocate our synagogue to Voorhees, and finally, for the first time in Beth El's history, hired an assistant rabbi. Rabbi Krupnick became our Assistant Rabbi after a rather unusual interview. For some since-forgotten reason, I conducted a one-on-one conversation with Rabbi Krupnick while sitting in a kindergarten classroom, furnished with desks and chairs built for six-year-olds

What are some of your favorite memories?



Lynn: There was a certain smell [in the Camden Building] ...a very clean smell. I always think of Camden when it appears. Also, having tea and cookies at the Oneg after Friday night services, and Sunday school and Hebrew school, which were memories, but not always the fondest! We lived in Moorestown and it was a SCHLEP to Camden. The best was seeing my father installed as President of Beth El in 1965. I will never forget how proud I was of my Dad! Witnessing Beth El become egalitarian, having the first Aliyah, and also being allowed to sit on the Rabbi's side of the bima. I think one of the most poignant memories was at my father's funeral held at Beth El. Seeing him leave the shul for the very last time, it was comforting because he loved his Beth El and fitting that he was given one last visit.

Lynn Goldman Paul

David: Our children's b'nai mitzvah are my fondest memories. My younger daughter was the first bat mitzvah to read from the Torah at Beth El – at a twilight service.

Steve: My most notable memories, aside from family celebrations, were when Bobbie and I had the honor and privilege of meeting privately with Nobel Laureate Elie Wiesel in Rabbi Kahn's office, and on a separate occasion, met with Abba Eban when he was a guest speaker at Beth El, pictured right with me & Bobbie. Also, we had the good fortune to host Rabbi Sam Lachs during the High Holidays for 17 consecutive years, at which time we became close friends, as he shared his insights about Judaism with us.



Eric: Beth El has been incredibly important to our family. For three generations, many of our closest friends are members and we have shared the most significant life events with our Beth El family both simchas and sadness.

Stuart: Our daughter Robin attending Shabbat as an infant as well as Religious School through midrasha, our son Perry graduating from Kellman Academy, and celebrating both of their weddings and our granddaughter's baby naming in the beautiful main sanctuary on Chapel Ave.

What is your wish for the next 100 years?



David Gutin

David: To continue to grow and to change so that it remains relevant to the evolving Jewish community in the U.S. and throughout the world. We should be an agent of change; an innovator – not a follower.

Stuart: My wish, and I'm joined by Judy, is that the synagogue grows from strength to strength and that the love and affection that we have for it continues to be felt

through the generations.

Eric: To continue to have a positive impact on lives just as it has for me and my family.

Linda: To continue the wonderful example it has set in the past and continue it into the future.

Lynn: I wish and pray that Beth El will continue to thrive, and that the younger generation continues the path set for them for the past 100 years.

Steve: I hope that in one-hundred years, Beth El continues to extend its positive influence of encouraging and instilling *Yiddishkeit* in our congregants and the Jewish community, and by that time would have established a Beth El annex in Israel, as our home away from home.

Memories from Long Time Member Selma Ellis



My husband, Bert Ellis, and I joined Beth El as Young Associates originals. However, my husband was a Bar Mitzvah. We joined Beth El because that was where our friends were. As a teenager, I went to Friday night services with friends and loved being there. Beth El served as a community center and hosted a dance every Saturday night with a Juke box. My oldest son (now 62) started

Sunday School at age 6 in a little house next to Beth El. Gerrie Ostroff was the teacher. Blanche Apothaker invited me to help in the kitchen preparing goodies for the Hebrew School. That hooked me into being involved in the Sisterhood (eventually becoming president). I remember Rabbi Kellman z"l telling us that the new Beth El was going to have a Menorah that reached the sky and indeed it did. I was part of many committees in the building of Beth El, including a committee chaired by Alan Cetron, that went to New York to select the Torah Plates that adorn the Torahs today. For many years, Beth El was a significant part of my family's life and I can't give you a favorite memory. They are all favorites. My wish for Beth El is to see its continued growth, success, and inclusion of everyone and be around another 100 years.

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Thank You...

The family of the late Donald Love would like to thank each and every one of you for your thoughts and prayers during this difficult time. Donald was the pillar of a husband, father, pop-pop, and helped so many in our community.

The overwhelming outpouring of love and support is truly appreciated, along with the food, contributions, flowers, cards, and kind words. We want you to know you have helped us more than you know with your support and messages of sympathy.

With love,

Judy Love
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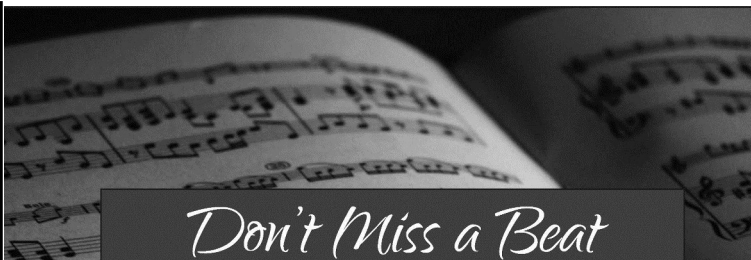


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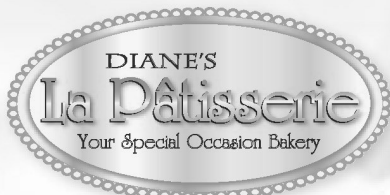
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Survivor Sisters

Our recently created group (comprised of women with a diagnosis of cancer focusing on empowering and redefining life during and after treatment) has been very well-received and has met to offer support to several women. To connect: illene33@comcast.net, illenerubin@aol.com, or silverberg.heidi@gmail.com. For clergy, contact Hazzan at hazzanapb@bethelsnj.org.

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