



Café 66

A Yom Haatzmant Celebration



with special guest
Gil Hoffman

Chief Political Correspondent
for the Jerusalem Post

*Red States, Blue States
and the Jewish State: An insider's
perspective from Jerusalem
on Netanyahu and Obama*

Tuesday, May 6

7:30 PM

Free & Open to the Community

*Sing, Celebrate, Enjoy
BYO (Kosher) B
Dessert Reception*

*Sponsorship Opportunities Available
Contact: yfuchs@bethelsnj.org*



Congregation Beth El Annual Family Bar B Q Picnic & Lag Ba' Omer Celebration Sunday - May 18 12 Noon

(following Religious School)

- Hamburgers & Hotdogs
- Games & Sports for children
of *all* ages
(Gaga and Basketball organized by USY)
- BYO Blankets and Chairs



**FREE & OPEN To All
Beth El Members**

Expert Cooking by the
Beth El Men's Club

RSVP: Kimberly Chandler
Kchandler@bethelsnj.org
by May 14, 2014

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



My prior articles have focused on our motto - to integrate, educate and elevate - the positive influence which Beth El membership imparts on each of us. The joys of Bar and Bat Mitzvah, a wedding, a trip to Israel with Rabbi and Hazzan, generally being part of a spiritual community. Having a Rabbi to speak to, having a minyan to join, fulfilling your unspoken mission of passing on our traditions to the next generations.

However, recently I have taken a step back to look at the influence Beth El specifically and more generally our Conservative movement can have on our broader society. Rather than looking at each of us individually, I am attempting to review how a synagogue can affect an entire society. The following are some of my notes, an excerpt of what I am working on.

There are certain indications that we may be about to enter an era where modern intellectuals are becoming more open in their disdain for religion and unfortunately they are finding the easiest entree to share these feelings are by targeting traditional Jewish values and beliefs. In Europe many countries are being influenced by radical animal rights activists to object to and in some cases criminalize the kosher, humane slaughter of animals. <http://forward.com/articles/192712/polish-rabbi-fired-over-kosher-slaughter-scandal>. In Europe there is a continuing movement to criminalize the brit milah ceremony which movement is finding followers in San Francisco. <http://advocacy.ou.org/2011-proposal-to-ban-circumcision-brit-milah-on-san-francisco-ballot>. And, New Yorkers have a new mayor whose views on political correctness require him to expand the number of school day holidays to include a "lunar" holiday which in effect marginalizes our Jewish holidays leading some to question why schools are closed for any religious holidays. <http://www.theblaze.com/stories/2014/02/07/would-giving-nyc-students-muslim-holidays-off-violate-the-u-s-constitution>.

Here in South Jersey we may not be challenged by these issues, at least not yet. If faced with these challenges our strong Congregation will play a leading role. The nature of a leading Conservative synagogue such as Beth El is to practice traditional Judaism while at the same time our members are fully integrated into the society at large. If someone questions the laws of Kashrut, circumcision or the propriety of working and going to school during the High Holidays, not only will Beth El be leading the charge to influence and educate (and this is key), Beth El members will know about the issue and address the issue before it becomes a problem.

To integrate, educate and elevate - not just our motto but a reminder as to the vital role our Congregation assumes.

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RABBI'S MESSAGE



Rabbi Aaron Krupnick

What's Happening Here In Services?

If you really want to know what Beth El is all about, you've got to experience services on Shabbos morning. But, that experience is highly individual. Some of us come to shul in order to strengthen our identification with the Jewish People. Some of us come because we feel it is what is required of us as Jews. Some come for the sense of community, to see friends, to hear the sermon or to listen to the Hazzan. Others of us come to shul on Shabbos morning because there is an inner peace we sense by being in a religious setting, regardless of what is going on there. As one congregant said to me last Shabbos, "when I come to shul it's like coming home."

And yet, I also know that because our service is in Hebrew, because it can be long and complicated, coming to shul can be intimidating. "What's going on here? What does this mean? Am I the only one who does not know what's going on?" These are questions that pass through many people's minds when they sit in shul, even among our regulars. From time to time I have been teaching classes, like Siddur 101 this spring, that helped people understand the meaning and structure of the prayer service. And, periodically we will stop to explain one particular section. But, I think it is also helpful to explain at this point what I think we can hope to accomplish through prayer at our Shabbos morning services, in addition to what I mentioned above in the first paragraph.

In order to get more out of the prayer service, I think you need to understand the difference between "davening" and "prayer." True, "davening" simply is Yiddish for praying, but to me they are very different from one another. "Davening" is when we say the words, many of which are very familiar and we don't really stop to consider their meaning. For instance, when we sing Alenu at the end of services most of us join in feeling part of the service and the community through the familiar words and melody. And, even if we are not translating the words in our head it is meaningful expression of Jewish prayer, one that can allow us to feel spiritually connected. Obviously, the more familiar we are with the prayers the more we can "daven" in this way.

"Prayer" on the other hand, is when we really stop and consider the meaning of the words being recited in Hebrew. We look at the English on the opposite page and take note of a beautiful or challenging phrase, an idea or a concept that speaks to us. We pause to consider its meaning, perhaps its origin, its theological point of view. We linger on the line or the paragraph and reflect. In the meantime, the service keeps moving forward without us, but I am writing this to tell you that it's OK. In fact, it's more than OK. It's required. We are taught that all our prayer services should have some personal, creative reflection in them. Our slow and meaningful reflection on an interesting phrase is an equally valid expression of Jewish prayer; one as important as "davening."

(continued on page 4)

SHARING OUR LIVES

as of March 17

SPEEDY RECOVERY: Nancy Lubars

BIRTHS:

Marilyn & Steve Roth on the birth of their grandson, Grayson Daniel Roth

B'NAI MITZVOT:

Lee Berg on the Bat Mitzvah of her granddaughter, Isabelle Jacobs

Helene & Saul Bresalier on the Bat Mitzvah of their granddaughter, Jenna Bresalier

Randi & Howard Bresalier on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter, Jenna

Lisa & Sam Jacobs on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter, Isabelle

Eileen & Alan Laufgraben on the B'nai Mitzvah of their grandsons, Ethan & Jacob Laufgraben

David Weinberg & Jill Weinberg on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter, Lindsay

BETH EL MOURNS the passing of:

Ethyl Blumenfeld, mother of Alan Blumenfeld

Irving Levine, grandfather of Jodi Laufgraben

Calvin Miles, grandfather of Heather Fisher

Harvey Mitnick, husband of Carol Mitnick

Mollie Sussman, grandmother of Andy Levin

Jack Weinstock, father of Mitchell Weinstock

IN MEMORIAM

IN MEMORIAM

The Beth El Family mourns the passing of

Ethyl Blumenfeld

Beloved mother Alan Blumenfeld

IN MEMORIAM

The Beth El Family mourns the passing of

Harvey Mitnick

Beloved husband of Carol Mitnick

RABBI'S MESSAGE

(continued from page 3)

Rabbi Aaron Krupnick

What's Happening Here In Services?

Me, I do both. Sometimes I need to pray more so I daven less. Sometimes the opposite is true. There are times I need to transcend my troubles through the repetition of familiar phrases and there are times I search for words that speak to my heart on the English side. There is no one right way to pray in shul.

So let me end where I began. If you want to experience the heart and soul of our shul, come on Shabbos morning. We need you, and you need it. Come to pray, to daven, to reflect, to breathe. Come to shul for however long you like, 'cause you know – shul begins when you get here. My guess is you'll feel glad that you did.

Thank You

The family of Ethyl Blumenfeld thanks the entire Beth El community for their support extended to us during this most difficult time.



Membership Welcomes

our newest members:

Cori and Ryan Lehrfeld
James and Diane Silberman
Judith and Ari Weiss

BETH EL WELCOMES BACK CONGREGANTS WHO RECENTLY RETURNED FROM ISRAEL



Mira and Aaron Aumiller
Ronit and Chris Boyd
Rande Dubrow
Jody and Lee Dembo
Sebastian and Katie Goldstein
Allison Schulman
Bob and Betsy Schwartz
Heidi and Danny Silverberg
Jen Weiss
Rabbi Aaron Krupnick

If you have recently returned from a trip to Israel, please let our office know!
Email Bhirn@bethelsnj.org

COLEL NEWS

MAY

Get Your Game On with Sisterhood

Learn how to play Mah Jong and other fun table games with your sisterhood friends.

Thursday, May 1 @ 7:00PM

Cafee 66

Yom Ha'Atzmaut Celebration with Gil Hoffman, Chief Political Correspondent for the Jerusalem Post

Peace, Politics and Plutonium: An Insider's look at the quest for security, democracy and peace in the Middle East.

Tuesday, May 6 @ 7:00PM

Fee: TBD - Open to the Community

(Sponsored by Beth El's Israel Committee celebrating the State of Israel with prayers, songs & more.)

Torah on Tap

A freewheeling conversation and schmooze on Jewish topics at a local hangout.

Wednesday, May 21 @ 8:30PM

Dubh Linn Square Pub

Library Short Story Discussion Group

Amy Kaplan hosts an open and engaging discussion of fascinating works, new and old.

Thursday, May 22 @ 1:30PM

Sisterhood Let's Dish

Join Sisterhood chefs in the kitchen and prepare four delicious meat meals for your family.

Thursday, May 22

\$100 to be paid to Sisterhood

Space limited to 20

JUNE

Tikkun Leyl Shavuot

Be part of the tradition; stay up late and learn at our annual Erev Shavuot Torah Study Session.

Tuesday, June 3

Young Families Group Retreat

Come join other families with young children for a weekend away at Pearlstone Retreat Center. Rest, relax, sing, study & make lasting friendships! Contact Rabbi Noah Arnow for more information.

Friday through Sunday, June 6 - June 8

Torah on Tap

A freewheeling conversation and schmooze on Jewish topics at a local hangout.

Wednesday, June 18 @ 8:30PM

Dubh Linn Square Pub

BE CLUBS

MEN'S CLUB



At last, the warm weather is upon us. Like so many others, I really love this time of year.

Our calendar starts to slow down this time of year, but there are still two more installments of our Torah on Tap series. The first is on Wednesday, May 21 at Dubh Linn Square Pub (8:30pm). The second is our season finale, tentatively scheduled on Wednesday, June 18. The location is TBD and is preceded by a Bar-B-Q. If you haven't been to one yet, then why not give it a chance and make this one your first. Please check the Beth El Buzz for more information on these events (or contact me at yoelweiss@aol.com).

Soon, we will be putting together next year's calendar and we are always looking for good ideas. If there is a program you would like to see on the calendar, this is a great time to let me know.

If anyone is interested in becoming more involved in Men's Club or has a good idea for programming, please send me an email or walk up to me in Beth El to tell me. We can always use more volunteers and more ideas. We can grow our Club and support our synagogue, but we need your help. Please join us.

I hope to see you soon.

Yoel Weiss - President



Habonim is going to cheer the Phillies on... Please join us!

JEWISH HERITAGE NIGHT
CITIZENS BANK PARK
THURSDAY - MAY 29, 2014
The PHILLIES vs THE METS

Enjoy Kosher food and fun entertainment.
Each ticket holder will receive a coupon for a

Phillies Baseball hat with the Phillies "P" in Hebrew!

\$48 per person includes round trip transportation from Beth El to Citizens Bank Park for the 7:05 pm game.

Habonim has a limited number of reserved seats located above the first base line in section 312. Tickets sold out quickly last year.

Don't be disappointed - Reserve your ticket now!
Reservations must be paid in full.

Questions? Contact Barbara Brodack 856-354-0121

Make checks payable to: Beth El Habonim

Name: _____

Number of tickets ___ @\$48 = total \$ ___

Mail to: Mort Kanovsky (enclosed)

9 Anvil Ct

Cherry Hill, NJ 08003



SINGLES SHABBAT

Come One, Come All

Singles, Divorced, Widows and Widowers
Join us for **Shabbat Services at Beth El**

Friday
May 16
8 PM

Friday
June 20
8 PM

in the Chapel - FOLLOWED BY AN ONEG

Meet *singles* from NJ, PA and Delaware.

No Synagogue Affiliation is needed.

This service is open to **ALL** single persons of **ALL** ages.

No reservations are required.

For info. contact: **Norma Kamis (856) 662-7916**

normatrack@verizon.net

Cook for a Friend



Our volunteers from Sisterhood, Men's Club, Habonim, Young Families & USY **cook over 1000 meals** for Jewish Family & Children's Service, our own members who are in need and for the JCC Klein Branch in Philadelphia.



To continue this mitzvah, we need your help! Your donation of \$10.00 will provide 3 kosher meals for someone in need.

Please make your checks payable to Beth El Sisterhood with the memo indicating Cook For a Friend.

Please mail your check to the Beth El Office:

8000 Main Street, Voorhees, N. J. 08043

Please *mark the envelop "Cook For A Friend"*

BE CLUBS

Sisterhood

It is hard to believe that another Sisterhood year is coming to an end. We have done quite a lot this year and I am so proud to be a part of this fabulous group of women. I want to thank several people for their hard work these past couple of months, including Lauren Williams and Hazzan Alisa Pomerantz-Boro for coordinating our Women of the Wall program, including the Silver Thread Ceremony to show our support for the equality of women at the Western Wall; Cathy Backal for coordinating our speaker for the AIPAC Breakfast on March 9; Renee and Craig Kessler for the huge undertaking of coordinating all aspects of our Shalach Manot fundraiser; Sharon Mindel, Lauren Williams and Renee Kessler for organizing another successful Party Showcase on March 23rd and Nancy Lubars for chairing our Dine and Study event on April 9. And, lastly, to Rabbi Krupnick for his informative talk on the Power of Prayer at our Dine and Study event. It takes a lot of hard work to run all of these events and Sisterhood is extremely grateful for its volunteers who continue to give their time and effort to make these events the huge successes that they are.

Coming up on Thursday evening May 22 at 7pm will be our Mahjong/Game Night. This is a great opportunity to learn how to play mahjong. Or, if you already know how to play, you can enjoy meeting new people to play with. We will have instructions for those who want to learn and more advanced tables for those who are already familiar with the game. Or feel free to bring your own board game and start a game with your Sisterhood friends. We will provide light snacks. Bring your own wine or spirits (Kosher, please). This will be a great night to just hang out and unwind with some friendly game-playing.

Save the date for The Women's League National Convention

which will be July 17-20 at the Hanover Marriott in Whippany, NJ. This is four days of fun, inspiration, entertainment, learning and praying with hundreds of other women, all with the same goals and mission as us. This is local for us, so this might be a good opportunity to see how our Sisterhood belongs to something bigger. Scholarships are available to those who want to attend.

I can't express enough how much Sisterhood needs you, the women of Beth El, to get involved and to help make this organization even stronger than it already is. Sisterhood does a lot for Beth El, but there is always room for more, so if you're looking for a great group to get involved with, look no further. We have something for everyone. And, we can't do it without your support. If you'd like to get more involved in Sisterhood, please contact me at faye.shapiro@comcast.net or 609-670-7742 and I'd be happy to speak with you further about what we do and how you can help.

On a personal note I want to thank my Board for another great year. I could not have done it without you. And, for all of you with children or grandchildren graduating from Pre-school, Kindergarten, Elementary School, Middle School, High School, College or Graduate Programs, I want to wish you a hearty Mazal Tov as your loved ones enter the next stages of their lives. May they continue to go from strength to strength.

Fondly,
Faye Shapiro,
President



HAZAK

TUESDAY, MAY 20
1PM

Enjoy a fun filled afternoon with our very own Hazzan Alisa Pomerantz-Boro and Cantor Sher. Light refreshments served.

TUESDAY, JUNE 3
12 NOON

End of year Luncheon at **Cherry Grille**
\$15.00 per person

RSVP: Isabel Rudolph
856-751-2086
or
Shirley Mangel
856-667-6071

Support Torah Fund

Sisterhood Torah Fund Pin



Torah Fund Cards














BE CLUBS

YOUNG FAMILIES GROUP

STAY TUNED FOR ADDITIONS AND/OR CHANGES:

June 6 - June 8

Family Retreat Weekend at Pearlstone Retreat Center in Reisterstown, MD

Sisterhood has meals available for congregants facing difficult times



Our Chessed freezer is fully stocked with individual and family sized meals that can be delivered.

Please contact Renee Kessler, 429-2258.

Rbkess@comcast.net

Chessed

Join us in the Beth El Kitchen to prepare meals for our Chessed freezer.



- Thursday, May 8 at 6 PM
- Monday, June 9 at 6 PM

For more info, contact [Renee Kessler](mailto:Renee.Kessler@bethel.org) at 429-2258

Renee Kessler,
Chessed Chair

And the Beat Goes On...



JOIN US

for



Wednesday Morning Minyan

7:30am

Pray, schmooze, nosh, learn

Sponsored by Beth El Sisterhood

First Friday's At Beth El



Join congregants & clergy for a monthly congregational Shabbat Experience.

An evening of Shabbat togetherness for all ages

First Friday of EVERY month. Open to All.

For more information please contact Shari Smith at ssmith@bethelsnj.org

Nichum Avelim Caring for Mourners

It has always been the practice of Congregation Beth El to reach out to our congregants who are experiencing the loss of a loved one. In an effort to meet the needs of our Beth El family, the Caring for Mourners Committee has come together to reenergize its efforts.

We have developed a comprehensive guide explaining the Jewish approach to mourning. This book will be available to any congregant who sustains a loss.

Beginning with the day of the funeral, the Caring for Mourners Committee will provide a wide range of services to our families including:

- Setting up a home for shivah
- Delivering the Beth El "shivah chairs" for mourners
- Organizing a morning and evening minyan in the mourner's home

As this is a wonderful mitzvah and a way to support your fellow congregants in their time of need, the committee welcomes volunteers. For more information on how to receive the booklet or to volunteer, please send us an email.

Susan Asbell
Co-Chair Caring for Mourners Committee
skasb1@verizon.net

Marsha Goodman
Co-Chair Caring for Mourners Committee
margood1941@gmail.com

Beth El Kvells for our Community Leaders

Beth El members have had a long history of being leaders in the South Jersey Community. In this vein we wish to recognize and honor those leaders among us.

Mazel Tov to **Ben Levin** on being elected to the **Chamber of Commerce Southern NJ**

Mazel Tov to the **Beth El USY chapter** for winning **Hagesher's USY Chapter of the Year Award!**

Thank You!

Thank you to everyone who made our Shalach Manot project a huge success this year.

Our thanks to those members who came to help us:

- pack the bags on March 9
- deliver the packages on March 16
- participated in the program

A special thank you to **Leo Schwartzberg of Kosher Mart Foods** for his generous donation of product for the bags and help with the hamantaschen.

Because of everyone's support, this was a very successful fundraiser for Sisterhood and Men's Club and a mitzvah for our congregation.

Today Rabbah,
Renee and Craig Kessler
Shalach Manot chairs

Congregation Beth El Early Childhood Center and Religious School would like to thank **Steven and Judie Kuhl** and **Barry and Donna Kratchman of Classic Cake** for their generous donations, making our Purim week festivities fun and delicious.

Beth El Sisterhood and Men's Club want to give a big **THANK-YOU** to **Renee and Craig Kessler** for Chairing this year's Shalach Manot fundraiser

Thank you to all that answered the call and helped with the March/April Beth El News mailing

Ryna Alexander
Donna Bell
Natalie Clayman
Elaine & Herb Horwitz
Jerry Katz
Shirley Mangel
Ann Miller
Lois Shatz



MAZAL TOV

to
The Men's Club Bowling Crew
on winning
The Jewish Athletic Group (JAG)
Bowling Tournament

12 bowlers from our Men's Club participated. The top 3 scores per game, count for the Tournament. There were 3 games total. Our score at the end of the first game was 613 - couldn't have planned it. **The trophy will return to Beth El.**

Back row (L-R) Mitch Jayson, Howard Miron, Larry Hanover, Bruce DuBoff, Craig Kessler, Steve Dubin, Yoel Weiss, Bennett Shanker, Gary Shapiro, David Lieberman
Front row (L-R) Rob Kolmins, Nevin Shanker

MAZAL TOV

Jacob Stein



Hebrew Name: Chanan Baruch
Son of: Andrea & Michael Stein
Brother of: Zachary
Grandson of: Cookie & Allan Weinberg
Linda & Steven Stein

Jacob read the Torah Portion:
Behar * May 3, 2014

Jacob's Mitzvah/Tzedakah Project was:

Volunteer/buddy for Miracle League
(baseball league for players with disabilities)

Jacob is donating a portion of his Bar Mitzvah money to the Boys & Girls Club of Camden County

BETH EL RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

Yaffa Fuchs, Educational Director



*The Board of Trustees
and
The Members of the
School Board
of
Congregation Beth El
are pleased announce*

The Confirmation Exercises and Hebrew High School Graduation

*Friday, May 2, 2014
2 Iyar 5774
at 6:00 PM*

Mazal Tov to our Confirmands

Rachel Ackerman	Emma Poulshock
Zachary Apell	Julia Rothkoff
Daniel Backal	Liza Rothkoff
Ian Bernard	Jordyn Schwartz
Brooke Godorov	Aaron Silverberg
Brooke Hassman	Amanda Soll
Alexa Herskowitz	Sydney Steele
Brooke Harowitz	Andrew Tinkelman
Leah Korn	Ethan Tinkelman
Phillip Lakernick	Brandon Weinberg
Benjamin Levy	Ilana Weiss
Hannah Manders	Zachary Wilkes
Brooke Miron	Zachary Yaffa
Chad Morris	Hannah Yankowitz
Noah Podolnick	

Kitta Bet (2nd Grade) End of the Year Concert Wednesday Evening, May 7 7:00PM – Main Sanctuary

Kitta Bet will celebrate its accomplishment of having completed its second grade with an End-of-the Year Concert on Wednesday evening, May 7. Under the expert direction of their gifted teachers, Debbi Silverman and Chaya Amar and our Music Director, Cantor Leon Sher, the class will perform a lively program of songs to demonstrate what they have learned. Parents, relatives and friends will be delighted to see how much their children have accomplished.

Vav Siyyum, 6th Grade Graduation Friday, May 16 - 6:00PM

Kitta Vav, our 6th Grade graduating class, will celebrate its milestone with a **Kabbalat Shabbat Service and Dinner**. The evening will commence with a service conducted by the students of Kitta Vav and followed by Shabbat dinner. During the program our students will sing a

selection of z'mirot (songs), read their reflections and receive diplomas and gifts from our Men's Club and Sisterhood. Our Vav chairpersons **Jennifer Brooks, Ilene Cassel, Mindy Dahan, Laurie Kolmins, Lynne Warszawski & Ilene Weinberg**, will help make this occasion a memorable experience for all. *Yasher Koach* to teachers, Lea Rozovsky, Gilah Lewis Sietz, Tamar Barkan Shamir and Music Director, Cantor Leon Sher for a job well done.

Mazal Tov to our Kittah Vav Graduates

Madelyn Altman
Nicole Austin
Jeremy Bender
Perry Bernard
Adina Boyd
Emma Broder
Jake Brooks
Mitchell Cassel
Ryan Chakov
Ethan Chase
Lily Cohen
Ava Dahan
Seth Drachman
Jason Finberg
Sydney Gaffin
Gabrielle Hanover
Macy Harding
Jake Herskowitz
Nate Landau
Lexi Levin
Madeline Kagan
Samantha Keim
Carly Kolmins
Naomi Korn
Sydney Krupnick

Jillian Jasner
Alex Marks
Juliet Noah
Julia Orel
Jacob Packman
Molly Phillips

Madeleine Roberts
Rachel Rosenberg
Benjamin Schwartz
Robert Schweitzer
Emily Silver
Andy Silver
Emily Steele
Luke Steele
Samuel Stofman
Alex Turkienicz
Lily Turner
Nadav Warszawski
Hannah Weber
Marisa Weinberg
Matthew Weinberg
Jordyn Wolf
Nicole Wolf
Jacob Yankowitz

Gan Graduation, Sunday Lag Ba'Omer, May 18

On Sunday, May 18, 9:30AM, our youngest children and their families will celebrate the end of their first year at Beth El Religious School with songs and prayers the children have learned during the course of the year. Teacher **Elana Doar** and her assistant **Jaclyn Platt** are looking forward to giving their students their well deserved diplomas. Thank you to Music Director, **Cantor Leon Sher** for what promises to be a great performance. Thank you also to Gan Chairs for the reception to follow.

Annual Family Picnic Lag Ba'Omer Sunday, May 18, 12PM – 3PM

Join us for this special annual event as the entire mishpacha enjoys hot-dogs, hamburgers, vegi-burgers and much more outside in our playground facility. Play Gaga, Basketball, dance to our DJ's rock and roll music and have fun in the sun. Look for details to follow.

REMINDERS

- **Tuesday, May 6 – Last Tuesday Hebrew High School**
- **Wednesday, May 7 – Kittah Bet End of Year Concert**
- **Thursday, May 8 – Last Thursday Hebrew High School**
- **Sunday, May 11 - Religious School CLOSED – Mother's Day**
- **Sunday, May 18 – Last Sunday of Religious School & Gan Siyyum**
- **Tuesday, May 20 – Last Tuesday of Religious School**
- **Wednesday, May 21 – Last Wednesday of Religious School**
- **Saturday, May 24 – Last Junior Congregation**

Having fun at Purim



*Mazel Tov to our
B'nai Mitzvah of the Month*

Jacob Stein – May 3
Abby Hassman – May 10
Mia Kratchman – May 17
Samuel Grossman – May 17
Sophia Borowsky – May 31
Brynn Korin – June 7
Seth Rosenthal – June 14
Michelle Litvak – June 14
Eli Rudman – June 28
Justen Joffe – June 29

NEWS FROM THE EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER

Megan Nachod, Director

It is astonishing to think that the school year is coming to a close, but it really is. This has been a really busy year. We have learned about fairy tales, the weather, far away planets and the life cycle of a tree. We've created taste tests for apples, visited with firefighters, decorated cookies, voted for President and built our own Chanukah Menorahs. We celebrated a year's worth of holidays, watched the first snow fall of the season with excitement and then waited (and waited and waited) for the last few bits to melt in the Spring. We have watched our new playscapes being built before our eyes and made plans for how we would use these great spaces. As I said before, it has been a busy year, filled with the magic of learning with young children.

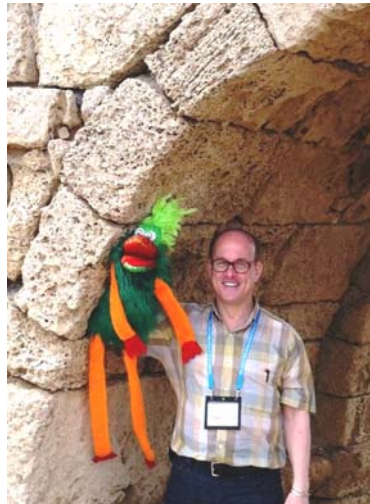
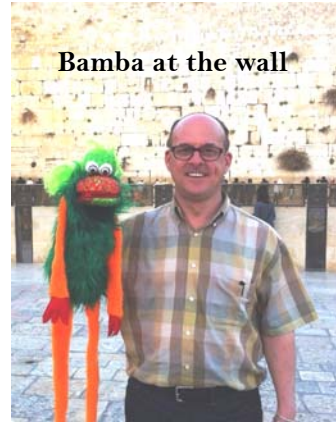


June doesn't mean that the end of our activities because the learning doesn't stop when the school year is over. Summer camp begins in June and we're looking forward to summer and all of the fun activities that the warm weather brings. After all, we provide excellent programming for children for 52 weeks of the year, 6:45AM - 6PM. Be sure to check out our Facebook Page (Congregation Beth El Early Childhood Center) for photo updates on what we do during these exciting and fun-filled days.

Wishing you a summer packed with things that you like to do most, like spending time with friends, learning something new and spending time enjoying the outdoors. It's what we'll be doing here at the ECC. See you in the Fall!
Megan



**Rabbi Krupnick
and
Bamba
(the ECC Mascot)
Tour Israel**



BELL LIBRARY NEWS

Amy Kaplan - Congregation Librarian



Heart-pounding suspense, thrilling action: if this is the type of novel you enjoy, we have some doozies for you!

An Officer and a Spy by Robert Harris is a complex historical thriller based on the notorious Dreyfus Affair. The main character and narrator is Col. Georges Picquart, who was chosen to head a

counterespionage agency looking into crimes allegedly committed by Capt. Alfred Dreyfus. When Picquart gathers evidence that the real guilt lies with Major Esterhazy, military officials are not pleased – Dreyfus has already been convicted and sent to Devil’s Island. The virulent anti-Semitism of the era is accurately depicted in this well-researched book. This is an especially chilling story in light of present-day anti-Semitic protests in France (for example, see:



<http://forward.com/articles/191637/french-anti-government-march-turns-anti-semitic/>

We also have **An Officer and a Spy** in audiobook (CD) format.

Savior’s Day by Alan A. Winter opens with two men – one Christian, one Muslim – in hidden spots on rooftops above the Western Wall, waiting for the start of a ceremony in which several world leaders, in a gesture of peace, will handle The Aleppo Codex, a Medieval bound manuscript of the Torah.

Jerusalem is then to become an international protectorate under the jurisdiction of the United Nations. Both gunmen are fanatics, determined to stop the event. Meanwhile, a man in New York City hands a slip of paper to the Cardinal at St. Patrick’s Cathedral. The Cardinal meets the detective investigating the shooting; both of these characters have intriguing aspects. The detective knows the complicated history and importance of

the Codex, and explains this to the Cardinal as the narrative takes us back in time. The gunmen’s parallel stories bring the reader back to the present. The author’s skill in developing the characters, while weaving their complex stories together, creates a multilayered story and the mystery of the Codex is sure to please Dan Brown fans – in fact, the book has been called “a significant step above...The DaVinci Code.”

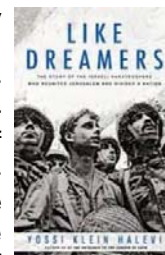
Want some more fiction set in Israel? Try **The Lie** by Hesh Kestin. In this story, Dahlia Barr is a 44-year-old Israeli attorney whose defense of Palestinians has led to much criticism by Israelis –including her own mother, an extreme activist. Dahlia, who is against the use of torture, is called upon by the Israel Police to serve as an arbiter in regard to interrogation methods. Among her first cases is that of Mohammed Al-Masri, a Canadian professor and former schoolmate of Dahlia’s. He has attempted to smuggle a large amount of cash into the country. Meanwhile, Dahlia’s soldier son Ari has been kidnapped by Hezbollah. Dahlia sees video of her son being tortured. She knows that Edward has information that can help her save Ari, and she will stop at nothing to get Edward to tell her where Ari



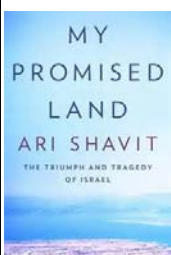
is being held. The Israelis mount an Entebbe-like mission to rescue Ari. The finale of this tightly plotted thriller will reveal the “Lie” that is suggested in the title.

With this month’s celebration of Israel Independence Day, two new (nonfiction) titles seem especially timely:

Like Dreamers by Yossi Klein Halevi is the story of the Israeli 55th Paratroopers Reserve Brigade, which was vital in Israel’s victory in the 1967 Six-Day War. In the years after that war, the members of the 55th came to represent a number of divisions in Israel – political, cultural, and religious. Halevi, a Shalom Hartman Institute scholar, tells the story of Israel from 1967 to the present by focusing on some of the members of the 55th and presenting details about their lives in the post-war years. The people who share their stories include a journalist, an artist, a businessman, a poet-singer, and an anti-Zionist who ended up in jail. The author shares information about their personal lives as well as their widely divergent views on the settlements, the notion of “peace at any price,” and Zionism itself.



Ari Shavit’s family has a long history in Israel, going back to a trip to Palestine in 1897 by Shavit’s great-grandfather. In new book, **My Promised Land**, Shavit explores Israel’s history; he chooses 16 dates from 1897-2013 through which to tell the story. Shavit, a columnist and member of the editorial board of Haaretz, presents a balanced view as he observes and reflects on the country’s actions over the years. **My Promised Land** includes a searing account of the author’s experience as a guard in an internment camp for Palestinians. He explores the various internal conflicts that have divided Israeli society. The book combines Shavit’s autobiographical reflections and interviews with key leaders.



The Library’s **Short Story Discussion Group** will be held on Thursday, May 22, 1:30 – 3:00 in the Conference Room. Refreshments will be served. We will discuss “Retrospective” by Molly Antopol. The author has been recognized as one of “5 Under 35” writers by the National Book Foundation and has been called “a writer of seismic talent.” This is our last session until next Fall, so be sure to attend, and bring your friends!



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MAY MINCHA TIMES



Congregation Beth El

May , 2014

Iyyar—Sivan 5774

SHACHARIT (morning) SERVICES:

Sunday 9:00 AM

Monday & Thursday 7:15 AM

Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday 7:30 AM

Saturday 9:00 AM

Note & Exception Below:

Rosh Chodesh Iyar - Thursday, May 1 — 7:15 AM

MINCHA (AFTERNOON) MAARIV (EVENING) SERVICES

Thursday, May 1	7:45 PM
Friday, May 2	6:00 PM
Saturday, May 3	7:45 PM
Sunday, May 4—Thursday, May 8	7:55 PM
Friday, May 9	6:00 PM
Saturday, May 10	7:50 PM
Sunday, May 11—Thursday May 15	8:00 PM
Friday, May 16	6:00 PM
Saturday, May 17	8:00 PM
Sunday, May 18— Thursday, May 22	8:10 PM
Friday, May 23	6:00 PM
Saturday, May 24	8:05 PM
Sunday, May 25 - Thursday, May 29	8:15 PM
Friday, May 30	6:00 PM
Saturday, May 31	8:15PM

Junior Congregation

with Larry Abrams
3rd - 6th grades
10:15AM - 11:45AM
Every Shabbat morning
in the Chapel

Teen Services

10:30AM - 12:00PM
Once a month
May 3

Minyan Katan

with Ilana Yares
Grades K - 2
11:00AM - 11:45AM
In Sanctuary Ext. B
May 10

Tot Shabbat

with Tammy Arnow
Up to age 4 & their parents
11:00AM - 11:45AM
In Sanctuary Ext. D
May 10

JUNE MINCHA TIMES



Congregation Beth El

June , 2014

Sivan—Tammuz 5774

SHACHARIT (morning) SERVICES:

*****Sunday 8:30 AM*****

Monday & Thursday 7:15 AM

Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday 7:30 AM

Saturday 9:00 AM

Note & Exception Below:

Wednesday, June 4 - 1st Day Shavuot, 9:00AM

Thursday, June 5 — 2nd Day Shavuot, 9:00AM

Sunday, June 1	8:20 PM
Monday, June 2	8:20 PM
Tuesday, June 3 — Shavuot Eve	8:20 PM
Wednesday, June 4— Shavuot (Yizkor)	8:00 PM
Thursday, June 5— Second Day Shavuot	8:20 PM
Friday, June 6	6:00 PM
Saturday, June 7	8:20 PM
Sunday, June 8— Thursday, June 12	8:25 PM
Friday, June 13	6:00 PM
Saturday, June 14	8:25 PM
Sunday, June 15 - Thursday, June 19	8:25 PM
Friday, June 20	6:00 PM
Saturday, June 21	8:25 PM
Sunday, June 22—Thursday, June 26	8:30 PM
Friday, June 27	6:00 PM
Saturday, June 28 Rosh Chodesh Tammuz	8:30 PM
Sunday, June 29—Rosh Chodesh Tammuz	8:30 PM
Monday, June 30	8:30 PM

Junior Congregation

with Larry Abrams
3rd - 6th grades
10:15AM - 11:45AM
Every Shabbat morning
in the Chapel

Teen Services

10:30AM - 12:00PM
Once a month
April 5

Minyan Katan

with Ilana Yares
Grades K - 2
11:00AM - 11:45AM
In Sanctuary Ext. B
April 12, 26

Tot Shabbat

with Tammy Arnow
Up to age 4 & their parents
11:00AM - 11:45AM
In Sanctuary Ext. D
April 12, 26

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BETH EL NEWS EDITOR
Belle S. Hirn - Bhirn@bethelsnj.org

CLERGY & STAFF

Aaron Krupnick, Rabbi
akrupnick@bethelsnj.org

Alisa Pomerantz-Boro, Hazzan
hazzanapb@bethelsnj.org

Noah Arnow, Rabbi
narnow@bethelsnj.org

Isaac Furman, Rabbi
rif1@comcast.net

Hanina Ruttenberg, Executive Director
hruttenberg@bethelsnj.org

Yaffa Fuchs, Educational Director
yfuchs@bethelsnj.org

Megan Nachod, ECC Director
mnachod@bethelsnj.org

Yearit Acosta, ECC Assistant Director
yacosta@bethelsnj.org

**Shari Smith, Director of
Community Life**
ssmith@bethelsnj.org

**Tamar Barkan, Assistant to Rabbi
Krupnick / Banquet Manager**
tbarkan@bethelsnj.org

**Flossie Baranoff, Administrative Ass't.
Religious School & Hazzan**
fbaranoff@bethelsnj.org

**Belle S Hirn, Administrative Ass't. ECC
& Beth El News Editor**
eccoffice@bethelsnj.org
bhirn@bethelsnj.org

**Kimberly (Sainson) Chandler,
Administrative / Communication Asst.**
ksainson@bethelsnj.org

Shirley Yaffa, Receptionist
syaffa@bethelsnj.org

**Laura Bruzzese-Coscia,
Accounts Receivable**
lbruzzese@bethelsnj.org

**Patricia Rice-Diggs,
Accounts Payable**
pdiggs@bethelsnj.org

Amy Kaplan, Librarian
akaplan@bethelsnj.org

Stacey Shaaltiel, USY Advisor
Stacey.Shaaltiel@gmail.com

**Ilana Yares, Kadima/Machar/Chaverim
Advisor**
ilana.katro@gmail.com

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Adam Sackstein: asackstein@aol.com

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Community Life:

Judy Simkin: lensim@comcast.net

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Deena Sherman: dsherman@jfedsnj.org

Israel Committee:

Renee Kessler: rbkess@comcast.net

JFCS Partnership Committee

Lisa Jacobs: ljacobs66@verizon.net

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Leslie Breslau: lezbrez@gmail.com

Barbara Collik: bcbg21@comcast.net

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Debra Kelberg: dkelberg@aol.com

Men's Club:

Yoel Weiss: yoelweiss@aol.com

Nichum Avelim (caring for mourners):

Susan Asbell: skasb1@verizon.net

Marsha Goodman: margood1941@gmail.com

Personnel:

Ben Levin: levin@hylandlevin.com

Religious School: Melissa Leibowitz
melis32179@aol.com

Audrey Snyderman
audreysnyderman@gmail.com

Ritual Advisory: TBA

Script: Debbie Hochberg
dsh26@comcast.net

Singles: Norma Kamis
normatrack@verizon.net

Sisterhood: Faye Shapiro
faye.shapiro@comcast.net

Social Action:

Michelle Miron: mmiron@bayada.com

Laurie Kolmins: lkolmins@yahoo.com

Technology Committee:

Chair Technology:

Michael Silverman:
silvermanm@icloud.com

Chair Web Site:

Mort Kanovsky: kanovsky@juno.com

Young Families Group:

Shari Shapiro: Slc1220@comcast.net

Youth Commission:

Gary Shapiro: Shaphappy@comcast.net