

BETH EL NEWS

Summer 2017



Rabbi Andy Green

Something magical happened in our sanctuary the night of May 24, 2017. Our sold out *Every Voice Gala Concert*, celebrating Hazzan Pomerantz-Boro's installation as the International President of the Cantors Assembly, rocked the house.

The concert began with the voices of over 200 Cantors singing two stunning and distinctive renditions of Psalm 150. Later, Hazzan's sister, Raquel Pomerantz Gershon, sang a moving Anim Zemirot that she composed for just this occasion. Rabbi Eli Kahn had us singing along with his Hayom duet, that we can all look forward to this coming High Holiday season. The "Divas on the Bima" crooned an elevating Kol HaOlam followed by Defying Gravity from "Wicked". "The Clergy Boys" roasted our Hazzan with sweetness, humor, and songs that evidently pre-date my musical knowledge. "Joyful Noise," a heart-nourishing special-needs chorus featuring Rebecca Boro and others from our synagogue community, brought the crowd to tears and then to their feet for a worthy standing ovation, reflecting our Hazzan's commitment to ensuring a place for truly Every Voice. Other performances further showcased a profound depth of talent and breadth of approach: Dodi Li with four awe-inspiring female hazzanim, one of whom was Hazzan's Bat Mitzvah student years ago; Azi Schwartz' unreal "Hamilton" Adon Olam; Hazzan's solo; The Prayer, a duet with

David Propis, authored by Hazzan's father; Cantor Sher's worthy finale commissioned especially for this concert; and Hazzan's Modim, which she composed in the hospital when Rebecca was born.

On this special evening, years of planning and the work of hundreds of volunteers came to fruition in the most magnificent way. By the end of the night, my father who had flown in from Los Angeles for the concert, was ready to book for the next one. People left the evening smiling and uplifted, impressed at how much more it was than expected. I think this is because this concert wasn't merely a show or a transactional experience like going to a concert or the theater typically is. We were moved because the experience reminded us that at Beth El we are family – that we are connected in relational community.

I felt this toward the start of the concert when Rabbi Krupnick shared how when he first heard Hazzan Alisa Pomerantz-Boro at a Cantorial concert, he imagined how amazing Beth El could be by asking "if she could be our Hazzan, what would our shul be like?" He held up his hands looking to the throngs filling our sacred space and turned to our Hazzan, "Like this." The moment reminded me just how special our community is, that the community needs each of us and that we are part of something deep, enduring, holy, and much larger than ourselves.

(continued page 2)

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See insert for more details

My soul stirred again when our Hazzan's own Beth El students as young as seven years old, gloriously sang "I'm standing on the shoulders of the ones who came before me." As Ariel Steinberg, Sara Chesnick, Ali Chesnick, Allison Shapiro, and Melissa Lubars masterfully performed, a Torah recovered from the ashes of the Holocaust, passed from one former president of the Cantors Assembly to another until it reached our Hazzan who placed it in our sanctuary ark. The message of the song, that each of us depends on our teachers and predecessors, fit deeply in so many ways: Hazzan's term as International President of the Cantors Assembly will reflect the work of prior presidents; this Holocaust Torah reminds us how previous generations persevered to ensure the our privilege to participate in Jewish communal life; and these student singers, with voices of angels, too, were shaped by Hazzan and by our Beth El family, by those who came before them.

Sometimes it is important to be reminded of the blessing and joy of Jewish community. This magical night renewed my gratitude and awe for our Beth El family. I hope you feel the magic too.



Hazzan Alisa Pomerantz-Boro

I am still on Cloud 9 from our **Every Voice Gala Concert** at our beloved Beth El! I continue to feel blessed by the love and support of my family and friends who came from places near and far to share in my installation as the International President of the Cantors Assembly and to celebrate my 13 years as your Hazzan. The outpouring of calls, emails, letters, and thoughtful comments continually remind me how blessed we are to be part of our awesome community.

The idea of **Every Voice** is very important to me...I have shared my thoughts about each one of us finding and using our voice in meaningful ways.

It was powerful to hear 200+ voices of my colleagues join me on our *bima* alongside our Beth El Adult Choir and HaZamir South Jersey. Watching and hearing Joyful Noise perform **You Have A Heart** was another meaningful way to spread this message. Having my inspirational daughter, Rebecca, singing a solo, was an added bonus! One of the many highlights of the night for me was placing the precious, kosher, Holocaust survivor Torah into our magnificent ark.

According to Deuteronomy, every Jew is supposed to write a Torah for themselves before they die. Not all of us will have the opportunity to do so, but we all can learn from the many Torah scrolls within our community. Each Torah has its own story.

The Cantors Assembly President's Torah also has a story. An Israeli businessperson living in Germany made a trip as a tourist to a little town outside of Poland. He was an antique collector visiting a store when he noticed a parchment from a Torah. The businessperson asked the dealer, "What is this?" The dealer responded, "Are you Jewish?" The man said "yes" and the dealer then said, "If you are Jewish, I can tell you." He locked the front door of the store and asked the man to follow him.

The dealer went with the man to see an old woman, a non-Jew, who, before the Shoah, was a nanny in a wealthy Jew's home, wealthy such that he could afford a Sefer Torah for his own *ha'na'ah*, enjoyment. The Nazis were moving in and the wealthy man knew he and his family would be taken away. He asked the nanny to protect this Torah so she carefully buried it in her backyard where it remained for decades.

The Israeli businessman was the first Jewish person to cross her path all of these years later. Now, the question was how to get the Torah out of Poland. The Communist controlled Polish government considered it national property and chances were they would never let the Torah out of their country.
(continued page 3)

The businessman recalled the heroine of the movie, "The French Connection." They disassembled the Torah, piece by piece, and hid all of the pieces strategically inside the empty spaces of his car: inside the doors, the fenders, under the hood. When they were safely out of Poland, they reassembled the Torah.

This little Torah, hiding no more, did a little more traveling. It found safe shelter at *Yad VaShem*, Israel's Holocaust Memorial Museum. There it rested for some years before it was acquired by someone who would restore its letters, heal its parchment and bring its songs back into the world. The little Torah found the Cantors Assembly through the efforts of two of our past presidents, Hazzanim Sol Mendelson, *zichrono livracha*, and Steven Stoehr. An agreement was made to purchase the Torah, preserve it and USE it amongst the community of Cantors and their congregations. It would reside in the Ark of the current President of the Cantors Assembly's Congregation for their two-year term of office. I am humbled and blessed that our shul is housing this sacred scroll.

I have seen many Holocaust Torah fragments encased in glass in other synagogues. I have seen entire Torah scrolls in museums. What makes this Cantors Assembly Torah so meaningful to me is that we are able to chant from it! In this way, we can still hear **Every Voice**, including the voices of those who came before us, keeping their memories alive. At a recent B'not Mitzvah, both young women chanted from this Torah. As I watched them pass the scroll one to the other, it was a moving reminder of our lasting legacy. We continue to stand on the shoulders of those who came before us, knowing that others will stand on ours.

I would like to close with a *kavanah* written by the talented contemporary Jewish musician and composer, Josh Nelson.

Take a moment, and look at your own hands.

These hands do not belong only to you. These are not just your hands.

These are the hands of our parents and our grandparents, and these are the hands of our children and our grandchildren. These hands hold on to the past, and these hands help us shape the future."

We are not alone on this road we walk. We are carried by the generations that came before us, just as we will carry the generations that are to come. This is our hope. This is our connection.

Look at your hands.

While the Holocaust Torah itself will ultimately be passed to my successor, I am thrilled that the new Torah mantle in honor of our own Jerome M. Katz will remain in our ark as a lasting legacy.



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE - JOSH LASTER



So I'll let you in on a little secret. I'm not from New Jersey. My family is from Pennsylvania. As a matter of fact, the last synagogue I worked in was in Central Jersey (it does exist), and when my wife and I discussed moving to that area, we decided that we would rather stay where we were in Chester County, Pennsylvania, because there just didn't seem to be a compelling reason to move to that large piece of land in between Pennsylvania and the Atlantic Ocean. When my wife and I began considering the position of Executive Director at Beth El, we realized that without a doubt the Lasters would have to move to "the other side of the bridge". We had heard lore from our South Jersey friends about the magical Jewish land of the Cherry Hill area, but had never considered moving here. Now we were in a position where we were seriously considering what it would mean for our family to move, to be from...New Jersey!

There were many conversations that led up to the decision to accept an offer from Beth El to be your Executive Director. Erica and I spent many hours hashing out the pros and cons of relocating to Cherry Hill. Great home selection, reputable school districts, closer to the shore, close to Philly, and above all else – the Jewishness of the area seemed to be in the fabric of daily living. We decided to go for it. We wanted that kind of life for our family. So many houses we looked at had a mezuzah on the doorposts of the homes (and some upon the gates). We passed at least one synagogue, if not four, on each of our visits to the area as we were considering homes. This was the right decision. The prevalence of synagogues played a huge role in our decision to move here, and I would dare say that it has likely influenced every person that has moved to this area looking for a strong Jewish community.

This Jewish community would not be what it is without the roots of what caused it to flourish – communities that started in synagogues. Synagogues created friendships, forged long lasting relationships and engaged Jewish communities in religious, social and cultural ways that would not just happen by living in a neighborhood with a lot of Jewish people. I understand that there is real struggle these days as some Jews struggle with justifying belonging to a synagogue, sometimes asking themselves what they "get from their membership" or believing they don't need to belong somewhere to be Jewish. That's true. Being Jewish isn't tied to belonging anywhere. But living Jewishly is. To me, it's simple. If you live in this area because it's a Jewish area, you should belong to a synagogue. For some, it might not seem as relevant to life today, but this area would not be what it is without these houses of worship, these gathering spaces, these educators of the next generations of Jewish families, these connectors. And connection is what it's all about, right?

We just returned from the Beth El Young Families Group Retreat. There were 15 families from Beth El, and we had an amazing time together – in meals, in worship, and in recreational activities. We laughed, we bonded, we hung out, we shared, we connected – it was awesome. We felt, as a family, that true sense of community and what belonging to a synagogue does to enrich our lives. I have zero doubt that my family made the right decision to be (gulp) from New Jersey.

So if you know someone that doesn't belong to a synagogue, someone that "used to belong to a synagogue", challenge them a little bit (just a little bit). Invite them to services, bring them to a program, have them over for Shabbat dinner with some of your Beth El friends and help them feel connected. Jewish people live in this area to be connected to other Jewish people. And when the time is right, talk to them about belonging to your synagogue. Ask them if they would ever consider being a part of the synagogue. Be their ambassador, and introduce them to what we know already – if being Jewish is a spark in our soul, synagogues turn that spark into a flame.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - DAVID BACKAL



WOW! This has been such an exciting spring/early summer at Beth El. I am not sure where to start, but activity was everywhere and the buzz is real. Over the past number of weeks, I attended many graduations, concerts, celebrations and a confirmation. Being able to represent Beth El at these events as our President is truly an honor and it was such a rewarding experience for me. Spending time with so many of our students and families as they took their next step in their Jewish Journey enforced how proud I am of Beth El and our learning community. We have such a terrific Educational Program and I want to thank all of our Teachers, Administrators and Volunteers; all who make Beth El the place to be and the place where we send our children to for a full Jewish experience. From our ECC to Religious School, Hebrew High and our very successful Beth El Junior College, our classrooms are filled with learning and discussions that really shape our children. I can honestly say that one of the best ways to spend a morning is to watch our ECC children welcome in Shabbat on a Friday morning. I was able to bottle up that feeling and I still carry it around with me. Just wonderful!

And then we hosted a little event in May. You may have heard about it or saw some advertising, but yes, we finally showed off our beautiful Shul to 200 Cantors, Clergy and other Dignitaries from around North America (and South Jersey) as we helped celebrate OUR Hazzan. Hazzan Alisa Pomerantz-Boro was officially installed as the International President of the Cantors Assembly. What a night it was, our Every Voice Gala Concert. This was one of the greatest night's not only for Hazzan, but for Beth El and our entire spiritual family. I know this was Hazzan's vision for some time, but I want to thank all that made this concert a reality. We had over 100 volunteers and staff working to make this evening so special. I want to thank everyone individually, but as you can see it would take up the entire BE News. I do want to point out our extremely hard-working Fundraising/Event Chairs: Heidi Silverberg and Sharon Sackstein, along with our Concert Chairs: Joanna & Brett Greenfield, Steve & Lynn Goldman Paul and Miriam & Stan Meltzer. I also want to thank all of our sponsors including our Torah Sponsor, Jerry Katz.

Hazzan, you took our breath away and you deserved this night for all you have done, do and will continue to do for Beth El (and the Cantors Assembly). You help bring Music, Prayer, Faith, Love and Gratitude to our Shul and we love you and thank you! The entire evening was JOYFUL! Everyone was filled with such a positive feeling and emotion and I know it will last well beyond that night alone. You were/are spectacular!

Even though it is summertime, the Beth El staff and volunteers continue to work on creative projects and programs to offer and inspire our congregants. Think about your role at Beth El and how you can add to the experience or make a difference. I always encourage our congregants to reach out with ideas and thoughts and to get involved at your own personal level.

I hope everyone has a happy, healthy, safe and restful summer.

You do not belong to Beth El, Beth El belongs to you!

Boost your business and support Beth El at the same time.

1/8 Page ad—\$450 for one year
1/2 Page ad—\$1250 for one year

1/4 Page ad—\$850 for one year
Full Page ad—\$1800 for one year

Single issue ads are also available.

Contact Davida Chornock at dchornock@bethelsnj.org or 856-675-1166 ext. 409 for more information.

SHARING OUR LIVES

BIRTHS:

Joseph Broudy & Renee Wise on birth of their daughter, Maya Jane Broudy
Joan Feinberg on the birth of her grandson, Henry
Larissa & Jason Fox on the birth of their son, Parker Isaac
Sheila & Sam Mandel on the birth of their 13th grandchild, Rosie Mink Mandel
Linda & Richard Moskowitz on the birth of their grandson, Parker Isaac Fox
Ruth & Alan Respler on the birth of their granddaughter, Luna Jordyn Respler
Shelby & Andrew Ruder on the birth of their daughter, Blakely Faye
Sharon & Jay Ruder on the birth of their granddaughter, Blakely Faye
Shirley Yaffa on the birth of her great grandsons, Immanuel Yacov Yaffa & Jonah Solomon Yaffa and her
great granddaughter, Shir Yaffa

B'NAI MITZVAH:

Jacquelyn & Robert Altman on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter, Emily
Meredith & Andrew Becker on the Bar Mitzvah of their son, Max
Pam & Lewis Bornstein on the Bat Mitzvah of their granddaughter, Alexa Segal
Dale Kushner-Brooks & Ira Brooks on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter, Sabrina
Heidi Handler & Alan Dias on the B'nai Mitzvah of their daughters, Cara & Melody Dias
Marsha Dollinger on the Bat Mitzvah of her granddaughter, Eva Woods
Susan & Ed Doneson on the Bat Mitzvah of their granddaughter, Hannah Leibowitz
Brenda & Chuck Driben on the Bar Mitzvah of their grandson, Justin Tyler Salcedo
Danielle & Zachary Edelman on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter, Julia
Nikki & Len Feldman on the Bar Mitzvah of their grandson, Ilan
Ellen & Bob Fensterer on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter, Rachel
Yaffa & Jack Fuchs on the Bar Mitzvah of their grandson, Benjamin Yishai Wechselblatt
Gloria Fischel Gilbert on the Bar Mitzvah of her grandson, Terrence Connelly
Gloria & Mitch Goldberg on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter, Jamie
Donna & Barry Kratchman on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter, Elyse
Melissa & Lee Leibowitz on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter, Hannah
Sheila & Sam Mandel on the Bat Mitzvah of their granddaughter, Maxie Mandel
Ruth & Alan Respler on the B'nai Mitzvah of their grandchildren, Joshua & Danielle Respler
Elana & Gady Segal on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter, Alexa
Barbara & Norman Some on the Bat Mitzvah of their granddaughter, Mia
Michelle & Evan Sorokin on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter, Ashleigh
Myrna & Jeffrey Sorokin on the Bat Mitzvah of their granddaughter, Ashleigh
Leah & Jason Wolf on the Bar Mitzvah of their son, Nathan
Jennifer Dollinger Woods & Ed Woods on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter, Eva

ENGAGEMENTS, MARRIAGES:

Selma Ellis on the marriage on her grandson, Jason Horowitz, to Becca Litwin
Ruth & Alan Respler on the marriage of their son, Robert, and Erin Respler

SPEEDY RECOVERY:

Shirley Mangel

SHARING OUR LIVES (CONT.)

BETH EL MOURNS the passing of:

Ruth Chakov, mother of Richard Chakov
Bertha Harris, Aunt of Stacey Shenker
Dorrie Helmus, mother of Leslie Helmus
Daniel Rosard, stepfather of Deborah Shore
Sherry Rush, sister of Sandy Cogan
Dorothy Usdin mother of Steven Usdin

IN MEMORIAM OF OUR MEMBERS

The Beth El Family mourns the passing of
Bronka Steinfeld
Mother of Hanna Holzer

The Beth El Family mourns the passing of
Meyer Glick
Husband of Nella Glick



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HIGH HOLY DAYS

The High Holy Days are coming!

If you have not done so already, please fill out the seating request form below and the handicap parking pass (if applicable) and return them to the Beth El Office either in person, by mail: 8000 Main Street Voorhees, NJ 08043 Attn: Davida Chornock or by fax: (856) 489-3280

For extra ticket request forms, seating charts and more information, please go to <https://bethelsnj.org/our-services/high-holy-days-2017/>

CONGREGATION BETH EL HIGH HOLY DAY SEATING REQUEST FORM 2017 • 5778

Date Received (Office Use Only): _____

Date Approved (Office Use Only): _____

NAME: _____

TEL #: _____

EMAIL: _____

PERMANENT SEAT HOLDERS, PLEASE CHECK HERE _____

OR: My/Our choice for seats is in the: _____ Sanctuary _____ Social Hall

	<u>SECTION</u>	<u>ROW</u>	<u>SEAT(S)</u>
First Choice	_____	_____	_____
Second Choice	_____	_____	_____
Third Choice	_____	_____	_____

I WOULD LIKE TO SIT WITH/NEAR: _____

(Please note, if the person you want to sit with/near has not submitted a seating request and/or is not current with their dues, they will not be seated.)

I WILL NEED COLLEGE, GUEST OR RECIPROCITY TICKETS: YES NO NUMBER OF SEATS? _____

(Maximum 4 guest tickets can be requested per family. Please note, this does not reserve additional seats. Please fill out the form online for extra seats.)

Please indicate if you are a **KOHEN** or **LEVI**:

KOHEN LEVI

Would you like an **ALIYAH TO THE TORAH**?

YES NO

Would you like an **ARK OPENING**?

YES NO

Would you like the honor of **READING THE HAFTARAH**?

YES NO

DEADLINE FOR SEATING IS 8/3/17

CONGREGATION BETH EL HIGH HOLY DAYS HANDICAP PARKING PASS

Please complete this form & return it to the BE office by **August 14, 2017**.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE #: _____ EMAIL: _____

PLACARD #: _____ LICENSE PLATE: _____

FOR: 1ST DAY ROSH HASHANAH _____ 2ND DAY ROSH ROSHANAH _____
KOL NIDRE _____ YOM KIPPUR _____

Any questions, please contact Davida Chornock at dchornock@bethelsnj.org

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Jeffrey Hochberg and Joseph Levin

Starting college can be a bit scary. Luckily for Jeff Hochberg and Joe Levin, they will have each other as they move to Ann Arbor, Michigan. These two life-long Beth El members and friends will be roommates for their freshman year at the University of Michigan.

Jeff and Joe first met in the Beth El Early Childhood Center and stayed friends through Beth El Religious School, Hebrew High, and Beth El Junior College. While they discussed colleges during the application process, they didn't plan to attend the same school until after they both got into University of Michigan. For Joe, "Michigan is unique in how strong the sports culture is, particularly basketball and football." Jeff, who fell in

love with the campus when he spent three weeks last summer there taking business courses, also cites school spirit as part of the draw to Michigan. Michigan's football stadium is the second biggest stadium in the world and the largest in the United States.

Both Jeff and Joe plan to get involved with campus life; Joe wants to join the newspaper as a reporter and Jeff will be joining intramural sports. Jeff was admitted into Michigan's Ross School of Business, one of the foremost Business programs in the country and Joe is going in undecided to the School of Arts and Sciences. Joe is most "excited to live in a different state and environment. Michigan draws from the Midwest and its exciting to meet people from different parts of the country." Jeff echoed Joe's thoughts, adding "I can't wait to live independently, feed myself, buy my own things. It is a new start and a new way of life." While Jeff and Joe will soon be thousands of miles away from home, they will continue the journey they started years ago in the Beth El Early Childhood Center together, staying connected with Beth El through College Connection.

If you know of a member who should be spotlighted in the Beth El News, please email Davida Chornock at dchornock@bethelsnj.org with their name and reason for nomination.

ATTENTION COLLEGE BOUND STUDENTS & PARENTS!

BETH EL'S COLLEGE CONNECTION PROJECT IS ACCEPTING ADDRESSES FOR THE 2017-18 SCHOOL YEAR**

Help us keep our Beth El college students connected to their shul and Jewish community. We provide holiday packages and Beth El news updates throughout the school year.

If you would like your student to participate in this FREE program, please submit the following information to Ann Miller at ALM4SP@aol.com or (856) 428-5145

Student Name	Student's E-mail Address	Name of School/Class Year	Student Mailing Address
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Parents' Name, E-mail Address, and Phone Number

ALL ADDRESSES MUST BE UPDATED ANNUALLY

****Information must be submitted BY FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2017**

For more information call Gloria Back (856) 428-6368

Sponsored by the David Back College Connection Fund.

Anyone wishing to make a donation to the College Connection Fund may do so by calling the Beth El office at 856-675-1166

**JULY 2017
TAMMUZ—AV 5777**

SHACHARIT (MORNING) SERVICES

NOTES AND EXCEPTIONS

MONDAY & THURSDAY	7:15AM	TUESDAY, JULY 4: INDEPENDENCE DAY	8:30AM
TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY & FRIDAY	7:30AM	TUESDAY, JULY 11: FAST OF 17TH TAMMUZ	7:15AM
SATURDAY	9:00AM	MONDAY, JULY 24: ROSH CHODESH — AV	7:15AM
SUNDAY	8:30AM	MONDAY, JULY 31: EREV TISHA B'AV	7:15AM

Candle Lighting

Mincha (Afternoon) Ma'ariv (Evening) Services

	SATURDAY, JULY 1	8:25PM
	SUNDAY, JULY 2—THURSDAY, JULY 6	8:30PM
8:13PM	FRIDAY, JULY 7: <u>CELEBRATION SHABBAT</u>	6:00PM
	SATURDAY, JULY 8	8:25PM
	SUNDAY, JULY 9—MONDAY, JULY 10	8:30PM
	TUESDAY, JULY 11: FAST OF 17TH TAMMUZ	8:30PM
	WEDNESDAY, JULY 12—THURSDAY, JULY 13	8:30PM
8:10PM	FRIDAY, JULY 14	6:00PM
	SATURDAY, JULY 15	8:20PM
	SUNDAY, JULY 16—THURSDAY, JULY 20	8:25PM
8:05PM	FRIDAY, JULY 21	6:00PM
	SATURDAY, JULY 22	8:10PM
	SUNDAY, JULY 23—THURSDAY, JULY 27	8:20PM
7:59PM	FRIDAY, JULY 28	6:00PM
	SATURDAY, JULY 29	8:05PM
	SUNDAY, JULY 30—THURSDAY, AUGUST 3	8:10PM
7:52PM	FRIDAY, AUGUST 4: <u>CELEBRATION SHABBAT</u>	6:00PM
	SATURDAY, AUGUST 5	7:55PM

AUGUST 2017
AV—ELUL 5777

SHACHARIT (MORNING) SERVICES

MONDAY & THURSDAY	7:15AM
TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY & FRIDAY	7:30AM
SATURDAY	9:00AM
SUNDAY	8:30AM

NOTES AND EXCEPTIONS

TUESDAY, AUGUST 1: TISHA B'AV	7:15AM
TUESDAY, AUGUST 22: ROSH CHODESH — ELUL	7:15AM
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 23: ROSH CHODESH — ELUL	7:15AM

Candle Lighting

Mincha (Afternoon) Ma'ariv (Evening) Services

	SUNDAY, JULY 30—THURSDAY, AUGUST 3	8:10PM
7:52PM	FRIDAY, AUGUST 4: <u>CELEBRATION SHABBAT</u>	6:00PM
	SATURDAY, AUGUST 5	7:55PM
	SUNDAY, AUGUST 6—THURSDAY, AUGUST 10	8:05PM
7:43PM	FRIDAY, AUGUST 11	6:00PM
	SATURDAY, AUGUST 12	7:45PM
	SUNDAY, AUGUST 13—THURSDAY, AUGUST 17	7:55PM
7:34PM	FRIDAY, AUGUST 18	6:00PM
	SATURDAY, AUGUST 19	7:35PM
	SUNDAY, AUGUST 20—THURSDAY, AUGUST 24	7:45PM
7:24PM	FRIDAY, AUGUST 25	6:00PM
	SATURDAY, AUGUST 26	7:25PM
	SUNDAY, AUGUST 27—THURSDAY, AUGUST 31	7:35PM
7:13PM	FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 1: <u>CELEBRATION SHABBAT</u>	6:00PM
	SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 2	7:15PM



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EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER - DEBBIE BEIDEMAN, DIRECTOR



We are so thrilled to welcome our new ECC Director, Debbie Beideman! Debbie comes to us with a strong educational leadership background along with over 30 years experience in public education in South Jersey.

Greetings from Camp Kaitana!

Our summer campers are enjoying a fun-filled summer. The splash pad is a favorite among campers, and the children enjoy playing in this area each day the weather permits. Outdoor play is important for our students to enjoy physical activity and express themselves. It also facilitates skills such as running, jumping, climbing, communicating and collaborating with friends, and appreciating nature.



The theme last week was a combination of the Wild West and camping. Activities included packing our backpacks and heading into the woods, building a tent, listening to stories, singing songs, going on a bear hunt, and making S'mores. Cowboys and cowgirls could be seen in our hallways and in our theme room. They had fun wearing cowboy hats, riding a horse, trying to lasso a cactus, making crafts, and learning how to square dance.

Campers are also participating in a mitzvah project by helping the dogs and cats at the Voorhees Animal Orphanage. We are collecting monetary donations, food, toys, blankets, and other items. For a complete list, see your child's teacher or refer to the Campers Care Project Flyer.

Upcoming weekly themes and activities include the following:

Week of June 26: The Circus is in Town – Bounce Castle/Mini Carnival

Week of July 3: Happy Red, White, and Blue – Cookout/ Red, White, and Blue Day

Week of July 10: Eric Carle – Storyteller Dorothy Stanaitis

Week of July 17: Little Artists – Puppets Pizzazz

Week of July 24: Dinosaur Stomp – Camden Children's Garden Diggin' Dino's

Week of July 31: Ahoy Matey! – Treasure Hunt

Week of August 7: Aloha Summer! – Luau

On behalf of the Early Childhood Center Staff, we wish you a safe and happy summer!





One of the proudest moments of my Rabbinate was when I officiated at a B'nai Mitzvah ceremony for a group of adults with special needs while serving as a Rabbi in Palm Beach, Florida in 2004. During my time in Palm Beach I created an Introduction to Judaism class for adults with special needs through The Jewish Family and Children Services of Palm Beach County. The goal of this two year program was to provide these adults with a Jewish education that would culminate with a B'nei Mitzvah/Confirmation service.

The majority of these students, ranging in ages 18-65, were never given the opportunity to receive a formal Jewish education. My goal was to provide my students with a Jewish experience that they would cherish for the rest of their lives. At this ceremony, 30 adults formally celebrated their B'nei Mitzvah/Confirmation in their own special way. Some read from the Torah while others opened the ark, read a speech or simply held the Kiddush cup.

Once again, 13 years later, I am in a community that I am so proud to be part of. Congregation Beth El is a special community, as we understand that all children deserve the opportunity to receive a Jewish education no matter what their needs are. Through our ECC special needs program and our Project Lev Religious School program we offer all children the opportunity to receive a proper Jewish education.

As an educator, one never stops learning. I am always looking for ways to improve our program. Although we here at Congregation Beth El have one of the strongest special needs program in the area, there is still more to do. We can do even better. I am thrilled to share with you that Congregation Beth El has been selected to be part of the 2017-2018 United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism Ruderman Inclusion Action Community.

The USCJ Ruderman Inclusion Action Community is a community made up of approximately 20 congregations who will receive consultation and guidance from to develop and implement a vision and action plan for making our kehillah (community) a more inclusive congregation. As part of the

cohort our kehillah will receive tools, training and coaching designed to enable the development of a more inclusive community.

These supports will include:

- Guidance to conduct and analyze introductory assessments
- Coaching in developing an action plan and piloting and/or enhancing/expanding programs
- Site visit and consultation by USCJ's Inclusion Specialist Ed Frim
- Participation in a List Serve and Facebook group, including more than 50 congregations in 2017
- The opportunity to reflect on data at the conclusion of the program with coaches and experts
- A higher profile locally and nationally that will lead to new and more deeply engaged members

As part of the cohort we are thrilled to welcome Beth El member Nicole Landau as the liaison who will, together with myself and the USCJ Inclusion specialist, coordinate and implement our efforts. A taskforce has been formed and will be meeting over the summer to conduct an assessment of the current inclusion practices of our kehillah which will culminate an inclusion action plan for the coming year.

If you are interested in joining our task force, please email me at nmarshall@bethelsnj.org.

I am so incredibly proud of Beth El for our dedication to this most important and meaningful initiative making sure all of our members feel comfortable and at home in our kehillah. As tradition teaches us: Kol Yisrael Aravim Zeh La Zeh - All Jews are responsible for one another.

Have a wonderful summer!

Men's Club



Larry Hanover, President
hanovers4@comcast.net

I hope you're fully in summer rest and relaxation mode! In the meantime, let me share some plans that Men's Club is working on for 2017-18.

- At Men's Club Shabbat, Rabbi Krupnick suggested focusing on events to draw younger parents into our fold. Parents today work long hours, meaning they treasure those rare one-on-one moments with sons and daughters. Men's Club wants to provide some of those moments.
- We want events that foster deeper connections for all, making you feel part of something bigger.
- Beth El will be locked in on Israel's big birthday coming up (turning 70 next year!), so we want events for all, not just Men's Club.

Along those lines, we are planning a Krav Maga (Israeli martial arts) day at our Religious School. We are planning a demonstration from a local expert, with participatory sessions designed for adults and kids.

Considering the Holocaust and Israeli independence are bound together historically in some respects, we want to take advantage of the priceless resource of our remaining Shoah survivors. There will be a book signing/shpiel (shameless plug: it's for Fred Behrend's memoir "Rebuilt from Broken Glass", which I co-authored and comes out in July). We are looking at a second gathering where survivors, parents and kids can talk, learn informally, and see the Cantors Assembly Torah that survived the Holocaust.

Look for other Israel-related speakers as well. Perhaps we can generate momentum to shatter last year's record-breaking Beth El attendance at the AIPAC conference in Washington, D.C.

Parents and kids will also enjoy as we build on last year's success with our "Book for a Friend" program. Larry Abrams is organizing a mega-effort that will not only ready the books for distribution, but also have us deliver them to places like Lindenwold, hold readings, and more.

Sisterhood



Barbara Sharofsky, President
bsharofsky@gmail.com

Sisterhood is an organization through which women have the opportunities to find a voice through spiritual means, social action, raising funds, or social gatherings. Whatever the vehicle, we welcome you all to find YOUR voice in Sisterhood this year.

I am humbled and honored to be your Sisterhood president for the next two years. Along with our Sisterhood board, I am excited to plan an amazing and engaging calendar of events for the 2017-2018 programming year.

It is our mission to educate, empower, inspire and excite the women of Beth El through our programming and outreach. We invite you to join us this coming year, and encourage you to get involved, in one or many of our events. There's something for everyone! Later in the summer you will receive the Sisterhood mailing outlining our various events and activities. No matter what age or stage of life you may be, we are sure you will find something to pique your interest. We welcome your input on how we can best serve you, our Beth El women, and help you feel the power that is Sisterhood.

Please join me in congratulating the 2017-2019 Sisterhood Board! For a full listing of the new board, please visit <https://bethelsnj.org/our-groups/sisterhood/>

Please join me in thanking Renee Kessler who as served as our Sisterhood president for the past two years. She has left some big shoes to fill (despite her small feet), and I hope to live up to them. I also want to thank and wish Kol HaKavod to our retiring board members: Jocelyn Borowsky, Val Linden, Renee Rudolph, Ryna Alexander, Juli Sloves, Linda Harowitz and Wende Bralow. Sisterhood has benefited from your involvement.

I look forward to greeting you at an upcoming Sisterhood event! Please feel free to contact me to share your thoughts and ideas on how we can provide a fantastic Sisterhood experience for every Beth El woman.

Young Families' Group



Nikki Cohen, President
nicolecohen24@gmail.com

Summer break is here!! Before school lets out and we turn over into camp mode, I just wanted to send a quick note introducing myself and to let you know how excited I am to be the new president of the Young Families Group (YFG). My husband Jon and I have really enjoyed being a part of the YFG these last few years where we continue to build new friendships while spending quality family time with our three daughters Julie (8), Devin (5) and Dana (2). Of course we also love to take advantage of the occasional YFG parent's night out as well.

We have some exciting ideas for next year's programming and I look forward to teaming up with anyone who is interested in being a part of our committee to come join us. I know that my kids get excited when they see Jon or I chairing an event and they always love to help set up with their ECC or BERS friends. Your kids will too!!

So come join us next year, either to help chair an event or just bring your family along to enjoy a night out at Bingo, Axe-throwing, YFG Retreat, Shabbat dinner and more! Have a great summer and keep an eye out for the YFG Kickoff Event in September!

Habonim



Judy Simkin, President
lensim@comcast.net

Welcome back to all of our snow birds and we want to wish all of you a very happy and healthy summer.

Our annual BBQ was held on Tuesday, June 13 and a good time was had by all. It is always great to get together and socialize and have delicious food!

On Thursday, September 14 we will be going to a Phillies game to be part of Jewish Heritage Night. Kosher food will be available and a give away will be given to all who attend. The cost for the game and transportation is \$45 per person.

If you are interested please contact Barbara Brodack at bbrodack@comcast.net. All checks should be made payable to Beth El Habonim and mailed to Mort Kanovsky: 9 Anvil Court, Cherry Hill, NJ 08003

We will once again be having our Rosh Hashannah bake sale. All cakes will come from the Magical Sweet Shoppe in Voorhees. All orders can be picked up at Beth El on Tuesday September 19 from 9AM-4PM.

We will be offering Jewish Apple Cake, Honey cake and a chocolate Truffle cake. All cakes are \$17.00. Save yourself some time for the holidays and be sure to place your order by including your name, what you are ordering, your phone number and e-mail address. Checks should be made payable to Beth El Habonim and mailed to Mort Kanovsky at 9 Anvil Court, Cherry Hill, NJ 08003

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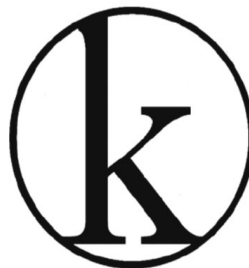
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To order a leaf or stone, please call the Beth El office at 856-675-1166

Beth El is a Member of the "Jewish National Fund Affiliate Program"

There is **NO** easier way to earn money for Beth El & support Israel at the same time. **The procedure is as simple as a click!**

Go to our website: www.bethelsnj.org
Click on "support us"/"shop here" and then Jewish National Fund to make your purchase/donation.

Tell your friends, families & other congregants. Congregation Beth El will reap the rewards.

Plant Trees in Israel, Greeting Cards, Water Certificates, Honor Book Certificates, etc.

Every order placed, Beth El gets 20% commission.

For questions, call Debbie Drachman at 856 -719 -9485

SCRIP PROGRAM

Support Beth El by shopping at your favorite stores!

IT'S AS EASY AS 1,2,3:

1. Click on "Buy Scrip" under Quick links on bethelsnj.org
2. Place your order online
3. Pay by phone or by check and pick up your order at Beth El

The Scrip program helps support educational programming for children and adults at Beth El

Take advantage of our new home delivery! (select neighborhoods)

Use scrip for Holiday Dinners!
Shoprite, Whole Foods, Kibitz Room, Acme, Classic Cake.

Use scrip for your daily needs!
Staples, CVS, Bed, Bath & Beyond, American Eagle, Macy's, Barnes & Noble, Amazon, AND SO MUCH MORE!

Memorial Room

Honor your loved ones by purchasing a plaque (\$575) in our Memorial Room.

Additionally, the names and yahrzeit dates will appear on the digital screen, scrolling during the yahrzeit week, high holidays and other chaggim.

Contact Beth El for more information at 856-675-1166

PATHWAY TO INSPIRATION

Do you wish to honor a loved one, that special simcha, a child's favorite teacher, or the memory of someone special? Personalized bricks make a lasting and unique gift.

The cost of a personalized brick starts at \$180 for the first brick and \$118 for every brick thereafter when multiple bricks are purchased together.

To order a personalized brick, please call Davida Chornock at 856-675-1166

LIFE AND LEGACY PROGRAM



Beth El is an active participant in a charitable Endowment initiative under the auspices of the Jewish Community Foundation and funded by the Harold Grinspoon Foundation.

Please remember Beth El when you do your Estate Planning. Our Committee will be happy to discuss various options with you. All of us thank those who have helped to ensure Beth El's future.

Our Life and Legacy Donors

Anonymous (2)
Susan & David Backal
Cathy & Marc Backal
Marcia Baruch
Donna & Richard Bell
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ENDOWMENT FOR THE FUTURE

Giving Today to Secure Tomorrow

Making a commitment to Beth El's Endowment Fund will help ensure funds will always be available to support & enhance the many important, religious, educational & communal services that Beth El provides to its members & community.

There are many ways to participate: make an immediate contribution of cash, appreciated securities, real estate, art work or other collectibles; include a bequest to Beth El in your will; designate Beth El as a beneficiary of a life insurance policy; establish a donor advised fund dedicated to the support of Beth El; establish a charitable gift annuity or a charitable remainder trust.

For more information as to how you can participate in building Beth El's Endowment for the Future, please complete this coupon & return it via 1st class mail or e-mail.

Name: _____ E-mail: _____

Street: _____ City _____ State _____ Zip: _____

Please send me information on participating through: Bequests Life Insurance Donor Advised Fund
Charitable Gift Annuities Charitable Remainder Trust Immediate Gift of Cash or Appreciated Assets

I have already included Beth El in my estate plans. Please let me know how my plan can be included in Beth El's *Endowment for the Future*.

Return to: Congregation Beth El, Endowment for the Future, 8000 Main Street, Voorhees, NJ 08043
E-mail: jlaster@bethelsnj.org

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Davida Chornock - dchornock@bethelsnj.org



Celebrate Your Simcha at Beth El

Whether your Simcha celebration is a Bris, Bar or Bat Mitzvah, Wedding or other special occasion, Congregation Beth El provides the ambiance, beauty and professional experience with every detail to make your event truly memorable.

- *One of South Jersey's largest and most beautiful event facilities with seating for up to 500 people and a 1300 square foot dance floor*
- *Landscaped courtyard with paved patio for outdoor celebrations*
- *Imported Jerusalem stone and marble throughout the entry and expansive lobby set the tone for your elegant affair.*
- *Choose from many of the finest Kosher caterers*



For information about Beth El's Facility rental for your next simcha, please contact Tamar Barkan at tbarkan@bethelsnj.org or (856) 675-1166 ext. 418.

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