



# CONGREGATION BETH EL

# SCROLL

JUNE 2025 • SIVAN-TAMMUZ 5785

VOL. 74 NO. 10

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

From the Clergy • 1

Shavuot and Shabbat  
Service Information • 2

Monthly Programming • 3

Year in Review Photo  
Collage • 4-6

From the Beth El Board:  
Year in Review • 7

BEPS Teacher Retirement  
Celebration • 8

Unity in the Community  
Interfaith Concert • 9

Daniel Mann Literary  
Luminaries Lecture • 9

What Do We Celebrate on  
Shavuot? • 10

Pride Shabbat with Yuval  
David • 11

Tikkun Leil Shavuot • 11

Beth El Religious School  
• 12

Beth El Preschool • 12

Israel in Focus • 13

Women of Beth El • 14

Men's Club • 14

Books & Beyond • 15

Community  
Announcements • 16

Contributions • 17

Bulletin Board • 18

Click on a page number to go  
directly to that page.

From the Beth El Clergy

## UNCERTAINTY PUSHES US TO COMMUNITY

BY RABBI GREG HARRIS



שִׁלְשֵׁלֶת – The mark above the middle letter is called a *shalshet*. It is a musical notation within the trope system for scriptural readings – Torah or Haftarah.

Because they are infrequent – there are only four in the entire Torah (Gen. 19:16; Gen. 24:12; Gen. 39:8; Lev. 8:23) – their presence and intonation is significant. The undulating quality, rising and falling and rising, has pointed our tradition's rabbis to imagine a moment of uncertainty or hesitation when the *shalshet* appears.

Whether I like to admit it or not, I have been feeling moments of uncertainty more frequently. The small voice in my head says: "What if X happens?" or "What if Y materializes?" I am generally not an anxious person and yet, over these past few years, it is taking more intentional effort for me to settle my waves of unease. From the tissues shared in my office, I know I am not alone.

Economic reports, ADL reports, government changes, culture wars by politicians, and verbal and legal assaults on people I love make me feel like an emotional *shalshet* – rising and falling and rising again.

I have been buoyed by my connections within community. People have been leaning into Beth El more fully as they prioritize and cultivate their ties in the Jewish community. For the past year, I have been nurturing institu-

tional and personal relationships with many houses of worship throughout Montgomery County. These connections have been meaningful and fruitful.

Initiated as a response to the vandalism at Beth El last summer, I have convened a number of gatherings this year for area churches, synagogues, temples, and mosques to voice our solidarity on common concerns and build relationships to address areas of difference. The core purpose has been to declare that hate has no place in our community.

Two specific upcoming initiatives are a banner campaign where houses of worship throughout the county will hang a banner announcing "hate has no place here." (The final design and language are in process as of this writing.) The second initiative will be a pulpit exchange where the houses of worship will welcome other clergy to preach/teach on this same theme from their own religious tradition. I look forward to welcoming an area clergyperson to our bimah for this important message.

We can use your energy for these initiatives so please let me know if you want to get involved. Rolling up my sleeves has been an important antidote against the roiling feelings of despair. Building and expanding my sense of community has been a meaningful way to navigate difficult times. I am proud to be part of a community which nurtures hope by reaching out to others. We must build the world we want rather than retreat from fear.

In a 2005 interview in *Reform Juda-*

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

# SCROLL

8215 OLD GEORGETOWN ROAD  
BETHESDA, MARYLAND 20814-1451  
Phone 301-652-2606 Fax 301-907-8559  
Web [www.bethelmc.org](http://www.bethelmc.org)

*Affiliated with United Synagogue  
of Conservative Judaism*

## SENIOR RABBI

Gregory Harris [gharris@bethelmc.org](mailto:gharris@bethelmc.org)

## ASSOCIATE RABBI

Deborah Megdal [dmegdal@bethelmc.org](mailto:dmegdal@bethelmc.org)

## HAZZAN

Asa Fradkin [afradkin@bethelmc.org](mailto:afradkin@bethelmc.org)

## CLERGY EMERITI

Rabbi Samuel Scolnic z"l

Rabbi William Rudolph z"l

Hazzan Abraham Lubin [salubin1@verizon.net](mailto:salubin1@verizon.net)

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Heather Garrett [hgarrett@bethelmc.org](mailto:hgarrett@bethelmc.org)

## EDUCATION DIRECTOR

Elisha Frumkin [efrumkin@bethelmc.org](mailto:efrumkin@bethelmc.org)

## PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR

Lauren Hirt [lhirt@bethelmc.org](mailto:lhirt@bethelmc.org)

## PRESCHOOL CURRICULUM DIRECTOR

Ali Lackey [alackey@bethelmc.org](mailto:alackey@bethelmc.org)

## DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

Lisa Zimmerman [lzimmerman@bethelmc.org](mailto:lzimmerman@bethelmc.org)

## BETH EL BOARD

### PRESIDENT

Sam Boxerman [sam.boxerman@gmail.com](mailto:sam.boxerman@gmail.com)

### EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

Jennifer Hirsch [jenniferhirsch@gmail.com](mailto:jenniferhirsch@gmail.com)

### ADMINISTRATIVE VICE PRESIDENT

Jim Gelb [jamesmgelb@gmail.com](mailto:jamesmgelb@gmail.com)

### COMMUNICATIONS VICE PRESIDENT

Liliana López [lilianalopez8@gmail.com](mailto:lilianalopez8@gmail.com)

### COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT VICE PRESIDENT

Alison Baraf [alisonbaraf@gmail.com](mailto:alisonbaraf@gmail.com)

### DEVELOPMENT VICE PRESIDENT

Fran Katz Watson [fran@katzwatsongroup.com](mailto:fran@katzwatsongroup.com)

### EDUCATION AND LIFELONG LEARNING VICE PRESIDENT

Josh Rosenstein [joshua.rosenstein@gmail.com](mailto:joshua.rosenstein@gmail.com)

### TIKKUN OLAM VICE PRESIDENT

David Rifkind [dfrifkind@gmail.com](mailto:dfrifkind@gmail.com)

### WORSHIP AND SPIRITUALITY VICE PRESIDENT

Reuben Silberman [reuben.silberman@gmail.com](mailto:reuben.silberman@gmail.com)

## TREASURER

Jeff Grill [jeffrey.grill@pillsburylaw.com](mailto:jeffrey.grill@pillsburylaw.com)

## SECRETARY

Rebecca Schilleci [rebecca.schilleci@gmail.com](mailto:rebecca.schilleci@gmail.com)

For a full list of clergy, staff, and board members,  
visit [bethelmc.org](http://bethelmc.org).

## SCROLL COMMITTEE

[scroll@bethelmc.org](mailto:scroll@bethelmc.org)  
Julie Kennon, *editor*. Karen Benezra, Davida Kales,  
Liliana López, Janet Meyers, Larry Sidman, and  
Donna Vogel.

*Art director:* Tiarra Joslyn

In every issue of the *Scroll*, you can click on a page number wherever you see "continued on page..." or "continued from page..." to go directly to the page that is referenced. This will help you more easily read articles that are spread over multiple pages. Please note that this only works in the digital version, not the PDF version.

## SERVICE INFORMATION

### MINYAN SCHEDULE

Sunday

9:00 am and 8:00 pm

Monday - Thursday

7:30 am and 8:00 pm

Friday

7:30 am and 6:30 pm\*

\**Shir Yachad and Yedid Nefesh services begin at 7:00 pm. Kol Haneshama begins at 7:00 pm.*

### SHABBAT AND SHAVUOT SCHEDULE

#### Sunday, June 1 - Eveve Shavuot

7:00 pm Festival Evening Service (see page 11)

#### Monday, June 2 - Shavuot Day 1

9:15 am Festival Morning Service

6:30 pm Festival Evening Service - via Zoom only

#### Tuesday, June 3 - Shavuot Day 2

7:15 am Early Festival Morning Service - Yizkor

9:15 am Festival Morning Service - Yizkor

#### Friday, June 6

6:00 pm Family Shabbat with BEPS and Nitzanim

6:00 pm Shir Yachad Dinner

7:00 pm Shir Yachad Friday Evening Shabbat Service followed by oneg

#### Saturday, June 7

7:30 am Early Shabbat Service

9:15 am Main Shabbat Service - Hadley Shartar and Sienna Freistein B'not Mitzvah

9:45 am Minyan Ruach

#### Friday, June 13

6:30 pm Shabbat in the Parking Lot Friday Night Shabbat Service - in-person only

#### Saturday, June 14

7:30 am Early Shabbat Service

9:15 am Main Shabbat Service - Emma Gold and Jacob Gold B'nai Mitzvah

#### Friday, June 20

6:00 pm Yedid Nefesh Dinner

7:00 pm Yedid Nefesh Friday Evening Shabbat Service followed by oneg

#### Saturday, June 21

7:30 am Early Shabbat Service

9:15 am Main Shabbat Service - Noam Fradkin Bar Mitzvah

#### Friday, June 27

6:00 pm Kol Haneshama Dinner

7:00 pm Kol Haneshama Friday Evening Musical Service followed by oneg with guest speaker Michelle Brafman

#### Saturday, June 28

7:30 am Early Shabbat Service

9:15 am Main Shabbat Service

***Unless otherwise indicated, all services are available to attend in person or watch online at [bethelmc.org/watch-live](http://bethelmc.org/watch-live). For more***

### FROM THE CLERGY CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

*ism Magazine*, Elie Wiesel said, "Just as despair can be given to me only by another human being, hope too can be given to me only by another human being. Mankind must remember too that, like hope, peace is not God's gift to his creatures. Peace is a very special gift – it is our gift to each other."

May we be worthy of giving and receiving these gifts from each other. ■

## June Events at Beth El

Click on any of the events to find out more information.

### Connect

June 1  
12:00 pm

#### Tzelem LGBTQ+ Teen Group

A safe space for 7th-12th graders to discuss the issues in their lives as teens.



June 1  
3:00 pm

#### Youth Shavuot Party

Children K-5 will participate in Torah arts and crafts and enjoy ice cream.



June 5  
7:30 pm

#### Hearing Men's Voices

"Legacy and Life Lessons" with Jay Bedell, in person or via Zoom.



June 5  
6:30 pm

#### Kesher Nashim

Women's cancer support group for cancer patients and survivors, in person.



June 11  
6:00 pm

#### BEPS Retirement Celebration

Come celebrate the retirement of three amazing longtime BEPS teachers.



June 19  
7:00 pm

#### WBE & Men's Club Happy Hour

Join Women of Beth El and Men's Club for happy hour at World of Beer.



June 22  
7:00 pm

#### Big Train Baseball Game

Join Men's Club at Shirley Povich Field for Jewish Baseball Heritage Night.



June 25  
2:00 pm

#### Coffee with the Clergy

Join Senior Caucus as Hazzan Fradkin shares some of his favorite Jewish music.



### Learn

June 1  
11:30 am

#### Daniel Mann Literary Luminaries

Our annual lecture will feature journalist Ron Kampeas.



June 1  
6:30 pm

#### Tikkun Leil Shavuot

Join us for our traditional night of learning. See page 11 for details.



### Pray

June 6  
6:00 pm

#### Young Families Shabbat

Shabbat songs and prayers, followed by dinner, for families with children 0-6.



June 6  
6:00 pm

#### Shir Yachad Musical Shabbat

Join Hazzan Fradkin for dinner at 6:00 pm followed by a musical service at 7:00 pm.



June 13  
6:30 pm

#### Shabbat Outside

Join us for an outdoor Friday night Shabbat service in the parking lot.



June 14  
9:15 am

#### Pride Shabbat with Yuval David

"Too Loud. Too Proud. Too Zionist." with guest speaker Yuval David. See pg. 11.



June 20  
6:00 pm

#### Yedid Nefesh Friday Night Service

Join Rabbi Megdal for dinner at 6:00 pm followed by a musical service at 7:00 pm.



June 27  
7:00 pm

#### Kol Haneshama Musical Shabbat

Lay-led service with innovative Jewish music from around the world.



### Engage

June 1  
10:00 am

#### WBE Annual Meeting

Elect new board members, then stay for a workshop on organizing with intention.



June 4  
7:00 pm

#### Volunteering at Manna Food

Volunteers ages 11+ needed to help with this food-sorting tikkun olam project.



June 8  
8:00 am

#### Summer Blood Drive

Donate blood and help save lives.



June 8  
4:00 pm

#### Unity in the Community Concert

A concert celebrating songs of faith featuring The Jeremy Winston Chorale.



Find out more and sign up to participate at  
[bethelmc.org/events](https://bethelmc.org/events)





BACK-TO-SHUL BBQ



FIRST DAY OF RELIGIOUS SCHOOL



INTERFAITH THANKSGIVING SERVICE



MIRACLES & LIGHT CONCERT



LATKE-HAMANTASCH DEBATE: NEXT GEN



ANNUAL GALA





BUILD THE JOY



MITZVAH DAY



# 5785 Year in Review

PHOTOGRAPHERS DURING THE YEAR INCLUDED MITCHELL SOLKOWITZ, ELISHA FRUMKIN, ALLISON BROWN, RABBI MEGDAL, KATIE FRIEDMAN, AND OTHERS. THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR VOLUNTEER PHOTOGRAPHERS!



HANUKKAH CANDLE LIGHTING



WHAT'S MY STORY? 4TH GRADE B-MITZVAH DATE REVEAL



SOCIAL ACTION TEA





WORLD WIDE WRAP



MEGILLAH MADNESS



SIDDUR COVER WORKSHOP



BEPS GRANDPARENTS DAY



NOVA FESTIVAL SURVIVOR GAL BUKSHPAN



KALANIYOT MEMORIAL WALL



DOR L'DOR



GOLDEN AGE OF  
YIDDISH RADIO



ANNUAL MEETING



## From the Beth El Board A Year in Review

BY SARA GORDON, IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

As my term as Board President concludes, I want to share some highlights of our work over the past year, and reasons to be excited for what is to come.

Our accomplishments and path forward are due to the commitment and creativity of our community, and the partnership among lay leaders, clergy, and staff. I am deeply grateful for how our community and this extraordinary partnership have supported me in my term.

Beginning under Jill Rider's leadership, our Board focused on identifying the core values of Beth El: being *welcoming, inclusive, relevant, and connected*. We became laser-focused on infusing our programming with these elements. Next, we sought new and emerging opportunities to express these values. We explored trends in what our community said it needed. We reviewed our congregational surveys and past strategic plans, and identified three mission categories: *How we Learn, How we Pray, and How we Connect*.

This is now a framework we use to craft our planning. Our core values and our mission categories guide our work and offer cohesion to our efforts.

### LEARN

In the coming year, our preschoolers will learn in a newly established all-day program. We made this change with preschool parent and teacher participation, while preserving what makes BEPS unique. The preschool will continue to be a Jewish co-op program that helps our most precious members connect with their Judaism, with each other, and with learning in meaningful ways.

This year, we learned from our religious school students – specifically our upper schoolers – who participated in listening sessions coordinated by our VP for education, Josh Rosenstein. Our director of Education, Elisha Frumkin, is taking what we learned to expand our offerings and make our program more experiential and relevant. I had the pleasure of participating in one of the listening sessions in which one student said plainly, “We need to feel like you get us.” We heard him and his peers and we very much want Beth El to be a place where our students know we’ve got them.

The Scolnic Committee is actively exploring how to continue to best meet the needs of our adult learners. Much like the preschool, we are considering ways to broaden the scope of learning, while preserving the elements of our adult learning initiative that are special to Beth El.

And our shul-wide educational offerings have contin-

ued through our Shabbat afternoon speaker series, as well as our Sunday Men's Club breakfasts. We have had speakers from the community beyond Beth El join us – and are so fortunate to have a deep bench of teachers within our own community generating conversation on many topics, including the Heroes Among Us discussion in which veterans from our own community shared their experiences of service through a Jewish lens.

### PRAY

We recognize that our relationship to prayer evolves, so we are tapping into our spirituality differently and identifying elements that elevate our prayer experience and separate it from the mundane.

This year, we had 40 b-mitzvah families lift our spirits by sharing their joyful milestones with the community. Hazzan Fradkin continued working with our newest adult members to inspire them to continue their Torah reading on Shabbat morning and contribute to the community in meaningful, beautiful ways.

Music is the common thread among the services Beth El offers on Friday nights. This year, we saw the return of our Kol Haneshamah service, which added speakers and discussion to the musical experience. Our Yedid Nefesh service led by Rabbi Megdal and our Shir Yachad

young families musical services continued to grow. We also added several Friday night services that target specific religious school grades. Friday nights at Beth El are robust. The community fills the building with music and kids, and the experience is the essence of a Shabbos Kodesh.

### CONNECT

Finally, I have spent a lot of time thinking about how we connect at Beth El. How we find communities within our big community. How we build connection, work at it, and how much I appreciate it.

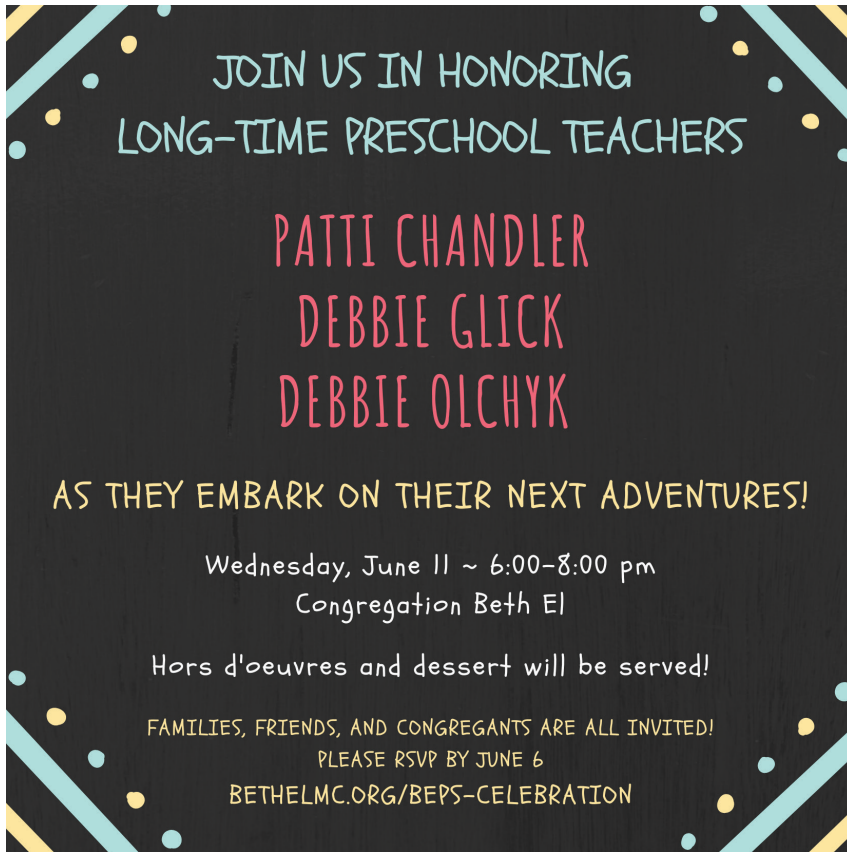
Fortunately, Beth El is doing so much to nurture meaningful connection. The Women of Beth El and the Men's Club continue to offer opportunities ranging from walks in the woods to study circles, all nurturing connection. Our Senior Caucus, led by Pat Danoff, continues to bring our seniors together in person and reach out to them through a new newsletter Pat instituted to foster connection.

We also welcomed a *shaliach* to our community, as Yoel Gleizer joined us and filled our souls with his music and his warmth. He has brought Israel closer to us, add-



SARA GORDON AND SAM BOXERMAN

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8



## BEPS Teacher Retirement Celebration

Get ready to celebrate! Join us in honoring amazing longtime Beth El Preschool teachers Patti Chandler, Debbie Glick, and Debbie Olchyk as they start new adventures.

Stop by Beth El on Wednesday, June 11, any time between 6:00-8:00 pm to show your love and appreciation. Enjoy delicious hors d'oeuvres and sweets while reminiscing with fellow community members. Everyone in the Beth El community is welcome, whether you're a former BEPS parent, former student, part of the current BEPS family, or a Beth El congregant or friend who wants to wish them well. Let's come together to celebrate these incredible teachers who have made a huge impact in our lives!

Please RSVP by June 6 at [bethelmc.org/beps-celebration](https://bethelmc.org/beps-celebration).

## YEAR IN REVIEW *CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7*

ing dimension and depth to our connection with Israel during this tumultuous time.

To strengthen the Board's capacity to connect with the community – specifically the newer and new-ish members of the community – we participated in a training with GatherDC – an organization that supports connection between young adults and the Jewish community. Under the leadership of Alison Baraf and Ivan Snyder, the Board is now working on outreach activities to strengthen the connection our newest members have with the community.

We are living through an unstable and uncertain time when it is easy to feel isolated, alone, and disconnected. Under Rabbi Harris's leadership, Beth El is nurturing connection within and beyond the synagogue. Recently, Beth El has been a leader in building connections among faith leaders in Montgomery County to identify ways different faith communities can support one another and work together to combat hate in the community. Further, as uncertainty overwhelms the federal workforce, Beth El has formed a new affinity group to support those currently or formerly working in, or working adjacent to, the federal government. Congregants have stepped forward to create a committee and to develop and implement ideas, and, most importantly, to remind anyone affected that they are not alone.

Finally, with the graceful guidance of Gail Fribush, organizational leadership of Jill Rider, and coordination of

Alison Baraf and Brad Wine, we launched the first cohort of the Rabbi William Rudolph Leadership Initiative. It is an effort to connect with and grow the next generation of our community's leadership. I am here to tell you, the next generation of Beth El's leadership is powerful, enthusiastic, and strong! It is a group of committed, curious, and creative individuals who are destined to make wonderful things happen for Beth El in the coming years. It bears mentioning that seven of the members of the first cohort are Beth El Family Camp participants – a fact that would make Rabbi Rudolph z"l, a family camp originator, very happy.

I am so grateful to have had the opportunity to serve on the Board of Beth El and work with so many dedicated people. We are fortunate that Beth El has a process that enables us to bring in new leadership, while also preserving the institutional memory of the organization. The shul is preparing to celebrate its 75th anniversary. Reaching this milestone is not a given—it is the result of a lot of different things, including generations of Board members who developed thoughtful processes, demonstrated heartfelt dedication, and engaged in a lot of work. I wish our new President, Sam Boxerman, and his esteemed Executive Committee and Board luck in their sacred work, and am grateful to each of them for taking on the task. I am so excited and hopeful to see what comes next. ■



# UNITY IN THE COMMUNITY

## CONGREGATION BETH EL

in concert  
with

## THE JEREMY WINSTON CHORALE

Join us for an interfaith celebration of music with the acclaimed Jeremy Winston Chorale

Featuring highlights from Mendelsson's *Elijah* & Songs of shared faith

Sunday, June 8, 4:00 pm  
8215 Old Georgetown Rd.  
Bethesda, MD



CLICK HERE TO  
REGISTER



## Unity in the Community with The Jeremy Winston Chorale

Beth El is pleased to welcome The Jeremy Winston Chorale for an interfaith celebration featuring highlights from Mendelssohn's *Elijah* and other songs of faith with Hazzan Asa Fradkin and the Beth El choirs. This will be an unforgettable evening of music and shared faith.

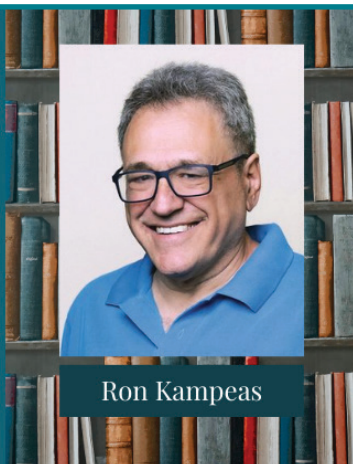
Founded in 2012, The Jeremy Winston Chorale has made an indelible mark in the music community. The Chorale's inaugural performance was at the world's largest choral competition, The World Choir Games in Cincinnati, Ohio. Competing against world-class choirs from around the globe, The Jeremy Winston Chorale was crowned as gold medal champions as Best Gospel Choir, and silver medals for Mixed Chorus (classical music) and Spirituals.

Hazzan Fradkin said that hearing and singing with this chorale is one of the greatest musical highlights of his life. "You may hear many wonderful concerts at Strathmore, Wolftrap, and the Met itself, but you will never hear a group that sings with the sheer passion, energy, and faith of this group. They literally shake you awake."

The concert is free, with a suggested optional donation of \$36. Registration is required. Please register at [bethelmc.org/concert-0608](http://bethelmc.org/concert-0608). ■

## Daniel Mann Literary Luminaries Lecture

Sunday, June 1, 11:30 am  
at Beth El



Ron Kampeas

Please join us for our annual Daniel Mann Literary Luminaries Lecture on Sunday, June 1, at 11:30 am. Our speaker, retired *Jewish Telegraph Agency* Washington Bureau Chief Ron Kampeas, will present his unique perspective on events in the Middle East and the world. The Daniel Mann Literary Luminaries Lecture is co-sponsored by the Library Committee, Men's Club, and Women of Beth El. For more information about Ron Kampeas, and to RSVP for the lecture, visit [bethelmc.org/lecture-0601](http://bethelmc.org/lecture-0601).

With great joy & gratitude,  
we invite you to join us as  
our son

Noam Matthew

is called to the Torah  
as a Bar Mitzvah

Saturday, June 21, 2025

9:15 am

Congregation Beth El

Hazzan Asa & Sarah Fradkin

Please RSVP by June 5  
[www.bethelmc.org/noambmitzvah](http://www.bethelmc.org/noambmitzvah)

## What Do We Celebrate on Shavuot?

BY ELLIOT WILNER

We celebrate the sixth day of the month of Sivan as a festival day – Shavuot – the day when God, at Mt. Sinai, presented the Torah to the Israelite nation. That is the “historic” reason for the festival of Shavuot – although there is no historic source for the authorship of the Torah other than the Torah itself. There is no other contemporaneous account. We don’t even know the year of this consequential event. We just know that it occurred a long time ago, precisely seven weeks (Hebrew: shavuot) after the Exodus from Egypt. For very devout Jews, however, the historicity of the event is not in doubt. Nor is there, amongst the devout, any doubt about the provenance of the Torah: It was written by God and transmitted to Moses who, in turn, transmitted it to the Israelites.

This presumption of *Torah mi’Sinai* – a Torah written by God and given to the Israelites at Mt. Sinai – does, however, pose problems for biblical scholars and for a majority of non-devout Jews. The text of the Torah that is in our possession today (and which is presumed by devout Jews to be a fair copy of the original text), contains numerous irregularities, or “corruptions,” which are considered by most scholars to be scribal errors. There are various types of “corruptions.” Spelling errors – the omission or transposition of a letter in a word – are common, and we are obliged to read those words as though they were spelled correctly. Some passages are chronologically misplaced: For example, Chapter 1 of Numbers describes events that took place in the “second month of the second year,” while Chapter 9 describes events that took place in the “first month of the second year.” (The rabbis rationalize those chronological inconsistencies by asserting that “there is no ‘early’ or ‘late’ in the Torah text.”) And there are some passages that are anachronistic: For example, in Genesis there are a number of references to camels – belonging to Abraham or to Ishmaelite merchants – even though archeologists have established that camels were not introduced into the land of Canaan prior to the tenth century BCE.

So, the text of the Torah contains mistakes of one sort or another. Spelling errors by scribes are inevitable, aren’t they, considering that the original manuscript has been copied countless times over many centuries. Maybe the other mistakes also represent scribal errors. No one (except Moses) has ever seen the original manuscript. But can we claim that the Torah that we have in our possession – with its many mistakes – is identical to the Torah that was written by God and transmitted to Moses? Would that not be blasphemous – to believe that God produced a flawed document? It would be more reasonable to believe that the Torah, flawed as it is, is a human invention, written by unidentified authors at an unknown time. But that logical concession should not serve to diminish the importance of the document. On the contrary, we should view the Torah, flaws and all, as

one of mankind’s singular, momentous achievements, one richly deserving of celebration during the festival of Shavuot.

How might we classify the literary work that we call the Torah? It is a unique document and not readily classifiable. But we can say that the Torah is primarily a history book (embellished with numerous stories) and a law book (promulgating civil, criminal and ritual laws), while also encompassing a few poems and the occasional genealogy and the occasional census. There are some archaic passages in the Torah that most modern Jews judge to be objectionable and irrational – for example, the capital punishment decreed for an obstreperous child (who might be served better by a prescription for Ritalin) – and we might wish to excise those passages. But allowing any edit to the text of the Torah would indeed create a slippery slope, so we privately resort to cognitive editing of those troubling passages.

Among all of the Western World’s documents, the Torah has demonstrated unmatched longevity and vitality. Part of the reason for that vitality is that the Torah has been self-renewing: Its stories have provided a template for additional stories – known as *midrashei aggadah* – in every generation; and its laws have been re-examined, refined and, if need be, amended – through *midrashei halakhah* – in every generation. The rabbis, recognizing the need to refresh the Torah continually, have considered these midrashim to be an organic part of *Torah Mi’Sinai*.

*Chag Shavuot Sameach.* ■

## Kol Haneshama Shabbat Evening Service and Author Michelle Brafman

BY LAURA NADEL

Join us on Friday, June 27 at 7:00 pm for prayer, reflection, and song! Welcome Shabbat in a joyful, participatory, and engaging service, with melodies that calm, songs that enliven, and prayers that elevate.

During the oneg following the Kol Haneshama service, Beth El congregant and author Michelle Brafman will discuss the magical intersection between Judaism and her approach to reading, writing, and teaching fiction. Michelle is the author of four novels, including *Draw Near to Me*, due out in July 2026. She teaches fiction writing in the Johns Hopkins Master of Arts in Writing program and also founded the Glen Echo Workshops, where she leads monthly multi-genre workshops and teaches summer college essay-writing classes.

A light Shabbat dinner will be served at 6:00 pm. Visit [bethelmc.org/kol-haneshama-0627/](http://bethelmc.org/kol-haneshama-0627/) to register for the dinner. No registration is required to attend the service or the oneg and talk. ■



## Pride Shabbat with Guest Speaker Yuval David

Join us for a special Pride Shabbat service on Saturday, June 14, as Beth El proudly welcomes Yuval David, an internationally acclaimed Israeli-American journalist, filmmaker, actor, and activist, for whom LGBTQ+ and Jewish Pride are intertwined. A champion of equality and the human rights of marginalized people, David stands out as a leading voice, who confronts extremism head on. His message of pride and inclusion embodies joyful resilience and radical authenticity.

David, an Emmy-winning journalist, actor, and filmmaker with over 100 international film festival awards, has starred in major TV shows across ABC, NBC, CBS, Fox, Hulu, FX, HBO, and more. He also appears as a news commentator on global networks including Fox, NewsNation, Israel's Kan, Keshet, Achshav, and i24 News. He writes for outlets including the *Jerusalem Post*, *The Hill*, *JNS*, *Algemeiner*, *Jewish Journal*, *New York Post*, *Times of Israel*, *Yediot*, *The Jewish Week*, *Queerty*, and the *Washington Blade*.

A prominent leader in Jewish, Zionist, LGBTQ, civil rights, and social justice causes, he advises over 40 organizations, elected officials and NGOs, creates media content, and advocates for LGBTQ and Jewish communities. Named by *The Jerusalem Post* and the Jewish National Fund as the #1 Most Influential Young Zionist, and by the ADL as a "Hero Against Hate," David is a World Zionist Congress delegate and a council member of "Voice Of The People" under Israel's President Herzog.

At Beth El, David will offer a drash during the Main Shabbat Service and an open community discussion with Q&A at 12:30 pm following kiddush in the Swoff Chapel. During the service, we will recognize our LGBTQ+ members, family, and friends, with a group aliyah to the Torah. ■

*"The greatest resistance to antisemitism is Jewish joy and Jewish power, rooted in Jewish education. Not power as domination, but power as presence. Power as permanence. Power as pride. Power as knowledge."*

- Yuval David, *The Algemeiner*

YUVAL DAVID

Too LOUD

Too PROUD

Too ZIONIST

10AM PRIDE FAMILY ALIYAH

11AM D'VAR

12:30PM PRIDE SHABBAT TALK

CONGREGATION BETH EL  
8215 OLD GEORGETOWN RD  
BETHESDA MD, 20817  
JUNE 14<sup>TH</sup>  
PRIDE SHABBAT WITH YUVAL DAVID  
11AM D'VAR  
12:30PM SHABBAT DISCUSSION

## Tikkun Leil Shavuot A Traditional Shavuot Eve Nighttime Study Session

Sunday, June 1  
6 Sivan 5785



Clergy and congregants will lead interesting and inspiring sessions designed to engage and enlighten. Zoom sessions will also be taught by the clergy for those who cannot attend in person.

6:30 pm	First Teaching Session
7:00 pm	Evening Minyan
7:30 pm	Dinner - Registration Closed
8:15 pm	Multiple Teaching Sessions
10:15 pm	Cheesecake Break
10:45 pm	Multiple Teaching Sessions

More info at [bethelmc.org/shavuot-5785](http://bethelmc.org/shavuot-5785).

## Tikkun Leil Shavuot

Join us on Sunday, June 1, at 6:30 pm for Tikkun Leil Shavuot, a traditional night of learning. The deadline has passed to register for the dairy dinner, but all are welcome to join us for any or all of the teaching sessions.

Teaching sessions that will be offered include: Todd and Lake Rosenberg: Shtick – The Origins of Jewish Humor; Michael Kieval: Giving the Benefit of the Doubt (*Dan leChaf Zechut*); Bill Dauster: Jews in the U.S. Senate; Jon Simon: The Truth About the Protocols of the Elders of Zion; Rabbi David Abramson: How Really to Have an Aliyah; Matthew Slater: The Tyranny of a Hardened Heart – Guidance from Our Tradition to Avoid It and Confront It; Donna Saady: Egyptology and the Exodus; Jeff Diamant: Judaism in America; David Farber: What Happened to the Ten Commandments; and Donna Vogel: Working Wonders: What, When, Where, Why, and for Whom?, plus classes from David Margulies, Reuben Silberman, Rabbi Harris, Rabbi Megdal, and Hazzan Fradkin. See more information at [bethelmc.org/shavuot-5785](http://bethelmc.org/shavuot-5785). ■



## BERS: A Year in Review in Photos



## BETH EL PRESCHOOL

### Now Enrolling: 2025-2026 Mazel Tots Classes

Mazel Tots is an introductory baby and toddler program that meets one day per week for play time, music, dancing, art, snack and more!

Full-year Mazel Tots is open to children who will be 15-24 months old on September 1, 2025. This class will meet on Wednesdays, September through May.

Half-year Mazel Tots is open to children who will be 15-20 months old on February 1, 2026. This class will meet on Mondays, February through May.

To learn more or to register, visit our website:

[www.bethelpreschool.org/admissions](http://www.bethelpreschool.org/admissions)



BEPS is a parent co-operative, play-based, Jewish preschool with classes for children ages 15 months to 5 years.

Visit our website to learn all about our warm and welcoming early childhood education program!

[www.bethelpreschool.org](http://www.bethelpreschool.org)

A few spots remain for the 2025-2026 school year in all age groups!! Call or email to set up a personalized tour: (301) 652-2606 ext. 107 ~ [preschoolinfo@bethelmc.org](mailto:preschoolinfo@bethelmc.org)



We will be offering a full day option for children enrolled in our 2s, 3s and Pre-K classes!!





## Israel in Focus

**Zimriyah and Shlichut: A Joyous Combination**

BY LARRY SIDMAN

On Sunday, May 11, our congregation celebrated Yom Ha'Atzmaut, Israel's Independence Day, with a love-filled and voices-lifted program featuring our Religious School students in grades K-5. Our *shaliach*, Yoel Gleizer, led the children in singing a range of Israeli classics, including *Shabbat BaBoker* and *Od Yavo Shalom Aleinu*, culminating in *Hatikvah*, featuring a fifth-grader soloist. Our sanctuary was adorned with Israeli flags flying from the ceiling. In the adjoining social hall, a giant poster featuring a remarkable likeness of Golda Meir formed the background for the obligatory cake and sweets. It was more than a sing-along. It truly felt like a less raucous but equally exuberant cousin of Yom Ha'Atzmaut celebrations in Israel. Yoel deserves a great deal of the credit for bringing that sense of kinship and Jewish community to Beth El.

Yoel is the third in a line of *shlichim/shlichot*, messengers, to serve as youthful Israeli ambassadors to our congregation. The program, sponsored by the Jewish Agency for Israel with substantial financial support from Jewish Federations across the U.S., including locally the Jewish Federation of Greater Washington, brings outstanding Israelis, mostly in their 20s, to synagogues and college campuses for a two- or three-year period. They are uniformly very bright, talented, energetic, and committed. Although it is often said that the best way to promote "*ahavat Yisrael*," a love of Israel, is to go there, the *shlichim* and *shlichot* understand that the next best way is for them to make their presence felt in American and other global Jewish communities. By forming relationships with congregants, especially with school-age children, they communicate the reality of Israeli youth, a refreshing alternative to the stereotypes that populate both the entertainment world and traditional and social media.

Yoel and his predecessors as *shlichim/shlichot* at Beth El reflect the diversity of Israeli youth, as did the successive Beth El celebrations of Yom Ha'Atzmaut under their guidance and in collaboration with dedicated Beth El teachers, clergy, and staff. Itzik, a gay Israeli man, used his performing talent to engage our Religious School children in Israeli life experiences. Tal, an Israeli

woman who had served in the Education Corps of the Israel Defense Forces, focused on teaching our students about Beth El members' connections to Eretz Yisrael and the history of Israel's quest for independence, drawing attention to the intimate connection between Yom HaZikaron and Yom Ha'Atzmaut. Yoel, a budding Israeli rock star during his teen years, brought his extraordinary musical gifts to this year's zimriyah, leading the students in happy and heartfelt song as they assembled on the bimah.

The priceless connection between our congregation and our brothers and sisters in Israel fostered by the shlichut program would not have been possible without the renewed commitment of Beth El clergy, leadership, staff, and donors. Before the pandemic, we shared with JDS the hosting institution's cost of supporting a shaliach or shlichah. There was a pause during and immediately following the pandemic. Last year, Beth El determined to resume its hosting of shlichut without a local religious or educational partner, a meaningful two-year financial commitment. The communal, psychological, and educational dividends of that investment have been evident since Yoel arrived in August and were showcased in the Yom Ha'Atzmaut zimriyah.

Since the October 7, 2023, Hamas massacre, Israelis and Diaspora Jews have been asking how we can rediscover joy. Our Yom Ha'Atzmaut zimriyah offered an example, a fusion of resilience and music. Our celebration was delayed several weeks because Yoel had to leave for Israel unexpectedly when his father passed away. He returned, still grieving, to lead the zimriyah, demonstrating the resilience, creativity, and strength that has been a hallmark of Israeli life in the last bitter 19 months. After the zimriyah, Yoel said that next year's celebration would be even better. One day later, Edan Alexander, the last living Israeli-American captive in Gaza, was released and returned to Israel. May it be a sign that Yoel will prove to be prophetic. May Yom Ha'Atzmaut in 2026 be celebrated in peace, security, and joy. *Od yavo shalom aleinu v'al kulam*. ("Indeed it will come, peace upon us and upon everyone.") ■



## WBE Annual Meeting

### Smart Solutions & Thoughtful Shortcuts

ORGANIZING YOUR HOME AND LIFE WITH INTENTION



WITH GUEST SPEAKER  
RACHEL ROSENTHAL



Women of Beth El Annual Meeting  
Sunday, June 1, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Join us at Beth El on Sunday, June 1, 10:00 am to noon, as we elect our new slate of Women of Beth El officers and Board members. After voting, please stay for a morning of learning, socializing, and fun. Well-known organizer Rachel Rosenthal will lead a timely workshop, "Smart Solutions & Thoughtful Shortcuts: Organizing Your Home and Life with Intention." This will be a practical and inspiring conversation about the little changes that make a big impact – packing efficiently for travel, creating a closet that works for you, and preserving the memories that matter most. RSVP at [bethelmc.org/wbe-meeting-0601](http://bethelmc.org/wbe-meeting-0601).

## UPCOMING WOMEN OF BETH EL PROGRAMS

### SUNDAY, JUNE 1, 10:00 AM WBE Annual Meeting.

Join us for as we elect our new slate of Women of Beth El officers and board members. See this page for more information. RSVP at [bethelmc.org/wbe-meeting-0601](http://bethelmc.org/wbe-meeting-0601).

### WEDNESDAYS, JUNE 4 AND 18, 7:00 PM AND MONDAYS, JUNE 9 AND 23, 1:00 PM WBE Crafters.

Join the WBE crafters for community, fun, help, and social action projects.

### THURSDAY, JUNE 19, 7:00 PM Women of Beth El and Men's Club Happy Hour.

Come join Women of Beth El and Men's Club for Happy Hour at World of Beer (7200 Wisconsin Avenue). There will be plenty of schmoozing, and we will be providing appetizers. Drinks will be available for purchase. The event is free but registration is required. We look forward to seeing you there! RSVP at [bethelmc.org/happy-hour-0619](http://bethelmc.org/happy-hour-0619).

### THURSDAY, JUNE 5, 7:30 PM VIA ZOOM Keshet

**Nashim: Women's Cancer Connection.** Keshet Nashim supports female cancer survivors and those with a new cancer diagnosis. See information on page 16.

## MEN'S CLUB

## UPCOMING MEN'S CLUB PROGRAMS

### SUNDAYS, JUNE 1, 8, 15, 22, AND 29, 9:30 AM Men's Club Breakfast.

All are welcome to join us on Sundays after morning minyan for breakfast sponsored by Men's Club.

### WEDNESDAY, JUNE 4, 7:00 PM Volunteering at Manna Food Center.

Join volunteers to pack food for the needy in Montgomery County. RSVP at [bethelmc.org/manna-0604](http://bethelmc.org/manna-0604).

### THURSDAY, JUNE 5, 7:30 PM IN PERSON OR VIA ZOOM Hearing Men's Voices.

Beth El men are invited to join us as Dennis Askwith leads a discussion of "Navigating Change: Adapting to Shifts in Technology, Culture, and Society." RSVP at [bethelmc.org/hmv-0605](http://bethelmc.org/hmv-0605).

### THURSDAY, JUNE 19, 7:00 PM Women of Beth El and Men's Club Happy Hour.

See information above in the WBE upcoming programs.

### SUNDAY, JUNE 22 7:00 PM Jewish Baseball Heritage Night.

Meet Men's Club at Shirley Povich Field as the Bethesda Big Train take on the Olney Cropdusters. See this page for more information. Register at [bethelmc.org/events/baseball-0622](http://bethelmc.org/events/baseball-0622).

JOIN MEN'S CLUB FOR  
**JEWISH BASEBALL HERITAGE NIGHT**

**BETHESDA BIG TRAIN VS OLNEY CROPDUSTERS**

**SUNDAY, JUNE 22**

FIRST PITCH	TICKET	STADIUM
7:00 PM	\$13	SHIRLEY POVICH FIELD

RSVP BY JUNE 18

Come out for Jewish Baseball Heritage Night on Sunday, June 22, at 7:00 pm as the Bethesda Big Train take on the Olney Cropdusters at Shirley Povich Field, 10600 Westlake Drive, North Bethesda, MD 20852. Gates open at 6:00 pm.

The Cal Ripken Sr. Collegiate Baseball League is a wooden bat summer league and is fun for the whole family!

Tickets are \$13 per person. Register at [bethelmc.org/events/baseball-0622](http://bethelmc.org/events/baseball-0622) by June 18.



## Books &amp; Beyond

## Trust and Betrayal in Brussels

BY ROBIN JACOBSON

In the 1990s, American playwright and screenwriter Alice Austen was working as a lawyer in Brussels. Some elderly neighbors in her elegant Beaux Arts apartment building befriended her, inviting her regularly for afternoon tea. They regaled Austen with stories of the apartment building during World War II, when Germany occupied Belgium.

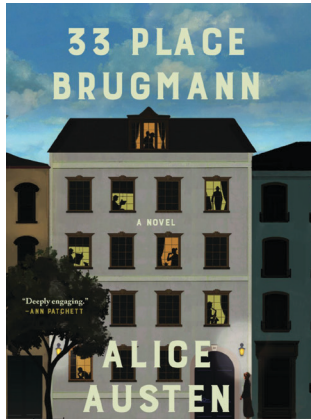
During the war, residents of the building held starkly opposing political views. Some residents collaborated with the Germans while others secretly aided the Belgian resistance. No one knew whom they could trust, which made living side-by-side tense and fraught. These wartime stories inspired Austen's historical novel, *33 Place Brugmann*, named for that Brussels apartment building. Austen's skill at creating suspense on stage and screen is on full display in the novel, as is her concern with questions of law and morality.

## MEET THE NEIGHBORS

The novel's main characters are residents (or former residents) of 33 Place Brugmann; they narrate chapters in turn. We meet François Sauvin, an architect wounded in World War I, and his daughter, Charlotte, a phenomenally talented art student despite being color-blind. The Sauvins live down the hall from the Jewish Raphaël family. Leo Raphaël, an art dealer, is married to Sophia, who helped François raise Charlotte after François's wife died. The Raphaël children, Julian and Esther, grew up with Charlotte and are her dearest friends.

Masha, a Russian Jewish seamstress, lives in a studio on the top floor. Her lover, Harry, has many secrets, some relating to his service in World War I with the retired colonel who also lives in the building. Other residents include a lawyer, his wife, and their unpleasant son, Dirk, who attends meetings of the collaborationist Flemish-Nationalist party. Nosy Miss Hobert spies on everyone and complains about them to the notary on the ground floor who manages the building and reports to German authorities.

The book opens in 1939 with the sudden disappearance of the Raphaëls and their extraordinary art collection. We soon learn that the Raphaëls have escaped to Great Britain, where they join the Allied war effort, but the fate of the art collection remains a mystery for most of the novel. As Leo Raphaël and others struggle through the war, they reflect on art and why it matters.



## VÁCLAV HAVEL

The primary characters in *33 Place Brugmann* face complex moral choices with life-or-death stakes. Yet even minor characters must decide whether they will help others or themselves during the German occupation. A longtime neighborhood grocer begins adding a surcharge to his food prices, just because he can. In contrast, the local baker generously provides extra bread to people who need it.



In depicting the large and small quandaries her characters face, Austen says she was influenced by the philosophy of Václav Havel, the first president of the Czech Republic. She became familiar with Havel's thinking while doing legal work for his government. Havel believed, says Austen, that the responsibility for a regime's bad actions rests not only with

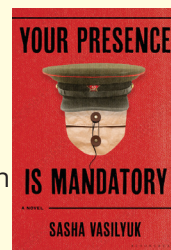
the regime, but with citizens who tolerate the regime's actions. Austen describes Havel's moral code:

"The person who walks past a sign in a shop window that says no Blacks or no Jews or no women or no gays is just as responsible as the shopkeeper who puts up the sign, who is just as responsible as the apparatchik who tells the shopkeeper to put up the sign, who is as responsible as the government official who decides that this will be done."

Few in wartime Brussels fully met Havel's high standards, but some of Austen's characters found unexpected courage when it mattered most. ■

## SUMMER READING

The historical novel, *Your Presence is Mandatory* by Sasha Vasilyuk, follows the life of a Ukrainian Jewish man and his family from the 1930s



through 2014 and offers a valuable lens on the current Russian-Ukrainian conflict.

For recommendations of other Jewish-themed books, see the reviews at [bethelmc.org/library-corner](https://bethelmc.org/library-corner).

### Keshet Nashim

Keshet Nashim supports female cancer survivors and those with a new cancer diagnosis. Join Beth El women for confidential, lively discussions, friendship, and support at our monthly meetings. One or two women from the group will be "On Call" monthly to talk to any woman interested in more information about the group. Our next meeting is Thursday, June 6, 7:30 – 9:30 pm, via Zoom. For more information, visit [bethelmc.org/keshet-nashim-0606](http://bethelmc.org/keshet-nashim-0606).

### Minyan Ruach

The last Minyan Ruach for 5785 will take place on Saturday, June 7, at 9:45 am in the Chapel. Minyan Ruach is an alternative to the traditional service. It is a low key, mostly lay-led participatory service. We make it very comfortable to be a part of the service. You can try something that you always wanted to, with less pressure since we are not in the main sanctuary. You can have an aliyah, open the Ark, dress the Torah, or chant a Torah portion or Haftarah if you would like! We always have singing with our special song leaders and always have an exciting presentation. Our June program will explore the 10 Commandments (a post-Shavuot event). Come join us and bring a friend! Any questions, contact Marsha Liss at [lissmjs@gmail.com](mailto:lissmjs@gmail.com) or Sally Ehrlich at [salehrlich@yahoo.com](mailto:salehrlich@yahoo.com).

### Early Shabbat Services

Beth El's Early Shabbat Service just celebrated its 41st anniversary. The service starts Shabbat mornings at 7:30 am in the Swoff Chapel. (We won't mind if you arrive a little late. Just don't miss the joke at the end!) The service ends at 9:15 am or earlier and is followed by kiddush in the Zahler Social Hall next door. The service is also live-streamed for those unable to attend in person. Children are welcome. Those interested in leading parts of the service, reading Torah, or chanting Haftarah can email Ben Miller at [benjaminjoffemiller@gmail.com](mailto:benjaminjoffemiller@gmail.com).

### Summer Divrei Torah and Summer Casual Services

During the summer, we will have special Divrei Torah offered by members of the Beth El community. The Summer Divrei Torah series begins with Adjunct Rabbi David Abramson on June 28. Other guest *darshan*im include Gabriela Helf, Toby Schonfeld, Michael Kieval, Art Popper, and more. Summer services are an informal, fun, and approachable way to do Shabbat mornings at Beth El. We encourage you to come as you are; no need to get dressed up! It's too hot for suits, so, if you like, take off your ties and leave your jackets at home!

### Torah Class Open to New Members

Taught by scholar and Religious School teacher Marilyn Fine, this class meets via Zoom Thursday mornings from 9:45-11:05 am. The class takes an in-depth look at the weekly Torah portion using both classic and contemporary texts. This is a diverse group of learners who welcome new members; no prior learning experience required. Please contact Sanford Levy at [smlevy54@gmail.com](mailto:smlevy54@gmail.com) for more information or to join us.

### Shabbat Kiddush Servers Needed

30 minutes and a smile! That's all it takes for one of the happiest mitzvot at Beth El. Serve the kiddush luncheon after b-mitzvah services on Shabbat and make sure everyone gets a warm "Shabbat Shalom" with their delicious food. Everyone 11 and older is welcome to serve. No food prep or clean up involved. For more information and to sign up visit [www.bethelmc.org/kiddush](http://www.bethelmc.org/kiddush) or contact Sue Kanter at [kanterdsw@aol.com](mailto:kanterdsw@aol.com).



### Seeking Kiddush Sponsors

Celebrate a special day, remember a loved one, or just because – sponsor a kiddush on a Shabbat/Festival morning when there is no b-mitzvah. Various menus available. For more information, please visit [bethelmc.org/kiddush](http://bethelmc.org/kiddush), email [info@bethelmc.org](mailto:info@bethelmc.org), or call 301-652-2606. At least two full weeks' advance notice of sponsorship is required.

### Finding Connections Between Food and Torah

Because life so often happens around food, Alison Baraf and Sarah Roark have been spending the year exploring the weekly parshiot and finding connections to each week's Shabbat menu in their weekly Food Tourah blog. Catch up on all of the entries you've missed at [bethelmc.org/category/food-tourah](http://bethelmc.org/category/food-tourah) and keep an eye out for the *Off the Bimah* weekly clergy newsletter to see each week's newest post.

**BEPS**  
Beth El Preschool

**WE'RE  
HIRING!**

LEAD 2s TEACHER  
AFTERCARE STAFF

Visit our website for more details:  
[www.bethelpreschool.org](http://www.bethelpreschool.org)



## CONTRIBUTIONS

Please remember that contributions can be made easily, quickly, and securely via our webpage –  
[www.bethelmc.org/give](http://www.bethelmc.org/give)

*Donations April 10 - May 13, 2025.*

### **BY:**

Samuel Fishman  
Aaron and Elise Pas  
Michael and Ilana Heintz  
Samantha and Jonathan Gordon  
Seth Stern and Claire Workman  
Carolyn Feigenbaum  
Michele D. Herman  
Joy and Ross Demain  
Adam Burns and Jacqueline Raskin-Burns  
Barbara and Douglas Rosing  
Lois Jacobs  
Ninetta Feldman  
Craig Mael  
Jeffrey and Robin Spector  
Deborah Feinstein  
Andrea and Richard Jaffe  
David Korn and Shara Aranoff  
Jon Shields  
Jeffrey and Susan Hausfeld  
Michael Harrison

### **IN HONOR OF:**

Rabbi David Abramson for all his contributions, by Rabbi Greg Harris and Sarah Roark  
Eva Weiner, my granddaughter, on her eighth birthday, by Rosine Nussenblatt  
Rachel Collares, my granddaughter, on her ninth birthday, by Rosine Nussenblatt  
Hazzan Fradkin for his leadership of the synagogue Seder, by Ina and Joe Young  
Ian Rothman on his birthday, by Tiarra Joslyn  
Ben Miller in appreciation of his leadership of the early Shabbat minyan, by Paula and Berry Friedman  
Rabbi Peter Novick in appreciation of his leadership of the early Shabbat minyan, by Paula and Berry Friedman  
Sara Gordon for her dedicated leadership as Beth El's president, by Alison Baraf and Aryeh Portnoy  
Caleb Joseph Harvey, our first grandchild, by Wendy and Steven Kaufman  
Bernice and Joel Breslau for their important letters to the editor of the *Washington Post*, by Parker O'Shea

Rabbi Harris for his kind visit and help to me in Suburban Hospital, by Parker O'Shea  
Paul Haar on my birthday, by Paul and Shannon Haar  
Rabbi Greg Harris by Penn and Sheila Chabrow, Donna Citrin  
Rabbi Greg Harris and Sarah Roark on their marriage, by Nancy and Justin Rider  
Ricardo Munster for his help as needed, by Parker O'Shea  
Sara Greenbaum for her help as needed, by Parker O'Shea  
Farah Beth Kirschbaum on becoming a bat mitzvah, by Rebecca and Mitchell Kirschbaum  
Izzy, our daughter, and McKenna's upcoming wedding, by Jeremy and Sharon Zissman

### **IN MEMORY OF:**

Family members by Mitchell and Rachelle Solkowitz  
Albert Glick, my beloved father, by Scott and Deborah Glick  
Anne Ratcliffe, my mother, by Mimi Blitz  
Carolyn Shapiro, my mother, by Sarah Shapiro  
Mario Ricardo Gleizer, father of Yoel Gleizer, by Murray and Judy Blank, Heather Garrett, Lisa Sorkin, Jonathan and Rebecca Musher Gross, Bill and Sue Kanter, Wynne and Ron Sitrin, Holly and Howie Stein, Ellen and David Epstein, Shelly and Jerry Belson, Danielle and Evan Sultan, Margi and Mark Kramer, Barry and Barbara Friedman  
Cyril Moscow by Wynne and Ron Sitrin, the Kales family  
Danielle Mentzer by Wynne and Ron Sitrin  
Charles Roessel, brother of Faith Roessel, by Parker O'Shea  
Albert Woronow, my father, by Daniel Woronow  
Elias Bezner on his yahrzeit, by Ellen and Steven Bezner  
Elise Greenwald Jacobs by Lois Jacobs  
Ellen Darr, mother of Melanie Bachrach and Jonathan Darr, by Peg and Burt Bachrach, Sue and Bill Kanter, Dale Rosenthal and Michael Cutler, Rhoda Barish and

Michael Polis, Robert and Fran Tropp, Howard, Elana, and Adam Hoffman, the Guru team, Paul and Janet Frieden, Barry and Barbara Friedman, Esther and Elliot Wilner, Sheila Bellack, Gail Fribush, Sarah and Matt Brenner, Rob Fersh and Sharon Markus, Jonathan and Rebecca Musher Gross  
Frieda Troffkin by Rhea Troffkin  
Hy Shapiro, beloved husband and father, by Barbara Shapiro and family  
Ida Cohn by Dale and Harvey Gold  
Arthur Hammer, brother of Ilene Jacobowitz, by Barry and Barbara Friedman  
Susan Reitzig, my sister, by Paul Love and Kathryn Ann Sklar  
Elaine Shalowitz by Sam Langerman  
Karen Dubin by the Litowitz family  
Lois Levy, my mother, by Jonathan Levy and Patricia Forsythe  
Louis Gernstat, my uncle, by Helen Kanovsky  
Ludwig Meyerhoff, my beloved father, by Gabriela and Leonard Bechick  
Maurice H. Kohn and Evelyn Kohn, my parents, by Parker O'Shea  
Michael Karlsberg, brother of Sheryl Karlsberg, by Heather Garrett, Sue and Bill Kanter, Wynne and Ron Sitrin, Alison Baraf and Aryeh Portnoy, Mark and Marjorie Kramer  
Minnie Nepo by Irwin Nepo  
Sidney Goldin, my beloved father, by Lynn Goldin and Henry Birnkrant  
Myra Birnkrant by Henry Birnkrant and Lynn Goldin  
Pearl Baker, my aunt, by Helen Kanovsky  
Ruth Korb by Gail Korb  
Ruth Lois Weinberger by Paul Weinberger  
Sarah Weinstein by Ina and Joe Young  
Stephen D. Sundell by Susan and Bruce Hanley  
Stuart Toledano by Alicia Toledano and Lee Shekter  
Sylvia Wolf, my mother, by Dotty Wolf and Sidney Stahl  
Danielle Mentzer, beloved sister of Heather Garrett, by Parker O'Shea

## MAZAL TOV TO:

**Lily Lewington** on her bat mitzvah on April 26. Proud parents are **John** and **Jennifer Lewington**.

**Farah Kirschbaum** her bat mitzvah on May 10. Proud parents are **Brian** and **Dalia Kirschbaum**.

**Ezekiel Rosenstein** on his bar mitzvah on May 17. Proud parents are **Joshua Rosenstein** and **Shayna Bloom**.

**Natalie Weisman** on her bat mitzvah on May 17. Proud parents are **Evan** and **Kimberly Weisman**.

**David Diaz** and **Blanca Garcia** on the birth of their daughter, **Abigail Xiomara Diaz Garcia**. Proud big brothers are **Dominic** and **Dylan**. David is Beth El's assistant facilities manager.

All Class of 2025 **high school** and **college graduates**. Beth El Religious School's **10th Grade Confirmation Class of 2025**.

June's milestone birthdays: **Annette Abrams**, **Rita Gendelman**, **Brenda Greenberg**, **Gary Greenstein**, **Carolyn Lodish**, **Irwin Nepo**, **Nathaniel Rothman**, **Lori Simon**, and **Joyce Wasserstein**.

June's milestone anniversaries: **Joel** and **Bernice Breslau** (70 years), **Marcello** and **Marilda Averbug** (55 years), **Cheryl** and **Herbert Baraf** (55 years), **Norman** and **Ellen Eule** (55 years), **Robert J.** and **Fran Rubin** (55 years), **Jerry** and **Pat Danoff** (50 years), **Kenneth** and **Dede Feinberg** (50 years), **Robert Fersh** and **Sharon Markus** (45 years), **Jonathan** and **Susan Jerison** (35 years), **Edward Mitre** and **Deborah Appelbaum** (30 years), **Opher** and **Stephanie Shweiki** (25 years), **Steven** and **Leslie Hertz** (10 years), **Jessica** and **Jeremy Gold** (5 years), and **Stephanie** and **Jordan Steinfeld** (5 years).

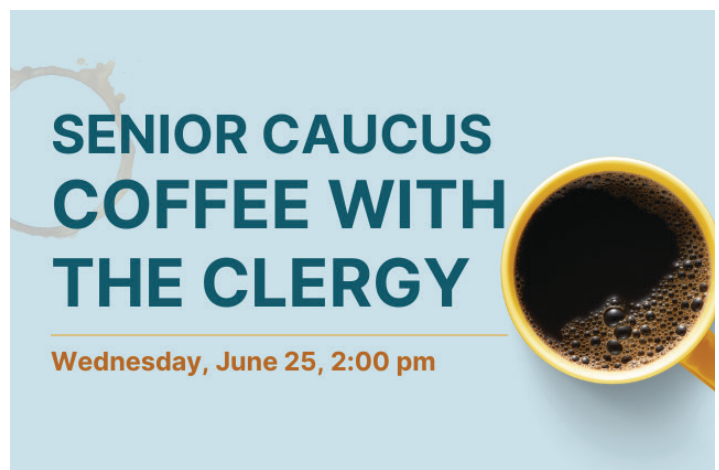
## CONDOLENCES TO:

**Yoel Gleizer** and **Yuval Ifrah** on the death of Yoel's father, **Mario Ricardo Gleizer**.

**Sheryl Karlsberg** on the death of her brother, **Michael Karlsberg**.

**Aaron** and **Elise Pas** on the death of Aaron's mother's long-term partner, **Barry Poss**. Barry was grandfather to **Lillian** and **Eric Pas**.

## SENIOR CONNECTIONS



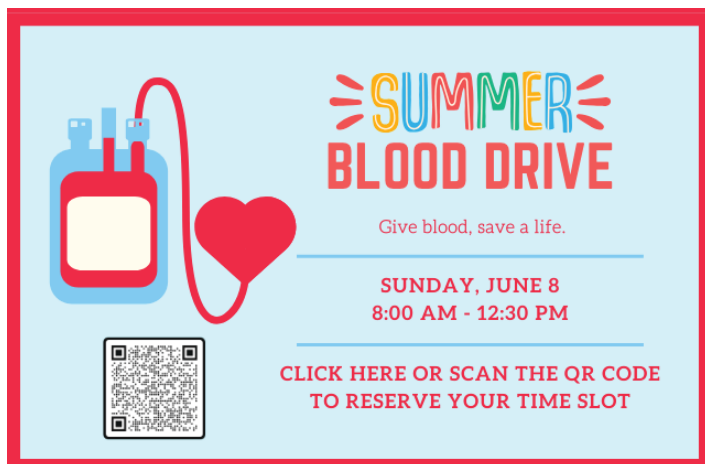
**Senior Caucus Coffee with the Clergy on Wednesday, June 25 from 2:00 to 3:00 pm.** NOTE THE NEW DATE.

This every-other-month gathering is an informal time to catch up with fellow congregants, hear updates about what is happening at Beth El and in the news, enjoy light refreshments, and do some Jewish learning together. Hazzan Fradkin will join us and share some of his favorite Jewish music. Please register at [bethelmc.org/coffee-0625](https://bethelmc.org/coffee-0625).

**Senior Groups and Shir Yachad: Friday, June 6, 6:00 pm.** Enjoy a Shir Yachad sing-a-long Shabbat hosted by our many senior groups at Beth El. Everyone is welcome!

We are also looking forward to hearing Shir Atid, one of our musical choirs, led by Hazan Fradkin. A light dinner will be served at 6:00 pm, followed by services at 7:00 pm. Dinner is \$18 per member family and \$25 for non-member families. Registration is required by noon on Wednesday, June 4, at [bethelmc.org/shir-yachad-0606](https://bethelmc.org/shir-yachad-0606). No registration required if you would like to join us for the service only.

**Senior Shabbat Dinner and Friday Night Service, July 11, 5:15 pm.** All congregants are invited to join the Senior Caucus for Shabbat dinner, followed by services at 6:30, and an oneg. Greet the Sabbath with your Beth El community. You'll be home before dark! Registration deadline for dinner is noon on Wednesday, July 9. Register at [bethelmc.org/dinner-0711](https://bethelmc.org/dinner-0711).



## Find Beth El on Social Media



[fb.me/congregation.beth.el](https://fb.me/congregation.beth.el)



[x.com/bethelmoco](https://x.com/bethelmoco)



[instagram.com/bethelmoco](https://instagram.com/bethelmoco)



[youtube.com/BethElMC](https://youtube.com/BethElMC)