



CONGREGATION BETH EL SCROLL

APRIL 2025 • NISAN - IYAR 5785

VOL. 74 NO. 8

TABLE OF CONTENTS

From the Clergy • 1

Shabbat and Passover
Service Information • 2

Monthly Programming • 3

Passover • 4

Kol Haneshama Service
with Speaker • 5

Conversation with Nova
Festival Survivor • 6

Beth El Night at the
Festival 2025 • 6

Israel@77 • 7

The Future of Passover • 8

Good Deeds Day • 9

Middah of the Month • 9

Beth El Preschool • 10

Beth El Religious School •
10

Israel in Focus • 11

Women of Beth El • 12

Men's Club • 12

Books & Beyond • 13

Community
Announcements • 14

Contributions • 15

Bulletin Board • 16

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

From the Beth El Clergy

FREEDOM TO VOTE

BY RABBI DEBORAH MEGDAL



If you ask our youngest Religious School students "Why do we celebrate Passover?" they might start by singing the refrain: "frogs here, frogs there, frogs are jumping everywhere!" – a popular children's song about Pharaoh and the apparently hilarious second plague. But I assure you that if you nudge them to be serious, they will answer something like: "because we were slaves in Egypt, and God took us to freedom."

Their simple answer is more nuanced than it appears. The child references two different freedoms: 1) freedom *from* slavery, and 2) freedom *to* start a new life in the Promised Land. Philosophers make a similar distinction. According to *The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, "negative liberty is the absence of obstacles, barriers or constraints" while "positive liberty is the possibility of acting ... in such a way as to take control of one's life and realize one's fundamental purposes."

Our Passover story reminds us to protect both "negative liberty" or "freedom *from*," as well as "positive liberty" or "freedom *to*." Even as we defend against modern Pharaohs, we must look to the Promised Land. For example, in the United States, we Jews fight for reproductive freedom – freedom *from* a distinctly Christian definition of life at conception, and freedom *to*

practice our Jewish religion, which defines life as beginning at birth and requires us to prioritize the health of the pregnant person. To learn more or to make a Passover donation to our partners at the Red Tent Fund (a Jewish abortion fund): <https://www.theredtentfund.org>.

As Jews, we have spent the past 18 months in a defensive posture as a people – protecting the lives of Jews in Israel and fighting against antisemitism globally. But if we don't

also rebuild to focus on positive liberties, we will not truly be *b'nei chorin* (free people). In other words, *who are we free to become?*

This spring, American Jews have an unusually impactful opportunity to vote in the 2025 U.S. Election for the 38th World Zionist Congress. The 152 elected delegates from the United States will join delegates from Israel and

around the world at the international "parliament of the people" in October, where they will set policy and allocate over \$1 billion annually over the next 5 years.

According to Yizhar Hess, vice chairman of the World Zionist Organization and representative of Mercaz, the slate of the global Masorti/Conservative Movement: "We are talking about the budgets of three significant national institutions... Just as an example, JNF-KKL owns approximately 13% of the land in Israel, generating an annual budget that is larger than what all the Jewish Federations in North



RABBI MEGDAL'S "I VOTED" STICKER FOR THE 2025 WORLD ZIONIST CONGRESS

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

SCROLL

8215 OLD GEORGETOWN ROAD
BETHESDA, MARYLAND 20814-1451
Phone 301-652-2606 Fax 301-907-8559
Web www.bethelmc.org

*Affiliated with United Synagogue
of Conservative Judaism*

SENIOR RABBI

Gregory Harris gharris@bethelmc.org

ASSOCIATE RABBI

Deborah Megdal dmegdal@bethelmc.org

HAZZAN

Asa Fradkin afradkin@bethelmc.org

CLERGY EMERITI

Rabbi Samuel Scolnic z"l

Rabbi William Rudolph z"l

Hazzan Abraham Lubin salubin1@verizon.net

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Heather Garrett hgarrett@bethelmc.org

EDUCATION DIRECTOR

Elisha Frumkin efrumkin@bethelmc.org

PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR

Lauren Hirt lhirt@bethelmc.org

PRESCHOOL CURRICULUM DIRECTOR

Ali Lackey alackey@bethelmc.org

DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

Lisa Zimmerman lzimmerman@bethelmc.org

BETH EL BOARD

PRESIDENT

Sara Gordon saragordon18@gmail.com

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

Sam Boxerman sam.boxerman@gmail.com

ADMINISTRATIVE VICE PRESIDENT

Jim Gelb jamesmgelb@gmail.com

COMMUNICATIONS VICE PRESIDENT

Hillary Berman hillary.s.berman@gmail.com

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT VICE PRESIDENT

Susan Jerison sjerison@gmail.com

DEVELOPMENT VICE PRESIDENT

Judy Slotnik judyumass@aol.com

EDUCATION AND LIFELONG LEARNING VICE PRESIDENT

Josh Rosenstein joshua.rosenstein@gmail.com

TIKKUN OLAM VICE PRESIDENT

Alana Aronin abaroin@gmail.com

WORSHIP AND SPIRITUALITY VICE PRESIDENT

Samantha Bender drsbender@gmail.com

TREASURER

Jeff Grill jeffrey.grill@pillsburylaw.com

SECRETARY

Edoardo Kulp emkulp@gmail.com

For a full list of clergy, staff, and board members,
visit bethelmc.org.

SCROLL COMMITTEE scroll@bethelmc.org

Julie Kennon, *editor*. Hillary Berman, Davida Kales,
Janet Meyers, Larry Sidman, Seth Stern, 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, Tuesday, Thursday 7:30 am and 8:00 pm
Wednesday 7:30 am and 8:20 pm*
Friday 7:30 am and 6:30 pm**

*Evening Minyan is at 8:20 pm on Wednesdays when the Rabbi Samuel Scolnic Adult Institute is in session.

**There is no 6:30 pm service on evenings with musical Shabbat services (*Shir Yachad*).

SHABBAT AND PASSOVER SCHEDULE

Friday, April 4

6:00 pm Shir Yachad Dinner

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

Saturday, April 5

7:30 am Early Shabbat Service

9:15 am Main Shabbat Service - Lillian Pas Bat Mitzvah

9:30 am Junior Congregation

9:30 am Minyan Ruach

Thursday, April 10

7:15 am: Siyyum for the First Born

Friday, April 11

6:30 pm Friday Evening Shabbat Service

Saturday, April 12 - Shabbat HaGadol

7:30 am Early Shabbat Service

9:15 am Main Shabbat Service

6:30 pm: Festival Evening Service - Zoom only

Sunday, April 13 - Passover Day 1

Schools closed.

9:15 am: Festival Morning Service

6:30 pm: Festival Evening Service

7:00 pm: Second Night Seder

Monday, April 14 - Passover Day 2

Schools and offices closed.

9:15 am: Festival Morning Service

Friday, April 18 - Passover Day 6

6:30 pm Erev Shabbat and Festival Evening Service

7:30 pm Café Pesach

Saturday, April 19 - Passover Day 7

9:15 am: Festival Morning Service

6:30 pm: Festival Evening Service - Zoom only

Sunday, April 20 - Passover Day 8

Schools closed.

7:15 am: Early Festival Morning Service (Yizkor)

9:15 am: Festival Morning Service (Yizkor)

12:30 pm: Support After Loss

Friday, April 25

6:30 pm Kol Haneshama Friday Evening Service

7:30 pm NuBEENS and Kol Haneshama Shabbat Dinner

Saturday, April 26

7:30 am Early Shabbat Service

9:15 am Main Shabbat Service - Lily Lewington Bat Mitzvah

9:30 am Junior Congregation

Unless otherwise indicated, all services are available to attend in person or watch online at bethelmc.org/watch-live. For more information on Beth El's Shabbat services and daily minyanim, please visit bethelmc.org/services.

MONTHLY PROGRAMMING HIGHLIGHTS

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

April Events at Beth El

Connect

Apr. 1
7:00 pm

Jews & Brews

Join Rabbi Harris at World of Beer for schmoozing and light Jewish learning.



Apr. 3
7:30 pm

Hearing Men's Voices

"When Bad News Turns Out To Be Good" discussion with Martin Sieff.



Apr. 6
12:00 pm

Tzelem LGBTQ+ Teen Group

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



Apr. 10
7:30 pm

Kesher Nashim

Women's cancer support group for cancer patients and survivors, via Zoom.



Apr. 16
2:00 pm

Coffee with the Clergy

"Torah and Liberty" conversation with Rabbi Megdal to coincide with Passover.



Apr. 20
12:30 pm

Support After Loss

A brief teaching and discussion with Rabbi Harris.



Apr. 27
10:30 am

College Parent Event

Open to parents of high school seniors and college-aged students.



Learn

Apr. 3
7:30 pm

Women's Study Circle

Sarah Roark and Amanda Ford lead a discussion on death and mourning.



Apr. 6
10:00 am

Conversation with Nova Survivor

Join us for a conversation with Nova Festival survivor Gal Bukshpan.



Apr. 26
12:30 pm

Living in Israel: Stories of Aliyah

Join us for a panel featuring family members of those who've made Aliyah.



Find out more and sign up to participate at
bethelmc.org/events

Pray

Apr. 4
6:00 pm

Young Families Shabbat

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



April 4
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.



Apr. 13
7:00 pm

Second Night Seder

Congregational Seder led by Hazzan Asa Fradkin. \$60/member, \$18/child.



Apr. 18
6:30 pm

Café Pesach

Services at 6:30 pm followed by kosher-for-Passover Shabbat dinner.



Apr. 25
6:30 pm

Kol Hanesama Musical Shabbat

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



Engage

Apr. 6
8:00 am

Blood Drive

Donate blood and help save lives.



Apr. 6
2:00 pm

Making Kids Snack Packs

Make snack packs for families served by Bethesda Help. Families welcome!



Apr. 10
7:00 pm

Volunteering at Manna

Sort non-perishable food at Manna's warehouse in Gaithersburg. Ages 11+.



Apr. 22
7:00 pm

Yom HaShoah: Next Gen

Join BERS to hear "2G" (second generation) Holocaust testimony.



Apr. 27
11:00 am

Yom Ha'Atzmaut Zimriyah

Celebrate Israel Independence Day with music, spirit, and community.



Apr. 30
7:00 pm

Open Conversations About Israel

Join Rabbi Harris for safe, open, and nuanced conversation about Israel.



Pesach Yizkor Book Listing

Our Pesach Yizkor Book will be available at both of the morning Festival services on Sunday, April 20.

Please complete and mail the form below without delay. Please **PRINT** or **TYPE** the form to avoid errors. **You can also update your listing at www.bethelmc.org/yizkor.**

I/We are enclosing a contribution to Congregation Beth El of \$_____

Please check one:

- ☐ I/We would like to use the same listing(s) from the 2024 Yom Kippur Yizkor Book.
- ☐ I/We did not have a listing in the 2024 Yom Kippur Yizkor Book. Please include the names listed below in the Pesach Yizkor Book.
- ☐ I/We had a listing in the 2024 Yom Kippur Yizkor Book and would like to have that listing plus the following names:

In Memory Of _____

Remembered By

Name _____

Phone _____

Please return this form by noon on Friday, April 11.

Pesach (Passover) Guidelines

Passover begins on the evening of Saturday, April 12. The Rabbinical Assembly Committee on Jewish Law and Standards has published an outline of the policies and procedures relevant to the preparation of a kosher-for-Passover home. This guide is intended to help families maintain a kosher for Pesach home in accordance with the principles of Conservative Judaism and its understanding of Jewish Law. Visit **www.rabbinicalassembly.org/pesah-guide** to see the guide. If you have any questions, please consult with Rabbi Harris or Rabbi Megdal.

Siyyum for the Firstborn

The annual Siyyum for the Firstborn will be held on **Thursday, April 10, at 7:15 am**. Morning Minyan will include a brief study session so that the firstborn can eat that day, and a special breakfast honoring our firstborn will follow.

Congregational Seder

The Congregational Seder, conducted by Hazzan Fradkin, will be held on **Sunday, April 13, at 7:00 pm** in the Bender Social Hall.

I/We would like to make the following reservations:

_____ Adults and Teens @ \$60	\$_____
_____ Nonmember Adults and Teens @ \$80	\$_____
_____ Children 2-12 @ \$18	\$_____
_____ Children under 2	no charge

Total Due \$ _____

Family Name(s) _____

Email _____

Number of vegan entrees _____

Food Allergies _____

Please try to seat us/me with _____

Reservations must be accompanied by a check and sent to Beth El, Attn: Seder **or register online at bethelmc.org/seder-5785**. Reservations are due by **Tuesday, April 8**, or the first 150 people, whichever comes first.

No refunds or phone reservations!

Selling of the Chametz

During the week of Passover, it is forbidden, according to Jewish tradition, to eat chametz or even to own the chametz that has been put away in your home. Therefore, we annually observe the custom of *Mechirat Chametz*, selling the chametz to someone who is not bound by Jewish law. If you would like to have Rabbi Harris sell your chametz, please mail this form so that it is received by 9:00 am on Friday, April 11, or drop it off in the main office prior to that time. **Fill the form out online at www.bethelmc.org/chametz.**

I, _____, hereby authorize Rabbi Greg Harris to sell my chametz before Passover on Friday, April 11, according to Jewish law.

Signature _____

Address _____

☐ I enclose a donation for *Maot Chittim*, feeding the hungry. Please make checks payable to Congregation Beth El.

Café Pesach

Tired of eating in every night of the holiday?

Come enjoy a delicious meal at Beth El on Friday, April 18.

Friday evening services at 6:30 pm with dinner to follow.

Register online at bethelmc.org/cafe-pesach.

Friday Night Kol Haneshamah Service Followed by Human Rights Talk with Jared Genser

BY LAURA NADEL

Join us on Friday, April 25 at 6:30 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.

This lay-led service blends tradition and creativity, drawing on contemporary and innovative Jewish music from around the world, including from B'nai Jeshurun and Romemu in New York, and Shira Chadasha and Nava Tehila in Jerusalem.

Following the service, there will be a Shabbat dinner. Although the Shabbat dinner is sponsored by NuBeens, Beth El's empty nesters' group, it's open to everyone. Registration is required for the dinner (see ad on this page for more info) but not to attend the service.

GUEST SPEAKER JARED GENSER

After dinner, Beth El congregant and international human rights attorney Jared Genser will discuss the ways in which neurotechnology has the potential to change what it means to be human. He will also share a Jewish perspective on the unique human rights challenges posed by neurotechnologies. Jared serves as special advisor on the Responsibility to Protect to the Organization of American States and is managing director of Perseus Strategies, a law firm that provides legal advisory services to companies, non-profit organizations, individuals, and governments.

SAVE THE DATES

Friday, May 30 at 6:30 pm: Service with dinner hosted by Women of Beth El to follow, with speaker Nedra Pickler, longtime and former *Associated Press* journalist.

Friday, June 27, 7:00 pm: Kol Haneshamah Service and Discussion: The magical intersection between Judaism and author Michelle Brafman's approach to reading, writing, and teaching fiction. ■

FROM THE CLERGY CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

America raise together... This is money that belongs to the entire Jewish people." (*Times of Israel* 2/11/25).

Vote for freedom *from* antisemitism, religious extremism, and discrimination. Vote for freedom *to* rebuild in the aftermath of October 7, uphold democracy and civil rights, and preserve a pluralistic Jewish society.

I voted today. **You can vote from March 10 to May 4.** Registration is quick and easy. There is a \$5 administrative fee. To be eligible, you must: be Jewish (and not subscribe to another religion); be 18 years or older by June 30, 2025; be a U.S. citizen or a legal permanent resident in the U.S.; maintain your primary residence in the U.S.; accept the Jerusalem Program (the Zionist movement platform); have not voted in the November 2022 Knesset election (and will not vote in any future Knesset election which may be held prior to July 28, 2025). Vote here: zionistelection.org.



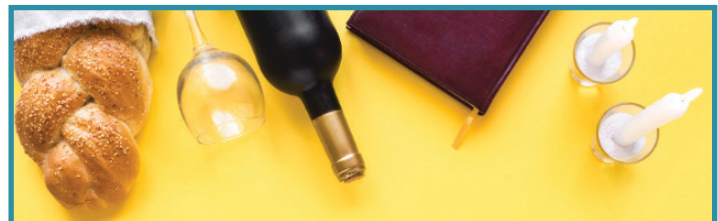
Kol Haneshamah

Friday Night Musical Service

Friday, April 25
6:30 pm at Beth El



LIVESTREAM SCREEN CAPTURE OF SCOTT GLICK LEADING PRAYERS DURING THE FEBRUARY KOL HANESHAMAH SERVICE



NuBEENS Shabbat Dinner

Friday, April 25, 7:30 pm

Join NuBEENS on Friday, April 25, for Shabbat dinner. Dinner will take place at approximately 7:30 pm, after the Kol Haneshamah Friday Night Musical Service concludes.

Cost: \$22 per member adult/teen, \$27 for non-members, \$15 for children 6-12, \$10 for children 2-5, and free for children under 2. Member family household max is \$60. Please register at bethelmc.org/nubeens-0425 by 3:00 pm on Wednesday, April 23.

Conversation with Nova Festival Survivor Gal Bukshpan

Conversation with Nova Festival Survivor Gal Bukshpan

Sunday, April 6
10:00 am at Congregation Beth El
Following the Men's Club Breakfast



On October 7, 2023, Gal Bukshpan was attending the Nova Music Festival with friends when Hamas gunmen launched their deadly attack. He will share his harrowing experience and the split-second decisions that enabled him to survive the massacre. After Bukshpan recounts his experience that day, he will discuss his decision to join a lawsuit in U.S. Federal court against Iran, Syria, and North Korea to hold them accountable for their role in the largest antisemitic attack since the Holocaust.

At the end of Bukshpan's presentation, congregant Aryeh Portnoy – who represents Bukshpan and nearly 200 other victims of the October 7 attack in partnership with the ADL and Israeli Counsel – will provide a brief overview of the lawsuit and the victims' path for justice and will be available for questions.

Register to attend at bethelmc.org/conversation-0406. ■

What's My Story?

On Sunday, March 2, Beth El fourth graders participated in the What's My Story? program. After the BERS Shacharit service, students learned about the Torah and then went on a parsha scavenger hunt to receive their b-mitzvah date and Torah portion.



Beth El Night at the Festival 2025

One of the highlights of the year is almost here. The Edlavitch DCJCC's JxJ: DC Jewish Film and Music Festival begins on May 8 and runs through May 18. Once again, Beth El has a special opportunity.

Starting now through April 30, tickets for the opening night presentation of *Bad Shabbos* at Landmark Bethesda Row are reserved exclusively for Beth El members. Join your Beth El friends and community on Thursday, May 8, at 7:30 pm, for this special screening of *Bad Shabbos*, winner of the top audience prize at the Tribeca Film Festival. This darkly hilarious, highly entertaining, one-night-in-New-York story turns a Shabbat family dinner into a chaotic whirlwind they will never forget.

Kyra Sedgwick shines as the neurotic matriarch, leading an outstanding ensemble cast that includes Method Man, Milana Vayntrub, Catherine

Curtin, and more familiar faces. The film's rapid-fire dialogue, twisty script, and masterful editing keep the chaotic momentum going, delivering pure comedic gold. With its blend of family antics, sharp humor, and a warm heart, *Bad Shabbos* is a charmingly modern screwball comedy that brilliantly captures the hilarity and madness of one family's unforgettable Shabbat.

Don't miss this chance to be part of the second annual Beth El Night at JxJ. Last year, Beth El members filled the theater, and we hope to do the same this year!

Tickets are \$14 each for Beth El members, or included with your JxJ pass if you are a festival pass holder.

Purchase your tickets for the May 8 showing of *Bad Shabbos* at Landmark's

Bethesda Row at bethelmc.org/film-0508. ■





BETH EL CELEBRATES ISRAEL @ 77



Yom Hashoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day), Yom HaZikaron (Israeli Memorial Day), and Yom Ha'Atzmaut (Israeli Independence Day) all take place at the end of April this year. There will be several events at Beth El to help you engage and connect with these holidays and share your love of Israel.

JOIN US FOR ANY OR ALL OF THESE ACTIVITIES:



"KALANIYOT BEFORE THE RAIN" YOM HAZIKARON MEMORIAL WALL - APRIL 24 - MAY 5

In honor of Yom HaZikaron (Israeli Memorial Day), our shaliach Yoel Gleizer will bring an art installation of kalaniyot flowers to Beth El. From April 24 to May 5, Yoel will lead memorial experiences with community members of all ages, from our Religious School to adults, on themes of *zikaron* (remembrance), *tikvah* (hope), and *tekuma* (rebuilding).



YOM HASHOAH: NEXT GEN - TUESDAY, APRIL 22, 7:00-8:00 PM

In commemoration of Yom HaShoah, adults are invited to join our older Religious School students to hear "2G" (second generation) Holocaust testimony from our own Beth El member Sharon Pohoryles. Sharon is a speaker trained by JCRC's Maggid program. Sharon's father, Lou Pohoryles, was born in 1937 in Lwow, Poland (now Lviv, Ukraine). In 1939, when Germany invaded Poland, he was just two years old. He spent most of the war – from age four or five years old until he was 8 years old – pre-tending he was a Polish Catholic child. By the end of the war, he was hiding "in plain sight" in Germany. Go to bethelmc.org/yom-hashoah to register.



LIVING IN ISRAEL: STORIES OF ALIYAH - SATURDAY, APRIL 26, 12:30-1:30 PM

Darkon Yisrae'eli means an "Israeli passport." Many Beth El-ers have moved to Israel over the years. Join us for a panel of Beth El families who have a loved one who made Aliyah. They will reflect on the good, the anxious, and the proud of their family members' move to Israel. RSVP at bethelmc.org/aliyah-0226.



YOM HA'ATZMAUT ZIMRIYAH - SUNDAY, APRIL 27, 11:00-11:30 AM

Celebrate Israel's Independence Day with a heartwarming morning of music, spirit, and community! Our zimriyah will bring together children from kindergarten to fifth grade to perform beloved Israeli classics – songs filled with joy, energy, and deep connection to Israel. Everyone in the community is invited to join in on the fun and singalong with us. RSVP at bethelmc.org/zimriyah-0427.



OPEN CONVERSATIONS ABOUT ISRAEL - WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30, 7:00 PM

Join fellow Beth El members in a safe, open, and nuanced conversation surrounding Israel. This ongoing space allows people to share their love, struggles, and connections with Israel. Go to bethelmc.org/conversations-0430 to register.



YOM HA'ATZMAUT CONCERT WITH MICHA BITON - THURSDAY, MAY 1, 7:00 PM

Join us at B'nai Israel (6301 Montrose Road, Rockville) for a special Yom Ha'Atzmaut concert co-sponsored by Beth El, B'nai Israel, and B'nai Tzedek. The cost is \$18 for adults and \$10 for kids 12 and under. Go to bnaiisraelcong.org/event/yomhaatzmaut2025 for more information and to register.



DOR L'DOR - FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION - THURSDAY, MAY 8, 11:45 AM

Adults and kids will enjoy lunch, have a chance to talk, and join together for fun Yom Ha'Atzmaut activities planned by the BEPS staff. Go to bethelmc.org/dor-l-dor-0508 for more info and to register.

The Future Passover

BY ELLIOT WILNER

"Chazal" (a transliterated Hebrew acronym, meaning "our sages of blessed memory") considered Pesach in several lights, most notably as: (a) "*Pesach Mitzraim*," that singular historical event, or series of events, that occurred in Egypt around 3,200 years ago; (b) "*Pesach dorot*," the commemoration and celebration of the historical Pesach, which we observe every year; and (c) "*Pesach le'atid la'vo*," the "Future Pesach," the coming of a new world order – of course referring to the Messianic Age – which will be announced by the appearance, coincident with Pesach, of the Prophet Elijah.

In our own day, in our own country, there is very little attention paid (except in Orthodox circles) to "*Pesach le'atid la'vo*," to something beyond our own experience, i.e., to the Messianic Age. American Jews in the 20th and 21st centuries – again excepting the Orthodox – haven't had much motivation for dwelling upon a Messianic Age, because the age in which we have lived has been pretty good to us. But you can bet that for 2000 years the "*Pesach le'atid la'vo*" was very much on the minds of the people attending a seder – because their existence was often as precarious as had been that of the Israelites in Egypt, and those people were praying for deliverance much as the Israelites had prayed. Their minds were not focused much on philosophical issues or other people's quest for national self-determination – they didn't have that luxury. And that is why the Haggadah that we read is replete with Messianic references, some obvious, some allusive. (Likewise, the haftarah from Malachi 3 that we read on the Shabbat preceding Pesach – "Shabbat ha'Gadol" – was chosen because of its allusion to a Messianic Age.)

Let's begin our survey of Messianic references to Passover by looking at the previously mentioned passage in Malachi, verses 23-24 of Chapter 3: Here there is a clear reference to "the coming of a great and awesome day of the Lord," which is linked to a visitation of the prophet Elijah. There is not, in this passage, any explicit mention of a Messiah or a Messianic Age, nor is there any reference to Passover. Malachi prophesied in the fifth century BCE, two or three centuries before the concept of a Moshiach-ben-David or a Messianic Age had become part of Jewish folklore. But there can be little doubt that "a great and awesome day" refers to some apocalyptic or eschatological event, which would eventually be identified with the coming of the Messiah. And the association of the Messiah with Passover would, like-

wise, become part of Jewish folklore only centuries later, when Rabbi Joshua predicted (in a midrash, Mekhilta Pisha 14), "On this night (i.e., Passover) they were rescued, and on this night they are destined to be rescued."

And how did the prophet Elijah come to play a role in the Messianic tradition, as the herald who would announce the arrival of the Messiah? Well, no one could have been better qualified for the job than Elijah.

He possessed two attributes that made him uniquely qualified: He was known to work miracles, and he departed this earth without dying. (Moses, of course, produced a few miracles in his time, but he died; Enoch did not die, but he was not a miracle worker.) Furthermore, Elijah was by far the most charismatic of all the prophets and the most beloved in Jewish folklore: Numerous stories about Elijah – and his ability to work miracles – would be told and retold over the course of many centuries.

What is the origin of the Cup of Elijah, which is featured so prominently in our Haggadah? Does this, in some sense, constitute a fifth cup? What is the connection between the cup of wine that we pour for Elijah and the curses that we invoke upon the people who have "devastated Jacob"?

This ritual was introduced into the seder and the Haggadah in the 12th century CE, in the wake of the First Crusade's carnage, when the hopes of Jews in the Rhineland for the Messiah's arrival were most fervent. And the imprecations that they uttered against their destroyers were heartfelt. Note that the ritual of Elijah's Cup is not accompanied by any text referencing Elijah; only the imprecations are recorded in the Haggadah. But there is an implied reference to Elijah – Elijah the herald of the Messiah, ushering in an age when all evil and all evil-doers (especially enemies of the Jews) will be banished from the world. Elijah's Cup also reminds of Elijah the mediator, who will resolve all disputes (including the dispute about the number of cups of wine to be consumed at a seder.)

If, after the door is opened, we should observe that some of the wine has been consumed, then we know that the arrival of the Messiah is imminent and we should all consume a fifth cup of wine! (Also note that the Sephardim do not include the Cup of Elijah in their seder; but they do welcome Elijah during the recitation of Hallel, when they chant the verse "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord...") ■





Let's Do Good Together!

There are several different ways to get involved in tikkun olam at Beth El. Please join us for any or all of these projects and help make a difference in our community!

Waterway Clean Up

Join Bender JCC of Greater Washington, our local synagogue communities, and Repair the Sea for the first Bedikat HaMayim™ International Pre-Passover waterfront cleanup on **Sunday, March 30, 1:00-3:00 pm**. This project is appropriate for ages four and up. For more information and to sign up, go to bit.ly/4ip8Jl4.



Blood Drive

An Inova mobile donation center will be available in the parking lot on **Sunday, April 6, 8:00 am to 12:30 pm**. To schedule your appointment, visit bit.ly/CBE0416. For assistance, contact Jack Ventura at jack.ventura@verizon.net.



Making Kids' Snack Packs

Join Women of Beth El on **Sunday, April 6, 2:00-3:30 pm** to assemble kids' snack packs for families served by Bethesda Help. All participants are welcome, including children and teens. All materials will be provided by Women of Beth El. Register at bethelmc.org/packs-0406.



Food Sorting at Manna Food Center

Help sort food donations at Manna Food Center in Gaithersburg on **Thursday, April 10, 7:00 pm**. Open to the Beth El community. This is a great way for parents to engage with kids 11+ in doing community service. For more information or to register, contact Jonathan Epstein at jonathan.epstein@hklaw.com. (SSL hours are available).



Crochet or Knit Soap Sacks

Use cotton or bamboo yarn to craft soap bags to be distributed to women in need at Interfaith Works Women's Center in Rockville. For more information and to get patterns, please contact Heather Janssen at heathergjanssen@gmail.com - or join us at Beth El for one of upcoming crafting meetings: **Wednesdays, April 9 and 16, 7:00 pm** and **Mondays, April 21 and 28, 1:00 pm**.



Middah of the Month: Acharayut (Responsibility)

BY EDUCATION DIRECTOR ELISHA FRUMKIN

Acharayut (אֲחָרַיּוּת) means "responsibility." This is certainly a core Jewish value. Indeed, every commandment is seen in Jewish tradition as an expectation on God's part, an action (or inaction) for the performance of which God holds us responsible. In fact, the very term Bar or Bat Mitzvah means the age of responsibility for fulfillment of the commandments.

Since the value *acharayut* may be applied to any mitzvah, it overlaps with many other Middot of the Month, particularly those dealing with caring for others or for the world around us. It especially relates to the middah of *manhigut* (leadership), for often, one who feels responsible for accomplishing a particular goal assumes a leadership position towards that end. Conversely, one who occupies a position of leadership should feel a sense of *acharayut* to the group or mission. In fact, one understanding of the etymology of the word *acharayut*, is that its root is *acher* (אֲחֵר), or "other," pointing to the idea that responsibility means being answerable to

another person. (In truth, this is also the real meaning of the English word. Literally, a responsible person is one who is "response-able.") Another interpretation is that the word derives from *achar* (אֲחֵר) which means "after." This etymology would imply that the essence of responsibility is in being concerned about what comes after an action, the consequences of that deed.

In Pirkei Avot, two famous sages spoke about *acharayut*. Hillel said, "In a place where there is no man, strive to be a man." (2:6) Rabbi Tarfon said, "It is not your obligation to complete the task, but nor are you free from trying." (2:16)

Thus, our tradition teaches that one must be prepared to step up to a task that needs to be done, even though some tasks may be too extensive for one to complete in the given time. This may be applied to tasks both great and small, and bears a close relationship with the concept of tikkun olam, the repair or correction of the world. ■

Celebrating Passover with Beth El Preschool

BY PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR LAUREN HIRT

In Preschool, learning about and celebrating Passover is a three-week-long adventure! Our preschoolers learn the story of Passover through books, music, and storytelling. They are introduced to the story of Passover starting at age two, and each year they learn more and more. We teach the children that the story of Passover took place “a very, very, very, very, very, very long time ago and that the Jewish people were slaves in Egypt but were brought out of Egypt into Israel by Moses.” Our preschoolers also learn that to celebrate our freedom from slavery, Jewish people all over the world participate in Passover seders. In the 2s classes, the children begin to learn the items on the Seder plate. They play with toy Seder plates and sing songs about building cities. In the 3s classes, the children create their very own Seder plates, build cities out of blocks, and create afikomen pouches. And in our Pre-K classes, the children create additional special items for their Seders at home,



LEFT: A BEPS STUDENT PAINTS PICTURES OF SEDER PLATE ITEMS.



RIGHT: BEPS CHILDREN SEARCH FOR PIECES OF MATZAH IN THE SYNAGOGUE.

including Elijah’s Cup and Miriam’s Cup. Their learning culminates in a model Seder at school, where they gather together telling the Passover story, reciting The Four Questions, and tasting Passover foods. ■



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

Enrollment for the 2025-2026 school year is underway!

Call or email to set up a personalized tour:

(301) 652-2606 ext. 107 ~ preschoolinfo@bethelmc.org



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



Beth El Preschool is hiring for the Summer!

Is your teen or college student looking for a fun and meaningful job this summer? BEPS is looking for CITs and Teacher Aides to work in our preschool summer program!

CITs: Rising 7th-12th graders who have a positive attitude, are enthusiastic about having fun and playing with young children, enjoy working with other teens, and can take direction from supervisors and act responsibly.

Teacher Aides: College students or recent grads who meet the above CIT qualifications plus have experience working with young children and have completed coursework in education, psychology, child/human development or another related field.

For more details or to apply:

www.bethelpreschool.org/summer



BETH EL RELIGIOUS SCHOOL AND BETH EL YOUTH



THE RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FOURTH AND FIFTH GRADE RETREAT AT CAPITAL CAMPS TOOK PLACE FRIDAY, MARCH 14 THROUGH SUNDAY, MARCH 16. ALONG WITH SHABBAT SERVICES, STUDENTS PARTICIPATED IN A VARIETY OF CAMP ACTIVITIES LIKE A ROPES COURSE AND MAC-CABIAH COLOR WAR, ALONG WITH WEAVING BLANKETS (LEFT) AND PLAYING CHESS (RIGHT).

Israel in Focus

Vote for Your Vision of Israel

BY LARRY SIDMAN WITH KAREN BENEZRA

At the first World Zionist Congress in November 1897, Theodor Herzl proclaimed his vision for the reestablishment of the State of Israel as a homeland for the Jewish people. Fifty years later, on November 29, 1947, the United Nations voted to partition the mandate of Palestine into a Jewish state and an Arab state, paving the way for fulfillment of Herzl's dream.

Six months later, the modern State of Israel declared its independence. Today, as we approach the 77th anniversary of Israel's independence, global Jewry faces physical threats, psychological trauma, and philosophical and moral dilemmas reminiscent of the turbulent times that impelled Herzl to implore the first World Zionist Congress to act boldly. Israel faces an existential threat from Iran, which is on the verge of becoming a nuclear weapons state publicly committed to Israel's destruction. Israel is fighting a nine-front war against Iran and its proxies, similarly committed to Israel's annihilation.

Our Israeli brothers and sisters remain traumatized by Hamas' barbaric attack on October 7, 2023, which killed more Jews in any one day than at any time since the Holocaust. Hostages still remaining captive in Gaza more than 500 days later. Jews in the United States and Europe confront a pincer movement of antizionism on the far left and more traditional antisemitism on the far right, manifesting itself in harassment, intimidation and violence, especially on university campuses. Israeli, American, and European Jews are deeply divided and profoundly concerned about the policies and direction of the current government in Israel.

Against this background, we are searching for ways to become more engaged with Israel and to have a voice in its present and its future. The World Zionist Congress, meeting every five years, affords us precisely that opportunity. We can vote right now until May 4 in the elections for the 39th World Zionist Congress that will convene at the end of October. By doing so, we can elect representatives reflecting our values, beliefs, and aspirations for the State of Israel and having real world impact on how more than \$1 Billion USD will be allocated to Israeli institutions, NGOs, and supporting movements.

The upcoming World Zionist Congress will have 200 seats reserved for Israeli representatives, 152 seats for American Jewry and 173 for the rest of Diaspora Jewry. There are a record 22 slates running for election to

represent American Jews. They span the religious and ideological spectrum from ultra-Orthodox, such as Eretz Hakodesh, to left leaning slates such as the AID Coalition and ANU, A New Union, focused on opposition to the Netanyahu government. The Conservative Movement, of which Congregation Beth El is a member, has its own slate, Mercaz, as does the Reform Movement.

"The Congress decides how funds are spent," said Tammy Gottlieb, vice chair of Women of the Wall, and member of the World Zionist Organization Executive representing the global Conservative/Masorti Movement, at a local gathering on March 18. "Last year, the Conservative Movement received funding for Ramah camps and to increase Jewish and Zionist education at congregations in the US."

Gottlieb, who has spent her career advocating for religious freedom and social action, noted that Herzl had always envisioned Israel as an "egalitarian, liberal" nation, and "as the Parliament of the Jewish people," it is up to us to ensure it remains so going forward.

The views expressed in the World Zionist Congress will affect budgetary decisions of the Jewish Agency for Israel, the Jewish National Fund (Keren Kayemet L'Yisrael) and the World Zionist organization. They will influence

issues as central to Israel's future as national security, religious pluralism, funding for Jewish education, settlement expansion, and Israel's relationships with Diaspora Jews.

Voting in the World Zionist Congress elections is easy. It is open to any Jewish American who is 18 years or older, is a U.S. citizen or permanent resident, and who did not vote in the Knesset elections in November 2022. Voting is online, and there is a \$5 dollar registration fee. Visit the website of the American Zionist Movement, <https://azm.org/> for instructions on how to vote and information on all of the slates.

We all have been wondering what we can do to help our Israeli brothers and sisters in these trying times and how can we help shape Israel consistent with our values. We now have an answer: VOTE for the slate of your choice in the World Zionist Congress. You can use the QR code to the right or vote by going to zionistelection.org. ■



TOP LEFT: TAMMY GOTTLIEB SPEAKS TO A LOCAL GATHERING ON MARCH 18

TOP RIGHT: DEBORAH POLLACK VOTES ONLINE

BOTTOM: EVENT CO-HOSTS (L TO R): SAM BOXERMAN, DEBBIE VODENOS, SPEAKER GOTTLIEB, LAURA CUTLER, AND DAVID FARBER





WOMEN OF BETH EL GATHERED ON THURSDAY, MARCH 6, FOR VASHTI'S BANQUET. THIS PURIM CELEBRATION FEATURED ISRAELI DANCING, HENNA TATTOOS, FACE PAINTING, AND DELICIOUS FOOD.

UPCOMING WOMEN OF BETH EL PROGRAMS

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3, 7:30 PM **Women's Study Circle.**

Join us on Thursday, April 3, at 7:30 pm for our next learning session as we explore lifecycle topics throughout the year. This month, we will focus on death and mourning. Sarah Roark and Amanda Ford will lead our discussion. RSVP at bethelmc.org/study-0403.

SATURDAY, APRIL 5, 12:30 PM Shabbat Mahj. Calling all mah jongg players: come get your mahj fix on Shabbat after services and kiddush. Go to bethelmc.org/shabbatmahj to sign up.

SUNDAY, APRIL 6, 2:00 PM **Making Kids' Snack Packs.**

Join Women of Beth El to assemble kids' snack packs for families served by Bethesda Help. All participants are welcome, including children and teens. Women of Beth El will supply all materials. Register at bethelmc.org/packs-0406.

WEDNESDAYS, APRIL 9 AND 16, 7:00 PM AND MONDAYS, APRIL 21 AND 28, 1:00 PM WBE Crafters. Join the WBE crafters for community, fun, help, and social action projects.

THURSDAY, APRIL 10, 7:30 PM VIA ZOOM Kesher Nashim: Women's Cancer Connection. See information on page 14.

MEN'S CLUB

Yellow Candle Program

The Men's Club is distributing Shohah Yellow Candles as a living symbol for home observance of Yom HaShoah. The yellow wax memorial candle, which is made in Israel, serves as a reminder of the yellow stars forced upon European Jews during the Nazi regime. The Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs has long understood that Holocaust remembrance needs to also take place in the home, to be a mechanism for families to gather for a moment to teach and to explain to the next generation the impact and the survival of that horrific time in Jewish history. Guidance about lighting the candle and home observance is included in the bag with the candle. Pick one up from the table outside the Beth El office. We join Jews worldwide in lighting the Shoah Yellow Candle at sundown on Wednesday, April 23. Donate to support the Yellow Candle program online at bethelmc.org/yellow-candle. Funds received over and above our program cost will go directly to support the Holocaust Survivors Program sponsored by the Jewish Social Service Agency (JSSA). ■



UPCOMING MEN'S CLUB PROGRAMS

TUESDAY, APRIL 1, 7:30 PM Jews & Brews. Meet with Rabbi Harris and Beth El members at World of Beer (7200 Wisconsin Ave.) for some schmoozing and casual Jewish learning. Jews & Brews is sponsored by Men's Club, but all Beth El members are welcome to attend. RSVP bethelmc.org/brews-0401.

THURSDAY, APRIL 3, 7:30 PM IN PERSON OR VIA ZOOM Hearing Men's Voices. Beth El men are invited to join us as Martin Sieff leads a discussion called "When Bad News Turns Out To Be Good." RSVP at bethelmc.org/hmv-0403.

SUNDAYS, APRIL 6 AND 27 Men's Club Breakfast. Join in April for breakfast following morning minyan. Note: There is no Men's Club breakfast during Passover on April 13 and 20.

THURSDAY, APRIL 10, 7:00 PM Food Sorting at Manna. Help sort food donations at Manna Food Center in Gaithersburg. Open to the Beth El community. This is a great way for parents to engage with kids 11+ in doing community service. For more information or to register, contact Jonathan Epstein at jonathan.epstein@hklaw.com. (SSL hours are available).

Books & Beyond

Art and Adventure in a Time of War

BY ROBIN JACOBSON

Perched majestically on a rocky hilltop, the Abbey of Montecassino has kept vigil over Italy's Liri Valley for nearly two thousand years. During the Second World War, the grand monastery housed incomparable treasures of Western civilization – art, music, rare books, medieval manuscripts, and ancient gold coins. This is the bewitching setting for Derek Miller's historical novel, *The Curse of Pietro Houdini*, which is simultaneously a coming-of-age story, a derring-do adventure, a tale of war and survival, and an homage to art.

TWO STRANGERS MEET

In an Italian village in August 1943, a mysterious scholar calling himself Pietro Houdini (in tribute to the famous escape artist) encounters a young teenager going by the name Massimo. Massimo is lying in a ditch, bloody and bruised, after an attack by local thugs. Orphaned in the Allied bombing of Rome, Massimo had been enroute to Naples, the last known home of relatives. Pietro rescues Massimo and persuades the orphan to postpone this dangerous journey. Instead, Pietro invites Massimo to accompany him to the nearby abbey where Pietro is due to start work as a master of art restoration and conservation. He offers to make Massimo his assistant.

Over the next months, Pietro and Massimo live peacefully in the abbey while the war rages elsewhere in Italy. They befriend the monks, explore the labyrinthine buildings and grounds, and marvel at the priceless masterworks. Pietro cleans frescos and mosaics, while discouraging on art and history for Massimo's benefit.

The arrival of Nazi officers at the abbey alarms Pietro, especially after the monks reluctantly agree to allow the Nazis to transport their prized collections to Rome. Ostensibly, this is to protect the treasures in case the Allies bomb the abbey. But Pietro suspects the Nazis of trying to steal art, as they have done systematically across Europe. He concocts a plan whereby he and Massimo will save three Renaissance paintings, proclaiming that it will be "the first art heist inside an art heist in the history of the world."

The plan expands to encompass the saving of not just art, but the lives of a quirky group sheltering in the abbey – a nurse, a wounded German soldier, a café owner, a monk, two young lovers, and a heroic mule named Ferrari. Several of the characters harbor secrets, which they gradually reveal as the novel progresses. The author shows particular sensitivity to his female characters' wartime traumas; he says he was profoundly influenced

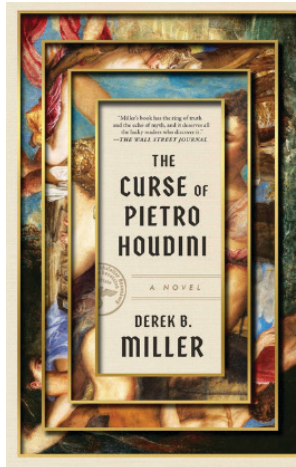
by Euripides' timeless anti-war play, *The Trojan Women* (415 BCE).

THE ABBEY OF MONTECASSINO

Derek Miller is a political scientist specializing in war and security; he takes pride in the historical accuracy of his novels. The Abbey of Montecassino, central in *Pietro Houdini* (Miller's seventh novel), has a rich past. Once the site of a Roman temple to Apollo, the abbey was established by St. Benedict in 529 CE.

During the 11th century, the monastery library became one of Europe's finest as the monks collected, translated, and preserved manuscripts from many cultures, nations, and epochs. The abbey's store of matchless riches mushroomed during World War II, when Italian museums and churches moved their collections to the monastery for safekeeping.

In 1944, the abbey found itself tragically situated between Allied and Axis forces. Mistakenly believing that German soldiers were directing military operations from the monastery, the Allies dropped more bombs on it than on any other single structure during the war. But in an ironic turn of events, most of the art survived because the Nazis had hauled it away from the abbey in the months preceding the battle. ■



Beth El Book Chat

The Safekeep

By Yael van der Wouden

Sunday, May 4
11:00 am at Beth El



Join us at Beth El on Sunday, May 4, at 11:00 am to discuss *The Safekeep*, a short, stunning historical novel by Yael van der Wouden, set in the Netherlands in the 1960s. The *Safekeep* won a National Jewish Book Award and was shortlisted for the 2024 Booker Prize. Register at bethelmc.org/book-chat-0504.

Minyan Ruach

The next Minyan Ruach is on Saturday, April 5, at 9:45 am in the Library. Minyan Ruach is an alternative to the traditional service. It is a low-key, mostly lay-led participatory service. Everyone is welcome to participate (if they would like to). You can have an aliyah, open the Ark, dress the Torah, or even read a Torah portion if you would like. We always have singing with our special group of song leaders and always have a very interesting speaker. This service, we are so excited to have three wonderful biblical women of Passover. You will meet Batya, Yocheved, and Miriam. They will tell us their stories and we will be able to ask them questions. Come join us and bring a friend! If you have any questions, contact Marsha Liss at lissmjs@gmail.com or Sally Ehrlich at salehrlich@yahoo.com.

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, April 10, 7:30 – 9:30 pm, via Zoom. For more information, visit bethelmc.org/keshet-nashim-0410.

Support After Loss

With a special invitation to those who have had a recent loss, we will gather on Sunday, April 20, at 12:30 pm for a brief teaching and discussion led by a member of the Beth El Clergy. All are welcome to join this six-session se-

ries as often as they wish. Registration for each individual session is recommended in case there are updates. Sponsored by the Clergy and the Nichum Aveilim (Comforting mourners) Committee. Register at bethelmc.org/support-0420.

Shabbat Kiddush Servers Needed

Join the kiddush servers in one of the happiest mitzvot at Beth El. Serve the kiddush luncheon after services on Shabbat and make sure every congregant, family member, and guest gets a warm "Shabbat Shalom" with their delicious food. All it takes is 30 minutes and a smile! For more information and to sign up, go to bethelmc.org/kiddush or contact Sue Kanter at besisterhoodsignup@gmail.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, email info@bethelmc.org, or call 301-652-2606. At least two full weeks' advance notice of sponsorship is required.

Sarah Roark Needs Your Kippot

Do you have drawers full of kippot at home? Do you have leftovers from a bar mitzvah or wedding? Are you wondering what to do with them? Would you like to donate them to a good cause? Sarah Roark would be happy to have your kippot that are in good condition. Her CES-JDS Lower School students can use a pretty unlimited amount. Please donate in the box in the Beth El lobby.

Purim Carnival and Megillah Madness



CONTRIBUTIONS

Please remember that contributions can be made easily, quickly, and securely via our webpage –
www.bethelmc.org/give

Donations from February 12 to March 14, 2025.

BY:

Barbara and David Eisenstein
Jessica and Samuel Futterman
Joshua Starr
Mitchell and Rachelle Solkowitz
Daniel and Samantha Bender
Samantha and Jonathan Gordon
Gail Fribush
Jeffrey and Lynn Snyder
Marta Wassertzug
David and Carole Metzger
Mark Hoffman
Alonso Intriago

IN HONOR OF:

Congregation Beth El for making
Zoom service available, enabling
me to say Kaddish, by Hanna
Pollack
Gabiella "Gabby" Schilleci on her bat
mitzvah, by Rebecca and Aaron
Schilleci
Rabbi Greg Harris and Sarah Roark
on their marriage, by Moshe and
Honey Cohen, Tutti and Jose Sokol,
Judith and Stanley Baldinger,
Jennifer and Howard Weitzner,
Bernice and Joel Breslau, Rachelle
Bernstecker and Bob Abramson,
Michael Polis and Rhoda Barish,
Gail Fribush, Jim and Leslie Dellon,
Ace and Linda Lipson
Hazzan Fradkin by Gabby Schilleci
Judy Bisman by Lisa Alexander
Maryland Israel Development Center
at Men's Club and Am Yisrael Chai
Committee, by Debra Vodenos and
Samuel Boxerman
Beth El Community, in appreciation
for your love and support, by Hil-
lary and Scott Berman
Rabbi Harris by Gabby Schilleci
Rabbi Harris with appreciation for all
your support, by Hillary and Scott
Berman
Sue Kanter for the beautiful blanket
she donated to the Beth El Gala
silent auction, by Tiarra Joslyn
Gail Fribush with best wishes for her
good health, by Bernice and Joel
Breslau

IN MEMORY OF:

Anna Turteltaub by Helena Koenig
Cecelia Brown, beloved mother and

grandmother, by Rita Weiss and
family
Stuart Berman, beloved husband,
father, and grandfather, by Paul
and Karen Shapiro, JoAnn Solomon
Salon, Judy Groner, Ed and Lynn
Goodman, Heather Garrett, Hollie
Hornstein, Marge Schechner, Erica
and Eran Horodniceanu, Hedy and
Maury Siegel, Ann Goldensohn,
Kim Tapper, Gloria and Steve Sil-
verberg, Mark and Lisa Bronfman
Bernard A. Heckman by Ruth Ann
Heckman
Beverly Spector, my mother, by Jeff
and Bobbi Spector
Blanche Bernstein Cohen, my moth-
er, by Barbara Cohen Lerman and
Allen Lerman
Diane Epstein by Ken and Leslie
Levine, Heather Garrett, Charna
and Jim Walnum, Michael Polis and
Rhoda Barish, Zena and Paul Ma-
son, Sandi and Bill Perrick, Burton
Epstein, Elliot and Esther Wilner,
Janet and Sid Getz, Barbara Shap-
iro, Barbara and Richard Peacock,
Bernice and Joel Breslau, Judith
and Michael Herman, Marvin and
Julie Liss
Donna Schwartz by Erika Schwartz
and Neal Orringer
Sarah Kalser by Julie and Donald
Herr
Elizabeth Goldman by Deborah
Cohen
Harry Birnkrant by Debbie and Alan
Birnkrant
Harry I. Young by Ina and Joe Young
Helen Abrahams by the Morrison
family
Hope Dellon by Jim and Leslie Dellon
Edward Strauss by Bruce and Su-
zanne Strauss
Julius Weisberg by Stuart Weisberg
and family
Maria Markov, Nadia Naydich, and
Esther Nusinovich by Yelena and
Gregory Nusinovich
Peter Szarvas by Julia Copperman
Jesse Samuel Gutmann by Howard
Lesser and Hanna Gutmann
Jessica Friedlander by Sheila Bellack,
Hilda Getz, Bill and Sue Kanter
Jose Ventura by Jack and Stephanie
Ventura

Judith Smolen by Jason Smolen
Judy Klein by the Sundel family
Julian E. Levin, to our years of
friendship, by Phyllis and Morton
Lessans
Leila Rosen Young by Ina and Joe
Young
Lynne DelMastro, my sister, by Sid
Stahl and Dorothy Wolf
Martin Weiss by Rita Weiss and
family
Marvin Rosenberg, father of Todd
Rosenberg, by Tom Plotz and
Cathy Klion, Lisa Sorkin
Jean Rubin Blank, on the yahrzeit of
our beloved mother, by Murray
and Judy Blank
Michael Hearn, on his yahrzeit, by
Cynthia Dorfman and family
Mildred Borovitz by Heather Garrett
Thelma Malkin, my beloved mother,
by Rachel Malkin
Richard Plotz, my brother, by Tom
Plotz and Cathy Klion
David Kanter by William and Sue
Kanter
Lucille Plotz, my mother, by Tom
Plotz and Cathy Klion
Max J. Cohen, my uncle, by William
and Sue Kanter
Gertrude Weiss, our mother, by
Karen Satin, Mitchell Weiss, and
Michael Weiss
Richard Preskill by Sue and William
Kanter
Ruth Herber by Marilyn and Barrett
Ripin
Selma Barron by Karyl Barron and
Jeff Moak
Selma Chubin, wife of Herb Chubin
and my mother, by Ellen Chubin
Epstein and David Epstein
Selma Krosnick by Phyllis and Jeffrey
Lavine
Steven Krosnick by Phyllis and Jef-
frey Lavine
Adrienne M. Friede Krausz, my dear
mom's yahrzeit, by Mariette Klein
Jack Zuckerman, my beloved father
on his yahrzeit, by Lois Zuckerman
and Steve Levy

MAZAL TOV TO:

Isaac Freling on his bar mitzvah on February 22. Proud parents are **Scott** and **Dara Freling**.

Finley Marlin on her bat mitzvah on March 1. Proud parents are **Marc** and **Alyson Marlin**.

Noa Weitz on her bat mitzvah on March 1. Proud parents are **Joshua Weitz** and **Maira Goytia**.

Eli Cheskin on their b-mitzvah on March 1. Proud parents are **Steve Cheskin** and **Malia Hale**.

Cato Mann on his bar mitzvah on March 8. Proud parents are **Benjamin** and **Cindy Mann**.

Hannah Eigner on her bat mitzvah on March 8. Proud parents are **David** and **Manisha Eigner**.

Cameron Zirofsky on her bat mitzvah on March 15. Proud parents are **Lindsey** and **Eric Zirofsky**.

Robin Jacobson and **Jim Armbruster** on the birth of their granddaughter, **Wrenna**. Parents are **Sylvia Jacobson** and **Avi Friedman**, and proud big sister is **Ella**.

April's milestone birthdays: **Howard Berger**, **Ruth Berkowitz**, **Ruth Cohen**, **Daniel Geselowitz**, **Carol Horowitz**, **Bucky Jacobson**, **Jeffrey Lavine**, **Judy Liss**, **Annette Moshman**, **Margy Nurik**, **Leslie Shedlin**, **Robert Tropp**, and **Joshua Weitz**.

April's milestone anniversaries: **Aaron Arnold** and **Phyllis Pomerantz** (25 years), **David Goldberger** and **Elizabeth Echt** (30 years), **David** and **Janet Perim** (35 years), and **Boris Rekhtman** and **Luba Estrina** (35 years).

CONDOLENCES TO:

To the family of **Helen Abrahams** on her death.

Burt Epstein, on the death of his wife, **Diane Epstein**.

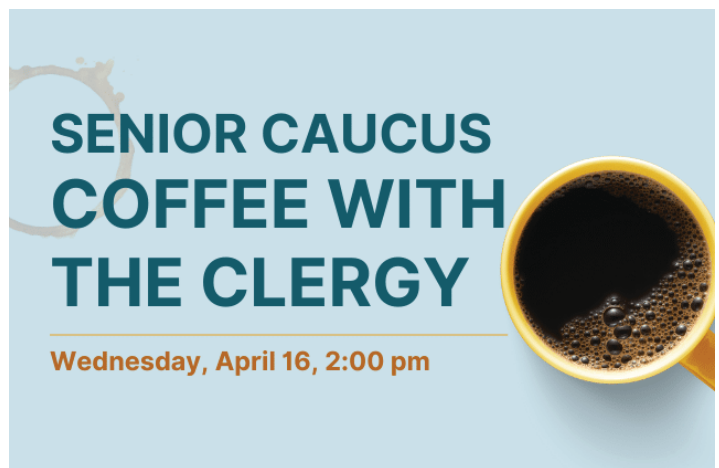
Diane was the mother of **Steven Epstein** and **Jerry Epstein**, grandmother of **Hannah Epstein**, **Nathan**, **Laura**, and **Alex**, and great-grandmother of **Adina** and **Heidi Osmond**.

Beverly Berman and **Scott** and **Hillary Berman**, on the death of Beverly's husband and Scott's father, **Stuart Berman**. Stuart was also the father of **Rachel Newman**, the brother of **Judi Klass** and **Howard Berman**, and the grandfather of **Samuel**, **Jack**, and **Isaac Berman** and **Neville Newman**.

David and **Sheryl Friedlander**, on the death of David's mother, **Jessica Friedlander**. Jessica was the grandmother of **Noah** and **Rafael Friedlander**.

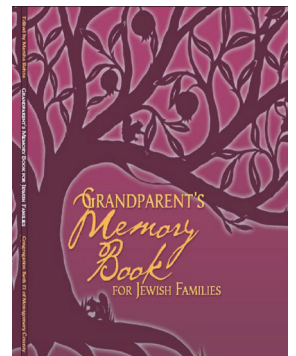
Liz Schroyer and **Jeff Schwaber**, on the death of Liz's mother, **Barbara Schroyer**. Barbara was the grandmother of **Joshua** and **Daniel Schwaber**.

SENIOR CONNECTIONS



Senior Caucus Coffee with the Clergy: Wednesday, April 16 from 2:00 to 3:00 pm. Rabbi Megdal will join us for 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. In connection with the themes of freedom during Passover, we will discuss "Torah and Liberty." RSVP at bethelmc.org/coffee-0416.

Make Memories with Your Grandchildren. *The Grandparent's Memory Book for Jewish Families*, written by Sisterhood members, provides a place to document and share personal and family history, values, holiday traditions, and much more. The questions could also be used to help grandparents and grandchildren have a conversation about their heritage and share precious stories in person, on the phone, or via video chat platforms. Adaptable for non-Jewish family members. The book costs \$15. For information or to order visit bethelmc.org/grandparents, or contact the office at 301-652-2606. Copies can be picked up or mailed.



Find Beth El on Social Media



fb.me/congregation.beth.el



x.com/bethelmoco



instagram.com/bethelmoco



youtube.com/BethElMC