



# CONGREGATION BETH EL SCROLL

JULY-AUGUST 2026 • TAMMUZ-ELUL 5786

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## WELCOMING REBECCA WEISMAN

Rebecca Weisman has spent more than three decades helping people and communities find meaning, fulfillment and purpose through Jewish life, learning and connection. As Beth El's director of engagement and outreach, she brings deep experience in relational community building, membership strategy, and program leadership from a wide variety of Jewish settings, including congregations, day schools, foundations, and national nonprofits.

Most recently, Rebecca held a leadership role at the Anti-Defamation League (ADL), scaling a nationwide congregational engagement program and strengthening Jewish communal resilience. She previously served as senior director of engagement initiatives at USCJ, was both a principal and admissions director at Charles E. Smith Jewish Day School, and co-developed a local initiative reimagining lifelong learning in congregational communities. Earlier in her career, Rebecca served on the

professional team at several D.C.-area congregations, helping members of all ages find their way into Jewish life and community.

A Camp Ramah New England and USY alumna and parent of alumni, she lives in Gaithersburg with her spouse, Steve. She enjoys spending time with her family – especially her adult children, Hannah (and her wife, Jessica) and Abby – collecting unique honey, watching sports and live performances, exploring independent coffee shops, and connecting with people (and their pets).



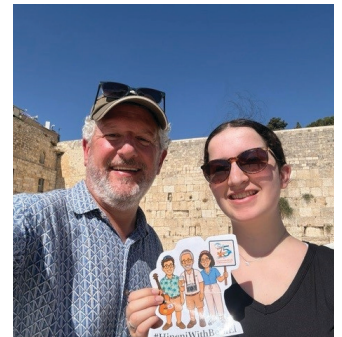
Rebecca is thrilled to join the Beth El community during this auspicious year of its 75th anniversary and looks forward to meeting members of all ages and stages to learn more about their Beth El experiences and what they value most about community, connection, and Jewish life.

Rebecca begins her role at Beth El on Monday, July 13. ■

## Traveling Clergy

Wherever you go, your Beth El family goes with you! This summer, we'd love for you to bring along Rabbi Harris, Rabbi Megdal, and Hazzan Fradkin on your travels near and far. Whether on a trip to far-flung locations or an outing to the National Zoo, please snap a photo with our "Traveling Clergy" (inspired by the

classic *Flat Stanley*). Post using #HineniWithBethEl or email your photos to Tiarra Joslyn at [tjoslyn@bethelmc.org](mailto:tjoslyn@bethelmc.org). Our Traveling Clergy are available to pick up in the basket on the security desk at the front of the building. We can't wait to see where Beth El travels this summer! ■



RABBI HARRIS, HIS DAUGHTER, SHOSHANA, AND THE TRAVELING CLERGY AT THE KOTEL

# SCROLL

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## 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**

*\*Morning Minyan will take place at 9:00 am at Beth El on Friday,  
July 3. Evening services will be via Zoom only.*

### SHABBAT SCHEDULE

#### Friday, July 3

*Schools and Offices closed.*

**6:30 pm** Friday Night Shabbat Service - via Zoom only

#### Saturday, July 4

**7:30 am** Early Shabbat Service

**9:15 am** Main Shabbat Service

#### Friday, July 10

**6:30 pm** Parking Lot Shabbat

#### Saturday, July 11

**7:30 am** Early Shabbat Service

**9:15 am** Main Shabbat Service

#### Friday, July 17

**5:15 pm** Senior Caucus Shabbat Dinner

**6:30 pm** Friday Night Shabbat Service

#### Saturday, July 18

**7:30 am** Early Shabbat Service

**9:15 am** Main Shabbat Service led by Minyan Chaverim

#### Friday, July 24

**6:30 pm** Friday Night Shabbat Service

#### Saturday, July 25

**7:30 am** Early Shabbat Service

**9:15 am** Main Shabbat Service

#### Friday, July 31

**6:30 pm** Friday Night Shabbat Service

#### Saturday, August 1

**7:30 am** Early Shabbat Service

**9:15 am** Main Shabbat Service

#### Friday, August 7

**6:30 pm** Friday Night Shabbat Service

#### Saturday, August 8

**7:30 am** Early Shabbat Service

**9:15 am** Main Shabbat Service

#### Friday, August 14

**6:30 pm** Pups in the Parking Lot Shabbat

#### Saturday, August 15

**7:30 am** Early Shabbat Service

**9:15 am** Main Shabbat Service led by Minyan Chaverim

#### Friday, August 21

**6:30 pm** Friday Night Shabbat Service

#### Saturday, August 22

**7:30 am** Early Shabbat Service

**9:15 am** Main Shabbat Service - Boaz Knobel and Jacob

Katthagen B'nai Mitzvah

#### Friday, August 28

**5:00 pm** Back-to-Shul BBQ

**6:30 pm** Friday Night Shabbat Service

#### Saturday, August 29

**7:30 am** Early Shabbat Service

**9:15 am** Main Shabbat Service

*For more information on Beth El's Shabbat services and daily  
minyanim, please visit [bethelmc.org/services](http://bethelmc.org/services).*

Click on any event on the calendar below to find out more about these upcoming programs.



**CONGREGATION BETH EL**  
*Summer Programs July - August 2026*

**Events**  
with Beth El

**Summer**

July  
**9**  
4:30 pm

**Let's Do Lunch! With Women of Beth El**

Take a break for lunch with the Women of Beth El! We're meeting up at Chop't in Wildwood Shopping Center (10307 Old Georgetown Road). RSVP at [bethelmc.org/lunch-0709](http://bethelmc.org/lunch-0709) so we know to expect you.

July  
**10**  
6:30 pm

**Parking Lot Shabbat**

Join us for a Shabbat outdoors in the Parking Lot with Hazzan Fradkin and friends featuring a musical service, warm atmosphere, and good weather! This is a laid-back, relaxed outdoor Shabbat experience – casual attire encouraged.

July  
**12**  
7:00 pm

**Bethesda Big Train Baseball Game**

Come out for Jewish Baseball Heritage Night with Men's Club as the Bethesda Big Train take on the Olney Cropdusters at Shirley Povich Field. Tickets are \$12. Purchase by June 27 at [bethelmc.org/baseball-0712](http://bethelmc.org/baseball-0712).

July  
**16**  
7:30 pm

**Songs Under the Stars with Women of Beth El**

Join us for a warm and relaxing summer evening filled with music, connection, and community under the stars featuring music shared by Danielle Sultan and Shaliach Yoel Gleizer. RSVP at [bethelmc.org/stars-0716](http://bethelmc.org/stars-0716).

July  
**17**  
5:15 pm

**Senior Caucus Shabbat Dinner**

All congregants are invited to join the Senior Caucus for Shabbat dinner at 5:15 pm. After dinner, we'll gather for services at 6:30 pm, followed by an oneg. For more information and to register, go to [bethelmc.org/senior-shabbat-0717](http://bethelmc.org/senior-shabbat-0717).

July  
**28**  
4:00 pm

**Happy Hour at the Beach**

Join Rabbi Harris and Sarah Roark for some laid back summer beach time at The Cultured Pearl in Rehoboth Beach. Beth El extends far beyond Bethesda, so come reconnect with familiar faces, meet new people, and enjoy community time together. RSVP at [bethelmc.org/beach-0728](http://bethelmc.org/beach-0728).

August  
**2**  
9:30 am

**Women of Beth El and Men's Club Hike**

Join Women of Beth El and Men's Club for our annual summer hike in Rock Creek Park. Register at [bethelmc.org/hike-0802](http://bethelmc.org/hike-0802).

August  
**14**  
6:30 pm

**Pups in the Parking Lot Shabbat**

All well-behaved dogs on leashes are invited to join their humans for this casual outdoor service. Don't have a dog? No problem! All dog-loving friends and family are welcome. RSVP in case of weather at [bethelmc.org/pups-shabbat-0814](http://bethelmc.org/pups-shabbat-0814).

August  
**28**  
5:00 pm

**Back-to-Shul BBQ**

Join us to welcome everyone back from the summer. There will be opportunities to reconnect with friends, eat some yummy food, see how you can get involved at Beth El this year, and hang out and play. Stay after the BBQ to help us greet Shabbat together as a community. Free for new members who joined June 1, 2026, or later. Register at [bethelmc.org/bbq-0828](http://bethelmc.org/bbq-0828).



For detailed information: [bethelmc.org/events](http://bethelmc.org/events)

301-652-2606 or [info@bethelmc.org](mailto:info@bethelmc.org)

## Joyful Living and Wise Aging

BY ERICA EDELMAN AND LAURA PRIMAKOFF

A new and exciting course will be offered at Beth El for people 55 and over, beginning in the new year. The course was originally developed at the Institute of Jewish Spirituality. It has been offered over the last decade to many synagogues and other Jewish community institutions throughout the United States.

The goal is for participants to understand and explore this stage of life in order to better appreciate, value, and savor it. In addition, it is hoped that participants will become more capable of challenging negative and ageist stereotypes as well as building resilience to face inevitable losses and challenges.

Are you hoping to pause and reflect on this stage of your life, expand your inner horizons, enhance your understanding of yourself and others, and face new challenges in life? This six-session group brings people together to share their learned wisdom from their life experiences and discuss common issues shared by all. Facilitator-led small group sessions will be held weekly this fall from September 22-October 27. The group is participatory and experiential in nature.

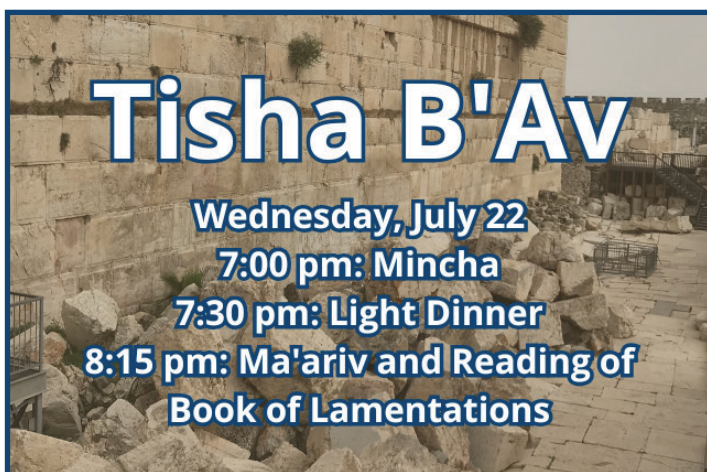
Previous participants in Wise Aging groups have reported that the richness of the group interaction combined with the readings makes for powerful insights.

Topics may include:

- nourishing one's relationships and social networks
- accepting changes in one's body
- dealing with evolving family relationships
- pursuing new careers, interests and avocations
- and strengthening patience, gratitude, equanimity and joy.

The group will be facilitated by Beth El congregants and psychologists, Laura Primakoff, Ph.D. and Erica Edelman, Ph.D. The course book, *Wise Aging: Living with Joy, Resilience and Spirit*, by Rabbi Rachel Cowan and Dr. Linda Thal, describes evolving roles and relationships and offers specific practices and exercises to manage life's challenges. Jewish perspectives on aging are woven into group sessions. There will be a fee of \$36 for members and \$50 for nonmembers. For continuity, it is hoped that participants will make a commitment to attend all six sessions. The book, *Wise Aging*, is available for \$15 on Amazon.

The group will be limited to 15 people and acceptances will be made on a first-come, first-served basis. To apply, email [wiseagingbethel@gmail.com](mailto:wiseagingbethel@gmail.com) by Friday, September 4. ■



# Tisha B'Av

**Wednesday, July 22**  
**7:00 pm: Mincha**  
**7:30 pm: Light Dinner**  
**8:15 pm: Ma'ariv and Reading of Book of Lamentations**

### Erev Tisha B'Av

**Wednesday, July 22 at 6:30 pm**

Join us for the commemoration of Tisha B'Av with the reading of Eicha as we mourn the destruction of the Temple and other moments of despair and loss in the Jewish communal history.

Mincha will be at 7:00 pm, followed by a light dairy dinner at 7:30 pm, then Ma'ariv and a reading of the Book of Eicha (Lamentations) at 8:30 pm.

The cost for dinner is \$12 per person. Please register for dinner by noon on Monday, July 20 at [bethelmc.org/tisha-bav-5786](http://bethelmc.org/tisha-bav-5786).



# Shacharit Training

with Hazzan Fradkin

Sundays, July 5, 12, and 19  
 10:15 am at Beth El

### Shacharit Training with Hazzan Fradkin

Join Hazzan Fradkin to learn how to lead the Shabbat Shacharit service. Shacharit is oriented around Judaism's two core prayers: the Shema and the Amidah. The blessings surrounding the Shema and leading into the Amidah take us on a journey through light, love, and redemption. Whether you've never led a prayer service before or just want to brush up on the basics, this is an all-levels friendly workshop that will take place on Sundays throughout July. To register for the July 5 session, visit [bethelmc.org/shacharit-training-0705](http://bethelmc.org/shacharit-training-0705). July 12: [bethelmc.org/shacharit-training-0712](http://bethelmc.org/shacharit-training-0712). July 19: [bethelmc.org/shacharit-training-0719](http://bethelmc.org/shacharit-training-0719).

## Father's Day Blood Drive Brings Out The Best

BY JONATHAN SIMON

When Jack Ventura, my Beth El Blood Drive co-chair, and I first learned that the only Sunday in June that both Beth El and Inova Blood Services could arrange a blood drive was Father's Day, June 21, we both cringed.

"This is going to be a real challenge," thought Ventura. We both realized the dilemma we were facing: trying to sign up blood donors on the one day they would be planning breakfasts and brunches for the dads in their families.

However, despite being handed this "lemon" of a drive date, we quickly turned that lemon into lemonade by suggesting that people make blood donations in honor or in memory of their dads.

Close to 60 people signed up to donate, and, by the end of the drive, enough units of blood were collected to help save or extend the lives of more than 120 people, given that the average donation saves or extends three lives.

Thanks to longtime volunteer coordinator, Leslie Dellon, a "minyán" of 10 dedicated Beth El members

stepped up to volunteer their time – many despite their own Father's Day plans – to ensure the drive had sufficient staff.

What's more, the drive produced some very pleasant surprises. Two young brothers, 16-year-old Aden Silverman and his older sibling, Abe, came to donate their blood, a life-saving mitzvah, especially for such young adults. (Teens as young as 16 are eligible and encouraged to donate, with written parental permission. Those 17 and older may donate on their own.)

Capping off the event, Maria Lacayo, a member of Beth El's wonderful kitchen staff, donated her blood after working all morning preparing and replenishing the food and beverages for the other donors. Maria Lacayo is now among the special few who can honestly say, "I gave at the office!"

Perhaps the biggest hit at the blood drive was the mouth-watering and crowd-pleasing spread of assorted bagels, cream cheese, and lox – all sponsored by the Beth El Men's Club. ■



TOP: SIBLINGS ADEN AND ABE SILVERMAN DONATING BLOOD TOGETHER. MIDDLE: MARIA LACAYO DONATES BLOOD. BOTTOM: MEN'S CLUB TREASURER JEFFREY GRILL ENJOYS BAGELS AND LOX AFTER DONATING.

## Can We Stop Saying a Prayer?

BY JAMY LYONS

*Editor's note: Jamy Lyons is the teen son of Adam Lyons and Marissa Greenberg. He is a valued member of Beth El's morning minyan group and gave this d'var Torah in June.*

Can we stop saying a prayer? Or if there is a prayer we disagree with, do we instead just need to accept that prayer as what it is and move on?

We know we can add prayers for various reasons, as has been done throughout history. But what about removing one. What counts as a fair reason to stop saying a prayer, or at least to censor parts of it? For a long while one of my favorite prayers has been *Aleinu*. It's right at the end of the service so I know I will get food soon, and every kid in the Hebrew school knows it by heart. But I hadn't studied it until a few months ago in my study group with Rabbi Abramson.

Now I don't know how many of you have read *Aleinu* in the English, but simply put, it isn't so kind to other religions. To quote a couple of the more uhhh, impassioned lines, "You will sweep away idolatry so that false gods will be utterly destroyed... all humanity will invoke

your name, and all the Earth's wicked will return to you." Ohh, yeah, fun stuff, right? What this prayer implies is that worshipping another god or gods is inherently incorrect and by definition makes you wicked. We, the Jews, have been persecuted for literally thousands of years for this exact reason, because we worshiped a different God than the people of whatever place we had decided to call home. The sanctimoniousness of this prayer in our modern world is explainable because *Aleinu* wasn't written by God, *Aleinu* is a traditional prayer written by people after the fall of the temple.

Now am I saying that *Aleinu* is evil, and must be removed from our prayer books? No. What I am saying, though, is that we need to see prayers as what they are, products of their time. Every prayer was written by someone still human, who had human biases and opinions, and was the product of their time and place. These prayers were all written in a time and a place, most of which were very different from our own. For *Aleinu* specifically, we don't know exactly when it was written,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

## Israel in Focus

## Summer Readings and Reflections

BY LARRY SIDMAN

It has become traditional to recommend readings related to Israel in the summer issue of the *Scroll*. Often, there is a lengthy list from which to choose. Although there are many books that merit consideration this summer, including numbers hot off the presses, two stand out. *As A Jew* by Sarah Hurwitz, former speech writer for Michelle Obama, has special relevance to the vast majority of American Jews, offering keen insights into many of the dilemmas we confront, especially the relationship between antisemitism and anti-Zionism. *The Gates of Gaza* by Amir Tibon is a remarkable first-person account of survival and heroism on October 7 written by the former Washington Bureau Chief for *Ha'Aretz*. We have a unique connection to Tibon as he has been an instructor via Zoom for Beth El's Scolnic Adult Institute for the past five years.

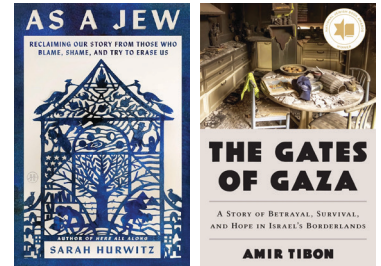
Hurwitz traces her personal journey from a cultural, highly assimilated American Jew who reached the highest political echelons to a committed, increasingly learned Jew conversant with the Tanach and the Talmud. In the process, drawing on sources as diverse as Ezra the Scribe, Hillel, Rambam, Mordechai Kaplan, Chief Rabbi Jonathan Sachs, and Deborah Lipstadt, she focuses on three foundational elements of antisemitism: mythic power, libelous depravity, and baseless conspiracy. Moving through millennia from the pharaohs to decide to today's radical, leftist ideology of oppressed and oppressor peoples, she describes the role that each of these allegations against Jews played in fueling increasingly violent and ultimately catastrophic antisemitism. Through that lens, she provides useful historical context for the surge in antisemitism, masquerading as anti-Zionism following Hamas's barbaric attack of October 7.

Amir Tibon's compelling narrative of his family's enduring 10 hours in their safe room in Kibbutz Nahal Oz while Hamas terrorists were literally at their doorstep takes the reader from Hurwitz's cerebral analysis to the

horrific, real world consequences of Jew hatred. He draws us into the intense feelings of parental love as he and his wife endeavor to keep their two young daughters quiet to avoid detection by the terrorists. He then expresses the

ultimate in filial gratitude when his father, a major general in the IDF reserves, travels from Tel Aviv armed with only a pistol, and rescues Amir and his family. *The Gates of Gaza* is far more than a family drama. Tibon employs his journalistic skills to capture the life of his kibbutz and the failures of Israel's political and military leadership that were the pathways to the October 7 calamity. This book recently received the coveted Sami Rohr Prize for Jewish Literature, captured the 2024 Jewish Book Award, and has been made into a documentary film.

In the past several months, Rabbi Daniel Gordis in his podcast, *Inside Israel*, has focused on the growing distance between Israeli and American Jews. Reading the Hurwitz and Tibon books highlights the profound differences in lived experiences between these communities of Jews. At the same time, it offers the opportunity to imagine what our lives might be like if we lived in Israel, and, conversely, for Israeli Jews to imagine their lives if they were to reside in the United States. By sharing through literature the sense of being "the other" within the larger community of Jews, perhaps we may achieve the increased understanding and reciprocal empathy needed to fulfill the vision of unity and mutual responsibility embodied in the phrase "*Kol Yisrael areivim zeh l'zeh*" ("all of Israel is responsible for one another"). Permit me to suggest humbly that we will need to embrace this ideal if we are to emerge confident and strong from the perilous times in which we live. Am Yisrael Chai! ■



## CAN WE STOP SAYING A PRAYER? CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

but we know it was written at a time when religious conflict was a perfectly good reason to invade someone else. Now we need to at least do the hard work of saying they're about to get a nuke.

What was at that point in history a reason that entire countries were invaded and sometimes destroyed, would now apparently be bad and get you sent to the time out corner of international condemnation. The same is, in concept, true with *Aleinu*, it was written at a time when you believed that your religion was inherently correct. And while many of us today still believe that, you also believed that because your religion was right, everyone else's was wrong. And not only were they wrong, they were abhorrent to your god and your religion, so it was your sacred duty to eradicate every

other religion.

Undeniably, humanity as a whole has made a lot of progress in realizing that we don't need to be the only religion. While, unfortunately, not everyone shares this opinion, many people, even most people, have realized that we can coexist with other religions, disagreeing with them but still respecting them as representations of what cultures believe in and the values they hold to be important. So that brings me back to *Aleinu*. Should we be fine singing a prayer every day that damns people for worshipping another religion when they could just as well say the same about us?

My answer would be that we should at least understand what it says and when it was written, and each decide what it means to us. ■

## Books &amp; Beyond

## Being Jewish in America

BY ROBIN JACOBSON

It began as an ordinary afternoon in a local hair salon. The stylist was briskly snipping away at my overgrown hair, when someone turned on the TV. Violent images from the ongoing Middle East conflicts suffused the room. Suddenly, my stylist was looming above me, demanding, "Are you Jewish?"

Fearfully eyeing the scissors flashing by my face, I gave zero consideration to bravely engaging in a bridge-building conversation. Instead, I tersely replied, "Yes, I'm Jewish," and immediately switched the subject to the salon's new ocean-themed décor. Thankfully, the haircut was nearly done. I skipped the blow dry and rushed into the street with my hair still wet.

Later, at home, I calmed down. Surely, I had never been in danger and had only imagined the stylist's hostility? The whole salon episode was an overwrought, post-October 7 emotional reaction, existing only in my head. Or was it?

In his moving and multi-layered memoir, *Returning: A Search for Home Across Three Centuries*, renowned author-journalist Nicholas Lemann notes that many American Jews are anxious, even though they formerly felt safe and accepted in the United States. They worry about rising antisemitic incidents. And they also fear that fierce differences over Israeli policies will permanently splinter Jewish families and institutions.

Lemann understands these anxieties but is puzzled by his friends' nostalgia for what they recall as the "golden age of American Jewry." In contrast, Lemann's New Orleans family never experienced any such "golden age"; they were perpetually uneasy about being American Jews, notwithstanding that they had prospered for generations in Louisiana. Their strategy was to never act "too Jewish."

Nonetheless, Lemann, a former dean of the Columbia Journalism School, departed from his parents' example of avoiding overt Jewish behavior to serve as co-chair of Columbia University's Task Force on Antisemitism following October 7. This intense experience reinforced his conviction that living an American Jewish life is complicated; it is rarely smooth and friction-free.

**A NEW ORLEANS JEW**

The Lemann family story in Louisiana began in 1836 when Lemann's great-great-grandfather Jacob emigrated from Essenheim, Germany. Although Jacob and his family returned to Germany during the Civil War, they resettled in Louisiana afterwards, buying ruined plantations, operating a general store, and growing in affluence. Lemann's grandfather became a prominent New Orleans lawyer. Still, the Lemann family socialized

mostly with other German-Jewish families.

Nicholas's parents, Barbara and Thomas Lemann, craved to be fully accepted into mainstream New Orleans society. They hosted Christmas dinners and Easter Egg hunts. Above all, they yearned to participate in the elaborate system of Mardi Gras balls, which had long been barred to Jews.

**THE EVER-CONTENTIOUS ISSUE OF ZIONISM**

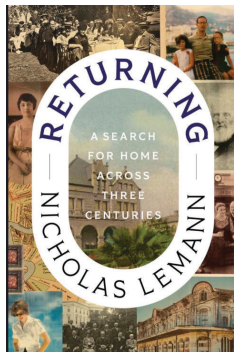
Barbara and Thomas belonged to a Reform synagogue but, bizarrely, attended services only on Thanksgiving. When Thomas discovered that the religious school had discussed Israel with its students, he ended Nicholas's Jewish education.

Thomas's objections to Israel had nothing to do with Israeli policies or Arab-Jewish conflicts. Rather, the Jewish state's existence offended his deep-seated conviction that Jews

were neither a people nor a tribe who belonged in a separate homeland. He wanted Jews to be regarded as comparable to Episcopalians or other practitioners of a mainstream religion.

Now deceased, Lemann's parents were spared the knowledge that their youngest grandson was recently physically accosted in New York City by a thug who noticed his Star of David necklace and taunted him as a "dirty Jew." Would they have wrung their hands, crying "I told you so?" Regardless, Nicholas has chosen to live as an observant Conservative Jew, finding that Judaism makes his life immeasurably richer, even if more vulnerable. ■

*Save the Date: We will discuss Lemann's memoir in our first Book Chat of the fall on Sunday, October 18, at 11:00 am. Sign up to participate at [bethelmc.org/book-chat-1018](http://bethelmc.org/book-chat-1018).*

**Summer Reading**

For the Yom Kippur Seminar this fall, we will discuss Beth El member Michelle Brafman's latest book, *Draw Near to Me*. The discovery of a desperately-hidden secret brings a family to the brink of collapse – the exact place where they may ultimately find true healing and forgiveness. One day before a freak accident lands devoted wife and mother Kristy Weinstein in a coma, her husband, David, discovers a devastating secret she'd been keeping for months. It is a terrific summer read, and we will unpack it together, exploring the themes of teshuva and healing at Yom Kippur.



**TEEN TUESDAYS** ★ MEET AT 5:00 PM

**JULY 28** ESCAPE ROOM

**July 7**  
1st few teens get a cookie from Levain!  
BETHESDA ROW  
MEET @ DOLCEZZA

**August 18**  
The Park @ Beach & Cedar Lane

**September 1**  
TATTE @ WESTBARD

Join BERS & Beth El Youth for a

**POPSICLE SOCIAL**

WEDNESDAY, JULY 15  
5:00-6:30 PM  
RSVP for location

Everyone is welcome!

Join BERS & Beth El Youth for a

**POPSICLE SOCIAL**

MONDAY, AUGUST 3  
5:00-6:30 PM  
RSVP for location

Everyone is welcome!

SEND US YOUR KID'S CAMP ADDRESS & WE'LL SEND THEM A SURPRISE!

Click Here!

**BETH EL** RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

**REGISTRATION**

**NOW OPEN!**

BETH EL PRESCHOOL

**BEPS**  
Beth El Preschool

**Registration is now open for our 2026-2027 Mazel Tots program!**

Mazel Tots is a baby and toddler program that meets one day per week for play time, music, dancing, art, snack time and more! Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Our Mazel Tots program is designed for children who will be 15-24 months old as of September 1, 2026.

**Class meets on Wednesday mornings, beginning in September.**

To register go to [www.bethelpreschool.org/admissions](http://www.bethelpreschool.org/admissions)

For more information reach out to us at [preschoolinfo@bethelmc.org](mailto:preschoolinfo@bethelmc.org) ~ (301) 652-8569 ext. 107

**BEPS**  
Beth El Preschool

**Beth El Preschool checks all the boxes!**

- ✓ new full-day option
- ✓ play-based curriculum
- ✓ parent co-operative model
- ✓ focus on Jewish values and traditions
- ✓ classes for children ages 15 months to 5 years
- ✓ weekly Tot Shabbat for babies and toddlers
- ✓ special programming for parents and families
- ✓ small class sizes
- ✓ six-week summer camp

Contact us today to set up a personalized tour!  
(301) 652-2606 ext. 107 ~ [preschoolinfo@bethelmc.org](mailto:preschoolinfo@bethelmc.org)  
[www.bethelpreschool.org](http://www.bethelpreschool.org)

## Introducing the New Women of Beth El Co-Chairs

We welcome Sally Ehrlich and Danielle Sultan as our new co-presidents for Women of Beth El.

Sally grew up in suburban Philadelphia. She celebrated her bat mitzvah and was confirmed at Keneseth Israel in Elkins Park, Pennsylvania. She came to the Washington, D.C. area to attend college at American University, enjoyed living in the D.C. area, and never left. She married Gary Ehrlich and had two sons, Max and Eli. Both boys attended BEPS and had their bar mitzvahs at Beth El. Also, Max was on the very first Sorkin Confirmation Trip to Israel!

Because of her connection with other Preschool families over the years, she felt very comfortable at Beth El and became involved with Zhava for several years and then made the transition to Sisterhood (now Women of Beth El). During this time, she volunteered for Mitzah Day, and she and Danielle were placed in the kitchen for several years together, cooking for a local shelter. When Danielle joined Women of Beth El, she chose to work on the Education Committee, which Sally had been on for many years. The rest is history.

Later, Sally and Danielle were asked by Marsha Liss to help start Minyan Ruach, which is a successful alternative to the traditional service approximately every two months.

Sally also volunteers with Meals on Wheels through Beth El, Birkur Cholim, and just started volunteering with "So What Else," where she loads food into cars for families facing food insecurity.

Canadian-born Danielle Hazan was raised in Montreal, Quebec, and, in 1982, came to the U.S. After the birth of her son, Jared, she wanted to join a synagogue where she could share her love of the customs and traditions of Judaism within an even larger community. She was warmly welcomed to our shul and started volunteering in the Religious School program, assisting with weekend Shabbatons and Religious School events. One of her family's special memories was the bar mitzvah of her son, Jared, who was blessed by Rabbi Bill Rudolph z"l.

Danielle's love of music was a natural entryway into synagogue life as she eagerly joined the Beth El adult choir, which was then led by Hazzan Abe Lubin. She adored the singing and could not resist his vibrant storytelling. Danielle also participated in a number of Megillah Madness productions, then started to get involved with Sisterhood.

In 2022, Danielle joined the Sisterhood Board and was drawn into the Education Committee. Danielle marveled at the talents of the women, where each shared their knowledge, skills, and passion for Jewish life and learning. Danielle also helped lead the High Holiday Kol Haneshama services and enjoyed being part of the leadership, singing, and praying while welcoming in the

new year. Along with Marsha Rehns and Sally Ehrlich, Danielle helped to plan, organize, and lead Beth El in a concert commemorating the 85th anniversary of Kristallnacht, a memorable event.

In Minyan Ruach, Danielle has greatly enjoyed leading the community songs, prayers, and some of the d'var Torah discussions.



Professionally, Danielle taught in Montgomery County Public Schools for 37 years. She began as a French Immersion teacher and then served as a staff development teacher and school administrator.

Outside of synagogue, Danielle volunteers at Modena Kensington. She helps to lead their Shabbat services with her guitar and love for music. She and her husband, Evan, have two sons and two grandchildren whom they adore.

Danielle's vision is to help increase membership, encourage women to find their pathways into the community, and learn their unique personal stories. Danielle and Sally are looking forward to putting their own spin on leading the Women of Beth El. Together, they have developed a special friendship that began at our synagogue and has been nurtured by their joint passion for Beth El. ■

### UPCOMING WOMEN OF BETH EL PROGRAMS

**THURSDAY, JULY 2, 11:00 AM Drop-In Canasta.** Join us for a relaxed and friendly game of canasta. Beginners and up are welcome. Sign up at [bethelmc.org/canasta](http://bethelmc.org/canasta).

**TUESDAYS, JULY 7, 14, 21, AND 28 AND AUGUST 4, 11, 18, AND 25, 7:00 PM Mah Jongg.** Tuesday mahj continues throughout the summer. All experience levels welcome. Sign up at [bethelmc.org/tuesdaymahj](http://bethelmc.org/tuesdaymahj).

**THURSDAY, JULY 9, NOON Let's Do Lunch!** Meet WBE friends at Chop't in Wildwood for lunch and conversation. RSVP at [bethelmc.org/lunch-0709](http://bethelmc.org/lunch-0709).

**MONDAYS, JULY 13, AND 20, AUGUST 10 AND 24, 1:00 PM AND WEDNESDAYS, JULY 8 AND 29, AUGUST 5 AND 19, 7:00 PM WBE Crafters.** We are open to anyone who does any kind of crafting. We meet to have social interaction, get help with projects, learn new things, and work on service project opportunities.

**THURSDAY, JULY 16, 7:30 PM Songs Under the Stars.** Join Women of Beth El for a warm and relaxing summer evening filled with music, connection, and community under the stars. For more information and to RSVP, visit [bethelmc.org/stars-0716](http://bethelmc.org/stars-0716).

**SUNDAY AUGUST 2, 9:00 AM WBE and MC Hike.** See page 10 for more information.

## WOMEN OF BETH EL AND MEN'S CLUB HIKE

Sunday, August 2, 9:30 am

Rock Creek Park Nature Center  
5200 Glover Road NW, Washington, DC



### UPCOMING MEN'S CLUB PROGRAMS

SUNDAYS, JULY 5, 12, 19, AND 26 AND AUGUST 2, 9, 16, 23, AND 30 9:30 AM **Men's Club Breakfast**. Join us after morning minyan every Sunday for a breakfast sponsored by Men's Club.

THURSDAY, JULY 9, 7:30 PM **Hearing Men's Voices**. Beth El men are welcome to join us in person or via Zoom as Dennis Askwith begins a multi-subject discussion with "What Makes You Hopeful?" RSVP at [bethelmc.org/events/hmv-0709](http://bethelmc.org/events/hmv-0709).

SUNDAY AUGUST 2, 9:00 AM **WBE and MC Hike**. Join us for our annual summer hike at Rock Creek Nature Park. For more information and to register, visit [bethelmc.org/hike-0802](http://bethelmc.org/hike-0802).

### Rosh Hashanah Gift Bag Delivery

Join Beth El along with JSSA and Ohr Kodesh to deliver Rosh Hashanah gift bags to the local Russian-Jewish community. The bag delivery will take place on Sunday morning, September 6. Volunteers pick up the bags at Beth El between 9:30 - 9:45 am and must deliver them to people before 1:30 pm. Beth El has committed to the same number of bags as last year, which means that each family should be assigned three or four baskets provided we get 10 families to volunteer. This is a wonderful way to begin the new year and fulfill the mitzvah of *ma'achil re'evim* (feeding the hungry). Please email Rebecca Edelson at [rgedelson@gmail.com](mailto:rgedelson@gmail.com) if you are able to participate in this most rewarding mitzvah.

**Give Honey for the Holidays**

WISH FAMILY AND FRIENDS A SWEET NEW YEAR BY SENDING AN EIGHT-OUNCE JAR OF DELICIOUS KOSHER HONEY DIRECTLY TO THEIR DOOR. A CARD WITH YOUR GREETINGS AND DONATION IN THEIR HONOR WILL BE INCLUDED.

**\$18 PER JAR. ORDER BY AUGUST 18 FOR FREE SHIPPING BY ROSH HASHANAH.**

ORDER AT [BETHELMC.ORG/ORDERHONEY](http://BETHELMC.ORG/ORDERHONEY)  
SELECT "BEM" SO WE GET CREDIT

## Yah Echsof Elul Meditations

Saturdays, August 8 and 22  
12:30 pm at Beth El

Join Hazzan Fradkin and Alisa Silverman for High Holidays preparation through mindfulness. We will use meditation, chant, and study to delve into our spiritual tradition and explore Elul themes focused on renewal and humility. Register for August 8 at [bethelmc.org/yah-echsof-0808](http://bethelmc.org/yah-echsof-0808). Register for August 22 at [bethelmc.org/yah-echsof-0822](http://bethelmc.org/yah-echsof-0822).

## Sound Bath & Contemplative Selichot Service

Saturday, September 5, 8:00 pm  
at Congregation Beth El

Join us as we enter the High Holidays with intentionality and prepare our hearts to return and do teshuva (repentance). This three-part journey involves 1. Sound, 2. Havdalah, and 3. Selichot (Return). Register at [bethelmc.org/selichot-5786](http://bethelmc.org/selichot-5786).

## COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Minyan Ruach

Minyan Ruach will be leading the Shabbat Morning Service on Saturday, August 1, at 9:15 am in the Swoff Chapel. This is a unique opportunity for Minyan Ruach, and we are quite excited to present to the congregation. As a reminder, it is a low key, mostly lay-led, participatory service. Always wanted an aliyah or to open the ark? There is always an opportunity to try something at Minyan Ruach. You can chant a Torah portion or Haftarah if you like. We always have singing with our special song leaders and an exciting presentation. Contact Marsha Liss at lissmjs@gmail.com or Sally Ehrlich at salehrlich@yahoo.com with any questions or for more information.

### 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. Visit [bethelmc.org/kiddush](http://bethelmc.org/kiddush), email info@bethelmc.org, or call 301-652-2606 for more information. At least two full weeks' advance notice of sponsorship is required. Available dates are July 4, 18, and 25; and August 1, 8, 15, and 29.

### Shabbat Kiddush Servers Needed

Thirty minutes and a smile! That's all it takes for one of the happiest mitzvot at Beth El. Serve the kiddush luncheon 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 cleanup involved. Visit [www.bethelmc.org/kiddush](http://www.bethelmc.org/kiddush) or contact Sue Kanter at kanterdsw@aol.com for more info.

## 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 made May 13 - June 6, 2026.*

### BY:

Mark and Barbara Rabin  
Ricardo and Irene Munster  
Gail Fribush  
Brian and Judy Liss  
Steven and Lauren Feldman  
Seth and Lori Cardeli  
Sid and Janet Getz  
Mitchell and Rachelle Solkowitz  
Walter Arnheim and Marsha Rehns  
Elliot and Esther Wilner  
Adam and Shelley Ducker  
Uel Duane Johnson  
Sue and Bill Kanter  
Jon Malis and Jessica Rosenbaum

### IN HONOR OF:

Adi and Sarina becoming b'not mitzvah by Sarah Roark Asa, Alisa, and David's sound bath spiritual experience by Adam Chaikin  
The baby naming of Meira Baila Benezra Megdal by Margi and Mark Kramer, Jim and Leslie Dellon, Ricardo and Irene Munster  
Elinor and Madeline Bern on becoming b'not mitzvah by Jonathan and Susan Simon  
Judy Baldinger's special birthday by Howard and Holly Stein  
Rabbi Harris by Susan King, Ninetta Feldman  
Rabbi Peter Novick and Diane Sondheimer by Leslie Dellon  
Ricardo Munster's retirement by Frank and Judith Kasle, the Chaikin Family, the Redlich Family, Tiarra Joslyn, Wynne and Ron Sitrin, Margi and Mark Kramer, Leslie Dellon  
Sasha Silberman's bat mitzvah by Dara and Scott Freling  
Heather Garrett by Susan King  
The marriage of Aaron and Sofia by Lori and Steven Ross  
The Venturas's 60th wedding anniversary by Ben and Suzanne Bronheim

Hazzan Fradkin's wonderful Broadway Showcase by Debbie and Scott Glick  
Toby Schonfeld and James Blasingame by their Beth El friends

### IN MEMORY OF:

Sara Greenbaum's family, Susannah Greenbaum, Judith Greenbaum, and Martha Levine by Sara Greenbaum  
Benjamin Smolen by Jason D. Smolen  
Bernard Turteltaub, a beloved father, by Helena Koenig  
Bert King by Susan King  
David Shapiro, a beloved father, by Yael Greenberg  
Ed Goldberg, Holly Stein's father, by Howard and Holly Stein  
Frank Lissy by Stewart Deutsch and Nina Zimm  
Harvey Deutsch by Stewart Deutsch and Nina Zimm  
Irwin Nepo by Hellaine Nepo  
Israel Sherman Katz, father of Michael Katz, by Wynne and Ron Sitrin, Margi and Mark Kramer, Michelle Brafman and Tom Helf, Sue and Bill Kanter, Adam and Harriet Kuhn, Henry Birnkrant and Lynn Goldin, Howard J. Hoffman, Barry Boden and Rachel Gafni  
Janice Robin Grunley Violette, sister of Nancy Grunley, by Howard J. Hoffman, Sandy Pearlman  
Leo Lieber by Walter Arnheim and Marsha Rehns  
Martin Popper by Arthur Popper  
Natalie Goldberger by Howard and Holly Stein  
Peter Silverstein by Don Silverstein  
Richard Arnheim by Walter Arnheim and Marsha Rehns  
Rona Moscow's yearzeit by Karen Moscow Auerbach  
Ruth Frieden by Ina Wernick  
Samuel Bebchick by Leonard and Gabriela Bebchick  
Samuel Rauch by Ruth Ann Heckman  
Walter Weinstein by Dora Weinstein  
Wolf Stein, father of Howard Stein, by Howard and Holly Stein  
Lionel Kuhn by Adam and Harriet Kuhn  
Moritz Rindskopf by Walter Arnheim and Marsha Rehns

**MAZAL TOV TO**

**Sasha Silberman** on her bat mitzvah on June 13. Proud parents are **Reuben** and **Laura Silberman**.

**Andy** and **Katey Koblenz** on the birth of their granddaughter, **Nora Allie Koblenz**. Proud parents are **Danny** and **Shira Koblenz**.

July/August birthdays: **Estelle Abraham, Marilda Averbug, Joel Breslau, Maralyn Burstein, Lawrence Eisen, Sue Emmer, Josh Frumkin, Lynne Ganek, Esther Gerber, Deborah Glick, Deborah Goldstein, Susan Hanley, Hadar Harris, Marlene Harte, Saul Helfenbein, Robert Judson, Jennifer Katz, Andrew Koblenz, Mark Kramer, James Lerner, Lisa Michelson, Neal Orringer, Mitchell Rales, Joan Ressin, Dale Rosenthal, Douglas Rosing, Linda Schatz, Mark Schwartz, Anthony Silberfield, Joel Simon, Jeffrey Snyder, Robert Teitel, Steven Teitelbaum, Rhonda Zahler, and Adrian Zelazny**

July/August anniversaries: **Alan** and **Linda Orenstein** (60 years), **Larry** and **Sue Bruser** (55 years), **Alan** and **Ruth Vinitsky** (55 years), **Alan** and **Barri Gross** (50 years), **Kenneth** and **Marlene Markison** (50 years), **Alan** and **Erica Edelman** (45 years), **Andrew** and **Katherine Koblenz** (45 years), **Jeremy** and **Sharon Zissman** (40 years), **Samuel Boxerman** and **Debra Vodenos** (35 years), **Richard** and **Jennifer Katz** (35 years), **Lee Miller** and **Sheryl Rosensky Miller** (35 years), **Robert** and **Judy Rovner** (35 years), **Jonathan** and **Deborah Sills** (25 years), **Eric** and **Rebecca Solovy** (25 years), **Hazzan Asa** and **Sarah Fradkin** (20 years), **Scott** and **Dara Freling** (20 years), **Sarah Birnbach** and **Jake Guttmann** (20 years), **Michael Bern** and **Rachel Roth** (15 years), **Zachary** and **Julia Borman** (15 years), **Eric** and **Jessica Kasenetz** (15 years), **Stephen** and **Anna Schneider** (15 years), **Kate** and **Jamie Shenk** (15 years), and **Jamie** and **Emily Tasman** (15 years)

**CONDOLENCES TO**

**Janice Liebowitz** and **Andy Schoenholtz** on the death of Janice's mother, **Anita Liebowitz**. Anita was the grandmother of **Ari, David, and Noah**, and great-grandmother of **Eliza** and **Teddy**.

**Jonathan** and **Danielle Okun** on the death of Jonathan's father, **Harvey Okun**. Harvey was the grandfather of **Spencer** and **Madelyn Okun**.

The family of **Barbara Templemon**. Barbara was a dedicated member of the Beth El community, helping to prepare and serve kiddush for over 23 years.

**Marilyn** and **Jeff Glick** on the death of Marilyn's mother, **Eleanor Goldfine**. Eleanor was the grandmother of **Irena Glick Lavine, Joshua Glick, and Melissa Glick**.

**Peter** and **Kooi Cohen** on the death of Peter's mother, longtime congregant **Susan Cohen**. Susan was the grandmother of **Monique Cohen**.

The family of **Bary Berger**. Bary was the husband of **Ruth Berger**, father of **Rachel, Sara, and David Berger**, son of **Bea Berger**, brother of **Brent (Carolyn) Berger**, and uncle of **Noah, Daniel, and Anna Berger**.

The family of **Herbert Chubin**. Herb was the father of **Ellen (David) Epstein** and grandfather of **Max** and **Abigail Epstein**.

**CHAI SOCIETY 60+**



**Shabbat Dinner and Services - Friday, July 17, 5:15 pm.** All congregants are invited to join the Senior Caucus for Shabbat dinner at 5:15 pm. After dinner, we'll gather for services at 6:30 pm, followed by an oneg. Greet the Sabbath with your Beth El community. You'll be home before dark! Cost: \$23 per member Adult/Teen, \$28 per nonmember Adult/Teen, \$12 per child ages 6-12, \$8 per child ages 2-5. No charge for children under 2. Registration for dinner is required by noon on Wednesday, July 15 at [bethelmc.org/senior-shabbat-0717](http://bethelmc.org/senior-shabbat-0717).



**Senior Caucus End-of-Summer BBQ - Tuesday, September 1, 12:30 pm in the Bender Social Hall.** Join the Senior Caucus and welcome fall with a BBQ lunch of burgers, dogs, and side dishes. Vegetarian options are available. Visit with friends and then explore the richness of Jewish heritage through music. The cost is \$10. Register using this link or call Katie or Tania in the office at 301-652-2606. Registration deadline is noon on Thursday, August 27. Register at [bethelmc.org/senior-bbq-0901](http://bethelmc.org/senior-bbq-0901).