



CONGREGATION BETH EL SCROLL

MAY 2026 • IYAR-SIVAN 5786

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From the Beth El Clergy

BRINGING US TOGETHER

BY ASA FRADKIN



I have a friend in the Beth El community who loves to go to the gym. I told him that after years of working out at home I have been reconsidering joining a gym but found the cost pro-

hibitive. After telling him how prohibitive, he shrugged and said, "I pay more than that."

"Does it have special amenities?" I asked him.

"The staff is very attentive," he said, "and the gym is very clean with nice equipment, but the best aspect is the community."

My friend happens to be retired but it occurred to me that with so many people working from home now, the gym may be more central to people's communal lives than ever before. For many, it has become a cherished third space where they can share their values, passions, and life experiences with friends.

This is exactly how I think of Beth El. Beth El is a community of spiritual growth, long time friendships, ritual practice, and second family. Beth El is home.

What brings us together at Beth El is as varied as the class offerings at your local gym. Mahj on Saturdays, Friday musical services, weekday minyans, Scolnic classes, or the BEPS coop among so many others.

My favorite night of community at Beth El is our Tikkun Leil Shavuot. A night of dedicated learning where clergy and congregants alike offer classes from 8:00 pm-2:00 am in a tradition

that goes back hundreds of years. We spend several hours intermittently learning, eating, snacking on desserts, and drinking coffee together.

One thing I love about it is the extended hang out time. Most events at Beth El take an average of one to three hours total. The Tikkun night of learning extends that window to six hours. Full disclosure, I only made it to

1am once and last year I was out at midnight.

Still, the opportunity to sit "in class" with my Beth El friends and family for several hours and learn together is something I deeply treasure.

Learning is, of course, endemic to our experience as Jews, but you may be surprised to learn that the Tikkun is not

a strictly "Rabbinic" enterprise. It's not Talmudic at all. It was invented by the Kabbalists in 16th century Tzfat who wanted to learn all night so they could greet the sunrise with the morning Shema.

In Jerusalem, hordes of religious Jews walk to the Kotel each year on the morning of Shavuot to be at the Wall for sunrise.

So the learning aspect is deeply Rabbinic, but the tradition of greeting the sun is mystical and comes from the Kabbalists. It's about mindfulness and gratitude. It's about striving to be in the moment, that one beautiful moment when the sun arrives and we have the privilege of saying the Shema.

Community is a privilege and the Tikkun is the night when we come together to celebrate what we have together. Please join us on the evening of May 21! ■



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

COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER

Tiarra Joslyn tjoslyn@bethelmc.org

BETH EL BOARD

PRESIDENT

Sam Boxerman president@bethelmc.org

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

Jennifer Hirsch jenniferhirsch@gmail.com

ADMINISTRATIVE VICE PRESIDENT

Jim Gelb jamesmgelb@gmail.com

COMMUNICATIONS VICE PRESIDENT

Liliana López lilianalopez8@gmail.com

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT VICE PRESIDENT

Alison Baraf alisonbaraf@gmail.com

DEVELOPMENT VICE PRESIDENT

Fran Katz Watson fran@katzwatsongroup.com

EDUCATION AND LIFELONG LEARNING VICE PRESIDENT

Josh Rosenstein joshua.rosenstein@gmail.com

TIKKUN OLAM VICE PRESIDENT

David Rifkind david.rifkind@stinson.com

WORSHIP AND SPIRITUALITY VICE PRESIDENT

Reuben Silberman reuben.silberman@gmail.com

TREASURER

Jeff Grill jeffrey.grill@pillsburylaw.com

SECRETARY

Rebecca Schilleci rebecca.schilleci@gmail.com

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

SCROLL COMMITTEE scroll@bethelmc.org

Julie Kennon, *editor*. Sheila Bellack, Karen Benezra, Heather Garrett, Davida Kales, Liliana López, Janet Meyers, Larry Sidman, and Donna Vogel.

Art director: Tiarra Joslyn

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 offsite at 9:00 am on May 25 as the office and building will be closed for the Federal holiday.

SHABBAT AND SHAVUOT SCHEDULE

Friday, May 1

6:00 pm Young Family Shabbat

6:00 pm Shir Yachad Light Dinner

7:00 pm Shir Yachad Friday Night Musical Service

Saturday, May 2

7:30 am Early Shabbat Service

9:15 am Main Shabbat Service - Adalyn and Sarina Fishkind
B'not Mitzvah

9:30 am Junior Congregation

Friday, May 8

6:30 pm Yedid Nefesh Friday Night Musical Service

Saturday, May 9

7:30 am Early Shabbat Service

9:15 am Main Shabbat Service - Amalia Rittberg and Noa
Laikin B'not Mitzvah

9:30 am Junior Congregation

Friday, May 15

6:30 pm Parking Lot Shabbat and 10th Grade Confirmation
Shabbat Service

Saturday, May 16

7:30 am Early Shabbat Service

9:15 am Main Shabbat Service - Elinor and Madeline Bern
B'not Mitzvah

9:30 am Junior Congregation Family Service and 5th Grade
Kabbalat haSiddur

9:30 am Minyan Chaverim

Thursday, May 21 - Erev Shavuot

6:30 pm Tikkun Leil Shavuot (see page 5 for full schedule)

Friday, May 22 - Shavuot Day 1

9:30 am Festival Morning Service

6:30 pm Festival Evening Service - via Zoom only

Saturday, May 23 - Shavuot Day 2

7:30 am Early Shabbat and Festival Morning Service (Yizkor)

9:15 am Main Shabbat and Festival Morning Service (Yizkor)

12:30 pm Support After Loss

Friday, May 29

6:30 pm Kol Haneshama Friday Night Musical Service

7:30 pm Kol Haneshama Congregational Shabbat Dinner

8:30 pm Kol Haneshama Oneg with Guest Speaker

Saturday, May 30

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.

MONTHLY PROGRAMMING

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

May Events at Beth El

Connect

May 3
12:00 pm

Tzelem LGBT+ Teen Group
A safe space for Jewish teens to talk about the issues in their lives.



May 7
7:30 pm

Hearing Men's Voices
Shaliach Yoel Gleizer leads a discussion on "Bridging Israeli and American Cultures."



May 14
7:30 pm

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



May 16
12:30 pm

Shabbat Mahj
Attention all Mahj players: get your Mahj fix on Shabbat!



May 20
7:00 pm

Beth El Annual Meeting
Please make every effort to attend so we can meet our quorum requirement.



May 23
12:30 pm

Support After Loss
A brief teaching and discussion with Rabbi Greg Harris.



Engage

May 7
5:00 pm

Nourishing Bethesda Food Packing
Families will pack food for Nourishing Bethesda at Chevy-Chase Rescue Squad.



May 7
7:30 pm

Beth El Night at the JxJ Festival
Join us for the opening night screening of *Once Upon My Mother*.



May 12
7:00 pm

Jews & Brews
Meet at Silver Branch Rockville Beerworks for schmoozing and casual Jewish learning.



May 17
4:00 pm

Broadway Revue Concert
Join our talented lineup of performers for this afternoon of hits from your favorite Broadway Musicals.



May 19
12:30 pm

Senior Caucus Lunch & Program
"Stolpersteine: Memorializing the Victims of Nazism." Open to all.



May 21
9:30 am

Mental Health Professionals Group
Join us for breakfast and a discussion on "The Wisdom of Jewish Grief Rituals."



Learn

May 3
10:30 am

Daniel Mann Literary Luminaries
This year's annual lecture will be given by author Emily Tamkin.



May 3
12:00 pm

Coffee Around the World
Shaliach Yoel Gleizer will lead a unique, hands-on coffee workshop.



May 3
7:00 pm

Chug Kriah
Read and discuss *Yonim b'Trafalgar* (Pigeons at Trafalgar Square) in Hebrew.



May 16
12:30 pm

Yah Eschof Meditation Group
Explore Judaism through meditation, chant, and study with Hazzan Fradkin



May 19
7:00 pm

Shiva Leader Training Part 2
Learn to serve our community by becoming a shiva minyan leader.



May 21
6:30 pm

Tikkun Leil Shavuot
Join us for this traditional night of study and dairy dinner.



May 26
7:30 pm

MoCo Exec. Candidates Forum
Hear candidates for the County Executive before the primary in June.



Pray

May 1
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.



May 1
6:00 pm

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



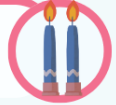
May 8
6:30 pm

Yedid Nefesh Friday Night Service
Friday evening musical service that blends familiar melodies and traditional liturgy



May 15
6:30 pm

10th Grade Confirmation Shabbat
Celebrate our 10th Grade Confirmation Class with Shabbat services and dinner.



May 15
6:30 pm

Parking Lot Shabbat
Join us for a casual outdoor Shabbat service in the Beth El Parking Lot.



May 16
9:30 am

Minyan Chaverim
Join this lay-led service in the Library.



May 29
6:30 pm

Kol Haneshama Musical Shabbat
6:30 pm services followed by 7:30 pm dinner then oneg w/guest speaker.



Honoring the Past, Ensuring the Future

Founded in 1951, Beth El has been fortunate to have a dynamic and vibrant history. Not all Conservative congregations have survived and thrived this long. We are thankful for those who went before and worked to ensure that their legacy was a vibrant center of Jewish life in Bethesda.

Now it is our turn. As you think about the legacy you would like to leave, do you picture Beth El still flourishing well into the future – for your children, grandchildren and the many Jews who come to Bethesda looking for a Jewish place of connection?

One way to make your vision a reality is to commit to a legacy gift to Beth El – making a provision in your estate plan or trusts or simply including Beth El as a beneficiary in your retirement account.

In recent years, the congregation has been helped by important legacy gifts, most notably, Lucy Ozarin z"l's incredibly generous gift that paid off our mortgage. While she didn't know when she made that gift, it enabled Beth El to survive the impacts of covid and now the high costs of security, two occurrences she could not have

foreseen. But her dedication to keeping Beth El in the future was critical to our community. Just this last year, a legacy gift arrived in time to pay for a new roof.

Hopefully you have noticed the sign in the gallery with the names of the members of the Lucy Ozarin Create a Jewish Legacy Society who have made a commitment to include Beth El in their legacy. We know that some of you may have already made such plans. Please let us know so we can include you and know what to expect. And, if you have not made any legacy plans and want more information, please reach out to Lisa Zimmerman at lzimmerman@bethelmc.org.

We extend a heartfelt thanks our current Legacy Society members: Walter Arnheim and Marsha Rehns, Leonard and Gabriela Bebachick, Sheila Bellack, Rachelle Bernstecker, Sarah Birnbach, Samuel Boxerman and Debra Vodenos, Mark and Lisa Bronfman, Benjamin and Suzanne Bronheim, Stephen Cohen and Deborah Friedman, Michael Cutler and Dale Rosenthal, Jerome and Patricia Danoff, Lee z"l and Gloria z"l Derkay, Mark Doroff z"l, David and Eve Farber, Howard and Susan

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BROADWAY REVUE
 Sunday, May 17
 4:00 pm
 Congregation Beth El

Join Hazzan Fradkin with Beth El stars Valerie Issembert, Michelle Bronzo, Cory Breychak, Beth El choirs, and others for this Broadway Revue of songs about Belief and Community. Featuring *Pippin*, *Godspell*, *Hamilton*, *Dear Evan Hansen*, *Wicked*, *Ragtime*, and more!

Hazzan Asa Fradkin Cory Breychak
 Michelle Bronzo Valerie Issembert

RSVP at bethelmc.org/broadway-0517

Annual Meeting

Wednesday, May 20
at Congregation Beth El
Reception - 6:00 pm
Meeting - 7:00 pm

Please join us for our annual congregational meeting at 7:00 pm. Drop in to the Zahler Social Hall before the meeting starts for food, schmooze, drinks, and fun from 6:00-7:00 pm.

Please make every effort to attend so we can meet our quorum requirement; if you cannot make it in person, a Zoom option will be available.

Agenda
 D'var Torah
 Minutes of Previous Annual Meeting
 President's Report
 Proposed Budget FY'27
 Election At-Large
 Directors
 Adjournment

RSVP at bethelmc.org/annual-meeting

Keep Up with Beth El Security Trainings

BY MICHAEL GIPS, CHAIR, BETH EL SECURITY COMMITTEE

Beth El's Security Committee scans the environment, watches trends, consults with law enforcement and intelligence services, and meets regularly to continue making the synagogue a safe and dynamic place to gather, learn, and play.

Staff, student, and member training are key to a safe synagogue community. To that end, Beth El will hold congregation-wide training on June 28 on community safety and threat response. Jshield will be at Beth El from 11:00 am to noon to instruct and model best practices on staying aware and safe at the synagogue and beyond.

Participants will learn how to recognize behaviors that may signal concern, strengthen everyday situational awareness, and respond calmly and effectively during moments of uncertainty. The session may include realistic walk-throughs of synagogue spaces, guidance on communicating concerns quickly, strategies for helping protect children and older congregants, and practical ways to support one another before first responders arrive. We will also include

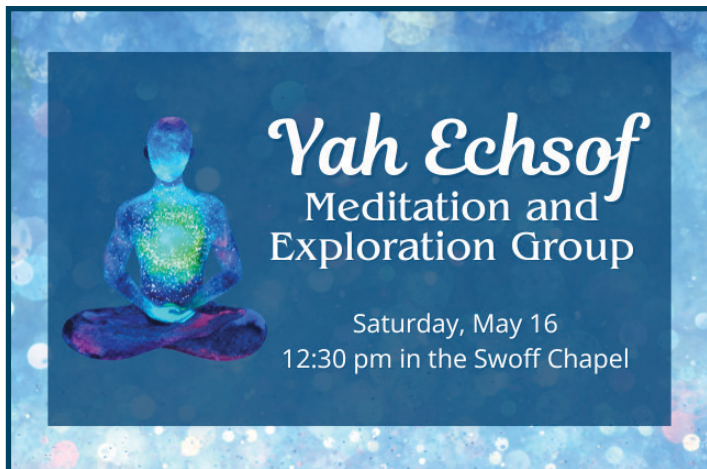
age-appropriate guidance for parents and teens so that every part of our community can feel informed and prepared. The training is designed not to create fear, but to build confidence, shared responsibility, and the kind of steady preparedness that helps our community remain both welcoming and resilient.

This program reflects Beth El's broader commitment to safety as a communal mitzvah: preserving the warmth, openness, and sacred purpose of our synagogue while taking prudent steps to protect all who enter. In my recent book, *It's Not in the Manual: Real-World Leadership for Security and Risk Professionals*, I write that the most effective preparation often comes not from rigid scripts, but from good judgment, calm communication, and people who are ready to help one another when it matters most. That principle is especially true in synagogue life, where our strength has always come from community. I hope many members of Beth El will join us for this important and empowering training. Go to bethelmc.org/security-0628 for more information and to register. ■



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. Stay for the oneg after the service to connect with familiar faces, make new friends, and welcome Shabbat together. This service will be co-led by our 10th Grade Confirmation students.

Please RSVP at bethelmc.org/lot-shabbat-0515/ in case of weather updates.



While classical Jewish teaching suggests "Naaseh V'Nishmah" ("first we do, then we understand"), Rabbi Zalman Schachter-Shalomi, founder of Jewish Renewal, believed that profound connection comes from first understanding one's inner Jewish self through study, practice, and meditation.

This monthly gathering adopts Reb Zalman's path. We will use meditation, chant, and study to delve into our spiritual tradition and cultivate a deeper, more meaningful connection to our Jewish identity. RSVP at bethelmc.org/yah-echsof-0516.

Kol Haneshama Speaker to Discuss Unsettled Ground

BY LAURA NADEL



Join us on Friday, May 29, for Kol Haneshama, a lay-led service that blends tradition and creativity, drawing on contemporary and innovative Jewish music from around the world. (Re)connect with friends old and new and welcome Shabbat in a joyful, participatory, and engaging service! The evening begins with our musical service at 6:30 pm, followed by a congregational Shabbat dinner at 7:30 pm. At approximately 8:15 pm, we'll welcome our guest speaker, Jeffrey L. Katz, who will speak on "Unsettled Ground: Reflections on Germany's Attempts to Make Amends."

Jeffrey L. Katz is a veteran journalist with extensive experience working at newspapers, magazines, radio and online news, including 15 years at NPR. His new book, *Unsettled Ground: Reflections on Germany's Attempts to Make Amends*, is a personal take on Germany's belated efforts to come to grips with the Holocaust. It's a story of remembrance, responsibility, and reconciliation, written by the son of survivors. The book is being praised as "a remarkably balanced and human portrait of the benefits and limits of reconciliation over time and space" (Jewish Book Council). Katz traveled to Germany several times to explore his family's roots and meet with local members of the country's remembrance movement.

The deadline to register for dinner is noon on Wednesday, May 27. No RSVP required to attend only the service and oneg. Find out more and register for dinner at bethelmc.org/kol-haneshama-0529. ■

Daniel Mann Literary Luminaries Lecturer Emily Tamkin



Please join us for the annual Daniel Mann Literary Luminaries Lecture on Sunday, May 3, at 10:30 am. This year's lecture will feature guest speaker Emily Tamkin, author of *Bad Jews: A History of American Jewish Politics and Identities* and *The Influence of Soros: Politics, Power, and the Struggle for an Open Society*.

Emily Tamkin is a member of the inaugural cohort of the Hartman Seminar & Writers Workshop for Journalists and the U.S. editor at *The New Statesman*, where she covers U.S. politics, society, and foreign policy. Before that, she covered foreign affairs as a staff writer at *Foreign Policy* and *BuzzFeed News* and as a freelance reporter at places like *Business Insider*, *Politico*, and *Prospect Magazine*. Her writing on American Jewish identities has also appeared in *The Boston Globe*, *The New Republic*, *Slate*, and *The Washington Post*, among other publications.

The Literary Luminaries Lecture series was conceived by the late Daniel Mann z"l, a Jewish community professional and Beth El Library Committee member. He organized the first several presentations, including our inaugural lecture in 2009, featuring Dr. Peggy Pearlstein, then-head of the Hebraic Section at the Library of Congress. After Daniel's death in 2014, the series was renamed in his memory.

RSVP at bethelmc.org/lecture-0503. ■



Tikkun Leil Shavuot A Traditional Shavuot Eve Nighttime Study Session

Thursday, May 21
6 Sivan 5786

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

| | |
|----------|-----------------------------|
| 6:30 pm | First Teaching Session |
| 7:00 pm | Evening Minyan |
| 7:30 pm | Dinner - Register by May 19 |
| 8:15 pm | Multiple Teaching Sessions |
| 10:15 pm | Cheesecake Break |
| 10:45 pm | Multiple Teaching Sessions |

More info at bethelmc.org/shavuot-5786.



SHIVA LEADER TRAINING

Learn how to serve our community by providing this comforting and important mitzvah to Beth El families.

Part 2

Tuesday, May 19, 7:00-8:00 pm

at Congregation Beth El

Join us to continue learning how to lead a shiva minyan in someone's home. Beth El members often take on this leadership role to assist in the mitzvah of *nachum avelim*, comforting the mourner. Learn the skills and sensitivities needed to provide this comforting and important mitzvah. Attendance at Part 1 is not required for participation in this session. RSVP at bethelmc.org/shiva-training-0519.

Highlights from Good Deeds Day 2026

Yasher koach to the incredible Beth El members and staff who came together to make Good Deeds Day 2026 a success. Because of your collective efforts, we are proud to share the meaningful outcomes from this year:

- All time slots for the April 5 Blood Drive were filled (Jack Ventura and Jon Simon).
- \$380 raised through bagel sales for Kibbutz Nir Oz (BERS).
- The Cabin John Creek clean-up program reached full capacity (Abby Miller).
- 240 snack packs prepared and delivered to Bethesda Help (Women of Beth El).
- 400 sandwiches delivered to Shepherd's Table (BERS).
- 60 full-size toiletry kits assembled for NCCF programs (BERS).
- 14 pounds of medication safely collected and disposed of (Men's Club).
- 70 pounds/160 cans of protein collected and delivered to Bethesda Help (Beyond BEENs).
- 8-10 crafters worked together on Red Scarves for Foster Care to Success; crafting will continue throughout the summer (Beth El Crafters).
- Volunteers sorted food at the Manna Food Center in

Gaithersburg on April 13.

- Beth El launched an ongoing commitment as a drop-off site for the Greater DC Diaper Bank (Melissa Fishkin Eisenberg).
- Wish list items were collected for The Tree House Child Advocacy Center (Andrea Rifkind).
- Full-size toiletries were collected for Interfaith Works Women's Shelters (NuBEENs).
- Wish list items were gathered for the Interfaith Works Essential Needs Collection.

None of this would have been possible without the dedication and generosity of the volunteers who organized, led, and participated in these programs and collections. Thank you to Mitchell Solkowitz, Danielle Sultan, Abby Miller, and others for taking pictures. A very special thank you to Andrea Rifkind and Stacey Topol for organizing this year's Good Deeds Day.

Beth El's Good Deeds Day is underwritten by our Sondra Bender Community Service Fund. Beth El also thanks the Jewish Federation of Greater Washington and the generous support of The Sara and Samuel J. Lessans Good Deeds Day Fund for helping to fund the BERS Sandwich Making and Toiletry Kit Assembly. ■



**Family Volunteering:
Nourishing Bethesda
Food Packing**

Thursday, May 7, 5:00-7:00 pm
Bethesda-Chevy Chase Rescue Squad
5020 Battery Ln, Bethesda, MD 20814

Join Beth El families on Thursday, May 7 at 5:00 pm to pack produce and shelf-stable food for Nourishing Bethesda, a local nonprofit operating out of the Bethesda Chevy Chase Rescue Squad just down Old Georgetown Road. Must be 9+ and limited to 15 participants. RSVP at bethelmc.org/volunteering-0507.

Israel in Focus

HaYoms: Of Nightmares and Dreams

BY LARRY SIDMAN

Most Jewish holidays have their origins in the Torah or ancient Jewish history. The notable exceptions are three holidays that we have marked in the past several weeks: Yom HaShoah v'HaGvurah, Holocaust Remembrance Day; Yom HaZikaron, Israel's Memorial Day; and Yom HaAtzmaut, Israel's Independence Day. Each of them are essentially secular, relating to events that have occurred in many of our lifetimes. In a recent podcast, noted Israeli public intellectuals, Donniel Hartman and Yossi Klein Halevy, characterized these "Yoms" as the other ten days of awe, referring to the period between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. In doing so, they attached a sacred significance to their observance.

American and Israeli Jews experience these Yoms in very different ways. In the United States, the "Yoms" have far less significance than they do in Israel. In general, American Jews are far less aware of them than we are about Jewish religious holidays.

In the United States, observance of Yom HaShoah v'HaGvurah often is led by Jewish communal institutions such as the Jewish Community Relations Councils, which hold commemorative ceremonies. It also has become customary for many synagogue Men's Clubs to distribute Yahrzeit candles in memory of the six million of our people who were murdered in the Holocaust. By contrast, the president and prime minister of Israel deliver major speeches broadcast nationally, reflecting on the enormity of the tragedy and placing it within the context of contemporary Jewish life. A siren sounds across the entire State of Israel for two minutes at 10:00 am. Everything stops, including automobiles regardless of where they are. It is challenging to imagine a group of Jews being completely silent for two minutes, yet in Israel the nation is silent for two minutes.

Of the three "Yoms," American Jews probably are most familiar with Yom HaAtzmaut. It is a time of celebration, marked by festivals in Jewish communities, performances in religious schools, and recitation of special prayers of gratitude. These observances pale by comparison to the festivities of Yom HaAtzmaut in Israel. At nightfall ushering in Yom HaAtzmaut, the somber mood of Yom HaZikaron is dispelled by fireworks lighting up the sky and joyous, often raucous, parties. Picnics and speeches of national pride fill the day. It is akin to Independence Day in the United States but with far more gusto. As Donniel Hartman and Yossi Klein Halevy noted in their recent podcast, it is the one day in the year when Israeli Jews set aside their political and religious differ-

ences and experience exuberant national unity.

Yom HaZikaron offers the starkest differences in the experiences of American and Israeli Jews. Only a relatively small number of American Jews know of Yom HaZikaron. By contrast, Yom HaZikaron in Israel is observed everywhere. It occurs the day before Yom HaAtzmaut and emotionally is the link between the darkness of death and destruction and the light of freedom. On Yom HaZikaron, Israelis remember the more than 25,000 IDF soldiers who have been killed in battle so that Israel could attain its independence and survive as a sovereign state for the Jewish people. They also remember the thousands of grandparents, parents, children, brothers and sisters murdered in terrorist attacks, a number

swelled by the barbaric Hamas attack of October 7, 2023. Precisely because the Jewish population of Israel is so small, slightly less than eight million, almost every family has suffered a loss since 1948. On Yom HaZikaron, IDF commanders make it a priority to visit the families of fallen soldiers who served under them. All public entertainment venues such as movie theatres are closed. Israeli broadcasting is devoted to programs honoring the lives of fallen soldiers and music reflecting the somber mood of the day. Two sirens sound, one in the evening and one in the

morning, creating the internal and external space for the memories of those who died to secure and sustain the modern State of Israel.

The gap between the relative ignorance of Yom HaZikaron in the American Jewish community and the ubiquitous, intense feelings it evokes in Israel offers unique insights into the increasing strains between the two major Jewish communities in the world. It highlights the difference in the lived experience of the two populations. American Jews simply have not been exposed to the threats of terror and war that have been the reality of Israeli existence since 1948 and for the 20 years preceding its Declaration of Independence.

The Haggadah that we read on Pesach commands us to imagine ourselves as if we participated in the exodus from slavery in Mitzrayim. For American Jews today, especially those alienated from Israel because of the actions and policies of its current government, Yom HaZikaron offers the most poignant opportunity to imagine ourselves as if we are living in Eretz Yisrael. In doing so, perhaps we will develop greater understanding of life in Israel and the importance of global Jewish solidarity to the future of Jewish life.



HAZZAN FRADKIN, SHALIACH YOEL, AND RABBI HARRIS IN FRONT OF A PACKED SANCTUARY AT THIS YEAR'S YOM HAATZMAUT ZIMRIYAH

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11



10th Grade Confirmation Shabbat
Friday, May 15
 6:30 pm - Shabbat service at Beth El
 Dinner at the home of Rabbi Harris to follow



PROUDLY OFFERING
Tzelem
 MovingTraditions.org/Tzelem
 FOR GENDER-EXPANSIVE & LGBTQ+ TEENS

Next Meeting:
 May 3
 12:00 pm

Click for Info & to
Register Now

Moving Traditions Offered in partnership with keshet נטו

BETH EL YOUTH

Tenth grade students and family members are invited to join us for 10th Grade Confirmation Shabbat on Friday, May 15, at 6:30 pm. It is our tradition to hold Confirmation during a Friday evening Shabbat service. Your 10th graders have elected to help lead portions of the Parking Lot Shabbat service that evening, as well as to write and share some of their thoughts and reflections at this milestone.

After services, there will be a private Shabbat dinner for 10th Grade Confirmation students and their families at Rabbi Harris' home to further celebrate your teen reaching this milestone in their Jewish education. Your teens will help decide the menu. To register your family and/or your extended family for Shabbat dinner on May 15, please go to bethelmc.org/confirmation-0515. Dinner registration is due by Tuesday, May 12.



Thank you to all of the families who joined us for our Yom HaAtzmaut Zimriyah, or song session, led by our wonderful *shaliach*, Yoel!

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

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



Beth El preschool is hiring for the Summer!

BEPS is looking for teens to assist in our preschool summer camp during the following weeks:
 6/22-6/26; 6/29-7/3; 7/20-7/24; 7/23-7/31

Who should apply? 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.

For more details or to apply:
www.bethelpreschool.org/summer

Contact Lauren Hirt, Director of Early Childhood Education, with any questions: lhirt@bethelmc.org.





Join Women of Beth El for a special three-session edition of Coffee & Hebrew with Yoel at Congregation Beth El. Enjoy coffee, conversation, practical Hebrew, Israeli culture, and community in a relaxed café-style setting. Sessions take place on May 28, June 11, and June 25 from 7:00-8:30 pm.

No prior Hebrew knowledge required; all levels welcome! This is a drop-in class, which means you can attend as few or as many sessions as you like, but please register for each date separately so that we have an accurate head count. Go to bethelmc.org/series/coffee-hebrew-with-yoel, select your dates, and register.

UPCOMING WOMEN OF BETH EL PROGRAMS

MONDAYS, MAY 4 AND 11, 1:00 PM AND WEDNESDAYS, MAY 20 AND 27, 7:00 PM WBE Crafters. WBE Crafters is open to anyone who does any kind of crafting. We meet to have social interaction, get help with our projects, learn something new, and work on service project opportunities.

TUESDAYS, MAY 5, 7:30 PM AND MAY 12, 19, AND 26, 7:00 PM Mah Jongg. Join us on Tuesdays at 7:00 pm to play a few rounds of mahj. Sign up on weeks you plan to play at bethelmc.org/tuesdaymahj.

THURSDAYS, MAY 7, 14, AND 21, 12:30 PM Drop-In Canasta. Join us for a relaxed and friendly game of Canasta at Beth El, Thursdays from 12:30-2:30 pm. Beginners and up are welcome – whether you're brand new or just a little rusty, come play and have fun! Please sign up on weeks you plan to play at tinyurl.com/WBEcanasta.

SATURDAY, MAY 16, 12:30 PM Shabbat Mahj. Get your Mahj fix on Shabbat. Sign up at bethelmc.org/shabbat-mahj-0516.

THURSDAY, MAY 14, 7:30 PM Keshet Nashim Support Group. See page 10 for more information.

THURSDAYS, MAY 28, JUNE 11, AND JUNE 25, 7:00 PM WBE Coffee & Hebrew with Yoel. See information on this page.

MEN'S CLUB



Hear the candidates for County Executive before the Primary Election in June. Moderated by Beth El member Todd Gillman, a journalism professor at Arizona State University's Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication and former Washington bureau chief for *The Dallas Morning News*. Ask questions and get answers. In person and livestreamed. Free and open to the entire community. Dessert reception following the forum. RSVP at bethelmc.org/moco-candidate-forum-0526.

UPCOMING MEN'S CLUB PROGRAMS

SUNDAYS, MAY 3, 10, 17, 24, AND 31 9:30 AM Men's Club Breakfast. Join us after morning minyan on Sundays for a breakfast sponsored by Men's Club.

THURSDAY, MAY 7, 7:30 PM Hearing Men's Voices. Beth El men are invited to join us in person or via Zoom as Yoel Gleizer, our Beth El *shaliach*, leads a discussion on "Bridging Israeli and American Cultures." RSVP at bethelmc.org/hmv-0507.

TUESDAY, MAY 12, 7:00 PM Jews & Brews. Join Rabbi Harris at Silver Branch Rockville Beerworks (7301 Calhoun Place #600, Derwood, MD) 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 at bethelmc.org/jews-brews-0512.

TUESDAY, MAY 26, 7:30 PM MoCo Executive Primary Election Candidates Forum. See information on this page.

THURSDAY, MAY 28, 7:00 PM Food Sorting at Manna. Twelve volunteers ages 11 and older are needed to help sort food at the Manna warehouse in Gaithersburg. SSL hours available. For more info and to sign up, contact jonathan.epstein@hklaw.com.

Chug Kriah

Chug Kriah meets regularly to read and discuss modern Israeli literature in Hebrew. Our next meeting will be on Sunday, May 3, at 7:00 pm via Zoom. We will complete our discussion of *Yonim b'Trafalgar (Pigeons at Trafalgar Square)* by Sami Michael. For more information including the Zoom link, contact Bill Kanter at kanterdsw@aol.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, May 14, at 7:30 pm, via Zoom. For more information, please contact Judy Spector at judithspector@verizon.net.

Mental Health Professionals Breakfast

We invite Beth El Mental Health Professionals, both working and retired, to join us in person at Beth El for our Mental Health Professionals Study Group on Thursday, May 21, at 9:30 am. Come for breakfast and a stimulating discussion of "The Wisdom of Jewish Grief Rituals." There is a \$5 registration fee to defray the cost of breakfast. Register at bethelmc.org/mhp-breakfast-0521.

Support After Loss

With a special invitation to those who have had a recent loss, we will gather for a brief teaching and discussion led by Rabbi Greg Harris on Saturday, May 23, at 12:30 pm. All are welcome to join this six-session series 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-after-loss-0523.

HAYOMS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

In a very real sense, Yom HaShoah v'HaGvurah represents the ultimate nightmare of the Jewish experience. Yom HaAtzmaut represents the fulfillment of the 2,000 years long dream of reestablishing a Jewish state in Eretz Yisrael. This is a dream that motivated Jews from the Babylonian exile 2,600 years ago to our time to survive suffering and persecution in every part of the world. Yom HaZikaron, immediately preceding Yom HaAtzmaut, is the indispensable bridge that links the two in time and history. It gives concrete meaning to the vow "Never Again" when referring to the Holocaust and serves as the constant, contemporary reminder that preserving and protecting the dream of the modern State of Israel continues to require sacrifice and commitment by all Jews, regardless of where they reside.

Happy Birthday Israel.

Am Yisrael Chai! ■

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, 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: May 22 and 23 (Shavuot), 30; June 6, 20, and 27.

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 after b-mitzvah services on Shabbat and make sure everyone gets a warm "Shabbat Shalom" with their delicious food. Everyone 11 and older is welcome to serve. No food prep or cleanup involved. For more information and to sign up, visit www.bethelmc.org/kiddush or contact Sue Kanter at kanterdsw@aol.com.



CONTRIBUTIONS

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

Donations from March 18 – April 7, 2026.

IN HONOR OF:

Amanda Ford, for her work in completing my tallit, by Toby Schonfeld and James Blasingame
Rabbi Greg Harris by Gregg Rothschild, Ellen Eisenman
Rabbi Greg Harris for his general kindness and officiating at my mother's funeral with such solemn dignity, by Paul Frieden
Rabbi Megdal and Karen Benezra on the birth of their daughter, Meira Baila, by Judith and Alan Gann, Allen and Barbara Lerman
Mark Kramer, celebrating his good health, by Murray and Judy Blank
Sue and Bill Kanter for their Passover hospitality, by Barbara Gold

IN MEMORY OF:

Rita Shedlin, mother of Leslie Shedlin, by Sue and Bill Kanter, Sheila Bellack, Lynn Goldin and Henry Birnkrant, Alison Baraf and Aryeh Portnoy, Gail Fribush
Bert King, husband of Susan King, by Sue and Bill Kanter, Donna Vogel and David Margulies, Robert and Lesley Gasperow, Sheila Bellack, Susan and Lewis Winarsky, Rachelle Bernstecker and Bob Abramson, Ace and Linda Lipson, Lynn Goldin and Henry Birnkrant, Alison Baraf and Aryeh Portnoy, Cary and Nancy Feldman, Jack and Stephanie Ventura, Linda Kolko, Judy and Murray Blank, Scott and

Debbie Glick, Gail Fribush, Jill Brooks
Louis Wittlin by Stephen Levy and Lois Zuckerman
Helen Farrar by Rachelle Bernstecker and Bob Abramson
A. Abba Koblenz, my father, by Andy and Katey Koblenz
Irving Vogel, my father, by Donna Vogel
Lia Imas, my beloved mother, by Marta Wassertzug
Irving Zorowitz by Elizabeth and Richard Zorowitz
Louis and Gertrude Levy by Doris Povich
Esther Weisberg by Stuart Weisberg and family
Pauline Heckman (14 Nissan) and Morris Heckman (15 Nissan) by Ruth Ann Heckman
Ruth Frieden, mother of Paul Frieden, by Donna Vogel and David Margulies, Samantha and Dan Bender, Lois Zuckerman and Steve Levy, Toby Schonfeld and James Blasingame, Stephen Turow, Susan and Art Bruckheim, Rachelle Bernstecker and Bob Abramson, Jack and Stephanie Ventura, Erica and Alan Edelman, Ellen Tillman, Lois Jacobs, Sheila Bellack
Deborah Shandell by Andrea Shandell and Russell Fox
Helene Shandell by Andrea Shandell and Russell Fox
Merwin H. Lavine, beloved father, by Phyllis and Jeffrey Lavine

Jeremy Wagner, brother of Joe Wagner, by Sally and Gary Ehrlich, Wynne and Ron Sitrin, Margi and Mark Kramer
Arthur Salwin by Nancy Salwin
Harry and Karen Lipkind by Joanne Lipkind
Irena Ross Glick by Jeffrey and Marilyn Glick
Rita Miller by Judith and Alan Gann
Rueben Kaplovsky on his yahrzeit, by Jay Miller
Hershel Kanovsky, my father, by Helen Kanovsky
Rose Teicher by Bert Spector
Albert Glick, my beloved father, by Scott and Deborah Glick
Lillian Seigel, my mother, by Ann Goodman
Michael Abrams, my father, by Katey and Andy Koblenz
Bea Nathan, my mother, by Carole and David Metzger
Miriam Metzger, my mother, by David and Carole Metzger
Gloria Orin, my beloved mother on her yahrzeit, by Rhonda and Harry Eisenstein
Shirley Neumann, beloved mother of Bev Berman, by Paul Frieden, Greg and Alana Aronin, Rachelle Bernstecker and Bob Abramson
Rabbi Herb Schwartz on his April birthday, by Adam Chaikin and Alisa Silverman

HONORING OUR PAST, ENSURING THE FUTURE CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

Feibus, Cary and Nancy Feldman, Helen Friedkin z"l, Sidney and Janet Getz, Elizabeth z"l and David z"l Goldman, Warren z"l and Judith z"l Greenberg, Jeffrey and Arielle Grill, Sid and Beth Groeneman, Erwin and Leena Groner, Jonathan Gross and Rebecca Musher Gross, Murray and Marilyn Hammerman, Rabbi Greg Harris and Sarah Roark, Mindy Hecker, Jerry and Linda Herman, Esther Isralow z"l, Bucky and Mindy Jacobson, Mervyn z"l and Marcia Jeffries, Lawrence Kaplan, William z"l and Hilary Smith Kapner, Richard and Diane Klein, Andrew and Katherine Koblenz, Robert and Eyan Koenig, Adam and Harriet Kuhn, Edoardo and Susan Kulp, Mark Levitt and

Kay Klass, Hazzan Abe and Sandy z"l Lubin, Daniel z"l and Elaine z"l Mann, David Margulies and Donna Vogel, Lee Miller and Sheryl Rosensky Miller, David and Denise Mills, Lucy Ozarin z"l, Arthur and Helen z"l Popper, Alexander and Jennifer Powers, Doris Povich, Seth and Jodi Price, Martin z"l and Anne z"l Rosensky, Rabbi William Rudolph z"l and Gail Fribush, Joseph and Judith Semo, Sarah Shapiro, Larry Sidman and Jana Singer, Jonathan D. and Sandra Simon, Howard and Holly Stein, Herbert Tanenbaum, Ellen Tillman, Lewis and Susan Winarsky, Robert and Rhonda Zahler, Anonymous (17). ■

MAZAL TOV TO

Adi Jacobson on his bar mitzvah on March 21. Proud parents are **Denise** and **Erez Jacobson**.

Sophie Patterson on her bat mitzvah on April 11. Proud parents are **Michael** and **Jennifer Patterson**.

Harrison and **Miles Gittleman** on their b'nai mitzvah on April 18. Proud parents are **Eric Gittleman** and **Hayley Weimer**.

May's milestone birthdays: **Dennis Askwith, Judith Baldinger, Ellen Bezner, Jonathan Gordon, Marilyn Hammerman, Judith Hoffman, Seth Kaplan, Carole Metzger, Marlene Povich, Emily Rales, Kay Richman, Jordan Silverman, Ellen Spiegel, and Sandra Winnick**.

May's milestone anniversaries: **Jack and Stephanie Ventura** (60 years), **Daniel Geselowitz and Sandra Cohen** (40 years), **Irwin and Daphne Halpern** (35 years), **Lou and Nina Fisher** (30 years), **Phil and Julie Kroskin** (30 years), **Adam and Harriet Kuhn** (30 years), **Howard and Felicia Schweitzer** (30 years), **Eric Gittleman and Hayley Weimer** (15 years), **Zach and Caroline Ostro** (10 years), and **Michael Hirshenson and Rebecca Alcorn** (5 years).

CONDOLENCES TO

Paul and Janet Frieden on the death of Paul's mother, **Ruth Frieden**.

To the family of **Harry Lipkind** on his death.

Joseph and Danielle Wagner on the death of Joseph's brother, **Jeremy Wagner**. Jeremy was the uncle of **Ethan** and **Micah Wagner**.

Michael Yuffee on the death of his father, **Lester Yuffee**. Lester was the grandfather of **Berret, Zachary, and Robert Yuffee**.

Beverly Berman and Scott and Hillary Berman on the death of Beverly's mother and Scott's grandmother, **Shirley Neumann**. Shirley was the great-grandmother of **Samuel, Jack, and Isaac Berman**.

CHAI SOCIETY 60+

Stolpersteine: Memorializing the Victims of Nazism - Tuesday, May 19, 12:30 pm. Stolpersteine (German for stumbling stones) are 4x4 inch brass plaques set into the sidewalk in front of a building where a victim of the Nazis lived or worked. They were created by German artist Gunter Demnig in 1992. Since then, more than 100,000 stones have been set in European cities. In 2008, Marsha Rehns went to Wuerzburg, Germany, for the setting of a stone for her great-uncle, Ignaz Rindskopf. Marsha will describe the emotional stone-setting and the book she wrote about the project and her family's history in Germany. Howie Stein, whose relative was also memorialized with a Stolperstein, will add his reflections. A list of congregants who have had stones placed for their family members, as well as details about the loved ones, will be distributed. Contact Pat Danoff at pat.danoff@gmail.com to provide information or with questions.

While this program is sponsored by Senior Caucus, all congregants who are interested are invited to join us.

Cost: \$10 per person, includes lunch. Registration deadline is noon on May 15. Please register at bethelmc.org/stolpersteine-0519 or contact Ricardo at rmunster@bethelmc.org or 301-652-2606. There is no cost to attend the talk only, which begins at 1:30 pm, but please tell Ricardo you are coming.



Save the Date: Ricardo Munster Retirement Celebration - Tuesday, June 16, 2:00 pm. Ricardo joined the Beth El staff in 2006. For 20 years he has served in many different capacities, including administrative assistant to the clergy, liaison for b-mitzvah families, and support staff for the Senior Caucus. He performed countless other duties that brought members together and enriched congregational life. Most of all, Ricardo has been a treasured friend and example of what it means to be a mensch.

Join with fellow congregants to show your appreciation and wish Ricardo and his wife Irene many happy and healthy years ahead.

So we can plan for space and food, please register at bethelmc.org/ricardo-0616.