

Torah Portion

Va'era

God again charges Moses to confront Pharaoh and say: "Let My people go." Aaron becomes the spokesman for a hesitant Moses, performing a wonder before Pharaoh, but to no avail. Following God's instructions, Moses calls down seven plagues, increasing in intensity, upon the Egyptians. Pharaoh will not yield. (*Siddur Sim Shalom for Weekdays*)

Va'era

Exodus 8:16-9:35

Etz Hayim

Page 362

Haftarah

Ezekiel 28:25-29:21

Page 370



Congregation Beth El of Montgomery County

8215 Old Georgetown Road, Bethesda, Maryland 20814

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Bar Mitzvah Honors

Ark Opening: (Page 168) **Carly and Brendon Silver**, aunt and uncle;
Levi Silver, cousin
Ali and Charles Levingston, aunt and uncle
Richard and Francine Farber, grandparents
Alan and Hope Pearlman, grandparents
Rebecca Farber and Adam Pearlman, parents
Evan Pearlman
Maftir: **Paul Glashofer**, cousin
Magbeah: **Marc Glashofer**, cousin
Golel: **Rori Kramer**, friend
Holding the Torah: **Kyle and Ali Gugerty**, aunt and uncle
Ark Opening (page 183): **Donald Elkins**, great uncle
Prayer For Country: **Ranaan Glashofer and Natan Glashofer**, cousins
Prayer For Israel: **Julie Farber, Gary Farber, Dennis Farber**, cousins
Prayer For Peace: **Theo Pearlman**, brother
Ashrei (Page 181)

Upcoming Events Continued

Jews and Brews: Thursday, January 24, 9:00 pm at Rock Bottom Brewery, 7900 Norfolk Ave, Bethesda. Jews and Brews is an informal gathering of guys (roughly between the ages of 35-55) at a local brewery. It's an easy way to get to know other Beth El men, have a cold beverage, and enjoy a discussion on a timely topic with Rabbi Harris.

Happy Retirement Karl!: Sunday, January 27, at 10:00 am. Long time Beth El employee, Karl Smart, is retiring after 40 years at Beth El. Celebrate with us as we thank him for his many years of service and wish him the best on his retirement. Info and RSVP, go to <https://www.bethelmc.org/events/karl-smart-retirement/>.

12 Step Meeting Group: Starting in February 2019, a 12 Step group will meet at Beth El on Mondays at 7:00 pm. For more information, contact Rabbi Fabián Werbin at fwerbin@bethelmc.org.

Services This Week

Sunday 9:00 am and 8:00 pm
Monday through Thursday 7:30 am and 8:00 pm
Friday 7:30 am and 6:30 pm
Saturday 7:30 am and 9:15 am



Rabbi Greg Harris
Head Rabbi
gharris@bethelmc.org



Rabbi Fabián Werbin
Associate Rabbi
fwerbin@bethelmc.org



Hazzan Asa Fradkin
Hazzan
afradkin@bethelmc.org

Thank you for joining us at Beth El. Please respect our traditions; the use of cell phones, cameras, and other electronic devices is prohibited in the synagogue on Shabbat and Festivals.

In case of a cardiac emergency, there is an automatic external defibrillator (AED) located outside the main restrooms.

Yahrzeit lists for this week can be found on the table outside the Bender Sanctuary and Swoff Chapel.

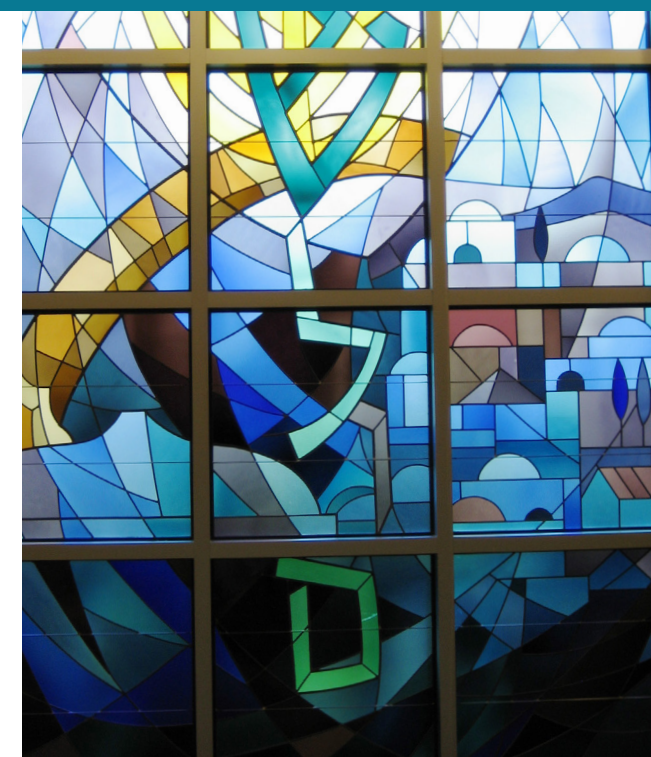
Beth El is working to be more accessible to people with special needs. Therefore, wheelchairs are available to congregants and guests in the lobby. Large print Siddurs and hearing assists are also available. Ushers are happy to help in any way.



While we know you'll want to read every word in these Shabbat Announcements, remember to recycle when done.

Congregation Beth El

Welcomes you



January 5, 2019 • 28 Tevet 5779

Early Morning Service	7:30 am	Swoff Chapel
Evan Pearlman Bar Mitzvah		
Main Service	9:15 am	Bender Sanctuary
Babysitting	9:15am	Rm. B102 (Preschool Wing)
Junior Congregation (6th Grade)	9:30 am	Library
Shitufim (3rd, 4th, 5th grades & parents)	9:45 am	Zahler Social Hall
Gan Shabbat (K- 2nd grade& parents)	11:00 am	Multi-Purpose Rm.
Shabbat Mincha Service	12:45 pm	Swoff Chapel

*Following the morning service, everyone is invited to attend the kiddush in the Bender Social Hall, sponsored by **Richard and Francine Farber** and **Alan and Hope Pearlman** in honor of their grandson, **Evan's** Bar Mitzvah.*

Todah Rabbah

Early Service: Hanna Weissberger and David Farber for reading Torah, and Howard Lesser for chanting Haftarah and being Gabbai.

Main Service: Toby Schonfeld, Rebecca Farber, Rabbi David Abramson, Rabbi Shira Stutman, Adam Pearlman and Evan Pearlman for reading Torah, Todd Rosenberg for being Gabbai, and David Kessel, Shelly Belson, and Bob Lipman for ushering.

Condolences: to Bill and Sue Kanter on the death of Bill's brother, Rabbi Shamai Kanter, uncle of David Kanter and Michael Fink.

This Week at Beth El

Hearing Assist: Beth El has the T-Coil assist technology in the Bender Sanctuary for those who need it. Please see an usher for assistance.

Hanukkah Wish Need List: While Hanukkah has come and gone, the needs of our Beth El community have not. Review Beth El's Hanukkah Wish/Needs List to find the priorities that you can help the congregation meet. For a more detailed description of the entire Wish/Need list, go to <https://www.bethelmc.org/donate/Hanukkah-wish-list/>. Questions? Contact Lori Ulanow at lulanow@bethelmc.org or 301-652-8569, ext.318.

There is still time to pay dues or tuition, or make a contribution to be included in your 2018 tax statement from Beth El. Checks must be dated no later than December 31 and received by Beth El by January 8, 2019.

Security at Beth El – How you can help: Beth El is increasing the hours when the building will be locked, with access by fingerprint or fob only. **If you have not registered your fingerprint or received your fob, stop by the office during regular business hours to do so or call to schedule an appointment.**

Men's Club Breakfast: Sunday, January 6 9:30 am. Join Men's Club for breakfast after morning minyan, followed at 10:00 am by an open mic session.

Chug Kriah: Sunday, January 6, at 2:00 pm. The Hebrew Literature Reading Group, lead by Professor Arnold Band, continues its discussion of Haim Be'er's novel *B'hazara M'emek Rephaim*. The Chug welcomes new participants. For further information, please contact Bill Kanter at kanterds@aol.com.

Jewish Meditation: Sunday, January 6, 10:30 am. Experience Jewish Meditation – a blend of chant and silent and guided meditation that guides us to a more meaningful relationship with God and with those around us. Spend an hour with nothing but mindfulness to distract you. Questions? Contact Hazzan Fradkin at afradkin@bethelmc.org.

Sisterhood Rosh Chodesh Women's Group: Monday, January 7, 7:30 pm. Our focus is the month of Sh'vat, which includes the holiday of Tu B'Shvat. No need to sign up in advance, just show up for an evening of learning, discussion, and sisterhood. Coordinated and led by Rabbi Mindy Portnoy.

Lawyers Affinity Breakfast: Tuesday, January 8, 8:00 am, at Weiner Brodsky Kider, 1300 19th St, NW Washington DC. Breakfast at 8:00 am, discussion begins at 8:30 am. A special thank you to Michael Kieval for hosting. We are also privileged to have Michael lead our discussion. Hazzan Asa Fradkin will be joining us. Please RSVP to Geryl Baer at gbaer@bethelmc.org.

Furlough Lunch at Beth El: Tuesday, January 8, at 12:00 pm. Beth El is offering lunch for those temporarily out of work because of the federal government shutdown. We hope to provide "nonessential" workers a place to pass the time and feel our community's sense that you are essential. No charge. Just let us know if you are planning to come so we can order enough food. RSVP by Monday at noon to gbaer@bethelmc.org.

Conversational Hebrew: Tuesday, January 8, 1:30 pm. Interested in keeping your conversational Hebrew fresh? Join us and practice your Hebrew conversation skills. Contact congregant Art Salwin at asalwin@gmail.com for information.

Zhava Cooking Lesson with Tal Greenberg: Thursday, January 10, 7:30 pm. Join Beth El shlich, Tal Greenberg, for an Israeli cooking lesson. Space is limited to 20 people. Please contact Amy Eisner at amyeisner@icloud.com.

Upcoming Events

B'nai Mitzvah at Beth El: January 19: Meredith Janssen, daughter of Heather and Robert Janssen; January 26: Anna and Olivia Barrett, daughters of Debra and Ted Barrett.

Sisterhood/Zhava Shabbat: Saturday, January 12, 9:15 am, Sisterhood and Zhava members lead the main service. The Resnik Memorial Lecture, *Why Tu B'Shvat is Relevant in an Era of Climate Change*, will be delivered by Dr. Adrienne Rulnick. The Golda Meir Award for leadership will be presented to Beth El president Larisa Avner Trainor. Join Sisterhood/Zhava on this special Shabbat.

Annual Daniel Mann Literary Luminary Event: Sunday, January 13, 10:00 am. Professor Meital Orr will speak on *The Jewish 'Other' in Israeli-Arab Literature*. Co-sponsored by the Am Yisrael Chai Committee, Sisterhood, Men's Club, and the Library Committee. This talk will probe the most invested views of the Jewish "other" in the literature of Arabs – both Palestinian and Israeli.

Government Relations Affinity Group Meeting: Sunday, January 13, 10:00 am. This group is for government relations professionals, government staffers, policy professionals and lobbyists. Please join Rabbi Werbin and fellow congregants for schmoozing and discussion. RSVP to Geryl Baer at gbaer@bethelmc.org.

Camp Ramah Informational Meeting: Sunday, January 13, at 7:00 pm. Join us to learn more about Camp Ramah New England at private home. Camp Ramah offers two-week sessions for children currently in grades 2-3 and four or eight-week sessions for children in grades 3-10. Parents and children are welcome. For more information or to RSVP, contact Lori Fish Bard at lorib@campramahne.org.

College Selection Process with Gail Ross: Wednesday January 16, 7:30 pm. Selecting the right college or university that fits your student and enables him or her to achieve their aspirations is one of the most important decisions a family will make. Come to this workshop and gain important insights to this process. Gail Ross has 20 years of experience guiding students and families through the college admissions process. RSVP to Hilary Blank at hilbee01@gmail.com.

Senior Caucus Luncheon: Thursday, January 17, 12:00 noon. Our good friend, Len Topper, is back with another opera classic, *La Traviata*, by Giuseppe Verdi. This performance stars Teresa Stratas and Placido Domingo with the Metropolitan Opera. \$10 for lunch. RSVP for lunch only by Tuesday, January 15, to Hattie Goodman at hgoodman@bethelmc.org, or call 301-652-2606.

Kol Haneshema: Friday, January 18, 6:30 pm. Join us as we welcome the joy and relaxation of Shabbat with great music and shared insights. Enjoy both traditional melodies and the latest in contemporary and innovative Jewish music from around the globe, all used to connect with the delight of Shabbat and deepen the spiritual experience. The service includes musical instruments.

Minyan Chaverim: Saturday, January 19, 9:30 am. Celebrating our 20th year at Beth El, this traditional, smaller, less formal, and more intimate service features opportunities to follow along, sing, pray, and learn together. Family friendly. Following the service there is a pot luck lunch hosted at a nearby home. Questions? Contact Mitchell Solkowitz at minyanchaverim@bethelmc.org.

Israel Media Series: Saturday, January 19, 7:30 pm. Join us for *Apples From The Desert*. Rivka, the only daughter in an ultra-orthodox Jewish family, meets a secular kibbutznik who introduces her to another way of life. Her father reacts by setting in motion a prearranged marriage to an older widower with children of his own. A story of rebellion and reconciliation that too often occurs when cultures clash. Cost is \$5 and includes refreshments. For information, contact Judy Marcus at jmarcus4701@gmail.com.

Beth El /Inova Blood Drive: Sunday, January 20, 8:00 am. Winter is one of the times when area blood supplies are critically low and healthy donors are needed to maintain the vital supply. Donate now and save lives. Appointments are available between 8:00 am and 1:00 pm. Reserve an appointment at <https://tinyurl.com/yct5t8lp>. Volunteer to help; contact Jack Ventura at jack.ventura@verizon.net or Jon Simon at jonathan747@gmail.com.

Israel Distinguished Speaker Series: Wednesday, Jan. 23, 7:30 pm. Lt. Col. Ido Orlov, Liaison for the Home Front Command at the Israeli Embassy, will provide in-depth insight and personal experiences as he discusses terrorist activities on the Gaza border over the past nine months and the new threats along Israel's northern border posed by Hezbollah tunnels. Gain a unique window into how Israelis living in border communities cope with terrorist threats on a daily basis. Sponsored by Beth El's Am Yisrael Chai Committee.



Beth El in Photos



Rabbi Harris Sandboarding in Israel.