



# SCROLL

Congregation Beth El

February 2018 • Shevat-Adar 5778

Vol. 67 No. 6

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THE SCROLL IS A RECIPIENT  
OF THREE SOLOMON SCHECH-  
TER GOLD AWARDS FROM  
THE UNITED SYNAGOGUE OF  
CONSERVATIVE JUDAISM.

## From the Clergy

# ARE YOU *L'shalom?*

BY RABBI GREG HARRIS

A welcoming and inclusive community can begin with a simple act – saying hello. Taking a moment to pause, say hello, and listen for a reply creates an opportunity to connect with another person. Without a hello, though, the social hall may be full of people and yet you may feel like an outsider.

I Samuel 10:4 says: *v'sha'alu lecha l'shalom*. This is often translated as “and they will greet you.” The translator's choice hides a deeper lesson. A more literal translation would be closer to “and they will ask you, l'shalom?” This might be “are you at peace” or “are you complete?” The latter translation suggests a concern far greater than simply a greeting.

I am proud that we are intentionally creating multiple avenues for welcoming people and nurturing an inclusive community. We are creating smaller encounters for people as we seed new havurot. These groups, formed around common interests or life stages, help ground people within the large and active congregation. (Talk to Geryl Baer to learn more – [gbaer@bethelmc.org](mailto:gbaer@bethelmc.org).) We are also making our building, programs, and participation accessible to all people. This is happening in obvious ways such as

our continuing to improve the door access mechanisms around the synagogue. There are also subtle efforts underway such as our replacing the carpet throughout the main gallery. We consulted an

interior designer with expertise in creating spaces for people with diminished eyesight. We wanted to be aware of the patterns and depth of carpet that would not deter those with impaired vision or hamper the use of walkers or wheelchairs in the building. Furthermore, the live streaming of Shabbat services has

allowed Beth El community members to be part of the service experience even if they become homebound, in a hospital, or on vacation. (To access, go to [www.bethelmc.org/live](http://www.bethelmc.org/live).)

Living up to our ideals also means we embrace those with conditions including mental illness, addiction or autism. All of these and many more are conditions which touch many within our community – adults and youth.

As you read this issue of the *Scroll*, remember the verse from Samuel. Be the person to stop and ask, “are you l'shalom?” The more we can hear each other's answers, the greater sense of inclusion and connection we will build within our wonderful community. ■



# SCROLL

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## Jewish Disability Awareness and Inclusion Month Shabbat

Saturday, February 3

February is Jewish Disability Awareness and Inclusion Month (JDAIM). This year's theme is Mental Health. On JDAIM Shabbat, congregant Natalie Merkur Rose will speak from the bimah. Natalie received a master's degree in social work from Columbia University and a master's degree in Jewish studies from the Jewish Theological Seminary. She has worked in the field of Jewish communal service and mental health for over 25 years. She specializes in working with interfaith families, parenting, grief, and premarital and couples counseling. In addition to her private practice, Natalie also works at the Jewish Social Service Agency. She oversees a number of programs including Synagogue Liaison Program, Clergy Training, Jewish Chaplaincy Services, and Volunteer programs.

## Joyous Havdalah Service and Special Guest Speaker IDF Col. (Res.) Tiran Attia

Saturday, February 24, 7:00-8:30 pm  
in the Swoff Chapel and Zahler Social Hall

It's Jewish Disability Awareness and Inclusion Month (JDAIM)! Join us for a special program inviting people of all abilities to participate in and enjoy a beautiful Havdalah service followed by a guest speaker and presentation. Delicious treats will be served.

Our Havdalah service will be a multisensory, engaging prayer experience open to all congregants and their families and particularly welcoming families who have members with special needs or challenges.

Our distinguished guest for Havdalah is Israel Defense Forces (IDF) Col. (Res.) Tiran Attia, Director of the IDF Special in Uniform Program. This unique program, a partnership with the Jewish National Fund, integrates young Israelis with disabilities into the IDF, enabling them to serve side-by-side with their peers. They are trained to perform meaningful military functions, ultimately preparing them for employment after their military service. Col. Attia will describe the Special in Uniform Program and show a moving film about it.

RSVPs appreciated for planning purposes. Please email Marci Ruderman or Larry Sidman and inform us of any accommodations you might need. Sponsored by the B'ruchim Habaim and Am Israel Chai Committees.

## February B'nai Mitzvah

February 3: Joseph Auerbach

February 10: Andrew DiResta

February 17: Yael Fishman and Jasper Lester

February 24: Lea Shweiki

# Pikuach Nefesh - To Save a Soul

BY ANDREA GOLDEN

One never gets used to hearing about a suicide. It is devastating and tragic. Unfortunately, we have been hearing about way too many recently. In light of the recent tragedies ending in teen suicide, Beth El's clergy held a prayer service in collaboration with the greater faith community, in an attempt to help our communities heal together. It was a beautiful, heartfelt evening.

February is Jewish Disability Awareness and Inclusion Month, and on February 3, Natalie Merkur Rose will be speaking from the bimah on mental health. On February 18, Men's Club and B'ruchim Habaim are hosting Cornerstone Montgomery to teach us about mental health first aid. Please come and continue this urgent conversation on mental health.

Often, we know someone who is struggling and we don't know if we have said or done the right thing...The bottom line is do something. Reach out. Jewish Social Service Agency shared this with us:

**Five things you can do right now to help a friend or family member:**

1. Communicate: send a text, make a phone call. Ask them how their day is going. Let them know that you are there. Schedule a time together, to share a meal or do an activity.
2. Don't be afraid to talk about it. You can say, "I know you have been struggling lately." Talking about mental health with a loved one lets them know the topic is not taboo.
3. If you see something, say something: If you are worried about a friend or family member, tell someone you trust, like a parent, teacher, coach, counselor, or clergy person. They can help you take the next steps.
4. Listen without comment: If your friends and family know that you are open to hearing what they have to say and won't judge them, they are more likely to come to you.
5. Encourage good sleeping and eating habits: Cook a healthy dinner together or encourage putting away screens at a certain time together.



CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

# At Kids' Shabbat Services, All Are Welcome

BY DAN GOLDMAN

As the calendar turns to Jewish Disability Awareness and Inclusion Month in February, we want to extend a special invitation to families with special needs children: please join us for services. Nitzanim services are geared to kids six and under, and Gan Shabbat is for K through second grade.

Too often, people with disabilities and families with children with disabilities assume that an invitation to "all" doesn't necessarily mean them. So let's be clear. Rachelle Solkowitz and I lead the kids' services, and at our services, All means All.

You may have thought, "my kid won't last more than five minutes in a service." That's totally fine. Bring him. If you get him through five minutes, we will get him through the next five. If she needs to take a break and walk around, that's fine, too. Just come back in. Then we'll get through another five minutes.

## Bringing Kids In

Part of the process is to have your kid feel comfortable in the building. That may mean 15 minutes in a kids' service, a short walk, another five minutes in the service, another walk, and then who knows.

We are not running a seminary at Gan and Nitzanim.

We're trying to bring kids – all kids – in the door and help them start their Jewish experience. We want them to learn whatever they can – maybe it's as simple as humming Bim Bom or remembering to cover your eyes during the Shema. And we want them to want to come back next Shabbat. (The cookies at the end are a big help.)

For me, this is deeply personal. I started leading Nitzanim services when my daughter was five and my son was one. But by the time my son was two, he couldn't make it through Nitzanim. It was hard for him to even be there when I was leading services. At two, he was diagnosed with autism. I worried that his behavior might be distracting or disruptive. He came less and less.

But one night when he was around four, I told him that I was going to be the "teacher" on Shabbat. He ran off for a minute, returned with his toy microphone, and started doing his impression of me leading services. He asked everyone in our family, "Where is God?" just like we do at services when we sing, "God is everywhere, God is one." Then he started singing some Shabbat songs that I didn't even realize he knew.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14

# Purim at Beth El!

**Megillah Madness  
presents**

## *A Royal Wedding!*

**Featuring the music of Sir Elton John  
Wednesday, February 28, 7:30 pm**

Esther's feeling *Harry'd*, and Ahasuerus *Meghans* to find himself a new queen. Come celebrate the lovely couple and dress in your royal finest!

### PURIM SCHEDULE

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 11:00–11:45 AM** Bit O' Megillah for preschoolers and parents. Storyteller Jennifer Rudick Zunikoff brings the Purim story to life for preschool families through this interactive, engaging retelling of the holiday.

**11:45 AM–2:30 PM** Annual Purim Carnival hosted by Beth El Men's Club

**6:00 PM** Purim party at Beth El with the Beth El Day School Committee and the Jewish Foundation for Group Homes.

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28** Be sure to come in costume.

**7:30 PM** Megillah Madness presents A ROYAL WEDDING!

**8:00 PM** Ma'ariv and the full Megillah reading

**THURSDAY, MARCH 1, 7:30 AM** Morning minyan includes a special Torah reading for the holiday plus reading of the Megillah.

### Beth El Purim Carnival

**Sunday, February 25, 11:45 am – 2:30 pm**

**Hosted by Men's Club**

Come for games, prizes, food, magician, face painting, caricatures, and more.



#### Purim Carnival Tickets

Purchased by February 23:

\$20 = 50 tickets

\$10 = 25 tickets

\$2 = 5 tickets

Purchased at the Door:

\$20 = 40 tickets

\$10 = 20 tickets

\$2 = 4 tickets

**Men's Club is looking for volunteers to help with the Purim carnival.** SSL hours are available through a partnership with Leveling the Playing Field. Please contact Josh Rosenstein to volunteer.

# Scholar-in-Residence Weekend March 2-4: Israel



Beth El's theme of "Israel" for 5778 will carry into the annual Scholar-in-Residence Weekend, March 2-4. Our featured guest will be David Siegel, chief executive officer of ELNET Israel, the only pro-Israel organization focused solely on building strong relations between Israel and Europe, similar to the role that AIPAC has in the United States. Prior to assuming the leadership of ELNET, Siegel had 30 years' experience as an Israeli diplomat involved in policy formulation and decision making at the highest levels of Israel's foreign policy

establishment, including as Israel's consul general to the southwestern United States from 2011 to 2016. As consul general, Siegel fostered multiple bilateral agreements between Israel and the southwestern states. Siegel also served as the chief of staff to Israel's deputy minister of foreign affairs, director of the foreign ministry's International Organizations department, and chief of staff to three of Israel's ambassadors to the United States. During these years, he participated in the 1998 Wye River Peace Summit, the 1999 Israel-Syria negotiations, the 2000 Camp David Middle East Peace Summit, and the 2007 Annapolis Peace Conference.

Siegel holds a BA in political science from the University of Vermont and an MA in international relations from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy. ■

## PIKUACH NEFESH CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

### Important Numbers to Know

Montgomery County encourages the use of the following numbers for free and confidential help with suicide prevention:

- Montgomery County Hotline: 301-738-2255
- Montgomery County Crisis Center 240-777-4000
- National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1-800-273-8255

Have your children put the following number in their phones: 741741. This is a crisis text line. These days kids and teens are more likely to text than make a phone call.

The only way to get through tragedy is together. ■



## SCHOLAR-IN-RESIDENCE SCHEDULE

**FRIDAY, MARCH 2, 8:30 PM** "Loving Israel in the Midst of Complexities," following the congregational Shabbat dinner (see RSVP form this page). Dinner attendance not required to attend lecture.

**SATURDAY, MARCH 3, 9:30 AM** The D'var Torah at the Shabbat Morning Service

**SATURDAY, MARCH 3, 12:40 PM** "Power, People, and Faiths: Religions and Demographics in Israel," following kiddush

**SUNDAY, MARCH 4, AT 10:00 AM** "Multidimensional Diplomacy: Israel and Europe," following the Men's Club breakfast.

All talks are free and open to the public.

## Congregational Shabbat Dinner Friday, March 2

Join us at 6:30 pm for the Friday Evening Service, followed by Shabbat dinner at 7:15 pm. Please complete the dinner reservation form below together with your check payable to Beth El.

RSVP deadline is Tuesday morning, February 27. Questions? Call 301-652-2606 or email [info@bethelmc.org](mailto:info@bethelmc.org).

Adult/Teen Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Child Name(s) and Age(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

# Member Adults/Teens @ \$23 \_\_\_\_\_ Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

# Nonmember Adults/Teens @ \$28 \_\_\_\_\_ Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

# Children 6-12 years @\$10 \_\_\_\_\_ Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

# Children 2-5 years @\$5 \_\_\_\_\_ Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

No charge for children under 2 years of age.

Total Due: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (Max. \$66 per member household, i.e., immediate family members residing at the same address). If you are using the household price, it is important that you still complete the part of the reservation form showing numbers of people in each category.

Please provide \_\_\_\_\_ vegan meals.

Food allergies? \_\_\_\_\_

Please try to seat us/me with: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to or drop off at Congregation Beth El  
8215 Old Georgetown Road, Bethesda, MD 20814

# ISRAEL NEEDS US WE NEED ISRAEL



Jewish holidays often are a catalyst for us to explore the ties between the United States and Israel. Although no Jewish holidays fall in February this year, there are a number of programs taking place in our community that offer extraordinary opportunities to gain insights into important developments in Israeli society and the shared experiences of Americans and Israelis. Here are three suggestions:

**MEET** Israel's new pioneers. The Jewish Federation of Greater Washington's Imagine Israel's Changemakers Series will feature two leaders in a new movement of young Israelis committed to creating mission-driven communities in Israel. The goal is to close educational, economic, social, and cultural gaps between underdeveloped or remote towns and cities and their more affluent and urban Israeli brothers and sisters. The event will occur on Wednesday, February 7, 7:30-9:00 pm, at the VisArts Center, 155 Gibbs Street, Rockville. Admission is \$18.00. You can register at the Federation website at [www.shalomdc.org/imagineisrael/](http://www.shalomdc.org/imagineisrael/).

**LEARN** about the changing status of Israeli Arabs. The

Center for Israel Studies at American University is hosting a half-day educational symposium on the status of Israeli Arabs and how it has evolved since the modern State of Israel was established in 1948. The program takes place on Sunday, February 11, 1:00-5:00 pm, on the American University campus at 4300 Nebraska Avenue NW, Washington, D.C. Admission is free. For more details, see the Center's website, [bit.ly/2Djh67T](http://bit.ly/2Djh67T).

**COMPARE** Israeli and American responses to the assassinations of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and President John F. Kennedy as seen through the eyes of our *shaliach*, Itsik Sayag, and the senior *shaliach* for the Greater Washington community, Tzachi Levy. The discussion will be followed by a screening of the film *Rabin in His Own Words*. This program, co-sponsored by Beth El's Am Yisrael Chai Committee and Men's Club, will take place on Sunday, February 11, at 10:00 am in Zahler Social Hall. The film will be shown at 11:00 am in the Swoff Chapel. For more information, see the announcement below.

## Israel Media Series Saturday, February 17, 7:30 pm



Israel Media Series presents *Between Worlds*. This 2016 movie is about Oliel, the victim of a terror attack, who now lies severely injured and unconscious in Hadassah Hospital. Over the course of several days, his mother, Bina, bonds with Amal, a beautiful young girl there to attend to her dying father. A mysterious story of a "forbidden" interethnic love

affair unfolds and makes its way to a poignant conclusion. Much food for thought about race relations in modern Jerusalem.

So come out and join us. It's still only \$5 per person and refreshments are limited only by your capacity.

## Gedaliah, Kennedy, and Rabin: Trauma and Turnaround in Israeli Society

Sunday, February 11

10:00 am: Discussion in Zahler Social Hall

11:00 am: Screening of the film *Rabin in His Own Words* in the Swoff Chapel



Please join Tzachi Levy, Federation's senior *shaliach*, and Itsik Sayag, Beth El's *shaliach*, as they take a look at three historical times when Jewish society was torn apart by trauma: the assassinations of Gedaliah ben Achikam in

423 BCE, John F. Kennedy in 1963, and Yitzhak Rabin in 1995. The two *shlichim* will share their life experiences and observations of Israeli cultural upheavals.

At a moment when Israel-Diaspora relations are complex and perhaps filled with mutual misconceptions, this session will offer the opportunity to recall these past events, discuss their dramatic effects, and hear how young Israelis have processed and continue to process historical events and apply them to their own lives.

Co-sponsored by Men's Club and the Am Yisrael Chai Committee.

# Library Corner

## Life as a Refugee: Children's Books

BY ROBIN JACOBSON

*"You shall not oppress a stranger, for you know the feelings of the stranger, having yourselves been strangers in the land of Egypt"*  
Exod. 23:9.

Can reading books and stories help children develop empathy – to care about other people, especially those who are different from them? Recent scientific studies suggest the answer is “yes.” Tellingly, so does Jewish tradition. Even the youngest Jewish children learn the Exodus story of Hebrew slavery in Egypt. According to Rabbi Shai Held, the Torah emphasizes our slave history to make us more empathetic: “[T]he Torah seeks to transform us into people who see those who are vulnerable and exposed rather than looking past them.”

In that same spirit, several excellent new children's books about child refugees (some Jewish) help young readers identify with refugees, who today number in the millions. The three books described below (all for ages 9–12) can also serve as a springboard for parents looking for ways to discuss the global refugee crisis with their children and relate it to events in Jewish history.

### *Refugee* by Alan Gratz



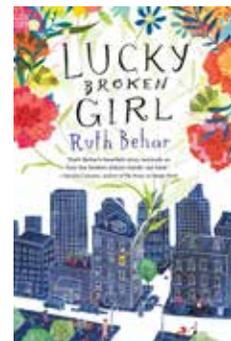
This gripping book weaves together the stories of three young refugees and their families who seek escape from different countries in different historical periods (Germany, 1939; Cuba, 1994; and Syria, 2015). Joseph is a Jewish boy on board the MS *St. Louis*, the ill-fated ocean liner that left Germany bound for Cuba. Isabel is a Christian girl fleeing Cuba's repression and food

shortages in a homemade, rickety boat heading for Miami. Mahmoud is a Muslim boy from war-torn Aleppo, Syria; he is on an arduous, dangerous journey across Europe towards Germany. Despite their different backgrounds, the three young people have much in common: fright, grief over the loss of their homes, and pressure to grow up quickly.

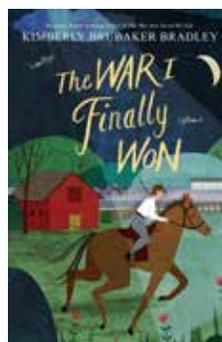
### *Lucky Broken Girl* by Ruth Behar

Based on the author's own life, this novel tells the story of Ruthie Mizrahi, a Jewish girl who emigrates with her family in the 1960s from Cuba to Queens, New York. Like many immigrants, Ruthie's family struggles to learn English and attain financial stability. Then disaster strikes – Ruthie is injured in a horrific car accident. Doctors wrap her in a body

cast and confine her to bed for many months. Despite the bleakness of her situation, Ruthie blossoms during her confinement. She develops a love of art and literature, makes friends with her artist-neighbor from Mexico, and tries to be patient with her mother, who is homesick for Cuba and depressed about being housebound with an invalid daughter.



### *The War I Finally Won* by Kimberly Bradley



This book is a sequel to Bradley's *The War that Saved My Life* but can be read as a stand-alone novel. The story is set in England during World War II. Ada, a plucky 11-year-old orphan, is the primary character. She and her younger brother live in an English seaside village with their guardian, a kind woman named Susan.

The story's refugee is Ruth, a teenage German Jewish girl placed in Susan's household. The British government is holding Ruth's parents in an internment camp as resident aliens. Ada and others suspect Ruth and her parents of being Nazi spies. They are unconvinced by Ruth's protests that her Jewish family is even more anti-Nazi than the British. Ada's suspicions of Ruth resemble widespread fears today that refugees may be secret terrorists, even if the refugees are themselves fleeing terrorism. Like *Refugee* and *Lucky Broken Girl*, this book immerses young readers in a refugee's experience, encouraging empathy and blurring the distinction between “us” and “them.” ■

## Upcoming Book Chats on Israeli Novels at Beth El



SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 11:30 AM-12:30 PM

*All the Rivers* by Dorit Rabinyan

SUNDAY, APRIL 22, NOON-1:00 PM

*Waking Lions* by Ayelet Gundar-Goshen

For more information, contact Margery London or Robin Jacobson

# Shir Yachad, New Musical Service

BY HALLE BURNS

Shir Yachad is a new Friday night Shabbat service at Beth El. It usually occurs the first Friday night every month, and everyone is welcome to attend. What makes Shir Yachad different from other services is music. Yes, almost all of Beth El's services have music, but Shir Yachad brings music lovers of all ages together in prayer and song with musical instruments. Singers range from kindergarteners to adults, with an ever-growing band of clarinets, saxophones, flutes, bongos, and guitar. Hazzan Fradkin leads us in song and in prayer, making sure that all congregants get the most out of the experience. I proudly serve as one of the "Cantorettes."

Being in Shir Yachad is such a fun experience for me. I love singing with my peers and working with the hazzan. I also love how supportive everyone in the group is of each other. If someone ventures off key, or sings the wrong note, we help each other get on pitch. When I asked one of the other singers, Sydney Janssen, what she likes about Shir Yachad, she responded, "I like singing in general, but it's very nice to sing with kids my age."

## Trying Something New

Singing with Hazzan Fradkin is very fun and exciting. You never know what is going to come next. He definitely helps us with whatever musical problems we have, but he also challenges us to try something new. For example, my younger sister, Lexie Burns, started playing the clarinet last year. Even though she is new to the instrument, Hazzan Fradkin

encouraged her to play at Shir Yachad, and since then, she has become more confident in her playing and is learning how to transpose singing notes to clarinet notes. One of the most amazing things that she's learned is not to squeak while playing. When I asked her how she feels about playing in Shir Yachad, she said, "It's fun! I like it because I get to play music with one of my friends while my sister sings." Isn't that sweet?

It is very easy to see how music can bring people together. Even though my parents have not "performed" during the service (yet), they greatly enjoy it, too. "Of course, I am proud when I see my girls on the bimah, but Shir Yachad is all about openness and community," my dad offered. "I am able to leave the stresses of everyday life behind, lose myself in prayer, and connect with Beth El friends during and after the service."

My mom shared a similar idea. She told me that when she was about my age, she went to Friday night family services, and "Shir Yachad brings back the warm family, community feelings that [she] remembers from her childhood."

Finally, I also love the opportunity to sing with my peers and Hazzan Fradkin in front of the congregation. It is exciting to know that we are helping the congregation welcome Shabbat, and when everyone sings along, I feel like I am helping everyone come together in song. ■

*Halle is an eighth-grader at North Bethesda Middle School.*

## *Shir Yachad: A Communal Shabbat in Song*

Friday, February 9

Friday night is a time for community, song, and joyful noise. Everyone is invited to join us every month for this exciting service filled with music past and present that stirs the soul and welcomes Shabbat with joy and warmth. **February's Shir Yachad is cosponsored by the Refugee Resettlement Committee and will feature a short discussion by Lilah Katz with an update about the efforts to help the refugee family that the committee is preparing to welcome.**

**6:00 pm** - Nitzanim. Families with young children are invited for a fun musical Shabbat service.

**6:30 pm** - Happy Hour! Everyone is invited to schmooze with us while enjoying drinks (both adult and kid friendly) and appetizers. Free babysitting will be available!

**7:30 pm** - Main musical service. Oneg to follow.

**Future dates:** March 9, April 6, May 4, and June 1

# Kotel B'nai Mitzvah - Amazing!

BY DAN BENDER

Everyone on the planet has a take on Israel, and my wife Samantha and I are no exception. Samantha, the daughter of a Holocaust survivor, grew up spending summers in Israel and has always been very comfortable there. I visited only once during high school but since we were married in 1995, we have visited there together at least half a dozen times. Although we are Conservative American Jews, we feel very comfortable in Israel's religious Orthodoxy. Samantha grew up Orthodox, and we both feel strongly about *minhag hamakom*, the traditions of the place. That's the backdrop of the b'nai mitzvah Samantha and I had for our son and daughter, Ethan and Rebecca, at the Kotel.

Samantha and I shared our love of Israel with Ethan and Rebecca early. When Ethan was born, we decided that we were going to have his bar mitzvah in Israel. In fact, he was just a few months old when he took his first trip to Israel. Rebecca, similarly, was a toddler when she took her first trip. Only later in Ethan's life did we find out that he struggles with being the center of attention. With the January 2013 bar mitzvah in Israel, we knew that fewer people would be able to come, and the *mehitzah* cut in half the number of people immediately in Ethan's space. Much of Samantha's family is Orthodox, and we are all comfortable with or without a *mehitzah*. Plus, all of the hubbub that is part of the Kotel experience further dispersed attention that, in a synagogue, would have been solely on Ethan. There were a dozen or so b'nai mitzvah going on that morning.

## With A Smile

Samantha's uncle, cousin, and I arrived early to secure a table right next to the *mehitzah*. When the women and girls arrived, they all set up right next to us on the other side with a perfect view thanks, in part, to the row of plastic chairs they were using to stand on. We were blessed with dozens of people in attendance including family and friends from Beth El.

Ethan, who led the whole service, was very very VERY nervous before he started. There was even a question as to whether we would get him out of the hotel. He (obviously) made it. He had the material for his bar mitzvah down cold. Two minutes into the service, he looked up at me with a

smile and said, "Now what was I so worried about before?" He cruised through the davening and Torah portion.

The organized chaos of the Kotel, simultaneous services, different tables singing, and throwing candy at different times were part of the experience in the best of ways.

## Return to the Kotel

Rebecca's bat mitzvah on a Rosh Hodesh in July 2016 was also at the Kotel – at the archeological park which includes the prayer space at Robinson's Arch. The series of platforms housing the Torahs, stocking the siddurim, reserving time slots, etc., is run by the Masorti movement. In contrast to the *balagan* of the Kotel plaza, we had our own private platform right up against the Western Wall. It was (for the most part) quiet and stunningly beautiful. Rebecca led Hallel and the Torah Service, read the entire Torah portion, and led Musaf. Although it was mostly quiet given our personal space at the Kotel, there were multiple klezmer bands passing by, accompanying bar mitzvah boys on their way to the "other" Kotel plaza. There was even

a protester who objected to the presence of a mixed gender service. The security guard whisked him away moments before Rebecca started. Even with all that, Rebecca nailed it – all with family and Beth El friends in attendance!

Since the kids' b'nai mitzvah were both on weekdays, we had a few big advantages over a traditional Shabbat *simcha*. First, we had a world-class photographer and amazing person, Shahar Livni of SIL-Studio, who captured everything. Another advantage was a freshly cooked gourmet meal at a hidden gem of a Middle Eastern/European restaurant. Te'enim is tucked away off a side street at the foot of the King David Hotel with sweeping views of the Old City. We rented out the entire restaurant that was just big enough to fit our party, making the room feel full and vibrant.

Having made the decision to have the b'nai mitzvah in Israel many years before the events, we have zero regrets. Actually, that's not accurate. We could not have been happier. ■

For more information on holding a bar or bat mitzvah at the Kotel, please visit <http://bit.ly/2G7B1oz> or <http://masorti.org/the-western-wall/>.



## Sisterhood Shabbat Speaker Addresses Immigration

BY HANNA GUTMANN

The current American immigration system is one that “is incompatible with core Jewish values of justice, respect, dignity, and compassion,” according to Beth Werlin. Werlin, the executive director of the American Immigration Council, delivered the Celia and Audrey Resnik Memorial Lecture on Beth El Sisterhood Shabbat on January 13. In her address, Werlin asked what the Jewish response should be to the current immigration system. She asked those present to question their “response to a country that is standing up barriers to asylum-seeking mothers and children, reducing refugee admissions, and sending people home to dangerous conditions.”

Werlin said in the past 20 years, the imprisonment of immigrants, including those without criminal convictions who pose no safety threat, has doubled to almost half a million people. Since 2014, she noted, the federal government began detaining mothers and young children “to deter others from coming to the United States.” Werlin says the detention of these asylum-seeking families comes with a high human cost as well as a hefty price tag: more than three billion dollars a year to detain immigrants. The situation has recently become even more urgent. “In 2017, we saw a range of attacks on the immigration system – from the Muslim ban, to limits on refugees, to threats against so-called sanctuary cities that promote policies welcoming to immigrants, and calls for a border wall and more deportations.” In addition, last year the administration ended the program known as DACA, “an initiative that protected from deportation young undocumented individuals who came to



BETH WERLIN

the United States as children and who call America home.” In addition, Temporary Protected Status, or TPS, ended for individuals from Haiti, Nicaragua, Sudan, and El Salvador who are facing an ongoing armed conflict, environmental disaster, or extraordinary conditions at home.

Werlin contends “too many of our political leaders are not guided by their moral compass.” She sees her job as reminding leaders that America deserves a better immigration system where children have legal counsel before a decision is made to deport them, where our doors remain open to those seeking protection, where religious and ethnic discrimination is not tolerated and where respect, dignity, and fairness matter. She encouraged those gathered to consider their Jewish values when reading or listening to news reports about immigration issues or when engag-

ing in a discussion of immigration issues with friends or colleagues. She stressed the importance of considering those same values at the ballot box and when discussing newcomers with children, grandchildren, and strangers.

To learn more about immigration policies, Werlin suggests visiting the American Immigration Council’s website, <https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org>, or its daily blog, <http://immigrationimpact.com>. Individuals can sign up to receive email alerts from the Council at <https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/get-involved>, or new blog posts by text by texting FACTS to 51555. Anyone interested in volunteering with the group to provide or support deportation defense can visit <http://immigrationjustice.us>. ■

### UPCOMING SISTERHOOD/ZHAVA EVENTS

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 7:30 PM** Sisterhood/Men’s Club  
Havdalah event at a private home

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 10:15 AM** Sisterhood/Zhava  
General Meeting

**TUESDAYS, FEBRUARY 6, 13, 20, 27, 6:30 PM** Mah Jongg

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 12:15 PM** Mah Jongg Tournament

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 7:30 PM** Rosh Chodesh: It’s a  
Women’s Thing

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 9:30 AM** Hamantaschen baking

### Attention B’nai Mitzvah Parents and Engaged Couples

Why not order your b’nai mitzvah and wedding invitations



online and give back to Beth El? Sisterhood and Beth El receive 100% of the proceeds. We price match. Please contact Marilyn Hammerman at 301-881-0011 or [MHammerman@aol.com](mailto:MHammerman@aol.com).

## Beth El Sisterhood/Zhava Annual Women's Seder

Join us! Join in!

**Sunday, March 11, 5:30 pm**  
**\$36 per Sisterhood/Zhava Member;**  
**\$45 per non-member\***

- The Seder fills up quickly - sign up early!
- Responses received after seating has filled (or after Thursday, March 1) will be placed on a wait list
- In the spirit of community, the Women's Seder is open seating
- No phone reservations or payment at the door
- Please bring toiletries (any size) and "Wheat Money" for tzedakah

Questions? Contact Sue Kanter at [sisterhoodevent@bethelmc.org](mailto:sisterhoodevent@bethelmc.org).

\*Please join Sisterhood/Zhava with all their benefits for \$36, and pay the member price for the Women's Seder.



## Beth El Women's Seder Reservation

Please mail reservation form and check to Beth El, Attn: Sisterhood Seder, 8215 Old Georgetown Road, Bethesda, MD 20814.

Reservations can also be made online at [www.bethelmc.org/events/womens-seder](http://www.bethelmc.org/events/womens-seder).

Name and guest names (limit: 2 guests) \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

# of Sisterhood/Zhava members @ \$36 \_\_\_\_\_

# of Non-members @ \$45 \_\_\_\_\_

Total amount of check \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 (made out to Beth El Sisterhood)

Vegetarian or gluten-free meal requests: \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Please note that the Seder meal is pescatarian)

## Men's Club

### UPCOMING MEN'S CLUB EVENTS

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 8:30 PM Hearing Men's Voices:  
TBD

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 10:00 AM Charlie Scott of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority will discuss future plans of the WMATA.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 10:00 AM Tzachi Levy, Federation's senior *shaliach*, and Itsik Sayag, Beth El's *shaliach*, look at three historical times when Jewish society was torn apart by trauma: the assassinations of Gedaliah ben Achikam in 423 BCE, John F. Kennedy in 1963, and Yitzhak Rabin in 1995. Cosponsored with the Am Yisrael Chai Committee. See ad on page 6.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 10:00 AM Whitney Reigel from Cornerstone Montgomery will describe the concept of Mental Health First Aid and the benefits it can bring to the entire community. Cosponsored with the B'ruchim Habaim Committee.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 10:00 AM Lee Miller will discuss what the new tax law may mean for you.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 11:45 AM-2:30 PM Purim Carnival



### Save the Date

Men's Club of Congregation Beth El  
presents the

## 46th Annual Kavod Awards

for Service to Beth El, Service to the Jewish Community,  
and Service to the Community at Large

**Sunday, March 18, 9:45 am**

**2 Nisan 5778**

**in the Bender Social Hall**

*Awardees will be announced in February.*

All are welcome. Cost is \$20 per adult. RSVP by March 13.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ # Attendees @ \$20 Total Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Mail checks payable to Men's Club to Congregation Beth El,  
8215 Old Georgetown Road, Bethesda, MD 20814

# Winter Blood Drive Exceeds Goal

BY JONATHAN SIMON

On a freezing cold January Sunday, who would even think about taking a walk? But blood donors kept walking in. Some without appointments patiently waited for as much as an hour or more to enter the Inova Bloodmobile to be screened. And we needed every one of them.

Had the donors not kept coming, to replace those deferred from giving, we never could have reached our goal of 40 units. Instead, we ended up with 45. And, since every donation, on average, saves or extends the lives of three people, we made a difference for 135 individuals needing life-saving blood.

Like all Beth El blood drives, the January 7 drive was scheduled to end at 1:00 pm. But because of the additional walk-ins, Inova's over-worked staff agreed to take everyone who got there by 1:00 pm. Screeners and phlebotomists worked past 2:30 pm to get everyone through. Their consideration for our donors was lauded by all.

If you are reading this, are in generally good health but have never thought of donating, or have a son or daughter 16 or over weighing at least 110 pounds, consider performing and/or asking them to perform a truly life-saving mitzvah.

Blood is precious. Some blood types are much rarer than others. Without people willing to donate their blood to others, 4.5 million Americans would die each year. Only about 38% of the United States population is eligible to donate and less than 10% of the population ever does. Join the 10% of givers. Without them the some of the other 90% may not live.

In addition to our blood donors and the wonderful congregants who unselfishly volunteer to take shifts at the drives, special thanks are due Jack Ventura for his always reliable assistance. Beth El's office staff has been essential for every drive - working behind the scenes to make all the arrangements and to help promote our drives online and in our Shabbat announcements. No drive would be complete without the setup and cleanup, not to mention the continuous supply of coffee for our donors and volunteers. Thanks also to Karl Smart and Edwin Diaz Castro of the Beth El custodial staff. ■



INOVA DONOR SPECIALISTS

## Scolnic Institute Spring 2018

The Spring program of the Rabbi Samuel Scolnic Adult Institute, running for six weeks, comprises 10 courses offered Wednesday evenings beginning March 7 and four classes offered Tuesday mornings beginning March 6.

The Early Bird registration deadline is February 22. Register on line or fill out the form in the brochure.

### TUESDAY MORNING SCHEDULE

WITH REFRESHMENT BREAK FROM 10:50-11:10 AM

10:00 - 10:50 AM

11:10 AM - NOON

<p><b>Celebrating Leonard Bernstein on His Centennial</b> <i>Hazzan Emeritus Abraham Lubin</i></p>	<p><b>Jews and Slavery in the New World</b> <i>Jeffrey Kaplan</i></p>
<p><b>From Egypt to Mount Sinai: Revisiting the Spring Pilgrimage Festivals</b> <i>Rabbi Avis Miller</i></p>	<p><b>A Time to be Born, A Time to Die, and a Time to Love: The Biblical Books of Ecclesiastes and Song of Songs</b> <i>Rabbi Mindy Portnoy</i></p>

**Register NOW for the Early Bird Discount  
Deadline: February 22**

### WEDNESDAY NIGHT SCHEDULE

WITH MINYAN/REFRESHMENT BREAK

7:30 - 8:20 PM

8:40 - 9:30 PM

<p><b>The Jews of Argentina</b> <i>Rabbi Fabián Werbin</i></p>	<p><b>Innovative Jewish Thinkers: Ze'ev Jabotinsky</b> <i>Rabbi Greg Harris</i></p>
<p><b>Is the Love Affair with Israel Over for American Jews?</b> <i>Rabbi Emeritus William D. Rudolph and guest speakers</i></p>	<p><b>Contemporary Approaches to Jewish Prayer</b> <i>Hazzan Asa Fradkin</i></p>
<p><b>Celebrating Leonard Bernstein on His Centennial</b> <i>Hazzan Emeritus Abraham Lubin</i></p>	<p><b>A Time to be Born, A Time to Die, and a Time to Love: The Biblical Books of Ecclesiastes and Song of Songs</b> <i>Rabbi Mindy Portnoy</i></p>
<p><b>Jews and Slavery in the New World</b> <i>Jeffrey Kaplan</i></p>	<p><b>Is Anti-Zionism Anti-Semitism?</b> <i>Dr. Jerome Copulsky</i></p>
<p><b>From Egypt to Mount Sinai: Revisiting the Spring Pilgrimage Festivals</b> <i>Rabbi Avis Miller</i></p>	<p><b>Jewish Resistance in the Holocaust</b> <i>Martin Sieff</i></p>

# New Havurot at Beth El

BY GERYL BAER

A havurah (plural havurot) is a group of people formed around common interests, professions, or stages in life. They meet outside the synagogue to engage in Jewish learning, socialize, and develop a deeper feeling of friendship and community. Havurah comes from the Hebrew word *haver*, meaning friend. Whether you are new to the Beth El community or looking for new connections, being a part of these member-run groups can be a way to become a part of a more intimate Jewish experience. As the director of community engagement, I want to help nurture new havurot.

Starting a new havurah might seem intimidating, but it can be simple and fun. Here are some easy steps to get you started:

1. Let me know that you are interested in forming or

joining a havurah.

2. Hold an initial “get-to-know each other” meeting. Take the time to introduce yourselves and discuss what you are hoping to accomplish through this havurah.

3. Determine frequency and schedule of meetings. Most havurot meet about once a month. Often members take turns planning the get togethers. I have a list of ideas to help get you started.

4. Schmooze and have fun!

To help with your success during the first year of the new havurah, a Beth El staff member will be there to assist along the way.

If you’re interested in joining a havurah, please contact me at [gbaer@bethelmc.org](mailto:gbaer@bethelmc.org) or 301-652-8569, ext. 352. ■

# Conversational Hebrew

BY ART SALWIN

A few years ago at a Beth El Sukkot event, some of our members were practicing their conversational Hebrew skills. This led to the idea for a Beth El Conversational Hebrew Group, now in its third year. Rabbi Harris immediately supported the idea by exclaiming, “Good idea. Ask Sheila to reserve a room for you.”

Meeting topics vary widely, family, food, vacations holidays, shopping, Hebrew songs... But the best meetings are those in which the conversation takes on a life of its own and drifts far off topic. This group is not a class. There’s no lesson, no formal membership, no homework, and no teacher; we help each other.

At meeting’s end, participants are heard saying, “Gee, that was fun. When’s the next meeting?” So come join the fun at Beth El on the first and third Tuesdays of the month from 1:30 pm to 2:30ish. Questions? Feel free to contact me.



CONVERSATIONAL HEBREW GROUP PARTICIPANTS

## Here’s what Conversational Hebrew Group participants have to say:

“The wonderful *haverim* in this non-judgmental, conversational Hebrew group help me train my ear and increase my vocabulary to be able to communicate with our Israeli *machatonim*... There’s a built-in sense of camaraderie where we help each other in expressing ourselves... The group helps us reach some kind of fluency. I’m particularly motivated to reach fluency since one of our children lives in Israel...”

“Refreshes a Hebrew I used to talk 40 years ago, but forgot... Improving my Hebrew also brings back memories of my youth on a kibbutz.”

“We sometimes have difficulty in expressing ourselves, yet we work hard to find the right words in a relaxed setting... It’s not all serious; we easily crack up over the choice of a wrong word, which gives a completely different meaning to what we intended to say... We also learn a lot from the group about all kinds of interesting topics.”

## Refugee Response Update

The Refugee Response Committee, a joint effort of Beth El, Bethesda United Methodist Church, and Saint Mark Presbyterian Church, is preparing to welcome a family within the next few months. Most likely our family will be from Afghanistan. Subcommittees have been meeting and planning the steps to help the family get oriented and gradually transition to independence.

## It Is Possible

We had to try again. I started bringing him to Rachele's service five or ten minutes at a time. Sometimes we had to take a break or take a walk, but we kept trying. We even found a special errand for him – to go to the kitchen and bring the snack cart down for the other kids. He is 12 now, and when he comes to services, he helps with reading some of the prayers. His bar mitzvah will be in November 2018, as he is proud to tell anyone.

While I know first hand how hard it is, I also know this: it is possible.

Rachele and I will do everything we can to help. Come a little early and let your son or daughter get comfortable in the room, try the microphone, and meet us before the crowd rolls in. Or come later, and we can hang out for a few minutes after services. If you need an extra set of hands, let us know and we can find a helpful teenager. Whatever it takes to get your kid in the door.

All are welcome. We hope to see you and your family on Shabbat morning. ■

## ToBE - Tikkun Olam at Beth El: Start 2018 by Volunteering with Bethesda Help!

Bethesda Help has a need for five “Officer of the Day” volunteers who work from their homes one day a month in a valuable and fulfilling way. Officers of the Day check for and respond to client messages during Bethesda Help's operating hours (9:00 am-4:00 pm). All you need is a telephone and a computer with an internet connection to perform simple duties of determining the location of callers and referring their needs to our food deliverers and financial consultants. Volunteer phone numbers remain private. We provide all the training you need.

For more information on this volunteer opportunity, visit [www.bethelmc.org/tobe-upcoming](http://www.bethelmc.org/tobe-upcoming). If you are able and willing to join us in serving the Bethesda community, please contact Tobie Bernstein at [info@bethesdahelp.org](mailto:info@bethesdahelp.org).



## Contributions

*Donations made from December 10 to December 30*

### Annual Campaign

#### IN HONOR OF:

Rabbi Harris for leading Jews and Brews for all of these years by William and Paula Whyman

#### IN MEMORY OF:

Janice Goldin by Daniel Geselowitz and Sandra Cohen

### Cantor's Fund

#### IN HONOR OF:

Asa Fradkin becoming Beth El's Hazzan by Leslie and Joe Kessler

Asa Fradkin for Daniela Abrams' bat mitzvah by Gavin and Monica Abrams

#### IN MEMORY OF:

Harry Bruckheim by Arthur and Susan Bruckheim  
Sonja Schultz, wife of David Schultz and sister of Arthur Amchan, by Barbara and Andy Effron

### Chevra Kadisha Fund

#### IN MEMORY OF:

Twila and Marvin Nattel and in appreciation of Sara Greenbaum and the Chevra Kadisha by Michael Nattel

### Arthur S. Feld Memorial Lecture Fund

#### IN MEMORY OF:

Norton Nepo by Irwin and Hellaine Nepo

### General Fund

**BY:** Anonymous

#### IN HONOR OF:

Hannah Topol's bat mitzvah by Jeff and Phyllis Lavine

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

Hazzan Lubin's special birthday by Elliot and Esther Wilner  
Jews and Brews by Bucky and Mindi Jacobson  
Our aufruf by Oren Hirsch and Allison Redisch

#### IN MEMORY OF:

Alberto Feldman by Reina Lerner

Anna Abel by Amy Abel

Debbie Grant by Alan and Nancy Bubes and Edith Black

Dolores Dobrow, mother of Leslie Dellon, by Ann Barcome, Gale and Ron Dutcher, Doug and Brenda Bregman, and Elliot and Esther Wilner

Edith Rosenstock, mother of Barbara Rabin, by Doug and Brenda Bregman

Enta Feldman by Reina Lerner

Ettie Sack by Michael Sack

Fannye Rose Gold by Harvey and Dale Gold

Henrietta Bruckheim by Arthur and Susan Bruckheim

Henry Berger, my father-in-law, by Bea Berger

Ira Pearlman by Sandra Pearlman

Irving Ehrenthal, my father, by Thera Swersky

Janice Goldin, mother of Lynn Goldin (Birnkranz) by Linda and Jerry Herman, Jonathan Band and Leesa Fields, Donna Vogel and David Margulies, Howie and Holly Stein, and Kay Klass and Mark Levitt

Jessie Arnheim, beloved wife of Phillip Arnheim and daughter-in-law of Walter Arnheim and Marsha Rehns, by Jose and Tutti Sokol, Kay Klass and Mark Levitt, Jack and Stephanie Ventura, Elliot and Esther Wilner, Jerry and Pat Danoff, and Beth El Opera Havurah

Joseph Auerbach by Fran Rubin

Leonard Saxe by Barbara Kotz

## Contributions Continued

Louis Pernick by Irwin Pernick  
Marc Russell Devinsky by Paul Devinsky  
Martin Koby, father of Glenda Koby, by Donna Vogel and  
David Margulies and Elliot and Esther Wilner  
Max Toback by Marilyn Wallerstein  
Otis Manherz Yokum, beloved father, by Craig Yokum  
Phyllis Frank by Wynne Sitrin  
Rae Toback by Marilyn Wallerstein  
Ronald M. Pomerantz by Phyllis Pomerantz and Aaron Arnold  
Rose Wallerstein, mother of Gloria Derkay, by Lee and Gloria  
Derkay  
Ruth Silver by Ellen Silver and Jerrold Keilson  
Sidney Hoffman by Howard J. Hoffman

### Elaine Silverman Gessow College Connection Fund

#### IN MEMORY OF:

Toni Bloom by Irwin and Hellaine Nepo

### Green Tikkun Fund

#### IN MEMORY OF:

Judith Kaplan by Donald A. Kaplan

### Hanukkah Wish List

#### IN HONOR OF:

Janice Liebowitz's teaching service at Beth El Religious School  
by Elliot and Esther Wilner

#### IN MEMORY OF:

Bella Edberg by Michael and Laurie Edberg  
Sonja Schultz by David Schultz

### Kimball Nursery School Fund

#### IN HONOR OF:

Birth of Natalie Bregman, granddaughter of Brenda and Doug  
Bregman, by Howard and Tricia Sachs

### Library Fund

#### IN MEMORY OF:

Martin Koby, father of Glenda Koby, by Religious School  
Faculty

### Litman Holocaust (Shoah) Education Fund

#### IN MEMORY OF:

Dolores Dobrow, mother of Leslie Dellon, by Anonymous  
Esther Orban, my dear mother, by Annamarie Sokoly  
Lilian Stransky by Annamarie Sokoly

### Mazon

#### IN MEMORY OF:

Dolores Dobrow by Julia Copperman  
Harold Feigenbaum by Kenneth and Carolyn Feigenbaum  
Sonja Schultz by Michael Nattel

### Mintz Landscaping Fund

#### IN MEMORY OF:

Sanford Altschul, brother of Carolyn Feigenbaum, by Kenneth  
and Carolyn Feigenbaum

### Morning Minyan Fund

#### IN MEMORY OF:

Anne Margulies by David Margulies  
Dolores Dobrow, mother of Leslie Dellon, by Barbara and Alan  
Gold, Sarah Kalser, and Barbara and Allen Lerman  
Eleanor Koblenz, mother of Andy Koblenz, by Andrew and  
Katherine Koblenz  
Joseph and Doris Miller by Robert Clayman and Carol Miller  
Paul Warshaw, beloved son of Lucy Warshaw, by Audrey Berger

Sigmund and Rosalind Clayman by Robert Clayman and  
Carol Miller

### Prayer Book Fund

#### IN MEMORY OF:

Abraham Katz by Linda Katz and Don Stein

### Rabbi's Fund

#### IN HONOR OF:

Rabbi Harris by George and Michlean Amir, David and  
Barbara Appelbaum, and estate of Dolores Dobrow  
Rabbi Harris for Daniela Abrams' bat mitzvah by Gavin and  
Monica Abrams  
Rabbi Bill Rudolph, in recognition of his compassionate help  
after the passing of our daughter-in-law, Jessie Arnheim, by  
Walter Arnheim and Marsha Rehns  
Rabbi Rudolph for officiating at Ian and Michael's wedding by  
Bernard and Janyse Weisz  
Rabbi Werbin for Daniela Abrams' bat mitzvah by Gavin and  
Monica Abrams  
Rabbi Werbin for our daughter's bat mitzvah service by Eric  
and Amy Ashkin  
Sam Bogdanovsky's bar mitzvah by Alex Bogdanovsky and  
Elena Shtern

#### IN MEMORY OF:

Dolores Dobrow by Cary and Nancy Feldman  
Ida Goldstein by Alan Goldstein  
Janice Goldin, mother of Lynn Goldin, by Amy and Gene  
Goott  
Edith Rosenstock, our mother, and for Rabbi Harris's guidance  
and support before and during the funeral by Barbara and  
Mark Rabin  
Semeon Nusinovich by Gregory Nusinovich  
Stella Cernea by Michael Cernea  
Twila Nattel and in appreciation of Rabbi Harris's help to my  
family by Michael Nattel  
Vera Glick, dear mother of Ilene Blatman, by Eric Schlesinger

### Samuel Scolnic Adult Institute Fund

#### IN MEMORY OF:

Arnold Safer by Roberta Safer  
Thomas Dahl, my beloved husband, by Naomi Greenwood

### Senior Caucus Fund

#### IN MEMORY OF:

Evelyn Cohen, beloved friend, wife, mother, and grandmother,  
by Audrey Berger

### Senior Program Fund

#### IN MEMORY OF:

Norman Barshai by Bonnie Forman

### Sisterhood Keshet Nashim Fund

#### IN MEMORY OF:

Judy Levine, loving mother, by Kenneth Levine and Diana  
Huffman

### Sisterhood Shiva Meal Fund

#### IN MEMORY OF:

Irving Nurik by Margy Nurik

### Transportation Fund

#### IN MEMORY OF:

Julius Gottlieb by Charlotte Gottlieb  
Samuel Asen by Henrietta Asen

While we know you'll want to read every word in this issue of the *Scroll*, when you're finished, please recycle it.

## Bulletin Board

Send submissions to the *Scroll* to [scroll@bethelmc.org](mailto:scroll@bethelmc.org)

### Mazal Tov to

**Brenda and Doug Bregman** and **Cantor Rochelle Helzner and Rob Agus** on the birth of their granddaughter, **Natalie Charlotte**. Parents are **Jessica Agus and Ben Bregman**.

**Hope and Carey Heller** on the birth of their son, **Nathan Myles**, brother of **Samuel**.

**Rabbi Max and Joy Nissen** on the birth of their daughter, **Joanna Ariella Nissen**.

**Connie Stromberg and Allen Eisenberg** on the engagement of their son, **Matthew**, to **Alisha Bhore**.

### Condolences to

**Lynn Goldin and Henry Birnkrant** on the death of Lynn's mother, **Janice Goldin**.

The family of **Melvin Gravitz** on his death.

The family of **Deborah Grant** on her death.

**Walter Arnheim and Marsha Rehns** on the death of their daughter-in-law, **Jessie Qiu Arnheim**, wife of **Phillip Arnheim**.

**Glenda Koby and Bruce Spiegel** on the death of Glenda's father, **Martin Koby**.

### Noteworthy

**Dor L'Dor, Thursday, February 1, noon.** The Beth El Pre-school (BEPS) 4s class and a group of Beth El seniors blend together naturally to form Dor L'Dor. To participate and share pizza with the preschoolers, RSVP to Susan Bruckheim at 301-320-4404 or [susan.bruckheim@gmail.com](mailto:susan.bruckheim@gmail.com), or to Ricardo Munster at 301-652-8569, ext. 316, or [rmunster@bethelmc.org](mailto:rmunster@bethelmc.org).

**Senior Caucus Meeting, Wednesday, February 7, 1:00 pm.** These active retirees meet to hear about ongoing programs and

plan new activities.

**Roundtable with the Rabbi, Wednesday, February 7, 2:00 pm.** Join us to celebrate February birthdays (yours and those of others) with desserts, coffee, and a discussion led by Rabbi Harris. Birthday celebrants receive a special invitation, but all are welcome each month.

**Senior Caucus Brown Bag lunch, Thursdays, February 8 and 22, noon.** Come and socialize with your friends and enjoy refreshments and dessert.

**Senior Caucus Luncheon Program, Thursday, February 15.** Lunch starts at noon. Following lunch and honoring Beth El's theme of the year, Israel, we will screen the film *The Royal Tour of Israel*. This movie provides unprecedented access inside a sacred land that is at once ancient and modern, with a long history of conflict. This tour has very special guides: the Prime Minister of Israel, Benjamin Netanyahu, and CBS Travel Editor Peter Greenberg. Cost of lunch is \$10. To RSVP for lunch, contact Ricardo Munster at 301-652-2606, ext. 316, or [rmunster@bethelmc.org](mailto:rmunster@bethelmc.org), by Tuesday, February 13. The program itself is free and begins after lunch, at 1:00 pm.

**Bridge – the greatest game ever!** Join us every Monday (except February 19) and Thursday (except February 15) from noon to 3:00 pm. Drop in and join a game; no partner necessary. For information or transportation, contact Ricardo Munster at 301-652-2606, ext. 316, or [rmunster@bethelmc.org](mailto:rmunster@bethelmc.org).

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