



From the Clergy

THE COVENANT

What Is Humanity's Part?

BY RABBI FABIÁN WERBIN

When I learned this year that it was my turn to write the summer message for the *Scroll*, I decided to do some quick research. In general, my research starts with the Torah. Then, if the term I am looking for is not in the Torah, I search in the rest of the books of the Tanakh.

So a quick check showed that the word summer (*kayitz* קיץ) in the Torah appears only one time. I opened the book of Genesis and discovered the following verse (Genesis 8:22): "As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, *summer* and winter, day and night will never cease."



What a powerful statement! This is a self-reflection of God after the flood. After all the earth and its inhabitants were wiped out, God simply says, "I will not do this again, not another flood, not more destruction."

The verses that come after the verse mentioned above are part of the covenant that God and humanity (represented by Noah and his family) will establish. As a reminder of the covenant, God places the rainbow. Every time a rainbow appears, it is an indication that God will not destroy the earth. There will be no other flood like that one again.

The question is: If that is God's prom-

ise, what is our side of the promise? What is our part of the commitment? What is our responsibility? It is an eye-opening fact that there is no commitment from Noah and his sons. Simply nothing. Therefore, our obligation is to pick up that silence, to review Noah's action, and to repair it.

Our Responsibility

Summer is a great opportunity to reflect on how we are treating our environment and how we want to preserve our planet. Many of us will have the blessing of taking some vacation during summer and probably spend some time with our

families and friends. Some of us will have the chance to explore new places, enjoy nature, and take a moment to contemplate the beauty of this world.

This summer take time to reflect on what part of Noah's silence we are going to repair, what part of this covenant we are going to pick up and help preserve our earth.

If we take ownership of our obligation, the verse: "As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, *summer* and winter, day and night will never cease" will come true.

Have a wonderful and meaningful summer. ■

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BACK TO SHUL BBQ

Sunday, September 10, 4:30 pm

in the Beth El parking lot

- Burgers, hot dogs, and all the fixin's
- Reconnect with old friends and meet other members
- Information tables for many Beth El groups
- New and prospective members welcome
- NEW! Dunk the Clergy!



\$5 per child (ages 3-10); \$10 per person (ages 11 and older); \$35 max per family
Prospective members free

Questions? Contact Geryl Baer at gbaer@bethelmc.org, or
301-652-2606, ext. 352.

Register online beginning August 1 at bethelmc.org

B'tayavon! Join Us for the Easiest Mitzvah at Beth El 30 Minutes and a Smile

Sign up at www.bethelmc.org/groups/sisterhood/kiddush-volunteer once, monthly, or yearly to help serve Shabbat kiddush luncheon. It only takes about 15 minutes after the service ends, then you're free to serve yourself and socialize over lunch. Men, women, and children 12 and older are welcome to pitch in and help serve. It's a great opportunity to meet and greet while helping out. To sign up visit www.bethelmc.org/kiddush-volunteer/ Hope to see you soon.

Sisterhood

Save the Date for the First Ever Sisterhood Shabbaton

**Saturday, November 11
9:00 am-7:00 pm, at Beth El**

A day of spirited and creative learning, rejuvenation, and community building. For more information contact Susan Jerison or Michelle Hainbach.

Men's Club

UPCOMING MEN'S CLUB EVENTS

THURSDAY, JULY 6, 8:30 PM Hearing Men's Voices.

Howard Berger will lead a discussion on "The Role of Sport in Our Lives."

THURSDAY, AUGUST 3 TBA

50th Anniversary of the Six-Day War: Celebrating with the IDF

BY LARRY SIDMAN

On June 3, the Shabbat before the 50th anniversary of the Six-Day War, Israel Defense Forces (IDF) First Sergeant Gabriel Traub delivered a guest D'var Torah at Beth El, reminding us of the importance of Israel to world Jewry and both the darkness and light of life in Israel today. Gabriel began with an unscripted charge to the b'nai mitzvah, Joshua Klubes and Matthew Solovy, a lesson that has guided Gabriel through much of his young life: "Always give your best, and you will have no regrets."

Gabriel then related some family history. His paternal grandmother, a non-Jewish Italian aristocrat, saved Jews and Allied soldiers from the Nazis during World War II. One of those soldiers became his grandfather. Gabriel's parents gave up a comfortable life in South Africa to pursue the Zionist vision and a much more difficult life in Israel. Four-year-old Gabriel made aliyah with his parents.

During his military service, Gabriel served in combat as head medic with Paratroopers Brigade Unit 202, earning two certificates of excellence. He shared one especially moving experience. A friend, Nadav Rotemback, suffered an injury in training but declined an easy office job. One night, Nadav told Gabriel that he was not going to be limited by

bad luck and had no regrets about serving in combat. That was the last time Gabriel saw Nadav. During a terrorist attack the next night, Nadav was killed by friendly fire but only after having saved other Israeli lives. Gabriel observed, "This incident is a slice of the human reality of the Israeli army experience. The Israeli army is a living manifestation of the old Zionist statement that by building the country we build ourselves."

Gabriel explained that he was here as one of 11 IDF soldiers and veterans being honored June 4 at the fifth annual Mid-Atlantic Regional Gala of the Friends of the Israel Defense Forces (FIDF). Now a law student at the Interdepartmental College in Herzliya, Gabriel holds a four-year FIDF IMPACT Scholarship, without which he could not have afforded tuition.

The gala showcased the FIDF's wide-ranging financial, social, and moral support for soldiers and their families during and after IDF service. Beth El attendees included Larry Sidman, Jana Singer, Todd Rosenberg, Erika Dickstein, Mark Levitt, Kay Klass, Ivy Fields, Don Gutman, Bruce Spiegel, Glenda Koby, Doug and Lisa Davison, Dan and Samantha Bender, Mike and Sara Gordon, Adam and Shelley Ducker,

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SAMANTHA AND DAN BENDER, LARRY SIDMAN, JANA SINGER, AND IDF FIRST SERGEANT GABRIEL TRAUB AT THE FIDF GALA

ISRAEL NEEDS US WE NEED ISRAEL

Last month saw a great deal of media coverage of the 50th anniversary of the Six-Day War and the reunification of Jerusalem. Much of it, most notably in *The New York Times* and *The Washington Post*, where successive special supplements ran two Sundays in a row, focused on the plight of the Palestinians and was deficient in historical context or factual analysis. How should we respond?

EDUCATE OURSELVES. Numbers of articles appeared that provided a concise history of the events leading up to the Six-Day War and some of its consequences. Start by reading the opinion piece by former Israeli Ambassador to the United States, Michael Oren, "Israel's 1967 Victory Is Something to Celebrate" that appeared in the June 4, 2017, *New York Times* at nyti.ms/2sthCLa. Then

dig deeper. Oren wrote a book on the subject, *Six Days of War*, as did Yossi Klein Halevy, author of *Like Dreamers: The Story of the Israeli Paratroopers Who Reunited Jerusalem and Divided a Nation*.

EDUCATE OTHERS. A number of Beth El congressants wrote letters to *The Washington Post* in response to its coverage. The *Post* published one of them, written by Brad Stillman, in its June 4 edition.

EXPAND our understanding of Israeli society. Go on the Internet and check out websites such as those for Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Hadassah Hospital, and Israel Elwyn to learn about Israel's leadership in environmental technology, medical science, and addressing the challenges of individuals with disabilities.

Rabbi Werbin Speaks About the Jewish Community of Argentina

BY HANNA GUTMANN

Deep in the pampas of Argentina are the remnants of a once-thriving Jewish community of gauchos, or cowboys. The town of Moisesville was settled by Jewish immigrants in the late 1800s. These Jewish gauchos learned from the locals how to survive in exchange for a working knowledge of Yiddish and knish making. This may sound like fantasy, but for Rabbi Fabián Werbin, it's family history. His maternal great-grandfather, Noe (Noach) Cociovitch, was one of the original Jewish settlers. Noe's son Naum (Nachum) Cociovitch rode the Argentine prairie. Rabbi Werbin's story of a Jewish presence in Argentina captivated listeners at the Sisterhood/Zhava annual meeting on May 21.

According to Rabbi Werbin, Jews have lived in Brazil, Suriname, and Curaçao since the late 1500s. After the Jews were expelled in 1492, Spain permitted only Christians (including some *Conversos*) to join the expeditions to the New World. However, many still-practicing Sephardic Jews migrated to the Netherlands, France, Italy, England, and other European nations. From there they reached the New World on other expeditions or as traders and merchants. Later waves, like those of the 1880s, were Ashkenazim.

Jewish Institutions

The oldest synagogue in Argentina is Templo Libertad, also known as Congregacion Israelita de la Republica Argentina. Its first minyan was held in 1862 and the building dates to 1897. An American rabbi, Marshall Meyer, was called there after his ordination from the Jewish Theological Seminary in 1958. Reluctant to go to Argentina, Meyer told his mentor, Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel, that he wanted to study

history. Heschel replied, "You won't study history, you will make history." After a couple of years at Templo Libertad, Meyer founded Comunidad Bet El in Buenos Aires and Seminario Rabinico Latinoamericano. The Seminario ordained Spanish-speaking rabbis who served in communities throughout Latin America, and it became the center of Conservative Judaism in South America.

When the military regime came to power in 1976, Meyer became a strong critic of the government and its violations of human rights. Some 12 percent of those killed by the military were Jewish. Meyer worked to save the lives of hundreds of people persecuted by the regime and helped many Jews escape to Israel. After democracy was restored in 1983, Meyer was presented with the highest Argentinian award, the Order of the Liberator General San Martin. The following year, Meyer returned to the United States and became the rabbi at B'nai Jeshurun, the oldest Ashkenazic synagogue in New York City and a model for the current spiritual renaissance among American Jews.

Rabbi Werbin is quite familiar with Bet El of Buenos Aires. He celebrated his bar mitzvah there. He is also a graduate of the Seminario, an affiliate of the Masorti movement. ■



RABBI WERBIN'S GRANDFATHER, ISRAEL ISAAC KAPLAN

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF SIX-DAY WAR

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

Stacy Topol, Arthur Pollott, and Joe Semo..

On June 5, the actual 50th anniversary, Larry, with assistance from Ken Levine and Hilary Kapner, arranged for the IDF contingent to tour the Capitol and witness the vote on a Sense of the Senate resolution commending Israel's victory in 1967 and reaffirming the unbreakable bond between the United States and Israel. Their joy was visible on their faces and their Facebook pages. It was the perfect antidote to the ahistorical press coverage of the Six-Day War during the preceding week. ■



Every year, about 25 Beth El families head to Camp Horizons in Harrisonburg, Va., over Memorial Day weekend for Family Camp. In addition to horseback riding, a ropes course, talent shows, archery, softball, arts and crafts, and campfires, there are fun and spirit-filled meals, services, and study sessions. New families with kids of all ages are welcome as space permits. If you are interested in joining, please contact Tami Simon or Seth Price.

Aviva Solkowitz Wins USY Award

BY ADAM ZEREN

The Beth El Youth Department is proud to announce that Aviva Solkowitz was recently named the Claire Sodden Award winner for being the most outstanding senior in the Seaboard USY Region. The Seaboard Region annually gives this award to the graduating senior who best exemplifies the Jewish values and ideals that Claire brought to USY in her life. Claire's life was tragically cut short in 1973, at the age of 20 years old by cancer. Claire was from Baltimore.

Aviva has been a very active USYer

at Beth El, in the Seaboard Region, and on an international level. She has held multiple chapter board positions, and has served on the Seaboard USY Regional General Board. Aviva recently graduated from the Charles E. Smith Jewish Day School in Rockville. She will be taking a gap year in Israel with the Nativ program before heading to Hofstra.

Aviva is the first Beth El USYer to receive this award, and we wish her a huge Mazal Tov and wonderful year in Israel. ■



AVIVA SOLKOWITZ, CENTER, WITH PAST WINNERS MILES GREENSPOON AND ANNIKA SKIGEN. PHOTO FROM SEABOARD USY

Confirmation 2017/5777



This year's Confirmation took place at a special Friday evening service on May 19. Mazal tov to all the confirmands and their parents.

Sophia Faith Becker, daughter of Scott and Mila Becker; Jodi Bronfman, daughter of Mark and Lisa Bronfman; Sarah Clement, daughter of Dan and Mara Clement; Emma Lily Davison, daughter of Douglas and Lisa Davison; Jeff Elias, son of Gregg Elias and Mindy Ginsburg; Maya Falb, daughter of Robert and June Falb; Sam Falb, son of Robert and June Falb; Aliza Fisher, daughter of Lou and Nina Fisher; Abigail Gillman, daughter of Todd

and Lesli Gillman; Tate Goldberg, son of Matthew and Jennifer Goldberg; Ben Harris, son of Rabbi Greg and Rebekah Harris; Gabriela Yosefa Helf, daughter of Thomas Helf and Michelle Brafman; Jacob Edward Kuhn, son of Adam and Harriet Kuhn; Geoffrey Kulp, son of Edoardo and Susan Kulp; Jared Lapidus, son of Kevin and Nancy Lapidus; Elyse Lowet, daughter of Peter Lowet and Laura Sloss; Jack Margolis, son of Mario Margolis and Diana Moss; Zachary Merenstein, son of Dan Merenstein and Traci Reisner; Becca Mills, daughter of David Mills and Eve Mills; Julia Kate Nestel, daughter

of Daniel and Dana Nestel; Rebecca Redlich, daughter of Stephen and Kim Redlich; Bo Rider, son of Jeremy and Jill Rider; Carly Ruderman, daughter of Aaron and Marci Ruderman; Noah Victor Weinberg, son of Jonathan Weinberg and Sabrina Rosenberg-David; Bennett Werbel, son of Evan and Hallie Werbel; Eric Samuel Whyman, son of William and Paula Whyman; and Lydia Zebrak, daughter of Scott and Julie Zebrak.

Attention Parents of College Students!

Looking for a way to keep your college student connected to Beth El?

Send current email and mailing addresses and name of school with expected graduation date to rmunster@bethelmc.org by **Friday, September 8**, and your college student will receive regular email messages from the rabbi and special holiday packages filled with greetings and goodies.

***IMPORTANT NOTE:** To keep our database current, this information needs to be updated each year.



Tikkun Leil Shavuot

Tikkun Leil Shavuot, Beth El's traditional night of study, took place on Tuesday evening, May 30. Included here are descriptions of some of the teaching sessions that were offered.

The Prehistory of Women Rabbis

BY RABBI MINDY PORTNOY

This workshop was based primarily on articles from the recently published anthology, *The Sacred Calling: Four Decades of Women in the Rabbinate*, published in 2016 by the Central Conference of American Rabbis. My article, "From Imagination to Reality: *Ima on the Bima*," a "deconstruction" of my 1986 children's book, *Ima on the Bima*, is included in the anthology.

In the Tikkun Leil Shavuot, I focused on an article about Beruriah (by Rabbi Judith Abrams, *z"l*), the best known woman (and one of the few) quoted in the Tosefta, the Talmud, and several Midrashic collections. She is usually referred to as the "wife of Rabbi Meir," but she was a brilliant and quoted scholar in her own right. In a sense, she was a "proto-rabbi."

Another woman leader, Regina Jonas (1902–1944, murdered at Auschwitz), was ordained in a private ceremony in Berlin by Rabbi Max Dienemann, and was thereafter usually referred to as "Fräulein Rabbinerin Jonas." She performed pastoral duties and taught, first in Berlin, later at Terezin. Her thesis was titled, "Can a Woman Be a Rabbi According to Halachic Sources?" In the early 1970s, and in more detail with the finding of her papers in 1991, her name and work were rediscovered. No longer lost to history and the darkness of the Holocaust, her biography was published in 2004 by Elisa Klapheck and Toby Axelrod. Rabbi Laura Geller wrote the article about Rabbinerin Jonas in *The Sacred Calling* and called her the "first woman rabbi." ■

Mixed Feelings About Kingship

BY BILL DAUSTER

On Shavuot, we celebrate Moses's bringing down the law from Sinai. But Moses, although leader of the Jewish people, was not a king. Just who could bring down the law? What does the Bible say about kingship?

Most traditional Jewish interpreters read Deuteronomy 17:14–15 to command Israel to have a king. The Bible is full of passages, such as Psalms 2, 20, 45, 72, and 110, that approve of kingship. The Book of Judges repeats like a mantra words like those in Judges 17:6 and 21:25, "In those days there was no king in Israel; every man did as he pleased," to explain why bad things happened to good people.

But then 1 Samuel 8 reports that the monarchy was the people's idea, not a Divine plan. And both the prophet Samuel and God thought it was a bad idea. God nonetheless told Samuel to comply with the popular demand. Samuel warned the people that a king would abridge their liberties, conscript them, and tax them, but Samuel went on to anoint Saul as king. Think about the editing process that led to this story's inclusion in the Bible. The redactors, or copiers of the Biblical text, could easily have omitted Samuel's rant. But they were bold enough, as they copied the old texts, perhaps

under the watchful eyes of kings, to allow Samuel's condemnation of royalty to remain.

Rabbi David Polish argued that Deuteronomy 17 echoed the antimonarchical text in 1 Samuel 8. Deuteronomy 17:18–20 concludes with an admonition that the king should "observe faithfully every word of this Teaching." Polish thought that Deuteronomy 17, like 1 Samuel, "reflects a theological compromise." The people had demanded a king, like all the nations around them, but other nations' kings were sometimes lawgivers. Deuteronomy 17:18–20 distinguished Israelite kings: They were not the source of laws, as God already was.

The Bible's mixed feelings about kingship are comfortable to us as Americans. Israel's king did not wield legislative power. Inscribed on the Justice building are the words, "No free government can survive that is not based on the supremacy of law." That idea is familiar to Jews, because the Bible reported that we received the law directly from God. Thus on Shavuot, when we celebrate the giving of the law, we can also celebrate the ideas of a chief executive with limited powers and the idea that no person is above the law. ■

When We Do Everything Right

BY RABBI RAMI SCHWARTZER

Consider the moments in our lives when we did everything right but still somehow didn't succeed. For some, it was as simple as baking and realizing that following the recipe exactly still didn't yield that picture-perfect cake. For others, it was the realization that apologizing and owning your mistakes in all the right ways sometimes wasn't enough to settle a disagreement. How do we respond when doing everything right simply doesn't cut it?

We compared two passages from the Talmud. The first (Brakhot 8a) asserts that a person who benefits from the work of her hands is greater than the one who merely puts her faith in God. Of course, we nearly unanimously agreed, we have what we have because we worked hard for it. The second passage (Niddah 70b) relates the story of Rabbi Joshua ben Hanania (c. 100 CE) who was asked for this advice from the people of Alexandria: What should a person do to become wise? R' Joshua ben Hanania advised that she should immerse herself in study and spend little

time in business. The people of Alexandria retorted that they have observed many people do exactly that and still fail. The Talmud responds: Such a person probably failed to ask for mercy from the One to whom wisdom belongs, and concludes with the phrase "one without the other does not suffice."

We cannot rely on faith alone; neither can we rely simply on our own deeds. Faith, in the words of Abraham Joshua Heschel, is the recognition that "man is neither the lord of the universe nor even the master of his own destiny." Though we might be "dazzled by the brilliant achievements of the intellect in science and technique, we have been deluded into believing that we are the masters of the earth and our will the ultimate judge of what is right and wrong." Faith is not about how many mitzvot we observe but rather about the awareness we have of our own limitations. While we can't stop working and expect God to provide, one without the other does not suffice. ■

Who Buried Moshe? Why Does It Matter?

BY DAVID H. MARGULIES

The Talmud often discusses at great length the implications of difficult or obscure passages in the Torah. We read in Deuteronomy 34 about Moses on Mt. Nebo, that he died there, and that "he buried him in the valley in the land of Moab." Who buried Moses? The commentators give two answers: Moses buried himself or God buried him. If God buried him, several additional questions arise: was God a Kohen (a priest)? and if so, how was He purified following the necessary contact with a dead body? The Babylonian Talmud, Sanhedrin 39a, supports the view that indeed God was a Kohen, even a Kohen Gadol (a high priest), and questions whether all the waters of the world were sufficient for God to immerse Himself. Since the book of Isaiah indicates that God "measured the waters (of the world) in the hollow of His hand," the waters were insufficient for God's purification. Other verses imply that God could be purified by fire ("God immersed Himself in fire," Isaiah 66:15). Thus, God buried Moses and because He was a Kohen required purification; the only applicable method was immersion in fire. From this a 14th-century rabbi, Moses of Zurich, ruled that a *Converso*, one forced to leave Judaism, who then intended to return to the covenant by ritual immersion, but was burned at the stake before formal purification, had in fact been purified by fire. Therefore, the *Converso* certainly deserved to be honored by burial in a Jewish cemetery. Thus, a biblical tale supports a ruling of Jewish law pertaining to a crucial event in a Jew's life. ■

Why There is No Antihero in the Book of Ruth

BY RABBI FABIÁN WERBIN

Many of the tales of the Tanakh have a hero and an anti-hero. We can find examples in the stories of Abraham and Pharaoh, Abraham and Lot, Isaac and Ishmael, Jacob and Esau, Moses and Pharaoh, and Moses and Korach. If we want to mention stories from the Prophets, there are David and Goliath or Elijah and the false prophets. Needless to mention, we have Haman and Mordechai in the Book of Esther.

The Book of Ruth presents a completely different perspective. This is a story where you can find the difference between good and great. Maybe the only "fault" that could be found in Elimelech, Machlon, and Chilion (who die immediately at the beginning of this story) is that they left their homeland during a time of drought and turned their backs on the community. Other than that... Everybody else's acts are in a range from good to great. Not only that but the "fault" that we find at the beginning of the text, where people don't care for others, is repaired at the end of the text by Boaz and Ruth, who care only for others. The reward is not small. King David is a direct descendant from the acts of love, compassion, and kindness that Ruth showed with Naomi and that Boaz showed to Ruth.

Love, compassion, and kindness are values that connect us directly with our tradition and in particular with the holiday of Shavuot. ■

Taking the *Daniel Deronda* Challenge

BY ROBIN JACOBSON

A few weeks ago, I impulsively signed up for an eight-part online course on *Daniel Deronda*, a 19th-century English novel by George Eliot. Why? I had never read the book, despite its fame as the Zionist novel that predated Zionism. But I remembered the movie fondly (English accents! Rolling green hills! Manor houses! Victorian costumes!). And certainly, the rave reviews for the *Deronda* course and its teacher, retired Harvard literature professor Ruth Wisse, were attention grabbing. Journalists described the series as a “must see,” “a high-spirited intellectual *tour de force*,” and “as gripping as anything currently on Netflix . . . [which] ought to be binged upon. . . ravenously.” Unable to resist, I borrowed the book, enrolled in the course, and started staying up late to savor Wisse’s insights. Below is my miniblog on the experience – highly recommended! [See box with enrollment information.]

Eliot, the Philosopher-Novelist

Wisse reminds me of my favorite college professors, eloquent and inspiring about the power and importance of literature. To Wisse, literature is like Torah, “Turn it, and turn it, for everything is in it” (Pirkei Avot). In *Daniel Deronda*, Wisse finds debates over feminism, family responsibility, identity, and globalism that all remain relevant today.

To Wisse, *Daniel Deronda* is “one of the most inspiring Jewish books ever written,” even though George Eliot was not Jewish. The book made a case for Zionism two decades before the first Zionist Congress. Published in 1876, *Deronda* promoted a sovereign country for the Jewish people in the Land of Israel. Eliot was one of Israel’s “first visionaries,” wrote Abba Eban, the celebrated Israeli diplomat, in a tribute to the author. Streets in Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, and Haifa are named for Eliot.

George Eliot (1819-1880) was the pen name of Mary Ann Evans. As Wisse recounts, Eliot was a most unlikely champion of Jews and Zionism. A lapsed Christian and self-taught philosopher (her formal education ended at age 16), she turned to novel writing as a way to communicate philosophical ideas more engagingly than in essays. The public adored her novels. Even Queen Victoria was a fan. *Daniel Deronda*, Eliot’s final novel, reflected her intense interest in Judaism and thorough study of Jewish texts.

Eliot, the Zionist

Daniel Deronda tells the intersecting stories of Gwendolen Harleth, a spirited but selfish young Englishwoman, and

Daniel Deronda, a kind but aimless young Englishman, the ward of an English nobleman. Both characters grow in self-awareness and find purpose over the course of the novel. Daniel is searching for information about his birth parents; by chance he is drawn into London’s Jewish world and the cause of Jewish nationalism, eventually discovering that he is himself Jewish. Wisse contends that Eliot interwove the two plot lines to demonstrate the interrelated fate of the English and the Jews.

Eliot believed, says Wisse, that England’s future as a civilized nation depended on its treatment of the Jews. Worried by rising anti-Jewish prejudice in Europe, Eliot wanted England to reject xenophobia and recognize that the Jews could retain their separateness without posing a threat to English society. Moreover, Eliot thought that Jews should aspire to regain their ancestral homeland – and that the English should help them. Just as the English drew strength from their roots in their island nation, even if they lived in other countries, so too, she believed, the Jews deserved roots in a national center. ■

Take the *Daniel Deronda* Challenge!



To enroll in Professor Ruth Wisse’s *Daniel Deronda* course (see accompanying review) at a discount off the regular \$40 price, please contact Robin Jacobson.

Beth El members will receive a discount of 25-50% (based on number of participants) for access to the lectures and a downloadable copy of the novel.

For a course preview, go to <https://tikvahfund.org/course/daniel-deronda/>.

No time to read the novel? You can enjoy the course if you are familiar with the novel’s plot – try the BBC movie or read a summary of *Daniel Deronda*.

Contributions

Donations from April 27 to June 5

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Rachel Bingham, granddaughter of Rose and Samuel Saady, by Robert and Ruth Oppenheim
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IN MEMORY OF:

Samuel Saady by Robert and Ruth Oppenheim

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Hazzan Klein for a spiritual musical service by Irwin and Rita Kopin
Hazzan Klein's tenure at Beth El and best wishes for future endeavors by Dov and Sharon Margolis Apfel
Hazzan Klein and Rabbi Elyssa Austerklein, with thanks and best wishes by Reina Lerner
Gil Ezring for a beautiful musical service by Irwin and Rita Kopin

Chevra Kadisha Fund

IN HONOR OF:

Steve Kuperberg for leading shiva minyan after the death of Jeff's mother by Jeff and Bobbi Spector

IN MEMORY OF:

Ann Mininberg by Harvey and Susan Mininberg
Carl Greenberg by Jim and Brenda Greenberg Schmand
Celia Lissy, mother of Myra Deutsch, by Stewart and Myra Deutsch
Dora Deutsch, mother of Stewart Deutsch, by Stewart and Myra Deutsch
Harold Schoenholtz by Debbie and Peter Friedmann
Louis Tishkoff by Julian and Iris Tishkoff
My beloved husband, Martin Rosensky, by Anne Rosensky

Fine Arts Fund

IN MEMORY OF:

Dorothy Horowitz, Evyan Koenig's mother, by Bob and Evyan Koenig
H. Harvey Koenig, beloved brother of Bob Koenig, by Bob and Evyan Koenig

General Fund

IN HONOR OF:

Rabbi Harris by Anne Rosensky
Rabbi Harris for his support at the time of my father's death by Lee and Sheryl Rosensky Miller
Rabbi Werbin for his support of Miles Gunty in preparing for his bar mitzvah by Murry and Lisa Gunty
Rabbi Rudolph for receiving the JCRC Distinguished Service Award by Norman and Ellen Eule

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

Hazzan Klein by Jeff and Phyllis Lavine
Hazzan Klein, for all you did in your tenure and wishing you and Elyssa the best, by Ricardo and Irene Munster
Hazzan Klein's devoted service to Beth El by Donna Vogel and David Margulies, Irwin and Hellaine Nepo, Jack and Stephanie Ventura, Michael Polis and Rhoda Barish, and the Bender/Klubes family
Amy and Gene Goott by Helena Zaidman
Ben Bronheim's milestone birthday by Jack and Stephanie Ventura
Bill Kanter for leading shiva minyan for Selma Saxe by Marvin and Barbara Kotz
Danielle Weinberg's bat mitzvah by Joe and Margie Hoffman
Ezra Griboff's bar mitzvah by Walker Tollefson and family
Lucy Ozarin by Elliot and Esther Wilner
Milan Kubic, for a speedy recovery, by Michael Flyer
Nora Pauline Lenkner's birth by Laurie Alban Havens
David Werbin-Gradel's *upsheerin* by Elliot and Esther Wilner
Sandy Lubin's birthday by Elliot and Esther Wilner

IN MEMORY OF:

Alexis Meredith Pernick by Irwin Pernick
Ann Kaplan by Lawrence Kaplan
Barney Susser, father of Barbara Shapiro, by Hyman and Barbara Shapiro
Belle Schild Adelstein by Robert and Miriam Adelstein
Carolyn Shapiro, mother of Sarah Shapiro, by Ellen and David Epstein
Caryn Wechsler's brother by Steven and Caryn Wechsler
Doris Goldstein by Dennis Askwith and Sherlyn Goldstein-Askwith
Ernst Schimmerling, my father, by Walter Schimmerling
Edith Greenberg, my mother-in-law, by Judith Greenberg
Evelyn and Monty Horovitz, my parents, by Judith Greenberg
Frieda Schwartz by Raymond and Laura Bouvier
Hanan Shaham, beloved brother, by Jose and Tutti Sokol
Harriet Filler, my sister, by Mildred Goldman
Herman Zagoria, my brother, by Etta Kline
Irwin Hausman, father of Lisa Davison, by Edoardo and Susan Kulp and Josephine Sanders-Levie
Isaac Weinstein, beloved father, by Reina Lerner
Joseph Baraf by Cheryl and Herbert Baraf
Joseph Kershner, my father, by Phyllis Solomon
Joseph Weisz, beloved father and grandfather, by Helene Weisz, Bernie Weisz, and families
Joyce Ann Klein, 40 years after her death, by Richard and Diane Klein
Kitty Strauss, mother of Steve Strauss, by Joe and Margie Hoffman
Noah and Toba Winkler, Marilda Averbug's parents, by Marcello and Marilda Averbug
Alberto Winkler, Marilda Averbug's brother, by Marcello and Marilda Averbug
Myriam Rozansky, Marilda and Marcello Averbug's mother, by Marcello and Marilda Averbug
Martin Popper by Arthur and Helen Popper
Martin Rosensky, father of Sheryl Miller, by Joe and Margie Hoffman and Cary and Nancy Feldman
Marvin Broder, father of Michael Broder, by Jack and Stephanie Ventura
Maurice Derkay by Lee and Gloria Derkay

Contributions Continued

Max Safrin, beloved uncle, by Reina Lerner
Rose Herman by Jerry and Linda Herman
Minnie Kahn, my mother, by Henry Kahn and Laura Primakoff
Morris Greenberg, my father-in-law, by Judith Greenberg
My father, Allen Jacobson, by Bucky and Mindi Jacobson
Randi Mandler Gould, my beloved sister, by Bert and Susan King

Regina Pabernik, my beloved mother, by Charlotte Gottlieb
Robert Band by Bernard and Annabelle Band
Rose and Morris Brandwein by Monice Rosenbaum
Selma Saxe by Myonghui Choe
Selma Apfel by Arthur and Helen Popper
Sam Janney, Susan Levine's son, by Elliot and Esther Wilner
Walter Weinstein by Dora Weinstein
Wolf Stein, father of Howie Stein, by Howie and Holly Stein
Zenda Brownfain by Alan and Debra Birnkrant

Elaine Silverman Gessow College Connection Fund

IN MEMORY OF:

Jack David Silverman by Lisa Michelson
Alfred Gessow by Lisa Michelson

Groner Camp Ramah Scholarship Fund

IN HONOR OF:

Rabbi Rudolph for receiving the Jewish Community Relations Council Award by Howard and Tricia Sachs

IN MEMORY OF:

Selma Poyry by Erwin and Leena Groner

Kimball Nursery School Fund

IN HONOR OF:

David Werbin's Upsherin and his family by Jack and Stephanie Ventura

Library Fund

IN MEMORY OF:

Beverly Spector, mother of Jeff Spector, by Jeff and Bobbi Spector

Daniel Mann by David Mann

Marilyn Glaser by Lawrence and Robin Tabak

Minnie Nepo by Irwin and Hellaine Nepo

Litman Holocaust (Shoah) Education Fund

IN MEMORY OF:

Adele Schwartz Gilbert by Stefanie Gilbert

Bella Kaplovsky by Jay and Lillian Miller

Gabriella Zweig by Alan and Michele Greenberg

Rosa Nassauer by Fred and Rita Kahn

Siegfried Nassauer by Fred and Rita Kahn

Masorti

IN MEMORY OF:

Marco Shalom, dearly loved and missed husband, by Sabina Shalom

Mazon

IN MEMORY OF:

Estelle B. Sank by Lawrence Sank

Esther Haya Landau by Sarah Friedman

Faivel Shraga Landau by Sarah Friedman

Lionel Cohen by Jeffrey Cohen and Leslie Fried

Sydney Sank by Lawrence Sank

Men's Club Fund

IN HONOR OF:

Jordan Rosner receiving the Blue Yalmulke Man of the Year

Award by Beth El Sisterhood

Mintz Landscaping Fund

IN MEMORY OF:

Isaac Goldman by Max and Mitzi Goldman

Morning Minyan Fund

IN HONOR OF:

Nancy Salwin's special birthday celebration by Craig Yokum
Peter Novick for outstanding leadership of the Early Morning Minyan by Walter Arnheim and Marsha Rehns

IN MEMORY OF:

Herman Chinn, my dear brother, by Sarah Kalser

Harold Schoenholtz by Robert Clayman and Carol Miller

Linda Turkel, loving sister of Alan Block and Bonnie Block, by Julian Levin

Robert Chinn, my dear brother, by Sarah Kalser

Sylvia Strauss by Bruce and Suzanne Strauss

Yaffa Mermelstein by Elliott and Estee Portnoy

Prayer Book Fund

IN MEMORY OF:

Samuel Rich by Bernard and RuthAnn Heckman

Rabbi's Fund

IN HONOR OF:

Rabbi Harris for his support and guidance after the death of Jeff's mother by Jeff and Bobbi Spector

Rabbi Harris for officiating at the funeral of our mother, Esther Isralow, by the family of Esther Isralow

Our wonderful Rabbi Harris by Howard and Tricia Sachs

Rabbi Werbin for his warmth and guidance in helping prepare Lily Lev for her bat mitzvah, and for officiating by Ori Lev and Sara Gold

Rabbi Werbin for a beautiful ceremony for our daughter, Madelyn Reese Okun, by the Okun Family

Our wonderful Rabbi Werbin by Howard and Tricia Sachs

Rabbi Rudolph's JCRC Distinguished Service Award by Dov and Sharon Margolis Apfel and Donna Vogel and David Margulies

Jerome Wernick's milestone birthday aliyah by Jerome and Ina Wernick

Our wedding by Tamira Hartman and Andrew McCord

Our wedding by Tamira Hartman and Andrew McCord

IN MEMORY OF:

Beatrice Baraf by Herbert and Cheryl Baraf

Elise Rose by Jonathan and Debra Lerner

Estelle Feigenbaum by Kenneth and Carolyn Feigenbaum

Evelyn Kohn, my mother, by Parker O'Shea

Fella Eule by Norman and Ellen Eule

Henrietta Schwartzberg by Alan and Karen Goldstein

Hilda Kahn by Walter Kahn

Marlene Slotnick by Jayson and Judy Slotnik

Melvin Kitt by Susan Kitt and Steve Teitelbaum

Minna Feldman, mother of Cary Feldman, by Cary and Nancy Feldman

Nathan Schwartzberg by Alan and Karen Goldstein

Samuel Bechick by Leonard and Gabriela Bechick

Sidney Teitel by Richard Lieberman and Helene Weisz

Stephen Epstein by James and Rebecca Rubin

Samuel Scolnic Adult Institute Fund

IN HONOR OF:

Howie Stein on your special birthday by Phylis and Dan Ermann

Contributions Continued

Jordan Rosner, Beth El's Blue Yarkmilke Man of the Year, by Irwin and Rita Kopin

IN MEMORY OF:

Samuel Nichaman, my beloved father-in-law, by Rhoda Nichaman

Samuel Scolnic by Judith Scolnic

Zavel Sandler by George Liss

Dr. Elaine L. Shalowitz Education Fund

IN HONOR OF:

Marilyn Fine for a great year at Beth El Religious School by Richard and Diane Klein

IN MEMORY OF:

Albert Langerman, my father, by Sam Langerman

Ernest Shalowitz, my, by Erwin Shalowitz

Shirley Langerman, my beloved mother-in-law, by Erwin Shalowitz

Shirley Langerman, my mother, by Sam Langerman

Simos Music Fund

IN HONOR OF:

Hazzan Klein for leading shiva minyan after the death of Jeff's mother by Jeff and Bobbi Spector

IN MEMORY OF:

Harold Schoenholtz, beloved father of Andy Schoenholtz, by Scott and Debbie Glick

Sisterhood Keshet Nashim Fund

IN MEMORY OF:

Fancine Lanar by Marvin Yudkovitz

Sisterhood Kiddush Fund

IN HONOR OF:

Margy Nurik by Irwin and Rita Kopin

IN MEMORY OF:

Pat Spiegel Chalphin by Barry and Barbara Friedman

Sisterhood Shiva Meal Fund

IN MEMORY OF:

Anna Weinstein, my wonderful mother, by Margy Nurik

Bernice Osmansky by Mark and Marji Kramer

Gary Alter by Mark Tobey and Carol Alter

Yetta M. Staffin, beloved mother of Debbie Glick, by Scott and Debbie Glick

Sisterhood Torah Fund

IN MEMORY OF:

Sarah Weinstein by Joe and Ina Young

Social Action Fund

IN MEMORY OF:

Lisa Davison's beloved father by Gregg and Joan Levy and Sheryl Rosensky Miller and Lee Miller

Theodore Yudkovitz by Marvin Yudkovitz

Sybil Suls Youth Activities Fund

IN MEMORY OF:

Eva B. Rochkind by Joan Rochkind Ressin

Elaine Tanenbaum Religious School Enrichment Fund

IN HONOR OF:

Marilyn Fine for her inspirational teaching and for preparing Lily Lev for her bat mitzvah by Ori Lev and Sara Gold

IN MEMORY OF:

Anna S. Leventhal by Carl M. Leventhal

Harryette Deckelbaum, my wife, by Robert Deckelbaum

Irwin Hausman, father and grandfather to Lisa and Doug

Davison and family, by Caryn and Adam Solomon and family

Torah Scroll Fund

IN MEMORY OF:

Irwin Hausman, father of Lisa Davison, by Kevin and Nancy Lapidus

Transportation Fund

By: Rita Miller and by Robert and Ruth Oppenheim

IN HONOR OF:

Hazzan Klein, bon voyage by Rose Saady

Lucy Ozarin, an outstanding, inspiring, gracious lady, by Doris Povich, Barry and Barbara Friedman, Beverly Lipschitz, Craig Yokum, Rose Saady, and Susan Cohen

Anne Foss on her milestone birthday by Irwin and Rita Kopin

IN MEMORY OF:

Benjamin Wigler by Rose Saady

Ernestine W. Krueger by Annette Goldberg

Esther Isralow by Rose Saady

Benjamin Rosenthal by John and Susan Rosenthal

Joseph M. Glaser, beloved father, by Suzanne Glaser

Rebecca Wigler by Rose Saady

Sheldon Abrams by Henrietta Asen

August B'nai Mitzvah

August 26: Isaac Odintz and Julia Manyin

Help Pick New Look for Website

Tiarra Joslyn, Beth El's communications manager, is looking for one or two volunteers to help select new photographs from this past year's events to use to update the Beth El website. Thanks to the Beth El Photo Corps, there are hundreds of photos to sort through, and your help would be greatly appreciated as we work over the summer to give the website a "facelift." If interested, please email Tiarra at tjoslyn@bethelmc.org.

Join a Beth El Affinity Group

Beth El Affinity Groups will resume in the fall. Currently, there are affinity groups for lawyers, female physicians, real estate professionals, STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) professionals, public policy/lobbyist professionals, and mental health professionals.

If you fit into any of these groups, please email Geryl Baer at gbaer@bethelmc.org to be included for future announcements.

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

Mazal Tov to

Sharon and Alan Parver on the birth of their granddaughter,
Nora Pauline Parver Lenkner, daughter of **Michelle Parver**
and **David Lenkner**

Dan Margulies, son of **Donna Vogel and David Margulies**, on
his ordination as a rabbi at Yeshivat Chovevei Torah

Karen and Bill Lebovich on the birth of their granddaughter,
Sloan Madeline Cherner, to proud parents **Jennifer**
Lebovich Cherner and **Michael Cherner**

Condolences to

Michael Broder and Rita Rubin on the death of Michael's
father, **Marvin Broder**

Marnie and David Fagan on the death of Marnie's father, **Mel**
Girshon

Steve and Karen London on the death of Steve's father,
Maynard London

Sarah Shapiro, on the death of her mother, longtime congregant
Carolyn Shapiro

Noteworthy

Roundtable with the Rabbi, Wednesdays, July 5 and August
2, 2:00 pm. Join us to celebrate July and August 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. This program is made possible in part through the
generosity of Annette Moshman.

Senior Caucus Brown Bag Lunch, Thursdays, July 6, 13,
and 27 and August 3, 10, 24, and 31, noon. Come and social-
ize with your friends and enjoy refreshments and dessert.

Bridge – the greatest game ever! Join us every Monday and
Thursday (except July 20 and August 17) 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.

Senior Caucus Luncheon Program, Thursdays, July 20 and
August 17. Lunch starts at noon. Following lunch, stay for a film
presentation. July continues the opera series with *The Wicked Child*
and *The Spanish Hour*, two operas by Maurice Ravel and designed
by Maurice Sendak. In French with English subtitles. August's
film is *Arranged*, a romantic comedy about the friendship between
an Orthodox Jewish woman and a Muslim woman who meet as
first-year teachers at a public school in Brooklyn and share many
similarities, including that both are going through the process
of arranged marriages. Cost of lunch is \$10. To RSVP for lunch,
call Ricardo Munster at 301-652-2606, ext. 316, or [rmunster@](mailto:rmunster@bethelmc.org)
[bethelmc.org](mailto:rmunster@bethelmc.org). The RSVP deadline is Tuesday, July 18, for the July
program, and Tuesday, August 15, for the August program. The pro-
gram itself is free and begins after lunch.

Bender JCC and Beth El Pool Party, Friday, July 21, 4:30
pm. Join us for a musical pool-side Kabbalat Shabbat service and
free swim and play at the JCC pool - no membership required!

Senior Caucus Meeting, Wednesday, August 2, 1:00 pm. Join
these active retirees to hear about the ongoing programs and plan
new activities.

Fourth Annual Sweet Summer Series with PJ Library,
Thursday, August 31, 5:00 pm. Join us at Haagen Dazs (7237
Woodmont Ave., Bethesda) for ice cream, crafts, and Jewish stories.