

Beth El Quarterly Bulletin

March 2016

Adar II 5776

Save the Date!

Beth El DIGs SEEDS Sunday, April 10!

The Social Action Committee is excited to announce the date of the second Annual DIGs SEEDS!

Join the Beth El community for a day of tikun olam, gardening, and painting.

More information to come!



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The place for updates, photos and community!



betheldurham

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Durhambethel



betheldurham
Lots of Jewish inspired ideas!



BethElSynagogueDurham

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FROM OUR RABBI: Covenant, Not Contract

What does being a member of Beth El do for me? How do I gain from involving myself in Jewish life? From one perspective, the clear answer is: not much! For example, Deuteronomy 23:19 says, "You shall not charge interest on loans to your fellow



Israelite, interest on money, interest on food, interest on anything that is lent for interest." How is an economy supposed to function with such laws? Why would anyone with money lend it if they will not be paid interest? Why shouldn't a person be paid fair market value not only for the use of their money but for the risk they take in lending it out, lest the loan not be repaid? Aren't we better off without these laws?

Here's another. Deuteronomy 24:10-15 reads: "When you lend your brother anything...and if the man is poor, you shall not sleep in his pledge; You shall deliver him the pledge back when the sun goes down, that he may sleep in his own garment, and bless you; and it shall be righteousness to you before the Lord your God." The demand to return a pledged garment creates the situation where, overnight, the borrower has both the thing he borrowed and the garment he pledged, while the lender has nothing to protect him against losing the object he lent. Why would anyone agree to lend under such circumstances?

In his article, "Radical Covenant: Jews, Christians and the Politics of Neo-Liberalism," scholar Jonathan Gorsky writes how, "It is quite possible for legally blameless conduct to be simultaneously responsible for great distress." Who can blame the lender who keeps his pledge, even if it causes a poor person to sleep in the cold? But the Torah calls us to responsibility beyond just what is "fair."

Gorsky argues that these (and other) verses point us to the tension between the world of the market governed by contracts and the Torah's vision of a covenantal community. What is the difference? He writes:

Covenant is not contract: in contract our relations exist because of a particular undertaking that we agree upon because it is to our mutual advantage; when the transaction is complete, the contract has been honoured and there are no further obligations. Covenants are the other way around – we enter into particular undertakings because of our relations with each other and it is in these relationships that we realise the plentitude of our humanity.1

In the coming months, we will be raising money to renovate and expand our buildings. As each of us considers our gift to this project, we might ask ourselves: What does Beth El – and Jewish life – offer? But synagogues are not fee for service; we are about relationships through which we realize our deepest selves. Jewish life offers connection in an atomized world. God asks us to grow beyond what we think is "fair" in a market economy and calls us into covenant. The Torah invites us to honor the divine presence in the face of each person by being part of a covenantal community that brings light into a world in pain. By giving something of ourselves, we receive nothing at all, but gain much, much more.

1 Gorsky, J. (2008). Words in action: Speaking in our own words. London: Heythrop Institute for Religion, Ethics & Public Life. pages 29-30

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The Beth El Bulletin is the newsletter of Beth El Congregation.

We appreciate any feedback and input.
Bulletins are also archived online three months at a time.
The online version has some contact information omitted for the privacy of our members.

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Lifelong Learning: Susan Breitzer and Yonat Shimron

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Synagogue Life Committee: Lois Price

Va'ad haChinuch: Eric Lipp

Men of Beth El (MoB): Mike Resnick

Sisterhood: Laura Flicker Kol Koloteinu: Krisha Miller

Bulletin Deadline

June Bulletin: Friday, May 13 Please submit items to emily@betheldurham.org

Gabbai Rotation

Please contact the weekly Gabbai, if you'd like to request an aliyah or help lead services.

Please do not call on Shabbat or other holidays

4/2 Shemini Parah
David Kirsch
Bar Mitzvah of Jason Koweek

Bai Mitzvaii oi Jasoii Rowee

4/9 Tazria HaChodesh Bernie Fischer Gabbaim Shabbat

4/16 Metzora HaGadol Isaac Price High School Seniors Shabbat/Fischer Anniversary

4/23 Pesach Roger Perilstein

4/24* 2nd day Pesach David Rubin

4/29* 7th day Pesach Matt Diamond

4/30 8th day Pesach Elise Goldwasser

5/7 Aharey Mot-Machar Chodesh Alan Mandel

5/14 Kedoshim Jon Wahl

5/21 Emor Elise Goldwasser

5/28 Behar Diane Markoff

6/4 Behukkotai Roger Perilstein Albert/Gerson Aufruf

6/11 Bamidbar Bernie Fischer

6/12* 1st day Shavuot Matt Diamond

6/13* 2nd day Shavuot Alan Mandel

6/18 Naso

Diane Markoff

6/25 Beha'alotcha Isaac Price

7/2 Shelach Lekha David Rubin

The Gabbaim schedule through — 2016 is available online:

http://betheldurham.org/gabbaim/
To arrange a yahrzeit minyan or to request an aliyah to have *El Malei Rachamim* recited, please contact our
Gabbai coordinators, Bernie Fischer and Sol Levine at aliyot@betheldurham.org.

Mark Your Calendar!

PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE DEDICATION

of The Hudi Gross Library in The Orthodox Kehillah Sanctuary in Beth El Synagogue on Shabbat, March 26, 2016 at 11:30 am

Hudi Gross loved the Tanakh and studied it often. She was also a founding member of the Orthodox Kehillah. Because she frequently attended services there, her loving husband Sam has made possible the creation of a Hudi Gross Library in the Orthodox Kehillah, where its collection of Chumashim and other holy books that Hudi loved will be available for those who wish to follow her example in reading and studying them.

The dedication will take place immediately after the conclusion of Musaf.

Eric Pas Jewish Camp Scholarship

Applications are now available for partial scholar-ship funding for a Beth El family who needs financial assistance in sending a child to a Jewish camp. Funding will be made available on a need basis and information will be kept confidential. In the past 16 years, the scholarship fund has distributed over \$40,000 and has been able to sponsor 60 Beth El children. Our children have participated in our local Federation camp as well as Ramah Darom in Georgia, Young Judea, and two overseas programs. If you would like further information or an application please call Michele Pas at 493-3175, or email to mjbpas@aol.com.

Please consider making a contribution. Beth El members' continued financial support of this fund will allow more of our Beth El children to have a Jewish camp experience.

BE a Member Beth El Synagogue welcomes the following new members to our community:

Natalio & Christine Budasoff,
Riley and David
Philippe Chemla &
Nicole Aron-Chemla
Shai and Miriam Posner
Marsha Schonberg



Want to advertise in the Beth El Quarterly Bulletin? Contact Casey Baker

(casey@betheldurham.org)

for pricing information.

Thank you to everyone who came out and helped out with the blood drive on January 31 - donors, volunteers, Beth El staff and members! Your mitzvot enabled us to exceed our blood unit donation goal and many individuals in need will benefit from your help. This year, our blood drive came during a severe national shortage due to winter weather. It turns out that a lot of states rely on blood from NC (who knew?), so the Beth El blood, always life-saving, had particular impact this time. We are so grateful to each and all of you.

We hope to announce the date for the Beth El blood drive of 2017 in the coming months.

With appreciation,

Carla Fenson and Laura Svetkey

Want to know more about what's happening at Beth El? http://www.betheldurham.org/calendar/ http://betheldurham.org/community-announcements/

BE @ Beth El

Check our these upcoming events at Beth El!

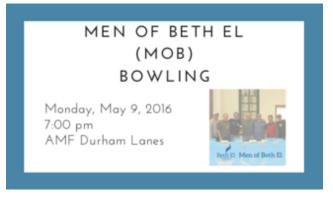
Visit www.betheldurham.org for more information on these events.











BE at a Glance—June, July, August

<u>June</u>

- 2 Synagogue Life Meeting
- 3 B'new Mitzvah Tutor Shabbat Dinner
- 4 Camp Send Off Shabbat
- 11 Tikun Leil Shavuot with Rabbi Greyber and Rabbi Bach
- 12 Shavuot
- 12 USY End of Year Party
- 13 Shavuot II
- 19 Jewish Food Festival

August

- 5 Rosh Chodesh Av
- 13 Erev Tish'a B'Av
- 14 Tish'a B'Av
- 19 Tu B'Av
- 22-28 USY Encampment
- 26 Bat Mitzvah of Devon Fischer
- 27 Bat Mitzvah of Devon Fischer

FROM THE PRESIDENT-Strategic Planning

Dear Beth El community,

At the February Beth El Board meeting, the board unanimously approved a \$4.1 million capital campaign to support a synagogue renovation plan outlined by Weinstein Friedlein Architects (W/F).

This campaign is the fruit of Beth El's strategic planning process, which began in 2013. Three principles have guided these efforts: to be a welcoming and inclusive community, to provide a strong Jewish foundation for our youth, and to ensure the congregation remains fiscally responsible and sustainable. We are proposing a building renovation that aims to meet all those goals-house our growing congregation in one building; provide flexible, welcoming, and inclusive spaces for all of our members, including our youth; and do it in a sustainable, affordable way.

Our process has included community surveys, an assessment of our campus, a community input meeting in Jan 2014, and multiple focus groups. In addition, W/F presented at our annual meeting in 2015, we solicited additional community feedback last summer, and with professional support we surveyed potential major donors to assess our fundraising capacity. After sharing initial ideas for our campus at the High Holidays, W/F created a revised plan that incorporates our feedback, meets our financial realities and embodies Beth El's core goals. To view all of the Buildings and Grounds documents, visit the Beth El Strategic Plan page on our website. The Buildings and Grounds documents are linked on the right side of this page.

The \$4.1 million budget allows us to move all programming into one building. In addition to renovating and modernizing the current spaces, it includes new and expanded seating, improved acoustics, a re-oriented sanctuary, a reconfigured administrative space, updates to the kitchen, new classrooms and meeting spaces, new bathrooms on both levels, an enlarged social hall and much, much more. Built into this budget are contingency costs, and an endowment for ongoing maintenance after construction.

Nathan Bearman and Gary Zarkin will chair the newly formed Capital Campaign Committee, with continued leadership support from Noah Pickus, Debbie Goldstein and Drew Langsam. They, along with other committee members, will be laying out a plan for the campaign over the coming months. As the campaign progresses and more detailed architectural plans unfold, we will share details with the congregation.

I am proud of all the work that has gone into crafting a comprehensive plan that draws its inspiration from all of your thoughtful input over the past two years. Many thanks to the Building and Grounds Task Force which has guided our community through this complex process. And thank you to the Board for their engagement and leadership.

Looking forward to building our future Beth El home together,

--Rachel



Current proposal of renovations of Beth El Synagogue as of March 2016 Weinstein Friedlein Architects

Community of Caring

Help for the Community of Caring

The Community of Caring has had wonderful participation from Beth El members. Not wanting to burn anyone out and recognizing that mitzvot can be shared, I present the following opportunities to get involved:

New Project: "New Babies"

Anyone interested in developing something on a more formal synagogue basis to acknowledge births and be sure that families have the extra help the may need after the birth of a newborn? You can help the Community of Caring by helping us build lists of people that we can call upon for particular tasks. We understand that our timing might not match your life and are free to say no. We may ask once in the year or several times.

Meal List

To be more effective in getting meals for congregants, I would like to know who can cook a meal at home and please indicate whether that meal could easily be dairy/vegetarian, vegan, kosher or gluten free.

Transportation List

Are you willing to drive someone to an appointment? Does it depend on the day of the week, the time of day, the location, or is it variable and just depends on the particular circumstances?

<u>Visiting</u> someone at home, in nursing home or hospital? Do you only want to visit someone you know? Does the location matter? Visit once? Visit same person more then once?

Errands

Are you willing to shop for someone? deliver something (for example, would be a meal that someone else prepared)?

Gathering and setting up the food for the meal of condolence?

Not only do we need people to prepare dishes for the meal of condolence, we also need two or three people to help set it up at the shiva home while the funeral is taking place.

Group Cooking

After Passover, are you interested in cooking at Beth El and freezing some small meals so that we are prepared ahead of time? We will only prepare a limited amount.

Telephoning or sending cards to congregants who are sick or homebound

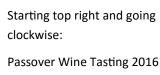
Please call or email me with your responses or any questions you have about the Community of Caring. 919-688-0077 / Rhoda.Silver@gmail.com

Photos from Beth El events!









AlephBet/PreKadima Hamantashen Wars

High Schoolers at Community Midrasha

Torot Kehillateinu 2016 honoring Joel Fleishman



Talmud Torah

Teachers As Role Models

"Who is wise? One who learns from everyone." -Pirkei Avot

Between the Talmud Torah, Youth Activities and B'nai Mitzvah tutoring program, Beth El employs a wide variety of teachers and volunteers who work with our students. Some are recently B'nei Mitzvahed themselves while others are "veteran" teachers (and everything in between). We are also fortunate to be located closely to Duke University which allows many undergrad and graduate students to come work for us. Some of our staff members have attended Jewish day school, worked at Jewish camps like Ramah, taught in other religious school or secular school settings, or have other creative educational experiences.

A lot of times, some of our newer teachers don't realize the impact they have on our students' lives. From the moment a teacher or tutor steps in front of a class or sits down to work with a student one on one, they become a role model-whether they realize it or not. The students learn how to move during a prayer, how to behave in different situations, how to follow along, when to stand up/sit down/put on a kippah/etc. and how to be part of the community by watching their teachers. This is quite the hefty responsibility our teachers take on, yet they do so with pride

and determination. I'm sure everyone can remember at least one amazing teacher they had in their lives who made a lasting impression and created an environment where they could thrive and enjoy the learning process.

It is so powerful for the younger generation of Beth El members to see this variety of Jewish educators working with them. Of course Rabbi Greyber, Rebecca and I are always around to help out and are always teaching in one way or another, but there is something quite special about having the opportunity to learn Hebrew, prayers and other Jewish topics from someone other than a full time Jewish professional. How cool is it that our Kitah Bet teacher is a full time social worker? Or that our



Kitah Gimel teacher will be going to medical school next year? Our T'fillah specialist is a biostatistician and our Gan teacher is a physical therapist (and drives a motorcycle)! Our students learn so much more from our teachers than just the content of the siddur. They learn that you can be Jewish, active in your synagogue community, while also having other interests. Skilled Torah readers can also be skilled Ultimate Frisbee players. Fluent Hebrew speakers can be talented artists. And most importantly, you can be a teacher no matter what your background is, what you look like, or where you came from.

Elisabeth Albert Education & Youth Director







BE a Bnei Mitzvah Mark your calendars for these upcoming b'nei mitzvah

> Jason Koweek April 2, 2016

Devon Fischer August 27, 2016

Avital Hirsch September 10, 2016

Jerrod Meltzer October 22, 2016



Prior to my senior of year of high school, I identified that I wanted a way to actively practice being Jewish in a conducive and supportive environment. I stumbled across an ad for the International Convention in Baltimore and I was instantly hooked. I had to get some aid from my synagogue's youth chapter and from the Rabbi to go, but without a question, it was a formative experience for me. I had been on a Bronfman Fellowship to Israel in the summer of 2014, but I felt like the people I met and the friendships I made in Baltimore made it an equally if not more formative experience for me as I prepare to matriculate to Brandeis University next year.

Since coming back from International Convention, I have stayed in touch with numerous friends from a variety of different regions, and have been talking to my Seaboard friends at least once a week, if not more. Thanks to the generosity of USY, I was able to attend the Seaboard Pre-Convention at Beth Shalom in Columbia, MD. Without question, the Kabbalat Shabbat and Ma'ariv services that I led were the most ruach filled services that I have ever experi-

enced. I was also given the opportunity to lead Shacharit, Torah Service, and Musaf, which I readily accepted.

I went to Song Leader Boot Camp (SLBC) in St. Louis following IC, to learn the repertoire of the Ramah camps since I will be working at Ramah Palmer (New England) this summer. The amount of overlap between USY and Ramah was crazy. I had become good friends with the president of the Far West Region of USY (FWUSY) and a large number of the kids at the SLBC convention were from California and were good friends with the FWUSY president. Also, they all knew our very own Rabbi Daniel Greyber from his time spent as the director of Ramah California. I couldn't help but feel that between Ramah and USY, I had found a place where I felt like I could truly be me.

I am so excited for Spring Convention 2016 because I will be able to lead Kabbalat Shabbat surrounded by a supportive group of Jewish teenagers who I resonate with, and whom I understand because they are more like me than most of the people I go to school with on a day-to-day basis. The power of Jewish unity may sound kind of silly, but really, it's actually mind-blowing. USY International Convention 2015 was one of the best events of my life, and I genuinely appreciate all the people who helped me get there. In my new capacity as chapter president, I hope that getting a group of teens to go to Spring Convention will

empower the USYers at Beth El to continue participating in what has become a fairly robust USY chapter.

-Micah Pickus

If you are not receiving this information and would like to, please e-mail Rebecca@betheldurham.org so we can get you on the list!



Yarhzeit Reminders

	Yarhzeit Reminders											
Adar II		April	Nisan		May	lyar		May	Sivan		June	
23	Erna Stolzenberg	2	23	Lillian Gradin	1	20	Sylvia Levy	28	13	Marilyn Lubar	19	
25	Nathan Green	4	23	Saul Leibel	1	20	Arnold Lind	28	14	Lotte Herzfeld	20	
28	Florence Margolis	7	24	Erwin Freedman	2	20	Rose Nydick	28	14	Herman B.	20	
29	Joel Rascoff	8	24	Bettye Siegel	2	21	Alexander Koplowitz	29		Kushner		
Nisan		April	25	Joseph Cohen	3	22	Ricka Hart	30	15	Lily Feiler	21	
1	David Spinner	9	25	Marcel Davidow	3	22	Charles Kaplan	30	15	Willard Gidwitz	21	
2	Julie Anne Anders	10	25	Helen Prakin Frank	3	22	Alfred Veis	30	15	Amram Rasiel	21	
3	Anna Switzer Meyer	11	27	Gedale Man	5	23	Marcia Lynn August	31	16	Norman Evenson	22	
3	Theresa Poleski	11	27	Mary P. Siegel	5	23	Wendy Finger	31	16	Bertha "Bea" Freifel	22	
3	Edith Rapport	11	28	Friedel	6	23	Morris Synderman	21	16	Stuart Garr	22	
3	Gussie Zeiger	11		Backenheimer		lyar		June	16	Theodore Gradin	22	
4	Tilly Hyman	12	28	Bernard Epstein	6				16	Irene Markoff	22	
4	Solomon Modell	12	28	Augusta Korkin	6	24	Alvin Greenberg	1	16	Pearl Penner	22	
4	Klara Glottmann Tulsky	12	28	Sadie Levine	6	25	Joseph Behar	2	16	Morrison Herbert Sharp	22	
5	Herman Schulman	13	28	Julius Rosofsky	6	25	Frank Greenberg	2	17	Jonathan Shimm	23	
6	Emilie Sasson	14	28	Benjamin E. Thurston	6	25	Zelda Schlom Sachs	2			24	
7	Randi Kodack	15	29	Israel Rockman	7	26	Abraham Rosenstein	3	18	Lionel Shapiro		
8	Joan August	16	30	Sylvia Fridovich	8	26	Milton Siegel	3	19	Gregory Chase Barry	25	
8	Emman Cohen	16	30	Pauline Klein	8	28	Harry Bergman	5	20	Earl Siegel	26	
	Kresses		30	Martin Lakin	8	28	James Moulder	5	21	Margot Sandick	27	
9	William Ginsburg	17	lyar		May	28	Harold Rose	5	21	Signey Shapiro	27	
9	Rebecca Shapiro Ornoff	17	1	Zelda Goldstein	9	28	Joan Tetel-Hanks	5	22	Lawrence Fox	28	
9	Marion Poleski	17	1	Melvin Mack	9	29	Toba Man	6	22	Fannie Promisel Freedman	28	
9	Bernard Shane	17	_	Margolese		29	Mary Rosenstein	6	22	Hyman Kresses	28	
10	William Shecter	18	3	Boris Mikhalesky	11	29	Lorrain Carol Rossi	6	23	Milton Goldstein	29	
10	Marcella Silver	10	4	Arthur Brody	12	29	Rose Sawilosky Roemer	6	23	Tirtza Leiss	29	
10	Mary Weaver	18	4	Lena Goldberg	12	Sivan		June	23	Eunice Kresses	29	
12	Ruth Leeb	20	4	Estelle Henner Rose	12	1	Nathan Henry Brandt	7		Loweinsohn		
14	Louise Clifford	22	4	Sigmud Segal	12	1	Howard Jaffe	7	23	Daniel Miller	29	
14	Richard Clifford	22	4	Johannes van der Horst	12	3	Ann Feldman	9	23	Amanda Stand	29	
14	Leo Friedman	22	5	Frank Schwartz	13	3	Daniel Parker	9	24	Leonard Becker	30	
14	William Golden	22	6	Thelma Margolist	14	3	Morton Pizer	9	24	Mollie Fridovich	30	
14	Anne Goldstein	22	7	Ida Behar	15	4	Benjamin Pudolsky	10				
14	Catherine Shawn	22	7	Joseph Libman	15	4	Sarah Goldberg Sody	10				
14	Nathan Strauss	22	7	Albert Markoff	15	4	Luan Walker	10				
15	Joseph Belenko	23	7	Leon Arthur Zeiger	15	5	Eva Rosenstein Dave	11				
15	Will Grossman	23	8	John J. Johnson III	16	5	Bertram Lubar	11				
15	Carl Samuel	23	8	Edith Klapper	16	5	Bruno Strauss	11				
17	Augusta Ornstein	25	8	Abraham Leiss	16	6	Carrie Hayer	12				
18	Louis Fishman	26	8	Maude Mordant	16	6	Aron Pas	12				
18	Rosalie Macklin Ross	26	10	Esther Cassell	18	6	Earl Weaver	12				
18	Charles	26	10	Helen Rosenzweig	18	7	Norma Greenberg	13				
			13	Adelene Barker	21	8	Gerald Reed	14				
18	Eleanor Winfield	26	14	Marion Bobroff	22	9	Jeremy Bland	15				
19	Benjamin Greenberg	27	14	Dorothy Gross	22	9	Norbert Nevid	15				
19	Raymond Morley	27	14	Jack Winfield	22	10	Bella Goldstein	16				
19	Lily Poss Segar	27	15	Herbert Flicker	23	10	Maria Mikhalevsky	16				
20	Bayla Finkel	28	15	Michael Goldrich	23	10	Esther Silverman	16				
21	Benjamin David	29	16	Bessie Bergman	24	11	Annie Levy	17				
	Silverstein		16	Roslyn Rose	24	12	Molly Zauder	18				
22	Martin Cohen	30	18	Albrecht Strauss	26							
			20	Miriam Gingold	28							
			20	Jim Guild	28							
			-		-							

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Services are held on Friday evenings only in conjunction with other programming or special occasions.

See monthly calendars for noted dates and times.

Saturday morning services:

Services in the Orthodox Kehillah begin at 9:00 am

Services in the Main Sanctuary begin at 9:30 am

Weekday minyanim in the Main Sanctuary*:

Sunday mornings at 9:30 am

Wednesday mornings at 8:00 am (**7:45 am on Rosh Chodesh**)

*Please let the office know in advance if you need to say Kaddish, even if a minyan has already been scheduled.

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