



## Beth El Quarterly Bulletin

January 2017 Tevet 5777

### FROM OUR RABBI:

#### *Sheloshim for My Father*



*Sheloshim* – the 30-day period following a funeral – ended yesterday. I woke up early, drove to Weaver Street Market and picked up some coffee and treats to take to minyan to thank our community for helping me say *kaddish* every morning since my father's funeral. Of course, not everyone was there, so let me say here: thank you. I wondered for many years what mourning my father would be like. Beth El is a community of such commitment and generosity of spirit that made me feel like I could ask us to make a minyan every morning. And when the request went out, the Google sheet was filled within days. You lifted me up. Mourning is a time of darkness and our community shined light for me – as we do for each other – a gift for which I will forever be grateful. Our community was Hanukkah before the holiday started. Light in darkness. Hope to those in need.

*Continued on page 6*



#### ***Our Story, Our Time***

Capital Campaign Update

January 2017



You may be wondering when you'll be asked to support the *Our Story, Our Time Capital Campaign*. And the answer is...very soon! We've been in a "quiet" phase of Campaign fundraising for several months, meeting personally with members of our Beth El community whom we hoped would step forward as some of our largest Campaign donors. And this strategy has paid off, because we've raised more than \$3 million to date from 90 donors.

Securing these gifts early has been critical to helping determine the ultimate scope of this renovation. As you recall, we initially set a goal of \$4.1 million for this project based on our synagogue's most urgent needs. Now we are happy to report that early generous support from members of the Beth El community will enable us to go back to the architects and have them include important elements in the renovation that had previously been set aside as our "wish list."

In the coming weeks, we'll be able to share with you more specifics on an updated renovation plan, and each of you will be invited to consider making a personally meaningful contribution to this effort, over and above your ongoing support of our Annual Fund needs. If you just can't wait to make your Capital Campaign contribution, please contact one of us at the phone number or email address provided below.

We welcome the opportunity to speak to you about what a difference you can make in renovating and equipping Beth El to be the spiritual home our community needs now and for years to come.

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Campaign Co-Chair

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***Gary Zarkin***

Campaign Co-Chair

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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.**

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Chevra Kadisha (Burial Society): David Klapper

Community of Caring: Rhoda Silver

Finance: Roy Schonberg

House Committee: Dan Schnitzer

Lifelong Learning: Donna Goldstein and Susan Hill

Membership: Kim Langsam

Orthodox Kehillah: Morty Berkowitz

Ritual Committee: Randi Smith and Meg Anderson

Social Action: Hope Hartman and Jacki Resnick

Synagogue Life Committee: Lois Price

Va'ad haChinuch: Eric Lipp

Men of Beth El (MoB): Mike Resnick

Sisterhood: Mary Joan Mandel

Kol Koloteinu: Krisha Miller

**Gabbai Rotation**

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

Please do not call on Shabbat or other holidays

1/14 Vayechi  
David Rubin  
(david\_s\_rubin@mindspring.com)

1/21 Shemot  
Bernie Fischer  
(Bernie.fischer@duke.edu)

1/28 Vaera/RH Sh'vat  
Jon Wahl  
(jmwahl@email.unc.edu)

2/4 Bo  
Diane Markoff  
(diane.markoff@earthlink.net)

2/11 Beshallah-Shira  
Elise Goldwasser  
(elise.goldwasser@duke.edu)

Bat Mitzvah of Talia Samuel-Devaney

2/18 Yitro  
Roger Perilstein  
(rperilstein@hrc-pa.com)

2/25 Mishpatim-Shekalim  
Shula Bernard  
(shulabernard@gmail.com)

3/4 Terumah  
David Kirsch  
(dkirsch@md.duke.edu)

3/11 Tetzaveh-Zachor  
Diane Markoff  
(diane.markoff@earthlink.net)

3/18 Ki Tissa-Parah  
Bernie Fischer  
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Bar Mitzvah of Robert Gross

3/25 Vayakhel Pekude-HaHodesh  
Jon Wahl  
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4/1 Vayikra  
David Rubin  
(david\_s\_rubin@mindspring.com)

Bar Mitzvah of Liam Spinner

4/8 Tzav Hagadol  
Isaac Price  
(isaac@isaacprice.org)

4/11 Pesach I  
Matt Diamond  
(mattdiamond@mindspring.com)

4/12 Pesach II  
Diane Markoff  
(diane.markoff@earthlink.net)

4/15 Hol Hamoed Pesach  
David Kirsch  
(dkirsch@md.duke.edu)

Want to know more about what's happening at Beth El?

<http://www.betheldurham.org/calendar/>

<http://betheldurham.org/community-announcements/>

BE a B'nei Mitzvah!

Mark your calendars for these  
upcoming B'nei Mitzvah

Talia Samuel-Devaney  
February 11, 2017

Robert Gross  
March 18, 2017

Liam Spinner  
April 1, 2017

Kol Resnick  
May 6, 2017

BRING YOUR FRIENDS, YOUR FAMILIES, AND YOUR APPETITES.

# PANCAKE PALOOZA

Vegetarian and Gluten-Free Options

Sunday, 1/22 @ 9:30 am - 12:30 pm

Beth El Synagogue

1004 Watts Street

Durham, NC 27701

Cost: Adults are \$10 with advanced reservations

(\$15 at door)

Kids ages 4 to 12 are \$5

Kids under 3 are FREE

AKA Jazz will be providing music!



mention this flyer  
Every Weekday, 4pm-close

20% of your purchase will be donated to  
Beth El Synagogue for school supplies



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Fundraising does not apply to the purchase of gift cards and cannot be combined with any other offer.

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sandra@2020photo-video.com

## BE @ Beth El

Check out these upcoming events at Beth El!

Visit [www.betheldurham.org](http://www.betheldurham.org) for more information.

# Mark Your Calendar!

## BE at a Glance

### January – March

#### January

- 13-15: Teen NC-Wide Shabbaton
- 15: MLK Day of Service– Social Action
- 18: Sisterhood Movie Night
- 19: Tish at Rabbi Greyber's
- 21: Children's Services
- 22: Pancake Palooza
- 22: Kadima Ice Skating
- 26: Tish at Rabbi Greyber's
- 27: Lifelong Learning "Beit T'Shuvah"
- 27-30: Scholar in Residence weekend– Rabbi Mark Borovitz
- 27: Community Shabbat Dinner
- 28: Shabbat Rosh Chodesh
- 31: MoB Bowling

#### February

- 1: First Friday Shabbat Dinner
- 2: Tish at Rabbi Greyber's
- 3: Kitot Bet/Gimel/Dalet Shabbat Services and Dinner
- 4: Parasha Study
- 5: Simchat Tot!
- 9: Tish at Rabbi Greyber's
- 10: Kabbalat Shabbat Services/ Bat Mitzvah of Talia Samuel-Devaney
- 11: Tu BiShvat
- 11: Children's Services
- 11: Sisterhood Karaoke Night
- 12: Blood Drive
- 16: Tish at Rabbi Greyber's
- 17: Got Shabbat?
- 23: Tish at Rabbi Greyber's
- 24: Family Kabbalat Shabbat Services
- 25: Social Action Shabbat Morning Services
- 27: Passover Wine Tasting

#### March

- 1: First Friday Shabbat Dinner
- 2: Tish at Rabbi Greyber's
- 3: Kitot Hay/Vav Shabbat Services and Dinner
- 4: Chevra Kadisha Shabbat
- 4: USY/Kadima Lunch and Learn with Rabbi Greyber
- 4: Parasha Study
- 9: Tish at Rabbi Greyber's
- 11: Purim Services
- 12: Purim Carnival
- 17: Kabbalat Shabbat Services/Bar Mitzvah of Robert Gross
- 17: Children's Services
- 17: Healing Yoga
- 23-April 3: Passover Food Drive
- 23: Tish at Rabbi Greyber's
- 24: Sisterhood Shabbat Dinner and Services
- 25: Gabbaim Shabbat Services
- 26: Simchat Tot!
- 26: MoB BBB&M
- 30: Tish at Rabbi Greyber's
- 31: Kabbalat Shabbat Services/Bar Mitzvah of Liam Spinner

## BE a Member

Beth El Synagogue welcomes the following new members to our community in 2016:

- Raina Elsner & David Andrews, Noah and Ariel
- Karen Burns & Marshall Botvinick
- Christine & Danny Budasoff, Riley and David
- Nicole Aron-Chemla & Philippe Chemla
- Jodie & Jeffrey Damrauer and Gabriel
- Jennifer Dubow
- Inessa & Brian Fannin, Leia and Miles
- Kathy & Sam Fuerst
- Lauren & Jonathan Gindes, Nathaniel and Isabelle
- Susan & Noam Gordon
- Rebecca Stein & Andrew Janiak, Isaac and Saul
- Ilana Osten & Jason Liss, Jamie and Corey
- Lesley Stracks-Mullem & Jeremy Mullen and Zeke
- Laura Pisoni
- Miriam & Shai Posner and Gilad
- Meredith Gringle & Brian Risk, Daphne, Maxwell and Lilly
- Alan Rundo
- Marsha Schonberg
- Alexis & Joseph Shrager, Harry, Sophia, George and Michael
- Roberta & Herman Sperling
- Lisa & Joe Stevens, Elijah and Micah
- Susan & Michael Stock, Jonah and Faye
- Mara Buchbinder & Jesse Summers and Simon
- Valerie Hausman & Jim Tucker, Andrew and Justin
- Allison Griffith & Josh Zarkin

## **FROM THE PRESIDENT—Noah Pickus**



The question of whether and, if so, how, Beth El should engage in public affairs is an important but vexing issue. It raises challenging questions about the meaning of Jewish ethical precepts, the value of pluralism, and the appropriate role for synagogues in public life. There are strong feelings within the synagogue about these questions, and both individual congregants and committee members have proposed we issue statements on different issues.

Beth El does not have an extensive history of addressing issues in public life, nor any formal process for doing so. To fill this vacuum, the Beth El Board has gathered information from other synagogues, convened an ad hoc committee to look more closely at the issues, and begun to draft a set of principles and procedures for the synagogue.

These discussions have challenged all of us. Some congregants feel strongly that not taking a stand is itself a stand and that silence can be a source of conflict within the congregation. They see political action as crucial at times of real danger.

Others argue that pluralism is a key Jewish value and the line between a moral imperative and a political judgment is hard to determine in a diverse community. They worry that frequent engagement in public affairs will both reduce our external impact while exacerbating internal discord.

Throughout these discussions, Board members have also modeled deep forms of civil disagreement. And they have agreed on a great deal:

- Any process should attend carefully to ensuring minority voices are welcome and that contending interpretations of Jewish values and their application are carefully considered;
- Some kind of emergency or time-sensitive option is important;
- A menu of options will be helpful (no action, encouraging congregants to learn more or take individual action, hosting a speaker or conversation, issuing a statement, etc); and
- Some broad threshold principles should be identified over time for what kind of topics to address (audience, impact, substantive topic area) and why Beth El chooses to address a subject or not.

Given our differences, we are unlikely to satisfy everyone. And the stakes are high, both in terms of our life in the world and our life in the synagogue. Since the answers aren't obvious, our best way forward is to live our way into these issues, to ensure that how we navigate our differences is treated as robustly as what we say or don't say. So I invite you to listen deeply to what others are saying, to share your views with Board members, and to help us build a culture that values thoughtful decision-making. We will keep you informed as the development of the policy process progresses.

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## **BE New Member Spotlight**

We are excited to begin highlighting some of our newest members of the Beth El community. Lesley Stracks-Mullem, who recently joined along with husband Jeremy Mullem and son Zeke, shared that they were drawn to Beth El after attending a Friday night service and seeing the incredible collegiality among the kids - how supportive they were of each other, and of the Bat Mitzvah. They were excited to imagine Zeke, now in Kindergarten, being part of such a warm and engaging community. Lesley and Jeremy landed in Durham for graduate school a decade ago, and quickly made the decision to make this area their home. Lesley owns Taste Carolina (gourmet food tours) and Jeremy directs the Legal Writing Program at Duke Law School. As a family, they are passionate about trying new restaurants, hiking (locally at the Eno River), traveling to see family, and rooting for some of their hometown teams - including the Golden State Warriors and Chicago Cubs. Please help us in welcoming the Stracks-Mullems to Beth El!



## ***Sheloshim for My Father***

Continued from page 1

After services and breakfast at UNC Hillel, I came home, showered and cut my fingernails and toenails. Why? According to Maimonides:

*These are the practices forbidden to a mourner for the entire 30-day period. He is forbidden to cut his hair, to wear freshly ironed clothing, to marry, to enter a celebration of friends, and to go on a business trip to another city; five matters in all.*

*What does the prohibition against cutting one's hair involve? Just as it is forbidden to cut any of the hair of one's body, to shave one's mustache, or to cut one's nails with a utensil through the seven days of mourning; **so, too, he is forbidden throughout these 30 days.***

*To whom does the above apply? To a man. A woman, by contrast, is permitted to remove hair after seven days although a man must wait 30. For one's father or mother, a man is obligated to let his hair grow until it becomes noticeably long or until his colleagues rebuke him for not attending to his appearance (Laws of Mourning, 6:2-4).*

Grieving through hair and fingernails, the parts of our bodies on the border between life and death. My nails are short as I type today. Another step back into life. But my father died, so my hair is still long. Nobody has rebuked me, yet.

*Sheloshim* for one's parent is strange, blurry, unclear. I can cut my hair, but only if someone rebukes me. I can wear freshly laundered clothes (Ibid, 6:4), but I cannot enter a celebration of friends (in modern terms: concerts, big parties) for a year (6:7), and I cannot go on a business trip to another city unless I am rebuked (again) and told, "Come with us!" (6:8). Maimonides says nothing about mourner's kaddish – it was not part of Jewish life in his time and place – but I will continue to say *kaddish* for 11 months. And Facebook. I changed my profile and cover photos to pictures of me and my father when he died. Do I change them back now? Or keep them up for the year. Maimonides is silent on this question. *Sheloshim* for my father felt like a semi-transition; something ended, but much continues.

Before I showered, I went for a run. I had not really exercised since my father's death. My run was life-affirming, a return to efforts against my body's decay. It was a beautiful, sunny day. The beauty felt strange and inappropriate, my mourning aggrieved by the shining the sun of God's world.

I woke up early yesterday morning. Got to Chapel Hill at 6:30am, a half hour before Weaver Street Market opened. So I got a cup of coffee at Starbucks and wrote in a little journal Rabbi Sager gave me to use for the year. Here is what I wrote:

30 days. שלוש ימים. Not quite. It is 6:30am here, 3:30am on the west coast at his grave where I shoveled dirt. He wasn't buried until 1:30pm there, 4:30pm here. I am 10 hours early. But Jewish tradition tells me I am not rushing by saying kaddish in a few minutes from now, and bringing 30 days to a close. Why not? / יום שלוש מקצתו ככולו. Even a portion of the 30<sup>th</sup> day is considered as the entire day (6:12). Any moment of this day (and the day of the funeral and the 7<sup>th</sup> day of shiva) spreads outward and fills in the cracks of the rest of the day. We do not mourn the full measure of our allotment.

I thanked the man at the Starbucks counter before I left. "Before, when I bought my coffee, you asked me how my day was. I said 'okay,' but truthfully, today is a hard day, but I want to thank you for asking. I appreciate it." I picked up coffee and treats and drove to UNC Hillel. I said the memorial prayer – does one say it on *sheloshim* for one's parents? I don't know. I did. And then, I shared some Torah in my father's memory.

"Jacob settled..." (Genesis 37:1) about which Rashi says, "Jacob requested to settle down in serenity [after the turmoil of the last 20 years of his life] but all the trouble with Joseph leapt upon him." Jacob was tired, tired of being on the run from his brother Esau, from Laban, from the city of Shechem. He was finally home. Jacob wanted to finally relax, to look back upon his life rather than live it. One gets the sense from Rashi that to think about death too soon is dangerous. My father feared death. He didn't want to talk about it. "You've got to keep me alive to 120," he told his doctors, nurses, anyone who would listen. He preferred to rage against the dying of the light, as Dylan Thomas once famously said. "To live is to function," he once said. What I think he meant is that at the heart of life is an impulse to move, to wriggle free, to struggle to understand and love, to think a new thought. 30 days, minus a few hours. We do not mourn the full measure allotted to us. We wriggle and struggle and return to life as soon as we can. Death will come soon enough.

## **Social Action**

### **Martin Luther King Day's of Service OUR COMMUNITY NEEDS YOUR SERVICE!**

On Sunday morning, January 15 from 10-1, we at Beth El will come together for a variety of Social Action projects and activities. They include collecting needed items, packaging and delivering them, and making and delivering tuna casseroles for Urban Ministries. Bagels and coffee will be served to donors and participants!

#### **Collection Drives:**

1. Children's Books for Book Harvest: The Book Harvest Project: We are partnering with Book Harvest, a wonderful Durham organization that ensures children of all ages have books to read. From birth through high school, Book Harvest provides books for parents to read to their children and for children to select and keep. If your family has any books for children -- nursery school through high school -- that you could donate, please save them to bring to Beth El on MLK Day!
2. Winter Coats for the refugee community in Chapel Hill
3. Food for the West End Community Foundation: which serves an African American neighborhood in Durham, who we started working with in 2016.
4. Cleaning Supplies for two homeless shelters: Project Homestart, the IFC Women's Shelter in Chapel Hill and Families Moving Forward (formerly Genesis Home) in Durham. \*See the list below for targeted items.

#### **Tuna Casseroles:**

We'll also make 14 tuna casseroles in Beth El's kitchen. The casseroles just need to be assembled, not baked. They get delivered to Judea Reform. This is a family-friendly activity. All ingredients and instructions will be there already, ***we just need to add YOU!***

**Alternative Service:** Can't come on the 15<sup>th</sup> but still want to participate? Donate to:

NAACP North Carolina 114 W Parrish St, Durham, NC 27701

Triangle Community Foundation PO Box 12729, Durham, NC 27709

United Negro College Fund 119 E 7th St Ste 1b, Charlotte, NC 28202

United Way of the Greater Triangle 2400 Perimeter Park Dr Ste 150, Morrisville, NC 27560

Urban Ministries of Durham 410 Liberty St, Durham, NC 27701

#### **\*Cleaning Kits**

bucket mop

general purpose cleanser broom

disinfectant dust cloths

spray bottle scrub brush

package of sponges dish detergent

#### **How do YOU want to become involved?**

**PLEASE SIGN UP SO WE KNOW YOU'RE COMING! Sign up form on the website! *TIKKUN OLAM! Thank you for helping make the world a better place!***

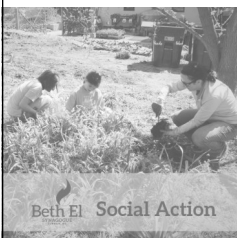
### **Social Action Shabbat: OUR COMMUNITY NEEDS YOUR INPUT!**

Saturday, Feb. 25, 2017, Social Action Shabbat will focus on choosing a Social Action theme for the next three years. The Social Action Committee has identified four possibilities, and this panel of Beth El-ers will address each of them to help inform our committee's selection:

1. Safe Housing: Lorisa Seibel
2. Child Literacy: Meytal Barak
3. Economic Justice: Debbie Goldstein
4. Hunger, Nutrition & Child Poverty: Hunter Levinsohn (current three year theme)

Enjoy the fabulous Social Action cake Randi Smith is preparing for this special Shabbat!

**Please come, learn with us, share your thoughts, and help us decide what to choose for our next three years!**



## **MLK DAY OF SERVICE**

**Sunday, 1/15 @ 10:00 am - 1:00 pm**

Join the Social Action Committee for our 3rd Annual MLK Day of Service!

1. Making 14 tuna casseroles for Urban Ministries of Durham, which is a family friendly activity. Contact Jacki Resnick or Hope Hartman
2. Children's Book Drive for Book Harvest. Contact Evelina Moulder
3. Cleaning Supplies Drive for shelters in Durham (Families Moving Forward - formerly Genesis Home) and Chapel Hill (Inter-Faith Council Women's Shelters)
4. Food Drive for West End Community Foundation. Contact Bob Wechsler
5. Winter Coat Drive



#BESocialAction #BEMLKdayofservice



# **Talmud Torah**

## **Getting Comfy at Shul...**

Some of us grew up in and around synagogues. I knew every nook and cranny of my shul. I knew where the best places to sit in the sanctuary were, I knew that there were comfy couches in the bridal suite and that I could sneak into the kitchen in the middle of services to get a little sample of the cakes to be served at Kiddush that day.

Some of us are not as comfortable in services. I get it. There's a lot of Hebrew (and sometimes it's not even Hebrew, it's Aramaic! WHAT?!) It's a lot of words to follow along with, (even if you do get the whole foreign language bit) and, let's be honest—sometimes, SOMETIMES, it isn't the most exciting place to spend a Saturday morning.

BUT what if there was a casual, wonderful, creative, fun space where a child could have a Shabbat service experience that slowly introduced the prayers over time? A space that allowed you to get comfortable and learn the ins and outs of the service and the synagogue as a whole. That is exactly what Children's Services are for! At Beth El, we have not one, not two, but THREE different services for various ages once every month! Tot Shabbat, JrJr Congregation and Junior Congregation all have awesome leaders who create special services for the youngest members of our community (and, let's be honest, parents are always welcome too! Plus every service ends with challah and grape juice).

If you aren't a regular shul-goer, a good way to get into the swing of things is to come to services as many times a year as your child's age (so if you have an 8 year old, come about once a month during the school year). This way, you add on one Shabbat service each year and by the time you are ready to start preparing for your Bar or Bat Mitzvah, you'll know all the faces around Beth El, that you should sit on the right side of the sanctuary to avoid the glare of the sun and that the comfy couches are in the Teen Lounge. Also, coming every week for B'nei Mitzvah Peer Tutoring class doesn't seem quite as daunting.

We hope that you will join us at an upcoming service (next held on **Saturday, January 21<sup>st</sup>** at 10:30 am)  
Tot Shabbat with Emily (room 6)  
JrJr Congregation with Rachel (room 4)  
Junior Congregation with Tamar (room 7)

***B'Shalom,***

***Elisabeth Albert Gerson, Education and Youth Director***

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## **IFC Shelter Men's Holiday Gift Bags**

On Sunday morning, December 18 the Second Tuesday Cooking Group at the IFC Shelter gathered with a few notable friends to pack Christmas gift packages for the men at the Interfaith Council (IFC) Shelter in Chapel Hill. This is the fourth year we have done this project. For the past two years we have been under the auspices of Beth El.

The gift bags contain basic necessities plus a few festive notes, a \$10.00 gift certificate, some candy and gum. The coordinator at the shelter provides us with a list of things and we divide the list up, get together and pack the bags. For the big ticket items (the gift certificates and underwear this year) we ask for contributions to our project. We ask people to make donations to the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund throughout the year earmarked for the Men's Gift Bag Project.

The project started because we liked the idea of giving the men who come to the shelter to eat some special attention during the holidays. It seemed that women and children were the natural recipients of holiday gifts, but the men not so much. It is hard to realize how little homeless men have until you are given a list of the basic necessities they would appreciate in a gift bag! As part of an email appeal to the IFC Community that received, Stephani Kilpatrick, the IFC Residential Services Director, wrote "We like to give gift cards so that our homeless residents can have the gift of personal choice, which is something that is often denied them while homeless. They don't get to choose where to live, what to eat, what clothing to wear, basic things we take for granted. Gift cards are a way to give them back a small 'choice' at the holidays." I think this is the way everyone in our cooking group feels.

The Second Tuesday Shelter Cooks are Lisa Berley, Linda Convissor, Sharon Halperin, Ann Kaplan, Sue Klapper, Hunter Levinsohn, Meyer Liberman, Diane Markoff, Susan Morris, Barbara Poleski, David Rubin, Val Schreiber, and Judith Snyderman. On Sunday those of us who were packing the bags were joined by Carol Haynes, David Klapper, JoAnn Rubin, Gladys Siegel, my daughter, Anna Levinsohn, and my granddaughter Nora Cirella. We also had help from Susan and Joel Leeb, Jay Levinsohn and Rosie Thompson.



-Hunter Levinsohn  
for the Men's Gift Bag Project



## Teen Engagement

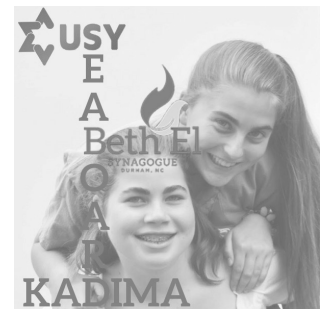
I love my planner. There is something about being able to handwrite all my tasks for a day, and being able to cross them off one by one. The hardest part of my year is always when it is time to recycle my old planner and begin anew. Luckily, I work off an academic calendar, so I get to keep mine through the beginning of 2017! One of my favorite things about my planner is flipping through the old months to remind myself of the progress we make every day! When I flip through my planner, checking out my plans for August through January, I can't help but keep a big smile on my face. Look at our AMAZING youth programming we have here at Beth El. I cannot believe how many teens have been engaged in our programs and are just asking for more and more. This school year already we have had so many proud moments to look back on. From our opening BBQ to the amazingly executed first ever Teen Takeover Shabbat, there are just so many things for our teens to be proud of. We all spent a lot of quality time together over the high holidays, and some of us got together for a few discussions as well as a "Yoga for the New Year" program. In early November, we got together with Judea Reforms Congregation's youth group to bring "Chopped", a fun cooking competition for our teens.



We got to say goodbye to 2016 with some great teen highlights: Kadima's Gifts for Giving event, where our Kadimanicks ran around the mall completing challenges and buying presents for children in need. In this program our middle schoolers worked together to budget their money to ensure they could buy gifts for every kid on our list! We also hosted the first ever Teen Takeover Shabbat this year, a service run entirely by teens. This Shabbat, and the amazing participation of so many teens just blew me away! Sasha, the regional youth director for Seaboard USY was absolutely stunned by the exceptional presence of our teens on the bimah. One of the regional executive board members said he had never before seen a Shabbat so amazing. I know the teens were happy to bring this to our community, and it was incredibly well perceived by all.

As I flip my planner into the 2017 year, I just smile with the joy of things to come. Over MLK weekend, we will host the second annual NC-Wide Teen Shabbaton bringing in 50 teens from around NC. I cannot wait to see our teens represent this amazing community and all we have to give.

-Rebecca Levine  
[rebecca@betheldurham.org](mailto:rebecca@betheldurham.org)



## Mazel Tov!

Mazel Tov to Gabrielle Meltzer for making the USA Junior Women's Volleyball team for the 20<sup>th</sup> Maccabiah Games- the games will be held this summer in Israel. Gabby has attended Beth El Preschool, Lerner Jewish Day School, Triangle Day School, and is now a freshman at East Chapel Hill High. Gabby transitioned to volleyball four years ago from gymnastics and is a club player for NC Volleyball Academy as a libero/defensive specialist. Gabby has set up a fundraising page through Maccabiah USA for this unique opportunity

<http://support.maccabiusa.com/goto/GabbyM>





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# SCHOLAR IN RESIDENCE WEEKEND

*with Rabbi Mark Borovitz*

JANUARY 27-29



6:00 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Services  
7:00 pm Community Shabbat Dinner with Chef  
Oren Wais. Following dinner, talk with Rabbi  
Borovitz "Embracing Imperfections"

8:45 am Shabbat Mishnah Study  
9:30 am Shabbat Morning Services with dvar torah  
given by Rabbi Borovitz  
1:00 pm Post Kiddish Talk by Rabbi Borovitz

9:30 am Sunday minyan  
10:30 am Community Session: "The Holy Thief"  
followed by a book signing with Rabbi Borovitz

## COMMUNITY SHABBAT DINNER MENU

### SIDES

*Israeli Salad*  
*Roasted Cauliflower and Tahini*  
*Frekeh Megadara (Green Smoked Wheat  
with Carrots and Lentils)*

### MAIN COURSE

*Chicken Shawarma and Grilled Onions*  
*Short Ribs*

### DESSERT

*TBD*

### COST

*All attendees over age 18: \$18/person*  
*Children age 7-12: \$9/person*  
*Children under age 7: No Charge*  
*Family maximum dinner charge: \$45*

## Rabbi Mark Borovitz

Officially ordained in 2000 at the University of Judaism with a Master's in Rabbinic Literature, **Rabbi Mark Borovitz** combined his knowledge of Torah and street smarts to shape his calling: helping recovering addicts find their way in the world. After being released from prison in 1988 he began his work at Beit T'Shuvah, a nonprofit, non-sectarian, Jewish addiction treatment center and synagogue community in Los Angeles. Over the past twenty-eight years, he has co-created one of the most exceptional approaches to addiction treatment and criminal rehabilitation and reintegration in the world. Rabbi Mark Borovitz is now the Senior Rabbi at Beit T'Shuvah and he has been featured in articles in the Los Angeles Times, Moment Magazine, the Jewish Journal, the Wall Street Journal and Israel's Haaretz. He was also invited by President George W. Bush to participate in a presidential roundtable on faith and recovery. He has been the featured speaker at many seminars and lectures discussing spirituality and recovery, including CASA at Columbia University and Spirituality Day at Northwestern University, and more recently spoke alongside Susannah Heschel at B'nai Jeshurun in New York City. Rabbi Mark is also placed on the faculty of the Spirituality Mind Body Summer Institute for Teachers College at Columbia University. Rabbi Mark Borovitz's tireless efforts have been the driving force behind not only, the robust and growing movement that is Beit T'Shuvah, but also re-defining the recovery model and helping all people, both in recovery and not, find their path to wholeness.

## Art in the Social Hall

The art work currently in the social hall is by Beth El artists Jimmie Haynes and Hunter Levinsohn. The work will be up until mid-February, 2017. The show which follows will be the paintings of Adam Goldstein's mother, Rita.

Jimmie's works are the three paintings on the center wall at the back of the social hall: "Scales of Many Colors," "First Kiss" and "Crab-o-licious." Jimmie stated that he wanted to add depth to traditional wall pieces when he created this work. He accomplished this by using wooden dowels of varying lengths and diameters, which allowed him to add the third dimension.

Hunter's work often has political content, but for this show after such a tumultuous and divisive year, she wanted these drawings that were fun to make and fun to look at, work that everyone would enjoy. The "Heart Box" at the back of the social hall on the right has a participatory element. The viewer is invited to take one of the blank postcards in the mailbox; they may be used however she or he chooses. Write a card to the artist, send one to a friend, whatever you would like!

Hunter Levinsohn



## Annual Beth El and Red Cross Blood Drive

February 12  
8:00 am-12:30 pm



Join us for our annual American Red Cross Blood Drive  
in the Freedman Center.  
Registration is now available! Appointments are encouraged.  
Walk-ins possible but not guaranteed!  
Click here for more information!

### Bulletin Deadline

April Bulletin:

**Monday, March 13**

Please submit items to  
[Jessie@betheldurham.org](mailto:Jessie@betheldurham.org)

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## **Yarhzeit Reminders**

Tevet			January			Tevet			January			Shevat			February			Shevat			February			
3	Philip J. Goldberg	1	14	Nathan	12	10	Alan Grossinger	6	27	Milton Mills	23	3	Sabrina Morris	1		Mikhalevsky		27	Joanne Sachs	23				
5	Estelle Fox	3	14	Aaron Rosenblatt	12	10	Eva Baden Slifkin	6		Skibell		5	Ruth Halberstadt	3		16	David Convissor	14	11	Rae Korkin	7	28	Philip Falk	24
5	Irving Horowitz	3	16	Rose Leibel	14	12	Leon Kahn	8		Aronowitz		5	Samuel Levy	3		16	Rose Leibel	14	12	Esther Lebovich	8	28	Ruth Watnick	24
5	Sarah Meyer	3	17	Benjamin Culp	15	12	Gerard Rohde	8		Sherr		5	Sarah Meyer	3		17	Max Gerald Levy	15	12	Gerard Rohde	8	29	Michael Jay	25
6	Arthur Gutman	4	19	Melvin William Oakes	17	13	Robert Pickus	9		Gladstein		6	Arthur Gutman	4		19	Melvin William Oakes	17	13	Robert Pickus	9	29	Michael Jay	25
7	Jeffrey Fried	5	21	Arnold Grier	19				29	Sadie Rosalie Shimm	25	7	Jeffrey Fried	5		21	Arnold Grier	19	13	Jim Wells, Sr.	9			
7	Irving Zauder	5	21	Moshe Shweky	19				29	Florence Telen	25	7	Irving Zauder	5		21	Moshe Shweky	19	14	Anita Halberstadt	10			
8	Sarah Evans	6	22	Herman Bernard	20				30	Benjamin Eli Grossman	26	8	Sarah Evans	6		22	Herman Bernard	20	14	Teresa Man	10			
8	Avigdor Victor	6	22	Sam Markman	20							8	Avigdor Victor	6		22	Sam Markman	20	14	Koplowitz				
8	Miriam Levinson	6	23	Pat Marcus	21				30	William Hayer	26	8	Miriam Levinson	6		23	Pat Marcus	21	14	Rabbi Nathan Levinson	10			
8	Jacob Levtow	6	24	Jerry Becker	22				30	Joseph D. Levine	26	8	Jacob Levtow	6		24	Jerry Becker	22	14	Walter Schesinger	10			
8	N. Nachamson	6	24	Mary Hart	22					Armand A. Zaleon	26	8	N. Nachamson	6		24	Mary Hart	22	15	Ada Lou Carson	11	Adar		February
8	Norman Schultz	6	24	Ann Jackson	22				1	Emanuel Joshua Evans	27	8	Norman Schultz	6		24	Ann Jackson	22	15	Ben Ostroff	11	1	Emanuel Joshua Evans	27
8	May Segal	6	24	Alferd Korkin	22				1	Rebecca Levtow	27	8	May Segal	6		24	Alferd Korkin	22	15	Elaine Ostroff	11	1	Rebecca Levtow	27
8	Robert Spilo	6	25	Jack Gindes	23				1	Robert Sager	27	8	Robert Spilo	6		25	Jack Gindes	23	15	Perlstein				
8	Morris Weinstein	6	25	Irene Lyons	23				1	Harry Shatzman	27	8	Morris Weinstein	6		25	Irene Lyons	23	15	Carol Strollwerk	11			
9	Elias Gadlli	7	26	Arlene Ammerman	24				1	Michael Shrott	27	9	Elias Gadlli	7		26	Arlene Ammerman	24	16	Arnold Korn	12			
9	Beulah Goldstein	7	26	Esther Mandel	24				1	Sonja van der Horst	27	9	Beulah Goldstein	7		26	Esther Mandel	24	16	Mary Zeitune de Szulik	12			
9	Milton Hausman	7	28	Rolfe Moulder	26				2	Miriam Brettler	28	9	Milton Hausman	7		28	Rolfe Moulder	26	16	Sue Speier	13			
10	Norman Bartelmay	8	28	Frida Urow	26				2	Sonia Levin	28	10	Norman Bartelmay	8		28	Frida Urow	26	17	Ruth Goldberg	15			
10	Emily B. Gold	8	29	Edwin Price	27							10	Emily B. Gold	8		29	Edwin Price	27	19	Anne Cohen	16	Adar		March
10	Yigal Gordon	8	2	Sam Margolis	29				3	Marion Goldberg	1	10	Yigal Gordon	8		2	Sam Margolis	29	20	Bernie Kessler	16	3	Marion Goldberg	1
10	Morris Nachamson	8	2	Yehuda Ohayon	29				3	William Hoffman	1	10	Morris Nachamson	8		2	Yehuda Ohayon	29	20	Dora Levin	17	3	William Hoffman	1
10	Bessie Satlof	8	2	Miriam Zucker	29				3	Ethel Liebe Zander	1	10	Bessie Satlof	8		2	Miriam Zucker	29	21	Deborah Katz	17	3	Ethel Liebe Zander	1
11	Louis Meyer	9	3	Yetta Brandt	30				3	Lillian Rubin	1	11	Louis Meyer	9		3	Yetta Brandt	30	22	Paul Gidwitz	18	3	Lillian Rubin	1
12	Daniel Berley	10	4	Hannah Landau	31				4	Eleanor Bienstock	2	12	Daniel Berley	10		4	Hannah Landau	31	22	Sidney Markman	18	4	Eleanor Bienstock	2
12	Paul Bossard	10	4	Barbara Lipp	31				4	Leon Schoenfeld	2	12	Paul Bossard	10		4	Barbara Lipp	31	22	Bert Weaver	18	4	Leon Schoenfeld	2
12	Fannie Cramer	10	4	Barry Margolin	31				5	Frederick Philip Alpern, MD	3	12	Fannie Cramer	10		4	Barry Margolin	31	22	Hannah Libman	19	5	Frederick Philip Alpern, MD	3
12	Rachel Schindelheim	10	6	David Herschel "Harry" Nydick	2				5	Simon Korkin	3	12	Rachel Schindelheim	10		6	David Herschel "Harry" Nydick	2	23	Louis Saper	19	5	Simon Korkin	3
Tevet		January	7	Ellen Egger	3				5	Alex Marks	3	13	Rosslyn Koffler	11		7	Ellen Egger	3	24	Shmuel Lebovich	20	5	Alex Marks	3
13	Edward Alpern	11	8	Frances Lynn	4				5	Samuel Sody	3	13	Edward Alpern	11		8	Frances Lynn	4	24	Muriel Modell	20	5	Samuel Sody	3
13	Rabbi Josiah Derby	11	8	Esther Margolese	4				5	Asher Zelig Weisleder	3	13	Rabbi Josiah Derby	11		8	Esther Margolese	4	25	Bob Roberman	20	5	Asher Zelig Weisleder	3
13	Louis Fridovich	11	9	Bartow Culp	5				6	Linda Meg Cohen	4	13	Louis Fridovich	11		9	Bartow Culp	5	25	Herb Shatzman	21	6	Linda Meg Cohen	4
13	Bernard Gingold	11	9	Sarah Saffron	5				6	Muriel Kirschner	4	13	Bernard Gingold	11		9	Sarah Saffron	5	25	Marie Whitehurst	21	6	Muriel Kirschner	4
13	J. Everett Levinsohn	11	9	Jerry Ulrich	5				6	Julius Saffron	4	13	J. Everett Levinsohn	11		9	Jerry Ulrich	5	26	Neil August	22	6	Julius Saffron	4
13	Irving Saraf	11	10	Ernie Bronstein	6				7	Max Drucker	5	13	Irving Saraf	11		10	Ernie Bronstein	6	26	Alex Rubin	22	7	Max Drucker	5
14	Irving Alexander	12	10	Gertrude Brown	6				7	Albert Krolik	5	14	Irving Alexander	12		10	Gertrude Brown	6	27	Sarah Berg	23	7	Albert Krolik	5

## **Yarhzeit Reminders**

## **Many thanks to our donors who made contributions or pledges from September 15– December 20.**

We apologize for any omissions; please let us know if your

Adar		March	Adar		March
8	Paul Herman	6	20	Rachelle Malley	18
10	Sam Abramowitz	8	20	Jacob Most	18
10	Marguerite Bretzfeld Eger	8	20	Morris Saltz	18
10	Pearl Sasson Dayan	8	21	Stephen Fisher Alexander	19
10	Ruth Zeighauser Fleishman	8	21	Shirley Becker	19
10	Barbara Mildred Kraft	8	21	Julius Kramer	19
10	Samuel Gale Levine	8	21	Ruth Leeb	19
10	Ann Marks	8	21	Eloise Johnson Poe	19
11	Philip Cramer	9	22	Gussie Becker	20
12	Paulia Belenko	10	22	Bernard B. Bellman	20
12	Sara Nachamson Evans	10	22	Harry Brown	20
12	Rebecca Horowitz	10	22	Florence Rosemstein Moel	20
12	Margaret Hurwitz	10	23	Saura Bartner	21
12	David Kachuck	10	23	Rita Sager	21
12	Samuel Marck	10	23	Ben Segal	21
12	Martha Veis	10	23	Irving Sosensky	21
13	Dora Most	11	23	Erna Stolzenberg	21
14	Bertha Badt-Strauss	12	24	Blume Pas	22
14	Eleanor Barclay	12	25	William Borman	23
14	Lucille Concors	12	25	Donna Gindes	23
15	Murray Brandt	13	25	Nathan Greene	23
15	Ivin Sachs	13	25	David Moskovitz	23
15	Sara Wagner	13	27	Harold Isaac Goodrich	25
16	Yehudit Frider	14	27	Ezjel Lederman	25
17	Harold Bobroff	15	28	William Goldberg	26
17	Bertha Derby	15	28	Harry Hirsch	26
17	David Solomon Froimson	15	28	Florence Margolis	26
17	Bertha Simons	15	29	Garvey Haynes	27
18	Jacob Abel	16	29	Joseph Klein	27
18	Sigmund Meyer	16	29	Sandra Pasternak	27
18	Pauline Schultz	16	29	Joel Rascoff	27
19	Jack Mlyn	17	2	Julie Anne Anders	29
19	Dora Rosenblatt	17	2	David Spinner	29
19	Alex Satinsky	17	3	Anna Switzer Meyer	30
19	Abraham Stollwerk	17	3	Theresa Poleski	30
20	Beatrice Deutsch	18	3	Edith Rapport	30
20	Jace Kendrick	18	3	Gussie Zeiger	30
20	Sadie Lipton	18	4	Rebecca Bernstein	31
			4	Tilly Hyman	31
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BETH EL SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Friday evening services:

Services are held on Friday evenings only in conjunction with other programming or special occasions.  
See monthly calendars for 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 if you need to say Kaddish, even if a minyan has already been scheduled.

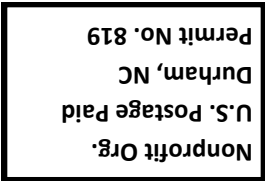
OFFICE HOURS:

Monday - Thursday: 9:00 am to 5:00 pm / Friday: 9:00 am to 1:00 pm

BETH EL WEBSITE: [www.betheldurham.org](http://www.betheldurham.org)

Dated Material

Address service requested



Beth El Synagogue  
1004 Watts Street  
Durham, NC 27701