

Bulletin Spring 2018

Message from Rabbi Greyber:



Once, when Hillel had concluded a class with his disciples, he left the House of Study with them. The disciples asked him "Master, where are you going?" He replied: "To fulfill a religious obligation." "What is this religious obligation?" the disciples wanted to know. He replied: "I am going to the bathhouse in order to have a bath." The disciples were astonished, and they asked, "Is that really a religious obligation?" and he answered, "Yes! If somebody who is appointed to scrape and clean the statues of the king that stand in the theaters and circuses is paid for the work and even associates with the nobility, how much more should I, who am created in the image and likeness of God, take care of my body?" (Avot De Rabbi Natan, 30)

This portion of my sabbatical has been focused on

training for an Olympic distance triathlon: a 1,500-meter swim, 40km bike ride and 10km run. I have found that having a race date on the calendar gives me the motivation I need to train each day and, through that regular training, I hope to regain balance between my spiritual, intellectual, and professional pursuits, and being physically healthy.

Being physically healthy is, as the above Hillel story illustrates, a mitzvah. Based on Psalm 24:1, "The world is God's and all it contains," Judaism teaches that our bodies are not ours to do with what we please, but rather they are on loan, a precious gift we may use in our lifetimes, but one that we must treat with care. Conservative Judaism prohibits smoking (to read a short review of Jewish sources and why smoking still continues in many Ultra-Orthodox communities, see here http://www.responsafortoday.com/moment/4 2.htm). While Jews who get tattoos may still be buried in a Jewish cemetery and participate fully in Jewish communal life, voluntary, permanent tattoos remain forbidden (see here for a quick summary - https://www.myjewishlearning.com/article/tattooing-in-jewish-law/). What we eat is highly regulated by Jewish tradition, not only because of kosher laws, but also because Jewish tradition demands that we scrupulously guard our physical health (Berakhot 32b). In fact, when it comes to food, many traditional Jewish communities tend to emphasize ritual observance of kashrut while ignoring the importance of nutrition. But the Talmud rules that "Regulations concerning danger to life are more stringent than ritual prohibitions" (Hullin 10a). As Rabbi Golinkin explains, "In case of a possible transgression of ritual law, we rule in the direction of leniency, but in cases of possible physical danger, we rule in the direction of stringency."

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JOIN US!

Beth El Annual Meeting Sunday, May 6, 2018 10:00 am Freedman Center

All members are invited and encouraged to attend.

- Hear updates on the Capital Campaign and view photos of the construction
- Review the proposed budget for 2018-2019
- Approve the 2018-2019 Slate of Officers
- Honor the 2017-2018 Volunteers of the Year
- Celebrate our vibrant community with a light lunch after the meeting

Annual Meeting materials will be emailed to you by April 25, and will be available on the Beth El website. Paper copies will be available at the meeting.

(continued from page 1)

I don't know about you, but I find myself less consistent about exercise than I should be. I go through "peaks and valleys." I put a race on the calendar and train, but then go through periods where I try to ignore my body in pursuit of other things. This current period of renewed physical training is helpful and an incredible gift, but the real test will be: "How can I integrate this training back into my regular routine?"

One last thought. I think it is a missed opportunity to approach exercise as merely a task to complete in order to reap the benefit of physical health. At its deepest level, I believe the activity of exercise itself contains religious potential. How? A mitzvah is ultimately a moment of encounter and connection with the divine. Exercise returns me to my breath. The verb for "to breathe" in Hebrew - - is related to the word for soul - mitzvah. Whether I'm in the pool, on my bike or on a run, exercise focuses my attention on my breath and on how my body is ultimately connected to and nourished by the world we inhabit. Shabbat, prayer, studying Torah, keeping kosher – these are more typical things we think of as mitzvot, as ways of being Jewish. We should always seek to grow our souls by adding another mitzvah to our lives, but sometimes it's helpful just knowing that something we may already be doing – riding a bike, going for a swim, or doing yoga – is a mitzvah!



From the Desk of Board President Noah Pickus

Joining the leadership of Beth El and then becoming president led me into territory I could scarcely have imagined:



- a huge capital campaign, major building renovation, and a congregation in the Diaspora
 a comprehensive organizational review, significant staff changes, and a rabbinical sabbatical
- a tumultuous political environment and a policy process designed to reflect Jewish values and Jewish pluralism, and to model civil discourse
- a renewal of relationships among our pluralistic worship communities and with the Pre-School; and
- an Innovation Fund, interfaith initiatives, and new High Holiday seating arrangements

None of these or many other projects were on my radar screen six years ago. Yet these projects represent some of the best parts of the role: the chance to learn new things, to engage with new people, and to help chart our communal future.

Contrary to so many trends in American Jewish life, Beth El is accelerating toward the future. We are growing in membership and in meaning. This momentum means that we experience moments of uncertainty and exhilaration about what we're building together. It also means that there's a great need for new leaders. I went from the back of the social hall on the High Holy Days to giving Yom Kippur remarks, and it has enriched my life and my family's life. Even though the role of president took me away from home ("another meeting, Dad?"), it gave me a chance to do what so many whom I admire in this community have done: contribute to the greater good. I hope many of you will consider doing the same. I am deeply grateful for my turn at the helm, and thank all of you for your comradeship along the way.

Interim Executive Director Nancy Luberoff's Open Letter to the Beth El Staff

Dear Sheri, Elisabeth, Averyl, Sandy, and Rachel,

I can't thank you enough for welcoming me so warmly to Beth El and for patiently training me in the details of Beth El operations.

The only way we've made it through these past few transition months with such competence, thoroughness, and FUN, is because of you. I am truly grateful for your dedication to Beth El and your professional excellence.

I wonder if Beth El members know some of the important things you do?

- You examine the *hamantaschen* before Purim to "take care" of the broken cookies.
- You zealously guard the privacy and identities of our scotch and herring fairies, and our office candy fairy.
- You send texts and answer emails and phone calls whenever you can late at night, early in the morning, and on your days off.
- You are seriously frugal with Beth El resources.
- You proof-read and edit the weekly e-notices *multiple times before they are sent out.*
- You are unfailingly kind, generous, responsive, and cheerful to Beth El members and anyone who walks in our doors.
- You are 100% dependable!

I want to personally thank you for your individual and group contributions to building a thriving Beth El community. It is my honor to work with you these past months.



Staff Hamantaschen Tasting February 21, 2018

Staff

Rabbi: Rabbi Daniel Greyber Rabbi Emeritus: Rabbi Steve Sager Interim Executive Director: Nancy Luberoff Education & Youth Director: Elisabeth Gerson Director of Teen Engagement: Averyl Edwards B'nai Mitzvah Coordinator: Jessie Zaleon-Lunk Congregational Services Coordinator: Sheri Hoffman Communications & Marketing Associate: Rachel Greene Kitchen Manager: Sandy Fangmeier

Board of Directors

President: Noah Pickus 1st VP: Debbie Goldstein 2nd VP: Leslie Winner Treasurer: Robert Hill Recording Secretary: Richard Hart Financial Secretary: Valerie Glassman Immediate Past President: Rachel Galanter

Meg Anderson, Morty Berkowitz, Karen Burns, Laura Flicker, Donna Goldstein, Hope Hartman, David Klapper, Kim Bardy Langsam, Lois Price, Dan Schnitzer, Scott Schwartz, Rhoda Silver

Warmly,





Tu B'Shevat with Farm Church and Talmud Torah

Have you ever wondered who cares for the plot of land on the corner of Watts and Green Street? It's a soon-to-be garden run by Farm Church. Farm Church is pretty much exactly what its name implies—it is a church and they pray by farming and working the land. Last summer, I met with the pastors of Farm Church to talk about how we might do an interfaith joint program with the Talmud Torah. After some back and forth brainstorming, we came up with the exciting idea to team up on Tu B'Shevat for a unique experience. This was the perfect way for us to celebrate the holiday.

Pastors Ben, Alan and Brandon came to Beth El on a chilly (but not too frigid) Wednesday, and our students taught them all about Tu B'Shevat! In exchange, they taught us about what goes on in their church community and took us across the street to their garden where we got to work the land ourselves! It may have been muddy and some people may have forgotten to wear their "outside clothes," but regardless, we all grabbed rakes and wheelbarrows, and got to work.

Tu B'Shevat falls in the winter months. In Israel, the weather is getting warmer, rain is falling, and plants are beginning to bloom! Around most of America, the weather isn't really ideal for planting trees and playing outside, but the stars aligned, and with light jackets and gloves, we ventured outside on a cloudy day. The sun stayed out just long enough for us! We helped Farm Church by prepping the land for seeding this spring. Our students were an amazing help and the pastors were incredibly grateful for our help and partnership. The kids had a lot of fun with this unique hands-on Tu B'Shevat experience. We are looking forward to seeing what sprouts from the garden in the coming weeks!

What did you do to celebrate Tu B'Shevat?

Elisabeth Gerson Education & Youth Director



Gen Z: The Overnight Activists





It is a very powerful moment to be a teen in the U.S. In the wake of the tragic shooting at Stoneman Douglas High School this past Valentine's Day, and in response to the hundreds of thousands of lives that have been lost to gun violence in their lifetimes, teens across the country are standing up and saying "enough is enough" to the state of gun violence in our country. They have organized sit-ins, walk-outs, and most recently a March for our Lives, which brought in crowds of at least 1.2 million across the country, making it the biggest youth protest since the Vietnam War.

USY, the youth movement for USCJ, fully supports the efforts being championed by these very impressive teens. As a show of this support, a Shabbaton open to USYers across the

country was organized at Adas Israel Congregation in Washington, D.C. so that students could participate in the March for our Lives while still keeping Shabbat. Three of our teens and Beth El USY Board members—La Bomze, Eliana Davis, and Levi Price—participated in the March for our Lives in Washington, while several others attended the sister march in Raleigh. Many of our teens also participated in their school walk-outs on March 14, the one-month anniversary of the Parkland shooting.

As someone who works with youth, it's very inspiring to see all of the energy and empowerment that today's teens are demonstrating. They are a force to be reckoned with, and are sure to be a very politically engaged generation. I can't wait to see what they do next!

Averyl Edwards Director of Teen Engagement

Meet Your Committee Leadership							
Chevra Kaddisha (Burial Society): David Klapper	Community of Caring: Ann Leibel and Beth Goldstein						
Finance: Bob Hill	House: Dan Schnitzer						
Kol Koloteinu: Krisha Miller	Lifelong Learning: Donna Goldstein and Susan Hill						
Membership: Kim Bardy Langsam	Men of Beth El (MoB): Mike Resnick						
Orthodox Kehillah: Phillippe Chemla	Ritual: Randi Smith and Meg Anderson						
Social Action: Hope Hartman and Jacki Resnick	Sisterhood: Mary Joan Mandel						
<i>Synagogue Life:</i> Tal Wittle	Va'ad HaChinuch: Scott Schwartz						

Sisterhood

Please **discover** Beth El Sisterhood, the Women of Beth El, a diverse group of women of all ages and experience, striving to work together, learn together and socialize together.

This "shul year" we conducted our own Friday night Shabbat service, watched an Israeli movie, took a walk together, and shared a communal brunch. In addition, we organized and operated the Chanukah Bazaar.

Keep an eye on the calendar and weekly announcements for our upcoming events. Are you interested in being a part of Sisterhood, learning more about us, or experiencing one of our events? Contact me at maryjoanbethel@gmail.com.

We will install our Sisterhood Board for the coming year on May 19 (to serve June 1, 2018 through May 31, 2019). Please give us your ideas, energy, and enthusiasm. Reach out to us through the synagogue office or via a Sisterhood Board member. We look forward to connecting!

> Mary Joan Mandel Sisterhood President



The Promise of Legacy – Giving Back to the Future

For years, Laurie and I have understood the need for the Beth El Endowment Fund to grow in order to give back to the future and help assure Jewish continuity. Consequently, we made a promise to follow the example of Gladys and Earl Siegel, who helped establish the Endowment Fund, and we made a commitment to leave a legacy gift to Beth El. That done, we began the task of encouraging other members to also set aside a modest percent of their family estates to go to Beth El. We were inspired to take this action because of the great feelings of warmth and belonging that we derive from being part of the Beth El family.

At this time, the Triangle Jewish Community, led by our Federation, is very fortunate to be one of 43 Jewish communities that is being actively guided and supported by the vision and resources of Harold Grinspoon. Mr. Grinspoon and his family have created the "Life and Legacy Foundation," which is motivating leadership within these communities to become active in legacy planning. Beth El has benefited from the support and training provided by the Grinspoon Foundation, and, as a result, many of our members have already signed the Letter of Intent for a legacy gift.

As we embark on reconstructing and enlarging our building and hopefully reaching many new members, there is a great need to build a substantial endowment to provide for future generations. Making a legacy gift, which does not ask for funds now, but only as part of estate giving, can help us achieve that goal.

In the coming year, the Life and Legacy Committee will be reaching out to ask members of the congregation to consider joining those who have already made commitments in their wills or disbursal instruments. We would be pleased to know if you have also made these plans but have not yet notified us.

A legacy gift to Beth El is a simple and meaningful way to help guarantee a strong and vibrant synagogue for generations to come. Please join us as we give back to the future.

Bob and Laura Gutman

P.S. Please contact Bob Gutman at <u>ragutman@thegutmans.net</u> for questions, notification that your family has already made arrangements for a legacy gift or, of course, to let us know that you plan to participate.



Eric Pas Jewish Camp Scholarship Update

This year is the 20th year we have made distributions to Beth El families. We have now sponsored 71 Beth El children and distributed \$50,000 in the 20 years!!! It is important for members to donate into this fund that helps our Beth El children have a Jewish camp experience. Funding will be made available on a need basis and information will be kept confidential. If you would like further information or an application, please call Michele Pas at 919-493-3175 or email mjbpas@aol.com.

Chevra Kaddisha

Important Policy Changes

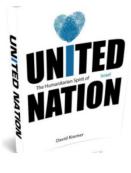
Our Chevra Kaddisha and the Durham Hebrew Cemetery are very old institutions - one might wonder what is suddenly "newsworthy." But in the last several years and, more recently, in July of this year, history continues to be made. You know, of course, that the cemetery has expanded in the past few years with incorporation of an entire new section that we hope will last us for many years to come. In this new section of land purchased by forward-thinking congregants almost 30 years ago, we will do things a bit differently than we've done since the mid 1850s in the original and first "expansion" sections.

Many things are the same - among them, we will not bury "cremains" (the ashes remaining after cremation), a kosher coffin is required for all burials, and the decedent must be dressed in shrouds. However, some things will be different. The prohibition regarding burial of an unrelated man next to an unrelated woman has been dropped in the newest section. There will be an area for interfaith burials in the new section. And, most relevant to this article, women will be allowed to participate in burials - either conducting services or, as happened quietly in July, acting as pallbearers - yes, for the first time in the history of Beth El and the Durham Hebrew Cemetery, there were two women pallbearers helping with a burial. There was not, and should not have been, any fanfare - but history was indeed made!

Women have always served on our Chevra Kaddisha - women perform the taharah (ritual cleansing and dressing) of deceased women and women have played a critical role as shomers (guardians of the deceased) - but they have historically been excluded from any role within the gates of the Durham Hebrew Cemetery. No longer - we welcome and expect women to participate fully in the newest section of our cemetery.

Finally, we are always looking for men and women to become members of our Chevra Kaddisha - there are many tasks associated with ensuring a "proper" Jewish burial, and we will find something with which you will not only be comfortable, but will be proud and inner-satisfied with your contribution. Feel free to contact us - we're happy to answer questions at any time.

David Klapper (dgk501@med.unc.edu) Shula Bernard (shulabernard@gmail.com) David Rubin (david_s_rubin@hotmail.com) Sally Laliberte (selalib@gmail.com)



Lifelong Learning Author Series

Join us on **Tuesday, May 15 at 7:30 pm** at the Levin JCC as we welcome **David Kramer,** author of *United Nation: The Humanitarian Story of Israel.* In *United Nation*, David Kramer takes us on a journey of Israel's humanitarian efforts that began close to 69 years ago and continues unabated throughout the world today. In his collection of over 40 stories, personal interviews and press releases, Mr. Kramer presents the benevolent and altruistic sides of the Israel nation that have been mostly hidden beneath years of censure and denunciation.

In addition to being the author of *United Nation: The Humanitarian Story of Israel*, David Kramer is founder and director of the NU Campaign. He lives in Jerusalem with his wife and children.

For more information, contact Donna Goldstein at Dgold867@aol.com.

Social Action Committee

Beth El's Constitution explicitly states that we are "Beit Tzedek: A house of righteousness. Beth El is committed to observance of the mitzvot, to the principle of Klal Yisrael reaching out to all Jews, to the principle of tikkun olam, which seeks to make the world whole through social and political action, and to the support of Eretz Yisrael, the homeland of the Jewish people."

Our Social Action Committee's current focus is responding to an umbrella of emergent and ongoing needs in our community, including: hunger relief/nutrition, child poverty, safe and affordable housing, child literacy, and economic justice.

Contact us to join our Google Group in order to make sure you are up-to-date on the many and varied opportunities to engage in social action and pursue social justice. Our Steering Committee plans most of our activities. Consider serving on it!

We partner with and support local organizations, including Urban Ministries, Families Moving Forward, the Jewish Federation, Seeds, Iglesia Hispana Emanuel Food Bank, Walltown Food Pantry, West End Community Center, Porch, Table, Partners for Youth Opportunity, StepUp, and work with interfaith organizations including Durham Congregations in Action (DCIA), Interfaith Council of Chapel Hill (IFC), Habitat for Humanity, and Faith Connections on Mental Illness. We also partner with other Beth El committees, including Men of Beth El, Sisterhood, Talmud Torah, and the Interfaith Outreach Group.

Many projects are supported through generous donations to our Mitzvah Fund.

Please contact co-chairs Jacki Resnick at bestgrandma@me.com and/or Hope Hartman at hhccny@gmail.com with any questions and/or suggestions.

While many social action activities are officially sponsored by Beth El's Social Action Committee, other long-standing, independent social action activities include:

- Annual Blood Drive, held in cooperation with the Red Cross. Contact Carla Fenson or Laura Svetkey
- Yiddish Song Fest benefitting Durham Urban Ministries. Contact Beth or Gary Berman
- Knitting Chevra not only makes hats, sweaters, and other items for those in need, but also collects other clothing. Contact Hunter Levinsohn or Gladys Siegel
- Serving food at Urban Ministries' Community Café in Durham. Contact Erica Rapport Gringle
- Serving food at IFC Men's Shelter in Chapel Hill. Contact Hunter Levinsohn

Hope Hartman and Jacki Resnick





MLK Day of Service, January 7, 2018

Interfaith Outreach Working Group

Beth El congregants are fortunate to have two significant and very different opportunities for co-learning this year.

Co-learning with Trinity Avenue Presbyterian Church

The first is the most obvious. Through the generosity and hospitality of the clergy, staff, and congregants of Trinity Avenue Presbyterian Church, Beth El has been provided a Sabbath home to use while we are out of our own sanctuary during construction. This provides us with a unique opportunity to become not only guests, but also authentic neighbors and co-learners. By "co-learners" I mean learning about each other's faith together, in a way that both increases our understanding of each other, and also enhances our understanding of ourselves.

In an interfaith context, we often think about the need to teach about Judaism, and many thanks to Rabbis Fox and Sager for reaching out to TAPC to do that. In addition, we as congregants have conversations with TAPC's congregants. We can discuss why Judaism is meaningful to us, and also gain a deeper understanding of Christianity. A group from Beth El is meeting with members of TAPC to plan joint activities over the next year. We aim to have activities that appeal to various groups of our congregations. And don't forget our joint trip to Israel in late October, which still has a few slots! We welcome your ideas, your help in planning, and participation. Contact me at lesliewinner@gmail.com to become more involved.

Co-learning with Masjid Jamaat ibad ar Rahman

The second is a study group that is meeting with members of Masjid Jamaat ibad ar Rahman. Six of us, with guidance from Jack Sasson and David Reed, are meeting bi-weekly for nine sessions with Imam Mowlid Ali and five of his congregants to learn about each other's religions. Of course, in the process, we are also learning more about our own religions. It has been striking to all of us how many similarities there are between Judaism and Islam, both in language and in customs. We both struggle with how to keep our traditions alive as religious minorities in the USA. It is a rare opportunity and privilege to be able to have candid and personal conversations about topics like hospitality, social justice, and family, and what they mean in our two religions, finding many parallels but also many differences. At a time in the USA when both anti-Semitism and disdain for Muslims are on the rise, increasing our understanding and support for each other is important. We have not yet decided whether to continue this partnership next fall, perhaps with a new study group. If you would be interested in participating, let me know.

There is a verse in the Quran that says, in essence, God made us with many differences so that we might have the opportunity to get to know each other. We are fortunate to have these opportunities to engage in co-learning.

Leslie Winner





Moving the Beth El Torahs into Trinity Avenue Presbyterian Church, January 14, 2018

New Member Spotlights

Meet Josiane and Bart Cobert!



Why Beth El? We were looking for a more classic and conservative temple after having been at Reform synagogues for the past 30 years. We looked around and found Beth El to be warm, welcoming and very friendly. I (Bart) was an Orthodox bar mitzvah in NYC but found that less to my liking. The Conservative service and temple is much more to my liking. We feel at home. My wife is from Paris and is a



daughter of the Holocaust, with her father in a work camp and mother hiding with fake papers. She never had a Jewish education in Paris or Normandy, where she grew

up. She is happy to be here at Beth El. We are also politically moderate centrists and strong Zionists.

I (Bart) was born and raised in Manhattan and the Bronx. I worked a year in Paris in 1980 where I met my wife Josiane. She was born in Paris after the war and moved to Bayeux in Normandy (D-Day beaches) where she grew up and went to school. She moved to the U.S. in 1981, and we got married in NYC and lived on Long Island and in NJ for 25 years. We have two grown children. Our son went to Duke undergrad and medical school, and we visited many times and loved the area. He steered us to Chapel Hill and we moved here in 2012. We love it!

Josiane and I are both MDs. Josiane was a GP/obstetrician in France. When she came to the U.S., she had to redo her residency and became an adult and child psychiatrist. She practiced in an inner-city hospital in NJ for 25 years. She retired in 2012. I am a gastroenterologist trained in NYC. I was in practice for a few years at NYU, but then went into the pharmaceutical industry where I did clinical trials for a decade and then moved into the field of drug side effects. I've written five books on this topic. I also saw patients pro bono at Bellevue Hospital in NYC until 1995.

For fun, we eat, travel and go to music and shows. Our son is finishing an anesthesiology residency at Duke and our daughter is an Emergency Room MD and lawyer. She and her husband and our first grandchild live outside Baltimore. Josiane does watercolor painting and plays piano. I'm semi-retired and still consult on drug side effects to governments and industry, and am looking into the safety issues around medical marijuana. My hobbies include collecting old French parchments and paper documents dating back to the 12th century, as well as cooking, reading and working out in the gym.

> Beth El Welcomes the Following New Members to our Community

Larry and Dori Berger Barton & Josiane Cobert Rebecca Fleishman & Alexander Fanaroff Chellie Grossman Conor McDonough & Stephanie Forman Michael Senter & Elizabeth Crenshaw Allison Stern Michael & Nicole Blacksburg Rachel Feuer & Benjamin Davis Rachel & Marc Greene Adam Levine Beth & Michael Null Ron Skupsky & Abigail Gilbert Victor Yamaykin

New Member Spotlights



Meet Chellie Grossman!

I am from Los Angeles where I raised my daughter, who is now married and getting ready to graduate law school in May. In LA, we were part of a great Jewish community that was very loving, diverse and inclusive of all. My rabbi wrote "The Brotherhood Prayer," which I still say every Shabbat. My "conservadox" shul was welcoming of all people no matter their color, faith or financial status, and no one was ever turned away. Jessie (my daughter) and I loved our lives there, but after a career opportunity opened up, I moved us out here in 2007 when she was a sophomore. She melted into Southern culture and considers herself a Southern Girl, now married to a great boy from Charlotte.

Beth El mirrors the values of my LA shul, of creating that inclusive and nurturing environment. Initially I began coming to Beth El for the seminars, but it was at my

first High Holiday service that I knew I found my new synagogue home. It was during this service that the rabbi called upon each congregant to get to know the person next to them and told us that we are all a community and responsible for each other. I knew in this moment that this was a very unique and special place, and I knew my search was over. Every person in Beth El is counted as special, unique and important; each one makes a difference and is needed. It is here I feel purposeful and wanted. I found my synagogue home after wandering for ten years. I am happy and proud to be part of the amazing community.

I have a Bachelors of Social Work and I am trained as an Independent Living Specialist. I have worked with various age groups and abilities, helping each to achieve higher levels of independence and feelings of self-worth and empowerment. My passion is advocacy, and currently I am advocating for better and more straightforward Dense Breast Legislation. I enjoy taking on causes that affect the greater good. Volunteering is a big part of who I am, not just what I do. I volunteer with some great organizations. For the past four and a half years, I have served as a volunteer court appointed Guardian ad Litem for Wake County, advocating for children who are removed from their homes and placed in foster care. Recently, I became involved with the Red Cross after Hurricane Harvey as a shelter volunteer, and now I am assisting with the Red Cross Annual Ball event committee. In my spare time, I enjoy hikes, yoga, and time with family and friends. I am also a registered yoga instructor (RYT 200) and enjoy sharing this knowledge with others.

"Every person in Beth El is counted as special, unique and important; each one makes a difference and is needed. It is here I feel purposeful and wanted."





Our Story, Our Time Capital Campaign Update April 2018

As you can imagine, the early months of 2018 have been a busy time for everyone involved with the renovations to our beloved shul!

As of mid-April, about 90% of the demolition portion of the project is complete. The building is down to its bones – the windows and many of the doors are gone, and the structure is strong and beautiful. In the coming weeks, we will start construction of many support systems (storm water, electric, etc.). You can follow the progress on the website <u>http://betheldurham.org/us/strategic-planning/renovation-photos-videos/</u>.

While the congregation has moved to temporary homes at Trinity Avenue Presbyterian Church and the Freedman Center, neither of these moves have deterred progress on the *Our Story, Our Time* Campaign. Thanks to the tremendous generosity of the Beth El community, we've raised \$5.5 million for the much-needed renovations to our shul. **We need approximately \$500,000 more** to cover the full costs of this historic project to make our synagogue more welcoming, accessible, safe, and secure.

If you haven't participated in the Campaign yet, it's not too late. Every gift or pledge, regardless of size, will make a difference in keeping the project timeline on track and maintaining an affordable spiritual home for all who wish to be a part of our community. And, if you are interested in adding to your commitment to help finish off this initiative and reduce financing costs, your additional support would be most appreciated.

Please contact one of us if you have questions about the Campaign, including naming opportunities, or if you are ready to make your commitment. Don't forget, you can make a pledge payable over multiple years to help you make the greatest impact possible. And all donors who wish to be recognized will ultimately be honored through a campaign donor display in the newly renovated shul.

Thank you for considering how our generation can help write the next chapter in the Beth El story!

n. Ben

Nathan Bearman Campaign Co-Chair <u>nathan@furniturelab.com</u> 919.618.9011

Gary Zarkin Campaign Co-Chair gzarkin@gmail.com 919.699.7282



Much gratitude to the following donors who have contributed \$5.5 million to the *Our Story, Our Time* Campaign!

Campaign Donor Honor Roll (Donors as of March 12, 2018)



Ralph & Renee Snyderman

(\$50.000-\$99.999)

Anonymous (4)

Rachel & Nathan Bearman

The Davis/Rapp/Ornstein Family

Shula & Steve Bernard

Helen & Daniel Egger

Carrie & David Goldman

Laura & Robert Gutman

Susan & David Kirsch

Susan & Joel Leeb

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JoAnn & David Rubir

Jill Kaplan

Merle & Robert Schwartz

Sheila & Donald Goldstein

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The Hurwitz/Koweek Family

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Anonymous (2) Leah Austin Sandy & Harvey Cohen Joel L. Fleishman Michael Frank Gail Freeman & Sue Gidwitz Samson Gross Annette Kirshner Anita & Arie Lewin Michele Pas & Barry Poss Gladys Siegel Rona & Craig Spitzer Ilana Saraf & James Tulsky

 Anonymous (2)
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 Laura Flicker

 Ruth M. Greenberg
 Jennifer & Rabbi Daniel Greyber

 Marilyn N. Hogle
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 Judy Byck (z'l) & Eric Mlyn
 Anne & Billy Pizer

 Claire & Howard Rockman
 Beth Friedland & Robert Rosenthal

Anonymous (3) Steve & Sally Brown Daphne Friedman & Josh Granek Lauri Klein Cheryl & Mort Malkin Trudi Abel & Noah Pickus Susan & Michael Roth Maxine & Alan Stern Laura Lieber & Norman Weiner

Marion & Errol Zeiger

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Shavuot at Beth El Synagogue



May 19 - 21, 2018 (5 - 7 Sivan 5778)

You shall count for yourselves — from the day after the Shabbat, from the day when you bring the Omer of the waving — seven Shabbats, they shall be complete. Until the day after the seventh Sabbath you shall count fifty days... You shall convoke on this very day — there shall be a holy convocation for yourselves — you shall do no laborious work; it is an eternal decree in your dwelling places for your generations. Leviticus 21:15-16, 21

Tikkun Leil Shavuot (Study Session) with Rabbi Greyber, Freedman Center

Saturday, May 19, 9:00pm until Sunday, May 20, 12:30am

A special service for the evening and night of Shavuot, involving the study of Jewish sources on the holiday of Shavuot.

Shavuot I Morning Services, Freedman Center Sunday, May 20, 9:00am

Traditional Dairy Shavuot Luncheon following services

Shavuot I Orthodox Kehillah Morning Services Sunday, May 20, 9:00am

Shavuot II & Yizkor Morning Services, Freedman Center Monday, May 21, 9:00am

Light Dairy Shavuot Luncheon following services

Shavuot II Orthodox Kehillah Morning Services Monday, May 21, 9:00am **Shavuot**, the Festival of Weeks, is the second of the three major festivals with both historical and agricultural significance (the other two are Passover and Sukkot). Agriculturally, it commemorates the time when the first fruits were harvested and brought to the Temple, and is known as *Hag ha-Bikkurim* (the Festival of the First Fruits). Historically, it celebrates the giving of the Torah at Mount Sinai, and is also known as *Hag Matan Torateinu* (the Festival of the Giving of Our Torah).

The period from Passover to Shavuot is a time of great anticipation. We count each of the days from the second day of Passover to the day before Shavuot, 49 days or 7 full weeks, hence the name of the festival. The counting reminds us of the important connection between Passover and Shavuot: Passover freed us physically from bondage, but the giving of the Torah on Shavuot redeemed us spiritually from our bondage to idolatry and immorality. It is noteworthy that the holiday is called the time of the giving of the Torah, rather than the time of the receiving of the Torah. The sages point out that we are constantly in the process of receiving the Torah, that we receive it every day, but it was first given at this time. Thus it is the giving, not the receiving, that makes this holiday significant.

It is customary to stay up the entire first night of Shavuot and study Torah, and to eat a dairy meal at least once during Shavuot.

Yahrzeit Reminders

Iyar		April	Iyar		May	Iyar		May
1	George Berkowitz	16	16	Bessie Bergman	1	29	Lorraine Carol Rossi	14
1	Lena Goldberg	16	16	Roslyn Rose	1	29	Rose Sawilosky Roemer	14
1	Zelda Goldstein	16	18	Albrecht Strauss	3	Sivan		May
1	Melvin Mack Margolese	16	20	Miriam Gingold	5	1	Nathan Henry Brandt	15
3	Boris Mikhalevsky	18	20	Sylvia Slachter Levy	5	1	James Guild	15
4	Arthur Brody	19	20	Arnold Lind	5	1	Howard Jaffe	15
4	Estelle Henner Rose	19	20	Rose Nydick	5	3	Daniel Parker	17
4	Sigmund Segal	19	21	Alexander Koplowitz	6	3	Morton Pizer	17
4	Johannes van der Horst	19	22	Ricka Hart	7	3	Abraham Telen	17
5	Frank Schwartz	20	22	Charles Kaplan	7	4	Benjamin Pudolsky	18
6	Thelma Margolis	21	22	Alfred Veis	7	4	Sarah Goldberg Sody	18
7	Ida Behar	22	23	Marcia Lynn August	8	4	Luan Walker	18
7	Joseph Libman	22	23	Wendy Finger	8	5	Eva Rosenstein Dave	19
7	Albert Markoff	22	23	Morris Snyderman	8	5	Bertram Lubar	19
7	Wilma Craig Rosenstein	22	25	Joseph Behar	10	5	Bruno Strauss	19
7	Annie Saltz	22	25	Alvin Greenberg	10	6	Aron Pas	20
7	Leon Arthur Zeiger	22	25	Frank Greenberg	10	6	Earl Weaver	20
8	John J. Johnson III	23	25	Zelda Schlom Sachs	10	7	Norma Greenberg	21
8	Edith Klapper	23	26	Abraham Rosenstein	11	8	Gerald Reed	22
8	Maude Mordant	23	26	Milton Siegel	11	9	Jeremy Bland	23
10	Esther Cassell	25	28	Harry R. Bergman	13	10	Bella Goldstein	24
10	Helen Rosenzweig	25	28	James Moulder	13	10	Maria Mikhalevsky	24
14	Dorothy Gross	29	28	Harold Rose	13	10	Esther Silverman	24
14	Jack Winfield	29	28	Joan Tetel-Hanks	13	11	Annie Levy	25
15	Herbert Flicker	30	29	Toba Man	14	12	Molly Zauder	26
15	Michael Lee Goodrich	30	29	Mary Rosenstein	14	13	Peggy Elizabeth Silver Huffman	27

Yahrzeit Reminders, continued.

Sivan		May	Sivan		June	Tammuz		June
13	Marilyn Lubar	27	23	Amanda Stang	6	4	William Cassell	17
14	Lotte Herzfeld	28	24	Leonard Becker	7	4	Sheila Krolik	17
14	Herman B. Kushner	28	24	Mollie Fridovich	7	4	Etta Lind	17
15	Gordon Empey	29	24	Irene Markoff	7	5	Ida Grossman	18
15	Lily Feiler	29	25	Theodore Brody	8	5	Gertrude Popovsky	18
15	Willard Gidwitz	29	26	Esther Markman Enzer	9	6	Donald Benjamin Hackel	19
15	Carrie Hayer	29	26	Elie Wiesel	9	6	Mildred Marcus	19
15	Amram Rasiel	29	27	Dennis Hart	10	8	Neil Felmus	21
16	Anne V. Ashendorf	30	27	Joseph L. Wechsler	10	8	Elizabeth Gay Thurston	21
16	Norman Evenson	30	28	Lottie Frohman	11	9	Rachel Geller	22
16	Stuart Garr	30	29	Julius Concors	12	9	Shlomo Geller	22
16	Theodore Ira Gradin	30	29	Isaac Evans	12	9	Sam Gisser	22
16	Pearl Penner Morrison	30	29	Reba Levine	12	9	Mary Kirshner	22
16	Herbert Felix Sharp	30	29	Rose Sugarman	12	9	Eunice Luebke	22
17	Jonathan E. Shimm	31	30	Richard Shachtman	13	10	Janet Alpern	23
Sivan		June	Tammuz		June	10	Yetta Greenberg	23
18	Lionel Shapiro	1	1	Zevel Berman	14	11	Lester Bogdanoff	24
19	Gregory Chase Barry	2	1	Robin and Joshua Berry	14	11	Albert M. Fleishman	24
20	Earl Siegel	3	1	Eva Gadlli	14	11	Ann Geller	24
21	Margot Sandick	4	1	Herman Scherr	14	12	Robert Cyril Laliberte	25
21	Sidney Shapiro	4	1	Akiba Sitron	14	12	Dave Satlof	25
22	Lawrence Fox	5	2	Mitchell Bergman	15	13	Martin Landau	26
22	Fannie Promisel Freedman	5	2	Samuel Cooper	15	13	Nathan Ornoff	26
22	Hyman Kresses	5	2	Mollie Gabin	15	14	Jorge Gadlli	27
22	Edmund Stolzenberg	5	2	Rivka Rachel Ginton	15	14	Eva M. Woods	27
23	Milton Goldstein	6	2	Samuel Levine	15	15	Norman Kirshner	28
23	Tirtza Leiss	6	2	Dalia Frider Weinisman	15	16	Julius J. Bienstock	29
23	Eunice Kresses Loewinsohn	6	3	Hannah Lakin	16	16	Mandel Silverman	29
23	Daniel Miller	6	4	Pearl Fisher Alexander	17			

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David and JoAnn Rubin, in appreciation of Eric Meyers' as always superb job as shaliach tzibbur Rosh Hashanah Ma'ariv, Torah service and Musaf, and Yom Kippur Kol Nidrei, Torah service, Musaf and Ne'ilah; in appreciation of lay becoming a Bat Mitzvah shlichei tzibbur: Sid Levinson, Jessie Lunk, and Jon Wahl; and in appreciation General Fund of Sheldon Haver

David and JoAnn Rubin, in celebration Community of Caring of the B'nai Mitzvah of Daniella Davis, Dreizin Ginsberg, Eden Richman, and Sasha Donaldson; the birth of Sasha Saff Harvey and Sandy Cohen, in memory of Sager, granddaughter of Sabina and Rabbi Steve Sager; the birth of Jonathan Harvey's beloved mother, Anne Cohen Herman Bernard, grandson of Shula and Sandra Cohen, in memory of her beloved Steve Bernard

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Jeffrey Krolik and Michelle Shrott, in memory of Adele Abramowitz Sheva Zucker and Sandy Kessler, in memory of Adele Abramowitz

Lifelong Learning Fund

Rabbi Frank Fischer, in memory of his beloved wife, Ann Fischer

Donna Goldstein, in memory of her beloved uncle, Seymour Cohn, Sheldon Haver

of Martin's beloved father, Marion Poleski her beloved mother-in-law, Bertha Badt-Strauss

Mitzvah Fund

George and Sue Fishman, in memory of Sue's beloved grandmother, Rebecca Emenitove Nathalie Goodrich, in memory of her

beloved husband, Harold Goodrich Linda McBride, in honor of Pearl Levine's 90th birthday

Barbara Renner, in memory of David Bronstein's mother, Thelma Bronstein; Perry Whitted's father, Byron Whitted

Louis Sawyer

Murray Stollwerk, in memory of his beloved wife, Carol Stollwerk, and his beloved father, Abraham ben Moshe

Orthodox Kehillah

Lewis Bateman, in honor of the la's granddaughter; members of the Orthodox Kehillah; Baruch Zur for reading Torah and Rabbi Josh Pernick for delivering the D'var Torah on February 10

Marc Brettler, on the occasion of his 60th birthday

Marc Brettler, in memory of his beloved mother, Miriam Brettler Philippe Chemla, in memory of Msidah Chemla

George and Sue Fishman, in memory of George's beloved sister, Rhea Fishman

David Kryzanovsky

David and Janet Silfen Len and Luba Spevak, in memory of Len's beloved parents, Reuven ben Eliezer and Sara bas Yaakov

Janice Stolzenberg, in memory of her beloved father, Bernard Weisner and in memory of Adele Abramowitz Larry Stolzenberg, in memory of his beloved mother, Erna Stolzenberg

Prayer Book Fund

Rachelle Bienstock, Scott Snyder, Julia and Shira Snyder, in memory of Rachelle's beloved mother, Julia and Shira's grandmother, Eleanor Bienstock Sally and Steve Brown, in memory of Adele Abramowitz Laura Flicker, in memory of Adele

Abramowitz

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund Ben Abram

Joel Abramowitz, in honor of Rabbi Greyber and in honor of Darryl Zeldin

Andree Allen and Larry Kodack Susan Berkowitz, in memory of his mother, father, and grandmother Beth El Sisterhood

Fran Biel

Susan and Jonathan Breitzer Marc Brettler, in honor of Fred Behrends and Joel Fleishman Naomi and Ian Davis, in recognition of Rabbi Greyber's guidance for Daniella's Bat Mitzvah Sandy and Jim Fangmeier Bernie and Shari Fischer

Rabbi Frank and Pat Fischer Rabbi Jerry Fox

Melissa Gold, in appreciation for the Chapel Hill International Folk Dance Club

Ron and Pilar Goldberg, in memory of Ron's beloved mother, Ruth Goldberg

Ben Goldstein

Beth and Adam Goldstein, in memory of Beth's beloved father, Harold Goodrich

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund, cont. Donald and Sheila Goldstein, in memory of Donald's mother, Anne Goldstein; Itzik Lebovich's mother, Tziporah Weingarten Josh Granek and Daphne Friedman Lorri Gudeman, in honor of the marriage of Jack Leiss and Sydelle Pearl Bob and Chelley Gutin, in appreciation for Randi and Scott Smith the Chapel Hill International Folk Dance Club Sharon and Edward Halperin Carol and Jimmie Haynes, for the Men's Gift Bag Project Sheldon Hayer Joel and Susan Leeb, in memory of Joel's beloved parents, Ruth and Reuben Leeb Rodney and Carol Ann Margolis, in memory of their beloved brother, Howard Margolis Peter Morrison, in memory of his beloved father, Joseph Morrison Ada Nikolsky, in memory of her beloved father, Nathan Mikhalevsky Barbara and Martin Poleski, in memory of the Transition Committee, with thanks for all Barbara's beloved parents, Jack Winfield and they do; Elisabeth Gerson; Kim and Drew Eleanor Ellis Winfield Stanley and Marion Robboy

Neal and Barbara Rosenbaum

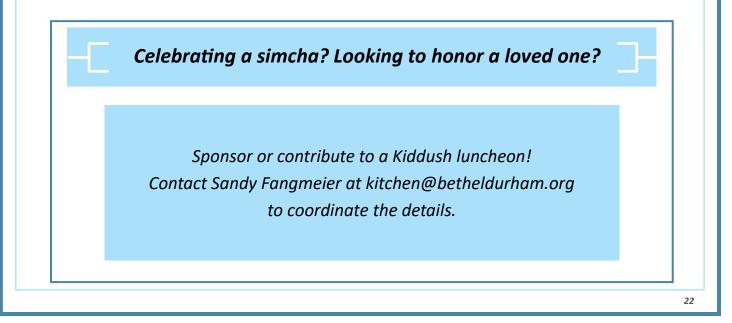
Debbie and Robert Rosenstein, in honor of Jared Resnick's birthday Leslie and Cheryl Saper, in memory of Leslie's beloved mother, Eileen Lillian Saper Beth and Michael Scher John and Kristin Smith Judith Snyderman, for the Men's Gift Bag Project Murray Stollwerk, in memory of his beloved mother, Ida Stollwerk Norman Weiner and Laura Lieber Errol and Mardi Zeiger, in memory of Adele Abramowitz; Judy Byck; Richard Shachtman; Dori Berger's brother, Daniel Schneck Sandra Lazarus Youth Activity Fund

Marlo Wilcox, in memory of her beloved sister, Julie Anders

Talmud Torah Fund

Sandy Berman, in honor of Tobin Freid and Langsam being recognized with the Siegel Young Leadership Award

*This list contains donations made to Beth El from October to March 21. If your name is missing, please email info@betheldurham.org.



Executive Director Search Update

After a thorough national search, we are pleased to report that we have three excellent finalists for the position of Executive Director of Beth El Synagogue. We are planning to announce the name of Beth El's new Executive Director by the end of May.

The Executive Director Search Committee includes: Leslie Winner (Chair), Debbie Goldstein, Mike Resnick, Karen Burns and Dan Schnitzer



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:

Orthodox Kehillah Services begin at 9:00 am in the Freedman Center Main Sanctuary services begin at 9:30 am at Trinity Ave. Presbyterian Church

Both services conclude with a Kiddush luncheon.

Weekday minyanim in the Freedman Center:

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.

Mazel Tov on your upcoming B'nei Mitzvah!!						
Danielle Lipp	Isaac Janiak Stein	Jacob Lovins				
May 26, 2018	June 9, 2018	August 11, 2018				

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday - Thursday: 9:30 am to 5:00 pm / Friday: 9:30 am to 1:00 pm

BETH EL WEBSITE: www.betheldurham.org

BETH EL PHONE NUMBER: 919-682-1238

*Please use our temporary address of 1008 Watts St. for all correspondence.

Stay up to date with upcoming Beth El events at http://www.betheldurham.org/calendar/



1008 Watts Street Durham, NC 27701

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Mazel Tov to our Volunteers of the Year!



Tobin Freid

"I volunteer at Beth El because I like to contribute and feel a part of building community. Coordinating the move from the main building allowed me to meet so many new people and get to know people I didn't know well."



Mike and Jacki Resnick

"We volunteer because Beth El is a home away from home. It's such a warm community and we really think it's special."