

### *Message from Rabbi Greyber:*



#### **Israel Through a New Lens: My Experience with Interfaith Partners for Peace**

I have been to Yad Vashem many times, but never with a group of African American pastors. We'd arrived to Israel just a few days before but had already formed a deep bond. The trip was not a fairytale; each of our black male colleagues were pulled aside by Israeli security at JFK for extra interrogation, an all-too-normal experience for men of color in America. I wanted Israel to be different for them. The histories and contexts are very different, but I could not ignore the commonality of

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my friends' experiences. Within 60 hours of landing, we'd heard heroic stories of Mossad officers who risked their lives to bring Ethiopian Jews to Israel in the 1980s (soon to be a Hollywood movie). We'd met two extraordinary Ethiopian Israeli women leaders, Belneyesh Zevedya, who'd returned to Ethiopia as Israel's ambassador, and Mehereta Baruch-Ron, who was finishing a term as Deputy Mayor of Tel Aviv. And we heard painful accounts of discrimination against Ethiopian Jews, Arab Israelis and Palestinians. Our friends had been baptized in the Jordan River and we'd stood together on the Mount of the Beatitudes; all amazing experiences. But Friday is the day I'll always remember.

I cannot describe the feeling of standing with my African American friends in faith and staring at pictures of Jews who'd been lynched by the Nazis, as they saw some of their communal history in mine, and I saw some of mine in theirs. As often happens to me when I visit Yad Vashem, the sheer enormity of the loss and the evil overwhelmed me, and, at the end of the museum's journey in the Hall of Names, I broke down and sobbed. My friends hugged me and we cried together. "Never again," they told me through tears. "This museum isn't just for me," I told them. "It's for all of us. Your community has suffered so much. We are with you, my friend. Together."

From there we went to Mahaneh Yehuda, Jerusalem's open air market. We walked past Marzipan bakery and my friend, Ronald, stopped the group, wafted the smell of rugalah to his nose and said, "That's amazing!!" We waded through the bazaar of smells and tastes and sounds "Ananas! Ananas! Ananas!" ("Pineapple! Pineapple! Pineapple!"), and finally settled down to a delicious schwarma-on-a-lafa lunch as the city started to close down for Shabbat.

We changed at the hotel and headed off to the Kotel (Western Wall). After some historical explanations by our guide, I suggested to Bishop Godbee that, rather than explain to him what would be happening in the men's section, I wanted him to experience it and to have his own religious experience at the Kotel. So we set words aside for a while and wandered through the throng of ultra-Orthodox men and tourists and yeshiva *bachurs* (young men) and soldiers, stopping for a minute to listen and even sing along with the wordless melodies, until we finally arrived at a spot next to the Wall. With no prompting from me, Ronald lifted his arms, leaned them against the wall, closed his eyes and started to "daven," by which I do not mean that he magically started speaking Hebrew, but rather he started to pray, moving his lips and speaking, but not so loud that anyone else could hear. I stood with him and davened as well, first Kabbalat Shabbat and then Ma'ariv until, after a while, we both finished and rejoined the group. I don't pretend to have insight into God's mind and heart, but I believe the Holy One must have smiled at that moment.

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Finally, back at the hotel, we enjoyed a wonderful Shabbat dinner. Each of the rabbi-pastor pairs was responsible for offering a teaching to the group at various points in the trip, and that night was my and Ronald's turn. We were asked to teach about the opening verses of Toldot, when a hungry Esau sells his birthright to Isaac for some lentil stew. After an interesting discussion about the story, the conversation wandered back to our trip, when one of the pastors, a woman who was quite introverted, spoke up: "I have a confession to make. This has been an amazing experience that I feel lucky to have shared with you, especially my Jewish brothers and sisters. But I confess that a part of me has felt jealous, because Wakanda isn't real." It took a moment for the reference to sink in: Wakanda is the fictional African country in the Marvel movie, *Black Panther*. "You have a home now as Jews," she said, "but so often, especially in the past few years, we as black people feel like the United States doesn't want us." Her words took my breath away, pierced me. Tears streamed down my face.

One of our scholars-in-residence said to her gently, "I am a direct descendent of the Seer of Lublin (1745-1815), a great Hasidic rabbi, and today you can find a plaque at his home marking where he lived. But I'll never go back and feel at home in Lublin because his home is just a few miles from Majdanek, a death camp in Poland. But you, you are trying to make a home in a place of your persecution. It is an unimaginable challenge."

"It's just so hard to feel like you don't have a home," she said, as her peers around the table agreed, "Uh huh." "Ain't that the truth." "So hard."

That night, I sat and cried with my brothers and sisters of faith. I cried with a renewed sense of gratitude for the State of Israel that my black Christian friends had given to me, deep gratitude that the Jewish people have a flawed but beautiful home again after thousands of years of wandering and suffering. And I cried for the pain that African Americans have endured, and continue to endure, here in this country that enslaved them and where they struggle so mightily to feel at home. That night, I pledged to myself and my friends that they will not be alone, that I will do what I can to help them know that the Jewish community is with them in their pain and struggle. I prayed that God will enable Beth El and The River Church to grow closer in the years to come and will give us strength for both our communities to do the holy work of making home together.

*David P. Greyber*

**Ask the Rabbi!** In our next bulletin, Rabbi Greyber will answer your questions (what do you want to know??)! Email your questions to [communications@betheldurham.org](mailto:communications@betheldurham.org) by the end of February.



Rabbi Greyber and Bishop Godbee in  
Mahaneh Yehuda Jerusalem



The deputy mayor of Tel Aviv and  
the former ambassador to Ethiopia

## *From the Desk of Board President Debbie Goldstein*



I am writing to you just after the Chanukah Bazaar, which was such a great example of the vibrancy and enthusiasm of our congregation. The day started with our regular Sunday Minyan—where people who attend buddy up with a student studying for their Bar or Bat Mitzvah, a wonderful example of the way we teach and support each other. From there, the Sisterhood organized a fantastic sale of Chanukah goods, making a festive space full of beautiful gift options and food, even though we are out of the space where we have held the Bazaar for years. Each of the Talmud Torah classes had an opportunity to check out the sale, and it was so fun to see our kids playing with dreidels and menorahs and talking about their upcoming holiday plans. The best part of the day, not surprisingly, was the opportunity to greet and chat with so many Beth El friends as they volunteered, mingled, and shopped together. I can't appreciate enough the flexibility and creativity of the Sisterhood in putting together such a fun Bazaar this year. I can't wait until next year, when we can reunite the Men of Oil and their latkes with the Sisterhood for the full Chanukah effect.

The day left me so excited about what we will be able to accomplish as we head into 2019 and move back into our newly renovated building this coming summer. I hope many of you will have a chance to take a tour while we finish up construction. Further, I hope you will consider volunteering this spring when it's time to move ourselves back in. The news that the Levine Foundation had decided to support our Capital Campaign with a \$300,000 gift because our community is so committed to "innovation and inclusion" is just another confirmation that we have a terrific congregation.

This fall, we began new programs that are aimed at our goals of getting to know each other more deeply and holding courageous conversations. I want to thank Rabbi Elana Friedman and our Vice President, Leslie Winner, who led very thoughtful dialogues for groups of about a dozen people around what Israel and Palestine mean to each of us. At the dialogue I attended, I was able to have conversations that would previously have been intimidating, and really enjoyed getting to know some fellow congregants that I don't know as well. I look forward to continuing these conversations and deepening our ability to bring Torah to meaningful and difficult conversations that help us learn from each other.

Finally, I was so moved by the way our congregation came together after the shooting at the Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh in November. Even more, the outpouring of support we have experienced from people of many faiths, in the Triangle and beyond, has been overwhelming and comforting during a difficult time. Several years ago, I could not have imagined the love and support we have received, in particular from our hosts at Trinity Avenue Presbyterian Church, and I am so grateful for the partnership we have built with them and many other leaders and communities. May we continue these relationships in good times and bad and continue to go from strength to strength.

I wish you all a Happy New Year and look forward to seeing you at Beth El in 2019!

*Debbie*

### **Staff**

Rabbi: Rabbi Daniel Greyber

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Director of Teen Engagement: Averyl Edwards

Congregational Services Coordinator:

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Communications & Marketing Associate:

Rachel Greene

Kitchen Manager: Sandy Fangmeier

B'nei Mitzvah Coordinator: Jessie Zaleon-Lunk

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Sperling, Tal Lewin Wittle





## *A Note from Executive Director Alan Friedman*

### **Synagogue Safety and Security Post-Pittsburgh**

Jewish organizations throughout the U.S. have been ramping up security protocols for more than 15 years, but now, even more, we have to balance new safety factors with a desire to be welcoming. Beth El has always kept safety and security as one of our highest priorities, but in the days, weeks and months since the shooting in Pittsburgh, we have been busy revisiting, revising and creating new plans and protocols.

It is a challenge that synagogues across the United States are struggling with as they try to meet the need for increased security to protect their constituents while not becoming closed off and inaccessible. We always want to be warm and welcoming, as well as safe and secure.

We know we cannot arm our way to safety -- it doesn't work -- but we can make sure we have the best possible safety and security measures in place.

The Jewish Community Relations Council of New York identifies five specific areas to focus on:

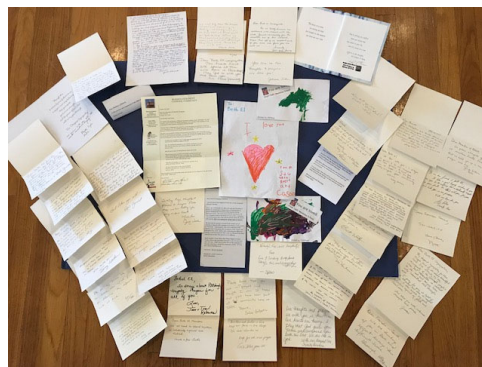
1. Control access to your facility
2. Plan your emergency response
3. Develop a routine
4. Don't forget to train
5. Explore your security hardware options

Beth El congregants Dan Schnitzer and Adam Singer have been working with me as part of a security task force initiative that was created days after Pittsburgh. Through our work together, we have focused on looking at and addressing those five areas as we update our safety plans. With these in mind, we have looked at the Freedman Center, Trinity Avenue Presbyterian Church (TAPC) and plans for our new building.

In January, we will offer a training workshop on emergency responses specifically related to evacuation and active shooter situations. We will cover information for both the Freedman Center and TAPC. Once we are back in our building, we will hold another training dedicated to the new space.

Security plans for the new building have been increased by adding 18 indoor/outdoor cameras, panic buttons, and more secured/electronic entry through the main and school entrances. We continue to work with local Durham authorities and the Department of Homeland Security as plans are developed to ensure we are doing the best job of keeping our community safe.

If you have any safety or security questions, please feel free to contact me. My door, email and phone are always open.



Above: Handmade scarves from St. Matthew's Episcopal Church in Hillsborough and kind messages we received after the tragedy in Pittsburgh, from our friends at TAPC, several additional faith organizations, as well as individuals.

Many others not shown here!



## *Talmud Torah*

Recently I was asked to present an update on the Youth Education Department at a Beth El board meeting. There was so much to share I found it difficult to cram it all in to a 20-30 minute window, while also allowing time for questions. It was exciting to be able to talk about the incredible growth and success of our programs for those in preschool all the way through high school. So exciting, in fact, that I forgot to mention all of our Early Childhood programming until more than halfway through the presentation! Thank goodness there was a preschool parent in the group and their face reminded me to mention our overflowing early childhood programming and services.

From Simchat Tot Havdallah in Pajamas to our USY chapter electing their first board and winning Seaboard Region's Chapter of the Year, as well as our Talmud Torah enrollment going up 20% since last year, there seems to never be a dull moment in the Youth Department at Beth El. We have a youth faculty of 26 talented individuals, ranging from high school students to veteran teachers and full time staff working with our youth.

As I write this article, I am in the midst of preparing to temporarily hand over my official Beth El responsibilities to our incredible youth faculty and full time professional staff. As you read this, I will, God-willing, be on maternity leave with our new baby. I'm so grateful to know that during these weeks, Rebecca Levine (current Junior Congregation leader, substitute Talmud Torah teacher and past Director of Teen Engagement) will be teaming up with our full time and part time staff to ensure that all of the programs we've built up over the years continue to run smoothly. I'm thankful for the time that Beth El allows its employees to care for their families, and I'm looking forward to attending Tot Shabbat with Emily and Simchat Tot with Hinda from the other side of the aisle as a participant!

B'Shalom,

Elisabeth Gerson  
Education & Youth Director





## Teen Engagement



On December 1, 2018, 36 teens came together for our third annual Teen Takeover Shabbat, a day in which teens lead every aspect of Saturday morning services. These teens ranged from seniors in high school to recent B'nei Mitzvah and even pre-B'nei Mitzvah participants, and led everything from Kiddush blessings to chanting haftarah.

Some highlights also included our BEDUSY Chapter President, Sydney Kirsch, taking on the role of the synagogue president by reading the bimah announcements, as well as a parsha-themed conversation between myself as Director of Teen Engagement and Rabbi Greyber in place of a sermon, echoing the practice of our B'nei Mitzvah. Our BEDUSY Religious/Education VP, Levi Price, also took a central role in recruiting teens to sign up for Teen Takeover Shabbat.

Why is Teen Takeover Shabbat such an exciting accomplishment? There are a number of reasons. It enables our teens to continue the journey they started on their B'nei Mitzvah of taking on leadership roles in services, and to keep those skills sharp. It enables our younger kids to visualize what being a Jewish teen looks like beyond their B'nei Mitzvah, and sets a community standard by which new B'nei Mitzvah don't just disappear. It also gives our community the chance to witness and celebrate with us the success of our youth program, making the teens feel like an important part of the congregation and valued for their contributions.

The impact does not end on that one day, however; in the three years since our first Teen Takeover Shabbat in 2016, we've seen a marked increase in teens leading services throughout the year, whether on ordinary weeks, the anniversaries of their B'nei Mitzvah, or the 17 (!) teens that took on honors during this past year's High Holidays. In September, we conducted a Teen Shlichei Tzibur survey where we collected feedback from our teens about which parts of services they are interested in, how often they would like to lead, and in which areas they would like to be tutored, so that we can be more effective in our outreach to teens for future participation.

Thanks to the efforts of so many people in our community, including Caryn Rossi, Levi Price, Elisabeth Gerson, Rabbi Greyber, and our Gabbaim, our teens will leave the nest well equipped to be leaders in their college Jewish communities and beyond!

Averyl Edwards  
Director of Teen Engagement



## Committee Updates

### Meet Your Committee Leadership

*Chevre Kaddisha:* David Klapper

*Community of Caring:* Ann Leibel and Beth Goldstein

*Finance:* Syd Miller

*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

*Social Action:* Hope Hartman

*Sisterhood:* Tal Lewin Wittle

*Synagogue Life:* Tal Lewin Wittle

*Va'ad HaChinuch:* Scott Schwartz



## *Lifelong Learning*

The Lifelong Learning Committee has been working hard to bring great programs to Beth El this year. See below for a schedule of confirmed events, and check the calendar and weekly announcements for additional events, times, and locations as they become available. You'll also find the schedule for Lunch and Learn, Shabbat Shiurim, and Parsha Studies. We hope to see all of you at these exciting events!

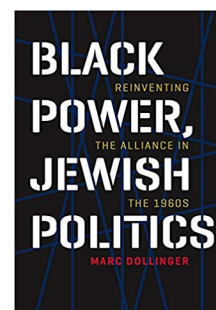
For further information, contact Donna Goldstein at [Dgold867@aol.com](mailto:Dgold867@aol.com), or Susan Hill at [sgmhill@gmail.com](mailto:sgmhill@gmail.com).

### *Author Series at the Levin JCC*

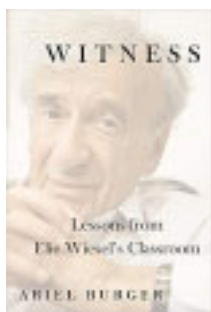
February 28: Susan Weinberg,  
"We Spoke Jewish: A Legacy in Stories"



April 10: Marc Dollinger,  
"Black Power, Jewish Politics: Reinventing The Alliance  
In The 1960s"



March 14: Ariel Burger,  
"Witness"



May 16: Rick Richman,  
"Racing Against History"



### *Discussions*

January 17: Margie Satinsky,  
Discussion of "Le Juive" / "The Jewess" (Opera)

March 3: Martha Hauptman and Sharon Halperin,  
Discussion of "Witness"

### *Scholar-in-Residence Weekend*

May 3-5: Dr. Arnie Eisen,  
Chancellor of the Jewish Theological Seminary



## *Social Action Committee*

The Social Action Committee has had a busy few months! Our High Holiday Food Drive raised over \$1,652, which was donated to National Jewish Federation for Hurricane Relief, Urban Ministries, Families Moving Forward, Walltown Food Bank, Iglesia Hispana Emanuel Food Band, and Durham-Chapel Hill Jewish Federation.

We also participated in the Taste of Trinity Fall Festival on October 7 by baking, working in the bake shop, and helping TAPC with clean up.

We were also very excited to participate in the Habitat for Humanity Build on October 28. We participated in the local Neighbors for Habitat build, constructing a house for a traditional Muslim family. In addition to donating money through the Mitzvah Fund, on our official build day, 6 Beth El members worked the morning session, 11 in the afternoon, and 15 attended the dedication of the home.

Social Action and the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund made matching donations to HomeShare Durham, a program that matches home providers with home seekers via a screening process of both, conducted by Joseph Barnes, the HomeShare Durham Program Manager. Renters pay below-market rates in exchange for providing agreed-upon services. The program is the first of its kind in North Carolina and currently has two sets of home sharers and seekers living together.

We are continuing our ongoing drives: food, toiletries, special requests from Urban Ministries (e.g. men's and women's underwear, socks...)

We encourage all to join our Google Group to stay abreast of a variety of opportunities to serve our local community and beyond: <https://groups.google.com/forum/#!forum/beth-el-social-action>

Please contact me if you'd like help joining our Google Group, if you have any questions about the Social Action Committee events and initiatives, or you would like to get involved.

Hope Hartman  
Social Action Committee Chair





## *Community of Caring*

### **A Conversation with Michaela Davidai**

As a member of Beth El for almost 30 years, Michaela Davidai has seen her share of joyous events, difficult times, and times of illness. And over the years, she has often reached out to help others. For example, she has frequently offered rides to members who couldn't drive but who wanted to attend Shabbat services or who had appointments. Then, a couple of years ago, she became more active in the Community of Caring, as she was easily able to volunteer for specific tasks, such as making calls to housebound members, preparing meals, or providing transportation. While the co-chairs organize the community's needs, congregants choose when and how they are able to assist and can sign up for a single activity or on multiple occasions. Michaela appreciates the ability to choose which activities fit her schedule and budget.

Michaela brightens as she talks about the people she has met through these opportunities. She especially enjoyed getting to know someone recovering from surgery who needed assistance with household tasks. She shares that she didn't know this congregant beforehand and that she admires his strength and kindness. By helping this member and others, Michaela contributes to the community in a tangible way, and she smiles as she describes the warmth she feels after a face-to-face visit, a human touch. Yet she focuses on the other benefits: creating new connections, deepening existing friendships, catching up with people, and meeting our diverse membership.

She discusses how some congregants seem hesitant to ask for help. We talk about the benefits of community, of making connections, and of helping others. "I just like to help. It's that simple," she says. So when she hears someone mention a medical appointment or wanting to attend an adult education program, she offers a ride, even if they haven't explicitly asked. "I don't want to nudge them, but it's good to get them out of the house."

As we finish our conversation and I head out the door, Michaela calls after me: "We are practically neighbors. Let me know if you ever need a ride to shul!"

Melissa Segal

.....

The Beth El Community of Caring is here to help us support each other during times of illness and surgery, comfort the bereaved, connect with congregants living alone, and provide specific help, such as:

- Meals (of condolence, for those who are sick or recovering from surgery or childbirth)
- Caring calls
- Friendly visits
- Occasional rides

If you or someone you know needs support, or if you would like to join our caring network, please contact Sheri Hoffman, [sheri@betheldurham.org](mailto:sheri@betheldurham.org) or 682-1238. We will respect your privacy as we offer help and support.

Ann Leibel and Beth Goldstein  
Community of Caring Co-Chairs



## *Knitting Chevra*

The Knitting Chevra is on hiatus and will continue once we're back in the main building. Knitters may continue to knit hats and give them to Hunter Levinsohn, who will deliver them to the Kaps for Kids program.

## *Gabbaim at Beth El*

**WOULD YOU LIKE TO LEAD SERVICES?**

**OR**

**WOULD YOU LIKE TO LEARN HOW TO LEAD SERVICES?**

If so, please contact [davening@betheldurham.org](mailto:davening@betheldurham.org),  
and Bernie Fischer, Adam Levine, or David Rubin will be in touch.

**WOULD YOU LIKE AN ALIYAH?**

It is OK if you do not know Hebrew. We can provide you the transliteration ahead of time to practice.

If you do not want to have to say anything, how about trying Gelilah (wrapping the Torah)?

If you are interested, please email [aliyot@betheldurham.org](mailto:aliyot@betheldurham.org), and Bernie Fischer or Sol Levine will be in touch.



Photo Credit: Sol Levine

## ***BE Modernization and Expansion (BEME)***

We have had a busy few months at the construction site. If you have driven by, you have seen lots of progress on the steel structure of the additions to the social hall and the office suite, as well as walls and a new roof. You can see our new pergola (the architect's name for the cover over the walkway from the parking lot). If you live in the neighborhood, you may have heard our trucks coming by early - we appreciate everyone's patience with the process.



Inside the building, most of the interior wall framing is also complete. Much of our new heating/cooling ductwork is also in place, and we are working on installing new plumbing and electrical systems.

While we have had the usual challenges that face a project of this magnitude, we are still progressing to have the construction finished in late spring (technically, June 21 is the start of summer), and then we will start the process of moving back into the building throughout the summer. This will include a lot of volunteer opportunities to help with unpacking, cleaning, setting up new furniture, landscaping, etc, etc. We are working hard to build a space we all love, and appreciate the trust you have placed in us. Be sure to follow the progress through photos on our website!

Drew Langsam and Sandy Berman



### **Kashrut Korner: What's So Exciting About New Kitchen Appliances??**

What's so exciting about the tedious process of researching new kitchen appliances and specs?

Is it the shiny new surfaces? Quieter equipment? Impressing public health inspectors?

NO! It's looking into the future and seeing groups of Beth El members chit chatting in the kitchen while making kosher food together. It's about "Kitchen Kommunity." In this first edition of Kashrut Korner, I would like to talk about what we have to look forward to in our newly refurbished Korner of the shul.

You spoke, we listened! Here are just some of the Kool improvements you can look forward to:

- \* A more central gather-round kitchen layout
- \* More sink-less countertops
- \* More ovens – totally separate dairy, meat and pareve ovens
- \* An ice maker
- \* More shelving and storage
- \* Retractable under-counter mixers
- \* A quieter freezer
- \* Gas AND electric double ovens
- \* Larger meat refrigerator
- \* More signage

So future Kiddush Krews—dust off those aprons. You too can join the Kool Kitchen Krowd! Kashrut Korner should prove to be a happening place!

Sandy Fangmeier  
Kitchen Manager





*Our Story, Our Time*  
**Capital Campaign Update**  
**January 2019**

**Wrapping it Up!**

We're closing in on the \$6 million *Our Story, Our Time* Campaign goal for renovations that will make our synagogue more welcoming, accessible, safe, and secure. As of the end of October, the Beth El community and other friends in the Durham area had generously contributed more than \$5.5 million to this project. Then came some exciting news from Charlotte on October 30<sup>th</sup>...

**The Leon Levine Foundation is awarding Beth El \$300,000 for this Campaign!** This is the Foundation's first gift to a synagogue outside the Charlotte-Metro region. The Foundation's staff and board commended Beth El on the vibrancy of this Jewish community, the bold scope of the renovations, and the extraordinary community generosity that inspired the Foundation to want to be a part of the project's success!

**It's not too late for YOU to help us wrap up this Campaign!** Every gift or pledge, regardless of size, will make a difference. Pledges can be paid over multiple years to help you make the greatest impact possible. And all donors, who wish to be recognized, will be honored through Campaign donor displays in the newly renovated shul.

Please contact one of us if you have questions. Thank you for helping us write the next chapter in the Beth El story!

Nathan Bearman  
Campaign Co-Chair  
[nathan@furniturelab.com](mailto:nathan@furniturelab.com)  
919.618.9011

Gary Zarkin  
Campaign Co-Chair  
[gzarkin@gmail.com](mailto:gzarkin@gmail.com)  
919.699.7282



We are grateful to these donors who have contributed more than \$5.8 million to the *Our Story, Our Time* Campaign. We're approximately \$150,000 away from goal!

Campaign Donor Honor Roll  
(Donors as of November 9, 2018)



**(\$500,000 & above)**  
Ralph & Renee Snyderman



**(\$250,000-\$499,999)**  
Anonymous (1)  
The Leon Levine Foundation



**(\$100,000-\$249,999)**

Anonymous (2)  
Leah Austin  
Harvey & Sandra Cohen  
Joel L. Fleishman  
Michael Frank  
Gail Freeman & Sue Gidwitz  
Sam Gross  
The Gad & Marlene Janay Foundation  
Annette Kirshner  
Anita & Arie Lewin  
Michele Pas & Barry Poss  
James Tulskey & Ilana Saraf  
Gladys Siegel



**(\$50,000-\$99,999)**

Anonymous (4)  
Nathan & Rachel Bearman  
Shula & Stephen Bernard  
The Davis/Rapp/Ornstein Family  
Helen & Daniel Egger  
David & Carrie Goldman  
Donald & Sheila Goldstein  
Laura & Robert Gutman  
Lynne & Jeff Koweeck/Barrie & Jean Hurwitz  
Jill Kaplan  
Susan & David Kirsch  
Susan & Joel Leeb  
Sharon Van Horn & Steve Lerner  
Eric & Carol Meyers  
David & JoAnn Rubin  
Judith Krebs Snyderman  
Henry Greene & Marilyn Telen



**(\$36,000-\$49,999)**

Anonymous (1)  
Andree Allen & Larry Kodack  
Stanley & Diana Levy  
The Resnick Family  
David Sontag



**(\$18,000-\$35,999)**

Anonymous (2)  
Tom Keyserling & Alice Ammerman  
Nicole & Philippe Chemla  
The Derby Family  
Frank Dworsky  
Eli & Josh Evans  
Brenda & Brian Ginsberg  
Alice & Lewis Gold

Beth & Adam Goldstein  
Cheng Li & Benjamin Goldstein/  
Susan & Robert Goldstein  
Mary Butler & Philip Goodman  
Michelle Shrott & Jeffrey Krolik  
Harold & Susan Kudler  
The Langsam/Bardy Family

Ann & Kevin Leibel  
Elaine & Lee Marcus  
The Pitt Family  
Leslie Winner & Gerald Postema  
Myrna & Joel (z"l) Schwartz  
Tobin Freid & Scott Schwartz  
F. Eunice Shatzman

Judith & Lewis Siegel  
Ellen & Phil Singer  
Marjorie Strauss Flink & Charles Flink/  
Betsey Strauss  
Gabriel Szulik &  
Orit Ramler Szulik  
Deborah & Jonathan Wahl  
Gary & Abby Zarkin



**(\$10,000-\$17,999)**

Anonymous (3)  
The Krell/Wolnek/Bearman Family  
Rita M. Lichtman & Sheldon T. Becker  
Beth El Sisterhood  
Eric Mlyn & Judy Byck (z"l)  
Rabbi Frank (z"l) & Patricia Fischer  
Laura Flicker  
Lauren & Jonathan Gindes  
Ronald & Pilar Goldberg

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We are grateful to these donors who have contributed more than \$5.8 million to the *Our Story, Our Time* Campaign. We’re approximately \$150,000 away from goal!

Campaign Donor Honor Roll  
(Donors as of November 9, 2018)



(\$5,000-\$9,999)

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## *A Spotlight on our Youngest Capital Campaign Donor*



*Danielle Lipp*

### **Why was it important for you to contribute to the Capital Campaign after your Bat Mitzvah?**

Beth El is an important part of my life. I wanted to contribute to the Capital Campaign after my Bat Mitzvah because I wanted to help to ensure that future Jewish generations will have a wonderful place to pray, gather, and learn. My Bat Mitzvah was the first B'nei Mitzvah outside of the synagogue and, even though it was a wonderful experience at TAPC, a part of me realized that the synagogue has played a central role throughout my life.

### **Why do you love Beth El?**

I love Beth El because the entire community is so accepting and loving. The community feels like family. No matter where we gather, we are a strong connected family.

### **What is your favorite Beth El memory?**

There are many favorite Beth El memories, such as making and eating falafel during Hebrew school (it was so delicious), leading Ashrei during my mom's Bat Mitzvah, dunking the rabbi in the dunk tank during Yom Beth El, and having the community surround me during my Bat Mitzvah.

### **What are you most looking forward to once we move into the new building?**

I know the new building will be beautiful and I am looking forward to seeing the new Ark. I know once we move into the new building our community will only become stronger.

### ***Why I Go To Minyan***

“Someone said to me many years ago when I went to a shiva minyan at someone’s house, ‘You never know when you’ll be the 10<sup>th</sup> Jew.’ So when I lost a parent and went to the Wednesday minyan, they were there for me, and going is a way for me to pay it forward to others. As a non-regular on Shabbos at shul, it’s a way for me to be part of the community.”

Roy Schonberg

## *New Member Spotlight*

### **Meet Jereme, Summer, Bayne (17), Elliott (12), and Ila (5) Albin!**

We chose Beth El because we were looking for a Conservative synagogue in the area and Beth El seemed like it had a warm and inviting community. We are from the San Francisco Bay Area and came to the Triangle because my (Jereme) company added a new office in Durham and relocated our entire family. Jereme is the VP of Operations for Credible, a fintech company. Summer is currently taking care of the home and family, and getting to know the area. We love going out for Thai and Indian food as a family.

#### ***Beth El Welcomes the Following New Members to our Community***

Gary & Ilene Damrauer

Scott & Kate Elengold

Mark & Deborah (Debbie) Friedman

Melissa (Mel) Ginsberg

Carolina and Travis Hurant

Elizabeth Ladin

Eugene (Gene) Lipman

Jodi Bakst & Cor Rademaker

Denise Richards

Avram & Michelle Siegel

David Silfen

Barbara (BJ) Silver

Immanuel (Manny) & Beth Spira

Kimberly (Kim) Stein

Rachel & Brad Taicher



*Simchas*

## **MAZEL TOY!**

Lynne Grossman on the birth of her grandson,  
Abraham David Grossman Aboulafia, on September 4

Rachel Bearman for being honored in Chapel Hill Magazine  
as one of seven "Influencers" in Chapel Hill!

Karen Burns & Marshall Botvinick on the birth of their son,  
Hal Ronan Botvinick, on October 30



Do you have a simcha to share?  
Please let us know by emailing  
[communications@betheldurham.org](mailto:communications@betheldurham.org).



## *Yahrzeit Reminders*

January			Tevet			January			Shevat			January			Shevat		
1	Jerry Becker	24	16	Ernie Bronstein	10	28	Paul Gidwitz	22									
1	Mary Hart	24	16	Gertrude Brown	10	28	Sidney Markman	22									
1	Ann Jackson	24	16	Alan Grossinger	10	28	Bert Weaver	22									
1	Alfred Korkin	24	16	Marsha Schonberg	10	29	Janet Evenson	23									
1	Mildred Rosenbaum	24	16	Eva Baden Slifkin	10	29	Hannah Libman	23									
2	Jack Gindes	25	17	Rae Korkin	11	29	Louis Saper	23									
2	Irene Lyons	25	18	Leon Kahn	12	30	Shmuel Lebovich	24									
3	Arlene Ammerman	26	18	Esther Lebovich	12	30	Muriel Modell	24									
3	Esther Mandel	26	18	Robert Pickus	12	30	Bob Roberman	24									
5	Rolfe Moulder	28	18	Gerard Rohde	12	30	John Sontag	24									
5	Frida Urow	28	19	Jim Wells, Sr.	13	31	Herb Shatzman	25									
6	Edwin Price	29	20	Anita Halberstadt	14	31	Marie Whitehurst Wells	25									
January		Shevat	20	Teresa Man Koplowitz	14	February		Shevat									
8	Arlene Snyder	2	20	Rabbi Nathan Levinson	14	1	Neil August	26									
8	Miriam Zucker	2	21	Ada Lou Carson	15	1	Sarah "Sunny" Gindes	26									
9	Yetta Sawilosky Brandt	3	21	Ben Ornoff	15	1	Alex Rubin	26									
10	Hanah Herskovitz Landau	4	21	Elaine Ostroff Perilstein	15	2	Rhoda Greenberg	27									
10	Barbara Lipp	4	21	Carol Stollwerk	15	2	Sarah Berg Hoffman	27									
10	Barry H. Margolin	4	22	Arnold Korn	16	2	Milton Mills	27									
10	Howard Margolis	4	22	Mary Zeitune de Szulik	16	2	Joanne Sachs Skibell	27									
11	Rita Wolfson	5	23	Sue Speier	17	3	Philip Falk Aronowitz	28									
12	David Herschel "Harry" Nydick	6	23	Blanche Wahl	17	3	Ruth Watnick Scherr	28									
13	Ellen Egger	7	25	Ruth Goldberg	19	4	Michael Jay Gladstein	29									
13	Jim Gratz	7	26	Bernie Kessler	20	4	David Margolis	29									
14	Frances Lynn	8	27	Anne Cohen	21	4	Sadie Rosalie Shimm	29									
14	Esther Margolese	8	27	Dora Levine	21	4											
15	Bartow Culp	9	27	Deborah Katz Slavitt	21	4											
15	Sarah Saffron	9	28	David Fishman	22												
15	Jerry Ulrich	9															

## *Yahrzeit Reminders, continued.*

February			Shevat	February			Adar I	February			Adar I
4	Florence Telen		29	15	Sam Abramowitz		10	26	Shirley Becker		21
5	Benjamin Eli Grossman		30	15	Marguerite Bretzfeld Eger		10	26	Julius Kramer		21
5	Joseph D. Levine		30	15	Ruth Zeighauser Fleishman		10	27	Gussie Becker		22
5	Alice E. Pomper		30	15	Barbara Mildred Kraft		10	27	Harry Brown		22
5	Armand A. Zaleon		30	15	Samuel Gale Levine		10	27	Florence Rosenstein Moel		22
February			Adar I	15	Ann Marks		10	28	Saura Bartner		23
6	Emanuel Joshua Evans		1	15	Paulia Belenko		12	28	Rita Sager		23
6	Rebecca Levtow		1	17	Margaret Hurwitz		12	28	Ben Segal		23
6	Harry Shatzman		1	17	David Kachuck		12	28	Irving Sosensky		23
6	Michael Shrott		1	17	Samuel Marck		12	March			Adar I
6	Sonja van der Horst		1	17	Yehudit Frider		13	1	Blume Pas		24
7	Sonia Levin		2	18	Dora Most		13	2	William Borman		25
8	Marion Goldberg		3	18	Bertha Badt-Strauss		14	2	Donna Gindes		25
8	William Hoffman		3	19	Lucille Concors		14	2	David Moskovitz		25
8	Ethel Liebe Zander Perault		3	19	Harold Strauss		14	4	Harold Isaac Goodrich		27
8	Lillian Rubin		3	20	Jeffrey Schwartz		15	4	Ezjel Lederman		27
10	Frederick Philip Alpern, MD		5	20	Sara Wagner		15	5	William Goldberg		28
10	Simon Korkin		5	22	Bertha Derby		17	5	Harry Hirsch		28
10	Alex Marks		5	22	Bertha Simons		17	6	Garvey Haynes		29
10	Livia Silver		5	23	Jacob Abel		18	6	Joseph Klein		29
10	Samuel Sody		5	23	Sigmund Meyer		18	6	Sandra Pasternak		29
10	Asher Zelig Weisleder		5	24	Harvey Kudler		19	7	William Hayer		30
11	Linda Meg Cohen		6	24	Jack Mlyn		19	March			Adar II
11	Julius Saffron		6	24	Dora Rosenblatt		19	8	Robert Sager		1
12	Max Drucker		7	24	Alex Satinsky		19	9	Miriam Brettler		2
12	Albert Krolik		7	25	Sadie Lipton		20	11	Eleanor Bienstock		4
13	Paul Herman		8	25	Rachelle Malley		20	11	Leon Schoenfeld		4
14	Lillian Albert		9	25	Jacob Most		20	13	Muriel Kirschner		6
				26	Stephen Fisher Alexander		21	17	Pearl Sasson Dayan		10
								18	Philip Cramer		11

## *Thank you to our donors!*

### Annual Fund with Tributes

**Steven Bachenheimer**, in memory of his father, Herman Bachenheimer

**Robert Grimes**, in honor of Peter Ornstein

**Sheila and Sol Levine**, in memory of Sheila's grandmother, Anna Lipschitz

### Building Maintenance Fund

**Esther Lederman**, in memory of her parents, Israel and Rose Gutman, and sister, Halina Gutman

### Capital Campaign with Tributes

**Martha Hauptman**, in memory of her parents, Mollie and David Liptzin

**Larry Kodack and Andree Allen**, in memory of Larry's father, Albert Kodack

### Cemetery Fund

**Lisa Berley**, in memory of her mother, Frances Berley

**Alexander Markman**, in memory of his mother, Malvina Markman

**Philip and Annette Skoletsky**, in memory of Philip's sister, Sandra Richmond; Annette's father, Israel Park; Philip's father, Louis Skoletsky; their mothers, Mary Skoletsky and Bertha Park

### Chevra Kaddisha Fund

**Myrna, David, and Ray Schwartz**, in memory of Joel Schwartz and with thanks for all of the support from Beth El at this time

### Community of Caring

**Sally and Steve Brown**, in honor of Beth and Adam Goldstein

**Sheldon Hayer**, in memory of Rhoda Silver's brother-in-law, Orrie Wilner

### Community of Caring, cont.

**Michelle Shrott, Jeff, Aaron, and Jonah Krolik**, in honor of the Baler Family receiving their American citizenship

**Myrna, David, and Ray Schwartz**, in memory of Joel Schwartz and with thanks for all of the support from Beth El at this time

### Earl and Gladys Siegel Endowment Fund

**Joel Abramowitz**, in memory of Adele

**Susan Breitner**, in appreciation of Gladys Siegel

**Irwin and Deborah Kahn**, in memory of Irwin's mother, Bernice Kahn

**Lucy Morrison**, in memory of her father, Joseph Morrison

**David and JoAnn Rubin**, in celebration of Gisel and Ricky Baler and their sons becoming US citizens

**David and JoAnn Rubin**, in memory of Joel Schwartz; Andrea Levinson Rosenstein, sister of Sid Levinson; Orrie Wilner, brother-in-law of Rhoda Silver; Rochelle Freid, mother of Tobin Freid

**Simon and Barbara Shane**, in memory of Simon's mother, Sylvia Shane

**Gladys Siegel**, in memory of Selma Bishku

### Education and Youth Director's

#### Discretionary Fund

**Laura Flicker**, in honor of Meg Anderson and Harold Baranger

**Peter Ornstein**, in memory of his father, Jacob Ornstein

**Murray Stollwerk**, in memory of his mother, Ida Stollwerk

### Elaine Perilstein Memorial Fund

**Rhoda Silver**, in memory of Daphne Friedman's uncle, Yossi Landau; Tobin Freid's mother, Rochelle Freid; Isaac Price's aunt, Rita Price

### Eric Pas Jewish Camp Scholarship Fund

**Laura Flicker**, in honor of Caryn Rossi

**Bob and Laura Gutman**, in honor of Ben Greyber and Ezra Resnick speaking at Rosh Hashanah about their camp experience

**Michele Pas**, in memory of Shelah Bloom's mother, Shirley Bloom; Amy Halberstadt's brother, Ira Halberstadt; Tobin Freid's mother, Rochelle Freid

**Michele Pas**, in honor of Rebecca Kowek's high school graduation; Madeline Seltman being accepted to the JELI Southwest program, the Jewish Experiential Leadership Institute at JTS, and for all the hard work she does for the vast numbers of children in our community at large; the Baler family's long road to becoming US citizens!

**Michele Pas and Barry Poss**, in memory of Diane Meglin's father, Nick Meglin; Sid Levinson's sister, Andrea Levinson Rosenstein

**Michele Pas, Barry Poss, and Family**, in memory of Sally Laliberte's father, Robert Cyril Laliberte; Sheila Tayrose's father, Harry Rosenthal

**Michele Pas, Barry Poss, and Family**, in honor of Dan and Karen Berman's recognition of the Carolina Theatre Cinema's naming honor

### General Fund

**Amelia Blanco**, for the High Holidays

**Barton Cobert**, in memory of his mother, Ruth Cobert



## *Thank you to our donors!*

### General Fund, cont.

**Sarah Doppelt**, in honor of her cousin, Robbie Schultz, for always making the world a better place

**Sheldon Hayer**, in memory of Lois Price's aunt, Helen Rich

**Ann and Stuart Kaplan**, in memory of their daughter, Lisa Kaplan

**Harriet Lakin**, in memory of her father, John Ullman

**Sylvia Leibel**, in memory of her brother, Lester Zauder

**Isaac and Rose Levy**

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**Julia Schechter**, for the High Holidays

**Sara Weiss**

### Gilbert Katz Scholarship Fund

**Laura Flicker**, in honor of Larry Kodack and Andree Allen

### High Holiday Donations, Including Food Drive

**Joel Abramowitz**

**Marshall and Carol Adelstein**

**Barton and Josiane Cobert**

**Gideon and Sara Eisenberg**

**Mark and Debbie Friedman**

**Richard Cramer and Jane Gabin**

**Norma and Bob Gindes**, for Food Drive

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**Nathalie Goodrich**

**Gabe Gorelick**

**Sheldon Hayer**, for Food Drive

**Carol and Jimmie Haynes**, for Food Drive

**Cheryl Kay**

### High Holiday Donations, Including Food Drive, cont.

**Florence Kay**

**Debra Linn**, for Food Drive

**Roy Schonberg and Cheryl Marcus**

**Eric and Carol Meyers**

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**Elizabeth and Michael Null**

**Peter and Marilyn Ornstein**

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**Lew and Judy Siegel**, in memory of Adele Abramowitz

### Lifelong Learning Fund

**Norma Gindes**, in memory of her mother, Shirley Schulman

**Donna Goldstein**, in memory of her mother, Sara L. Goldstein

**Mary Joan and Alan Mandel**, in honor of Rabbi Frank (z"l) and Pat Fischer's wedding anniversary

### Mitzvah Fund

**Lynne Grossman**, in memory of her father, Melvin Gladstein; aunt, Carrie Gladstein; mother- and father-in-law, Ann and Julius Grossman

**Hope Hartman**, in memory of her father, Philbert H. Hartman

### Mitzvah Fund, cont.

**Myrna, David, and Ray Schwartz**, in memory of Joel Schwartz and with thanks for all of the support from Beth El at this time

**Steve and Simone Soltan**, in honor of the Baler Family becoming U.S. citizens

### Orthodox Kehillah

**Joel Abramowitz**, in memory of his father-in-law, Abe Rosenzweig

**Lewis Bateman**, in honor of Mort Berkowitz for his service to the OK as their representative to the Beth El Board, and for a Refuah Shleymah

**Fred Behrends**

**Jonathan Breitzer**, in memory of his father, Robert Breitzer

**Marc Brettler**, in memory of his father, Sidney Brettler

**Philippe and Nicole Chemla**

**Michaela Davidai**, in memory of her father, Ya'akov Frider, who died in August 2008 and was hosted by the Orthodox Kehillah when he visited in 1989

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

**Hillel and Charlotte Koren**, in memory of their parents, Avigdor and Hanna Koren, and Berta and Emil Agid

**Lew and Judy Siegel**, in memory of Dori Berger's brother, Daniel J. Schneck

**Len and Luba Spevak**, in honor of Mort Berkowitz and for prayer for his speedy recovery

**Janice Stolzenberg**, in memory of her mother, Anna Krepchon

## *Thank you to our donors!*

### **Prayer Book Fund**

**Adam Shapiro**, in appreciation of Kol Nidre and Yom Kippur services

### **Rabbi's Discretionary Fund**

**Joel Abramowitz**, in memory of Adele

**The Family of Selma Bishku** in her memory

**Amelia Blanco**

**Laura Quigley and Howard Bomze**, in memory of Nick Meglin

**Jonathan Lovins and Florence Briones**, in honor of Florence's conversion

**Rabbi Jerry Fox**

**Ron and Pilar Goldberg**, in memory of Ron's wife, Marylu Goldberg, and Pilar's mother, Esperanza Remolina de Rocha

**Alice and Lewis Gold**, in memory of Rhoda Silver's brother-in-law, Orrie Wilner; Tobin Freid's mother, Rochelle Freid

**Donna Goldstein**

**Sheila and Donald Goldstein**, in memory of Tobin Freid's mother, Rochelle Freid

**Carol and David Kratenstein**, in memory of Nick Meglin

**Pam and Charlie Lipschitz**, for High Holidays

**Jacki and Mike Resnick**, in memory of their daughter, Bekah

**Jacki and Mike Resnick**, in honor of Jared and Jennifer Resnick

**Perry Whitted and Caryn Rossi**, in honor of the blessing of the Metal Studio

**Myrna, David, and Ray Schwartz**, in memory of Joel Schwartz and with thanks for all of the support from Beth El at this time

### **Rabbi's Discretionary Fund, cont.**

**Ann Shachtman**, in memory of her husband, Richard Shachtman; Joel Schwartz

**Ann Shachtman**, in honor of the birth of her grandson, Jack Richard Shachtman, son of Jessica and Marc and brother of Aiden Schachtman

**Elliot and Carol Silverstein**, in memory of Tobin Freid's mother, Rochelle Freid

**Abby Gilbert and Ron Skupsky**, in honor of the Simchat Bat of their daughter, Rachel Livia Skupsky-Gilbert

**Terri and Bob Tyson**, in memory of Terri's mother, Louise Kushner

### **Talmud Torah Fund**

**Kim and Drew Langsam**, in memory of Tobin Freid's mother, Rochelle Freid

**Richard and Carole Stein**, in honor of Rebecca Stein and Andrew Janiak, and their sons, Isaac and Saul, and with thanks to Rabbi Greyber and the whole congregation for the beauty of High Holiday services

### **TAPC Thank You Fund**

**Richard Cramer and Jane Gabin**



Sukkot, September 2018

## *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!!***

**Lev Bearman**

January 4-5, 2019

**Claudia Wizwer**

January 11-12, 2019

**Lilach HaCohen**

January 19, 2019

**Ranon Greyber**

January 25-26 2019

### **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](http://www.betheldurham.org)

BETH EL PHONE NUMBER: 919-682-1238

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

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