

Message from Rabbi Greyber:



Human Presence Heals

Passover was different than hoped-for or expected. Our plan was an escape to Ramah Darom's festive and tasty Pesach camp. But I write these words outside the bedroom where Jen's mom is dying. She is jaundiced, gaunt. Pain medications keep her comfortable. There are moments of lucidity; others of confusion. The moments flow into minutes, into hours, into days.

We transformed this table a few days ago. Gathered haggadot. Ordered kosher-for-Passover catered food. Our boys drove to Atlanta and, with simplicity and sincerity, we made a seder here, instead of there.

At the last moment, Jen's mom found energy from within and beyond herself; we moved her to the living room couch, facing her family at the table. She listened to the blessings and questions, to the songs and conversation, sometimes eyes closed, sometimes eyes open. On Yom Kippur, we ask God, "Do not cast me out in my old age." Her presence was an answered prayer.

Rav and Shmuel (1st generation Babylonian talmudic sages) agree that when we tell the Passover story, we should begin with the bad and end with the good, but they disagreed on how to begin. They disagreed on the basic nature of the Egypt from which we were freed. Shmuel says to start the story: "We were slaves in the land of Egypt." According to him, the essence of the slavery was physical. Rav's version is less obvious. He says to start the story: "In the beginning, our ancestors worshiped idols." For him, the essence of the slavery was spiritual. His point is: we can be physically free but still a slave - to others' opinions of us, to our own impulses, to our phones, to misplaced priorities in pursuit of vanity and meaninglessness. Or, we can be physically oppressed but still free because we serve God and no other. (A story from the Shoah: an SS officer has his foot on the neck of a religious Jew. He looks down and sees the Jew praying. "What could you possibly be grateful to God for at this moment?" "I thank God I am not you.")

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JOIN US!

Annual Meeting

Sunday, May 22, 2022

11:00 am

In person and on Zoom

All members are invited and encouraged to attend.

- Review the proposed budget for 2022-2023
- Approve the 2022-2023 Slate of Officers and Board Members
- Honor the 2021-2022 Volunteer of the Year

Members will receive an email with the Annual Meeting materials, if you haven't already, including information on how to access the virtual meeting. These materials will also be available on the Beth El website.

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Since the haggadah teaches that everyone must see themselves as personally coming out of Egypt, each person at our seder answers the questions: 1) What physical limitation did you struggle with this year, and how did you overcome it? And, 2) what spiritual or intellectual or emotional barrier did you face this year, and how did you overcome it?

Jen's mom's physical struggle is obvious. Pancreatic cancer and its treatment, chemotherapy, have ravaged her body. She has been delivered to a seder on the living room couch in the presence of children and grandchildren. The spiritual struggle is less clear. Physical pain like this obscures all else. But her presence at our seder and ours with her is a Passover moment, a moment of redemption and blessing.

This bulletin article has been hanging over my head for a while. It's been a tough few months since I ran the marathon in December. I write about this today because the article is well past-due and this is what I need to write about; I can hardly write about something else. Being present with loved ones in their final days is a journey many of you know well. I've called and heard your tired voices over the phone. I've visited and seen the exhaustion in your eyes. It is lonely. Tiring. Precious. Sad. Holy. We are helpless and yet we have everything we need for these moments: only the courage to be present for one another.

Which leads me to one thought about this moment for our community that I want to offer from this living room during the intermediate days of Passover. Please come back. It has been two long years since COVID-19 drove us into isolation. I am tired. Our staff is tired. Our leadership is tired. We need your energy. We need your participation. We need your presence back in our sanctuary and around the committee table, at our annual meeting and in classes and activities. We need you to call one another and, if possible, to invite someone to your Shabbat table. Of course each of us needs to continue to stay safe, but the Torah of this moment reminds me again: human presence heals. It is the essence of life, the essence of our synagogue community, and it is a choice we must make over and over again until we can no more.

David



Burning Chametz



Selling Chametz to Rev. Katie Crowe



*A Note from
Interim Executive Director
Carrie Sloan Norry*

Dear Beth El Congregants,
How lucky I am to join the Beth El community for a short while in order to support the operations, the staff, and all of you. I grew up as a member of Temple Emanuel in Greensboro, NC. After a few stints in the Northeast, our family settled in Durham nine years ago.

My career has included teaching math for 18 years and founding JUST TRYAN IT, a non-profit supporting families battling pediatric cancer. After leaving JTI, I became more engaged with Judea Reform, serving on their Board and most recently, helping to settle Afghan refugees in our area.

During my time here, I hope to provide a bridge in leadership and help to create efficient processes in the operations of the synagogue. I have spent much of my professional life focused on building community and fostering belonging. In synagogues, this lies at the intersection of a dedicated staff and an engaged membership with a spirit of volunteerism, respect, and compassion.

In the past few weeks, I have been warmly welcomed and made to feel a part of this dynamic and thriving community. Thank you to all who have reached out to say hello and lend a hand. I am delighted to be here.

Warmly,

Carrie Sloan Norry



*From the Desk of Board President
Leslie Winner*

Chevre,

This is my last message to you as Beth El's President. After these very full two years, sometimes difficult, but laced with moments of joy and fulfillment, I find myself focused on both gratitude and the challenges of enabling our members to stay connected or to reconnect with the Beth El community.

When our matriarch Leah had her fourth child, she named him Yuhuda, meaning "I am grateful." Our name, Jews, was derived from his name. Gratitude, *bakarat hatov* (recognizing the good), is intrinsic in our name and in being Jewish.



Staff

Rabbi: Rabbi Daniel Greyber
Rabbi Emeritus: Rabbi Steve Sager
Interim Executive Director: Carrie Sloan Norry
Education & Youth Director: Alexandra Bicks
Congregational Services Coordinator: Sheri Hoffman
Communications & Marketing Associate:
Rachel Greene
Kitchen Manager: Sandy Fangmeier
Head of Building Maintenance: Zachary Marshall
Tot and PreKadima Programming Coordinator:
Laura Oestreicher Ricon
Director of Teen Engagement: Zosia DeWitt

Board of Directors

President: Leslie Winner
1st VP: Dan Schnitzer
2nd VP: Kevin Ginsberg
Treasurer: Syd Miller
Recording Secretary: Richard Hart
Immediate Past President: Debbie Goldstein

Jereme Albin, Meg Anderson, Laura Flicker,
Tobin Fried, Jane Gabin, Norma Gindes,
Valerie Glassman, Kim Bardy Langsam,
Evelina Moulder, Adam Singer, Sue Slatkoff, Manny
Spira, Jesse Summers, Tal Lewin Wittle

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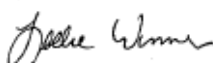
Here is a sampling of my gratitude for some what I have recognized as very good about Beth El.

- We are fortunate to have a rabbi who is both emotionally and intellectually inspiring, and is a caring pastor, a good leader and good friend.
- Our staff has hung in there with us through the isolation and unpredictability of COVID, as well as the uncertainties of the leadership transitions of the last year. They have been steadfast and cheerful about it. They are our glue.
- We have had two interim executive directors who have been willing to step in on short notice when we were in a pinch. I especially appreciate Carrie's positive energy and can-do spirit.
- Every Shabbat, I am amazed all over again by the devotion and level of competence of service leaders, gabbaim, and Torah and Haftorah readers. What a treasure it is to have so many talented and knowledgeable people in our community who are willing to give their time to leading our ritual life.
- The creative spark I have seen, for example, in Eliana's song leading, the Chavurah Minyan's services in the tent, the holiday gift bags prepared by Abby Zarkin and her group, and our public menorah lighting at the Bull Park in Durham.
- We have been amazingly resilient, shown, as examples, by our ability to lean in to programs in a tent, meals on the portico, a Shabbaton in April, and a bookfair on Zoom.
- The leadership of our Executive Committee and Board has been amazing—they have kept us on track, safe, healthy and engaged, and fiscally sound, in this unprecedented time. We are fortunate to have so many solid, smart, and dedicated people leading us.
- The determination of our Development and Finance committees to keep us operating in the black. They have been successful because of your extraordinary generosity: many of you have stretched to pay dues and many others have been forthcoming with extra contributions beyond those which are required. The value of the guidance Brooke Jenkins at Moss + Ross should not be underestimated.
- The steadfastness of our Chevra Kaddisha to be there for families experiencing loss, with sensitivity, and the reliability of our congregation's willingness to step up on short notice, serving as shomrim in the middle of the night and supporting our fellow congregants at shiva minyanim.
- The leadership of our Community of Caring, which enabled us to keep reaching out to congregants who need support, staying attuned to increased needs during times of COVID isolation.
- The persistence of Lifelong Learning committee in providing us with interesting ways to stretch and enrich ourselves, even when we could not learn together in person.
- The conviction of the Racial Justice Task Force in providing us with opportunities to better understand our individual and collective roles in addressing racial injustices in our community and country.
- The dedication of the Va'ad, Talmud Torah teachers, and B'nei Mitzvah tutors and other youth activity leaders who have enabled us to fulfill our obligation to teach our children and instill in them the joy of being Jewish.

Volunteering: This list includes well over a hundred people who have volunteered time, skill and wisdom in accordance with their individual strengths and interests. Volunteering is likely the best way to feel integrated with and engaged in our congregation. As we emerge from the worst of the COVID epidemic, find paths for reconnections, and have increasing opportunities to pray, learn and laugh together, I urge you to find your own best path to engagement through volunteering.

It has been a great honor to lead our wonderful congregation. I thank you for your trust and your support.

Wishing each of you only good,





Talmud Torah

Shalom, Y'all!

As I write this at the end of March, Durham is finally entering a beautiful spring, complete with sunny skies, birds chirping, and Duke and UNC about to face off in the Final Four (!!). It also means that we are nearing the end of our Talmud Torah year, which has been an exciting and exhilarating experience as we get back into the swing of “regular” in-person school.

We have been able to have class Friday night services in the sanctuary again, as kids from PreK-6th grades lead services with help from their teachers and Rabbi Greyber, as their parents kvell. We have brought back the Family Beit Midrash programs, in which the families of each class come to school for a day to learn with both their kids and Rabbi Greyber in a separate “grown-up” class. This is a great chance for families to see what their kids are doing and learning every Sunday!

And, of course, we were able to celebrate the holiday of Purim as truly intended – with carnival fun and games, not to mention hamentaschen! Despite the chilly morning, we had an amazing turnout with kids and adults of all ages, ready to play cornhole, decorate masks, fill up on hamentaschen and Mad Popper popcorn, and come away feeling full and satisfied. Our annual charity Purim raffle was also a success, as we raised over \$2200 to benefit both youth programming and the Social Action committee’s efforts to fight hunger in our local community. As Purim marks the two-year anniversary of the arrival of the COVID-19 virus, it was heartening to see the parking lot and building full of joy and life yet again in this season. The fun continued on Purim evening just a few days later, when Eliana Light led our first ever family service before the main Megillah reading in the sanctuary. Over 50 people, from babies to adults, joined us in the multipurpose room as Eliana led us in Purim songs, a costume parade, and just a bit of Megillah reading (complete with booing Haman, of course!) It was a remarkable success, and we hope to continue it in future years.

As we wind down the year and prepare for time-honored favorite events like our Talmud Torah end-of-year celebration, our T’fillah Boot Camp, and High School Senior/New Driver Shabbat, I am incredibly grateful to the Talmud Torah faculty and staff, who remain steadfastly committed to teaching our kids and giving them a positive connection to their Jewish community. Throughout the twists and turns of the pandemic, they continue to show up each week, and we could not do what we do without their help. I’m also so thankful that we have both Eliana and Spencer Garfield on staff this year to bring our students music and song, as well as teach them about the joy of *t’fillah* (prayer). Finally, I deeply appreciate the support of our larger community, everyone from our Vaad HaChinuch (parents committee) and the synagogue staff, to the membership of Beth El as a whole. We couldn’t continue providing such great educational and social experiences for our youth without you all – so thank you. Here’s to finishing the year on a high note!

Alexandra Bicks
Education & Youth Director

Mazel Tov on your upcoming B’nei Mitzvah!!

Rowan Ginsberg
May 14, 2022

Nathan Cohen
May 27-28, 2022

Mataya Miller
August 26-27, 2022

Hannah Prince
September 2-3, 2022



Teen Engagement

Shalom, Beth El Friends!

Happy spring! It has been such a lovely past few months being able to come together in person. Being able to spend time with our teens and hear their incredible ideas has been a fantastic honor. In the past few months, we have been lucky enough to experience and share a wide variety of learning experiences and fun times - and it has been so powerful to see the connections our teens form with one another through Judaism and their shared passions - and how those two things come together to form incredible experiences for us all.

So far in 2022, we have enjoyed a beautiful Teen Takeover Shabbat, had the chance to learn about and discuss the experiences of Jews of color and synagogues around the world with the incredible Beth El congregant and Talmud Torah alum Talia Samuel-Devaney, created art from the Book of Creation and learned how it relates to social justice, dressed up and celebrated Purim with games and treats at the Purim carnival, went head-to-head in the Great Jewish Bakeoff crafting crazy hamantaschen flavors, chatted with congregants volunteering for the Annual Fund, and got our chocolate fix on during this year's Chocolate Seder! This season has been filled with so much learning and more fun than ever.

As some of you already know, I have made the bittersweet decision to finish out the year here at Beth El, before moving on to my senior year of college.

Working at Beth El, especially as a longtime member of the community myself, has meant to me more than I can put into words. Spending time with such kind, intelligent, hardworking (not to mention hilarious) teens has been unbelievably special. I will forever cherish all that our teens have taught me. Their passion for Judaism, for learning, and for their relationships with one another, is truly inspiring. I will always remember the memories we've created together these last two years.

Thank you all for everything you all have done to make this experience so incredible and rewarding. I look forward to seeing you all this spring and finishing out this year strong.

Sending joy to you all,

Zosia DeWitt

Director of Teen Engagement





Tot and PreKadima Programming

Shalom Chaverim,

We have had some pretty sweet PreKadima programs this winter, and I'm not just referring to the vast amounts of sugar we consumed!

We teamed up with the Kadima crew for our Chanukah Extravaganza and had over 35 kids in attendance! This was the largest turnout I've seen so far. I hope by the time you read this, we will have broken the record at the Chocolate Seder! At the Extravaganza, we decorated (and ate) sufganiyot, made menorahs, painted tzedakah boxes, and played a variety of Chanukah-themed games. Each station was staffed by a teen volunteer, which made it more special for all the kids involved.

In February, we cozied up on squishy pillows and beanbags and watched "Encanto" at our awesome Havdalah in Pajamas event. Pizza, snacks, and crafts along with the movie and Havdalah made for a really special late night "shul-in."

At PreKadima, we sure do love our extravaganzas! March meant the Hamantaschen Extravaganza. PreKadima and Kadima kids were given enough dough to shape and fill 3-4 hamantaschen. Some super ambitious kids managed to make 5 and a couple decided to make one monster-sized hamantaschen. It was really fun to see everyone's creativity and triumph as they managed to squeeze in just one more marshmallow!

We have consistently had excellent turnout at our Sunday Simchat Tot programs. It's always so much fun to dance, sing, read, and play with the littlest Bethelians. Due to some congregant feedback, we will have Baby and Me on Sundays before Simchat Tot instead of during a workday. It is really a great place to talk to others going through a similar phase of life and I hope to see you there with your little ones under 2.

Thank you for a fantastic winter; I'm looking forward to a joyful spring and summer!

Laura Oestreicher Ricon

Tot and PreKadima Programming Coordinator



New Member Spotlight

Meet Joey & Natalie Grover, Jacob (5), and Nathan (2)



We have been living in Chapel Hill for several years but joined Beth El last year because we wanted to be more involved in the local Jewish community and make sure our children received a Jewish education. Joey works as an emergency medicine physician at UNC and is the medical director of Orange County EMS.

Natalie works as an oncologist at UNC, specializing in lymphoma and cellular therapy. Jacob is a kindergartener at Morris Grove Elementary and is loving Kitah Gan in Talmud Torah. As a family, we enjoy trips to the beach and mountains and on the weekends, you can find us at our favorite hang out spot - the Museum of Life and Science. We look forward to getting to know the Beth El community.



Meet Your Committee Leadership

Art Committee: Sol Levine

Chevra Kaddisha: David Klapper

Community of Caring: Laura Flicker, Diane Sasson,
and Eliana Schonberg

Development: Norma Gindes

Finance: Syd Miller

First Fridays: Rikki SaNogueira

House: Michael Null

Interfaith Working Group: Manny Spira

Kol Koloteinu: Krisha Miller

Lifelong Learning: Jane Gabin and Donna Goldstein

Life & Legacy: Norma Gindes

Member Engagement: Lois Silver

Men of Beth El (MoB): Steve Prince and Eric Lipp

Orthodox Kehillah: Phillippe Chemla and Jesse Summers

Ritual: Jereme Albin

Sisterhood: TBD

Social Action: Rachel Bearman and Evelina Moulder

Va'ad HaChinuch: Adam Singer

Social Action

Welcoming the Safi Family

As you may know, Beth El has been sponsoring an Afghan refugee family in partnership with our friends at TAPC. Our family includes Abbas (the father) and Wahida (the mom) along with their seven children ages 14 years to 5 months. The Safi family is originally from a rural area of Afghanistan, but lived in Jalalabad where Abbas worked for the U.S. military special forces in security. Abdullah speaks limited English although Wahida does not.

Our family arrived in December after living on two military bases with thousands of other refugee families fleeing Afghanistan last August. Once our family was cleared for release from the military base, the U.S. government reached out to Church World Service (CWS), which is Durham's local refugee resettlement organization. CWS picked up the family at the airport and settled them into a temporary apartment in Raleigh. CWS then notified our Beth El/TAPC team to search for suitable housing, and we swung into action. Beth El team members are Norma Gindes, George and Sarah Denes, Alex Schnitzer, Eric Meyers, and myself.

We quickly learned that finding an affordable apartment in walking distance to a grocery store and bus line can be daunting, and it is made more difficult since few landlords will rent to a family with no credit history. Although through your generosity we are able to pay the rent for several months, we needed to have our family sign the lease so they could begin to establish a credit history.

After not finding any landlords willing to rent, team member Eric Meyers reached out to Imam Abdullah Antepli, who is a friend and colleague of Eric and Rabbi Greyber. Abdullah informed us that a Chapel Hill townhouse unit across from his would be available in a few weeks. Upon meeting Abdullah (he has been a guest speaker at Beth El several times) we learned that he and his wife have assisted refugee families for many years. Having someone close by to help seemed like a real advantage for the Safi family. Although Abdullah and the Safi family don't speak the same language, Abdullah knows the local Muslim community, which has been very helpful. Our team of TAPC and Beth El has now widened to include Abdullah and his community, so we are three religions helping the Safi family acclimate to America.

After enrolling the three girls at school, our team took turns for a few days transporting them and picking up until the bus had them on their schedule. As I drove them through Chapel Hill and not being able to communicate, I couldn't help but wonder about the strangeness of our schools, the landscape of woods, shopping centers and new housing developments. Such a totally different environment from their home in Afghanistan. In the several months of spending time with the Safi family and getting to know them, I have come to more deeply appreciate what my grandparents and all immigrants have endured coming to this country--not speaking English, coming from another culture, and striving to make a living. All refugees and immigrants give up everything familiar and struggle with the hope of a better life for their children.

I recently asked Abbas and Wahida some questions about their experience so far in the United States. They find our grocery stores large and very well organized. They like that the price of each item is marked. It has surprised them that rent and utilities are so expensive. The two older girls, Maryam and Tamna, are enrolled in middle school. Next in age is Zara, who's 7 and already speaking English sentences! Abbas and Wahida have told me their children like school and look forward to attending each morning. The family's 4 youngest children are not yet old enough for school. They are 4 months, 2 years, 4 and 5 ½.

Almost every day, Abbas or Wahida speak to family back in Afghanistan using WhatsApp. They wish they could send some money back to help them. For now, their family is very glad to be here, knowing they are safe in the U.S.

Our deep thanks to all who donated funds to help pay rent and utilities for the family and for the items donated to furnish the Safis' townhouse. The Safi family have told us numerous times how very grateful they are for the warm welcome and help they have received.

Robin Barth

Of Pickles and Parks: Finding My Place at Beth El
By Rebecca Fishman



Over my fireplace is a replica of a 1960s newspaper ad from the deli that my immigrant grandparents Helen and Hyman ran. Though it closed shortly before I was born, I grew up hearing colorful stories about Fishman's Food Shop and Delicatessen. The barrel of homemade pickles outside the entrance was a huge hit, and the shop served as an informal gathering spot for the Albany Jewish community for over four decades.

Being a descendent of local deli "royalty" carried unspoken obligations of commitment to the Jewish community. My parents - of blessed memory - not only met through a Jewish singles groups in Albany in the early 70s, but spent the rest of their lives holding lay leadership roles at the synagogues (we belonged to both Conservative and Orthodox congregations), the Vaad Ha'Kashruth, and the Daughters of Sarah nursing home and foundation. With her traveling road show, Mom may have single-handedly educated a generation of our town's public school students about Chanukah. As a tween, I often tagged along on Shabbat mornings when Dad and a couple other gentlemen ran services for the frail residents. My job included Adon Olam, an occasional Gelilah, wheeling residents from the small sanctuary to the kiddush area, and bringing folks back to their units in time for lunch.

It was never a question that I would be involved in Jewish life as an adult. Yet, I want to honor my family and traditions while carving my own path... I always have. At Beth El, I am still figuring out my place, how much time I want to give, and what will feel the most fulfilling. Davening isn't really my thing, nor is committee work - at least right now. So when I was invited to participate in Beth El's second Sulam cohort, I figured - why not? The curriculum was appealing, as was the chance to connect more deeply with peers I didn't know.

Somewhere in the Omicron wave and about halfway through the Sulam curriculum, I was challenged to think about leadership in the context of the mission of Beth El and my own goals. I found myself reminiscing about my 20s in New York City. Every Saturday afternoon, waves of young professionals flocked to Central Park's Great Lawn. It was a place to be seen, to catch up with friends, and (for many!) to meet your bashert. I loved the routine of that weekly outing, and loved the sense of community it offered.

Why not do the same thing in Durham close to home? With a small, mighty, and growing Beth El contingent in Watts-Hillandale and Old West Durham - and folks keen for more in-person socialization during the pandemic - the "Shabbat Schmooze" was born.

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Since December, there's been an evolving and organic gathering of folks of all ages in Oval Park. Starting time? Late afternoon, you know, somewhere between Shabbat naps and dinner. We have snacks, dogs, games, frisbees, and magic tricks. Sometimes the weather cooperates and sometimes it doesn't. Sometimes it's just a few folks willing to venture into the cold, but more often than not, we've actually lucked out with glorious weather! Only yesterday, I learned one of our "regulars" will be moving into the neighborhood. A 7-year-old asked me if I wanted to race him, and I said yes.

Our contributions to synagogue life don't have to be formal. For now, I love bringing people together. "The Schmooze" may or may not take off, but I hope it will, in whatever shape and form it's meant to. Who knows, maybe someday I'll bring homemade pickles!

Rebecca Fishman is the Afghan Response Coordinator for Upwardly Global, a national nonprofit that focuses on eliminating barriers for refugee and immigrant professionals, and to advance their inclusion in the U.S. workforce. Please email her at rfishman11@gmail.com if you'd like to be added to her Shabbat Schmooze list.



Rebecca and her Bubbe Helen in the 80s.

About Sulam for Emerging Leaders

Sulam for Emerging Leaders (SEL) is a project of the United Synagogue for Conservative Judaism, designed to help our 30-45 year-old congregants align their personal values with the mission and purpose of Beth El. SEL participants study together for six months and use traditional Jewish texts to delve into personal and organizational development as future leaders in the Beth El community.

Interested? Please email sheri@betheldurham.org to be connected with one of our Sulam coordinators.



DurhamISH

Shabbat by and for the young-ish, Jew-ish folk of the Durham-ish area! We're serious about creating an inclusive and participatory community of people in their 20s and 30s. Taking place on the first Friday of each month, volunteers lead services in whatever style they choose, followed by a potluck dinner. We welcome a wide variety of people - young professionals who are new to the area, long-standing Durham-ites, Jewish and Jewish-curious folks, and their loved ones. We'd like to thank the donors who have provided us with the funds for entrées for our Shabbat dinners this year. If you want to get involved, please reach out to our coordinator Alexina Haefner at alexina.haefner@gmail.com.

Community of Caring

We all need a hand now and then. Beth El's Community of Caring connects congregants when a need arises.

Whether dropping off a kria ribbon, shiva candle, and meal of condolence to a bereaved family, taking a meal to parents of a new baby, or calling to check in by phone on individuals experiencing a challenging time, Community of Caring's volunteers help to keep us all connected.

Our committee welcomes volunteers with lots of time or just a little time—even offering to deliver a pre-cooked freezer meal once or twice a year can be a big help to the recipient. There's no monetary commitment required to volunteer. If something isn't immediately available from Beth El's office or kitchen, volunteers can be reimbursed for their purchases.

We also appreciate your eyes and ears in the community—if you're aware of a need that has arisen for a member of our Beth El family, please reach out to caring@betheldurham.org or to the Beth El Office at 919-682-1238.



Food Pantry

You may have noticed a new addition to the front of the synagogue. It is a little pantry that I created and installed (with a lot of help from David Klapper and Steve Herman) as my Bat Mitzvah project! Ever since I was a little girl, I have felt a strong need to help those who are hungry. When my Bat Mitzvah came around, my friends had just made a little book library and it gave me this great idea. When I suggested it, I found out that the rabbi had already been pushing for one to be put up. Due to COVID, the project took over a year, but I am so glad that it is finally up and in use. On the back, I decided to paint the 7 species found in the Torah, which are wheat, barley, grapes, figs, pomegranates, olives, and dates. On the side, you will find the quote “Let all who are hungry come and eat,” said by many Jews at the beginning of their Passover Seder! It has only been up for about 2 weeks and already people in the neighborhood have provided food, and some food has been taken by those in need.

Now we need your help! Please bring non-perishable food and non-alcoholic toiletries any time you come to Beth El to help keep the pantry stocked. On your way to services, Sunday school, or if you are just dropping by the synagogue, you are more than welcome to put some food inside the pantry. Ideal food is pasta, beans, canned fruits or vegetables, protein bars, nut butters, canned meat, applesauce, baby food, cereal, crackers, boxed mac and cheese, etc. In addition, some non-alcoholic toiletries, like deodorant, soap, toothpaste, feminine products, sunscreen, and bug spray are also helpful. A huge thank you to David Klapper for building the pantry and Steve Herman for doing some touch ups and helping to install it.

Aven Schwartz

See the photos on the next page!



Racial Justice Task Force

The RJTF is continuing its mission to explore racism in the U.S. through a Jewish lens. Over the past few months, the task force has organized a local tour, a webinar, and an ongoing book discussion, all detailed below.

On February 13, 11 Beth El members and 8 others toured Maplewood Cemetery to learn more about two neglected Black cemeteries and how they came to be. Independent researcher, Kim Smith, who is writing a book about the Fitzgerald family cemetery, and Stephanie Davis, a descendant of the Fitzgerald family led the tour. These tours are part of Smith and Fitzgerald's effort to right past wrongs in the Durham community. During the nearly two-hour tour, participants learned that the Durham Hebrew Cemetery is located on land originally owned by the Henderson family, a free Black family that owned large swaths of what is now Maplewood. Participants also came to understand how Maplewood, touted as Durham's first public amenity, is a misnomer. Blacks could not be buried there until 1924, and the graves of Blacks at its edges were desecrated, razed and choked off in a jungle of overgrowth. Only in the past few years has the city agreed to take down fences that kept Black from white graves.

On March 6, Rabbi Sonya Starr led a webinar with over 30 participants entitled "Deep in Our Memories, on Historical Trauma in the Jewish and African-American Communities." Rabbi Starr analyzed historical trauma as experienced by Ashkenazic/White Jews and American Blacks in order to understand how to move forward together in healthy ways. Attendees looked at the effects of historical trauma and its present day triggers while trying to understand the difference between institutionalized oppression and social/cultural prejudicial experiences.

16 people are participating in the 4-session discussion of the book, *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents* by Isabel Wilkerson. The book outlines how the U.S. used elements of the caste system to develop America's racist structure, and its similarities to India's caste system and Nazi Germany. The group is discussing, where applicable, how this structure affects both our own lives and social systems in the U.S. today, as well as how being Jewish influences our perspective on these issues.

For more information about the task force, please contact Rachel Bearman at rsbearman@gmail.com.





Beth El Synagogue Life & Legacy Society

Have you considered leaving a legacy gift to Beth El, but you don't want to rewrite your will?

A Codicil can be the least expensive and simplest way to make minor adjustments to your Will in order to leave a legacy gift to Beth El. As an appendix to your Will, a Codicil cross-references the original document and gives details of the amendments or additions you want to make.

Here is some sample language you could consider for a Codicil:

I give to Beth El Synagogue in Durham, North Carolina the sum of \$_____, (or _____% of my estate; or all the remainder of my estate) to go to the Gladys and Earl Siegel Endowment to be used to enhance Beth El programs.

In general, you must sign your Codicil, have it signed by two witnesses (not necessarily the same witnesses to your Will), and keep your Codicil with the Will, providing copies to anyone holding your Will. Witnesses are not needed if the Codicil is completely handwritten by and signed by the testator and the Codicil is kept with the Will and other important papers. Sample Codicil formats can be obtained from your lawyer or found online.

Members of the Life & Legacy Team are ready to meet with you to discuss different options for legacy gifts, and can provide more detailed information about making your long-term legacy plans. **To learn more about the Life & Legacy Society, or to set up an in person or Zoom meeting, please contact Norma Gindes at normagindes@gmail.com or call 201-951-5140.**

The information provided in this bulletin is not intended to constitute legal, tax, or financial advice; readers should contact their attorney and/or financial advisor for specific advice and assistance with legacy gift planning.

Thank you to our Life and Legacy donors!

Beth El Synagogue recognizes and is grateful to members who have committed to sustain our Jewish community with a gift in their will, living trust, retirement account, or life insurance policy. A legacy gift to Beth El is a simple and meaningful way to help guarantee a strong and vibrant synagogue for future generations. Also, we acknowledge those members who had the foresight to generously support the creation of the Gladys and Earl Siegel Endowment 20 years ago.

Anonymous (4)	The Kirshner Family
Trudi Abel and Noah Pickus	Sue and David Klapper
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Sally Hicks and Richard Hart	Leslie Winner
Susan and Robert Hill	Tal and Eric Wittle
Jill Kaplan	Abby and Gary Zarkin
Susan and David Kirsch	Sheva Zucker and Sandy Kessler

*נ"ל - Of blessed memory

Names in bold indicate that their Life & Legacy gifts have been formalized.

An Honorary Jew By Yonat Shimron



Marjorie Young writing her memoir in her room in 2014. Photo by Yonat Shimron

Some years ago, Sheva Zucker, a Beth El veteran, pulled me into her orbit of Jewish volunteers and asked if I would give a ride to someone from Beth El. That someone was Marjorie Young, a then 60-something woman who attended synagogue off and on. I had seen her before, carrying multiple tote bags I later learned were filled with used books and sheafs of loose-leaf paper on which she scribbled notes in an illegible hand.

From the moment we were introduced, I knew Margie suffered from some kind of disorder, though it would be years before I was able to ascertain what exactly. I agreed to give her a ride from her group home to Beth El or back. Before long I joined the regular Margie rotation.

I thought I was helping someone keep Shabbat. But Margie, I soon learned, wasn't Jewish. She had been raised Presbyterian and as an adult gravitated to evangelical churches. She was especially devoted to a non-denominational church in East Durham and, for a while, members of that church would drive her to church, too. As a journalist who covers religion, my interest was piqued. I had met evangelicals who wanted to convert me but Margie was not one of them.

She was, what some might call a "philosemite." She loved Jews. When I got to know her better she explained that she had grown up in Rochester, New York's Brighton neighborhood, which then, as now, was heavily Jewish. She had Jewish friends from the time she was in grade school and was frequently invited to birthday parties and later bar and bat mitzvahs. As a teen, she babysat for Jewish families and took piano lessons from Jewish teachers. She was especially fond of saying that she was born in 1948, one month before the State of Israel came into being. Some of these expressions about Judaism carried a decidedly Christian cast, but I was not offended.

Over the years, Margie and I became friends. I was not oblivious to her flights of fancy, — more accurately, her delusions. When I first met her, Margie was in love with President Barack Obama. She wrote to him daily and fantasized they were lovers. I later learned those daily letters occasioned a visit from the Secret Service to make sure she was not a threat. (This was not a delusion; her family confirmed it.) She was also in love with Rabbi Steve Sager. If people at Beth El knew anything about Margie, they knew this.

I was not Margie's only Beth El friend. In addition to Sheva, Sheldon Hayer, Jonathan Breitzer, Sol Levine, and most especially Malachi Hacohen, helped care for Margie. We marveled at her past. Margie was fluent in at least six languages. She had impressive academic credentials — an undergraduate degree from Stanford and a graduate degree from the University of Chicago. She traveled widely through Communist Eastern Europe and wrote a book about Polish religious pilgrimages and festivals. I often thought she could have been a brilliant anthropologist, a la Margaret Mead. She was keenly interested in culture and ritual.

(continued on page 17)

(continued from page 16)

Margie was gregarious, charming and, when it came to men, unfailingly flirtatious. One of her biggest regrets was that she never married. She was always looking for love. That's how she came to North Carolina; she was pursuing an old University of Chicago classmate, then teaching at UNC. That love, like many others, remained unrequited.

A few years into our friendship, I learned more about her past. Margie had her first psychotic breakdown in her mid 20s as she was traveling through Europe researching her book. The diagnosis was schizophrenia, and she spent years in and out of mental hospitals.

Margie was plagued by nightmares — blood-curdling visions of amputations and cannibalism. Terror was her most frequent companion. “I’m afraid,” she often used to say. In religious ritual, she found not only an academic interest but also a balm, a way to quiet her mind. It offered her comfort, closeness and connection.

At Beth El, she was drawn to the Orthodox Kehillah and that's where she often found a seat, with the chumash and siddur — sometimes open, more often closed — on her lap. In small, intimate spaces she found relief and respite. Years earlier, she had taken a biblical Hebrew class with Sheva and she followed Hebrew prayers as she could. She memorized the Hamotzi in Hebrew and the Prayer for Peace in English.

Singing, chanting, bowing, rising, eating — these were the acts that grounded and comforted her. Knowing this, I volunteered to drive her to church once a month after her church friends stopped doing so. Tears streamed down her face when she sang church hymns. Nothing gave her more joy.

Except maybe human company. Margie cared deeply for people and she especially loved children. She always brought gifts; cards she had drawn or crafts she made at the Durham Senior Center. She insisted on buying a gift for each of the b'nai mitzvah she got to know. She could be quite headstrong and often alienated people with her overweening affections. Over the course of the past year, when she could no longer walk, I would report to her about the Beth El members she was fond of — when I had last seen them, what they had shared. She remembered them all.

In April 2021, Margie fell and broke her femur. A few months later, she was admitted to Duke Hospital for breathing difficulties. During her final months at Carver Living Center, Margie struggled to square her love of Jews with her devotion to Christianity. I told her not to worry about it. As far as I was concerned she was an honorary Jew. This pleased her and she loved to hear me say it.

I brought her some chocolate hearts on Valentine's Day. She died four days later.



Purim Fun!



Thank you to our donors!

Annual Fund with Tributes

Robin Barth, in memory of her parents, Harold and Nora Barth

Risa and Ira Botvinick, in memory of Rabbi Sager's mother, Beverly Joan Stevens

Elizabeth Brandwein Cohen, in appreciation of Rabbi and Jennifer Greyber hosting them

Raina Elsner and David Andrews, in memory of Pearl Fuchs Schechter

Stuart and Karen Factor, in memory of Stuart's mother, Evelyn Factor

Lois Flaherty, for Healing Yoga

Robert and Gail Ginsberg, in honor of Kevin and Andrea Ginsberg's 20th wedding anniversary

Valerie and Matthew Glassman, in memory of Rabbi Greyber's uncle, Michael Cohen

Matthew Glassman, in honor of Valerie's recognition from the Association for Student Conduct Administration

Donna Goldstein, in memory of her brother, Howard Goldstein

Donna Goldstein, in appreciation of Amy Montana for her help during Donna's illness

Rabbi Daniel and Jennifer Greyber, in appreciation of Leslie Winner, for her extraordinary dedication and leadership as Beth El's president during an extremely challenging two years!

Lauri Klein, in memory of Eric Lipp's stepmother, Diane Lipp

Francine Lerner, in appreciation of the Hacothen Family

Rose and Isaac Levy, in memory of Rose's father, Elias Gadli

Alexander Markman, in memory of his beloved father, Sidney Markman

Annual Fund with Tributes, cont.

Arthur and Judy Marks, in honor of Alan Friedman

Eric Mlyn, in memory of Judy Byck

Alyne O'Keefe, for the speedy recovery of Ryan M. O'Keefe

John Rees and Julia May, in memory of Sally Friedland

Richard and Carole Stein, in honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Saul Janiak Stein

Bertha Bergman Library Fund

Joel Abramowitz, in memory of his mother-in-law, Helen Rosenzweig

Michele Dubow

Sheldon Hayer

Caryn Hertz and Larry Marks, wishing Rabbi Steve Sager and his family a Refuah Sheleymah; in gratitude for Ed and Sharon Halperin's enduring friendship and hospitality

Beth El Art Fund

Sheldon Hayer

Beth El Synagogue Playground Project

Leah Austin, in memory of Phil Singer

Risa and Ira Botvinick, in honor of Karen Burns, Beth El's Volunteer of the Year

Donald and Sheila Goldstein, in memory of Phillip and Annette Skoletsky's son, Jay Skoletsky; Krisha Miller's father, Ike Parkey

Sheldon Hayer

Leslie and Cheryl Saper

Cemetery Expansion Fund

Arthur and Judy Marks, in memory of Arthur's parents, Ann Glickman Marks and Alexander Marks "forever of blessed memory"

Cemetery Expansion Fund, cont.

Syd and Krisha Miller, in memory of Syd's grandmother, Edna Miller

Cemetery Fund

Joel Abramowitz, in memory of his father, Sam Abramowitz

Shula and Steve Bernard, in memory of Shula's mother, Hanah Landau

Sheldon Hayer

Marilyn Levine Hogle, in memory of her parents, Joseph Levine and Dorothy Brody Levine

Philip and Annette Skoletsky, in memory of Philip's brother, Theodore "Teddy" Skoletsky

Chevra Kaddisha

Stephen and Shula Bernard, in memory of Nathan Bearman's great-aunt, Pearl "Pearlie" Fuchs Schechter

Rachelle Bienstock and Scott Snyder, Julia and Shira, in memory of their mother and grandmother, Eleanor Bienstock

Jeffrey Bleiberg, in memory of his father, Herman Bleiberg

Noah C. Gradofsky

Sheldon Hayer

Sol and Sheila Levine, in memory of Sheila's father and Sol's father-in-law, Alfred Korkin; their grandmothers, Rae Korkin and Dora Levine

Community of Caring

Nathalie Goodrich, in memory of her father, Samuel Levy, and brother, Bernard Lee; her husband, Harold Isaac Goodrich

Sheldon Hayer

Arthur and Judy Marks, in honor of Susan Springer, Lauri Klein, and the Chanukah Gift Bag committee

Thank you to our donors!

Community of Caring, cont.

Evelina Moulder, in honor of Susannah Bell's Bat Mitzvah

Evelina Moulder, in memory of Anne Derby's mother, Phyllis Kerner Rafterman

Evelyn and Michael Reed, in appreciation of the Community of Caring

Annette and Philip Skoletsky, in gratitude to the Community of Caring for the wonderful food they received

Susan Springer, in appreciation of Carol Haynes, Abby Zarkin, and all of the volunteer Chanukah bag drivers

Matt and Susan Springer, in loving memory of Rabbi Sager's mother, Beverly Joan Stevens

Gary and Abby Zarkin, in honor of the High Holiday kit volunteer drivers

Earl and Gladys Siegel Endowment Fund

Bob and Laura Gutman, in honor of the Board Members who have pledged to the Endowment and in prayer that the others, as leaders, will soon add their names

Sandy Berman, in memory of Krisha Miller's father, Ike Parkey

Anne and Jeff Derby, in memory of Dr. Robert Rosenstein

Sheldon Hayer

Carol and Jimmie Haynes, in honor of Susannah Bell's Bat Mitzvah

Carol and Jimmie Haynes, in memory of Krisha Miller's father, Ike Parkey, and Syd Miller's stepfather, Benjamin Furst

William and Cheryl McCartney

Doug Merrill and Lori Bernstein, in memory of Syd Miller's stepfather, Benjamin Furst, and Krisha Miller's father, Ike Parkey

Earl and Gladys Siegel Endowment Fund, cont.

David and JoAnn Rubin, in celebration of the birth of Samantha Jane Zarkin, granddaughter of Abby and Gary Zarkin; Susannah Bell's Bat Mitzvah

David and JoAnn Rubin, in memory of Brian Ginsberg's mother, Dveire Ginsberg, and Eric Lipp's mother, Diane Lipp; Daniel Weinreb's father, Lloyd Weinreb; Rabbi Greyber's uncle, Michael Cohen; Shelah Bloom's father, Jerome Hershel Bloom; Philip and Annette Skoletsky's son, Jay Alan Skoletsky; Krisha Miller's father, Ike Henderson Parkey III; Syd Miller's stepfather, Benjamin Furst

Education & Youth Director's Fund

Robert and Gail Ginsberg, in honor of Lewis Gold's milestone birthday

Donna Goldstein, in memory of Krisha Miller's father, Ike Parkey

Sheldon Hayer

Caryn Hertz and Larry Marks, in honor of the birth of Allison and Josh Zarkin's daughter Samantha

Ira and Nan Kolko, in memory of Nan's father, Sidney Lazarus

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

Eric Pas Camp Scholarship Fund

Stephen and Shula Bernard, in memory of Annette and Philip Skoletsky's son, Jay Skoletsky; Krisha Miller's father, Ike Henderson Parkey III; Rabbi Sager's mother, Beverly Joan Stevens; and Diane Sasson's mother, Dorothy Roberts Hynde

Stephen and Shula Bernard, in honor of Ezra Davis's Bar Mitzvah; Marilyn Ornstein's special birthday

Eric Pas Camp Scholarship Fund, cont.

Bernie, Shari, and Gavi Fischer, in memory of Robert Rosenstein and in honor of Pat Fischer

Sheldon Hayer

Barrie and Jean Hurwitz, in memory of Brian's mother, Dveire "Dee" Ginsberg

Alan and Mary Joan Mandel, in memory of Alan's mother, Esther Mandel, Mary Joan's mother, Peggy Bossard Bush, and Mary Joan's brother, Paul Bossard

Arthur and Judy Marks, in memory of Judy's beloved parents, Beulah and Harold Goldstein

Arthur and Judy Marks, in honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Marilyn and Peter Ornstein's grandson, Ezra Davis

Eric and Carol Meyers, in memory of Carol's mother, Irene Lyons

General Fund

Anonymous, in appreciation of Sheri Hoffman's hard work and kindness

Jonathan and Susan Breitzer, in memory of Krisha Miller's father, Ike Parkey; Sydney Miller's stepfather, Benjamin Furst; and Rabbi Sager's mother, Beverly Joan Stevens

Stephen Buchbinder, in honor of Mara Buchbinder, Jesse Summers, and Simon Summers

Arlene Dubin, in memory of Marjorie Young

Sheldon Hayer

Caryn Hertz and Larry Marks, in gratitude for Kevin and Ann Leibel's friendship and hospitality

Thank you to our donors!

General Fund, cont.

Ann and Stuart Kaplan, in memory of Ann's mother, Eleanor Barclay

Leslie and Cheryl Saper

Rabbis Eric and Jenny Solomon, in memory of Rabbi Sager's mother, Beverly Joan Stevens

Gilbert Katz Scholarship Fund

Judy and Lew Siegel, in memory of Judy's mother, Ruth Watnick Scherr

Hartman Institute Fund

Lewis Margolis and Linda Frankel, in memory of Lewis's father, David Margolis

Bret and Roslyn Tayne, in honor of the birth and Brit Milah of their grandson Henry Burleson

High Holiday Food Drive

Joel Abramowitz

Evelina Moulder

Kiddush Sponsorship Fund

Sheldon Hayer

Landscaping Fund

Sheldon Hayer

Lifelong Learning Fund

Risa and Ira Botvinick, in honor of Susannah Bell becoming a Bat Mitzvah

Arna and Saul Brandel, in memory of Rabbi Sager's mother, Beverly Joan Stevens

Laura Flicker, in memory of Robert Rosenstein

Sue Gidwitz, in memory of Libby Vaughn's mother, Diana Vaughn, Barry Yeoman's father, Neil Yeoman; Daniel Weinreb's father, Lloyd Weinreb

Donna Goldstein, in memory of Rabbi Sager's mother, Beverly Joan Stevens

Lifelong Learning Fund, cont.

Sheldon Hayer

Caryn Hertz and Larry Marks, in honor of Nathalie Goodrich's and Sylvia Leibel's birthdays

Mort and Cheryl Malkin, in memory of Mort's father, Les Malkin

Arthur and Judy Marks, in memory of Rabbi Sager's mother, Beverly Joan Stevens

Mary Berman Technology Fund

Caryn Hertz and Larry Marks, in memory of Rabbi Greyber's uncle, Michael Cohen and in gratitude to Rabbi Greyber for his teaching the Hartman courses

Men of Beth El (MoB) Fund

Steven and Kimberly Friedman, in memory of Eric Lipp's stepmother, Diane Lipp

Mitzvah Fund

Paul Aaron, for the Afghan Refugee Project

Sophia and Benjamin Abram, for the Afghan Refugee Project

Joel Abramowitz, for the Afghan Refugee Project

Nathan and Rachel Bearman, in honor of Susannah Bell's Bat Mitzvah

Diane and Harold Bloomfield, for the Afghan Refugee Project

Marshall Botvinick and Karen Burns, for the Afghan Refugee Project

Richard Cramer and Jane Gabin, for the Afghan Refugee Project

Lori Ebert, for the Afghan Refugee Project

Bob and Norma Gindes, Burmese Refugee Project

Mitzvah Fund, cont.

Donald and Sheila Goldstein, for the Afghan Refugee Project

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Henry Greene and Marilyn Telen, for the Afghan Refugee Project

Lynne Grossman, in memory of her brother, Michael Gladstein

Bob and Laura Gutman, for the Afghan Refugee Project

Edward and Sharon Halperin, for the Afghan Refugee Project

Hope Hartman and Bob Wechsler, in memory of Libby Vaughn's mother, Diana Vaughn

Hope Hartman and Bob Wechsler, for the Afghan Refugee Project

Sheldon Hayer

Carol and Jimmie Haynes, for the Afghan Refugee Project, in honor of Hunter Levinsohn's awesome baking

Caryn Hertz and Larry Marks, in gratitude for Adam and Beth Goldstein's friendship and hospitality; in honor of the birth of Gary and Abby Zarkin's granddaughter Samantha, and their 40th wedding anniversary; in gratitude for Hy and Loretta Muss's enduring friendship and hospitality

Caryn Hertz and Larry Marks, in memory of Brian Ginsberg's mother, Dveire Ginsberg; Nathan Bearman's great-aunt, Pearl "Pearlie" Fuchs

Cynthia Hogle, for the Afghan Refugee Project

Valerie Horwitz and Jerry Schreiber, for the Afghan Refugee Project

Stuart and Ann Kaplan, for the Afghan Refugee Project

Thank you to our donors!

Mitzvah Fund, cont.

Sandi Kronick, for the Afghan Refugee Project

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Hunter and Jay Levinsohn, for the Afghan Refugee Project

Jewish For Good, for the Afghan Refugee Project

Diana and Stan Levy, in honor of the birth of Matthew and Katie Perault's son, Isaac Zander Perault

Diana and Stan Levy, in memory of Peter Perault's mother, Ethel Liebe Zander Perault

Alan and Mary Joan Mandel, for the Afghan Refugee Project

Lee and Elaine Marcus, for the Afghan Refugee Project

Linda McBride, in honor of Pearl and Beth Levine

William and Cheryl McCartney, for the Afghan Refugee Project

Eric and Carol Meyers, for the Afghan Refugee Project

Adina and Dan Middleman, in honor of Ann Middleman's 75th birthday

Marc Moskovitz and Barb Carter, for Purim Matanot L'evyonim

Evelina Moulder, for the Afghan Refugee Project

Evelina Moulder, in memory of Krisha Miller's father, Ike Parkey, and Syd Miller's stepfather, Benjamin Furst

James and Selaine Niedel, for the Afghan Refugee Project

Elen Oneal and Ezra Miller, for the Afghan Refugee Project

Mitzvah Fund, cont.

Peter and Marilyn Ornstein, for the Afghan Refugee Project

Edy Parker, for the Afghan Refugee Project

Steve Prince and Debbie Goldstein, in honor of Eric Meyers, Imam Abdullah Antepli, and Evelina Moulder

Jacob Schonberg and Sara Yates, for the Afghan Refugee Project

Scott and Randi Smith, for the Afghan Refugee Project

Maxine and Alan Stern, in memory of Krisha Miller's father, Ike Henderson Parkey III; Syd Miller's father, Benjamin Furst; and Anne Derby's mother, Phyllis Kerner

Jon and Debbie Wahl, for the Afghan Refugee Project

Ina Wallace and Ugo Goetzl, in honor of Ezra Davis's Bar Mitzvah

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Lewis Bateman, in honor of the birth of Layla Senter, daughter of Elizabeth and Michael Senter; the birth and Brit Milah of Shoham Tzipilevich, son of Devora and Elhanan Tzipilivech

Stephen Buchbinder, in honor of Jesse Summers

Simon Divilov

Sheldon Hayer

Hillel and Charlotte Koren

Pew Tzedekah Project

Philippe and Nicole Chemla, on the occasion of Purim

Prayer Book Fund

Steve and Sally Brown, in memory of Anne Derby's mother, Phyllis Kerner Rafterman

Sheldon Hayer

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Anonymous

Joel Abramowitz, in memory of Rabbi Greyber's uncle, Michael Cohen; Anne Derby's mother, Phyllis Kerner Rafterman; Rabbi Sager's mother, Beverly Joan Stevens

Leah Austin, in memory of Rabbi Sager's mother, Beverly Joan Stevens

Steven Bachenheimer, in memory of his mother, Friedel Bachenheimer

Harold Baranger and

Meg Anderson, in appreciation of the Wednesday Torah study sessions

Lewis Bateman, for the Beth El Library, in memory of Rabbi Greyber's uncle, Michael Cohen

Barton and Josiane Cobert, in memory of Barton's father, Henry Cobert

Sandy and Harvey Cohen, in memory of Sandy's father, Irving Levine

Jaclyn Cohen and Nathan Nussbaum

Harvey and Sandy Cohen, in memory of Harvey's mother, Anne Cohen

Michele Dubow

Patricia Fischer, in memory of Rabbi Sager's mother, Beverly Joan Stevens

Adam and Beth Goldstein

Donald and Sheila Goldstein, in memory of Syd Miller's stepfather, Benjamin Furst

Donna Goldstein, in honor of Imam Abdul Waheed helping in my time of need

Andrea Greyber, for the Afghan Refugee Project

Thank you to our donors!

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund, cont.

Edward and Sharon Halperin

Martha Hauptman, in memory of Rabbi Greyber's uncle, Michael Cohen

Sheldon Hayer

Carol and Jimmie Haynes, in memory of Rabbi Greyber's uncle, Michael Cohen

Carol and Jimmie Haynes, for the Joint Distribution Committee to support Ukraine refugee relief

Caryn Hertz and Larry Marks, in gratitude to Orit Ramler and Gabi Szulik for their enduring friendship and hospitality

Valerie Horwitz and Jerry Schreiber, in memory of Rabbi Greyber's uncle, Michael Cohen

Irwin and Deborah Kahn, in memory of Irwin's father, Leon Kahn

Connie Katz, in memory of her parents, Irene and Don Hackel, and in gratitude to Rabbi Greyber

Ron and Jan Kirschbaum

Harold and Susan Kudler, in memory of Rabbi Greyber's Uncle Michael

Joel and Susan Leeb

Sol and Sheila Levine, in memory of Sheila's grandfather, Simon Korkin and Sol's grandfather, William Goldberg

Arie and Anita Lewin

Deborah Malizia, in appreciation of Rabbi Greyber's generous grieving assistance

Alan and Mary Joan Mandel, for Corey Gradin

Arthur and Judy Marks, in memory of Rabbi Greyber's beloved uncle, Michael Cohen

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund, cont.

Peter and Marilyn Ornstein, in memory of Robert Rosenstein, to support the congregation's efforts to feed the hungry and work to eliminate food insecurity

Katie and Matthew Perault, in honor of the Brit Milah of their son, Yitzhak Shai

Edith Pilzer, in appreciation of Beth El's High Holiday services

Claire and Howard Rockman, in memory of Claire's mother, Pearl Empey and Howard's father, Israel Rockman

Deborah Rosenstein, in memory of her husband, Robert Rosenstein, for children's hunger relief

Aaron and Courtney Rosenstein

Caryn Rossi and Perry Whitted, in memory of Krisha Miller's father, Ike Henderson Parkey III and Sydney Miller's stepfather, Benjamin Furst

Rowland, Miller + Partners, in memory of Robert Rosenstein

David and JoAnn Rubin

Margie Satinsky, in memory of her father, Alex Satinsky and Rabbi Sager's mother, Beverly Joan Stevens

Ellen Singer

Philip and Annette Skoletsky, in memory of Philip's brother, Bernard Skoletsky

Matt and Susan Springer, in honor of Rabbi Greyber for his leadership and his remarkable contributions to our community! And in loving memory of his uncle, Michael

Brian Stern, in appreciation of Rabbi Greyber

Larry and Janice Stolzenberg, in memory of Larry's mother, Erna Stolzenberg

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund, cont.

Laura Strauss, in memory of her husband, Harold Strauss

Ruth Thomson, in memory of her father, Philip Falk Aronowitz, and her husband, Lance Clifford Thomson

Norman Veis and Laura Meglin, in memory of Norman's mother, Martha Veis

Bob Wechsler and Hope Hartman, in memory of Rabbi Greyber's uncle, Michael Cohen

Marjorie Wolf

Jeff Zaleon, in honor of Rabbi Greyber

Rosi Ziegler and John Steege, in memory of Anne Derby's mother, Phyllis Rafterman

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Michele Dubow, for Healing Yoga

Margie Satinsky, in memory of Krisha Miller's father, Ike Parkey, and Syd Miller's stepfather, Benjamin Furst

Sandra Lazarus Youth Activity Fund

Sheldon Hayer

Synagogue Art Fund

Arthur and Judy Marks, in honor of the Bat Mitzvah of Susan and Joel Leeb's granddaughter, Daisy Leeb

Synagogue Life Fund

Sheldon Hayer

Arthur and Judy Marks, in memory of Anne Derby's mother, Phyllis Kerner Rafterman

Talmud Torah Fund

Jonathan and Susan Breitner, in honor of Susannah Bell's Bat Mitzvah

Sheldon Hayer

Thank you to everyone who planned and participated in our Spring Shabbaton!





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Beth El Schedule of Services

Friday evening services:

See monthly calendars for dates and times.

Saturday morning services:

Orthodox Kehillah services begin at 9:00 am

Main Sanctuary services begin at 9:30 am (Join us in-person, on Zoom, or view live on our website)

Weekday minyanim in person and on Zoom

Sunday mornings at 9:30 am

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



Our congregants love a good rivalry!