

June & July 2021, Volume No. 6
Sivan-Tammuz-Av 5781



echo

B E T H E L C O N G R E G A T I O N



Jerusalem sculpture spelling out “ahava,” Hebrew for “love.” (Robert Indiana/PikiWiki Israel)



Beth El Services

SERVICES

Sh'lah L'kha + Birkat Hahodesh Saturday, June 5

9:30 am Shabbat Shaharit**
7:30 pm Zoomdalah & Musical Ma'ariv
8:07 pm Havdalah

Korah Saturday, June 12

Birthday Shabbat
9:30 am Shabbat Shaharit**
7:30 pm Zoomdalah & Musical Ma'ariv
8:10 pm Havdalah

Hukkat Saturday, June 19

Pride Shabbat
9:30 am Shabbat Shaharit**
7:30 pm Zoomdalah & Musical Ma'ariv
8:12 pm Havdalah

Shivah Azar Betammuz - Fast Sunday, June 27

3:44 am Fast begins
8:15 am Minyan
8:12 pm Fast ends

Balak Saturday, June 26

Anniversary Shabbat
9:30 am Shabbat Shaharit**
7:30 pm Zoomdalah & Musical Ma'ariv
8:13 pm Havdalah

Pinhas + Birkat Hahodesh Saturday, July 3

9:30 am Shabbat Shaharit**
7:30 pm Zoomdalah & Musical Ma'ariv
8:13 pm Havdalah

Mattot + Mas'ei + Rosh Hodesh Saturday, July 10

Birthday Shabbat
9:30 am Shabbat Shaharit**
7:30 pm Zoomdalah - Dance into the week
8:12 pm Havdalah
8:00 pm Musical Ma'ariv & Havdalah

D'varim + Shabbat Chazon Erev Tisha B'Av Saturday, July 17

9:30 am Shabbat Shaharit**
7:30 pm Zoomdalah & Musical Ma'ariv
7:38 pm Fast of Tisha B'Av begins
8:00 pm Ma'ariv & Eikah Reading
8:09 pm Havdalah

Shivah Azar Betammuz Sunday, July 18

8:12 pm Fast of Tisha B'Av ends
8:15 am Tisha B'Av Shaharit
1:00 pm Mincha

Va-ethannan & Tu B'Av Shabbat Nachamu Saturday, July 24

9:30 am Shabbat Shaharit**
7:30 pm Zoomdalah & Musical Ma'ariv

8:05 pm Havdalah

Eikev Saturday, July 31

Anniversary Shabbat
9:30 am Shabbat Shaharit**
7:30 pm Zoomdalah & Musical Ma'ariv
8:00 pm Havdalah

Kabbalat Shabbat every Friday at 5:45 pm

Candlelighting times:

Friday, June 4 | 7:17 pm
Friday, June 11 | 7:20 pm
Friday, June 18 | 7:23 pm
Friday, June 25 | 7:24 pm
Friday, July 2 | 7:24 pm
Friday, July 9 | 7:23 pm
Friday, July 16 | 7:20 pm
Friday, July 23 | 7:16 pm
Friday, July 30 | 7:11 pm

HOW TO PARTICIPATE:

Shabbat Shaharit | 9:30 am

**Live and limited in-person.

Sign up on the website at:

<https://www.bethelphoenix.com/form/Shabbat-registration>

OR virtual access through Beth El's Facebook page at: facebook.com/bethelphoenix

Daily Minyan and Kabbalat Shabbat* Monday - Friday 7:15 am and 5:45 pm Sunday 8:15 am and 5:45 pm

Join us on your computer, tablet, or cellphone at the following link: <https://zoom.us/j/92408568672>

Zoom Meeting ID: 924 0856 8672

Passcode: minyan

Call in: (253) 215-8782

Call in Passcode: 649433

MINYAN TIME CHANGES:

Thursday, June 10 & Friday, June 11

7:00 am (Rosh Hodesh Tammuz)

Monday, July 5 | 8:15 am

ECHO (USPS 4360) is published for congregants of Beth El Congregation monthly throughout the year, with the exception of combined issues in June/July and September/October by Beth El Congregation, 1118 W Glendale Ave, Phoenix, AZ 85021. Periodicals postage paid at: Phoenix Main Post Office, 4949 E VanBuren, Phoenix, AZ 85026. Postmaster: send address changes to: ECHO at Beth El Congregation, 1118 W Glendale, Phoenix, AZ 85021. Attn: Korina or call 602.944.3359, ext. 106. Reproduction in whole or in part without permission is prohibited.

June & July

Adult Education &
Programming
Register at bethelphoenix.com
or call (602) 944-3359

6/7

Rabbinic Reflections on the Divine Daily Schedule | 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm

Join Beth El Congregation and Valley Beit Midrash for this co-hosted virtual event!

Register @

<https://www.valleybeitmidrash.org/event/what-does-god-do-all-day-long-rabbinic-reflections-on-the-divine-daily-schedule/>

6/7, 6/14, 6/21, 6/28, 7/5, 7/12, 7/19 & 7/26

Hebrew 101
Mondays | 6:30 PM

A B C D E F
G H I J K L
M N O P Q R
S T U V W X
Y Z

Meeting link: zoom.us/j/659102971
Call in: (669) 900-6833

6/9 & 7/14



Beth El Book Club
Wednesday @ 6:30 pm

Love reading? Love schmoozing? Join us with a glass of wine (or your favorite refreshment) as we discuss

June book: *The Last Kings Of Shanghai* by Jonathan Kaufman

July book: *To Be A Man* by Nicole Krauss

Meeting link: zoom.us/j/948321834 | Call in: (669) 900-6833

6/13, 6/27, 7/11 & 7/25



Blanket Boosters
Sundays @ 1:00 pm



Volunteer crochet and knitting club! All blankets created are donated to those in need.

Meeting link: zoom.us/j/92408568672

Call in: (669) 900-6833

6/17

Praying for the Monsoon: An Arizona Liturgical Adventure

Join Valley Beit Midrash and Beth El for this co-hosted virtual presentation by Dr. Daniel Stein Kokin

Thursday | 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm

6/22, 6/29, 7/6, 7/13, 7/20 & 7/27



Intro to Judaism
Tuesdays | 7:00 -9:00 PM



Learn the basics of Judaism with Rabbi Stein Kokin

Register at www.bethelphoenix.com/event/intro-to-judaism



A. Nitzan Stein Kokin
Rabbi

Dear Chaverim,

Throughout our history, prayer has been a living organism, evolving in response to changing conditions and enriched through piyyutim (religious poetry). Our Siddur is continually being renewed! I would like to share with you a local liturgical initiative appropriate to the season and have invited its author to speak for himself.

Dear Beth El Community,

Anyone who knows me well is aware of my fascination for weather; my head is often, quite literally, in the clouds! So as we prepared to move to Phoenix two years ago, I looked forward to monsoon season, to the lightning, downpours, and haboobs that temporarily dislodge the typical Sonoran serenity. Alas, the 2019 monsoon was meager and that of 2020 even worse, the driest in Arizona's recorded history. Throw in an uneventful winter and it's no surprise that drought now grips our entire state.

Since I also like to create new liturgy reflecting contemporary concerns, and am worried about the ongoing regional decline in precipitation and its implications for our future, I have composed "Tefillat ha-Monsoon" a prayer for a bountiful monsoon season. To be sure, we Jews are most accustomed to pray for rain in Eretz Yisrael. But our tradition provides ample sanction and precedent for doing so wherever Jews reside.

My text is based heavily upon the traditional Tefillat ha-Geshem (Prayer for Rain) recited each year on Shemini Atzeret. But it also draws deeply from Parashat Hukat (Bamidbar 19:1-22:1), in which the Israelites struggle to find adequate water in the desert. As it happens, this portion is typically read around the start date of the Monsoon, enabling a wonderful linkage between Israelite past and Arizona-Jewish present. We will read "Tefillat ha-Monsoon" at Beth El on Shabbat Hukat morning (June 19) and other Southwest congregations plan to do so as well. The text is printed below and I encourage you to have it on hand for Shabbat Hukat. In addition, on Thursday, June 17, I will explore the prayer's engagement with biblical and rabbinic sources, and its allusions to figures from the Jewish and Arizona pasts at a joint Beth El/Valley Beit Midrash event. Please consider joining me on the 17th and/or 19th and I welcome your questions, thoughts, and feedback.

Thanks and with all best wishes,
Rebbetz Daniel

Today we do not thirst:

Canal and pipe flow forever full, in morning sun sparkle backyard pools.

But from no cistern can the cactus sip, for Ponderosa Pine no faucet drips,

As drought has dried soil and spring, and flora and fauna pine for drink.

And as we behold the parched landscape, can we not but meditate and think:

That our desires and demands have brought us to the brink?

So let us call upon the One, who once declared,

"Seedtime and harvest / Cold and heat,

Summer and winter / Shall not cease,"

To rewind the winds that have woefully waned

Restoring to Sonoran summers the evening rains.

And on this Shabbat Hukat / to renew the Monsoon as hukah.

Meshiv u-mashiv ha-ruah, u-morid gishmei malkosh
Cause the wind to return and blow, the monsoon rains to fall below

Remember our prophetess, the singer at the sea, the woman of the well

How upon her death in the desert, the waters waned.

And forgive the failing, the Israelites' passing over her passing;
thirty days long they mourned her brothers, their sister not one.

Meshiv u-mashiv...

Remember rod and rock, how they released a river,
relieving and refreshing man and beast.

And forgive our shepherd's striking instead of speaking, our gulping instead of drinking; how the site of sanctification submerged in quarrel.

Meshiv u-mashiv...

Remember how when God assembled the people, that they might drink,
Then Israel sang to the well, summoning its waters to rise anew.

And forgive the motive for their chant: the crushed arms and legs of enemy troops, washed away from Wadi Arnon's caves.

Meshiv u-mashiv...

Remember the queen, thanks to whose wise and steady reign

rains every Sabbath fell, expanding barley, lentil, and grain.

And forgive the voices that have silenced her name,
voided her legacy and cancelled her fame.

Meshiv u-mashiv...

Remember the fallen Hopi fighter, first of her kind. Though desert-born and desert-dead, pools of water accompanied her every step.

And forgive the oppression that troubled her tribe and our foolish venture that cost her life.

Meshiv u-mashiv...

Remember the rounder of rounds, the repairer of roofs, whose will You fulfilled, bringing benevolence, blessing, and bounty to our land.

And forgive the impertinence that brought first drizzle, thereafter flood,

to grant instead rains in their due measure from above.

Meshiv u-mashiv ha-ruah, u-morid gishmei malkosh, la-midbar ule-har, la-rekhes ule-emek

Cause the wind to return and blow, the monsoon rains to fall below

upon desert and mountain, ridge and valley.

Ve-nir'eh kol YHVH hotzev lahavot esh, ve-nishmah kol YHVH yahil midbar.

And we shall see the voice of the Lord forming fiery flames, and hear the voice of the Lord shaking the desert.

Nariah et bosem ha-Creosote sheha-geshem mevaser, We shall smell the Creosote's fragrance heralding rain,

Ve-nirkod be-z'rimat ha-mabul, et avirenu metaher.

And we shall dance amid the downpour's descent, purifying our air.

La-rotev velo la-yavesh! For wetness and not for dryness!

La-maleh velo la-reyk! For fullness and not for emptiness!

La-firya velo la-shmama! For flourishing not for barrenness!

Ana YHVH, hadesh meimeinu ka-kedem!

Please, Lord, restore our waters as before!



Jonathan Angress
Cantor

Dear Friends,

As we enter the summer months here in Phoenix, we begin to see a lull in the liturgical calendar. By this time, we have completed the Three Festivals with the most recent being Shavuot. And the High Holidays are not for another few months. Normally there are very few, if any, holidays during the summer for us to “celebrate.”

There is one observance that occurs each summer though not exactly a happy or celebratory one, Tisha B’Av, which commemorates the destruction of the Holy Temple and the siege of Jerusalem. Normally, we focus on the poignancy and somberness of Tisha B’Av. It is an observance of mourning after all. But this year, I feel we should look ahead and think more positively about our past, but more importantly, our future.

One genre of Jewish music that our community has only lightly experienced is that of Israeli music. The genre in and of itself has multiple facets ranging from folk songs to national music to new and modern music being composed by Israeli composers. One such example of new Israeli music has been slowly introduced to our community over the past several months. For those who have been attending our evening minyanim, our Friday night Shabbat service, and our Saturday evening Musical Ma’ariv, you will be familiar with the new melody of the Hashkiveinu prayer that we have been singing together as a community. This melody was composed several years ago by Israeli composer Oran Eldor, who was commissioned by Cantor Azi Schwartz of Park Avenue Synagogue in New York City to write it. I first sang this melody during our virtual parlor recital in January.

I would like to tell you a little bit about Oran Eldor. He was a composer for Sesame Street (Israel), Peg+Cat (PBS) and the musicals *Persephone* and *Damascus Square*. He is the composer in residence with Salome Chamber Orchestra. His music has been performed in Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, PBS Great Performances, Hollywood Bowl, in London at the Royal Opera House, in France with the Orchestre National des Pays de la Loire, at Schloss Elmau’ in Germany, the Verbier Festival in Switzerland, and other venues in Europe, Australia and across the U.S.

He has written orchestral dance arrangements for the 2015 Broadway revival of *Fiddler on the Roof* (the same production which starred Michael Bernardi). He also wrote orchestrations for John Legend, Andrea Bocelli, Kristin Chenoweth, Hugh Jackman, Deborah Voigt, Disney Parks, L.A Philharmonic, New York Pops, Alan Menken, *My Life is a Musical*, *The Great American Mousical*, *Ring Them Bells* (PBS), *Anastasia* (Cast Recording - Additional Orchestration), and *From Dust to Dreams* (PBS). He also serves as the composition

fellow at the Royal Opera House, London. He is a graduate of the BMI Musical Theater Workshop and the Berklee College of Music.

Born and raised in Israel, Eldor quickly became one of the top music directors and composers for Israeli theater, working at Habima National Theater, The Cameri Theater of Tel Aviv and Lessin Theater, as well as teaching in the leading theater schools in the country. He is the recipient of the Rokem Composition Award and the Esterhazy Quartet Composition Award. A prominent composer of contemporary Jewish prayer music and composer in residence of Park Avenue Synagogue whose prayers are sung regularly by hundreds of people in New York, Washington D.C., Miami, Los Angeles and London.

As you can see, Oran Eldor is not a musician and composer of little significance. And so it is an honor for me to incorporate his music into our community. Especially as we approach Tisha B’Av, we can think about how we have persevered through the destruction of our Holy Land and how we are now able to sing music that comes directly from the roots of Israel...another brick and stepping stone in the rebuilding of our land and our people.

Todah V’Zimrah,
Cantor Angress



Happy Retirement Ros!

Every morning since 1998, Ros Slovin, a fixture at Beth El’s Early Childhood Center, has greeted parents, toddlers, and older preschoolers with cheerful and warm *good mornings*, and *you look so cute today!* After dropping their children off, parents would often stop by Ros’s desk for a friendly hello, an update on friends or world events, and supportive, reassuring words that their child was in good hands and would have a great day! In so many ways, Ros has been the face of our preschool, embracing the Jewish values of kindness, care, and tzedakah.

Sadly for us, on Friday, May 28 Ros said her final good mornings and wished our preschool community goodbye. After over 20 years of dedicated and loving service, Ros is retiring. Throughout the years, Ros has touched so many lives and welcomed several generations of preschoolers and their parents through our doors. We wish Ros a tearful and loving goodbye and a huge thank you for all the *naches* she has brought to our Beth El Community.



Gregory Harris
Board President

Unsung Heroes – some of whom, sing!

Saying thanks and expressing gratitude. Frequently deserved. Infrequently given. Particularly to those who do good deeds, great deeds, needed deeds and random deeds of goodness. You know the folks that I am talking about. And despite their energy, their enthusiasm, their good cheer and can-do attitude, they receive and ask for little or no attention or thanks for their contributions – big and small and in between – to Beth El.

Later this year when we mark the High Holidays – in person we hope – on Yom Kippur we will spend some time pondering the fate of the scapegoat, a beast on to which we cast our sins. The Unsung Hero stands as the exact opposite. Rather than being seen as a stand-in for our community’s shortcomings, the Unsung Heroes are our role models and better selves, maybe even inspiring us to do even more good things, too!

This month, I want to take a few minutes to express my thanks to a few of our Unsung Heroes.

As the pandemic hit, the imperative of keeping the preschool in operation became readily apparent. Joanie Charnow and Ros Slovin met this challenge head on, along with the excellent preschool staff. And they did so without flinching. It was through their leadership that steps were taken to identify, establish and implement safeguards to keep the children, her staff, and families safe. While Ros is retiring, Joanie’s not done taking active measures to mitigate the dangers of COVID-19, and she is likewise taking steps to help parents feel comfortable with their decision to trust Beth El to be a haven for children and working families. Joanie’s efforts – past and future – are nothing short of amazing.

When Beth El went virtual, the davening did not stop. And because we are a participatory congregation and our praying is not a spectator sport, we needed someone to encourage engagement and participation in Shabbat and festival services. Glamorous as it sounds, this was not what led Ann Polunsky to continue her service to this congregation in ways that matched her spirit and the congregation’s embrace of Zoom. Instead of working the crowd inside the sanctuary as she has done for many years in order to line up those willing to take an aliyahs, Ann improvised. Each week during the pandemic, Ann has made calls, kept lists, sent reminders and played a key role in helping us to stay connected and grounded each Shabbat and festival celebration.

During the week, since long before the pandemic and continuing to this day, Beth El holds daily minyanim, morning and night. These services don’t put themselves on, and the clergy do not always lead and are not always present for these services. Instead, we have many members who eagerly lead these services. Yet, when these members attend, participate and lead the morning and evening service, they need to be given a communal thanks for enabling those in mourning, those saying yahrzeit and those present to make it possible for the mourners to mourn to assemble and pray as a group. One of

these regulars is Barry Aarons, who attends virtually every morning minyan throughout the year and leads the davening on three or more mornings each week.

Each Shabbat and on festivals, the service includes leyning from the Torah and chanting from the Haftarah. Every b’nei mitzvah knows or remembers the work needed to prepare for being called to this honor. Yet each week, we are fortunate to have several members of our congregation willing to take the challenge to lead us in this important part of our celebrations. One of these members stands out. As often as not, this member also makes calls to seek volunteers to read from the Torah or Haftarah. In the weeks leading up to his marriage to Evie, and in the months since, Daniel Rosen has not missed a beat, taking one, two, three or all of the readings each week.

There are many, many more examples of Unsung Heroes in our midst. Which means there’s more to come in the months that lie ahead. As we make our way forward following the lull enforced by the pandemic, we can all expect to be called upon to become more active parts of the community engagement that defines us as a community. There is room for all of us to act, and what we can see with the inclusive work of Joanie, Ros, Ann, Barry, and Daniel, is that the energy we give to Beth El will yield a tremendous windfall to ourselves and the entire congregation. That is the bargain that we have struck with one another as members of the congregation. And there is no time like the present to get involved.

One for all and all for one!

L’shalom,
Greg Harris



GIFT SHOP NEWS

Your Beth El Gift Shop has on display everything you need to celebrate Shabbat - from candlesticks to challah trays and Kiddush cups. There are also many gifts available for Father’s Day, anniversaries and more. Stop by, shop and thank the staff and volunteers for assisting you.

As always, there are Kippot and tallit for women and men, memorial candles and Shabbat and Ner-iot candles and Havdalah candles.

Reasons to shop at Beth El Gift Shop:

1. Supports YOUR Beth El
2. NO sales tax
3. Convenient
4. Custom orders offered for all Judaica



Alicia Moskowitz
Executive
Director

Dear Friends,

Upon writing this article, my prayers are with the people of Israel as they shelter themselves from a terrible onslaught of rocket attacks. My heart is with all of our loved ones in Israel, and I hope that a lasting peace returns as soon as possible to our spiritual homeland.

A Prayer for the State of Israel
Siddur Lev Shalem

Sovereign of the universe, accept in lovingkindness and with favor our prayers for the State of Israel, her government, and all who dwell within her boundaries and under her authority. Open our eyes and our hearts to the wonder of Israel, and strengthen our faith in Your power to work redemption in every human soul. Grant us also the fortitude to keep ever before us those ideals upon which the State of Israel was founded. Grant courage, wisdom, and strength to those entrusted with guiding Israel's destiny to do Your will. Be with those on whose shoulders Israel's safety depends and defend them from all harm. Spread over Israel and all the world Your shelter of peace, and may the vision of Your prophet soon be fulfilled:

“Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore” (Isaiah 2:4)

In good news, Beth El submitted an idea to the USCJ's Idea Generator contest with the purpose of looking to the future and developing creative solutions for the in-person/virtual engagement dilemma of our post-pandemic environment. Our idea was awarded Runner Up in the Ritual category and we have been asked to present our idea at an upcoming movement-wide webinar that will include the best ideas submitted to the contest.

Our idea is to connect in-person family Shabbat celebrations through Zoom to our virtual services. This would occur several times a year and be interactive between the host home and the virtual minyan with the host home leading or contributing to the service as they are together with their family and friends. This expands our current “Family Kabbalat Shabbat” program to further encourage hosting and community engagement between members and Beth El. We will be working hard over the summer to implement and refine this idea.

We are looking for people who would like to host a Shabbat dinner at their homes and be part of the fun. There are small stipends available to help offset the cost of hosting these dinners as well as technical assistance to connect to the virtual service if needed. Please contact Rabbi Stein Kokin or me if you would like to participate!

I hope everyone has a safe and fun summer!

L'Shalom,
Alicia Moskowitz

BETH EL WOMEN'S LEAGUE

On April 25, I was fortunate to virtually attend the 74th Spring Conference of the Pacific Southwest Region of the WLCJ. There were 106 participants from the sisterhoods in the region from California, Arizona, New Mexico, Nevada and Texas. The theme of “B'Yachad, Embracing the Future Together” was delved into by the panelists and in the breakout workshops in the afternoon. Some sisterhoods have been embracing the future together for a very long time. The El Paso sisterhood from Congregation B'nai Zion has been in existence for 100 years. Many other sisterhoods were recognized for milestones of 50 and 60 years of operation. We have a long way to go at BEWL, but I believe we got a great start with Anne Zaslow and Joan Sitver (of blessed memory) as presidents.

I wanted to share some of the highlights from the conference that made an impression on me. Rabbi David Klitzker moderated a panel including Dr. Ruth Fisher, Psychologist; Rabbi Adam Greenwald, Director of Introduction to Judaism at AJU; a physician, and an elementary school principal. The pandemic has had both positive and negative effects on our lives and our Jewish institutions. Rabbi Greenwald called it “the joys and oys of COVID”. He talked about being able to spend more time with his new baby, but worrying that he wasn't devoting enough time to work. There was a massive expansion of reach to students of AJU along with a drastic change in connection. When the Miller classes switched to online, class size doubled and now 20 time zones are represented in 11 countries worldwide. Dr. Ruth Fisher advised that we have to acknowledge the losses we have experienced during COVID-19 in order to grieve. Many of us have suffered from the loss of connection, physical touch, economic security and normalcy since the pandemic swept through the world. In order to survive difficult times, she gave the analogy that we should be like trees and grow deeper roots of spirituality, creativity and generosity. She also said hugs could release oxytocin and help to relieve stress. So, hug your friends, your spouse or your pet - if they've been vaccinated. If you have put your health care visits on hold, please schedule an appointment with your doctor or dentist soon.

During the afternoon workshop on Programming, I learned about many creative and fun ideas that we could adopt at BEWL: a Zoom paint party directed by a professional artist, Judaica Art Quilling and painting a Tu B'Shevat Garden Sign. One sisterhood showed an original film about an Iranian American Jewish artist who made historical sculptures out of seashells. I previewed a Zoom program about Jewish Gangsters that we plan to put on the BEWL calendar. Our Education Director, Judy Zola, has started planning for a Rosh Hodesh program on August 8, and our Pink Shabbat on October 16. We are looking to schedule a Mahjong fundraiser on a Sunday afternoon and welcome any suggestions for programs that interest you. You can email them to Judy at jaz4940@cox.net.

We plan to have FUN this year, but remember, there is no FUN without “U”.

Eileen Bloom, President, BEWL

TALMUD TORAH NEWS



Nanci Siegel Manson
Religious School
Director

Dear Friends and Families,

Another school year has come to an end and not one without its unique challenges.

I want to thank all of my staff for working tirelessly and creatively to keep our Talmud Torah students engaged in Zoom learning and committed to achieving Hebrew and Judaic studies at their fullest. We had excellent online attendance, thank you parents for this commitment, and enthusiastic sessions in the classroom as well as in our extra curricular opportunities. Special thanks to our online host, Ben Ulan, for a job well done and all his behind the scenes work, to both Cantor Angress and Rabbi Stein Kokin for leading us in prayer and various holiday activities, and to those Talmud Torah staff members who hosted cooking, art, study time sessions, and more to keep us connected while we were desperately missing being together.

I'd like to wish longtime Talmud Torah teacher, Nora Elias all the best as she retires from teaching in our school. Nora has been a part of Talmud Torah for nearly 18 years and has always given her students a "lifetime" of Jewish knowledge, a passion for our homeland and love of the Hebrew language to all of her students at Beth El. She will be missed in the Talmud Torah but will continue to teach in the preschool. We are currently in the interview process and will let you know when we find a new teacher for our 4th/5th grade class.

I am also adjusting my responsibilities here coming this fall and will no longer serve as the USYer Director or Family Engagement Facilitator. I will remain as your Religious School Director. For personal reasons, I need to be more available in my home life and found that this adjustment is the best and most fulfilling way for me to stay involved at Beth El with all the families and at the same time take care of my needs at home. We have begun interviewing for the Youth Advisor position and will let you know when the right candidate is found.

That's all for now. Please have a safe and restful summer and let's keep our fingers crossed that we can safely resume face to face learning opportunities in August.

Best,

Nanci

The 6th and 7th Graders of Talmud Torah have spent the school year reading and studying much from the Siddur. Teacher Wendy Rozov often asked the class to come up with their own version of various prayers. Here is their creation of an ABC acrostic similar to the Ashrei. Each student was given a triplet of letters from the alphabet, and we combined the effort to make a complete piece.

Amidah

Baruch Atah Adonai Eloheinu Melech Ha-olam

Connecting ourselves to Adonai.

Dear God, thank you for freeing us and giving us the best life we could ask for

Excellent, giving us an amazing life without any struggle or desperate need of something

Few things go wrong compared to the things that go right thanks to God and everything He does for us

Growing, reading Hebrew by listening to the Ashrei

Hearing it makes me better at Hebrew

I feel happy when I listen to Ashrei

Just God, the most powerful ever.

Kindness is God's main power.

Legendary is the best word to describe God.

Meaningful words are the most important when talking to God.

Nature is God's creation so treating it well is important.

Owning your mistakes through the prayers of a book is better than nothing.

People both good and bad make the world grow.

Questions and curiosity that make the mind flow.

Relationships that make people smile thank you God for making life worthwhile.

Silence, I thank God for peace and quiet

Time so I can age and live

Usefulness so I can have accomplishments to celebrate.

Wonders of your creation surround us every minute, **X**-actly what we need at any given time.

Your mercy is known to all who love you

Zachor- remember us for the good things we do.

Preschool News



Joanie Charnow
Preschool Director

The end of the school year, as always, was bittersweet as it is always hard to say good-bye to our Pre-K class. Our Pre-K class had their graduation in Beth El's Shapiro Hall and only 2 adults per child could attend (of course, masked and socially distanced). We also streamed it on Zoom for those who could not attend.

It was especially hard this year as we said goodbye to Ros, our office manager, as well. Ros has worked at Beth El since 1996 and we will all miss her. Her replacement is Erin Curnutte who spent the last 2 weeks in May learning the ropes before officially starting June 1.

Our COVID-19 protocols are still in place and we are being very careful; however, the children are now allowed more freedom on the playground and the vaccinated teachers no longer need to wear masks outside. Now that the heat is upon us, we enjoy keeping cool with our misters and shade structures.

Mother's Day celebrations were different this year, but we still managed to spoil our mothers with beautiful gifts that the children made for them in class. The Pre-K class also did a special Zoom presentation for their moms.

We are looking forward to a fun-filled summer followed by a new school year. Before school starts we will have our floors waxed, some walls painted and, thanks to First Things First, get some new equipment.

I wish you all a safe and enjoyable summer.

Joanie Charnow
Director





Beth El Announcements

Yom Huledet Same'ach to our June Birthdays

Date

- 1 Eleanor Sussman
Joan Mendelson
Jerome Targovnik
- 3 Cantor Jonathan Angress
- 4 Kenneth Levy
- 5 Andrea Becker
- 6 Harold Walzer
Rebecca Rittenberg
Bonnie Shirakhoon
- 8 Helaine Kaplan
- 10 Lisa Serbin
Michael Apfel
- 13 Mark Goldberg
Alena Cantor
- 14 Susan Reynolds
Debra Gelbart
- 15 Barry Frankel
Naomi Yablon Maheri
Elliot Blau
- 18 Gerald Webner
- 19 Anne Schafer
- 20 Phyllis Silberstein
- 21 Wendy Adair
Stephanie Becker
Michell Sorley
- 22 Rosemary Isaac
- 23 Selma Friedman
- 24 Terry Kelman
- 26 Elizabeth Naughton
Mark Schwartz
- 27 Nick Fotinos
Myra Millinger
- 28 Ron Woldoff
Joseph Portnoy

Yom Huledet Same'ach to our July Birthdays

Date

- 1 Joshua Schoen
- 5 Joan Mattisinko
Bennett Cooper
- 6 Paul Sacks
- 7 Joan Kalish
Suzanne Fuchs
- 8 Allyn Kluger
- 9 Max Allen
Daniel Stein Kokin
- 10 Hannah Glouberman
Lisa Segal
- 13 Morton Sitver
- 14 Jerry Faier
Lawrence Green
- 16 Farideh Behboodi
Jill Miller
Corey Goldstein
- 18 Stephen Winkelman
Stephen Nathan
- 19 Mayra Ramos
Cynthia Serbin-DuBrow
- 20 Rabbi Anemone Nitzan Stein Kokin
Lisa Chaiken
- 21 Stephen Glouberman
- 22 Janet Alpert
- 23 Seema Liston
- 24 Michelle Rosenbaum
- 25 Theodore Mendelson
Richard Feldheim
- 27 Iris Silverman
- 29 Joe Camacho
- 31 Henry Markiewicz

Birthday Shabbats:

June 12 & July 10



Mazal Tov to our June Anniversaries

| Date | Years Married |
|------|--|
| 5 | Patti & Herb Dreiseszun 63 Audrey Wolff & Steve Winkleman 33 |
| 6 | Lenka & David Siroky 17 |
| 8 | Deborah & John Wolfe 52 |
| 11 | Hannah & Stephen Glouberman 55 |
| 12 | Barbara & Louis Goldstein 66 |
| 15 | Pearl & Marvin Freeman 63 Janet & Brian Alpert 52 |
| 16 | Ronda & Sheldon Kottle 47 |
| 17 | Dawn & Ronald Serbin 26 Shelley & Barry Frankel 32 Ninfa & Ronald Lowe 48 |
| 18 | Loretta & Mark Goldberg 38 Betsy & Jeffrey Hill 49 |
| 19 | Leisah & Ron Woldoff 16 Rosemary & Melvin Isaac 40 Anne & Norman Zaslow 38 |
| 21 | Linda & Eli Barzilai 51 Marcia & Robert Mallin 51 |
| 22 | Esther & Sherman Adler 63 |
| 24 | Randy & Sheldon Dashefsky 42 |
| 25 | Tania & José Tafla 38 |
| 26 | Jane & Philip Paress 44 Iris & Sanders Switzer 61 Bonnie & Nouri Shirakhoon 38 |

Anniversary Shabbat: June 26 & July 10

Please note: If your name is not listed, please contact us so that we can update your information in our database.

We Remember:

Michelle Sydne Newman, daughter of Marcia Newman.



Mazal Tov to our July Anniversaries

| Date | Years Married |
|------|------------------------------------|
| 3 | Susan & Joseph (Rich) Cohen 54 |
| 4 | Joan & Theodore Mendelson 29 |
| 6 | Caryll & Gerald Webner 54 |
| 10 | Ann & Melvin Polunsky 55 |
| 13 | Pam & Butch Raphael 24 |
| 15 | Elliott Gould & Richard Sinovoi 50 |
| 26 | Eileen Bloom & Marvin Siegel 40 |
| 27 | Kathleen & Daniel Kahn 46 |
| 31 | Elaine & David Hirsch 44 |

Mazal Tov to:

Barbara & Michael Apfel on becoming grandparents. Woods Henley Apfel was born on April 30.

Ben & Leslie Cooper on their son Jared's acceptance into law school.

Patti & Herb Dreiseszun on the birth of their great grandson, Morgan Isaac Jacobson on April 28. Parents are Allyson & Whitney Jacobson.

Jan Nash and Suzanne Holland on completing their conversion process and formally becoming members of the tribe!

Kim & John Mertens whose daughter Emma was accepted into University of Michigan Law School.

Shelli & Daniel Silver whose son Noah graduated with a MC and daughter Rikki with a Ph.D.

Korina Springer on the marriage of her daughter, Jessica Allen, to Ryan Sumerlin on April 16. The newlyweds will reside in Glendale, AZ.

Gail & Paul Ulan, whose son Sam graduated from University of Arizona in May.



Thank you for the following
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birth
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The Kokin Family
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In memory of Seymour (Wally)
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Jeanne Milstein
In memory of Anna Milstein
Jeanne Milstein
In memory of Gene Hoenig
Jeanne Milstein
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Michael
Caryll & Gerald Webner
In memory of Raymond Zack
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In memory Ronald Lasky
The Barzilai Family
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In memory of Ida Cohen
Jeanne Milstein
In memory of Joni Cohen
Jeanne Milstein
In memory of Harry Cohen
Jeanne Milstein
In memory of Morris
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Jeanne Milstein
In memory of Evelyn Katz
Jeanne Milstein

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In memory of Janet Esther
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Louise Leverant
In memory of Anna Firestone
Louise Leverant

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In honor of her April birthday
Gail Ulan
In honor of their May birthdays
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Joan Rothfeld
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Lynda Ziskin*
In honor of their May wedding
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In memory of Raymond F.
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THANK YOU ALL
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THESE
CHALLENGING
TIMES!

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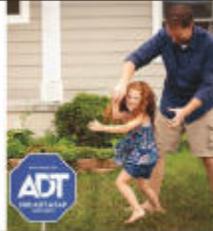
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