

"Honoring Tradition, Celebrating Diversity, and Building a Jewish Future"

THE BUILDER



CONGREGATION
BETH EL



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FROM THE RABBI

THE CHANUKAH-THANKSGIVING CONVERGENCE

by Rabbi Yoel Kahn

AS YOU PERHAPS HAVE ALREADY HEARD, Thanksgiving falls this year on a very unusual date — the 25th day of the Hebrew month of Kislev. And, 25 Kislev is, on the Jewish calendar, the first day of Chanukah. This year, we light the first candle of Chanukah on Wednesday evening (“Erev Thanksgiving”) and, in my family, will light two candles on Thursday evening just before we sit down to our Thanksgiving dinner. The 25th of Kislev begins Wednesday evening and goes through the following Thursday. (If you are sitting down to a midday Thanksgiving meal, and you want to light your chanukiah — go ahead and light two candles even if it’s before sunset!)

This year’s extremely rare (some claim unique!) convergence of dates also points to the deeper parallels between Chanukah and Thanksgiving. But first, about the dates.

Has this ever happened before? Well, as the saying goes, two Jewish mathematicians, three opinions! Thanksgiving, as we know it, was only established by Abraham Lincoln in 1863 — but the date of Thanksgiving floated around for a while. In 1888, when Thanksgiving was observed on the last Thursday of November (we now observe it on the fourth Thursday of November), Chanukah and Thanksgiving coincided.

Will it ever happen again? Well, it depends on what you mean by “it.” As soon as 2070 — in only another 57 years! — the 25th of Kislev will fall on the fourth Friday of November, making the first evening of Chanukah Thursday night of Thanksgiving. Does that count? This will happen again, by the way, in 2165. Mark your calendar.

Really, never? Well, hardly ever. According to Jonathan Mizrahi, a graduate student at the University of Maryland: “If the Jewish calendar is never modified in any way...Chanukah will again fall on Thursday, November 28, in the year 79,811.” (Just to be clear, that’s 77 millenia from now, plus another 598 years). Others have slightly different dates. However, because the lunar-based Jewish calendar and the solar-based Gregorian calendars are slightly out of sync, already in the year 15,115 (that’s year 18,876 on the Jewish calendar!), Passover will be celebrated in the summer...so perhaps something will be done to adjust the calendar before then. Still, Jews have lived below the equator and celebrated the holidays — including Passover in their Fall — for centuries.

Of course, who knows where we will be for the holidays in another 150 centuries? As Allan Sherman once sang in his deservedly (not very) well-known song, “Shine On, Harvey Bloom!” in which a young Jewish astronaut flies to the moon: “We hope you have a nice Seder/in your crater...”

What does Chanukah have to do with Sukkot? Sukkot, the fall harvest festival, is an ancient pilgrimage festival described repeatedly in the Torah. Chanukah, on the other hand, was not celebrated before the first century or so BCE (relatively recent as Jewish time goes), and the origins of its celebration and customs are obscure; the rabbis of the Talmud begin their discussion by asking: “What is Chanukah?”

One explanation for the eight days of Chanukah is found in the Second Book of the Maccabees. (There are, in fact, four “Books of the Maccabees,” none of which you’ve probably ever heard of, or read; they are not considered part of the Jewish sacred canon. The familiar Chanukah story of the oil is from a different source.) Second Maccabees quotes from a letter sent circa 125 BCE from the Hasmonean leaders in the Land of Israel to the leaders of Egyptian Jewry. They refer to the holiday as “The festival of Sukkot celebrated in the month of Kislev (November/December).” According to this account, the Jewish revolutionaries fighting against the Hellenists in the Maccabean revolt of 164 BCE were hiding out in caves and could not properly celebrate the eight days of Sukkot by making a pilgrimage to the Temple in Jerusalem. After they won the war and recaptured and purified the Temple, they observed a delayed Sukkot festival — for eight days. Thus, some claim, Chanukah is really “second Sukkot.”

“They celebrated it for eight days with gladness like Sukkot and recalled how a little while before, during Sukkot, they had been wandering in the mountains and caverns like wild animals. So carrying lulavs ... they offered hymns of praise [the Hallel prayer?] to God who had brought to pass the purification of [God’s] own place” (II Maccabees 10:6-7).

So where do the pilgrims fit in? It was in the Plymouth settlement on Cape Cod that the first “Thanksgiving” observance took place. While we don’t know a lot about the original celebration, a contemporaneous account from 1621 describes there were three days of feasting, in the company of Native Americans. Rabbi Elias Lieberman explains: “While we cannot be certain about what motivated those Pilgrim settlers to initiate a feast of thanksgiving, it is likely that they consciously drew on a model well-known to them from the Bible they cherished. Seeing themselves as new Israelites in a new ‘promised land,’ the Pilgrims surely found inspiration in the Bible, in the Books of Leviticus and Deuteronomy, in which the ancient Israelites are commanded to observe Sukkot, ‘to rejoice before Adonai your God’ at the time of the fall harvest.

“There is a strong thread which links from the ancient Israelite wilderness experience to that of the Pilgrims and the harsh years they endured as they strove to sink roots in this new land. Like

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SAFE IN ENGLAND, BUT *KINDER* ENDURE HARDSHIPS

by Elisabeth Wechsler

This is the third and last of three articles about Beth El member Alfred Cotton's experiences in, and eventual escape from, Nazi Germany. Refer to the August-September issue of The Builder for the second article and to the June-July issue for the first article. These can be found in The Builder archives on the Beth El website.

Once safely in England, the children's euphoria of being out of Germany lasted only briefly as Alfred's *kinder* (children's) transport group was quarantined in a North London hospital because one girl got scarlet fever during the sea journey. The boys and girls were housed separately but all the children were isolated for 10 days. Alfred didn't tell his parents about this setback, and later, when his parents found out, they scolded him by letter for not telling them about it. The quarantine was extended for another 10 days after the boys were taken to a market, but the boys "raised Cain" as there had been nothing to do at the hospital, so the refugee committee finally brought games for them to play. Alfred remembers the English porridge, their main food, as being "terrible."

Finally, the boys were taken to a boys' camp in East Anglia, England, where they lived in four cottages. Many adult refugees worked in the camp and the teachers were "very good," Alfred recalled. School was held in the morning and the boys were required to do chores in the afternoon — laundry, tailor shop, outdoor chores, etc. More has been written about life in these camps in *Into the Arms of Strangers: Stories of the Kindertransport*, edited by Mark Jonathan Harris and Deborah Oppenheimer. (The *kindertransport* literally means "children's transport.")

On September 1, 1939, Germany invaded Poland. Alfred was very concerned because his parents had moved back to Poland that July. Britain then declared war on Germany two days later and the *kindertransport* stopped. All mail correspondence also stopped, except through the International Red Cross, but it often took months for a letter to reach the intended recipient, Alfred recalled, and only 25 words (including address) were allowed. First, the mail went to the International Red Cross in Switzerland, then through censors to Germany and finally to German-occupied Poland. The same process happened in reverse.

Alfred was 14 1/2 at that time. Boys 16 and older were required to register with the British police and eventually were taken away to internment camps on the Isle of Man in the Irish Sea. Alfred's camp lost over half of its staff and the rabbi and was thereafter unable to function. The remaining boys were eventually sent to hostels in various cities; Alfred was sent to Sheffield, a steel-producing area. In Sheffield, the boys were looked after by three refugee women. The British regarded the boys as German, even though Alfred was technically Polish.

Soon, the German bombing of British cities began in a very methodical way; Sheffield was the target in December 1939. "This night was different from all other nights," Alfred chuckled sardonically. The boys went to a shelter in the basement of their house but could hear the sirens and explosions as buildings near them were hit. Hours later, the air-raid warden shouted down into the shelter, "Are you all right?" and the boys crawled out to a debris-filled street. The roof of their hostel had been heavily damaged, so the boys went to the public air-raid shelter for the night. The next day, they were moved to a temporary shelter in a church where there was food but no showers.

After two days there, the boys were moved to a synagogue and occupied the social hall. The authorities brought in only six mattresses for the 16 or so boys, and "sleeping was like being sardines in a can," Alfred said. The boys bathed in a public bathhouse. If they were needed to comprise two daily minyan at the synagogue, the *shammass* would call down to the social hall and ask for volunteers. The boys lived there for six months and then were moved around to several other locations, sometimes staying briefly with local English families, until the war was over.

In June 1941, Germany invaded the Soviet Union, and Alfred began to worry even more about his parents. He received a letter written in April but delivered in July: "We're fine and your grandparents are fine." The last one Alfred received was written in August 1942; he received it at the end of October or early November of that year. Quite unusually, it was typewritten and this concerned Alfred because his parents didn't use a typewriter for letters to him.

At the end of 1942 or the beginning of 1943, the world learned what was really happening in the concentration camps. By mid-1943 to 1944, Alfred realized that his parents had not survived. After the war, Alfred was able to confirm what had happened, and he was very upset. A list of survivors was posted every Saturday in Sheffield. He went in vain to look at the lists for his parents' names.

In 1953, when he moved to the United States, Alfred learned that 500,000 Jews had been killed in Belzec, an extermination camp in western Poland, between March and December 1942. He later found out that his parents perished there in October 1942. Most of his family died in various concentration camps. His mother's brother, who had survived in hiding up to this point, was caught on the street in Przemysl, Poland, by a retreating German officer, and shot.

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

WHY A SYNAGOGUE IS NOT A TENNIS CLUB

by Paul Sugarman

A FEW MONTHS AGO CONGREGATION BETH EL MARKED A MILESTONE: for the first time in many years, our membership grew to more than 500 households. That growth in membership (about 5 percent over the past two years) is a tribute to the hard work and dedication of our clergy, educators, staff and volunteers who collaborate to create a myriad of meaningful ways in which our members can connect with and participate in a sacred Jewish community. But it is also a tribute to each and every one of our members — all of you — who together foster a diverse and welcoming community that provides a home for members from different backgrounds and with different lifestyles, degrees of religious observance, family structures and ages.

Beth El's recent membership growth, however, masks a more concerning truth. Each year literally dozens of new members join our synagogue but, regrettably, each year dozens of other members drop their affiliation with Beth El. That fact should come as no surprise, as I suspect that all Beth El members know people who chose to discontinue their synagogue membership at some time in the past.

We lose members for several reasons. Some move out of town; a few, sadly, pass away; and occasionally a member opts to leave Beth El to join another local synagogue. But the majority of members who decide to leave our synagogue community do so because they feel they no longer "need" any Beth El program, particularly after their children have "completed" their Jewish education and become *b'nei mitzvah*.

In my view, this mindset regards synagogue affiliation as a series of fee-for-service transactions. One pays one's synagogue dues and programmatic fees as they arise — nursery school, youth education, day camp, *b'nei mitzvah* instruction — and then, when the need for the program is over, so is one's membership at Beth El. Belonging to a synagogue becomes akin to belonging to a tennis club: when you stop playing tennis, you naturally drop your membership. While I admire all those who choose to join our synagogue so that their children can receive the beginning of their Jewish education and become *b'nei mitzvah*, I often wonder what message is sent to those same children when they observe their family drop its Beth El membership after only a few years. Is affiliation with a synagogue something one does only while one's children are young? Is Beth El only a pediatric institution? Is this how they should act when, years hence, they are raising their own children?

I suggest, instead, that we regard belonging to Congregation Beth El as a continuing statement of individual and community Jewish self-identity, and not as a series of programmatic, fee-based transactions. Unlike playing tennis or engaging in any other activity in which one may someday lose interest, a Jew never ceases being Jewish or belonging to the greater Jewish community. One joins — and, I submit, should remain a lifelong member of — a synagogue to express the relevance and help assure the continuity of Jewish history and of the paradigmatic institution that has formed and shaped that history for millennia: the synagogue. And, as one ages, one should continue belonging to, participating in and supporting Beth El to assure that, as future lifecycle needs arise beyond the childhood years, one can draw upon Beth El's clergy and programmatic resources oneself and help assure that those resources remain available to future generations.

Imagine how more robust our Beth El community could be in just a few years if even just half of the members who otherwise might have chosen to drop their membership instead opt to remain a lifelong part of — and asset to — our synagogue community!

L'shalom,
Paul Sugarman

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MY JEWISH IDENTITY AND FEAR

by Marilyn Margulius

I HAVE TWO GREEN EYES! ONE SEES BEAUTY and goodness, but the other sees much more.

The Jewish film festival always gets me thinking about my Jewish Identity. This year, my consciousness level was raised by "Hannah Arendt," a film about the controversial German-Jewish philosopher. After the film, I went to a discussion and listened to the reactions of about 50 of my Jewish contemporaries. Later, at home, I read Arendt's controversial article, "Eichmann in Israel," written for the New Yorker magazine in 1963 about the notorious Nazi who sent so many Jews and other unfortunates to their deaths.

Arendt writes succinctly and eloquently, showing no fear. She was one of the fortunate German intellectuals able to leave Germany and escape Hitler. However, she was later rounded up in Paris with other Jews and taken to Gur, a French detention camp. She escaped and became a highly respected professor at New York City's New School. Many others did not escape from Gur and were killed in concentration camps.

I think few Jews – perhaps none – are really fearless. This may be why Arendt, a brilliant professor, could not control her own overly strong and seemingly arrogant manner. Arendt believed that Jews should have defended their freedom more strongly and that more advantaged Jews should not have cooperated with the Nazis to try to save themselves. She included this most disturbing opinion in the New Yorker article, which upset and angered readers, including some of her dearest friends.

Continued from page 2 - From Rabbi Kahn

the ancient Israelites of whom they read in the Bible, they were people of great faith who believed themselves to be sustained through God's great mercy and beneficence."

So is Thanksgiving a Jewish holiday? Of course. Because Sukkot, which is all about the harvest, Chanukah, which is about latkes, other deep-fried foods, and Thanksgiving all share that essential element of Jewish cultural and religious observance: "Now let's eat!"

Enjoy a joyous, bountiful and meaningful Thanksgiving/Chanukah season.

One More Fun Fact: According to the Jewish calendar, this year is 5774. That means that there are only 226 years until the Year 6K! Is your computer ready?

For ideas, blessings, resources, recipe instructions and other stuff about Chanukah — and the Thanksgiving–Chanukah calendar convergence — please visit www.bethelberkeley.org.



Rabbi Yoel Kahn

How does Arendt's premise jibe with the "programming" of Jews to be an oppressed people – by persecution, innuendo or even depictions in fine art? Do we escape fear if we assimilate or ignore the traditions of our birth? How can we successfully take on the centuries of myths and misinformation about Jews taught to each generation?

I was born in 1940, just before the Holocaust, which was implemented, as Arendt describes, by many like Eichmann who were part of the organized system in wartime Germany. Many considered themselves ordinary, not evil, people whose job was to carry out orders of their German leaders. Eichmann, at his post-war trial, rationalized that he felt good about carrying out his duty to his country. He stated that he had nothing against the Jews – "he just didn't think about it."

How many such ordinary, unenlightened people are still alive? Can they begin to feel better about themselves by successfully carrying out the orders of their superiors for their country or cause? Are they able to do this without thinking?

I am grateful to Arendt for her readable article, which informed me about the details of the Eichmann trial, and introduced me to the concept at work in this German Nazi totalitarian system, for which she coined the term the "banality of evil."

Fear has been one of the realities I have had to deal with my entire life. As a child, I internalized my family's reactions to events in Europe. I heard and understood what they said in Yiddish and I absorbed their fear of anti-Semitism.

Before age 9 my grandson, who did well at Hebrew school, walked me over to a painting of "The Crucifixion" at the Legion of Honor Museum and asked me, "who really killed Jesus Christ?"

A pastor friend recently spoke to me out of concern about the perceptions and dangers that still exist for Jews today in the United States of America.

It may be naive to hope that centuries-old harmful myths and perceptions will be changed. I wonder, are the Jewish people organized and united enough to focus on effecting real change in the perceptions of those outside our community? The new Pope seems to be off to a good start. Wouldn't this be a good time?

I love what I see with my other, more peaceful, green eye. It appreciates the many wonderful Jewish values, musical harmonies, and community spirit. I try to keep this eye focused on caring, goodness and the beauty in our world. But am I being realistic?

This article was written as part of the Beth El program, "Life Stories." A new session begins on October 24.

Many *kinder* dispersed from Britain after the war, although at least half remained there. Alfred was in touch with relatives in the United States as well as in Israel, but he decided to come to the United States.

Alfred didn't talk about his experiences during the Nazi era until 1990 when the U.S. branch of the Kindertransport Association held a meeting in the Catskills, New York, that November. About 1,200 former *kinder*, along with their spouses, children and grandchildren, gathered for that reunion. Alfred said it was "very moving" to talk with other *kinder*; he even ran into a math teacher he had had in Hamburg who subsequently married an older student from the associated girls school. She also had gone on the *kindertransport* from Hamburg.

A national conference is held in the United States every two years near the East Coast, Alfred said, as a majority of the *kinder* are over 80 years old. With the impetus of the 1990 national meeting, which lasted over three days, Alfred started the Northern California Chapter of the Kindertransport Association with Ralph Samuel, a former *kind* from Dresden. They planned their first meeting for an afternoon in April 1991. Much to their surprise, over 50 *kinder* plus spouses and the

second generation gathered in a social hall in an Emeryville apartment building.

The next local gathering is planned for late October 2013, sponsored by the second generation of *kinder*, to follow a Berkeley Repertory Theater performance of "The Pianist of Willesden Lane." The performance stars Mona Gobalek, who herself is a second generation *kind*, as they call themselves. The play is about a musical career stopped by the rise of Naziism.

Alfred came to California in 1954 and became an electrical contractor. He married Anita Rosenfeld in 1956. They had three children and now have four grandchildren. After coming to High Holy Day services for a few years, the Cottons joined Congregation Beth El in 1967. At the time, Anita's uncle, Fred Meyer, was president of the Board of Directors of Beth El.

NEW BOOKS IN THE LIBRARY

Donations to the Aaron Plishner and Rabbi George Vida Funds make it possible to buy new children's and adults' books. Here are some new adult books:

The Zelmanyaners by Moysha Kulbak is the first complete translation of a Yiddish novel, a classic of Yiddish literature and one of the great comic novels of the 20th century, describing the travails of a Jewish family in Minsk facing the profound changes of the new Soviet reality under Stalin, whose repressions of Yiddish writers resulted in the author's execution in 1937.

Avodah: Ancient Poems for Yom Kippur, ed. and trans. by Michael Swartz and Joseph Yahalom, is the first major translation, with the Hebrew facing, of the liturgical poetry composed by synagogue poets in 5th to 9th century Palestine and sung in the synagogue on Yom Kippur. The editors, professors at Ohio State and Hebrew University, provide introductions, giving the scriptural, historical, linguistic, artistic and hermeneutic background.

In Jews and Booze: Becoming American in the Age of Prohibition, Marni Davis explores the involvement of Jews, especially new immigrants, in the alcohol trade during Prohibition, when Henry Ford, prohibition advocate and anti-Semite, declared that, "The Jews are on the side of liquor and always have been." One chapter here is titled, "Rabbis and other Bootleggers."

Speaking Silences: Stillness and Voice in Modern Thought and Jewish Tradition by Andrew Ettin ranges through ancient and modern Jewish texts, from the Zohar to Yiddish poetry, from Talmud to Elie Wiesel, to show the power of silence in Jewish literature, as well as its necessity. Benjamin Harshav says, "The book touches on profound issues."

Franz Kafka: The Poet of Shame and Guilt by Saul Friedlander is the latest in the Yale series of Jewish biographies, following those of Moshe Dayan, Jacob, Hank Greenberg, King Solomon, and others. The author, Distinguished Professor of History at UCLA, grew up in Prague, as did Kafka.

That Ruth Wisse wrote ***No Joke: Making Jewish Humor*** is itself enough to recommend the book. Here the Peretz Professor of Yiddish Literature at Harvard examines modern Jewish humor around the world, with memorable examples in German, Yiddish, English, Russian and Hebrew, looking, for example, at how Jewish humor channeled Jewish learning and wordsmanship into new avenues of creativity. And there are a lot of good jokes.

**IF YOU HAVE HAD BOOKS CHECKED OUT FROM
THE LIBRARY FOR A LONG TIME, PLEASE RETURN
THE BOOKS SO OTHERS CAN USE THEM.**



BETH EL COMMUNITY GARDEN

by Debra Sagan Massey, RJE, Director of Education

WE WANTED TO UPDATE YOU on the amazing progress that has occurred in the garden this summer. Thanks to many of you the garden has been a key part in our camp program! Many of our preschool campers and Kee Tov campers have spent time in the garden this summer—trying new foods, learning how things grow, and connecting to the earth. It has been really wonderful!

We want to thank a handful of people who have been our angels! A big thanks to Andy Dale who helped to install a new hose and nozzle so we can water the garden from inside the fence. What a difference it makes! We also have benefited from the help and expertise of Cecile Isaacs and Jeff Gillman, who have done an incredible job of getting soil and filling the raised beds. We can't thank you enough for your work! We are also so grateful to Talya and Josh Weinstein, who have come every Sunday to water and tend the garden on the weekends.

Finally, I want to thank Abraham Weiss, our Urban Adamah intern. Abe has been an incredible gift to us! He took on the Garden Project and helped to get things growing this summer—including working with all of our curious campers. He has set up watering systems, built benches, weeded, planted and taught. We will miss having "Garden Abe" around, but we are so grateful for our partnership with Urban Adamah, which enabled him to join us!

We look forward to continuing to grow and harvest in our garden throughout the year. Please let me know if you would like to help out at a garden "work day," and we will make it happen!

A FRIDAY NIGHT EXPERIENCE FOR ALL

by Debra Sagan Massey

One of the newest programs we are excited to unveil is our monthly Family Shabbats on Friday nights. These services are designed to engage all Beth El congregants in a warm, fun community-rich experience. The evening will begin at 5:00 pm for our youngest families, with a Tot Shabbat led by our songleader, Isaac Zones. At 5:30 pm, we will all join together for dinner and at 6:15 pm we will have a family Shabbat service geared to our school-aged kids.

Isaac Zones will also lead this service, with the help of our students. Each month, a different grade will host the family service and the students will be given the responsibility to help decorate, usher and lead in some aspect of the service. We will be asking our class parent volunteers to help encourage other families to attend, as well as to coordinate food for the oneg.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES FOR YOUTH AND FAMILY EDUCATION

October

- 10/11 Congregational Shabbaton at URJ Camp Newman
- 10/17 All-School Service, parents encouraged to arrive at 5:40 pm

November

- 11/1 Shabbat Hosted by 6th grade families: Tot Shabbat at 5:00 pm; dinner at 5:30 pm and Family Shabbat Service at 6:15 pm
- 11/3 Sababa BBQ
- 11/10 Chanukah Bazaar
- 11/11 NO CHUG MISHPACHA- Veteran's Day
- 11/16 B'nei Mitzvah Family Program from 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm.
- 11/21 All School Service, parents encouraged to come at 5:40 pm.
- 11/24 Ruach Chanukah Party
- 11/26-30 NO CLASSES—THANKSGIVING VACATION

Our goal is to encourage all of the Beth El community to gather together for a Friday night Shabbat experience, to make it inspiring and meaningful, and to make it easy for you. All ages are welcome!

Mark your calendars and plan on being at Beth El for these Family Shabbats. We look forward to seeing you here!

November 1
December 6
January 10
March 14
April 4
May 2
June 13

BETH ELDERS PRESENTS PROGRAM ON "AGING FRIENDLY"

by Marilyn Margulius

DID YOU KNOW THAT ACCORDING TO UNITED NATIONS estimates, the number of older persons (60+) will double from the current 600 million to 1.2 billion by 2025, and again, to 2 billion by 2050?

The World Health Organization is developing guidelines to make front-line primary health care services more "age friendly" — that is, more accessible and responsive to the specific needs of older persons. Another aim is to engage diverse communities of people in as many countries as possible to organize and help make their own particular community more age-friendly.

Why is this so important? It is important because the majority of older people live in their homes and communities, but in environments that have not been designed with their needs and capacities in mind. Older people face increasing challenges due to the sensory and other changes that age brings. In an age-friendly community, policies, services and structures related to the physical and social environment, are designed to support and enable older people to "age actively" and continue to participate in society.

An age-friendly community benefits people of all ages. Improving air and water quality protects growing children and older persons with environmental sensitivities. Secure neighborhoods are safe for children, youth, women and older adults. Families experience less worry and stress when their older relations have the services and supports they need. The whole community benefits from the participation of older persons in volunteer or paid work and civic activities. And, finally, the local economy benefits from the patronage of older adult consumers.

Thanks to Rabbi Kahn, who asked me to represent Beth El as chairperson of Beth Elders and become a member of the

Committee on Creating an Aging-Friendly Jewish Community in the East Bay. We are involved in working within a grant received by the Jewish Federation of the East Bay, Jewish Family and Children's Services of the East Bay, and the Reutlinger Community for Jewish Living in order to present three community-sponsored forums to raise awareness on "aging friendly."

Rabbi Kahn has offered to host one of these forum meetings at Beth El so that our community can be involved and will address:

1. Helping to identify the issues and prioritizing them
2. Raising awareness of issues in the community
3. Facilitating fund-raising needed for additional activities and/or initiatives through the Jewish Federation's Community Planning table

We will keep you posted about these forums now in the planning stage and hope you will contribute your ideas in order to bring as many people as possible into the conversation. We know that many shy away from the words "elder," "senior," etc. and often these terms do not engender the respect that Judaism states is important when referring to those in a more advanced age demographic. Please let's think positively in terms of attitudes associated with aging: retirement/reworking; encore careers, etc. Let's think in terms of new challenges and new opportunities, caretaking and community building.

Each of the three forums will feature a professional speaker followed by your questions and comments. If you have suggestions for speakers, either as solo speakers or as panelists, please email them to me at mmargulius@comcast.net.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Your thoughts and opinions are important to us. If you have a subject of interest to the Congregation, write a letter or essay of a **maximum of 500 words** and submit it to: Editor, *The Builder*, emwechsler@earthlink.net by **November 1, 2013** for the December - January issue.

Letters, essays and guest articles may be edited for length and at the discretion of the **Marketing & Communications Committee**.

No anonymous submissions can be accepted.

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The **Marketing and Communications Committee** will offer guidance and suggestions for future issues of *The Builder*. **Interested members are invited to join the committee.** Contact jeff.seideman@earthlink.net

PEOPLE OF THE BOOK — FALL 2013 SCHEDULE

by Barry Silverblatt

Join the Congregation Beth El People of the Book group for lively discussions on fascinating books! Meetings take place on the third Thursday of the month beginning at 7:00 pm. You don't have to read the book to attend but it may add to your enjoyment!

October 17: *Nemesis* by Philip Roth: a novel set in the summer of 1944 that tells of a polio epidemic and its effects on a closely-knit Newark community and its children. Presented by Miriam Rabinovitz. This book is currently checked out of the Beth El library.

November 21: *Jews and Words* by Amos Oz and Fania Oz-Salzberger: novelist Oz and historian Oz-Salzberger roam the gamut of Jewish history to explain the integral relationship of Jews and words. Presented by Harry Margulius.

December 19: *Call It Sleep* by Henry Roth: the magnificent story of David Schearl, the "dangerously imaginative" child coming of age in the slums of New York. Presented by Wilma Rader. This book is on order by the Beth El library.

LUNCH AND LEARN SERIES PRESENTS FALL SPEAKERS

by Harry Margulius

The Lunch and Learn program at Congregation Beth El provides congregants, and the community at large, with the opportunity to explore interesting and timely topics at a luncheon meeting on the second Thursday of every month. The presenter is usually a congregant who is interested in a particular topic from a professional point of view or who is excited to share with us a meaningful or important experience/event in his or her life.

Thursday October 10: Lloyd Morgan, an active researcher in the field, will speak about "Children and Cell Phones, iPads and Laptops: What you should know." Lloyd follows world-wide developments in this field and is a member of the Board Directors of the Central Brain Tumor Registry of the United States.

Thursday November 14: Bruce Carter will share his personal experiences with us in his presentation: "Between Two Worlds: Straddling contemporary religious practice between Christians and Jews."

If you are interested in presenting a topic in this forum please call me at 510-919-8382 or send an email to h.margulius@comcast.net.

ROOTS AND BRANCHES: THE BOOK OF PSALMS

Begins **Thursday October 10, 7:30-9 pm**; ongoing through February 27.

Rabbi Yoel Kahn's open-ended, ongoing exploration of the texts and ideas of the Jewish tradition, will look at the Bible's Book of Psalms. No prerequisites, no homework; all texts are in English; everyone is welcome.

SAVE THE DATES:

Monday, December 9: Rabbi Arik Asherman, Rabbis for Human Rights, at Congregation Beth El.

February 8, 2014: The Beth El Gala

February 21-22, 2014: Prof. Sarah Benor, "Jewish Languages and Jewish Identity," Allan and Tybil Smith Kahn Scholar-in-Residence.

NEED A LITTLE HELP?

Hebrew Free Loan provides interest-free loans to Jewish residents in Northern California who need assistance or are pursuing life-long dreams. Loan categories include: student, adoption, business, first-time home buyer, unemployment, emergency, debt consolidation, and more.

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Since 1897, Hebrew Free Loan has provided vital assistance to more than 100,000 people. By offering loans rather than charity, Hebrew Free Loan helps people become, and remain, self-sufficient – the highest form of charity, according to Maimonides, the 12th-century Jewish scholar/philosopher.

Apply online for an interest-free loan! Visit www.hflasf.org. Call (415-546-9902) or email info@hflasf.org with questions.

PAINT ME LIKE I AM

This poem was written as part of the Beth El program, "Life Stories."
A new session begins on October 24th.

by Gerald Weintraub

Why don't you paint me like I am?
Paint me as a son, a brother, a husband, a father, and a grandpa
Who grew up in the East and came to California in 1969
Where I met my wife and raised three wonderful sons.

Paint me with a broad brush that encompasses the many colors of the rainbow,
Which represents my broad experiences in three-fourths of a century.
Paint me as a human being, an American and a Jew
Who is comfortable and proud in all of these realms.

Paint me as a Democrat with a capital "D,"
A political liberal who looks beyond the race and ethnicity of others,
And tries to follow the commandment of *tikkun olam*, repairing the world,
By involving myself in various kinds of community service.

Paint me full of life and love with a big smile on my face.
Paint me as a role model for my sons and grandchildren.
Paint me having a sense of humor, able to laugh at my own foibles.
And lastly, paint me as a mensch for that, truly, is what I aspire to be.

SCRIBES OF BETH EL

THE LAST DAYS OF THE DIVINE MORTAL RELATIONS OFFICE

by Esther Simon

Here is an excerpt of a short story written with the teenage-group, Scribes of Beth El.

The tiny Scottish village of Doors was possessed of a single shopping street. Most of the establishments had been open for centuries. The butcher's, the baker's, the pub, had all been open since the plague was big.

Of course, there were some new additions. The Tescos for instance had only come into existence in 1996 and the thrift store since 2000. Then there was the one shop front on the end of the street. It looked more or less like the other shops on the street, save the windows, bricked up sometime in the eighteenth century to dodge some tax or another, and the sign which had no words but displayed a peeling painted symbol that looked vaguely alchemical. In short, the place looked dangerous and no one ever went in.

Nevertheless, the Divine-Mortal Relations Office had remained open in this location and hundreds of others across the globe. The Divine-Mortal Relations Office, or DMR, had been a purveyor of charms, hexes and light weight divine intervention, as well as a number of very useful instructional books, for near on three millennia now, and though it had fallen on some hard times since the Enlightenment, it stayed, resolutely open in all its locations.

To continue reading, please go to: <http://www.bethelberkeley.org/learning/teens/scribes>.

The congregation is cordially invited to attend the service and kiddush following to honor these bar and bat mitzvah candidates:

B'NEI MITZVAH



Eleni Salesin will be called to the Torah as a bat mitzvah on Saturday, October 5 at 10:15 am. Eleni is the daughter of Andrea Lingenfelter and David Salesin.



Alex Van Deventer will be called to the Torah as a bar mitzvah on Saturday, November 2 at 10:15 am. Alex is the son of Lita Krowech and Herbert Van Deventer.



Emily Levenson will be called to the Torah as a bat mitzvah on Saturday, October 12 at 10:15 am. Emily is the daughter of Leo & Rebecca Levenson and Kathryn Levenson.



Maia Danks will be called to the Torah as a bat mitzvah on Saturday, November 9 at 10:15 am. Maia is the daughter of Sharon and Mark Danks.



Nat Kolligs will be called to the Torah as a bar mitzvah on Saturday, October 19 at 10:15 am. Nat is the son of Karen Frasier-Kolligs and Walter Kolligs.



Micah Klein will be called to the Torah as a bar mitzvah on Saturday, November 16 at 10:15 am. Micah is the son of Ruth Ehrenkrantz and Spencer Klein.



Liora Ami will be called to the Torah as a bat mitzvah on Saturday, October 26 at 10:15 am. Liora is the daughter of Betsy Ami and Tanir Ami Konecky & Josh Konecky.

Daniel Martinez-Krams will be called to the Torah as a bar mitzvah on Saturday, November 23 at 10:15 am. Daniel is the son of Sheri Krams and Olivia Martinez.

THE LONGEVITY REVOLUTION

Aging: If it's not yet your issue, it will be.



Over the coming year, the Jewish Federation is partnering with East Bay congregations and Jewish organizations to explore how we can work together to create an aging-friendly community. Our six sessions will include panel presentations and round table discussions. Admission is free for all sessions. Learn more/receive email updates: riva@jfed.org or 510.318.6453. Our complete schedule is at jfed.org/longevityrevolution.

The first in our series of forums:

AGING IN THE 21ST CENTURY

Sunday, October 20, 3:00 – 5:00 PM
Temple Isaiah, 945 Risa Road, Lafayette

Keynote Speakers: Maddy Dychtwald, Co-founder of Age Wave and Rabbi James M. Brandt, CEO, Jewish Federation and The Jewish Community Foundation of the East Bay

KOL ISRAEL: EARLY MUSIC PERFORMANCES

"Kol Israel: The Voice of Judaism in Early Music" continues our tradition of exploring and performing the music of the Renaissance and related periods outside of the traditional European canon. Our audiences this year will experience rare and seldom-heard Jewish music from the Medieval, Renaissance and Baroque periods. There is one concert left in the series:

October 6 – 4:00 pm

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav

290 Dolores Street, San Francisco

(There will be a pre-concert talk by Rabbi Reuben Zellman at 3:15 pm.)

LEARN, CREATE, CONNECT AND PLAY

AT THE BETH EL SHABBATON

by Anna Fogelman and Jessica Wolin, Shabbaton Planning Committee Co-Chairs

Over the weekend of **October 11–13**, the Beth El community will head north to Camp Newman, nestled in the hills of Santa Rosa, for a weekend in which we will learn, create, connect and play. The annual Shabbaton brings together our community to celebrate Shabbat through a program that includes workshops; kid, family and adult activities; communal meals; and Jewish celebration and learning. In addition to Beth El clergy and staff, we will be joined this year by:

- Rabbis Peretz Wolf Prusan and Dorothy Richman, guiding exploration of Jewish text and tradition
- Professional artists, facilitating creation of Jewish art and objects
- Isaac Zones, Beth El's songleader, inspiring community celebration through song
- Beth El members, leading engaging and fun activities that deepen community connections
- Kee Tov and BENS staff, providing fun for kids and infusing the weekend with *ruach!*

Falling after the High Holy Days and coinciding with the Torah portion of Lech Lecha, this year's Shabbaton is an opportunity for the community to launch the new year while "returning to our authentic selves." We invite you to unplug and join current and prospective Beth El members of all ages at the 2013/5774 Beth El Community Shabbaton.

Registration deadline is September 24, 2013. No one will be turned away for lack of funds; scholarships are available.

We hope to see you there!

THE TWO-SIDED STORY

by Judy Gussman

The Israel Committee of Congregation Beth El will be presenting an in-person dialogue with Robi Damelin and Bassam Aramin, two spokespersons from the Parents Circle–Families Forum.

The Parents Circle–Families Forum (PCFF) is a joint Israeli-Palestinian organization of over 600 families, all of whom have lost a close family member as a result of the prolonged conflict. The PCFF was established in 1995 by Mr. Yitzhak Frankental and several bereaved Israeli families. In 1998, meetings were held with a group of Palestinian families from Gaza who identified with the call to prevent further bereavement through dialogue, tolerance, peace and reconciliation. From 2000, the PCFF expanded to include Palestinian families from both the West Bank and East Jerusalem.

Joint activities have shown that the reconciliation between individuals and nations is possible and it is this insight that PCFF members are trying to pass on to both sides of the conflict. Moreover, the PCFF has concluded that the process of reconciliation between nations is a prerequisite to achieving a sustainable peace. The organization thus utilizes all resources available in education, public meetings and the media to spread these ideas.

Robi Damelin lost her son, David, to the conflict's violence, and Bassam Aramin lost his daughter, Abir. In keeping with their personal beliefs and with the position of the Parents Circle–Families Forum, each has chosen to work in support of reconciliation. Bassam Aramin is featured in the film, "Within the Eye of the Storm," and Robi Damelin is featured in "One Day After Peace," where both share some of their efforts toward that reconciliation process.

Please join us for **The Two-Sided Story**
 Congregation Beth El, 1301 Oxford Street, Berkeley
 Wednesday, October 16, at 7:00 pm
 \$10–\$15 suggested donation in support of PFCC event costs.
 No one will be turned away for lack of funds.
 Wheelchair accessible.

COMMEMORATING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF KRISTALLNACHT (THE NIGHT OF BROKEN GLASS)

On November 9 and 10, 1938, a wave of anti-Jewish pogroms took place throughout Germany, annexed Austria, and in areas of the Sudetenland. It was later named *Kristallnacht*, Night of the Broken Glass, from the shards of shattered glass that lined the streets in the wake of the pogrom from the windows of synagogues, homes and Jewish-owned businesses plundered and destroyed during the violence. *Kristallnacht* was a turning point in Nazi persecution of the Jews, and a precursor to the eventual attempt to annihilate the Jews of Europe.

Beth El will commemorate *Kristallnacht* at our Friday evening service on **Friday, November 8, 6:15 pm** with a special *d'rash* (teaching), readings and music in memory of those who fought and those who died during the Holocaust.

In commemoration of *Kristallnacht* and the *Kindertransport*, which brought children from Germany and other Nazi-occupied countries to safety in England in 1939, there are several special events scheduled throughout our local and global communities:

Sunday, November 10:

Broken Glass, Shattered Communities, Lehrhaus 360's *Kristallnacht* conference, 1:00–5:00 pm at the Jewish Community Library (on the campus of the Jewish Community High School), 1835 Ellis St., San Francisco 94115, 415-567-3327; register at: catalog.lehrhaus.org/course/2013/fall/X800B-JCL/ — the event is free and parking is free, but space is limited.

Sunday, November 17:

The Pianist of Willesden Lane, Berkeley Repertory Theater. *Kindertransport* survivors, the second generation and friends, will attend a 2:00 pm matinee. See www.berkeleyrep.org/season/1314/7242.asp for ticket availability. There may be a talk after the play, which stars Mona Gobalek, a second-generation *kind*.

Wednesday, November 20:

In London, a reception will take place in the House of Parliament to mark the debate 75 years ago that paved the way for the *Kindertransport*.

“Interfaith Story of Courage and Compassion”

by Marty Brounstein

Wednesday, October 2, 2013 at 7:30 p.m.

Northbrae Community Church

941 The Alameda, Berkeley

San Francisco Bay Area author Marty Brounstein will speak on his book, *Two Among the Righteous Few: A Story of Courage in the Holocaust*. It is a remarkable true story of interfaith compassion, courage and rescue, involving a Christian couple in the Netherlands who saved the lives of at least two dozen Jews during World War II and the Holocaust. This story also has a meaningful personal connection to our guest speaker. Book signing follows the talk.

**Open to the public.
A \$5.00 donation is suggested.**

An optional pasta dinner is served at 6:30 pm for \$7 and includes the lecture.

LATKEFEST

Join us on **Sunday, December 1 at 5:00 pm** for our congregation's annual Chanukah celebration, filled with music, latkes and lights. Our LatkeFest will be held on the Sunday of Thanksgiving weekend to gather as a community and celebrate this holiday of miracles.

The Men's Club will be busy making their delicious latkes as a grand finale to the Thanksgiving weekend. There will be activities for participants of all ages, as well as a wonderful opportunity to light our *chanukiot* (festive candleholders) together. Bring your *chanukia* and candles; we will provide the community and the *ruach* (spirit).

MEN'S CLUB PLANS ACTIVITIES FOR BETH EL FAMILIES AND ADULTS

The Men's Club's planned events throughout the coming year include:

- Making latkes for the annual Beth El Chanukah Latkefest celebration, which will take place this year on **Sunday, December 1**.
- Kids' Day at a nationally ranked Cal Women's Basketball game, with tickets priced at only \$1 for children and \$5 for adults. Last year's event drew almost 100 people despite competing with a 49ers play-off game. (The date of this year's event will be announced after the schedule for the 2014 conference games is available.)
- “The Day at the A's” at an A's baseball game. We sold our total allotment of tickets for this year's game against the Giants. Next year's date will be set after the A's schedule is announced.

We also plan adult-oriented events, including the Men's Club Shabbat honoring a Beth El member who has provided dedicated service to the congregation. This year's service will be held on **Friday, March 7, at 8:00 pm**.

The Men's Club sponsors speakers at Congregation Beth El and in private homes. Past speakers have included Professor Michael Nacht of the Goldman School; Professor David Tabb, formerly of San Francisco State University; and Jeff Brand, former Dean of University of San Francisco Law School.

All Beth El members, including women, are invited to join the Men's Club. Dues are only \$25 per year. We encourage any interested men of Beth El to actively assist in planning this year's events and to suggest new ideas to ensure that the Men's Club remains a vibrant part of the Beth El community.

For further information and to get on our email list, contact Andy Ganes at 510-525-2244 or email AGANES@pacbell.net, or Robert Goldstein at 510-548-0720 or email anambob@pacbell.net.

BRISKET IN NOVEMBER?

By Margie Gelb

This year, for the first time that I remember, Thanksgiving falls on Chanukah. This gives us license to make brisket for Thanksgiving. And not just any brisket – a classic Chanukah Brisket with latkes and all the trimmings. This recipe is included in my cookbook *The Lazy Gourmet* because it is embarrassingly easy to make. And astonishingly good. In addition, I recently made a tremendous leftover discovery — the brisket leftovers can be cut into small pieces and served as a meat sauce on spaghetti.

Chanukah Brisket

5-6 pound brisket
 2 teaspoons paprika
 1 teaspoon dry mustard
 Salt and pepper
 2 tablespoons olive oil
 2 onions, coarsely chopped
 4-5 cloves garlic, peeled and crushed
 2 carrots, peeled and coarsely chopped
 2 stalks celery, coarsely chopped
 4 sprigs parsley
 3 bay leaves
 1 six ounce can tomato paste
 1 ½ cups tomato sauce
 2 cups beef stock
 1 cup red wine
 ½ cup soy sauce
 1-14 oz. can cut up tomatoes



Margie Gelb, center, with her daughters.

1. Pre-heat oven to 325 degrees.
2. In a small bowl combine the paprika, mustard, salt, pepper and olive oil. Rub over the meat and let it rest while you prepare the vegetables.
3. Place the onions, garlic, carrots, celery, parsley and bay leaves in the bottom of a Dutch oven. Place the brisket on top of the vegetables.
4. In a large bowl combine the tomato paste, tomato sauce, beef stock, red wine, soy sauce and cut up tomatoes. Pour over the brisket.
5. Cover pan and roast for about 3 hours. A fork should penetrate the meat pretty easily. Remove cover and brown a half-hour more.
6. Remove meat from oven; cool. Remove meat from pot. Slice meat across the grain and place in a 9 x 13-inch roasting pan. Cool the sauce in the refrigerator. Remove the congealed fat. Process the sauce and the vegetables in the food processor, or with an immersion blender, adding stock if needed. Pour over meat. Cover and keep until ready to serve.
7. Reheat, covered with foil, in a 325 degree oven for a half hour.

This serves 10-12 people for dinner, 20 if it's part of a holiday pot luck. Preparation time: 30 minutes Cooking time: 3 ½ hours.

"LIFE STORIES" EVENING PROGRAM BEGINS ON OCTOBER 24

by Marilyn Margulius

Did you enjoy the guest articles in the August-September issue of *The Builder* by Barbara Segal and Beverly Eigner? They were both inspired by our "Life Stories" sessions. My story on p.5 and Jerry Weintraub's poem, "Paint me like I am," (see page 10) were also written during the sessions.

The Beth El eight-week Life Stories program for men and women will provide questions that are fun and easy to answer. They are designed to evoke memories from your younger days until now – a veritable fishing expedition for memories. The questions include important things you would like your loved ones to know. You may even have the beginning of a book.

Limited to eight participants. First come, first served; however we will try to achieve a balance of men and women.

Send your check as soon as possible to Congregation Beth El/"Life Stories" to reserve your spot. Please put Attn: Marilyn Margulius on the line at the bottom left of your check.

The following sessions are held **Thursday evenings, 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm:**

October 24, 31; November 7, 14; and December 5, 12 and Wednesday, November 20 and December 18.

FEE: \$50 for all eight weeks

Email me at mmargulius@comcast.net or phone 510-525-5010, with any questions.

MY PATH TO JUDAISM

by Elisabeth Wechsler

I came to Judaism through my first marriage — actually, after it was over. It was a very “lite” form that Tom and his parents practiced. My first husband never had a bar mitzvah, his parents lived in a Catholic neighborhood of Chicago and, although his parents were brought up in religious homes, Tom’s Jewish experience was almost nil. We did get together with his family for Pesach, but we skipped the story and ate lasagna. I’d been raised as a Presbyterian but had lapsed into being an agnostic.

Then, suddenly, one of my sisters died. I reached out to the Protestant church in my neighborhood, but I never really came back into the fold. For a few years I sang in the choir because I assumed Tom wouldn’t take part in the services. I also wrote the church’s newsletter. We did explore joining a synagogue on the North Shore of Chicago, but the Reform rabbi turned us away because Tom admitted that he liked to listen to the church music and meditate during services; the rabbi apparently thought that Tom wasn’t Jewish enough.

We moved back to California and had a rocky time resettling. Several years later after our divorce, I approached the associate rabbi of a Reform synagogue near where I now lived about converting. We had a very rational discussion, but I didn’t feel that this particular place would be my religious home — it was too big and impersonal. I asked observant Jewish co-workers about learning more, and some recommended books. The more I read, the more interested I became.

At that point, I knew I wanted the total immersion path to Judaism: I hoped to make up for the Jewish *bubbe* (grandmother) I never had. At a friend’s invitation, I started to attend services at a modern, lay-led Orthodox synagogue of Mid-Peninsula families, Israelis, students and faculty at Stanford University, many of whom were passing through town. The minyan was warm and welcoming to me. I wrote the newsletter

(it seems to be my destiny) and often entertained co-religionists for Shabbat lunch at my home. I was surprised and grateful that fellow congregants accepted my invitations since I didn’t complete the conversion process for nearly 11 years.

After being turned down for conversion by the Orthodox *beit din* (religious court), I sought out a Conservative rabbi, Sheldon Lewis (now retired), whom I later discovered held an Orthodox *smicha* (rabbinic ordination). I took his “Introduction to Judaism” class and went to Israel in 1992 with his congregation that included my husband-to-be, Jeff Seideman. And I studied and studied. I also took instruction from an Israeli Orthodox rabbi who was a member of the minyan’s congregation. We mainly covered the detailed laws of kashrut — that is, keeping a strictly kosher kitchen.

During the 11 years that I read Jewish volumes and studied the *Pirkei Avot* (lit., *Sayings of the Fathers*, a 16th century handbook of Jewish observance and ethics), I discovered that everything about Judaism made sense to me – to live one’s life every day with a commitment to ethics and compassion for others, and not to count on a better future in an afterlife, a big part of Christianity. I felt as one with the long history of the Jewish people and embraced my new community.

When I finally stood before the Conservative *beit din* in San Francisco with Rabbi Lewis and two other Conservative rabbis, I felt completely Jewish, and at peace. When Jeff and I married six months later, I could tell his family that I was officially Jewish. It took us 15 years to find Congregation Beth El, however, but that’s another story.

Elisabeth Wechsler is Editor of The Builder. She and her husband, Jeff Seideman, a director-at-large of the Board of Directors, have been members for two years and have enjoyed being active on several Congregation Beth El committees.

RABBI KAHN’S AND BETH EL MEMBERS’ HIGH HOLY DAY D’RASHOT

Rabbi Kahn’s Rosh Hashanah sermons on “Healing The Time-Space Fabric” (Erev Rosh Hashanah) and “Immigration Reform” (Rosh Hashanah morning) are available on our website at www.bethelberkeley.org/worship/high-holy-days.

Beth El Members’ Yom Kippur D’rashot

In honor of this year’s Adult Education theme—The Varieties of Jewish Identity—a diverse group of Beth El members reflected at Yom Kippur morning services on the question, “Who/What am I as a Jew?” We are grateful to our speakers and glad that their presentations were so meaningful to the congregation. You may especially want to read the talks from the Early service if you attend Late and vice versa! Several of the talks are available to read on our website at www.bethelberkeley.org/worship/high-holy-days.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS!

Terry Hicks and Tom Conroy, and Terry's grandson, **La'am**, 3, live in Berkeley. Tom, a bookbinder, bookbinding teacher and book conservator, has lived in Berkeley most of his life. Terry and La'am (his name means "he belongs to the people"), moved here from New Mexico about a year ago. Terry is a retired medical lab technician and teacher. La'am is "pursuing a budding career as a stunt man," says his grandfather, proudly. The couple "look forward to being involved and useful at Beth El" and appreciate the "warm, welcoming community you have built here," says Terry.

Sarah and Cheshire Isaacs have lived in the Bay Area for many years. Sarah grew up in Maryland and moved to the Bay Area from Tucson, where she served in AmeriCorps. Cheshire grew up in LA, moved north to attend UC Berkeley and stayed after graduating. The Isaacs joined Beth El when their daughter, Miriam (3) began preschool; they said they wanted to be "involved in the community."

Sarah is a civil rights attorney. Cheshire is a photographer and does design work and video professionally. Sarah's hobbies include quilting, cake decorating, drawing, dancing and singing. Cheshire's after-work pursuits include cooking, theater, movies, reading, writing, music, hiking and games, as well as photography. Daughter Miriam enjoys reading, cooking, art, music, games, gymnastics "and laughing." The Isaacs enjoy day trips around the Bay Area and visiting museums and parks. Sarah recently assisted with the Beth El Nursery School (BENS) yard and bake sale. She and Cheshire are interested in learning more about volunteer opportunities at Beth El.



Rinat Rosenberg-Kima and Doron Kima are originally from Israel, but moved to Tallahassee nine years ago. Doron completed his Ph.D. in music composition and Rinat finished her Ph.D. in Instructional Systems from Florida State University. She is also a programmer and currently works with the Learning Design Group at the Lawrence Hall of Science, UC Berkeley, focusing on new digital science curricula for middle



schools. Rinat and Doron have lived at UC Village in Berkeley since last October and have three children (Noam 7, Itamar 5 and Jonathan 2). "We love hiking and exploring the world, finding new places and listening to their beautiful sounds," Rinat said. The family heard about Congregation Beth El from "many other families" and personally got to know it better when their youngest son, Jonathan, joined the preschool. While living in Tallahassee, the family enjoyed taking part in various Jewish community activities, where they organized music performances and other events. "We would love to continue doing that in Berkeley," Rinat said. Doron received his bachelor's degree in piano performance at Amsterdam School of the Arts in Holland. You can view Doron's music by visiting www.doronkima.com.

Juliet Lee is a California native, raised in Texas. She also has lived in New Mexico, Hawaii and Asia. Juliet moved to the Bay Area in 1999 and has been involved in the Jewish community since then, including performing in the former band, Za'atar (traditional Sephardic and Mizrahi music). Juliet is an anthropologist and works in applied social research. "We were drawn to Congregation Beth El by the fabulous family and kid programs." Her son, Jacob (6) especially loves Camp Kee Tov. "We like making music and camping," she said. Jacob is pictured blowing the shofar on the cover of the August-September issue of *The Builder*. The photo was taken last year at the Tot/Family Rosh Hashanah service under the oak trees at Beth El.



Susan Marcus is originally from Rockville, Maryland, but the Bay Area has been her home for the past 20 years. Her two sons, Toren Miller-Marcus (10) and Rune Miller-Marcus (9), were at Tehiyah Day School for five years. "We are now sending them to public school but wanted to continue their Jewish and Hebrew studies," Susan said. "We live near Beth El and think that the synagogue will be a good fit for us." Their family interests run from hiking and camping to fine dining. Susan works for a land economics consulting firm in Berkeley. Susan was very active in the Tehiyah community and hopes to carry on that tradition at Beth El.

Dan Newman and Belinda Lyons-Newman have lived in Berkeley for over 15 years. Dan is originally from Philadelphia, and Belinda grew up in Montreal. Congregation Beth El attracted the



Newmans with its “friendly community” and Hebrew school. The Newmans attended the outdoor family High Holy Day services last year with their daughters, Ella (5) and Lilia (1) and really enjoyed them. Plus, they have the added advantage of living only two blocks from the synagogue. Dan is president and co-founder of MapLight, a national nonpartisan, nonprofit organization revealing money’s influence on U.S. politics. Belinda is a management consultant helping nonprofit organizations grow and sustain themselves at Lyons-Newman Consulting. They are both interested in being involved with family activities at Beth El.

Maia Beyler-Noily and Adam Noily have lived in the Bay Area for seven years,

with an extended sojourn in Paris, during which their son, Hillel (2), was born. They moved to Berkeley about a year ago. Adam is from San Francisco and Maia is from France. The family said that “many friends raved about Congregation Beth El,” so they joined, with the added advantage that it’s close to their house. Maia is working on her Ph.D. in French at UC Berkeley; she is also a GSI (teaching assistant) there. Adam works in finance. They both plan to volunteer at Beth El once they are settled in the community.



Rachel Schreiber is from Maryland and her husband, **David Gissen**, is from New Jersey and Virginia. Both hold Ph.D.s. They moved to Oakland in 2007 from Baltimore. Rachel is dean and vice-president for academic affairs at San Francisco Art Institute. David is associate professor and Interim director of architecture at California College of the Arts. What attracted them to Congregation Beth El was “the tradition in the services and the progressive politics,” Rachel said. “We have been coming to High Holy Day services at Beth El since we moved here and find the community very ‘hamish,’” Rachel said, using the Yiddish descriptor for “warm and friendly.” In her spare time, she is an artist and cultural historian and also likes to hike, practice yoga and sing. David is an architectural theorist and historian. He is also a self-proclaimed “wine nerd.” (See wine maps he designed at www.delongwine.com/metro-france-wine-map.php.) Rachel joined the Beth El Chorus last fall.

Ilana Kaufman and her daughter, **Noa** (7), who live in Berkeley; **Amie Miller**, of Albany; and **Jessica and Arshan Poursohi**, and their daughters, **Aliya** (3) and **Kira** (2), who live in Berkeley.

***The Shabbat You and Your Pets
Have Been Waiting For!***



BETH EL’S FIRST-EVER BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS SERVICE

Saturday, October 5, 1:00-2:00 pm

Many in our Beth El community have beloved family members of many different species. And many of us have lost beloved pets over the years, and would like to remember them at shul. Most of our Shabbat services are geared towards humans...but not on the afternoon of October 5th! On this Shabbat we read the *parashah* (Torah portion) of Noah, describing how Noah saves all the animals on earth from the flood. At 1:00 p.m., we welcome you and your animals to an outdoor Shabbat service at Beth El. We’ll read Psalms about the creation of animals, sing songs giving thanks for the amazing variety of life around us, and take time to name and remember beloved animal companions who have died. The service is followed by and oneg with human and animal treats.

All animals are welcome who can manage in a mixed-species crowd! Bring dogs on leashes, birds in cages, lizards, hamsters, fish...Rabbi Zellman will be leading this service and will give a special blessing to each animal in attendance.

CHANTING TORAH AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

by Rabbi Reuben Zellman

Do you speak trope?

HOW TO CHANT TORAH!

Adult Education class begins **October 22**

7 sessions: Tuesday evenings, October 22 – December 10, 2013
7:00– 9:00 pm (No class on November 26.)

Have you ever wondered how Torah chanters know what melodies to use, and where to start and stop? Have you been intrigued by the Torah's more fabulous dots and squiggles? These symbols are called "trope," and they give us the Torah's melodies, as well as punctuation and pronunciation. The system of chanting Torah is ancient, beautiful, fun and totally learnable.

There are 28 trope symbols and one of them is found above or below almost every word of the Torah. In this class we'll study how these symbols serve as the grammatical and pronunciation systems of the Torah. We'll learn how to chant each symbol and apply it, using the Eastern European musical system; and we'll listen to trope from a variety of Jewish cultures, including England, Yemen, Morocco and some of the common Sephardi systems. In addition we'll learn all the basics that a Torah chanter needs to know, including how to practice and how to find your way around the *tikkun*, the Torah preparation book. Finally, we'll explore how knowing the trope and how it works can deeply inform our understanding and interpretations of the meanings of our most sacred text.

No musical talent or previous familiarity is required; people of all backgrounds are welcome. The only requirement is basic ability to sound out Hebrew. Join Rabbi Zellman and fellow community members to learn how to do this mitzvah and have a whole lot of fun. For more information, contact me at RabbiRZ@bethelberkeley.org.

JOIN THE BAND! All instruments welcome: band, orchestral and folk. This year our band will be led by the fabulous Lisa Zeiler, who has many years' experience as a bandleader and music teacher. We are delighted to welcome Lisa aboard! The band is lined up to play at several special events at Beth El this year.



SING WITH THE BETH EL CHORUS AT BERKELEY'S MULTI-FAITH THANKSGIVING CELEBRATION

Rehearsals for Thanksgiving begin Wednesday, October 30,
7:00–9:00 pm.

Beth El's Chorus brings glorious harmonies to Shabbat services and High Holy Days, as well as community performances. The chorus is always open to new singers, and musical background is not necessary — all Beth El members who love to sing are encouraged to come check it out! We will next sing at Berkeley's wonderful annual Multi-faith Thanksgiving Celebration, Tuesday evening, November 26. Rehearsals will be four Wednesday evenings: October 30, November 6, 13 and 20, 7:00–9:00 pm.

Questions? You are encouraged to email me, Beth El's Music Director at RabbiRZ@bethelberkeley.org, or call 510-848-3988, x 228.

DO YOU HAVE WEBSITE, DATABASE OR PUBLICATIONS TALENT?

Attention web designers, database gurus, graphic designers and marketing/communications professionals: the Beth El Marketing & Communications Committee needs you! We've got some juicy projects coming up and can use your talents. We'll be adding functions to the Beth El website and the membership database. We'll be working on the e-update and *The Builder*. Contact Jeff Seideman at jmseideman@gmail.com if you're interested in joining us. We meet in the evening once a month.

October 5

Parashat Noach
Genesis 6:9 – 11:32
Ann Gonski

October 12

Parashat Lech-Lecha
Genesis 12:1 – 17:27
Ruth Spear

October 19

Parashat Vayeira
Genesis 18:1 – 22:24
Miriam Schiffman

October 26

Parashat Chayei Sarah
Genesis 23:1 – 25:18
Sara Kupor

November 2

Parashat Toldot
Genesis 25:19 – 28:9
Max Cooperstein

November 9

Parashat Vayeitzei
Genesis 28:10 – 32:3
Rabbi Yoel Kahn

November 16

Parashat Vayishlach
Genesis 32:4 – 36:43
Jeff Seideman

November 23

Parashat Vayeshev
Genesis 37:1 – 40:23
Maxim Schrogin

November 30

Parashat Mikeitz
Genesis 41:1 – 44:17
Bob Brandfon

DONATE TO BETH EL!

Please make checks payable to **Congregation Beth El** and mail to **1301 Oxford Street, Berkeley, CA 94709**

CONGREGATION BETH EL Fund Contributions

This contribution of \$ _____ is in Memory of* in Honor of*
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Acknowledge _____

From _____

To _____

Address 1 _____

Address 2 _____

It is a Jewish tradition to give *Tzedakah* to commemorate life cycle events and other occasions. Are you celebrating a birthday, engagement, anniversary, baby naming, bat/bar mitzvah or recovery from an illness? These are just a few ideas of appropriate times to commemorate with a donation to Beth El. These tax-deductible donations are greatly appreciated and are a vital financial supplement to support the wonderful variety of programs and activities that we offer at Congregation Beth El.

Thank you for your support.

- General Fund - Use Where Most Needed**
- Aaron Plishner Children's Library**
- Allan and Tybil Smith Kahn Memorial Fund**
- Arjmand Adult Education Fund**
- Building Fund**
- Camp Kee Tov Scholarship Fund**
- Chevra Kadisha Fund**
- David Cotton Memorial Swig Fund**
- Ellen Meyer Childcare Fund**
- Homeless Meal Program**
- Israel Scholarship Fund**
- Bar Lev Landscape Fund**
- Marian Magid Memorial Fund**
- Men's Club**
- Mitzvah Committee**
- Music Fund**
- Nursery School Fund**
- Oneg/Kiddush Fund**
- Prayerbook Fund**
- Rabbi Kahn's Discretionary Fund**
- Rabbi Emeritus Raj's Discretionary Fund**
- Rabbi Vida Library Fund**
- Social Action Fund**
- Youth and Family Education Fund**
- Youth Group Fund**



ALLAN & TYBIL SMITH KAHN FUND

Max & Bonnie Cooperstein in honor of Gil & Jessica Hudes' marriage
 Max & Bonnie Cooperstein in honor of Stuart Berman
 Steven Joseph & Corey Hansen-Joseph in memory of Tybil Smith Kahn
 Miriam Rabinovitz

ANNUAL APPEAL

Odette Blachman
 Clarke & Maria Daniels
 Jill Siegel Dodd & Martin Dodd
 Meera Sharnoff & Jonathan Feinsten
 Jack & Rose Gansky
 Eleanor Goldstein-Erickson
 Phyllis Isaacson
 Ann Gonski & John Scott
 Rabbi Yoel Kahn & Dan Bellm
 Ruth Ehrenkrantz & Spencer Klein
 Tami & Peter Linde
 Emily & William Marthinsen
 Alisa & Calvin Morrill
 Jim Gilbert & Susan Orbuch
 Marv Pearlstein
 Peter & Abigail Pletcher
 Suzanne Portnoy
 Stephen & Wilma Rader
 Ruth & Joshua Simon
 Michael Talkovsky
 Rachel Berkowitz & Jose Villagrana
 Beth Zeitman
 Phyllis Zisman

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Adele Amodeo
 Jeffrey & Susan Brand
 Barbara Fierer & Robert Brandfon
 Max & Bonnie Cooperstein
 Alfred & Anita Cotton
 Clarke & Maria Daniels
 Leah Emdy
 Linda Gerson
 Arthur & Carol Goldman
 Ellen Goldstein
 Nasrine Greene
 Donald & Ronna Honigman
 Esther & Mark Hudes
 Mary Jacobs
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 Carolyn Sweeney & Bruce Linton
 Sandra Luft
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 Stacey Shulman
 Angela Botelho & Barry Silverblatt
 Mary Stevens
 Laurie Swiadon
 Marc Davis & Nancy Turak
 Gerald Weintraub
 Phyllis Zisman

ARJMAND ADULT EDUCATION FUND

Towfig Arjmand in memory of Homayoun Arjmand
 Bruce & Susan Carter in honor of Gil & Jessica Hudes' marriage
 Leah Emdy
 Robinn & Daniel Magid in memory of Homayoun Arjmand
 Marilyn & Harry Margulius in memory of Marilyn's grandfather, Abraham Brendze

B'NEI MITZVAH TZEDAKAH

Jed Waldman

BRICK FUND

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 Desmid Lyon in the memory of Larry Frankel
 Moshe Maler & Susan Frankel in memory of Moshe's parents
 Linda Marchena in memory of Mike Klayman's father, Alfred Klayman
 2020 Builders & Joel Meltzer for their work on the Beit Midrash
 Herbert & Sondra Napell
 Miriam Rabinovitz
 Elisabeth Wechsler & Jeffrey Seideman in honor of their wedding

Aleksandr Shirman in memory of his wife, Bella Shirman
 Jonathan Simon & Christina Spaulding in honor of Avi
 Simon's Bar Mitzvah
 Tony Hecht & Michelle Wolfson in memory of
 Sidney Robert Hecht
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HIGH HOLY DAY CHILDCARE DONATION

Sarah & Cheshire Isaacs
 Julianne & Daniel McGarry
 Jennifer & Michael Robinson

HOMELESS MEAL PROGRAM

Steven & Ann Veta Brick in memory of George A. Brick
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 Ruth Dunham in memory of Betty Sherman
 Leah Emdy
 Esther & Mark Hudes in memory of Gideon Glueck
 and Leah Glueck
 Rayna Pletcher
 Gerald Weintraub in memory of Larry Sirott, in honor of Gil
 and Jessica's marriage and in memory of
 Peregrine Elan Gardner
 Sarah Olsen & Caleb Wolfson-Seeley in memory of
 Peregrine Elan Gardner
 Vadjiheh Yadegar in memory of Yadegar Yadegar

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 Donald & Ronna Honigman
 Martin & Jill Siegel Dodd
 David & Dorothy Golner

MARIAN MAGID MEMORIAL FUND

Max & Bonnie Cooperstein in honor of
 Dan Magid's recovery
 Helga Tannenbaum in memory of Marian Magid, Hugo
 Tannenbaum and Herb Simon

MEN'S CLUB

Anna Mantell & Robert Goldstein in honor of the birth of
 Livya Shira Maimon



MUSIC FUND

Towfig Arjmand in memory of Homayoun Arjmand
 Bruce and Susan Carter in honor of Livya Shira Maimon
 Donald & Ronna Honigman in memory of Charlotte Zallman
 James Gilbert & Susan Orbuch
 Fred & Ila Rothenberg
 Sarah Olsen & Caleb Wolfson-Seeley in appreciation of
 Rabbi Reuben Zellman for the bris of
 Nathaniel Ernst Wolfson-Seeley
 Margee & Kate Burch
 Molly Daniels

MITZVAH COMMITTEE

Allen King in memory of Joanne King

NURSERY SCHOOL FUND

Renee Passy-Zale for the chandelier
 Jennifer & Michael Robinson

RABBI KAHN'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Barbara Fierer & Robert Brandfon in memory of Ruth
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 Naomi Igra & Matthew Clausen
 Sali & Paul Johnson in memory of Josef Gold
 Robert and Sara Kupor in honor of Rabbi Kahn, Rabbi
 Zellman, Debra Massey and Maguy Weizmann McGuire
 Gary & Lois Marcus
 Debra Schoenberg in memory of Irwin Schoenberg
 Jed Waldman
 Janet Byron & Julia Wineger in memory of Blanche Reiman
 Bruce & Peg Winkelman in honor Noah Winkelman's
 Bar Mitzvah

RABBI VIDA LIBRARY FUND

Odette Blachman in honor of Elisabeth Wechsler and
 Jeffrey Seideman

YOUTH & FAMILY EDUCATION FUND

Jodi & Gordon Gladstone
 Nancy Gordon in memory Joanne King
 Rachel Siegel & Josh LeBeau

October 2013 / Tishrei - Cheshvan 5774

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 6:30 pm Beth El Band Rehearsal	2 4:00 pm Scribes of Beth El 7:00 pm Chorus Rehearsal 7:30 pm Intro to the Jewish Experience (offsite) 7:30 pm Midrasha Board	3 7:30 pm Lehrhaus: Beyond Basics 7:30 pm Ritual Committee	4 6:15 pm Shabbat Service	5 8:30 am Early Minyan 9:15 am Torah Study 10:15 am Shabbat Service: Eleni Salesin Bat Mitzvah 1:00 pm Blessing of Animals
6 3:00 pm Lehrhaus Judaica: Prayer Book Hebrew 4:00 pm Music for Sukkot (offsite)	7 9:30 am Parent-Child Play Group 2:00 pm Beth El Oral History 2:00 pm Library Committee 5:30 pm All-School Service	8 7:30 pm Executive Committee	9 4:00 pm Scribes of Beth El 7:00 pm Chorus Rehearsal 7:30 pm Intro to the Jewish Experience (offsite)	10 12:00 noon Lunch & Learn 7:30 pm Lehrhaus: Beyond Basics 7:30 pm Roots & Branches	11 Shabbaton (Retreat) at URJ Camp Newman 6:15 pm Shabbat Service	12 Shabbaton (Retreat) at URJ Camp Newman 8:30 am Early Minyan 9:15 am Torah Study 10:15 am Shabbat Service: Emily Levenson Bat Mitzvah
13 Shabbaton (Retreat) at URJ Camp Newman 3:00 pm Lehrhaus Judaica: Prayer Book Hebrew	14 9:30 am Parent-Child Play Group 2:00 pm Library Committee	15 6:30 pm Beth El Band Rehearsal 7:00 pm ECE Committee 7:30 pm Program Council	16 4:00 pm Scribes of Beth El 7:00 pm "The Two Sided Story" 7:30 pm Intro to the Jewish Experience (offsite)	17 6:15 pm Sababa Meeting 7:00 pm People of the Book 7:30 pm Lehrhaus: Beyond Basics 7:30 pm Roots & Branches	18 6:15 pm Yismechu Shabbat Service	19 8:30 am Early Minyan 9:15 am Torah Study 10:15 am Shabbat Service: Nat Kolligs Bar Mitzvah 1:00 pm Adult B'nei Mitzvah
20 2:00 pm Homeless Medical Clinic 3:00 pm Lehrhaus Judaica: Prayer Book Hebrew 5:00 pm Homeless Meal	21 9:30 am Parent-Child Play Group 2:00 pm Library Committee	22 All-day BENS Bet Class Field Trip 7:00 pm Adult Ed: How to Chant Torah 7:00 pm Board of Directors	23 4:00 pm Scribes of Beth El 7:30 pm Intro to the Jewish Experience (offsite)	24 6:30 pm JCF ECE Directors' Workshop 7:00 pm Life Stories: Beth El Oral History Group 7:30 pm Lehrhaus: Beyond Basics 7:30 pm Roots & Branches	25 6:15 pm Shabbat Service	26 8:30 am Early Minyan 9:15 am Torah Study 10:15 am Shabbat Service: Liora Ami Bat Mitzvah
27 9:30 am Midrasha Brunch 3:00 pm Lehrhaus Judaica: Prayer Book Hebrew	28 9:30 am Parent-Child Play Group 2:00 pm Library Committee	29 7:00 pm Adult Ed: How to Chant Torah	30 4:00 pm Scribes of Beth El 7:00 pm Chorus Rehearsal 7:30 pm Intro to the Jewish Experience (offsite)	31 7:00 pm Life Stories 7:30 pm Lehrhaus: Beyond Basics 7:30 pm Roots & Branches		

November 2013 / Cheshvan - Kislev 5774

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					<p>1</p> <p>5:00 pm Tot Shabbat</p> <p>5:30 pm Shabbat Dinner</p> <p>6:15 pm Family Shabbat Service</p>	<p>2</p> <p>8:30 am Early Minyan</p> <p>9:15 am Torah Study</p> <p>10:15 am Shabbat Service: Alex Van Deventer Bar Mitzvah</p>
<p>3</p> <p>1:00 pm Sababa BBQ</p> <p>3:00 pm Lehrhaus Judaica: Prayer Book Hebrew</p>	<p>4</p> <p>9:30 am Parent-Child Play Group</p> <p>2:00 pm Library Committee</p>	<p>5</p> <p>6:30 pm Beth El Band Rehearsal</p> <p>7:00 pm Adult Ed: How to Chant Torah</p>	<p>6</p> <p>4:00 pm Scribes of Beth El</p> <p>7:00 pm BENS Parent Workshop</p> <p>7:00 pm Chorus Rehearsal</p> <p>7:30 pm Intro to the Jewish Experience (offsite)</p> <p>7:30 pm Midrasha Board</p>	<p>7</p> <p>6:15 pm Madrichim Training</p> <p>7:00 pm Life Stories: Beth El Oral History Group</p> <p>7:30 pm Lehrhaus: Beyond Basics</p> <p>7:30 pm Ritual Committee</p> <p>7:30 pm Roots & Branches</p>	<p>8</p> <p>All day Midrasha Retreat</p> <p>6:15 pm Shabbat Service & <i>Kristallnacht</i> Commemoration</p>	<p>9</p> <p>All day Midrasha Retreat</p> <p>8:30 am Early Minyan</p> <p>9:15 am Torah Study</p> <p>10:15 am Shabbat Service: Maia Danks Bat Mitzvah</p> <p>4:00 pm Chanukah Bazaar Preview and <i>Kristallnacht</i> Movie Night</p>
<p>10</p> <p>All day Midrasha Retreat</p> <p>10:00 am Chanukah Bazaar</p> <p>3:00 pm Lehrhaus Judaica: Prayer Book Hebrew</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Veteran's Day - No Chug Mishpacha</p> <p>9:30 am Parent-Child Play Group</p> <p>2:00 pm Library Committee</p>	<p>12</p> <p>7:00 pm Adult Ed: How to Chant Torah</p> <p>7:30 pm Executive Committee</p>	<p>13</p> <p>4:00 pm Scribes of Beth El</p> <p>7:00 pm Chorus Rehearsal</p> <p>7:30 pm Intro to the Jewish Experience (offsite)</p>	<p>14</p> <p>12:00 noon Lunch & Learn</p> <p>6:15 pm Sababa Meeting</p> <p>7:00 pm Life Stories</p> <p>7:30 pm Roots & Branches</p>	<p>15</p> <p>6:15 pm Shabbat Service</p>	<p>16</p> <p>8:30 am Early Minyan</p> <p>9:15 am Torah Study</p> <p>10:15 am Shabbat Service: Micah Klein Bar Mitzvah</p> <p>1:00 pm Adult B'nei Mitzvah</p> <p>3:00 pm B'nei Mitzvah Family Program</p>
<p>17</p> <p>2:00 pm Homeless Medical Clinic</p> <p>3:00 pm Lehrhaus Judaica: Prayer Book Hebrew</p> <p>5:00 pm Homeless Meal</p>	<p>18</p> <p>9:30 am Parent-Child Play Group</p> <p>2:00 pm Library Committee</p>	<p>19</p> <p>6:30 pm Beth El Band Rehearsal</p> <p>7:00 pm Adult Ed: How to Chant Torah</p> <p>7:30 pm Program Council</p>	<p>20</p> <p>4:00 pm Scribes of Beth El</p> <p>7:00 pm Chorus Rehearsal</p> <p>7:00 pm Life Stories: Beth El Oral History Group</p>	<p>21</p> <p>5:30 pm All-School Service</p> <p>7:00 pm People of the Book</p> <p>7:30 pm Roots & Branches</p>	<p>22</p> <p>12:00 noon BENS Chanukah Celebration</p> <p>6:15 pm Yismechu Shabbat Service</p>	<p>23</p> <p>8:30 am Early Minyan</p> <p>9:15 am Torah Study</p> <p>10:15 am Shabbat Service: Daniel Martinez-Krams Bar Mitzvah</p>
<p>24</p> <p>1:00 pm Ruach Chanukah Party</p> <p>3:00 pm Lehrhaus Judaica: Prayer Book Hebrew</p>	<p>25</p> <p>9:30 am Parent-Child Play Group</p> <p>2:00 pm Library Committee</p>	<p>26</p> <p>No Classes Chanukah Vacation</p> <p>7:00 pm Multi-faith Thanksgiving Service (offsite)</p> <p>7:00 pm Board of Directors</p>	<p>27</p> <p>1ST NIGHT OF CHANUKAH</p> <p>No Classes Chanukah Vacation</p> <p>3:30 pm BENS Closes</p> <p>4:00 pm Scribes of Beth El</p>	<p>28</p> <p>THANKSGIVING</p> <p>BENS Closed</p> <p>No Classes: Chanukah Vacation</p> <p>Office Closed</p>	<p>29</p> <p>THANKSGIVING</p> <p>BENS Closed; Office Closed</p> <p>No Classes: Chanukah Vacation</p> <p>6:15 pm Shabbat Service</p>	<p>30</p> <p>No Classes: Chanukah Vacation</p> <p>8:30 am Early Minyan</p> <p>9:15 am Torah Study</p> <p>10:15 am Shabbat Service</p>



CONGREGATION BETH EL

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FROM THE GIFT SHOP

“FAIR TRADE” AT THE BETH EL CHANUKAH BAZAAR!

Once every several thousand years, Chanukah starts on the same day as Thanksgiving. (This year the first candle is lit Thursday, November 27 at your Thanksgiving table!) While most of us are unprepared that early in the season, the Gift Shop will not be caught flat-footed! Our plans are set. Our merchandise orders have gone out, and we will have everything you need for Chanukah at the Bazaar on **Sunday, November 10, 11:00 am to 3:00 pm** in the Beth El Social Hall. In addition to holding regular shop hours during the weeks ahead of and following the Bazaar, we will be open on Friday, November 29 (“Black Friday”) from 1:00 to 5:00 pm, even though the Beth El offices will be closed, as a special convenience for last-minute shoppers and party planners.

This year we have added some Fair Trade items from Guatemala, Thailand and Sri Lanka, including colorful crocheted kippot (kippahs or yarmulkes) from a company called Mayan Hands. We’ve also added Fair Trade bracelets,

key chains and purse accessories, among other things. We have taken special care to offer the best values in chanukiot (menorahs), candles, chocolate gelt, games, toys, puzzles and other Chanukah merchandise of every category. Bring your family and friends and enjoy a latke lunch at the Bazaar. Our very popular gourmet coffee bar will be open and homemade cookies will be available. For a preview of the event, come to supper and movie night on **Saturday, November 9**, when a little break time will be made available for schmoozing and shopping at the Bazaar while we prepare for Sunday’s event. As always, all proceeds benefit Congregation Beth El. Thanks in advance for supporting the Beth El Chanukah Bazaar!

Happy Chanukah and Happy Thanksgiving at the same time!

Thanks for shopping at the Beth El Gift Shop!
Odette and Robinn