



Congregation Beth El Bulletin

Iyar - Tammuz 5780 May - June 2020

**BETH EL
IS INVITING
YOU TO
THE 2020
ANNUAL MEETING - ZOOM STYLE**

WEDNESDAY, MAY 27, 2020

7:30 PM

This year our annual congregational meeting will be take place as a virtual meeting through Zoom. There are a few items that will require your attention prior to the meeting. We are amending our bylaws. In addition, we have submitted the slate of officers for 2020-2022 as well as a list of board members. Both documents and the link for the meeting were emailed to the congregation earlier this month. If you did not get that email and need the documents, please contact Noelle at noelle@bethelnorfolk.com. Listed below is the link for you to type into your computer along with the Meeting ID.

It is important that we have a quorum of at least 50 voting members in order to conduct our business. Please make every effort to attend the meeting.

TYPE IN YOUR COMPUTER: <https://us02web.zoom/j/88544511365>

MEETING ID: 885 4451 1365



Rabbi Murray Ezring

Brokenness versus Wholeness

Shavuot, the Feast of Weeks, is the third of the three major pilgrimage festivals. It is also known as “*Ziman Matan Torah*”, the time of receiving the Torah. The Sephardim envisioned the giving of Torah as a wedding uniting God/Torah with the People Israel forever.

The prenuptial celebration did not go as planned. Moses was on the mountain with God for too long. The people had no word of what was happening. They feared their leader was lying dead on the mountain top. They decided they needed a new god because they felt abandoned. When Moses returned and saw the Golden Calf, he lost control and threw the tablets to the ground shattering them.

Once the people were reprimanded, Moses went back up the mountain to carve two new tablets. Moses placed the two new tablets into the Holy Ark but also deposited the shattered remains of the original tablets in with the second set. What an amazing act, the broken secured with the whole. Our Talmudic ancestors uncovered an important lesson in this act of kindness.

Rabbi Yehoshua ben Levi advised: Be careful to continue to respect an elder who has forgotten his Torah knowledge due to circumstances beyond his control. Whether afflicted by illness or just by the aging process, even though he is no longer a Torah scholar, he must still be respected for the knowledge he once possessed. As we say: both the tablets of the Covenant and the

broken tablets were placed in the Ark of the Covenant in the Temple. Even the broken ones were treated as holy because of the sanctity they held when complete.

Shavuot reminds us that the holiness of a human being remains even if they lose the great abilities they once had. Both sets of tablets were kept together. Together they were a unique community united through their holiness.

Today, we are a unique community. Once we were whole. Today many of us feel broken by Covid-19. Whether we are ill or isolated by fear of contagion, we feel broken, caged in, no longer free to do as we wish. But each of us is holy, made in God’s image. No matter why we feel broken and separated, Shavuot offers us a path to greater wholeness. Whether the third pilgrimage festival brings us together physically or virtually, let us gather for Shavuot services. This is the least observed Biblical festival in our world. Let us allow the holiness of Shavuot to bring us together for prayer, understanding and community as never before in our lifetime.

Celebrate the marriage which created the Covenant between the Eternal Creator and our People which is as strong today as the day it was formed. Join me on Friday, May 29th and Shabbat, May 30th to rediscover the strength of Jewish community, experience God with our synagogue family and chase away the brokenness of separation and isolation.

Hag Shavu’ot Sameach
Rabbi Murray Ezring

A NOTE FROM CANTOR WENDI

Dear Beth El family,

We, as a community, as a world, have been put through the gauntlet these last few months. I am proud of the way our community has handled these new challenges and yet there is so much loss to grieve. There is a need to heal and yet I feel that this is far from over. I am beyond impressed by how much we have come together, our American community, our Jewish community, our Tidewater family, and most especially our Beth El family. We have soldiered on and are thinking creatively and outside the box so we can continue to offer every facet of what we bring to you regularly, our spiritual, ritual, programming, educational, and personal one on one help that we are here to offer those in need.

We want you to know, we truly hope you know that we are here for you, each and every one of you. Our board members have been making phone calls weekly as have Rabbi Ezring and I to check in on you. If you have not received a phone call for some reason, please don't hesitate to let us know. We want to connect with you and to care for you and your loved ones.

We are offering classes and daily minyan on zoom that have been created with you in mind...to help you and your family cope, to give a chance to make this time productive, and to provide a touchstone that you can lean on.

So many of you have said to me, I would learn Hebrew if only I had time or I would get to that inspiring book if I could only stay focused; and for those of you who now have time, we have those offerings! We have the Hebrew Word of the Day every day at 2:30 on Facebook live, the Rabbi's Stories of the Talmud daily as well, and we have a new book group meeting after minyan lead by Deb Segaloff on Tuesdays over the next couple of weeks where we will read "Man's Search for Meaning" by Viktor Frankl, a book I have been trying to get to for years!

However, for many of us who think life is crazy with kids and/or work on a regular basis...this Corona life is not easy. For those of us with kids in the house, life is infinitely more challenging right now and checking off things on our bucket list...even just getting to our Netflix watch list is the least of our priorities. I will be the first to say that there are days I want to pull my hair out literally! Then I get online for minyan, and though I find the prayer meaningful, it is not always the prayer that works to calm me but the people, my people, who center me. I know you minyanaires will be there, and I know I can count on you to lift me up. Your presence and dedication means everything! We hope you feel our presence calming and centering you as well.

I know that during times of crisis everyone has their own coping mechanisms, and I do my best to support each person in the way they need but I must say something here. Everyone keeps saying, "Stay healthy, stay safe!" They always mean physically, even mentally, but how about spiritually and emotionally? Where does that come in?

It is my strong belief that in order to stay healthy, you have to keep your entire being in mind...heart, body, psyche, and soul. During this Corona time, I have taken up guitar again in earnest and started a new exercise regiment that allows me to get my steps in daily. I am getting together with friends and family for game nights online and have logged in a million hours on Zoom for this meeting, that class, etc. These are all things I am doing and what I have heard

many others are doing as well. All those examples take care of the heart, body, and psyche; but where is the soul in all of this?

Shavuot is coming...the holiday where we come together again to receive the Torah and God's revelation at Mount Sinai! Every night we count down the days until we will reach that sacred moment. However the rabbis say that we should not count down, that we should count up! Amy Wallz Katz says that we should "use each week as an opportunity to identify and refine the ways we want to grow" so that we are the best versions of ourselves when we receive the Torah.



But that is hard and I don't know how to get there! I hear that a lot! Here are some questions I also get asked a lot especially recently in conversations about coming back to shul. "I feel like Jewish spirituality is only for older people, is that true?" "Do I have to know Hebrew to connect to the prayers because I don't know Hebrew and it is intimidating!" "I don't know all the choreography. What if I don't know what to do?" My answer to all those questions is JUST SHOW UP! The Zoom services are a wonderful answer to these issues as well. You can be at home in your own environment: you can be as active in the service as you want to be; you can mute your mike and your video if you do not feel comfortable, but still be in learner mode; you can be in your favorite chair, even in your pajamas, and you don't have to go anywhere! I believe the Zoom service is warm, inviting, intimate and wonderful. I have gotten to know people on a completely different level just by the conversations that happen before, after, and during services. We have met people's kids, pets, grandparents, their favorite recliners, their prized memorabilia. People have found points of connection through family pictures, art collections, pottery, musical instruments, etc. and each point of connection brings us to a different level of relationship, all from our zoom services.

So again I say... just COME!!! I know this is a different way of connecting and that can be intimidating and scary but do not let fear stop you! I believe that we are in this for the long haul unfortunately, and we need to adapt and to live in the moment! Don't be afraid if you don't know all the answers or rituals. Just like you do in beginning yoga, meditation, tabata...these things take time to catch onto but we have teachers here too to help you through, and we are here for you! Also, we are trying very hard to be responsive to your needs and desires so if there is something we are not offering that you think could help you, PLEASE let us know and we will be more than happy to help make it happen!

We are still counting the omer where we honor the passage of each day by making every day count...literally! So say hineini muchan! I am here and I am ready to take on life and to live it to the fullest in every way I can! We will help you, guide you, and we will not let you fall!

We miss you and love you!!

B'ahava rabah!! xoxoxox

A MESSAGE FROM OUR SYNAGOGUE PRESIDENT, LINDA SAMUELS

Dear Congregational Family,

Who would have ever thought two months ago that we would be in the place in which we find ourselves at the present time? The submicroscopic Coronavirus particle has completely changed our lives in most every way and managed to diminish the world population by over 250,000 souls. More than 3 million have been infected. We are living in an historic era that will most probably change our way of life forever! Arriving around Passover, many felt it was an additional plague!

This is hardly the manner in which I had planned to begin my last message to you as Beth El's President. I want to assure you that we, your Officers, Board and Trustees, as well as the clergy and staff are all continuing to work for you, albeit in alternative ways. Social Distancing has surely put a damper on our interactions, but increased phone calls, texts, emails and our newest way of connection, Zoom meetings, have kept us up and running. During this crisis, we need to thank Pam and our office staff for their unwavering attention and devotion, as they work from home. We owe Pam an immeasurable thank you for the work that she did in preparing very quickly a huge amount of data that was required in order to get our application in for the Cares Act PPP loan. Not only that, but after we submitted it, the government changed much of the criteria and she had to resubmit it. We thankfully received it very early. This has been a lifesaver for us. We have been able to retain all of our staff, and we hope and believe that the loan will be forgiven using all of our proper documentation!

To continue with thanks, I owe my Officers, Board, and Trustees my ongoing admiration. You have been my strength and support whenever I called upon you. Your love for Beth El is apparent and enduring. To Rabbi Ezring: "You came in when we needed you most and filled a position that we were sure could not be filled. Your warmth, counsel, and depth of knowledge is appreciated more that you know."

To Cantor Wendi: "Thank you for all the myriad tasks that you perform. You have helped to keep our day to day synagogue life moving along with participation as best we can." You and the Rabbi have added many paths to interact and learn online, and that has been a blessing, as it attracted many new viewers. I offer my sincere appreciation to Sandy and Noelle in the office and to Mario, Dave and Vernice (who has retired) for all they did and will continue to do. I want to mention Dr. Eran Livni and the teachers and tutors who are devoted to our children and youth. They are our future and their education is dependent upon excellent teaching. Many thanks go to Ina Mirman Leiderman, our Gabbai, for all of her continuing hard work. To all of the committee chairs, I say Yasher Koach. All of you are the wheels that make our chariot move!

There is so much more that I want to say. My heart is full. It has been my pleasure to serve as your president. It was a very busy and exciting two years, certainly with some issues that we had not expected. But those things happen, and it was my goal to keep us functioning as close to normal as possible. Yes, there were a few disappointments. However, it is important to take those in stride and plan to address in the future those items that we feel are important, timely and meaningful to our shul. The one thing that I want to mention to you is apathy. This is our enemy. It is important that we all have a stake in what goes on in OUR shul. We have worked to try to increase volunteerism, even asking what programs you might like to have, but received limited response. Volunteers are the lifeblood of programming. I do thank all of you who have taken the time to help when asked, and I am looking forward to working with more of you in the future. I would be remiss if I did not thank Jerry Kantor and Deb Segaloff and the Search Committee for their most important and ongoing work. They are a dedicated group who only want the best for Beth El. I apologize if I have left anyone out. I did not mean to do it and please know that whatever you do for our temple is appreciated.

We are still hoping that we will be able to have our 170th Anniversary Celebration in the late fall, but unfortunately we won't know that for a while. If we need to postpone it, then that is what we will do. Health and safety are tantamount!

I know that I leave you in good hands. The proposed slate of Officers and Board of Directors is strong and dedicated. There is a bright future for Beth El. Plan to be a part of it!

L'Dor va dor, be well and keep safe. B' Shalom

Linda



Due to Covid-19, the Sisterhood Board of Directors will maintain the current officers for another year and hold elections next Spring.

The Officers are as follows:

President: Carol Smith

Vice-President: DeAnne Lindsey

Vice-President: Sharon Debb

Vice-President: Ina Leiderman

Secretary: Shelley Frazier

Treasurer: Barbara Klaff

Financial Secretary: Marlene Rossen

The Multi-Generational Fashion Show that was slated to be held in April has been postponed. The future date is TBA!

BETH EL GIFT SHOP

Judaica and gifts for every occasion.

Beth El Gift Shop is

CLOSED UNTIL SEPTEMBER.

**To our Beth El family and community,
thank you for your continued support.**

Stay safe. Stay well.



TORAH FUND

Although we are winding down our campaign, it is still not too late to become a contributor to our Torah Fund campaign for this year. The pin is one of the loveliest that we have seen, and we have received a lot of compliments for the design. It is titled "*CHESED*", which means *KINDNESS* in Hebrew. During this time of Covid-19, the design means even more to me. If there was EVER a time to show kindness, it is now! So even though I have not be able to wear my pin at services, I know that the funds we raise will be needed even more this year. Every dollar we send goes to the Jewish Theological Seminary and their constituent agencies to help train Rabbis, Cantors, Jewish educators and others who will help provide a positive future for our Conservative Judaism in our communities and around the world.

We have contacted all our previous contributors. Benefactors are \$180; Guardians are \$300; Associate Patrons are \$600. You have until May 31, 2020, to pay your pledge. You may pay by check (made out to TORAH FUND and sent to Ina). You can also put it on your credit card, so you can accumulate those points! (We take VISA, MASTERCARD, DISCOVER and AMERICAN EXPRESS.) If you want to pay by credit card, please give Ina a call. Please know we are happy to accept contributions of any amount. Every dollar helps us to meet our goal.

We pray that you and your families are staying safe and well.
Barbara Abraham & Ina Mirman Leiderman
Torah Fund Co-Chairmen





Beth El's Life and Legacy Donors Tell Us "Why"

"Why participate in the Life & Legacy Initiative? The better question, Why not?"

-- Martin and Trudy Waranch

I am proud that Jews give to a wide variety of charities. As a child, I remember the tzedaka box in my grandmother's home. The lesson it provided, no matter how little we had, there were others who had less. I've always felt good giving.

Then, along comes Life and Legacy. It enables me to give a far more significant amount than I would be able to during our lifetime.

I think the allure of the program is that it provides that "good feeling" of giving more, without denying or shorting the living needs.



"Where There's Life, There's Legacy"

-- Miriam and Rabbi Archie Ruberg



What we love about this program is that it's community-wide. Together we can make a difference for future generations. We are also quite excited to work with the Harold Grinspoon Foundation. That organization awarded a scholarship to Jeremy that helped to support his rabbinical studies some years ago. He was a Grinspoon Fellow at the Jewish Theological Seminary.

We also appreciate that Life and Legacy embraces all donors, treating them with equal regard and respect. It's about building and sustaining a community of people who think about the next generation and the one after that.

Tell your kids where and why you give!

"Continuing the Work of Perfecting the World"

-- Claudia and Eric Mazur

From Pirkei Avot we read that it isn't necessarily our responsibility to finish the work of perfecting the world, but we can't refuse to help. Our pledge to the Life & Legacy program, though likely modest compared to others, is one way we can continue the work after we're gone and set an example to our children about lifelong commitment to the ideals we cherish.





“Roots that Span Generations”
-- Mickey and Stuart Held

Since our roots at Beth El span four generations, we feel a deep commitment to ensure our spiritual home is here for future generations. We believe that: Synagogues are the heartbeat of our Jewish community.

“Continuing the Tradition Across Generations”
-- Gina and Neil Rose

We decided to become part of Life and Legacy because Beth El is “home.”

Gina grew up at Beth El where her parents and grandparents were members and where Gina inherited the gift shop from her mother and later inherited the b’nai mitzvah breakfasts from Lenny Goodman.

Neil married into Beth El (on the bima) and was soon asked to join the board and served more years than anyone else as vice president before becoming president.

Our children grew up in Beth El and celebrated holidays and their B’nai Mitzvahs surrounded by their extended family.

We hope that Beth El will be here for the next generation. It is important for us to be part of this endeavor.



“Help Us Ensure that Beth El will Serve the Community into the Future”
-- Bernie and Helene Grablowsky

Helene and I set up Life and Legacy plans because we want to help ensure that Beth El continues to be able to operate and serve the Jewish community long after our deaths. Even though we have been members only about 15 years, we became dedicated to Beth El's purpose of service and education immediately. As we became more active in the programming and service to the synagogue through committees and voluntarism, Beth El has become more ingrained in our lives.

We urge other members to use the Life and Legacy initiative to also help keep Beth El and Jewish living a vibrant and active part of the Tidewater area.

bbbbbbbbbbbbbbbbbb

The things you do for yourself are gone when you are gone, but the things you do for others will remain as your legacy.”

What will your Legacy be?





The 5780 school year is arriving at its end. **What a year it was!** In September we launched our new Montessori-based program with two brand new classes for 3 year olds through Kindergarten and 1st through 3rd grades. We thought that this was a great challenge. Then came COVID-19 in March and threw us into a completely unexpected, greater challenge: adapting to online learning. The past few months just reaffirmed what a great team we have. Everyone came on board to guarantee that our children would continue to receive Jewish education: teachers, tutors, clergy, administration, parents, aides, students and.....Zoom. We went through it together.

Looking ahead to the new school year, we are ready to make a big step forward with our Montessori-based program. It has a name: “Chaye Sarah.” Starting in the Fall, we will be offering it to all the grades. As you read the article on the next page, you will see the school is also receiving a new name: “The Patricia Sarah Ashkenazi Religious School.” Thank you again, Avraham Ashkenazi, for your tremendous support. May the new generation of students be a living commemoration of Patricia and her deep love for Judaism.

There is another very significant moment that marks the end of the 5780 school year. We are bidding farewell to Ina Leiderman, who is retiring from teaching at the religious school. As a newbie in the community, I feel unqualified to speak with a firsthand experience about Ina’s contribution during many decades of dedicated teaching. However, what I can say is that I learned pretty quickly that Ina has been more than a teacher. Her identification with Judaism in general, and Beth El in particular, is total. It doesn’t matter whether as a *gabbai*, former president, board and sisterhood member or a Hampton Roads Jewry native, Ina is always there, on duty.

Ina’s journey of Jewish teaching started when she was still a high school student. Only 17 years old, she taught the 5th grade class of Temple Emanuel in Virginia Beach. Ina joined Beth El in the 1970s after returning from college and establishing her family life. Over 30 years, she taught 3rd, 4th, and 7th graders as well as music at Beth El Religious School and, later, Beit Sefer Shalom. When Ina took breaks from teaching it was only either to run the school, raise her son, Adam, or serve as Beth El President. Otherwise, Ina has always been there in class, on duty.

As a 7th grade teacher, Ina stood at the threshold of transition from Jewish childhood to adulthood. From 2008 until this year, she ushered all our children to bar/bat mitzvah. Knowing that her class was the last step before what many take as the climax of Jewish experience, Ina took great care in reminding her students that this climax should be the start of Jewish life, not the end point; and typically to Ina, she expressed this care straightforwardly with her famous tough love. Sometimes, students might have not felt comfortable hearing her honest words. But have no doubt Ina’s message will remain with them for life: being an adult Jew means always being there for the congregation, on duty.

Ina is leaving a legacy of uncompromised commitment to Jewish education. She is actually one of the major reasons that, in the age of decline in Jewish education, our school stands strong and even evolves. Throughout her long teaching service she showed us how enjoyable, how satisfying is the duty of carrying Judaism *mi-dor le-dor* (from generation to generation). Thank you so much Ina! We will miss you.

Eran Livni, Head of School Beit Sefer Shalom and UHS 2.0

Thank You, Avraham!

It is with great joy and appreciation that we announce a wonderful gift given by Avraham Ashkenazi to Congregation Beth El, in honor and remembrance of Patricia Sarah Ashkenazi. Avraham has generously arranged for a gift to be used for the Sunday Religious School. In acknowledgement of this gift, we are happily changing the name of the school from Beit Safer Shalom/United Hebrew School, 2.0 to The Patricia Sarah Ashkenazi Religious School. It will consist of two sections: Chaye Sara, the Sunday Religious School and the United Hebrew School, 2.0, our Hebrew Tutoring Program. Temple Israel, who is a partner in the school, has agreed to the name change. Our plan is to celebrate the official name change on the first day of religious school this coming September, or due to the Covid-19 pandemic, whenever we are able to open. We will hold a special ceremony including the students, clergy, staff, parents and all who wish to attend.

Avraham initially had set up a fund in Patricia's name, which has allowed us to fund and begin our transformation into the first Conservative Jewish Montessori School in the country. It also provides us the ability to send our teachers away for in-depth training and continues to permit us to purchase needed supplies and equipment required for the program. This newest gift will be used to directly offset some of our costs of running the school, which will be a welcome bonus to our budget.

We are so blessed to have such a wonderful and caring benefactor as Avraham Askenazi in our congregation. We know Patricia's name will be for a blessing, and we will always remember her for the loving, caring and remarkable woman she was, as well as for her concern for children everywhere.

Just as important, Avraham and Patricia will long be remembered for their dedication to the continuance of Jewish education to ensure our Jewish future.

Thank you Avraham, we are and will be eternally grateful for this true mitzvah.

Linda Samuels, President

SHAVUOT SERVICE TIMES

All Shavuot services will be live-streamed through the Beth El website at www.bethelnorfolk.com and via Zoom. Watch your email and the website for the Zoom links.

EREV SHAVUOT

Thursday, May 28th

Evening services: 5:45 pm

SHAVUOT

Friday, May 29th

Morning services: 9:30 am

Evening services: 5:45 pm

Saturday, May 30th

Morning services: 9:30 am

Yizkor: 10:45 am

Evening services: 5:45 pm



MEN'S CLUB NEWS

COVID-19
coronavirus

CASUALTIES

* Our Blue Yarmulke Person of the Year brunch has been postponed until next year. We anticipate we will be the host again, but we're in the same holding pattern as the airlines, the 2020 presidential election and the all clear from the CDC. Any donations received so far will be applied when the event is rescheduled. Our honoree, Bill Nossen, will have more time to prepare his remarks, not that a lawyer, Sunday school teacher and shaliach tzibor needs it.

* The Seaboard Region's semi-annual retreat, scheduled for June 5-7, was cancelled. However, a virtual retreat was held May 5, retaining the theme of Live Your Best Life Now, based on the work of Rabbi Daniel Cohen. We "zoomed" an interactive webinar with Rabbi Cohen himself (thanks to Alex Pomerantz). Rabbi Cohen is a sought-after speaker, and he delivered one of the keynotes at the Toronto FJMC Convention in July 2019. The first 50 Seaboard members who registered were treated to a free copy of his book, "What will they say about you when you are gone?" Although interactive, the seminar was primarily a thorough and meaningful summary by the author of his book. You won't regret watching a very meaningful and worthwhile Youtube copy of his presentation at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pD5PvhIFPAs&authuser=0>

FJMC | INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

Coming next year, Hashem, Fauci and the CDC willing, will be the FJMC convention in Chicago, June 30 – July 4, 2021 at the Sheraton Grand Hotel

NEEDING YOUR HELP

The Abayudaya Jews of Uganda
(A chapter of the Seaboard Region, FJMC)



DEAR CONGREGANTS: One of our most important current activities is a serious effort to help the Abayudaya Jews of Uganda, who are in dire straits now due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We are told they are reduced to eating rats off the street. Seaboard's First Vice President Eric Beser's son, Ari, an accomplished filmmaker, did a short video about their situation, with comments by our brother Aaron Kintu Moses, past President of the Abayudaya Men's Club. You can see the video and donate to help them at <http://abayudaya.seaboardfjmc.us/>. \$50 will support a family there for a month.

Inclusion Matters By Claudia Isler Mazur

What follows is a small part of a talk I gave at Temple Israel's Jewish Disability Awareness and Inclusion Month (JDAIM) Shabbat as part of the Faith Inclusion Network's "Community for All" weekend. It explains how I and (others) came to inclusion work and the various notions we have about what stands in the way of making inclusive communities possible. If you'd like to read the full text, contact me at islerinkc@gmail.com

When we talk about inclusion, we usually mean making sure that people of all abilities have a role in which they feel respected in a community. When we talk about diversity, we usually mean the inclusion of people of different races, sexualities, religions, gender expressions, and so on. Because both inclusion and diversity are about respect, about honoring our fellow humans, I created my job title, Director of Diversity and Inclusion, accordingly. They are by no means the same thing, but they are related.

When I began this work at Beth El, I heard a lot about making people welcome. Being welcoming is wonderful; it shows good intention. What we often miss is that *respect* is a huge part of welcome; seeing people as their *whole* selves, not just as a jumble of whichever of their characteristics *we're* comfortable with; that's a real welcome.

In Parashat Terumah, Moses, a man who cannot speak clearly and has some difficulty walking, is hanging out with God on top of a mountain, which is a pretty impressive accomplishment, to receive God's commandments. Before the tablets, though, God first instructs Moses how to fashion a Dwelling Place, a sanctuary for God's presence. "In this sanctuary," God says, "the Israelites are to bring me gifts." While God is quite specific here about that sanctuary, and the gifts, too, I like to think of the sanctuary in this story as a community, and the gifts *are* the people, with all their complexities, contradictions, abilities, differences, and noise.

Despite our belief that the world requires "all kinds," as my mother says, there are so many

"reasons" for not working toward truly inclusive and diverse spaces of worship, work, and learning. In each case the assumptions people make are myths easily debunked. Decisions about where to put money and other resources are affected by people's bottom line. *If their bottom line is inclusion, then that's what happens. It really is just a matter of making it so, in most cases.*

Of all the places where we might imagine inclusion and diversity would not even need discussion, let alone committees, directors, programming, and so on, it is houses of worship. Yet even in the places where people gather to celebrate their existence as one human family on earth, some of us don't always feel welcome. How can this be?

It has been my goal to change an aspect of the culture at my shul, an objective that is at times well out of reach and at others is so ill-defined I'm not sure what I'm reaching for anyway. One thing that has helped tremendously is changes to the Sunday Religious School under its new head of school, Dr. Eran Livni. The teachers' knowledge that I am there each Sunday to help *them* I hope has created an awareness and sensitivity to student differences. That awareness and sensitivity, over time, translates to the classroom aides and to the students. There is, overall, a warmer, friendlier, feeling in the building these days than there has been in the past. We've won a number of grants to equip the classrooms and the shul with things that level the playing field somewhat for our congregants.

Sometimes visibility can be enough. We now have a cart outside the sanctuary holding reading glasses, shawls, and fidgets. The fidgets tend to need frequent replacing, but it means that they are getting used, and the glasses are often in a jumble, which tells me that they are, too. Rabbi Sandra Lawson's visit to our congregation at the beginning of February was also, in part, about visibility, and I have noticed a few more congregants showing up for services since then. I am hopeful that our welcome of Rabbi Lawson let our congregants know they were welcome, too. I, for one, am thrilled to see such gifts come rolling into the sanctuary.

PURIM FUN 2020



We are grateful for the generous contributions of those who support Beth El

by remembering and honoring their friends and loved ones.

PEARL K. ALECK LIBRARY

ENDOWMENT

IN MEMORY OF

Bert Legum

Helen & Warren Aleck**

Conoly Phillips

Helen & Warren Aleck

Lillian Pledger

Helen & Warren Aleck

The son of the Fink Family (Riviera Beach)

Helen & Warren Aleck

TEMPLE FUND

IN MEMORY OF

Marlene Bass

Rick & Janice Foleck

Stanley Goldstone

Sharon Leach*

Gene Hirschfeld

Estie Cohen*

Jack Jacobson

Herbert & Carolyn Bangel (S)

Larry & Linda Bress

Herbert Katz

Herbert & Carolyn Bangel (B)

Arlene Kesser

Chuck & Linda Marcus

Barbara Rosenblum

Stanley & Linda Samuels

Mannie & Judy Smith*

Phyllis Lannik

Stuart & Mickey Held*

Peter & Deb Segaloff (B)

Bert Legum

Lenny & Ellie Brooke*

Larry & Judy Dobrinsky*

Stuart & Mickey Held (G)

Alan & Norma Jaffe**

Jerry & Kathy Kantor*

Brad & Judy Lazernick*

Marty & Ina Leiderman*

Annette Mand

Chuck & Linda Marcus

Danny & Shikma Rubin**

Zan & Diane Salzberg**

Alan & Madeleine Samuels**

Stanley & Linda Samuels*

Bert Shapiro

The Silvermans & The

Scholenbaums (G)

Mannie & Judy Smith*

Susan Tarkenton

& Karen Pelham (G)

Alan & Jody Wagner*

Cilda Meltzer

Herbert & Carolyn Bangel (G)

Barry & Lois Einhorn*

Barbara Leibowitz

Marty & Ina Leiderman

Annette Mand

Nina Moskowitz*

Stanley & Linda Samuels*

Ethel Simon

Bill & Rosanne Simon****

Harold Sprung

Bill & Rosanne Simon****

IN HONOR OF

Judy Dobrinsky's birthday

Larry & Linda Bress

Mannie & Judy Smith*

Larry Dobrinsky's birthday

Larry & Linda Bress

Arthur Kreger's birthday

Brenda Shapiro

Bill Nossen being named Beth

El Men's Club's Blue

Yarmulke Man-of-the-Year

Ed & Betsy Karotkin (G)

Stanley Samuels' birthday

Barbara Rossen*

Judy Smith's birthday

Larry & Judy Dobrinsky*

Brenda Shapiro

Judy & Mannie Smith's anniversary

Larry & Judy Dobrinsky*

Brenda Shapiro

SPEEDY RECOVERY TO

David Laibstain

Bill & Ida Kittner (B)

BERNARD MARTIN

MEMORIAL FUND

IN MEMORY OF

Arlene Kesser

Elsie Martin

BEVERLY RAFAL WREBEL

FUND TO HOUSE THE

HOMELESS

IN MEMORY OF

Arlene Kesser

Robert & Dana Fink*

Bert Legum

Robert & Dana Fink**

JEFFREY KESSER

SCHOLARSHIP FUND

IN MEMORY OF

Arlene Kesser

Martin & Trudy Waranch

SENIOR RABBI

DISCRETIONARY FUND

IN MEMORY OF

Bert Legum

Charles & Betty Lou Legum***

Jordan & Carol Levitin

IN HONOR OF

Rabbi Ezring, thank you

The Legum Family (G)

The Family of Cilda Meltzer (G)

Deb Segaloff fulfilling her commitment to say kaddis

Larry & Marlene Rossen**

CANTOR DISCRETIONARY FUND

IN MEMORY OF

Cantor Wendi, thank you

The Legum Family (G)

KIDDUSH FUND

Cilda Meltzer

Paula Eisen

Freida Goldstein**

JAY BARR ART FUND

Bert Legum

Clay Barr*

SHARON SPITALNEY

SCHOLARSHIP FUND

IN MEMORY OF

Stanley Silverberg

Ron & Dorothy Spitalney (B)

ARTHUR & HANNA

KONIKOFF MEMORIAL

FUND

IN MEMORY OF

Cilda Meltzer

Albert & Wendy Konikoff*

MINYAN FUND

IN MEMORY OF

Arlene Kesser

Burt & Patsy Barr

Bert Legum

Burt & Patsy Barr

George & Amy Ginsberg*

Gail Juren*

David Sterling (G)

Helen Sterling**

SPEEDY RECOVERY TO

Beth Miller

Burt & Patsy Barr

PRAYER BOOK FUND

IN MEMORY OF

Bert Legum

Jay Legum (S)

TREE OF MEMORY

IN MEMORY OF

Bert Legum

Ben & Sharon Scholss, Eric

Schloss, Lauren Schloss & Brad

Schloss

Condolences to

**Loretta Cohen and
Helen Laibstain** on the
loss of their husband
and brother
Jack Cohen of blessed
memory.

David Lannik on the
loss of his wife,
Phyllis Lannik of
blessed memory.

The family of
Cilda Meltzer of
blessed memory.

**Helen Sterling and
Irene Janow** on the
loss of their brother,
Herbert Katz of blessed
memory.

**Beth Dozoretz, Shari
Friedman and Renee
Strelitz** on the loss of
their husband and
father,
Dr. Ronald Dozoretz
of blessed memory.

Mark Kozak on the
loss of his mother,
Lillian Kozak of
blessed memory.

REMEMBRANCE DONATIONS

* = Chai = \$18

** = Double Chai = \$36

B = Bronze = \$19 - \$49

S = Silver = \$50 - \$99

G = Gold = \$100 or more

May - June Yahrzeits

*We record the sacred memory of the following departed members
of the families of our congregation on the occasion of yahrzeit.
The names of our beloved departed are read from the pulpit at each evening minyan.*

MAY 13

Joseph Weiner
Milton Nesson
Rachel Goldstein
Sarah Rubin
Gilbert Shure
Tillie Breman

MAY 14

Rose Schneider
Sarah Hackerman
Harold Epstein
Theresa Tuchman
Abraham Bartley
Rose Frohman
Ernest Sherman
Seymour Levinson
Helen Karotkin
Zelda Leibowitz

MAY 15

Nathan Bear
Lenora Rosenberg
Rebecca Bass
Louis Sher
Alice Friedman

MAY 16

Sylvia Belkov
Sidney Levinson
Lillian Levenson
Dena Barr
Adolph Banks

MAY 17

Kopeland Orloff
Seymour Chapel
Moses Yaffey
Hyman Shure
Al Goldstein
Hyman Kroskin
Leonard Kesser

MAY 18

Mata Rosenfield
Yetta Levy
Phillip Levine
Edward Chenman
Isaac Mandel

MAY 19

Dale Levy
Hyman Bress
Robert Glasser
Jennie Rauch
Sanford Haskell

MAY 20

Sol Kaplan
Abraham Herskowitz
Samuel Robbins
Felmore Jacobson
Phyllis Weisberg
Esther Bernstein

MAY 21

Herbert Sherman
Ida Bank
Manuel Fivel
Bessie Schwartz
Ethel Frankel
Thelma Ganderson
Jeannie Goldman

MAY 22

Nettie Coleman
Phylliss Frieden
Samuel Goldback
Jacob Bierman
Isadore Rauchwerger
Hilda Oser
Mollie Liebman
Gussie Amelson
Sam Snyder
Beatrice Siegel

MAY 23

Julia Peck
Tillie Lindsey
Dora Pinchefskey
Mary Ehrenworth
Fannye Oberman
Ray Novak
Reba Good

MAY 24

Sylvia Kesser
Benjamin Abraham
Dora Hobowsky
Minnie Moss
Bluma Rubin
Ellis Feldman
Harry Goldsticker
Phillip Berman
Dorothy Laibstain
Lorraine Levinson
Jerome Simon
Shirley Westbrook
Herman Lind

MAY 25

Morris Morganstein
Nathan Goldburg
Hank Bernstein
Richard Bartley
Elliot Juren
Helene Diamond

MAY 26

Jacob Levy
Jacob Zahler
Malka Zahler
Ben Kaminsky
Murray Friedman
Minnie Friedman
Delia Mantinband
Celia Kaye
Reba Rose
Leona Rosenbaum
Reitha Janney
Freda Donn
Jean Rappaport

MAY 27

Fannie Goldburg
Sarah Jacobson
Betzalel Learman

MAY 28

Samuel Kanter
Sylvia Eichenbaum
Eve Stredler
Reuben Friedman
Max Greenberg
Stella Davis
Joseph Gordon
Yehudit Shezifi
Michael Stredler

MAY 29

Hershel Harris
Edna Stein
Ida Mirman
Sarah Goldberg
Marguerite Marx
Gertrude Fleder
Roslyn Zeitman

MAY 30

Joseph Leibowitz
Leon Salzberg
Sarah Berlin
Michael Karp
Louis Chapel
Shirley Levin
Howard Werner

MAY 31

Gussie Cohen
Leonard Berman
Hannah Orkin
William Levitin
Albert Miller
Samuel Fried
Lillie Rosenbaum
Beverly Sachs
Sybil Friedberg
Doris Posner
Frances Minkin

JUNE 1

Lori Kaplan
Bernard Samuels
William Kroskin
Morris Hecht
Sarah Glasser
Philip Ungar
Sarah Rosenbloom
Michael Newmark

JUNE 2

Joseph Ginsburg
Yetta Levy
Leah Feldman
Sara Sachs
Sarah Japha
Lena Herzberg
James Schwartz
Jack Mitnick
Edward Beck
Clarice Nachman

JUNE 3

Rose Rafelman
Rena Bartley
Alex Segal
Abraham Tavss
Helen Bunin
Bertha Glaberman
William Fink
Stuart Schoenhaut

JUNE 4

Tillie Schein
Martha Friedberg
Julius Rosenfeld

JUNE 5

Fannie Epstein
Harris Fox
Edith Green
Esther Morris
Jennie Aleck
Leonard Kessler

May - June Yahrzeits

*We record the sacred memory of the following departed members
of the families of our congregation on the occasion of yahrzeit.
The names of our beloved departed are read from the pulpit at each evening minyan.*

JUNE 6

David Laibstain
Kate Goldstein
Joseph Marcus
Freda Soroko

JUNE 7

Celia Dobrinsky
Eva Sandler
Max Turer
Minnie Abramson
Joseph Kroll
Leah Aks
Jeanne Ganz
Bonnie Dowdy

JUNE 8

Sarah Harris
Morris Bank
Esther Samuels
Sarah Hershman
Hill Haber
Hanna Izenstein
Coleman Gordon
Thomas Friedman
Saralee Kramer

JUNE 9

David Davis
Bertha Kramer
Stanley Saunders
Maurice Jacobson
Audrey Laskin
Albert Laderberg
Fannie Swersky
Rose Lipson
Sara Amelson
Samuel Sonkin
Minnie Salasky
Joel Shapiro
Gabriella Becker
Miriam Friedman

JUNE 10

Joel Friedberg
Louis Ginsburg
Rose Rosenberg
Harry Swersky
Simon Harris
David Leavitt
Beckie Richter
Lena Halpern
Alice Blumenson

JUNE 11

Charles Leavitt
Louis Kaplan
Jacob Samuels
Raymond Zedd
Anna Laderberg
Helen Young
Gary Drucker
Edythe Cohen

JUNE 12

Ethel Finestone
Bessie Deitch
Pincus Paul
Bessie Dozoretz
Eva Mallenbaum
Edwin Kanter
Myer Geffen
Samuel Kline
Michael Gottlieb
Rose Asher
Theodore Amelson
Dave Levin

JUNE 13

Bertha Siegel
Joseph Kellman
Yudus Levy
Joseph Jaffe

JUNE 14

Phillip Barr
Rachel Rauch
Robin Siegel

JUNE 15

Ruth Barr
Mayer Birshtein
Frieda Amelson
Harold Goldman
Paul Barkan
Kaplan Lewis
Paul Jaffe

JUNE 16

Pearl Abeloff
Harry Garson
Alex Berlin
Morris Goodman
Ruth Schoener
Laura Waiss
Norman Kozak
Melvin Ticatch

JUNE 17

Lillian Friedman
Alvin Walter
Abraham Legum
Samuel Jelaza
Ada Harris

JUNE 18

Bertha Kan
Mary Krukin
Ruth Caplan
Arty Gladstone

JUNE 19

Samuel Coleman
Paul Swartz
Samuel Blum
Goodman Higger
Richard Laderberg
B.D. Laderberg
Ben Wilgard
Rae Hodes
David Friedman
Annie Horwitz
Katie Frank

JUNE 20

Martin Kaplan
Sarah Cooper
Irvin Nelson

JUNE 21

Rebecca Goodman
Ann Max
Jean Greenstein
Leah Pekarsky
Gayle Newmark
Alan Hirsch

JUNE 22

Franklin Cohen
David Sneider
Lynn Chapel
Ida Crockin
Bessie Lyons

JUNE 23

Hilda Balsam
Stanley Mirman
Jennie Fass
Jonathan Edelblute
Samuel Schilansky
Douglas Goff
Harry Sterling

JUNE 24

Stanley Weigen
Philip Belkov
Hyman Batleman
Jeanette Howard
Elaine Brown
Abraham Robins
Hannah Chandgie
Harris Klaff

JUNE 25

Liba Rudlin
Alan Permutt
Fred Buns

JUNE 26

Mary Silverstein
Sadie Elson
Roslyn Albert
Etta Lind
Toba Spitzer
Bernice Kaplan

JUNE 27

Sol Saunders
Joseph Patish
Marsha Rosenblatt
Dave Kaplan
Annie Adelston
Anna Gross
Maurice Miller
Hymie Cohen
Martha Weissberg
Irwin Staviv

JUNE 28

Sol Kreger
Meyer Goldberg
Ralph Rossen
Walter Waiss
Maurice Josephberg
Isaac Glazer

JUNE 29

Susan MacMillan
Max Field
Morris Sigal
Harr Schapiro
Abraham Levy
Abraham Feldman
Abraham Brownstein
Sadye Rafal
Lorraine Melworth
Jerome Levy

JUNE 30

Rose Asbell
Florence Berlin
Burnley Tabakin
Erwin Saupe
Rebecca Nelson
Rachel Steele
Rae Frieden
Harry Mendelsohn
Shirley Smith
Rebecca Marcus
Annette Kaplan



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OR CURRENT OCCUPANT

**You are invited
to our
Annual Congregational Virtual Meeting**

Wednesday evening, May 27th

7:30 pm to 9:30 pm

See front page for details.