

Hashaliach

Annual Raffle Fundraiser "We're Better Together"

Due to the pandemic, we are once again having a virtual Raffle!

-in Sunday, June 6 at 10 a.m. for the Raffle drawing and entertainment by Ryan Oakes GRAND PRIZE \$ 2500, plus other cash prizes!

RYAN OAKES VIRTUAL SHOW

Join acclaimed magician & mentalist Ryan Oakes for a unique interactive online experience combining magic and mind-reading. As Ryan takes the "virtual stage" he will not only perform magic, but will interact with the audience to make them part of the mystery themselves. It's a shared experience that will connect participants in impossible new ways. You'll watch the magic, you'll participate in the magic, and you may even learn a trick yourself.



Brunch sponsored by Patsy & Ian Dunn, Ron Lench, Rick Leiner, and Beth El Temple

Thank you for your ongoing support of Beth El Temple's Annual Raffle Fundraiser. With your support, we can help cover the operating expenses of the synagogue despite Covid-19.

With the generous support of our valued congregants and contributors, Beth El will be able to achieve its mission and strengthen our outreach.

Two ways you can support the Beth El Temple Raffle:

- 1. Purchase a "raffle ticket" by mail before the June 4th deadline to be eligible for cash prize drawings. Tickets are \$100 each. Each ticket includes a pick-up brunch for two. The cost for an additional Brunch Box is \$15.
- 2. Make a donation If you are not able to contribute at that level, we appreciate whatever contribution you can make. Please contact the office for more information: 717-232-0556 or patty@bethelhbg.org

 Generously sponsored by:

<u>Click Here to Join Zoom Meeting</u> or go to <u>zoom.com/join</u> and use the following access code:

Meeting ID: 840 3258 2120 Passcode: 653915





Calendar Highlights

Tuesday, May 4

Zoom with Authors: Charles Belfoure, *The Fabergé Secret*, 7 p.m.

Wednesdays, May 5 - June 9

Mishna Ta'anit: Facing a World Crisis, 11 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

Thursdays, May 6 & June 3

Parents of Young Children program with Rabbi Capptauber, 8:30 p.m.

Sundays: May 9, 23 & June 6, 13

The Five Senses: An Immersive Torah Experience, 2 p.m.

Monday, May 10

Sisterhood Rosh Hodesh Group, 7 p.m.

Tuesdays, May 11 - August 31

Intro to Judaism with Rabbi Capptauber, 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, May 13

An Evening of Music and Singing with Rabbi Ariel Root Wolpe, 8 p.m.

Sunday, May 16

Beth El Annual Meeting, 10 a.m. via Zoom

Thursday, May 20

Learning Torah Through Art, 7 p.m.

Friday, May 21

Friday Night Family Service Live Outside, 6 p.m.

Saturday, May 22

Pajama Havdalah, 7 p.m.

Thursday, May 27

Asian History Film Screening and Discussion, 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, May 30

Food Truck End-of-the-Year Celebration, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Tuesday, June 1

Zoom with Authors: Esther Safran Foer, I Want You to Know We're Still Here, 7 p.m.

Sunday, June 6

Beth El Temple Annual Raffle, 10 a.m.

Thursday, June 24

Loneliness and Love: A Mindfulness-Based Workshop with Yael Shy, 8-9 p.m.

Friday, June 25

Friday Night Family Service, 6 p.m.

Tuesday, July 6

Zoom with Authors: Arthur J. Magida, Code Name Madeleine, 7 p.m.

Candle Lighting Times

May 7	7:51 p.m.	Jun 4	8:15 p.m.
May 14	7:57 p.m.	Jun 11	8:19 p.m.
May 21	8:04 p.m.	Jun 18	8:22 p.m.
May 28	8:10 p.m.	Jun 25	8:23 p.m.

Rabbi's Message



כִּי־קַרִוֹב אֵלֵיךָ הַדָּבָר מְאֻד בְּפִּיךָ וּבְלָבָבְךָ לַעֲשֹׁתְוֹ:

"The matter is very near to you; it is in your mouth and in your heart to do it."—Deuteronomy 30:14

Dear Beth El,

It is always important to continue learning. Margaret Talbot wrote an article in *The New Yorker* describing

our culture of perfectionism in which we tend to continue doing things we are good at and refuse to try new things for fear of being mediocre at them. Yet learning new skills keeps the mind agile, the ego humble, and the heart open.

Lifelong learning is a consummate Jewish value. This month we will celebrate Shavuot, in which we honor the revelation of the Torah at Sinai by receiving the Torah anew ourselves. What does it mean to receive the Torah ourselves? Traditionally it means studying through the night, but does that actually enable us to receive the Torah? Sometimes the task of acquiring Torah seems too great: there is too much to learn, or it is too difficult to understand, or we forget what we have learned. The sages of the Talmud encountered these same difficulties in their own attempts to acquire Torah, and they shared this discussion about it in Leviticus Rabbah:

Rabbi Hanin of Tziporin began by comparing [the difficulty of Torah study] to a mound of earth: one who is dull says, "Who could remove all of this earth?" One who is alert says, "I will remove two baskets full today, two baskets full tomorrow, until I remove the whole thing." Similarly one who is dull says, "who can learn all of Torah? There are thirty chapters in tractate Nizikin alone, and thirty chapters in tractate Keilim!" One who is alert says, "I will learn two laws today and two laws tomorrow until I learn the entire Torah." R. Levi said it is like a basket with holes whose owners hired workers to fill it. The dull one says, "What am I gaining? It goes in [this opening] and goes out of that one!" What does the alert one say? "Don't I get a reward for each jug?" Similarly, what does the dull one say? "What have I gained in learning Torah and forgetting it?!" What does the alert one say? "Doesn't God reward us for the effort?!" (Vayikra Rabbah 19:2)

The rabbis encourage us to be like the wise and alert one and maintain a positive outlook on our ability to learn. Even when it seems too difficult, because our Hebrew language skills aren't strong enough, or we feel that we lack the necessary background, or we get discouraged at how quickly we forget what we have learned — even then, the sages remind us to simply take on the task little by little every day, like removing a giant mound of earth using a basket with holes. For this effort, they promise, we will be rewarded.

There are many opportunities to learn Torah together at Beth El in the coming months. On Shavuot itself we will have an opportunity to study together with Chisuk Emuna on Zoom, in sessions that Rabbi Muroff and I, as well as lay lecturers, will teach. In May, we will begin an "Introduction to Judaism" course. This course is intended for anyone who would like an overview of Jewish knowledge: the basic laws, the order of the calendar, the history of the Jewish people, an overview of the Jewish textual cannon, and more. We will use material from American Jewish University geared toward conversion candidates and anyone who would like to enhance their basic Jewish knowledge. This, too, is a great way to acquire Torah. In May and June, we will also learn together outside in a Sunday series called "Five Senses: An Immersive Learning Experience." Meeting outdoors, we will study a Torah text about one of our five senses, and then do a hike or walk that immerses us in the use of that sense.

Many of us have acquired new skills during the pandemic, either because we have sought out a new hobby or craft, or because we have had to adapt in our regular work to new circumstances. This has been difficult, but it has value for our minds and hearts. We must apply this fortitude and flexibility to our study of Torah, too. As the Torah teaches in the book of Deuteronomy, "The matter is very near to you; it is in your mouth and in your heart to do it."

Sincerely, Rabbi Capptauber

Beth El Temple

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Time-dated material

Hashaliach

Published by: BETH EL TEMPLE Harrisburg, Pennsylvania President: Rick Leiner Rabbi: Ariana Capptauber

Executive Director: Bill Walter

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Patty Brown, Office Manager Ruth Pearlstein, Editorial Coordinator Leslie B. Ocko, Designer



President's Remarks



Chaverim,

I really enjoy this time of season! Why? Spring is in the air; evidence of the blooming flowers and trees, both at our shul and in Central Pennsylvania. Please drive by Beth El Temple to enjoy the beauty of new life at our house of worship.

It has been a strange spring with the synagogue absent of the conversations of old friends and the laughter of children. Throughout this absence, our staff, under the direction of Bill Walter, has been working to maintain our building for our congregation's full return.

Our COVID Committee has given us a green light to open Beth El Temple for select services each month, but with reduced participation (total number of people). God willing, we hope to welcome everybody on a fulltime basis.

Beth El has successfully converted and grown in participation with our numerous distance services and activities via Zoom. More people have attended Friday and Saturday Shabbat and weekday services. In addition, we have enjoyed activities as well as study and music sessions.

Beth El has expanded its social media presence through our marketing intern Ben Walter.

Looking ahead with your help, I will aim to focus on reopening, reimagining, and reconnecting. It will be a challenge, but our congregation is special and we're all in this together.

I leave you with this thought by Rabbi Eric Solomon of Beth Meyer Synagogue in Raleigh, North Carolina. He said, "take a few moments to jot down a few of things you have missed most during the pandemic. Come back to the list from time to time and add to it. Then, after you (God willing) get your vaccine shots, pull it out again and review the list. And then, offer a prayer of gratitude to the Power beyond us for helping us reach this moment. In that way we can be deeply aware of our blessings today because we remember what it was like when things were far from ideal. To forget the tough times, the Torah teaches, is natural. But to remember, feel indebted, and be grateful – that is what it means to be Jewish."

Shalom, Rick Leiner President

Minyan Moments

At Beth El Temple, we all count!

What's your day to count and be counted upon?

To become a minyannaire, contact our minyan captains:

Morning minyan captain

Bob Lieberman (717-979-1634)

Evening minyan captain

Ron Lench (717-877-1892)

Sunday morning minyan captain

Ron Lench (717-877-1892)

We look forward to welcoming you to the Beth El Temple minyan family.

New Zoom minyan times:

Tuesday mornings at 7:00 a.m. Weekday evenings at 5:30 p.m. Friday nights at 6:00 p.m. Sundays at 9:00 a.m.

Daily Service Times (Currently on Zoom)

Weekday evenings	5:30 p.m.
Tuesday mornings	7:00 a.m.
Friday nights	6:00 p.m.
Sundays	9:00 a.m.
Saturday	10:00 a.m.

■ ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, May 16, 2021—10:00 a.m.

■ Executive Committee Meeting Schedule

Wednesday, June 16, 2021—6:00 p.m.

■ Board Meeting Schedule

Wednesday, June 16, 2021—7:00 p.m.

From the Executive Director



Every spring, without exception, my family seems to become more energized and enlightened. It is like they emerge from the long winter reborn. I guess that makes sense because, after all, spring is a time of rebirth, a renaissance, a renewal. If you stop and think about it, a lot

happens in the few short months of this glorious season. Flowers begin to bud and then bloom, vivid colors and beautiful aromas swirl all around us. Soothing breezes seem to envelope us in warmth and hope. This spring seems even more unique, as the world around us seems a bit reborn.

This spring also brings with it a renaissance for Beth El, and we are hoping to energize and enlighten each other, in some ways similar to the past and in some ways that are new.

- We look forward to your participation in our Annual Raffle in June.
- We hope you will learn with us as we Zoom with Authors, going into July.
- We encourage you to join our Facebook group to share and contribute ideas.
- We welcome you to experience outdoor, in-person services in the coming months.

So, I task you, my beloved Beth El family, with this: embrace spring, and each other, with open arms and an open heart. Allow yourself this gift of renewal. Strive not only to be positive, but to also be positive for others, and find the positive in the changes ahead of us.

"The beautiful spring came; and when Nature resumes her loveliness, the human soul is apt to revive also." —Harriet Ann Jacobs

> All the best, Bill Walter

You are cordially invited to attend!

The Beth El Temple Annual Meeting Sunday, May 16, 2021 10:00 a.m. via Zoom

During our upcoming Beth El Temple Annual Meeting on Sunday, May 16, 2021, at 10:00 a.m. on Zoom, we will recap the many highlights of this past year, discuss where we are headed, and examine some of the challenges we will face going forward. I am convinced that no challenge is too great for this congregation; challenges provide opportunities for us to grow stronger together. During the Annual Meeting, we will welcome our new incredible Rabbi to her first annual meeting, thank board members who have completed their terms of service, nominate new board members, and honor members who have provided exceptional service to our congregation.

As my fourth year as your Executive Director draws to a close, I will tell you that it has been my great pleasure to work with such a dedicated, knowledgeable, hardworking, and collaborative group of lay and professional leaders in this synagogue. I am continually heartened by the sense of community we experience in all facets of our congregational programs and services, and I remain impressed by the degree to which members volunteer to serve our community.

We hope to see you on Zoom on May 16!

Bill Walter



Friday Night Family Service!

May 21 Family Kabbalat Shabbat Outdoor Service 6 p.m.

June 25 Family Kabbalat Shabbat Outdoor Service 6 p.m.

Join us Friday night for some special Kabbalat

Shabbat singing and storytelling geared for your little ones.

All are welcome, kids and the young at heart!





If you are a grandparent with grandchildren who live out of town, please feel free to invite them.

Beth El Demple

Dear Sisterhood,

Spring has sprung; how wonderful it is! I'm looking forward to returning to "normal," whatever that might be. This Passover, I had the luxury of hosting my parents at the seder table, as we had all received vaccinations. I never before thought of six people as a big group, but it's amazing that after a year, two additional people felt really significant.

Regarding Sisterhood, we're looking forward to reimagining our activities as safe events. If you have a creative idea of how we can be together, or a program that you would like to facilitate, please contact Rachel Zilbering - rachelzilbering@gmail.com.

One more virtual event to mention. You will receive in your email an invitation to attend the Seaboard Region Virtual Spring Conference sponsored by The Women's League for Conservative Judaism. This conference is free to attend but registration is required: bit.ly/seaboardwlcj21.

> In Friendship, Rachel Zilbering



Rosh Hodesh Group Joyful celebrations of Rosh Hodesh, the new month, with Rabbi Ariana Capptauber

Special gathering for May!

* Rosh Hodesh Sivan: Monday, May 10, 2021 7:00 p.m.

Join Sisterhood and the Women's Auxiliary of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community on Zoom for a women's interfaith gathering in honor of Rosh Hodesh Sivan and Eid al-Fitr, the holiday to commemorate the end of Ramadan. We will talk about our traditions and what makes each of these holidays special to us as women, and have a chance to meet and connect!

2021-22 BETH EL TEMPLE SISTERHOOD

CALENDAR SPONSORS

What do you reach for on a daily basis that helps to simplify your life? That's right!! The calendar, of course! The Beth El Temple Sisterhood Calendar is a collaborative effort between the professional staff of the synagogue and your own Sisterhood. It is a one stop, preassembled reference to everything going on at the synagogue. Do you need to know when the High Holy Days fall, what time to light the Shabbos candles, etc? The calendar is the place to go!

The calendar is only a success because of the people in the congregation who support it. It is time again to consider becoming a Platinum, Gold, or Silver Sponsor for the 2021-2022 Calendar.

Simply fill out the form below, enclose payment, and return the form no later than June 14, 2021!

Calendar Sponsorship Form
Yes! I/We wish to show our support by becoming a 2021-22 Beth El Temple Sisterhood Calendar Sponsor!
Platinum \$75 or more Gold \$50 Silver \$25
Name(s) as you wish to appear in the calendar (please print):
Address:
City/State/Zip:
Phone:
Email:
Return to: Beth El Temple • Attn: Sisterhood Calendar 2637 North Front Street • Harrisburg, PA 17110-1112
Please make checks payable to <u>Beth El Temple Sisterhood</u> .
Deadline: June 14, 2021
Extra calendars: Although every congregational family receives a calendar in the mail, in the past a number of families have requested additional calendars. If you wish to order additional calendars for your own use, please fill in the information below and enclose \$12 for each additional calendar desired. Make checks payable to Beth El Temple Sisterhood. Calendars will be sent to the address listed above.
Number of Extra Calendars:

Payment enclosed:

Gesher News

By Hilary Geenberg

It's been a long time since Gesher students met in person to study or share Shabbat and other events. Sometimes it's hard to believe that I've gotten to know our students and parents, teachers and rabbis only virtually.

Zoom has been the *beit sefer* where we've come together this year for learning and fun. With breakout rooms and through the magic of technology, I have had the pleasure of being in all classes, almost at the same time, at the click of a mouse.

There are writers who claim that all education is simply the transmission of "knowledge." If that were so at any time, this year would be that time. But that has not been the case. My observations of our Gesher students engaged with their peers and their teachers, seeing the activity and hearing the discussions in their breakout rooms, certainly belies a pure transmission model.

To me, meaningful Jewish education is so much more than blindly passing down information and expecting that our children and families will develop a lifelong connection to Judaism and the Jewish people. If Jewish educators simply put knowledge in a box and had students withdraw that knowledge, much of the best of Jewish education would be lost.

In recent faculty meetings we've been using *Why Be Jewish?* by Rabbi David Wolpe as one lens for how we share Judaism with Gesher students and families. It's been easy to see the depth of connection and commitment to Jewish life and learning of our Gesher educators. This love for Judaism cannot be put in a box. It's why Gesher educators choose to become guides and role models for our Gesher students.

It's been a different and sometimes difficult year. But it's also been an amazing year. Furry family members have joined us for classes, and students often attended Sunday morning classes in pajamas. They've come on-line for Gesher from their homes, from grandparents' homes, and from their cars travelling to sports practices. A silver lining – nearly perfect attendance!

As this year of learning together draws to a close, I wish you more joy in Torah and the delights of living your Jewish life.



Gesţţer גשר

Adult Education

Mishna Ta'anit: Facing a World Crisis

Wednesday Mornings May 5th through June 9th (6 classes)

11:00 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

The Coronavirus pandemic is, for many of us, the largest global crisis of our lifetimes. We may feel alone in our experience, but there were other crises before this, in other generations and other eras, where people felt that the world was on a tipping point between life and death, existence and destruction. In Mishna Ta'anit the rabbis discuss the proper protocols for the community in a time of drought, when a lack of rainfall presented a crisis of potential famine. Join Rabbis Muroff and Capptauber to study this book of the Mishna and glean the wisdom it has for our own time of crisis.

RSVP to Patty Brown at patty@bethelhbg.org to receive source sheets.

Pajama Havdalah

Let's welcome the new week together!

Beth El kids and families are invited to Zoom with Rabbi Capptauber for some havdalah singing, storytelling, and pajama-time fun.

May 22, 7:00 p.m.

Bring your own candle, grape juice, spices, and a smile!

ילדים היום 🌣 Today's Kids

Yom HaShoah

By Sarah Smithers (age 9)

My yellow-candle-lighting experience was a precious moment. It made me think about my roots and Jewish history. When I helped put together the bags for the yellow candle project, I wasn't sure what it was for. A week before I lit the candle, I learned about it. I did not know how many faults there were in history, and, at this moment in time, this was a big one! So, I lit the candle for my family and the other six million Jews who died.

What have our Beth El kids been up to?



Alina and Joel Zilbering lighting Chanukah candles



Ben Smithers and the new family member Orie



Aaron and Adam Smith hard at work in remote school

С	U	S	U	N	С	S	J	U	N	Ε	G	Ι	Ι
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RELAX RAMAH JUNE CAMPING FRIENDS SUNSHINE JULY ROAD TRIP TRAVFI **VISITING** HOT BOATING SANDALS HIKING FUN SWIMMING WATERMELON OUTSIDE OCEAN FAMILY **ICECREAM** PICNIC CANOE

POPSICLE

Can you solve these riddles?

- 1. What did the peanut butter say to the bread?
- 2. Why did the pianist bang his head against the keys?
- 3. Why did the baseball coach hire a piano player?
- 4. What does Harry Potter have that Voldemort doesn't?
- 5. I wear glasses and pigtails, and a Hogwarts toilet is now my bed, and I do not think it's funny, to chuck books through my head.

Who am I?

SEE ANSWERS ON PAGE 14.

If you or your child has something to contribute to this new kid's section of Hashaliach, please contact Ember Jandebeur at ejandebeur@yahoo.com.

Learning Torah (and Ourselves) through Art

May 20th Time: 7:00 p.m.

Want to dive deeper, beyond the surface of the Torah? Want to tap into your creative potential? Want to learn more about yourself and your spirituality? Now is your chance! Join Rabbi Ariana Capptauber and Rabbi Bronwen Mullin for a workshop in which we will create art that springs forth from the Torah and is, itself, new torah. We will be working in the tradition of the rabbis who used their imaginations to expand the narrative of the bible.

In this monthly workshop, we will create our own midrash, our own exegesis through our art, using as our guides biblical stories, rabbinic commentaries, and our own creative skills.



Rabbi Bronwen Mullin, a playwright, composer, multi-instrumentalist, and educator, has served as rabbinic artist-in-residence at the Jewish Theological Seminary and is currently the Rabbi of B'nai Jacob in Jersey City. Rabbi Mullin is also the co-founder of Meta-Phys Ed, a multidisciplinary performance group wrestling with religious texts. Judaism is Rabbi Mullin's favorite art form, and she feels humbled to practice in this sacred craft.



Rabbi Ariana Capptauber is currently the rabbi at Beth El Temple in Harrisburg. At Tufts University Rabbi Capptauber studied English literature and completed a senior honors thesis in Creative Writing. She also won Tufts' Morton N. Cohen prize in a short fiction contest. At the Jewish Theological Seminary Rabbi Capptauber began using her creative writing skills as a lens through which to view Torah, and her senior thesis was a creative re-telling of Jacob's flight from home.

Miller Intro to Judaism Program

A product of American Jewish University An Adult Education Course with Rabbi Capptauber

This class welcomes all adult learners who are interested in a basic overview of Jewish life and knowledge or are seeking conversion. Class will be held weekly at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesdays, on the dates below.

Zoom information provided in weekly Beth El email. Class is free of charge, all are welcome!

May 11, May 18, May 25 June 8, June 15, June 22, June 29 July 13, July 20, July 27

August 3, August 10, August 17, August 24, August 31



Parenting is challenging in the best of circumstances, and these days do not provide the best circumstances. Join other parents of young children and Rabbi Capptauber to commiserate and co-advise on our parenting quandaries, and to study Jewish texts that provide spiritual guidance and strength on parenting challenges. To join the group please contact Rabbi Capptauber at rabbiac@bethelhbg.org



Rabbi Cytryn's Corner

Tuesday, March 30

Dear Friends,

Today, for the first time ever, I watched Israeli hooded crows eating Kosher for Passover Doritos in a playground in Jerusalem. I kid you not. Perhaps this only happens in Israel, but it's hard to know.

Amy and I have experienced many "firsts" these past few weeks and I'd like to share some of them with you. We voted in Israel's elections by walking to our local polling place and saying a special "Shehechiyanu" as we dropped our voting envelopes into the ballot box for the first time. We followed that up with a delicious grilling picnic in Britannia Park with our children, grandchildren, and friends. We kashered our apartment for Passover and went shopping at the "Osher Ad" (Israel's very modest version of Costco or Sam's) where literally everything on the shelves is Kosher For Passover. We hosted our family of seven for Shabbat dinner and then Sarah and Gabi hosted us for Seder.

We said a special "Shehechiyanu" at the Seder in honor of this being our first Pilgrimage Festival as citizens of Israel! And Sarah and Gabi led us in a special recognition that last year at this time we were at best Zooming Seders and at worst terribly isolated. The neighborhood was overflowing with cars and sounds of neighbors singing Seder songs and reuniting after a long, lonely period of isolation. It seems that the relatively strict quarantining that's gone on here, enforced mask wearing, and amazing vaccine availability have paid off.

On Sunday I participated in our "Masorti-Conservative" egalitarian Passover service and, for the first time, heard the Prayer for Dew chanted between the putting away of the Torah Scrolls and the Hatzi Kaddish preceding the Musaf Amida. I hear many Israeli and Hassidic melodies and niggunim that are new to me when I'm at shul here, and I'm enjoying the spiritual experience of usually sitting back and "following the leader." Yesterday, Monday, we celebrated the first "week day" of Passover by spending the day at a new children's park very near Maayan's elementary school (where the crows mentioned above were chowing down). Knowing that according to a 2,000year tradition, the diaspora Jewish communities add a day to each Pilgrimage celebration made our Israeli practice very meaningful. And, at Yizkor on Shabbat, the last day of Passover in Israel, I'll remember my parents, both of whom were ardent Zionists and spent a great deal of time

in Israel. I'll remember them for bringing me here on our first tour when I was 13 and implanting within me a deep love for our people, wherever they live, and our democratic, pluralistic state.

Which brings me back to the elections. On election night, and every day since, we followed the election results like good Israelis, and because a few million paper ballots needed to be counted we didn't know until Friday what the exact breakdown of votes per party was. While the party we voted for received the second highest vote total, it looks like we might be headed to a 5th Knesset election day since April 9, 2019. (That will be 5 elections in less than 30 months, each costing Israel an estimated 250 million shekels for the election itself, 200 million shekels for the government underwriting political campaigns, and another 1.7 billion shekels lost from the economy through granting most workers a paid day off from work to fulfill their responsibility to vote; at approximately 3.3 shekels to the dollar, you do the math.)

The parties running at least partially on the "anyone but Benjamin Netanyahu as the next Prime Minister" clearly have more seats in Knesset than the parties that support Netanyahu, but neither seems to have enough to form a government with a majority of 61 seats (of the 120 total). The country is very fragmented; 39 parties contested for votes, and an additional six parties pulled out of the running in February because according to polling they believed they did not have enough votes to contest for even one Knesset seat on Election Day. Thirteen Parties won at least four or more seats. None of the other 26 parties won even one seat.

We're still a week away from Israel's President asking the leader of one of the parties to form a ruling coalition. If 61 Knesset members can't come up with an agreement, we could be headed to another election day sometime shortly before the High Holidays.

Oy! Unlike in America, politicians here just can't seem to get along! It is so exasperating! There's a lot more for me to say on Israeli politics, but for now, those who wish to read more about the challenge of forming a new government and about Israel in general, I recommend two websites, The Times of Israel and Haaretz newspaper.

Amy and I have now been here five months; in that time we've become citizens, thanks to the Law of Return, signed on for National Health Insurance, rented an apartment across the street from Maayan, Miri, and Tehillah (and their parents), unpacked our possessions and furniture from America, and purchased some Israeli furniture. We've joined a "Masorti" congregation, Mayanot, and I've already led davening, chanted Torah and Haftarah, and we've renewed some old friendships and initiated some new ones. I've enrolled in two classes at the Schechter Institute,

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Asian History Film Screening and Discussion Thursday, May 27 at 7:30 p.m.



Join Beth El for a "watch party" of an episode of the PBS documentary Asian Americans on "the history of identity, contributions, and challenges experienced by Asian Americans." The documentary is available online and we will watch together.

Afterward, we will have a discussion about the film and the current experiences of Asian Americans in Harrisburg with Tiffany Chang-Lawson, the director of the Bureau of Campaign Finance and Civic Engagement for the State of PA, and other panelists to be announced.



Tiffany Chang Lawson was appointed the director of the Bureau of Campaign Finance and Civic Engagement on February 9, 2019.

In her role as director, Lawson manages the department's division of campaign finance and lobbying disclosure as well as the department's civic engagement program which oversees the Governor's Civic Engagement Award. She provides leadership on daily operations of

the bureau, including the development of the budget, strategic goals, policies, and procedures.

LIVE SERVICES AT BETH EL TEMPLE!

We are excited to welcome back our Beth El members for in-person services!

Please join us on the following dates:

Friday, April 30 6:00 p.m. Outside

Friday, May 7 6:00 p.m. Inside the sanctuary
Friday, May 21 6:00 p.m. Outside (Family Service)
Saturday, May 22 10:00 a.m. Inside the sanctuary
Friday, June 11 6:00 p.m. Inside the sanctuary
Friday, June 25 6:00 p.m. Outside (Family Service)

Saturday, June 26 10:00 a.m. Inside the sanctuary

Attendance will be limited to 40 people per service. Please RSVP to Patty Brown at patty@bethelhbg.org or (717) 232-0556.

Safety measures:

Arrival: Arrive between 5:45-5:55 p.m. on

Friday and 9:45-9:55 a.m. on Saturday

Enter through the main doors

Maintain social distancing at

six feet apart

Wear a mask over your nose and mouth (one can be provided if you

need one)

Use the hand sanitizer at the entrance

Ushers will assist with seating at all

services

No touching is permitted in Beth

El Temple.

Face Masks: You will be required to wear facial

coverage (covers both nose and mouth) the ENTIRE time you are in

the building.

Seats: Please sit only as a household family

unit where the Usher asks you to sit.

BYOK/BYOT: Bring your own kippah and tallit

Exit: Please social distance when exiting

the building. Ushers will dismiss by

rows.

Note: All services will also be available on

Zoom or Livestream on these dates

MORE MAGIC

Added to Our Raffle Event on Sunday June 6, 2021

By Neil Weber

Despite the pandemic and the restrictions on holding large indoor events, Beth El's raffle is going to be "bigger" and "bolder" than ever. The raffle committee is busy expanding the number of prizes to be given away, with more money to be won – a grand prize of \$2500 and more gifts to be awarded, including a flat screen TV and food, store, and restaurant gift certificates.

More "magic" has also been added to the entertainment at the raffle; not only will there be music, actual magic will be showcased including virtual interactive tricks in a family-friendly fun performance by a master of digital deception. And there is still more!

Master Chef Paul Schmanske and his colleagues will create a deliciously wonderful brunch to delight and surprise our raffle ticket holders. The brunch provided with each ticket will satisfy the hunger of two. All of the above for only \$100 per raffle ticket.

One can buy tickets from the Beth El office by contacting Patty Brown or from one's raffle salesperson from whom you may have previously bought tickets in past years. Be a winner and be part of Beth El's most important fundraiser. Tickets purchased by April 26 will be eligible to win additional prizes at a special drawing on that date.

Rabbi Cytryn's Corner

one about Interfaith Dialogue in Israel (in which we meet Christians, Muslims, and Jews who are leading different interfaith dialogue groups) and the second about Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel's teachings about "God's Image," which the Israeli Professor believes are a key to addressing the issue of different racisms in Israel. Both classes are very engaging. Reading Heschel translated into Hebrew is an uplifting and challenging experience, and thank goodness that amidst the too many books we shipped to Israel are most of my Heschel library.

In light of the Heschel class, my love for Beth El Temple and my respect for Rabbi Capptauber, Bill Walter, and the lay-leadership of the congregation, I'm praying that this year's Freedom Seder is a great success. The program and guest speakers Rabbi Capptauber and her committee have lined up are excellent, and I'm certain that you'll enjoy the speakers and be enlightened and inspired by the interfaith experience. Yashar Koach to Rabbi Capptauber, Mike Sand, and whoever else participated in organizing this great opportunity for dialogue and education. "From Fear to Freedom" is the perfect topic! It's heartening to see the practice of dignifying each relationship, by recognizing the other as a person created, like you, in God's own image, is alive and well throughout the religious community of Harrisburg.

One final note. Hardly a day goes by when we don't see our family and spend time with our granddaughters. I go for long walks with Tehillah, who will be 6 months old April 2, and I sing to her and talk to her as we're Continued from page 9

walking for an hour or two up and down the hills and around the neighborhoods that surround our home. Sometimes we go shopping, sometimes we stop for coffee, sometimes we just walk and walk and sing and talk. Of course, she's just listening now, and I can tell you, she is a very respectful and attentive listener. (I think it helps that I assure her that nothing I say will be on any test.) We take Maayan (7) and Miri (4) to the local playground and watch them play with their friends, push them on the swings, watch them climb up and come down the slide and try to keep track of them on their scooters. Amy helps Maayan with her Hebrew reading and sometimes we have a guitar playing Kabbalat Shabbat, just like I led at Beth El back in the day, and guitar-playing Havdalah. Miri loves to hear many songs, none more than "Country Roads" by John Denver. She does creative dance when I play. Amy and I are having fun every day and enjoying each moment with our family.

We miss you. We pray you're getting vaccinated and are enjoying general good health and either a return to "normalcy" or are getting used to "the new daily, weekly, and monthly normal." We pray we'll be able to see you all, probably towards the end of the summer; God willing, the creek don't rise and the Health Department savs it's OK.

> Happy Passover, lots of love and all the best, Rabbi Eric Cytryn



Tikkun Leil, Services, and Yizkor

Shavuot begins the night of May 16, 2021.

Part One: Blanket + Blintzes for Gesher Families

Sunday, May 16 3:00 p.m. at Chisuk Emuna

Gesher families, join us for a lively, outdoor, in-person* Shavuot Celebration

BYOB (Bring Your Own Blanket)

"Make and take" blintzes

Play games and hear stories

Plus: Special recognition and graduation of our 7th-grade Students, Gesher's Class of 2021.

*Covid-status permitting



Part Two: Tikkun Leil: An Evening of Learning with Beth El Temple and Chisuk Emuna Congregation

Sunday, May 16 6:30 – 7:45 p.m. via Zoom

Join us for special learning sessions in the tradition of learning on the eve of Shavuot. Teachers will include Rabbi Capptauber, Rabbi Muroff, as well as some special guest lay teachers! Teaching schedule will be announced including class options to choose.

Sunday, May 16 8:00 p.m. Evening services via Zoom

Monday, May 17 Shavuot Day 1 Service

10:00 a.m. Service via Zoom – Beth El Temple

5:30 p.m. Evening Service via Zoom

Tuesday, May 18 Shavuot Day 2 Service

10:00 a.m. Service and Yizkor via Zoom – Beth El Temple

5:30 p.m. Evening Service via Zoom

Welcome New Members!

Beth El Temple warmly welcomes

Mr. David Tepper and Ms. Emma Lowe Mrs. Arlene Ross

On behalf of the congregation, we want to thank our new members for finding a spiritual home at Beth El. We value their membership and look forward to joining them in prayer and at social and educational programs at Beth El.

MAZAL & TOY

Mazal Tov to **Joan Friedlander** on the engagement of her granddaughter Shana Rosenberg to Joey Frank. The wedding is planned for this August.

Mazal Tov to **Rose Blecker** on the Bat Mitzvah of her granddaughter Sasha Lowit.

Mazal Tov to **Alyce Spector and family** on the birth of her great-granddaughter Ariel Spector in February. Parents are Alex and Stephanie Spector.



In celebration of the end of the year, the Harrisburg area Jewish Community is invited to join Beth El Temple and Kesher Israel for a Fun-inthe-Sun Celebration in the Beth El Temple parking lot. Kosher food trucks will be serving a wonderful selection of walk-up, food-for-purchase items. Cash only.

Due to Covid Restrictions, everyone who attends must register in advance. Email Patty Brown at patty@bethelhbg.org to reserve your time. You must include your email address, phone number, and desired time slot:

> 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. 12:30 p.m.-2:00 p.m. 2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. 3:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

For the health & safety of our vendors and attendees, masks and social distancing will be enforced.



Good Luck to Our **HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS**

Congratulations to our graduating high school seniors! As you go off to pursue your dreams and goals next year, the Beth El Temple family wishes you the very best of success. Be sure to come back and visit us, and often.

Mira and Lilli Benson will graduate from Stuttgart High School in Germany. They are both planning a gap year for some language studies, travel, and internship opportunities in Europe.

Meet the Rabbi! (Part Two) "Parlour Meetings" via Zoom with Rabbi Capptauber

In July, Rabbi Capptauber will be one year into her new role as our Rabbi at Beth El, and she wants to check in with you!



Come join us for a Zoom "Parlour Meeting" to shmooze and get to know her better. Bring a favorite Beth El memory to share and a summer drink to sip. Each meeting will be held for one hour and will be capped at 20 participants, so everyone will get a chance to check in.

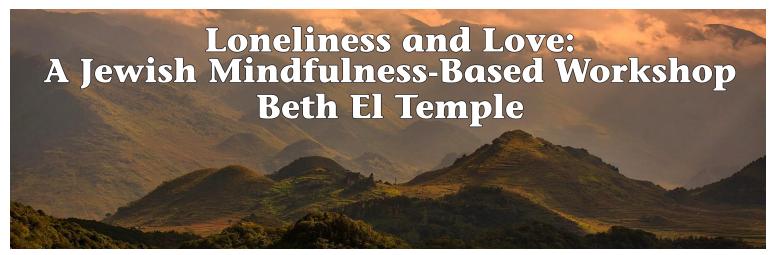
Meeting times are listed below. Please RSVP to Patty to sign up for a spot. 717-232-0556 or patty@bethelhbg.org **Spots are first-come-first-serve, but there will be ongoing opportunities to meet with Rabbi Capptauber over the summer!

Dates:

Thursday, July 15 8:30 p.m. Friday, July 16 10:00 a.m. Wednesday, July 21 7:30 p.m.

All registrants will be emailed a Zoom invitation prior to your session.





Special guest speaker, Yael Shy Thursday, June 24, 8-9 p.m. ET on Zoom

As more people get vaccinated and we begin to emerge out of our homes and our "pods," many of us are reckoning with the loneliness we have endured and are perhaps still reckoning with, as a result of quarantine, loss, and isolation. Through Jewish mindfulness-based texts and practice, this workshop will offer some practical insights and tools on understanding our loneliness and finding healing and connection, wherever we are. No experience with meditation necessary — just an open heart and mind!

Yael Shy is the CEO of Mindfulness Consulting, LLC, where she teaches and consults for mindfulness for universities, corporations, and private clients around the world. She is the author of the award-winning book, What Now? Meditation for Your Twenties and Beyond (Parallax, 2017), and the founder of Mindful NYU, the largest campusbased mindfulness initiative in the US.



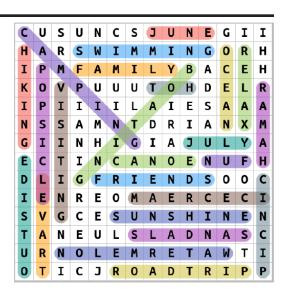
Yael has over a decade of teaching and consulting experience and nearly 20 years of meditation practice experience in Jewish, Zen, and secular contexts. She is certified in Jewish Meditation from the Institute for Jewish Spirituality, where she serves as Adjunct Faculty. You can find out more about Yael at yaelshy.com and on instagram at yaelshy1.

Zoom link information will be sent in the Beth El Temple weekly Shul News emails.

Answers from Today's Kids puzzles on page 7.

Riddle Answers:

- 1. Stop loafing around!
- 2. He was playing by ear.
- 3. He had the perfect pitch.
- 4. A nose.
- 5. Moaning Myrtle



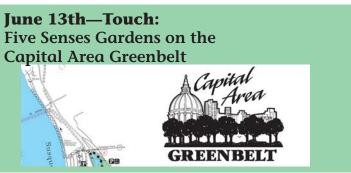
THE FIVE SENSES: An Immersive Torah Experience Sundays: May 9, 23 & June 6, 13 at 2:00 p.m.

Explore and delight in your senses while deepening your knowledge of Torah with Rabbi Capptauber in this outdoor, experiential learning program. On four Sunday afternoons in May and June we will meet at an outdoor location, do a bit of learning and discussion on what Torah has to say about that particular sense, and then take a walk together to engage mindfulness around that sense. The first class on Mother's Day will explore smell and taste at Hershey Gardens, the next will explore sound at Wildwood Park, the next sight at Boyd Big Tree Preserve, and finally we will explore touch at the Five Senses Gardens on the Capital Area Greenbelt. List of locations and themes below:









RSVP to Patty Brown at patty@bethelhbg.org for information on where precisely to meet.

An Evening of Music & Singing With Special Guest Rabbi Ariel Root Wolpe



Thursday, May 13th at 8pm

Join us for an evening of music and singing on Zoom with Rabbi Ariel Root Wolpe. (Link in weekly email)

Rabbi Wolpe is a mother, musician, and spiritual educator, ordained in 2019 by the Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies. After ordination she moved to Philadelphia to study Jewish music through Hadar's Rising Song Institute and serve as Rabbi Artist in Residence at Adath Israel. She is working on her third album through Rising Song Records.

Rabbi Wolpe now lives in Atlanta with her husband and two children where she founded and directs Ma'alot, a growing community of artsy, outdoorsy Jewish folk in Atlanta. To learn more about Ariel and hear her music visit www.arielwolpe.com

*** SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE ***



Thank you to our Social Justice volunteers over the last few months! On Sunday, February 21, the Yodfat family participated in the Family food delivery at the JCC.

We had a great turn out to cheer those at the Jewish Home on Sunday, February 28. "Signs for Seniors" was full of creative and loving signs designed by our own members and some awesome kids! On March 5-6, Beth El Temple participated in HIAS Shabbat. Speakers were welcomed to share their stories during services. Our congregants enjoyed learning so much about the refugees in our Harrisburg community.

I hope you were able to attend the Freedom Seder this year. Despite taking place on Zoom, it was well attended with over 150 people from Beth El plus community members from many different backgrounds. There was learning, eating, drinking, sharing, and overall it was another successful seder!

I'm looking for some volunteers with a green thumb to help start a garden at Beth El Temple! If you are interested in getting involved, please email Brooke Weinberg at marleeblakez@aol.com.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

JFS is looking for some committed volunteers to work in the food pantry and to deliver food to the needy. It could be as minimal as 1-2 hours a week.

Interested individuals may call Elaine Strokoff at 717-503-6554.

Thank you Life and Legacy Donors for ensuring the continued vitality of Beth El Temple for generations to come!

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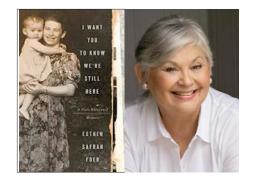
BETH EL Book Club's 2020-2021 Series

Tuesday, May 4th @ 7 p.m. With Charles Belfoure Author of The Fabergé Secret

Prince Dimitri Markhov, a close friend of Tsar Nicholas, becomes disillusioned with the Tsar's stance on Russian Jews, especially after he meets a young female doctor who opens his eyes to the horrors of the pogroms. A man of integrity, Dimitri must face what happens when morality is threatened.



Charles Belfoure is also the author of The Paris Architect.



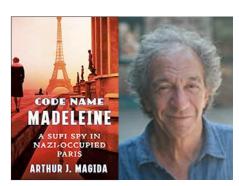
Tuesday, June 1st @ 7 p.m. With Esther Safran Foer Author of I Want You To Know We're Still Here

An illuminating book about a search for family roots, long since hidden along with a parent's haunting memories of the Holocaust. Esther Safran Foer's research and travels describe a time in our not-so-distant past that should not be forgotten. This is her family's story, but one we can all share.

Tuesday, July 6th @ 7 p.m.

With Arthur J. Magida Author of Code Name Madeleine

Code Name Madeleine: A Sufi Spy in Nazi-Occupied Paris tells the well-researched story of Noor Inayat Khan, daughter of an Indian Sufi Mystic, and an unlikely WWII heroine. The treatment of Jews in Germany convinced her to abandon Gandhi's pacifism and join the British Special Operations and become the only radio operator in Paris sending critical information to London.



Books available for sale through the Beth El Office
For further information call 717-232-0556 or patty@bethelhbg.org
Free and open to the community

The Bond of Life

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■ Condolences

Joseph A. Dym

The congregation extends condolences to

- the family of Harriet Rothenberg Cramer; two sons Larry Rothenberg (Philip Feiner) and Jeffrey Rothenberg (Daniel Goldstein) both of New York; daughter Marilynn (Richard) Abrams of Lemoyne; Elaine Rothenberg of Israel; five grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.
- the Lieber-Merwin family; daughter Dr. Andrea Lieber (Dr. Ted Merwin) and granddaughters Hannah, Sarah, and Leah Merwin of Baltimore on the passing of father and grandfather Edward Lieber.
- the Wolfe family; wife Beatrice E. (Cohen) Wolfe; son Gary E. Wolfe; two grandchildren and a great-granddaughter on the passing of husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather Herbert D. Wolfe.
- the Bronner and Kahr families; children Benjamin (Ava) Kahr; Amy (Ilan) Mosery, and Sally Jo (Simon) Bronner; grandchildren Jonathan (Yael), Chelsea (Aharon), Whitney, Shulamit, Eitan, Sam, and Rachel; and great-grandchildren Aliza, Lavi, and Boaz on the passing of mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother Leatrice Kahr.

Contributions from Thoughtful People

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Isaacman; Joan Levinsohn Isaacman; Joel B. Lench; Clint Mock; Harriet R. Cramer; Edward Lieber; Herbert D. Wolfe; Donna Rosenberg; Clara Weber; Harvey Bacal; Dr. Richard Zuckerman; Leatrice Kahr

In Honor of: Sharon Etter's new granddaughter; Ben Yodfat's Bar Mitzvah, February 6, 2021; Mim Warden and the Freedom Seder; Harvey Freedenberg's milestone birthday; Harvey Freedenberg's 57th Anniversary of his Bar Mitzvah; Bonnie Peisner; Harvey Freedenberg's In Memory of: Sally Solomon Special Birthday

Speedy Recovery: Howard Gale

Donation from: Rey Beniquez; Joel and Carol Ressler: Dianne Schultz: Elizabeth Barrow-Williams; Cynthia Sussman and the Sussman Family Endowment; Alyce Spector and the Alyce and Morton Spector Philanthropic Fund for BBYO Support

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DR. CURT AND Alice BAMberger Fund

In Memory of: Eva Bamberger Stahl; Dorothea Weissenberg Guttmann

BETH El Book Club Endowment Fund

In Memory of: Harry Sher; Leatrice Kahr

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In Memory of: Betty N. and Joseph H. Caplan

Marc Cohen Fund

In Memory of: Joel B. Lench

Rabbi Eric Cytryn Music Fund

In Honor of: Rabbi Ariana Capptauber and Rabbi Eric Cytryn

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Isaacman Family Fund

In Memory of: Florence Isaacman

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In Memory of: Joel B. Lench; Harriet R. Cramer

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In Memory of: Joel B. Lench; Florence Isaacman

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