thechronicle

TEMPLE BETH EL OF BOCA RATON

MARCH/APRIL ADAR/NISAN/IYAR 2021/5781



BETH EL BASH page 6 ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE EVAN KENT page 10 PASSOVER SEDERS pages 14, 15, 24, 25

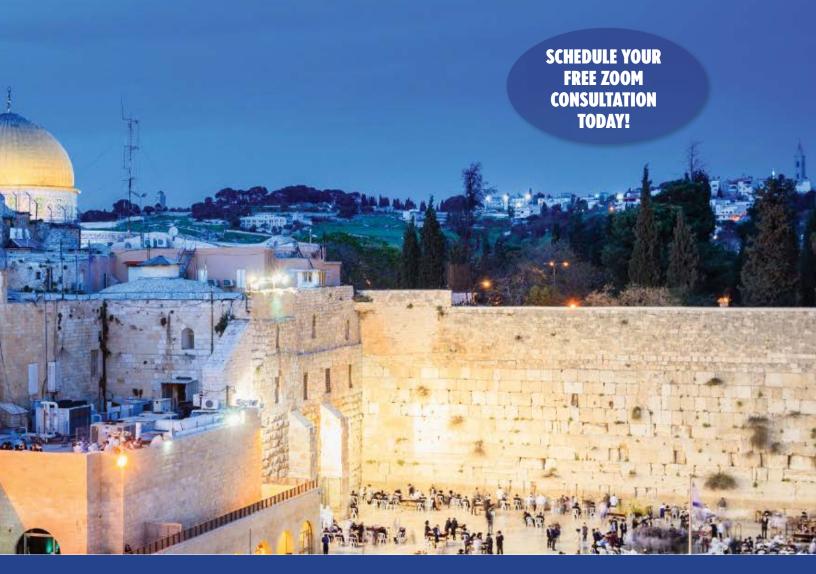




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לב זה יעבור Gam Zeh Ya'avor This Too Shall Pass BY RABBI DAN LEVIN

There is a story that King Solomon decided to give a challenge to his most faithful, and humble servant. He asked him to find a ring – a magic ring. "If a person in misery or mourning beholds it, hope rises in his heart and he is comforted."

The servant spent months traveling throughout the land, searching everywhere for the magic ring, but with no success. One night, sick with disappointment and despair, he passed by a shop he hadn't seen before, and wandered in. He asked, still with hope in his heart, do you have this magic ring?

"Ah!" said the shopkeeper's grandfather. "We do!" He took a gold ring, spent an hour at his station engraving a phrase, and showed it to the servant. With tears of joy and gratitude streaming down his face, he paid all the money he had in his purse.

The next day, he presented the ring to the King. King Solomon examined the inscription and smiled: "Gam Zeh Ya'avor - This too shall pass."

So many cultures tell some version of this story,

Last year at this time, as the COVID-19 pandemic swept across our country and our world, our lives turned upside down in ways we could never have imagined.

and in the last year, I have heard so many share this sentiment. Last year at this time, as the COVID-19 pandemic swept across our country and our world, our lives turned upside down in ways we could never have imagined.

Many suffered the effects of this illness – some with mild symptoms, others with severe infection leading to hospitalizations and weeks and months of sickness. Some did not survive. We lost beloved members of our congregation, and others have mourned the loss of family and friends.

Social distancing forced many in our community to miss important family events. We saw loved ones laid to rest on Zoom, and observed shiva in empty homes. Weddings were postponed, graduations cancelled, B'nai Mitzvah celebrated with a handful of close family, grandparents missed the birth of grandchildren, and more.

Others have suffered business loss and unemployment, economic collapse, and fiscal strain. The added epidemic of loneliness has assaulted our spirits. We have become far too acquainted with the



walls of our homes, and many have gone months without a simple human touch or embrace.

But through it all, we have persevered. With faith and hope, our ancestors saw the dark days of Haman's persecutions and slavery in Egypt give way to the light of redemption and renewal. Echoing throughout our history, you can hear our people calling out to each other: Gam Zeh Ya'avor – this too shall pass.

We too have answered this moment with strong hearts and eyes looking for uplift. We found ways to connect with each other for learning, support, and inspiration. We sewed masks and arranged mealtrains for healthcare workers, we provided groceries and produce for needy families, we embraced the opportunity to observe Shabbat regularly from home, we volunteered to help seniors find appointments for vaccine. We reached out to one another and said: "This too shall pass, but for now, I am right here with you."

In 1859, speaking to the Wisconsin State Fair, Abraham Lincoln remembered this story. But in closing his remarks, he added: "And this, too, shall pass... And yet let us hope it is not quite true. Let us hope, rather, that by the best cultivation of the physical world, beneath and around us; and the intellectual and moral world within us, we shall secure an individual, social, and political prosperity and happiness, whose course shall be onward and upward, and which, while the earth endures, shall not pass away."

Gam Zeh Ya'avor – this too shall pass. But let us ensure that our ingenuity and creativity, the resiliency of our spirits, our desire for spiritual growth, and the care and love we have shown for each other remain with us now and forever.

One for the Books!

It's been almost one year since we shut down the buildings at Temple Beth El due to the global health pandemic. Friday, March 13, 2020, to be exact.

At the time, we had no idea what the future would hold. How would our temple fare? How would our people cope? How long would this craziness last?

As it turns out, we have a lot to be grateful for. We have learned a lot. And when this is finally over, we will make sure to remember the bright spots along the way.



We learned how to film services.

Most of our Shabbat services this past year have been Zoomed from the homes of our clergy, and broadcast live on the temple website, Facebook and YouTube pages. But some services needed a little extra pizazz. We filmed the Purim Spiel against a green screen as individual, socially distant pieces. Then we edited it together with lots of visual and music effects to create a wacky, zany Purim experience. Although we couldn't hear the sound of the groggers from the congregation, we enjoyed playing all the Purim characters just the same!

We helped people we didn't know.

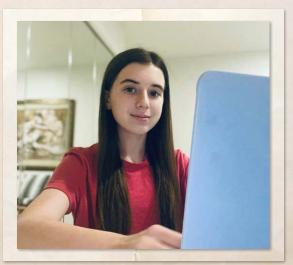
It was difficult to secure a Covid vaccine appointment when they first became available to people 65+. Most appointments could only be made online, the instructions were confusing and overwhelming, the limited phone lines were busy and the websites crashed. Congregants Jonathan and Jennifer Greenwald jumped in to help. They were early members of a Facebook Group called "South Florida Covid-19 Vaccination Info", and within one month they had each made hundreds of vaccine appointments for people they didn't know, but who needed help. They recruited and trained additional volunteers to make thousands of appointments. As the influence of this group spread throughout the state, they worked even harder - on top of their regular jobs and raising two small children - to help all of us get vaccinated and get our lives back!





We learned that children can keep us smiling no matter what.

Despite the buildings being closed for large gatherings, we knew we had to find a way to open our Early Learning Center safely. Our families needed us to take care of their young children so they could work. Our children needed to learn, and be social and feel safe. Ronni Graf shared some funny stories on page 18, but just looking at the childrens' beautiful faces brings smiles to ours!



Appreciate what's right in front of you.

We recently celebrated a beautiful wedding. The bride and groom, both in their early 70's, had decided that after 18 years together they wanted to finally get married. They called the Temple to inquire, and Rabbi Dan gave them a tour of our magnificent facility. They decided to join the Temple and to get married on our bima. Masked, with only a few guests able to attend, and shared with friends and family on Zoom, they experienced a beautiful, meaningful and spiritual commitment to their lives together.



We taught and learned new technology.

At the beginning of the pandemic, Mia Farber, a sixth grade student decided to join the new virtual adult Hebrew class to improve her Hebrew for her bat mitzvah. Many of the adults were seniors and had difficulty with the technical aspects of joining the class – they couldn't get their camera or sound to work properly, problems logging on, etc. Mia, as a tech savvy young person helped many of the older students, and even tutored one of the students who joined the class later to help her catch up. Mia even tried to teach some of them how to use Venmo! The entire class is so excited to join Mia virtually, for her bat mitzvah on March 20, 2021 to celebrate this amazing young woman.

BETHELBASH
MAILE BASH
MARKET B



SATURDAY APRIL 24, 2021 **7:00 PM** VIRTUAL EVENT

HONORING OUR COVID WARRIORS AND PANDEMIC HEROES

HOSTED BY **OUR HONORARY CO-CHAIRS**JAN & ALLEN LEV ELIZABETH & ADAM SHONSON GINA & GREG SHUGAR

IT'S SATURDAY NIGHT

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE, PLEASE CONTACT SHAYNA MARTINOFF, DEVELOPMENT SENIOR ASSOCIATE, AT SMARTINOFF@TBEBOCA.ORG OR CALL 561-314-2815.

For more information and to RSVP, visit tbeboca.org/beth-el-bash-2021

A Day in The Life of Temple Beth El-Nothing to Take for Granted



MARK SUNSHINE
TEMPLE BETH EL
PRESIDENT
msunshine
@masunshine.com

One of our synagogue's core values is that every encounter we have with a member of our community is treated as a holy moment. It is easy to take Beth El's staff and clergy for granted.

As congregants, we have come to expect that we will be taken care of, no matter how difficult the task, with exceptional professionalism, compassion, and grace. Our staff and clergy consistently "make it look easy."

But make no mistake, what we have come to expect from Beth El does not happen by accident – it requires outstanding dedication and commitment by our team.

Perhaps the best way to illustrate our team's commitment is to let you know what went into an "average" event that occurred a few weeks ago.

The event was a wedding that took place midmorning during the week.

The bride and groom were new members of the Temple, both in their early 70's, who decided that after 18 years together, they wanted to get married.

The couple were not members before the wedding.

For the wedding to occur:

- The membership team engaged with the couple and quickly processed their membership application;
- Members of the clergy team had to plan the wedding, reserve the sanctuary and inform the rest of our team about the requirements of the ceremony;
- Our maintenance team prepared the bima and sanctuary. This is a big job that is made more challenging by Covid-19. Among the things that the maintenance team had to do include:
 - Disinfecting the sanctuary, bima, restrooms and hallways;
 - Moving the extraordinarily heavy reading table;
 - Placing a large and cumbersome step module at the bima so there would be steps for the wedding couple;
 - Assembling a free-standing chuppah and placing it on the bima;
 - Dressing two more tables that are not normally on the bima;
 - Setting up Kiddush cups, sanitizer, and microphones; and

- After the wedding, cleaning, disinfecting, and putting everything back into its correct place so that the bima was usable for the next event.
- The Beth El communications team was a wedding participant. They produced a Zoom video that rivals the production quality of network television (a skill we did not have at the beginning of the pandemic). There was a technician in the sound booth operating cameras, lighting, sound, and a producer mixing the audio/video feed. And, the Beth El staff created a slide show for use before the wedding so as people came into the waiting room, they were not looking at a blank screen.
- Of course, the clergy team met with the couple (now newlyweds), prepared the Ketubah, and performed the ceremony.

One of our synagogue's core values is that every encounter we have with a member of our community is treated as a holy moment. And what I love and appreciate about our team is that everyone is committed to this core value.

It would have been easy for Rabbi Levin to have performed a simple ceremony in the lobby or his office. Because of Covid-19, that is what most synagogues are doing for small weddings. A simple office ceremony would have been both expected and adequate.

However, Beth El's team does not aspire to be adequate – they want to exceed expectations.

I don't think our newlyweds have any idea how much work went into facilitating their wedding ceremony. And that's okay.

The couple knows that their wedding day was even more transcendent and spiritually powerful than they ever imagined.

I am telling you this because I want to make sure that we never take the blessing of Beth El membership for granted. We need to remember to thank our clergy and staff for deciding to spend their lives taking care of us, the congregants of Temple Beth El.

I Got Two Doses of the Vaccine. Can I Come Back to Temple?



BY STEVE KAUFMAN EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR skaufman@tbeboca.org

As more and more of our Temple members are getting vaccinated against Covid-19, many are wondering when we will reopen the Temple for in-person programs and worship services.

For the time being the answer is "not yet". Here is why.

First, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is still recommending that you wear a mask and avoid close contact with others even after getting two doses of the vaccine.

According to the CDC website:

"Not enough information is currently available to say if or when the CDC will stop recommending that people wear masks and avoid close contact with others to help prevent the spread of the virus. Experts need to understand more about the protection that Covid-19 vaccines provide in real world conditions before making that decision. We also don't know whether getting a Covid-19 vaccine will prevent you from spreading the virus to other people, even if you don't get sick yourself."

Also, in order to offer in-person programs and worship services, we need administrative staff, custodial staff, security staff, and A/V technicians, to name a few. Most of those individuals are under age 65 and so it will be a while before they are vaccinated. We don't want to create a situation where we put our valued staff members at risk if we can avoid it.

In light of the above, we are exploring when and what type of in person gatherings we can do safely given these constraints. We deeply miss seeing all of you in person and we know you miss seeing your Temple friends too. We are anxious to return to our lovely facilities as soon as possible. But we must do so responsibly, and unfortunately we are not at that point just yet. We appreciate your patience and continued support.







Local clergy were invited to receive the vaccine from Baptist Health / Boca Raton Regional Hospital so they could be protected from Covid-19 while in service to our community, and visiting Temple Beth El members who are hospitalized. As Rabbi Dan mentioned in his Facebook post, "Side effects include overwhelming gratitude and appreciation for the researchers, scientists, technicians and all those whose painstaking labor brought forth this vaccine."

We look forward to the day when most of our congregation and community are vaccinated, and we can once again begin to gather indoors and in person.

View the recent Covid-19
panel discussion
"The Covid 19 Vaccine –
What Can We Tell You" on
the Temple's archive page
tbeboca.org/archive
and click on
"Special Events."

Yom Ha'Atzmaut

Celebrating Israel's 73rd Birthday!

Israel! A Musical Tour and Celebration Wednesday, April 14, 2021

7:30pm on Livestream, Facebook, or YouTube

Did you know our very own Rabbi Jessica Mates used to be a tour guide in Israel? We hope you'll join us for an evening celebrating Israel, as Rabbi Jessica guides us through the beauty and history of the land while Cantorial Soloist Michelle Auslander Cohen serenades us with an Israeli soundtrack of some of the country's greatest hits. A beautiful way to celebrate Israel's Independence Day!

Art and Zionism

With Rabbi Matthew Berkowitz **LIVE** from Israel

Thursday, April 15, 2021

10:00am on Livestream, Facebook, or YouTube, or pre-register at tbeboca.org/virtual for the **Zoom link**

How does the art of Israel weave into the Zionist journey? To what extent do we see the theme of slavery to freedom reflected in the art of modern Israel? We will trace the Jewish artistic journey from European persecution to the birth and rise of the State of Israel.

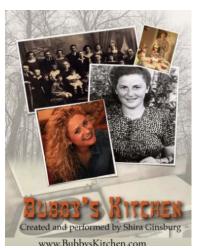


Drive-Thru Israel Experience!

Sunday, April 18, 10:00am to 1:00pm Schaefer Family Campus

- Experience the sights and sounds of Israel as never before!
- No passports needed!
- From the comfort of your car!

Yom HaShoah

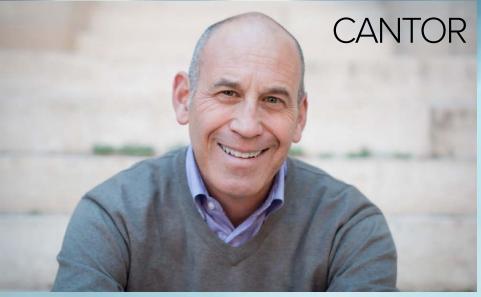


Behind the Scenes of Bubby's Kitchen

Thursday, April 8, 2021, 7:30pm on Livestream, Facebook, or YouTube

Bubby's Kitchen is a one-woman show, created and performed by Cantor Shira Ginsburg. It is inspired by the heroic actions of resistance her grandparents took against the Nazis as Partisans. Bubby's Kitchen is the story of one young woman's journey to live up to her grandparents' incredible legacy. Join us as Rabbi Jessica Mates and Cantorial Soloist Michelle Auslander Cohen interview Cantor Ginsburg. as she explains the making of her show, sings and bears witness to the incredible journey of her family.

Telling and Retelling Our Stories



CANTOR EVAN KENT

ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE SERIES

On Livestream, Facebook, or YouTube Made possible by The Procacci Family Artist-In-Residence Endowment

Cantor Evan Kent is a wonderful storyteller, a gifted musician, and an inspiring performer. At Temple Beth El's first Artist-In-Residence series, we will be entertained and enlightened with Jewish storytelling at its best.

WE ARE A STORYTELLING PEOPLE:

VIRTUAL LUNCH AND LEARN WORKSHOP

Tuesdays, March 2, 9, 16, 2021 12:00pm

Jews are a storytelling people, and in this three-part series we will learn how to develop and tell our own distinctly Jewish stories. We will learn how to find the extraordinary in every day, to speak from our heart and share our own experiences. Through storytelling, we express our own truths, share emotions, and create memories.

SHABBAT WITH CANTOR EVAN KENT FROM ISRAEL:

OUR STORIES THROUGH A JEWISH LENS

Friday, March 19, 2021 • 7:30pmEnjoy this special celebration of Shabbat through story and song.

BEHIND THE SCENES: THE MAKING OF "SHARDS"

Sunday, March 21, 2021 • 11:00am





Cantor Evan Kent shares with you a "behind the scenes" look at the making, development, and production of his one-man show, "Shards."

"Shards" is a full-length musical that weaves together stories of Evan's "aliyah" to Israel, with tales of his family's migration from Eastern Europe to the United States at the beginning of the 20th century. It is a story of love and loss, the search for home and homeland, and along the way discovering what you didn't even know you had lost.

In this program, Evan will share some vignettes and songs from the show, as well as share with all his personal creative and artistic process. **This will take place on Zoom.**

Register to receive the Zoom link at tbeboca.org/virtual

About Cantor Evan Kent

Evan received his ordination as a cantor and his Master's in Sacred Music from Hebrew Union College in New York and served Temple Isaiah in Los Angeles as its cantor for 25 years. Evan also received his Bachelor's Degree from the Manhattan School of Music and a Master's Degree in Public Administration from the City University of New York.

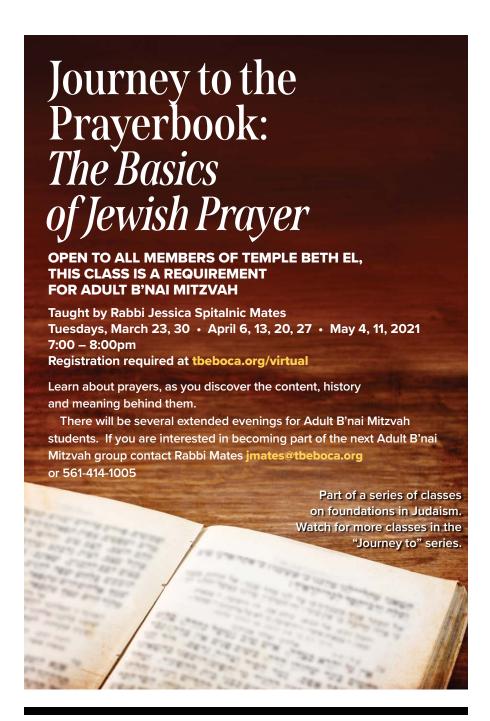
In 2014, Evan Kent earned his doctorate in music education from Boston University. His doctoral research examined how music at Jewish summer camps in North America assists in the development of Jewish identity

He is currently on the faculty of Hebrew Union College in Jerusalem where he teaches liturgy and sacred music. He has starred in Jerusalem productions of "Guys and Dolls", the musical drama "Next to Normal," "Avenue Q", "Singin' in the Rain," Sondheim's "Assassins," "Cabaret," and "She Loves Me." Evan also portrayed Yitzchak



Rabin in a new musical drama ("November") that dramatized the last week of Rabin's life.

Evan's one-man show "Shards-Putting the Pieces Together" has been presented in Jerusalem, Prague, and throughout the United States.



Lunch & Learn

Retired Rabbis Reflecting

With Rabbis Steve Moss and Mordecai Schreiber Tuesdays, April 6, 13, 20 and 27 12:00 – 1:00pm

On Virtual Beth El, Livestream, and YouTube

One of the many blessings of being a synagogue in South Florida is that rabbis in retirement make Temple Beth El their spiritual home. We are blessed that these two rabbis will share with us the books they have recently authored at this time in their life. It is truly a blessing to learn with both of them.



11

Celebrate Shabbat

MARCH 5 · 6:00PM VIRTUAL NIGHT OF 50 SHABBAT DINNERS (see page 13) Shabbat Blessings – Candles, Kiddush and Z'mirot

Join our Rabbis, Cantors and B'nai Mitzvah for twenty minutes of Shabbat "Blessings and Banter" as we usher in Shabbat before we enjoy our Night of 50 Shabbat Dinners.

7:30pm Shabbat Service: What is Shabbat?

We will draw on selections from Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel's book "The Sabbath" to inspire us to build a weekly "palace in time."

MARCH 12 · 6:30PM March Madness Tot Shabbat!

Celebrate Shabbat and the NCAA
Basketball Tournament with your ELC
friends. Wear your favorite college team
jersey for Tot Shabbat with Rabbi Greg
and Cantor Michelle.

7:30pm Shabbat of Spirituality – Building our Inner Tabernacle

In order for God's presence to dwell in the community, the Torah teaches us that we need to build a sanctuary – a mishkan. We will reflect on how Jewish spiritual practice guides each of us to build an inner sanctuary where God dwells within us.

MARCH 19 · 7:30PM Shabbat Service featuring Cantor Evan Kent from Israel

Cantor Evan Kent, direct from Israel, will join our rabbis and cantors to lead us in a meaningful and musical service exploring our personal Jewish stories and how we tell them. This evening is made possible by the Procacci Family Artist-In-Residence Endowment.

MARCH 26 · 7:30PM Shabbat HaGadol – What does it mean to sacrifice?

On this Shabbat before Passover, we explore the value of sacrifice through parshat Tzav.

APRIL 2 7:30PM Shabbat Service: Matzah In the Cafeteria / Being Jewish in Public Spaces

We will discuss being Jewish in public spaces as we welcome our guest speaker, Mark Pelavin. Mark was a senior professional for the Reform Jewish Movement for over 25 years, at the intersection of strategic communications and public policy. He is the founder of Hambleton Cove Non-Profits Consulting.

APRIL 9 • 7:30PM Shabbat Service commemorating Yom HaShoah through Art and the Words of Survivors

We are joined by artist, Dr. Wilma Bulkin Siegel, who has painted award-winning portraits of Holocaust survivors, their children and grandchildren. Her work as a prominent oncologist in New York City hospice care led her to honor these survivors. We will learn her story and meet some of her subjects this Shabbat.

Join us for Shabbat Evening Services

every Friday at 7:30pm, and Torah Study on Saturdays at 9:30am. Visit tbeboca.org/virtual for details, and links to view on Livestream, Facebook or YouTube.

APRIL 16 · 7:30PM **Shabbat Service Celebrating Yom Ha'atzmaut:** What Does Israel Mean to You?

Celebrate our Jewish homeland with our clergy, as they reflect on the time they have spent in Israel and their unique experiences.

APRIL 23 · 6:30PM Earth Day Tot Shabbat

Sh'mirat Ha-teva/Protect Nature and Tikkun Olam/Repairing the World are important Jewish values. Join our Early Learning Center families, Rabbi Greg, and Cantor Michelle for Tot Shabbat honoring our beautiful planet. We will be sending home a packet of seeds with the children that attend our Early Learning Center for families to plant, love and watch grow!

APRIL 23 • 7:30 PM Shabbat Service Celebrating Earth Day

This week's Torah portion, Kedoshim, teaches us about the holiness of nature and our responsibilities to protect our land.

APRIL 30 · 7:30 Shabbat Service: Moving Forward from Plagues

On the 33rd day of the counting of the Omer, (known as Lag B'Omer), a plague that had decimated thousands of Rabbi Akiva's students stopped. Tonight we will explore the meaning and importance behind the cessation of a plague.

SHABBAT DINNERS

FRIDAY, MARCH 5, 2021

6:00pm Blessings and Banter with Clergy 6:30pm Enjoy Shabbat dinner in your homes* 7:30pm Shabbat Evening Service

tbeboca.org/night-of-50

LET'S WELCOME SHABBAT TOGETHER!

First, join your Temple family at 6:00pm for Blessings and Banter and a behind-the-scenes discussion with the Clergy team. Next, enjoy a delicious Shabbat dinner at home.

DON'T WANT TO COOK?

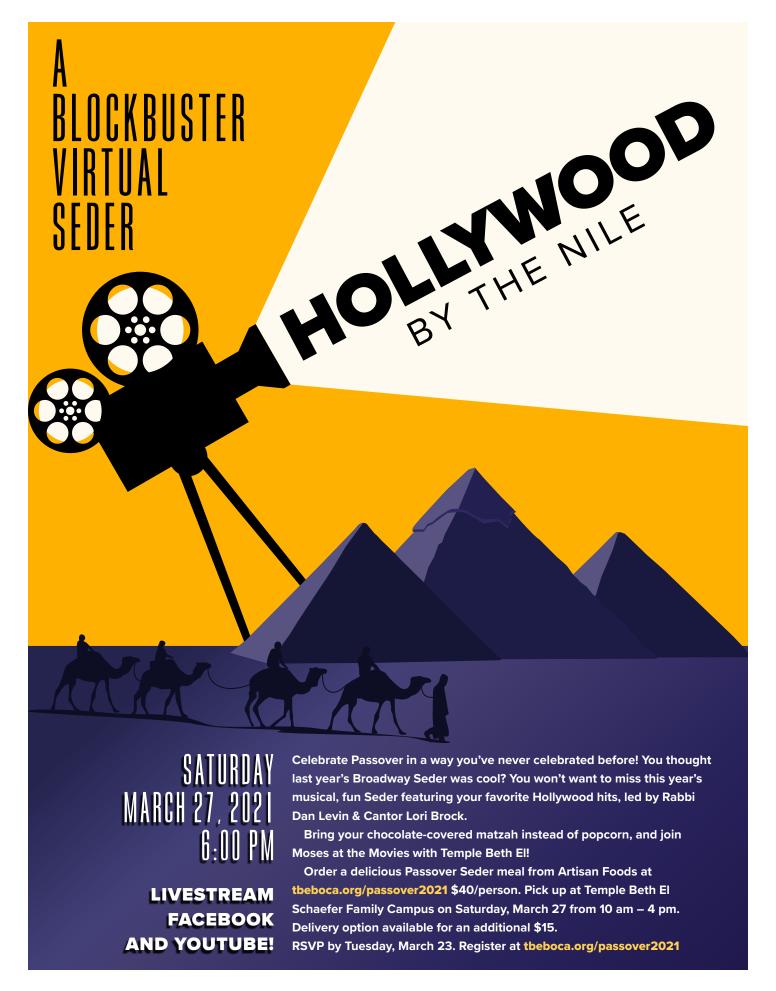
Order a delicious Shabbat dinner catered by Artisan Foods. Family of 2- \$25.00, plus sales tax Family of 4- \$50.00, plus sales tax

Pick up is available at the Schaefer Family Campus on Friday, March 5 from 10:00am - 2:00pm. Delivery is available for an additional \$15.



If you are interested in eating dinner with other Temple Beth El members, register for Zoom Shabbat Dinner, and you will a receive a link to be welcomed to a Zoom Shabbat Dinner Table. Conclude the evening enjoying Shabbat services online - via Livestream, YouTube or Facebook. Visit tbeboca.org/night-of-50 for more information, to register for Blessings and Banter or for a Dinner Table, and to order dinner.

*Please remember to have a Covid-19 safe dinner and do not gather in groups.



Beth El Family Seder

with Rabbi Greg Weisman, Cantorial Soloist Michelle Auslander Cohen and Director of Youth Education and Engagement Heather Erez

> Sunday, March 28, 2021 5:30 - 6:30pm On Zoom

Rabbi Greg, Cantor Michelle, and Heather Erez will be leading this fun Seder geared toward families with younger children.

At 5:30pm we will gather around our Seder tables to welcome the second night of Passover. Our Seder will include a young family-friendly telling of the story, all of the important rituals like WASHING OUR HANDS, dipping the horseradish in the charoset, and saying

the blessings with your friends near and far.

We will play table games and sing Dayeinu and other great Passover songs as we celebrate this festive holiday.

We will be using *In Every Generation: A PJ Library Haggadah*, which is available at pjlibrary.org or from Amazon.

ULibrary

For more information and to register, go to **tbeboca.org/passover2021**



The Art of Freedom

A PASSOVER SPECIAL SERIES

Thursdays, March 4, 11 and 18 10:00 – 11:00am With Rabbi Dan Levin and Rabbi Matt Berkowitz Register at tbeboca.org/passover2021

Rabbi Dan Levin and his dear college friend, Rabbi Matt Berkowitz, will take us on a Passover journey through the artwork of the Haggadah. In this three-part series Rabbi Berkowitz in Israel and our clergy here in Boca will reflect onthe Passover texts and how *The Moss Haggadah* and Rabbi Berkowitz's stunning artwork in *The Lovell Haggadah* can inspire creative ideas to enrich your own Seder..

Rabbi Berkowitz is the Director of Israel Programs for The Jewish Theological Seminary of America and co-founder of Kol Ha-Ot, a Jerusalembased venture devoted to exploring the arts and Jewish learning. His art adorns the walls of the Judson Beit Midrash at Temple Beth El Schaefer Family Campus.

Zoom Women's & Men's Seders

For more information, see pages 24-25.

CANTOR STEPHEN DUBBER VIRTUAL CANTORIAL CONCERT

FEATURING:

Cantor David Propis

Cantor Mark Childs

Cantor Dan Singer

Cantor David Muchnick

Cantor Lori Brock

Cantorial Soloist Sarah Freudenberger

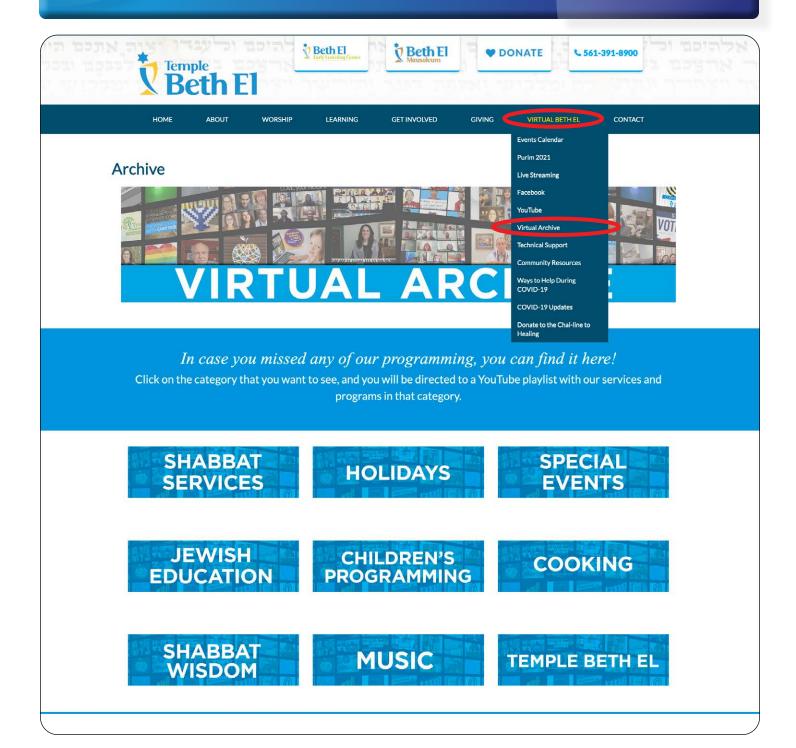
Cantorial Soloist Michelle Auslander Cohen

Join us to hear all of the hits Cantor Dubov performed from Broadway to the Bima!

SAVE THE DATE APRIL 11, 2021

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

We have a new Virtual Archive! If you miss any of our programming, including Shabbat Evening Services, holiday services, special events, and more, it will be available in our Virtual Archive for you to watch at any time. Click on Virtual Beth El in the menu bar at the top and choose Virtual Archive from the drop down menu.



This Too Shall Pass A Mantra, but Also Comic Relief



BY RONNI GRAF BETH EL EARLY LEARNING CENTER DIRECTOR rgraf@tbeboca.org

When I learned that the theme of the March-April Chronicle was "This Too Shall Pass," I couldn't help but laugh. Not just a chuckle, but a big, belly laugh that brought tears to my eyes. For me, this has become an all too familiar phrase. Since March 13, 2020 when our school closed, life has taken on a new level of complexity. I know that I am not alone in my feelings. When our school reopened in late August I was overwhelmed with joy, but also filled with anxiety. I established a morning routine to prepare myself for the challenges of the day ahead. After parking my car at school, before getting out I take three giant breaths and with each one I say to myself, "This too shall pass." Those precious moments are what help sustain me during the rest of my day. If I need a reminder, I just look up since I have hung this phrase on my office wall right above my computer.

"This too shall pass" has reminded me of why I chose to be an early childhood educator in the first place. Watching the children handle all that is being asked of them with resilience only the very young are capable of. Their curiosity and excitement isn't dampened at all by the circumstances we are all living though. I continue to be inspired by them.

We have also experienced some much needed comic relief as the children deal with the new protocols implemented due to the pandemic. Children admiring each-others' masks and suggesting they "switch." Not recognizing a parent who we've known for years because they are wearing a mask, sunglasses and a baseball hat at carpool. Our maintenance team dressed as GhostBusters with their electro-static sprayers. Bathing in hand sanitizer, watching the little

Not only will these difficult days come to an end, but time is fleeting and even challenging times should be cherished. For myself, the Early Learning Center staff, and our school community, these unique times have brought us closer together, relying on each other more than ever.

ones trying to pick their noses through their masks, reminding children not to chew on their masks, or cover their eyes with their masks, or use their mask as slingshots have become very common occurrences!

Not only will these difficult days come to an end, but time is fleeting and even challenging times should be cherished. For myself, the Early Learning Center staff, and our school community, these unique times have brought us closer together, relying on each other more than

ever. They have taught us that we can use our creativity and ingenuity to make innovative changes when needed. That things can look different, but still meet our standards of excellence.

While "This too shall pass" will come to fruition (God willing), it is my hope that the lessons we have learned by living through this time will remain with us for many years to come.



LEFT Pajama Day at the Early Learning Center





Tot Shabbat

March Madness Tot Shabbat

Friday, March 12, 2021 at 6:30pm

Celebrate Shabbat and the NCAA Basketball Tournament with your

> ELC friends. Wear your favorite college team jersey and join us online for this sports themed Shabbat service.



important dates

Monday, March 15 - Friday, March 19

Spring Break No School for Early Childhood (2s, 3s, and 4s) **Childcare in Session**

Wednesday, March 24

Early Childhood Passover Seders in Classrooms

Thursday, April 15

Yom Ya'atzmaut Celebrations **School in Session**

parenthood

Wednesday, March 24 at 8:00pm **Parenthood Meeting on Zoom**

Wednesday, April 21 at 8:00pm

Parenthood Meeting on Zoom

Earth Day Tot Shabbat Friday, April 23, 2021 at 6:30pm

Sh'mirat Ha-teva/ Protect Nature and Tikkun Olam/Repairing the World are important Jewish values. Join us online to

honor our beautiful planet. Beth El Early Learning Center students will receive seed packets to plant at home with their



19

Looking Ahead



HEATHER EREZ DIRECTOR OF YOUTH EDUCATION AND ENGAGEMENT herez@tbeboca.org

What an incredible place we find ourselves in. With most of the school year behind us, we have learned a lot. Our students engaged in various ways that were authentic to them, exploring the opportunities we provided to take part in online group classes, one on one tutoring sessions, family conversations and challenges to do at home, online and in person youth group events, mitzvah projects and many more. Now, where do we go from here?

Together with parents representing all ages, through emails, phone conversations, surveys and attendance statistics, we have a very good

sense of what works and how Temple Beth El families want to engage. As usual, our first priority is safety, coupled with community, fun and education, we are excited to highlight some of the programs for the 2021-2022 school year.

- K-5th Grade Drop off Religious School at the **Beck Family Campus**
- 6th Graders moving to Tuesday evenings, alternating weeks at the Beck Family Campus and online
- One on One Hebrew tutoring for all Bar/ Bat Mitzvah students for a year before the ceremony
 - Accommodations will be made for any students that need to remain online for portions of the 2021-2022 school year.



LOOK FOR REGISTRATION IN EARLY SUMMER

Students are having fun. seeing their friends and learning in their Zoom religious school classes

2021-2022 NEW PROGRAMS

Family Learning

Beyachad, together, is about exploring Judaism together as a family. The program aims to empower the adults in the household to act as their children's primary educators through a shared learning experience.



Beyachad 3rd - 5th Grade

This year we are going to explore the prayer Eilu Devarim (These are the Things) which reminds us what it means to lead a Jewish life. Obligation can take on many forms in our lives and we will relate to the ideas of mitzvot in a variety of ways throughout the school year. We will have the opportunity to learn through art, music, prayer, guest speakers, hikes, discussions and social action.

Beyachad Teen 9th-12th Grade

An opportunity for teens with their adults to dive deeply into relevant conversations in a relaxed and social atmosphere. Led by experts, educators, and supported by our clergy, families will identify big questions and navigate their personal approaches through the process.





B'Nai Mitzvah



Sydney Butler



Zachary Stone



Mia Farber



Preston Gormandy



Brooke Feinstein



Sydney Silverstein



Dean Smoke



Olivia Sorkin



Sophia Sorkin

Sydney Butler Daughter of Danielle and Rob Butler March 6, 2021 @ 5:00pm

Zachary Stone Son of Sophia and Bodhi Stone March 13, 2021 @ 11:30am

Mia Farber Daughter of Leslie and Scott Farber March 20, 2021 @ 9:00 am

Preston Gormandy Son of Hope Gormandy March 20, 2021 @ 11:30am

Brooke Feinstein Daughter of Stacey and Brian Feinstein April 10, 2021 @ 9:00am

Sydney Silverstein Daughter of Tracey and Ari Silverstein April 10, 2021 @ 11:30am

Dean Smoke Son of Jaclyn and Jarred Smoke April 17, 2021 @ 9:00am

Olivia Sorkin Daughter of Melissa and Jason Sorkin April 24, 2021 @ 11:30am

Sophia Sorkin Daughter of Melissa and Jason Sorkin April 24, 2021 @ 11:30am

Passover Food Drive

MARCH 22-MARCH 26, 2021 SEE SPECIFIC TIMES BELOW SCHAEFER AND BECK FAMILY CAMPUSES



As we prepare our homes for the celebration of Passover, the Temple will be collecting food donations at both the Schaefer and Beck Family Campuses.

Collection bins will be outside of both buildings from Monday, March 22 through Friday, March 26, 2021, and the food will be donated to The Jacobson Family Food Pantry.

At the Schaefer Family Campus, 333 SW 4th Avenue, drop off will be between 10:00am to 5:00pm.

At the Beck Family Campus, 9800 Yamato Road, public drop off will be from 10:00am to 11:00am and 5:00pm to 6:00pm. Current families in our Early Learning Center can drop off their donations when they are dropping off or picking up their children.

Food need not be Kosher and please, no open containers, no expired goods, no glass, and no commercial sized packages.

Whether you are cleaning out your chametz or wanting to give a bit of tzedakah, this is a great opportunity!

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

We want you to join our Chaverim Team

(chaverim means friends)!

This wonderful group of congregants volunteer by calling their fellow synagogue members before the Jewish holidays. Passover is right around the corner! A friendly call from a fellow congregant a few weeks before the holiday can make such a difference - all you need to do is say hello, how are you and Happy Passover! With your help, we will be able to continue acting as a community, a family and truly, a caring congregation.

We'll send you the list of households to call, along with a helpful script. If you can assist us with this meaningful mitzvah, please RSVP by Monday, March 8, 2021 to Julie Guzy at jguzy@tbeboca.org.





Volunteer Recognition

Have you volunteered this year?

We Would Like to Honor You on Friday, May 7, 2021!

Hundreds of our members have contributed to our community this past year, sharing time and skills, serving on committees, delivering meals to those in need, volunteering with our Chaverim Team and more.

We will honor and thank all of our volunteers at our Volunteer Recognition Shabbat on Friday, May 7, 2021. If you are one of our many volunteers, we would like to show our thanks. Please send a photo of yourself to Debbie Eisenberg at deisenberg@tbeboca.org so we can include you in our photo montage!



Habitat for **Humanity** Build

SATURDAY, MARCH 27, 2021 8:00AM - 12:00PM

Join us for a Covid-safe Habitat for Humanity build, as we help build a house for at-risk families who benefit from the life-changing

opportunity of homeownership. Minimum age is 16 years old to participate. Absolutely no experience is required! The build will take place in south Palm Beach County, and more information will be available closer to the build date.



Registration is limited to 8 participants, but we will create a waiting list for those who are interested.

Register at tbeboca.org/habitat

For more information, contact Rabbi Greg Weisman at 561-391-8900 or gweisman@tbeboca.org



SISTERHOOD



BY KAREN SCHLOSS AND LISA FRANKLIN SISTERHOOD CO-PRESIDENTS sisterhood@tbeboca.org

THIS TOO SHALL PASS...My mother's mantra. I read it in her voice. When we all began to understand what was happening last March, we HAD to think, this too shall pass. To be honest, on March 16, 2020 – we, the Co-Presidents of Sisterhood, thought well, I guess that's it, we are done with the programming for the foreseeable future.

We think of this day often, and say "How wrong were we?" On Rabbi Jessica's phone call that week she said we will make this amazing and we will continue our year. It looked so different, but we wanted to keep our Sisters and our community engaged. The three of us knew it was important to offer thought-provoking and fun programs to continue to enrich the lives of our Sisters and community.

We have been so fortunate to have had amazing internationally known authors, psychologists, chefs and creative classes via Zoom. We have supported our Sisters through good times and bad times, through engagements, weddings, births and deaths this year. Thank God for our Sisterhood. This too shall pass...

We have many amazing events coming up, our programming Vice

Presidents, Susan Goldstein and Debbie Gaines-Askowitz have created events all the way into June!

Let's do what we can to make the best of this together. We can't wait to be able to have our programs in person, but for now we look forward to seeing you on Zoom!

upcoming events

Women in Balance • Thursday, March 4, 2021

You won't want to miss our Women in Balance event. Hedy Schleifer will be enlightening us about The Power of Connection via the three Invisible connectors, crossing the bridge between individuals, the space between us. Please look for more information on HedySchleifer.com and in the weekly emails from the temple and Sisterhood.

Zoom Women's Seder • Thursday, April 1, 2021At the Women's Zoom Passover Experience, the author of "The Color of Love", Marra B.Gad will be joining us. We can't wait to see all of your faces! See next page.

Book and Author Series, Thursdays, May 6 and June 10, 2021

Start reading! In May, we will be joined by Rochelle Weinstein, author of "This is Not How it Ends." And in June, we will be joined by Tracy Beckerman, author of "Lost in Suburbia". The author events have been a fascinating addition to our Book Club and review.

BROTHERHOOD



BY CARLOS ROMERO BROTHERHOOD PRESIDENT info@tbebrotherhood.org

Brotherhood has been busy finding ways to remain connected and make an impact on the community. Our temple family is our primary responsibility and we do all we can to support the clergy in their mission to make temple membership meaningful.

This past holiday season we decided to make a contribution to someone else in our community that supports a population in need. Wayne Barton is a regular person doing superhuman work. His Study Center near Pearl City helps kids with their homework, enables them to play

in a safe environment when not in school, and provides food to eat when families cannot afford to feed themselves. He is special.

When Paul Weiner and I visited Wayne, we heard stories that would make you cry as to what has happened to the families in that Pearl City/Dixie Manor neighborhood during the past year. Wayne also shared with us

that he could not provide bikes as gifts, which is something he had done every year for needy kids at Christmas.

Paul and I spoke about how we could help. We still had unallocated funds from the Bike Event we had held in memory of Steve Brown (z'l – of blessed memory.) Alan Klasfeld, who helped get the Steve Brown bike ride off the ground, thought it was a good idea. Of course, we wanted to be sensitive to the Brown family, and Dana without hesitation, said help out Wayne.

So we did. We gave kids the gift of bikes on Christmas morning, and Wayne sent us a message that we made a lot of Merry Christmases.

If you want to be part of group that is committed to helping and having fun, then look into joining Brotherhood. We have some fun events (and some duds!) but we are always looking for ways to grow and make an impact.

Look for news about upcoming events for Passover and our weekly (online) poker game. We have a lot of fun and we would love you to be part of it.

upcoming events

Board Meeting Thursday, March 4 at 6:30pm Men's Seder Wednesday, March 31 at 6:30pm Register at

tbeboca.org/passover2021 Board Meeting Thursday, April 1 at 6:30pm

The Color of Love The Color of Passover

A Women's Zoom Passover Experience with Marra B. Gad author of

THE COLOR OF LOVE: A STORY OF A MIXED-RACE JEWISH GIRL

Winner of the 2020 Midwest Book Award for Memoir

Thursday, April 1, 2021

6:30pm Meet & Greet for Sponsors with Marra

> 7:00pm Program Begins

> > \$36/Attendee

All participants will receive a copy of THE COLOR OF LOVE

No seder setup at home is necessary.

Register at tbeboca.org/passover2021

THE COLOR OF LOVE

ASTORY OF A MIXED RACE LEWISH GIFT.

MARRA
B. GAD

All sponsorship levels help underwrite Sisterhood programming for the year and support programs that provide scholarships, funding and education to our synagogue and the larger Jewish community. All sponsors will be acknowledged at the online event and in The Chronicle.

All sponsorships include attendance to the event.

- \$500 sponsorship will include meet and greet and Passover Gift Box
- \$360 sponsorship will include meet and greet and Passover Gift Box
- \$180 sponsorship will include meet and greet and Passover Gift Box

This fifth night of Passover will be an evening of reflection, song and a conversation with Marra B. Gad. As we discuss her mixed-race adoption in 1970, and her experiences being Black/ White biracial and Jewish, we will hear her story

and share in Passover liturgy. Hosted by Temple Beth El of Boca Raton

Sisterhood, this program for women is open to members

and non-members alike Hosted by

Temple Beth El Sisterhood



Marra B. Gad is an award-winning author, speaker and independent writer/producer. As President of Egad! Productions, she oversees the development and production of scripted television series and films. A grateful child of adoption, Marra speaks internationally about her debut memoir, THE COLOR OF LOVE: A Story of a Mixed-Race Jewish Girl published in November 2019.

Dedications December 1, 2020 to January 10, 2021

Thank you to all those who donate to the synagogue in honor or memory of a loved one or on a special occasion. We are grateful for your ongoing support.

Annual Giving 2020-2021

in appreciation of:

online services by Barbara & Joel Barlow online services by Sheryl Wolf

in celebration of:

the Bat Mitzvah of Eliana Cohen by Jacquelyn & Louis Robinson

on the occasion of:

Chanukah by Lorraine Natkin our 50th Wedding Anniversary by Elsie & Jack Blanco

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Barbara Feld by Michelle & Yaniv Cohen Bryce's birth by Robin Eisenberg & Andrea Broido Jan and Allen Lev, Happy Hanukkah! by Lori & Michael Lev my great grandchildren Lou Ella Faust, Rae Everly Faust, Rowe Harrison Faust and

Evie Parker Faust by Marlene Faust Rafael's Birth by Robin Eisenberg & Andrea Broido

Ryan's engagement by Robin Eisenberg & Andrea Broido Bryce's birth by Aline Fisher

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Nicole Gotlieb by Danielle & Ethan Wayne

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the Giving Tree by Linda & J Robert Schmier

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Edward and Chloe Steinberg's birthdays by Jennifer

Yuil-Steinberg & Michael Steinberg

Emily Warden's donation by Sarah & Adam Warden

Joshua Sackel's 9th birthday by Grammy & Papa Sackel

My 45 year friendship with Leslie Steinberg by Kathleen Furgiuele

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Jerry Podolsky by Cheryl Newman

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in honor of:

Cantor Lori and Kira's Hebrew classes by Andrea Corn and Robert Sugarman the wedding of Andy Mandel and Michelle Ehrlich

by Paul Mandel and Diane Perkins

my granddaughter Paige Ward's Bat Mitzvah by Maxine Arno

Rabbi Dan by Caryn & Peter Mintz

Rabbi Dan Levin by Arline Neuren

Rabbi Greg Weisman by Carol & Ron Cowen

TBE clergy by Marilynn & Paul Yentis

The 25th Anniversary of Ruth and Arthur Maron by Elaine & Morton Erenstein

in memory of:

Jerrold Fadem by Judith & Jeffrey Silverstein

Alvin Dern by Marcia Langley

Alvin Dern by Ronna & Marc Taub

Debbie Malaga by Melissa & Marc Malaga

Florence Schubert by S Roni & I Alan Freedman

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Herman, Esther & Margareta Schwartz & Schick by Thomas Schwartz

my mother, Rose Hummel by Linda Jaro

Jeffrey Langley by Marcia Langley

Jerry Tamarkin by Audrey Stern

Jerry Tamarkin by Amy & Dennis Doran

on the occasion of:

Hebrew naming of Hannah Mandel by Sally & Murray Halperin our 30th wedding anniversary blessing by Rabbi Dan and our Temple Beth El family by Jill & Paul Weiner

to thank:

Rabbi Dan by Steven Belson

Rabbi Greg by Steven Belson

the incredible clergy for showing their care and concern to our mother, Judith Kornitsky by Meryl Kornitsky-Girard



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George Weinberg by Frances Weinberg Paul Luks by Frances Weinberg

Sisterhood Contribution

in honor of:

Susan Goldstein by Nancy Ginden

Susen and Herbert M. Grossman **Religious School Fund**

in memory of:

Toni Berliner by Susen Grossman

Tree of Life

in honor of:

our daughter, Eliana. In honor of TBE Clergy, Staff and Board by Michelle & Yaniv Cohen Gloria Melman's birthday by Ilyne Mendelson & Steven Terk the birth of Magnolia Moon Vegh by Robert Geller

in memory of:

Marc Steven Geller by Robert Geller Miriam "Mimi" Geller by Robert Geller Lucille "Lu" Geller by Robert Geller

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Our Congregation Mourns:

Rae Braunstein, grandmother of Stacy and Brian Feinstein, great-grandmother of Matthew, Brooke, and Emma Feinstein

Alvin Dern, father of Mark and Karen Dern, grandfather of Samuel and Alyssa Dern

Craig Donoff, husband of Judi Donoff

Wendy Ebro, mother of Steven Kirstein and Rachelle Perl, grandmother of Adam Kirstein and Alena Abouhana and Jacob Kirstein and Joshua Kirstein

Jaime Eisenberg, wife of Bill Eisenberg, daughter-in-law of Robert and Barbara Eisenberg, sister-in-law of Debbie Eisenberg

Stephen Feller, husband of Karen Feller, father of Scott and Holli Feller, grandfather of Sawyer and Sutton Feller, brother of Barbara Bernheim

Jerome Glassman, father of Debi Gaier, grandfather of Allyson Gaier

Jaclyn and Michael Corbiciero on the birth of

their son Eric Cole Corbiciero, big sister Olivia

Marlene Faust on the birth of her great-

granddaughter Evie Parker Faust

Lisa and Adam Glass on the birth of

their son Rafael Archer Glass

Ruth and Harry Goldberg on the birth of their

granddaughter Adele Rose Spar-Goldberg

Devora Goldhair, daughter of Martin Surnamer, sister of Susan and Richard Rosser, aunt of Samuel and Zoe Rosser

J. Michael Graf, father of Tim Graf and Ronni Namerow-Graf, grandfather of Liam and Samuel Graf

Ed Haymes*, beloved member

Elaine Kuntz*, husband of Hugo Kuntz, mother of Nancy and Andrew Siegel and James and Amy Kuntz

Debbie Malaga, stepdaughter of Barbara Malaga

Charles Riback*, father of Steven and Jody Riback, grandfather of Sabrina and Jesse Riback

> Ronald Rohan, father of Jordan Rohan and Jordana Laine Rohan, grandfather of Spencer and Olivia Rohan

Bertha Snyder, mother of Karen and Merik Aaron

Jerry Tamarkin, husband of Alece "Kay" Tamarkin

Michelle Villanueva*, wife of Nelson Villanueva, mother of Samantha Vavala and Lukas Rinkas and Daniel Vavala and Kirsten Winder, grandmother of Joseph Vavala, daughter of Myrna And Norman Ricken

Jacob Wexler*, father of Heather and Jay Simon, grandfather of Danielle Simon

Ron Wulkan, brother of Hubert and Marilyn Wulkan, uncle of Jonathan and Jamie Wulkan

James Yaccarino, father of Scott and Ryan Yaccarino, grandfather of Kai Yaccarino

*Laid to rest in the Beth El Mausoleum

Mazel Tov To:

Danielle and Lenny Greenblatt on the birth of their daughter Bryce Rivka Greenblatt

Heather and Andrew Gupta on the birth of their son Vai Thomas Gupta, big brother Avi

Brenda and David Kronzek on the birth of their granddaughter Emma Alexandra Kronzek

Elina Kaziyeva and Michael Yushuva on the birth of their son Noah Yushuva, big brother Elijah

Renee and Gary Kay on the engagement of their daughter Marissa Kay to Rodrigo De Paula

Audrey and Larry Levine on the engagement of their daughter Melissa Levine to Andrew Gross

Shari and Craig Schwamm on the engagement of their son Ryan Schwamm to Ashley Fernandez

Leslie and Rick Steinberg on the engagement of their daughter Zoe Steinberg to Tyler Vallier

Diane Perkins and Paul Mandel on the marriage of their son Andrew Mandel to Michelle Ehrlich



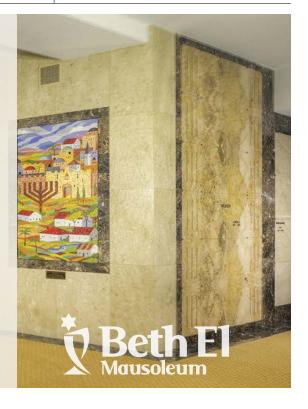
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in honor of:

The engagement of Ryan Craig, son of Shari and Craig Schwamm, to Ashley Fernandez by: The Sisterhood Board Jan and Allen Lev

VOLUNTEER FUND:

in honor of:

The birth of Bryce Rivka, daughter of Danielle and Lenny Greenblatt. by Irene, Dr. Merrill, Melissa and Jennifer Epstei



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MISSION

The mission of Temple Beth El is to inspire a passionate commitment to Jewish life, learning, community and spiritual growth.



Temple Beth El of Boca Raton seeks to be a deeply compelling center of Reform Judaism, integrating the wisdom of Torah and tradition with the modern world in which we live. Our congregation will:

Welcome, involve and inspire all who enter, embracing the unique contributions of every individual.

Reach out to the larger community to encourage participation in synagogue life.

Celebrate, grieve, heal and grow together through all seasons of life.

Strive to be a learned community that questions, studies, and honors the gift of Torah and the covenant with God.

Engage in inspiring worship and transformative experiences of Jewish spirituality.

Share a love and responsibility for each other, our community and country, for Israel, and for the future of the Jewish people.

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Dr. Norton is a world-leading expert in minimally invasive spine surgery and in office treatment of vertebral compression fractures with the kyphoplasty procedure. Dr Norton spends time when not seeing patients, teaching other surgeons cutting-edge minimally invasive surgical techniques. He recently even wrote a book chapter for a major spine textbook on how to do the kyphoplasty procedure in the office.

Throughout his career, Dr. Norton has had a strong interest in academic medicine and has been actively involved in teaching and research. He has authored multiple publications on a variety of topics related to spine surgery in numerous peer-reviewed journals and textbooks. He has received several research grants and has presented his research at both national and international conferences.

Compression fractures of the spine occur most often in people with osteoporosis, after a fall, after a forceful cough or sneeze, or simply from bending over to tie shoes. Fortunately, he can treat patients with an easy solution called a Kyphoplasty, performed in my office in about 10-minutes. After numbing the area, he will simply place a small needle into the broken bone under x-ray guidance. He can then inject a small amount of bone "glue" to stabilize the broken bone. This is a permanent fix and serves to get rid of the pain from the broken bone and prevent further collapse of the bone so you don't become deformed and hunched over. The pain is gone immediately and you can walk out of the office with just a Band- Aid! Skilled in the most advanced surgical techniques and emerging technologies, Dr. Robert Norton offers expertise in all aspects of spine care. His expertise and excellent surgical outcomes have earned him the nickname, "Miracle Worker."

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