



BETH EL SYNAGOGUE SHOFAR

NOVEMBER 2011 • Heshvan/Kislev 5772

WE SHALL GO FORWARD WITH OUR YOUNG AND WITH OUR OLD

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Beth El and AIPAC to Host Israeli Shabbaton Nov 18-19 with Guest Speaker Gil Hoffman

- "Israel and the Arab Spring"
- "Red States, Blue States and the Jewish State"
- Communal Shabbat Dinner

Called "the most optimistic man in Israel" by Israel Television, Gil Hoffman's television appearances and popular column provide a behind the scenes look at the intrigue and humor in the Israeli political arena. Hoffman also frequently covers diplomatic issues, traveling with the Prime Minister and reporting on efforts to achieve Mideast peace and other key international developments. As the chief political correspondent and analyst for *The Jerusalem Post*, Hoffman is well-connected to Israeli and Palestinian political leaders. *See page 11 to RSVP by November 14th for Dinner.*



Noah Solomon
Returns to
Beth El
December 2 & 3!
*See page 11
for details*

Beth El Sings

Invites you to a

CD Release Party & Zimriah Music Festival

December 10, 2011

7:30 p.m.

\$15* per person by Dec 1st
*\$20 after Dec 1st and at the door

Live Music!

Luscious "Singi-tinis"

Savory hors d'oeuvres

Complimentary "Beth El Sings" CD!

See page 10 for details or www.besyn.org/zimriah

notable times



Turn clocks **BACK**
one hour
on Nov 6th.

Candle Lighting *הדלקת נרות*

November 4 5:40 p.m.
November 11 4:32 p.m.
November 18 4:24 p.m.
November 25 4:19 p.m.

Havdalah *הבדלה*

November 5 6:39 p.m.
November 12 5:30 p.m.
November 19 5:23 p.m.
November 26 5:18 p.m.

Services *תפילות*

Friday Evening *ערב שבת*
Kabbalat Shabbat . . . 5:45 p.m.

Shabbat *שבת*

Shaharit 9:00 a.m.
Minha 5:45 p.m.
NOTE: Minha service will start at 4:30 p.m. beginning on November 12.

Sunday & National Holiday Minyan

9:00 a.m. and 5:45 p.m.

Daily Minyan *מינין*

7:00 a.m. and 5:45 p.m.

general information

Beth El Synagogue
5224 W. 26th Street
Minneapolis, MN 55416-1901

952-873-7300
FAX: 952-873-7301

www.bethelsynagogue.org

Office Hours

Mon-Thurs....9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
Fridays.....9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
Sundays.....9:00 a.m.-Noon

Aleph Preschool:
952-873-7320
Youth Dept:
952-873-7330

a view from the bimah *מהבימה*



Honoring Our Mothers

by Rabbi Avi S. Olitzky

We might welcome the respite of the Hebrew month of Heshvan following the marathon of holidays during the month of Tishrei (Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Sukkot, etc.). However, traditionally, we refer to Heshvan as MarHeshvan, or, Bitter Heshvan, because it is lacking of any celebration. Perhaps some of that bitterness also comes from the idea that one of our *emahot* (matriarchs), Rachel, is said to have passed away on the 11th of Heshvan (November 8th this year). Without Rachel, we would not have Joseph, and without Joseph, our ancestors would have surely starved to death in Canaan.

Rachel seems to be the most beloved of the matriarchs by their male counterparts. Abraham surely loved Sarah but needed to consult God as to whether or not he should listen to her demands. Isaac loved Rebekah, but her loyalty was to her son Jacob more than to Isaac. Leah was “hated” by Jacob, but Rachel was Jacob’s heart. She died giving birth to Benjamin—both Joseph and Benjamin became Jacob’s much-preferred heirs. Rachel is motherly sacrifice par exemplar.

The 11th of Heshvan is the 41st day of our New Year, and 41 in Gematria (Hebrew Numerology) is equal to the numerical value for *Eim* (mother). We take the opportunity on this day not only to memorialize and honor the memory of our beloved *Rahel Imenu* (Rachel, our mother), but also to call to mind all the sacrifices our mothers make for us. November 8th (11 Heshvan) is Jewish Mother’s Day.

Further, this year specifically, the 11th of Heshvan is that much more pertinent here in America. Just over 90 years ago, the Nineteenth Amendment was ratified. The Constitution, without amendments, allows states to determine the full qualifications for voting. Up until a century ago, most states completely disenfranchised women—mother and daughter alike. The

Nineteenth Amendment recognized the many sacrifices that women made for society, not only in raising children and running a home, but by starting the long evolution and revolution of the female as an equal player in the workplace. This amendment was the culmination of the Women’s Suffrage Movement.

This year, the 11th of Heshvan coincides with Election Day. Although I am proud to say that I live in a country where women can vote just as men, and can serve as elected officials just as men, gender discrimination still runs rampant in America. We are not honoring our mothers. We are not honoring our sisters and our daughters. Gloria Steinem* recently wrote: “Gender is probably the most restricting force in American life, whether the question is who must be in the kitchen or who could be in the White House. This country is way down the list of countries electing women and, according to one study, it polarizes gender roles more than the average democracy.”

It is true that the right woman needs to be in place in order to get elected; we should not just elect a woman because she is a woman, just like we should not elect a man simply because he is a man. But we also need to shatter that glass ceiling for women in every walk of life and in every corner of America. We need to do it for our mothers and we need to do it for Rachel.

This year, on the 11th of Heshvan, not only should both men and women fulfill their duty as an American to vote, but we should all call a mother in our family, and tell them we’re proud of them and are incredibly grateful for all the sacrifices they’ve made throughout the years on our behalf. If we can begin respecting women for the unsung heroines they often are, then and only then will Heshvan be redeemed as a month of sweetness, celebrating Rachel’s life instead of continuing to mourn our beloved matriarch’s premature departure.

**Join us on April 17th for the next installment of our Inspiring Minds Speaker Series. An Evening with Gloria Steinem—Feminism: The Longest Revolution. To learn more about this once-in-a-lifetime event, and to reserve your spot, visit: www.bethelsynagogue.org/gloria.*

**We welcome our newest members!
B'ruchim Habaim!**

Ilene & Kip Marron, Lila
Justin & Erica Ribnick
Adam Strauss & Emma Paskin

Nosh 'n Drash: Torah for Living

Eat and learn with Rabbi Olitzky from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. on the 1st and 3rd Monday of every month at Beth El. Get a dose of Torah and a scrumptious lunch for just \$5. To RSVP, contact Roger Rubin at bikingdad@msn.com.

Next studies: November 7th and 21st

Beth El Young Adults

A group for those in their 20s and 30s. Singles, Couples—all are welcome. You need not be a member of Beth El to participate. Happy Hours, Shabbat Dinners, Community Involvement...We have it all. Whether you are looking for community, good conversation, a spiritual connection, or Shabbat dinner- we offer something for everyone. So come on out, have a drink, make some friends and have a good time.

Upcoming Events:

November 23rd – Happy Hour (Location TBD)
December 4th – Iron Chef: Latke Edition

For more information, check out the Beth El website or find us on Facebook: Beth El Young Adults.

Honoring our Veterans

Please join us for a special commemoration of Veteran's Day during Shabbat services on Nov 12th.

Rabbi Abigail Treu to discuss God, Revelation, Who Wrote the Torah, and Why Knowing What You Think Can Change Your Life

*I love being Jewish, but...
I don't believe in God
I don't believe in a God who hears prayers
I don't know what I think
I don't know what Judaism thinks about God,
beyond that God Is One, whatever that means.
When I go to shul I go through the motions but
it doesn't move me or mean much.
And when it comes down to it, I don't really think the Torah
was given by God to Moses at Sinai.
Am I a Good Jew?*



Join visiting JTS Scholar, Rabbi Abigail Treu for a series of discussions at 4:00 p.m. on Mondays - November 14, December 12, January 30 and March 12 - at Beth El. For more information, contact Rabbi Davis at 952-873-7300.

Sabbatical for Rabbi Davis

Beginning in March of 2012, Rabbi Davis and his family will be spending four months in Israel as a part of a long planned sabbatical. This much deserved respite from his regular duties will give him the opportunity to study at various *yeshivot* (learning centers). We look forward to his return enriched by the new knowledge he has acquired. Plans are also being made at Beth El to ensure that our congregation remains well served during this period. Specifically, during Rabbi Davis' absence, Rabbi Olitzky will assume additional responsibilities.

Our Apologies

We apologize for the inadvertent omission of the following volunteers from this year's "Book of Life:" **Arnold Seltzer** and **Adina Goldstein** - regular ushers for the High Holy Day Ivri services.



Construction Update: Pardon our dust!

The main entrance from the parking lot to the Ring Lobby currently has limited access. Please use the new 26th Street entrance or, for Minyan, the direct access door to the Chapel. At other times, please note signs directing you to available access to the building.





The Who, How and Why of Famous Speakers at Beth El

by Gil Mann, Beth El President

Beth El has become a premiere forum in the Twin Cities and nationally for extraordinary world-class speakers.

We seek speakers who are prominent, influential leaders, newsmakers or shapers of history or society. By the very nature of their prominence, some of their points of view and policies are bound to spark controversy.

Our synagogue is proud to be a forum for speakers of all stripes, political parties and points of view. The thoughts and opinions expressed are solely those of our speakers and are not endorsed by Beth El.

We invite people to speak at Beth El for three reasons. 1) So we can acquire wisdom and perspectives. 2) To help the synagogue remain financial stable. 3) To make Beth El a leading venue for distinguished national and international figures and leaders.

Getting world-class speakers is a world-class challenge. Our staff and volunteers are always brainstorming names of possible speakers.* Clergy and our officers vet these names. We typically spend 6-12 months pursuing and wooing multiple speakers simultaneously. These conversations are often delicate and we worry if word got out prematurely, the discussions could end. Our speakers are in high demand and difficult to lock up. When we do get an affirmative, we often have just a few weeks to commit to a contract.

We have a track record that is second to none in bringing in world-renowned speakers. We have received acclaim for these impressive speakers we have secured for our National Speaker Series and Inspiring Minds Series:

Alan Dershowitz
Wolf Blitzer
James Carville
Dave Barry
Prime Minister Ehud Barak
President Bill Clinton
President George W. Bush

Ari Fleischer
Colin Powell
Dan Rather
Condoleezza Rice
Jane Goodall
Deepak Chopra

Many of the speakers we have brought in have generated critique from some congregants who believe the speaker's

appearance at Beth El should not take place. Those opposed have cited numerous reasons, including a speaker's perspectives, political party or leanings, policies, personal conduct, sexual orientation and religious beliefs.

We expect that some will strongly agree and some will strongly disagree with our speaker. These opinions show that we have successfully selected a speaker who will be thought provoking.

Most congregants understand this and though they may have an issue with a speaker, they do not have an issue with Beth El as a venue for that speaker. A few members always do however and I believe most congregants who criticize these speakers and Beth El are well intentioned and have heartfelt sentiments.

But in my view, for the sake of Beth El, these sentiments are best expressed internally. We are family. Family members certainly disagree with each other at times. Further, members of the family have the right to express themselves. But I wonder what good comes of taking Beth El's choices of speakers public.

I know one motive has been to have an event cancelled. This is not likely to happen (and never has) because cancelling a speaker has the chilling effect of stifling and limiting speech. This is not in keeping with the values of America or Judaism.

What should a congregant do if they don't like the speaker? You certainly can discuss this with any of Beth El's lay or professional leadership. And of course, you need not attend. But if cost is not a factor, I recommend attending the presentation of speakers you do not agree with.

I have had negative opinions of some of our speakers, but have attended anyway. I have often come away with a different perspective than what I had garnered from the media and other sources. I have also had some of my negative preconceptions confirmed. Either way, I was glad I could draw my conclusions informed by hearing a speaker in person.

Another reason I encourage people to attend all of our speakers is because these events are important fundraisers.

continued on the next page

* If you have a name to suggest or a personal connection with a well-known leader, personality or inspiring mind who might be a speaker at Beth El, please let Linda Goldberg at the synagogue office know (952-873-7302)

Who, How and Why... *Continued from previous page*

Many do not realize how much the synagogue financially relies on these events. The National Speaker Series alone has netted a million and a half dollars of revenue to Beth El over the years. Most of this money comes from outside our congregation. The reputation of our series and the quality of our speakers is what draws in this outside support (and I should add, esteem), relieving a significant financial burden to our congregants. This money supports everything from our Aleph Preschool to our congregational nurse and everything in between. We would run large deficits if not for these events.

The costs are high to bring in illustrious speakers and I recognize that sometimes the price of our tickets can be quite expensive. We desire to keep prices as low as possible and to maximize the number of people who can hear and meet with our speakers.

Like most famous people, the speakers that we are able to secure have many requirements. Some will attend a reception or a dinner, some will not. Most have limits on the size of receptions or number of photographs, books signed etc. Some have audience size requirements. Some insist the event be off the record with no press allowed. Some insist on no recordings or photography. Most insist on pre-approving all publicity. Speakers usually require that we pay for high quality and expensive travel, food and lodging. And on most of the requirements I've just listed, we have little ability to negotiate – try as we might.

And believe me we try. We have volunteers and staff who work inordinate hours to make these events successful...and I mean a HUGE number of hours. These folks are sometimes personally criticized for Beth El's choice of a speaker or how the event took place. This is not right or fair. Those who work tirelessly to have speakers at Beth El, do so for the benefit of our shul and community. They deserve our support, our gratitude and our respect.

Thanks to these people and generous sponsors and donors, Beth El is now known as a world-class venue for world-class speakers. We are proud of the wide array of opinions and experiences that we have been able to present to our community.

And in keeping with our reputation, I am excited to announce that on April 17, 2012, our next speaker will be the world-renowned feminist Ms. Gloria Steinem.

Please mark your calendar, attend, support your shul and have your thoughts provoked by her opinions and perspectives – especially if they differ from your own. I hope to see you there and at all our speaker events.



Anniversaries

Mazal Tov!



<p>Bob and Andrea Oleisky September 55th <i>(We apologize for the omission)</i></p> <p>Anthony Cohen & Susan Greenberg November 3..... 15th</p> <p>Lee & Barbara Bearmon November 5..... 50th</p> <p>Steven & Jennifer Feinberg November 10..... 15th</p> <p>Mark & Usha Abramovitz November 17..... 20th</p>	<p>Thomas & Corrine Feinberg November 18..... 55th</p> <p>Michael S. & Anne Goldstein November 23..... 20th</p> <p>Mark & Francee Conner November 24..... 20th</p> <p>Kathryn & Tyler Rendleman November 30..... 15th</p> <p>Stuart & Cindy Tapper November 30..... 20th</p> <p>Allan & Kathy Share November 30..... 25th</p>
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Condolences to *(members in bold)...*

- **Marlene Brandys** and family on the loss of her husband **Murray Brandys**.
- **Margie Howell** and family on the loss of her mother, Vivian Calmenson.
- **Susan Walder** and family on the loss of her mother, Charlotte Diana Shapiro.
- **Byron Goldstein** and **Lee Goldstein** and family on the loss of daughter and sister, Vicki Walzer.
- The friends and family of **Sally Levitan**.
- **Stan Dobrin** and family on the loss of his mother, Helen Dobrin.
- **Ron Kaplan** and **Brenda Schwartzberg** and family on the loss of wife and mother, **Nancy Kaplan**.

Mazal Tov to *(members in bold)...*

- **Susan and Brad Melnick** on the birth of their son, Ethan James.

Help Us Keep the Spirit of Shabbat

In Honor of Shabbat, please refrain from the following activities:



- photography
- writing
- using cell phones or other electronic devices
- wearing perfume or cologne
(the person sitting next to you may be allergic)

And at the conclusion of services, please pick up papers from the pews and discard appropriately.

~Thank you!

Celebrating Bnai Mitzvah...

November 5, 2011 • 8 Heshvan 5772 • Lekh Lekha



IMARA MONICA HIXON

מירי בת אל אוריאל ושירלי

Daughters of Sheri & Al Hixon

Honoring Cha and Imara on their b'nai mitzvah, their parents will be sponsoring an extended kiddush.

Mitzvah Program: By helping others we help ourselves. We are a part of a world, not just a neighborhood, city, state or country. Recently I have enjoyed volunteering at Southwest Community Education Summer program and preparing food packets for Feed My Starving Children. With my sister I am collecting used running shoes for children and adults in Kenya, Africa. As a runner I am glad that I can share my love of running with others thousands of miles away who need shoes for health and exercise. This truly allows me to be more connected to our world.



CHA VICTORIA HIXON

טלי בת אל אוריאל ושירלי

Mitzvah Program: Mitzvah's have always been a daily part of life in our family. Since I can remember we have all been encouraged and challenged to be of service to others and to the earth. For many years I have helped at home and in my community with recycling, composting and gardening, sharing vegetables with friends and neighbors. I have also volunteered with children at the JCC's ECC, reading and helping preschoolers learn. My sister and I have an ongoing service project of collecting running shoes for people in Kenya. This helps their health and opportunities in life.

November 12, 2011 • 15 Heshvan 5772 • Va'yeira



SAMUEL AARON HERMAN

שמואל אהרן בן צבי דוד ורזה לאה

Son of Rayna and Randall Herman

Honoring Samuel on his Bar Mitzvah, his parents and Dr. and Mrs. Steven Permuth, cousins will be sponsoring the kiddush.

Mitzvah Program: My sister and I decided to clean out our bookshelves, because we had too many books meant for kids younger than us. We put our books in a box and asked our parents if we could donate them. For the next couple months, I collected over a thousand books from friends and family. After sorting through all the books and working with a local Kiwanis chapter, we delivered the books to the Children's Hospital, Home Safe a women's shelter, and three local elementary schools.

November 19, 2011 • 22 Heshvan 5772 • Hayyei Sarah



JOSIE MICHAELA BERMAN

יעקבה מיכאלה בת שלום ירחמיאל ויענטא חנה

Daughter of Jennifer Berman and Gary Berman

Honoring Josie on her bat mitzvah, her parents will be sponsoring the kiddush and congregational Shabbat luncheon.

Mitzvah Program: I participated in Light The Night. This event raises funds for The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. Light The Night is an illuminated walk in and around the Twins stadium. Everyone holds a lit up balloon either in honor or in memory of someone who is fighting or lost their battle with a blood cancer. I donated \$100 to the fund to help find a cure for these diseases. I did extra chores at home to raise the money for this cause. This was a very memorable moment for me. I also brought my dog B.J. to the Sholom Home. At the Sholom Home, the residents are not allowed to own their own animal so they like other people to bring in theirs. As a Bat Mitzvah, I have learned that doing good deeds for other people is very important. I plan on doing more mitzvot in the future.

November 26, 2011 • 29 Heshvan 5772 • Toledot



MAXWELL JACOB SIGAL

מאיר יעקב בן נדב ושרה

Son of Susan Sigal

Honoring Max on his bar mitzvah, his mother will be sponsoring the kiddush.

Mitzvah Program: I have been volunteering for my community ever since I was able to walk, which is why performing mitzvot has always come easily to me. When my friend's mom was hurt, I visited her and bought her flowers. The mitzvah that meant the most to me was donating homemade blankets to the Golden Valley Animal Humane Society. Tza'ar Ba'alei Hayim, or Compassion to Animals, was the most meaningful to me, because animals should be treated just as well as every other thing on this planet. That is why I am collecting items to donate to the Humane Society for my Bar Mitzvah project (See page 12 for details).



**Youth Department Updates:
The Show Goes On!**

Mollie Feldman, Youth Director

The Youth Department continues to stay busy after an eventful holiday season! In addition to Teen Experience programming during the High Holy Days, the Youth Department also volunteered unloading canned goods from the Yom Kippur Food Drive, celebrated Sukkot with a progressive meal, and held casting for this year's USY play. The cast and crew for 'Beauty and the Beast' will continue to be hard at work through this month and the next! Keep an eye out for these other November events:

'MAKE YOUR MARK' LOUNGE NIGHT: November 1, 6-7pm – Put your mark on the youth lounge! Everyone will get their own section of the wall to paint at this lounge night. Open to USYers and Kadimaniks.

MOVIE, MUNCH, AND MINGLE: November 12, 7-10pm – Kickback for a night to eat snacks, see your friends, and watch a movie on a big screen projector. There will be movie games with prizes! All USYers and Kadimaniks are welcome.

CRAZY COOK-OFF: November 20, 1-3pm – Join a team with your friends to make the weirdest culinary masterpiece. Judges will rank dishes in several categories, including creativity, taste, and appearance – there will be plenty of prizes! Open to B' resheet and Kadimah.

"BEAUTY AND THE BEAST": Work on this year's USY play continues with rehearsals every Tuesday, Thursday, and Sunday. If you are interested in joining the adult volunteer group that makes the play a reality, please contact Mollie (mollie@bethelusy.org, (952)873-7330).

USY KINNUS 2011: Hope to see you at USY Kinnus 2011 in St. Louis, November 24-27! If you want to go and have not yet submitted your application, please contact Mollie immediately.

Looking Ahead...

- **Dec 3:** Live-action Role Play with USY for a different type of Hanukkah celebration.
- **Dec. 4:** B' resheet and Kadimah Hanukkah party.
- **Dec. 15, 17, 18:** Save the date for the USY production of "Beauty and the Beast!"

Check online at bethelsynagogue.org/berusy for additional events and details!



**A Message
from the Director**

Karen Burton, Aleph Preschool Director

The Holy Days have come to an end and now the Aleph Preschoolers are concentrating on moving through fall and into winter.

We begin November with the Scholastic Book Fair which runs from November 1st through the 4th. Our Preschool will have special daily activities including an Open House on November 3, from 6-8pm.

This is a wonderful opportunity to purchase books ready for Hanukkah. We end the week with a Musical Shabbat, November 4th at 9:30am. Beth El Women's League so graciously sponsor refreshments following our program. Please join us.

Our prek children will visit HMJDS on November 10, for a morning of learning and fun, to experience what Kindergarten at the Day School is like. This event is always exciting for our PreK classes.

Our Aleph Preschool staff have a full and rich curriculum for all ages and keep the children busy with many wonderful activities happening each day.

We end the month on November 23, with an all Preschool Thanksgiving Celebration before the Thanksgiving Break.

As always, please stop by for a visit to observe our Preschool in action.

Important 2011-2012 TaRBuT Dates

Nov. 12	TaRBuT Parents' Hour
Nov. 26	NO Session - THANKSGIVING
Dec. 10	TaRBuT Parents' Hour
Dec. 24-31	NO Sessions - WINTER BREAK
Jan. 7	NO Session - WINTER BREAK
Feb. 18	NO Session - PRESIDENT'S DAY
March 31	Grandparents & Special People Day
April 14 & 24	NO Session - PASSOVER VACATION
May 12	Session #28 - TaRBuT Parents' Hour
May 19	Session #29 - Shabbat <u>Hinukh</u>

We thank you.....

We are most grateful to Byron and Pattye Hechter for donating apples from their orchard to Beth El for our holiday needs. The apples were enjoyed by so many of our youth as well as visitors to our Sukkah from Benilde-St. Margaret's. (SouthWind Orchards is located in Dakota, MN, and is open from Sept- Nov.)



Learn more about Gemilat Hesed at bethelsynagogue.org/acts-of-kindness

Yom Kippur Food Drive 2011- Another Major Success for Beth El Synagogue!!

We did it!! We surpassed last year's donation. Our congregants brought over FIVE TONS, actually 10,427 pounds, of food to the big truck during the Yom Kippur Food Drive. The STEP staff was eagerly awaiting our arrival since the food shelves were very low before our

truck pulled in. The theme of the drive was "Lend the Hungry A Helping Hand" and we were told that over 350 persons will benefit from this drive. This was a most important drive, as 1 out of 10 persons in St. Louis Park utilized the food shelf last year.

The success of the drive is a result of the many efforts of the synagogue staff, enthusiastic USYers and many volunteers. The USYers under the leadership of Mollie Feldman included Alex Felemovicius, Zach Geller, Caleb Hausman, David Hope, Brandon Klugman, Jordan Lehman, Sam Lieberthal, Emily Weinberg, Isabella Weisman, Ari Weinstein. Volunteers also included Amy, Jeff, Benjamin and Shira Aronow, Shirlee Bank, Jennifer, Josie, and Elliot Berman, Jake, Alison and Julia Birnberg, Andrea Brink, McKenzie Brink, Marlene Bukstein, Darcy and David Gilbert Burke, Rabbi Alexander Davis, Robin, Jeff, and Eliora Estrin, Amy, Todd, and Ari Geller, Freada Golden, Sasha Hausman, Anne and Ruthie Hope, Ron Kaplan, Shayne Karasov, Arlene, Harvey and Vanya Kase, Colin and Ethan Meirovitz, Susan, Brad, and Joshua Melnick, Stacy Pinck, Shereen Rahamin, Diana Rosen, Carolyn Rovner, Greg Rovner, Caron Rubin, Judy Sherman, Elayne and Bob Walensky, Heidi, Amanda and Alyson Weinberg, Amy, Dan, Jacob and Eliana Weiss, Hannah Wolk, Bonnie and Leonard Zeff (chairperson).

A big thank you to Trader Joe's for donating the bags and Joe Tilsner of Tilsner Carton for the truck, trailer and drivers. Once again, we can take pride in being a most generous and caring congregation.

Invite to Pack - Feed My Starving Children

Do you have a couple hours to help with a critical need? Please volunteer to pack meal packets at Feed My Starving Children in Chanhassen! Packing will be done every other month and all are welcome to help (young children recommended to be at least in 3rd grade and accompanied by an adult). Food is then delivered to countries in need worldwide. For more information or to volunteer, please contact Norma Kaplan (new contact person) at skaplan6@comcast.net or 612-584-3099. The next opportunity to pack food will be Tuesday, November 15, 6:00-7:30 p.m., Chanhassen. After November, we will again pack food on Tuesday, January 24, 6:00-7:30 p.m., Chanhassen.

Loaves & Fishes

We help provide a wonderful meal for people in need in South Minneapolis. Call Diana Rosen at 952-922-7389 to reserve a place on our serving team. The next opportunity to serve will be from 5:00-7:00 p.m. on Tuesdays, November 22 and January 24, 2012.





Lihyot B'Kesher

Lihyot B'kesher getting set to send Hanukkah gift to our young adults! Lihyot B'kesher's second package of the year will reach our young adults in time for Hanukkah. After a successful fall package filled with delicious treats to eat, the Hanukkah package will switch gears and be filled with a surprise gift that they can use.

Several more mailings are planned for the year including a festive package for Purim so if your young adult missed our first package, register now and don't let them miss any more.

Everyone appreciates the packages. Here are a few "thank yous" we received:

I just wanted to tell you how great it was to receive my gift box from the Keep In Touch Committee. I just got through a very difficult week of Medical School, and can't tell you how much this meant to me.

– Aaron Goldish, Des Moines University School of Medicine

Thank you so much – I really look forward to it!

- Ariella Rotenberg, Harvard University

Emily was very impressed with her box of treats and letter from Rabbi Olitzky. It was really a surprise and made her feel that people at Beth El actually do care about her.

- Penny Sanderson, parent of Emily Sanderson, U of MN

I'd like to thank you for the High Holiday care package I received. It gives me a great sense of pride in my Jewish community at home when friends at school ask where the treats come from; their faces are priceless when they realize their synagogue doesn't follow the same protocol, setting ours apart and above in yet another way.

- Joshua Lieberthal, University of Wisconsin-Madison

It is the goal of Lihyot B'kesher, Beth El's Keep in Touch committee, to maintain contact with our young adults through age 25, whether they are away at school, living at home or one their own. To cover costs, registration is \$36 for one young adult (\$60 for 2, \$72 for 3 or more) Questions? Contact the Lihyot B'kesher co-chairs Marlee Kaminsky marlee.kaminsky@gmail.com 952-449-9410 or Julie Weisberg jbweis12@aol.com 763-557-6629.



Women's League News

Submitted by Karen Rubin, President

Women's League functions like a PTA for Beth El. We raise funds for important projects, such as the folding machine we purchased last year. We provide people power when needed, such as polishing the Torah's crowns and other ritual items. We have interesting programs, and provide a place for Beth El women of all ages to get to know each other. Please join us to help make Beth El even better!

Women's League is proud to be sponsoring coffee and sweets for the Aleph Preschool's Musical Shabbats. We have been financially supporting the Aleph Preschool for many years. Now we will have a chance to get to know Aleph Preschool parents, and let them know about the Women's League. Thanks to **Shayne Karasov** for organizing this program.

I would like to invite all Beth El women to join us for Kibbitz & Play on November 29th. We have scheduled the program to start in the afternoon and continue into the evening. Feel free to join us for whatever time work best for you. See page 12 for details.

**Do you need
a hand?**

We're here!

Call our hotline at

952-873-7300 x 7350

Can you lend a hand?

We need you!

Contact Jo Ann Gruesner at

jgruesner@gmail.com

or call 952-873-7300 x 7350



Beth El Sings

Invites you to a

CD Release Party & Zimriah Music Festival

December 10, 2011

7:30 p.m.

\$15* per person by Dec 1st
*\$20 after Dec 1st and at the door

Live Music!

Luscious "Singi-tinis"

Savory hors d'oeuvres

Complimentary "Beth El Sings" CD!

Register online at www.besyn.org/zimriah

or detach and mail this form to Beth El Synagogue—5224 W 26th St, St. Louis Park, MN 55416

For more information, contact Liz Pomish, Event Co-Chair at 612-245-0713, lpomish@comcast.net



Beth El Sings CD Release Party & Zimriah Music Festival Dec. 10, 2011

Name(s): _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Number attending: _____ @ \$15 per person = Total Enclosed \$ _____

Yes! I'd love to help that night. Contact me @ _____

BETH EL SYNAGOGUE AND AIPAC CORDIALLY INVITE YOU TO AN ISRAEL SHABBATON

Gil Hoffman

Chief Political Correspondent and Analyst for *The Jerusalem Post*



Friday, November 18th

5:45 pm • Friday Evening Service

7:00 pm • Dinner and Lecture by Gil Hoffman

Israel and the Arab Spring: A Look at the Future of the Middle East and Hopes for Democracy and Peace

\$18 covert per person, or free of charge for AIPAC Club members and Policy Conference 2011 or 2012 attendees.

Saturday, November 19th

9:00 am • Shabbat Morning Service and D'var Torah

12:30 pm • Afternoon Lecture by Gil Hoffman

Red States, Blue States and the Jewish State: Jerusalem-DC Relations from an Israeli Insider's Perspective

ADVANCE RESERVATIONS REQUIRED FOR SHABBAT DINNER

To RSVP please contact Minnesota Area Director Jeremy Wynes at (312) 253-8985 or jwynes@aipac.org. Please respond by November 14.

Noah's back!!
December 2-3

As our Beth El Sings Initiative starts to wind down, Noah Solomon, our artist-in-residence throughout this year, will join us for one more weekend of amazing music and spiritual prayer.

Join us for Friday Night Services (5:45 p.m.) and Dinner* Saturday Services with After Lunch Singing & Saturday Night Program

*Register online at WWW.BESYN.ORG/NOAH or detach and mail this form with payment to Beth El Synagogue, 5224 W 26th St, St. Louis Park, MN 55416

If you haven't sung with Noah, NOW'S YOUR CHANCE!

If you HAVE, don't miss another opportunity!

Dinner Registration - December 2nd

Name(s): _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Number Attending: _____ @ \$16 per person

Number Attending: _____ @ \$8 per child under 10
(children's menu provided)

Total Enclosed:
\$ _____

I can also bring a bottle of Kosher wine to share.



This project is supported in part by a Ma'alot Grant from The Israel Commission of the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism and Nefesh B'Nefesh.



Beth El Endowments and Program Funds provide an important source of income, enabling Beth El to offer added services and programs and to make improvements to the facility. You can honor or remember family members and friends or special events with contributions to any of the Beth El Endowment Funds or Program Funds. Send donations to: Beth El Synagogue, 5224 West 26th Street, Minneapolis, MN 55416. Indicate the fund to which you want to contribute, the purpose of the contribution, and to whom you would like an acknowledgement sent. A complete listing of funds are available by calling the front desk at 952-873-7300 or donate online at www.bethelsynagogue.org (click on "Donate") If you would like to establish a new fund in your name or in the name of a loved one, please contact Marilyn Weisberg at Beth El, at 952-873-7303.

Beth El Gratefully Acknowledges the Following Contributions

This list reflects donations made to funds from September 1-September 30, 2011. Contributions received after September 30, 2011 will be listed in the December 2011 issue of the *Shofar*. If you **do not** want your name listed, please include a note when you make your contribution.

Cantor Abrams Celebrate the Arts Fund

Happy Anniversary to Bobby and Elliott Cohen
In Memory of Betty Golberg
Morton & Sandra Greenberg

Congregational Nurse Fund

In Memory of Paul Stein
Elaine Cohen

Greater Beth El

For Speedy Recovery of Boris Peisahodin

Anthony & Elena Spector
Denis Peisakhodin
Nadia Peisakhodina
Tatiana Crawford

Good Health in New Year Sue and Martin Ring
Harold Smith

In Honor of Debbie and Bruce Lieberman's 30th Wedding Anniversary
Lawrence & Michelle Shapiro

In Honor of Dr. Neil Kay
Deborah Shatin

In Memory of Barbara Goldstein
Suzanne & Stanley Efron

In Memory of David Reichenberg
Jennifer Lourea Hankey

Jacob & Ann Scherling Scholarship Fund

Happy Birthday to Harold Scherling

Brian & Sandra Salita
Diana Idelkope

Jim & Sherry Rudin & Family; David & Joann Bloom

In Appreciation of Mindy and Danny Ribnick For Having Us For Rosh Hashanah

Dr. Cory & Dana Herman

In Honor of Harold Scherling's 70th Birthday

Sandra & Louie Scherling

In Honor of Harold Scherling's Special Birthday

Dr. Stuart & Sue Ellen Borken
Harold & Jacqueline Sadoff

In Memory of Marilyn Salsberg

Harold & Eileen Scherling

Happy Anniversary to Dr. Randy and Lory Herman

Shana Tova Wishes For A Happy Healthy New Year To Barb and Phil Herman

Shana Tova Wishes For A Happy Healthy New Year To Danny and Mindy Ribnick

Shana Tova Wishes For A Happy New Year to Debbie and Gil Mann
Brian & Sandra Salita

Jeff & Lisa Gottstein Technology Fund

In Honor of The Birth Of Andrew Levi Gottstein
Woody & Mickey Malitz

Mazel Tov On the Birth of Your Son, Ethan Melnick
Jeffrey & Lisa Gottstein

Library Supplies Donation

In Honor of The 5th Anniversary Of Bob and Andrea Oleisky
Dr. Stuart & Sue Ellen Borken

Philip and Rivel Greenberg Family Fund for Holocaust Awareness

In Memory of Barbara Goldstein

In Memory of Ilse Rozman

Philip & Rivel Greenberg

Prayer Book/Sanctuary Fund

In Honor of Harold Scherling's 70th Birthday
Dr. Randall & Lory Herman

Kiges-Shragg Family Summer Scholarship Fund

Happy Anniversary to Linda and Mike Platt
Randi Livon

In Honor of Cindy Livon-Shragg and Marshall Shragg's 30th Wedding Anniversary

In Honor of Jeff and Michi Livon On Their 20th Wedding Anniversary

Robert Bemel & Randi Livon

L'dor Vador Capital Campaign

In Honor of The Bat Mitzvah Of Jocelyn Rosen
Sandra Sadoff

Rabbi Davis Discretionary Fund

In Appreciation of Robert Karasov
Christy Hagan & Sam LaRoque

Rose & Sol Bukstein Sukkah Fund

In Memory of Donna Brochin

Mazel Tov On The Birth Of Harry & Shelley Jacobs' Grandson,
Isaac Reuben

Mazel Tov On The Birth Of Ilana Miriam Rubin
Dr. James & Marlene Bukstein

Speaker Series Fund

In Appreciation of Melanie and Chuck Barry
Dr. Martin & Carole Kaplan

Summer Pilgrim Experience in Israel Fund

Happy Anniversary to Carole and David Hoffman On Your 50th
Roslyn Naim, Jackie & Harel Alkalai

The Barney & Gladys Applebaum Aleph School Scholarship Fund

Best wishes for the speedy recovery of Dobie Hunegs

In Honor of The Wedding Anniversary Of Dobie and Dick Hunegs
Stanford & Jo Ellen Robins

The Alvin & Audrey Kaufman Camp Ramah Fund

Happy Anniversary to Audrey and Al Kaufman
Howard & Wendy Bach

The Bernice Grais Brochin Camp Ramah Scholarship Fund

In Memory of Donna Brochin
Diana Idelkope

The Daryle Silver Aleph School Fund

In Honor of Barbara and Roger Rubin's Special Birthdays

Neil & Naomi Arnold

In Memory of Bette Charney
Bill & Myrna Schaeffer
Sally Levitan

In Memory of Colleen Rossmann
Jeffrey & Eileen Silver

In Memory of Ira Heilicher
In Memory of Paul Stein

Bill & Myrna Schaeffer

The Dobrin Family Fund

In Appreciation of The Beth El Facilities Staff
Kalman Greenberger

The Heifetz Aleph School Scholarship Fund

In Honor of The 55th Wedding Anniversary Of Raoul & Ferna Heifetz
Dr. Gary Goldish & Dr. Bonnie Bongard

In Memory of Gerald Kushner
In Memory of Henry Weinberg

In Memory of Lee Sudit
Raoul & Ferna Heifetz

The Jacki & Bill Broze Israel Trips for Adults Fund

In Honor of Jacki Broze's Birthday
Lou Ann Bongard

In Honor of Marlene and Jim Bukstein's 40th Anniversary
In Honor of Raoul and Ferna Heifetz's 55th Anniversary

William & Jacalyn Fruen Broze

The Linda and David Estrin Youth Opportunity Fund

In Memory of Donna Brochin
Dr. David & Linda Estrin

The Morris & Hilda Berman Fund General Scholarship Fund

In Memory of Florence Gerding
Sander Berman

The Murray and Marlene Brandys Family Fund

In Memory of Murray Brandys

Aldon & Carol Norrgard
Debbie, Phillip & Julia Ruskin
Donald & Delores Arneson
Dr. James & Marlene Bukstein
Elliott & Marlys Badzin
Gene & Carole Epstein
Judge Allen & Marcia Oleisky
Karin Miller
Lynette Eastwood
Morris & Corrine Toretsky
Paul Estrin
Shirleymae Lane
Steve, Simon & Esther Feldman

The Nemerov-Lava General Scholarship Fund

In Honor of Mara Bacig's Bat Mitzvah
Drs. Joel Greenwald & Carol Grabowski

The Philip & Bobby Bloom Camp Ramah Fund

Shana Tova Best Wishes For The New Year To Debbie and Gil Mann

Shana Tova Best Wishes For The New Year To Mindy and Danny Ribnick

Phil and Bobby Bloom

The Phyllis and Howard Harris Continuing Education Fund

For Speedy Recovery of Rhesa Shapiro

Happy Anniversary to Karen and Irv Katz On Your 50th
Happy Birthday to Stan Segelbaum

In Honor of The Birth Of Mr. and Mrs. Michael Selnick's Granddaughter

In Honor of The Birth Of Mr. and Mrs. Sandy Selnick's Grandson
In Memory of Dorothy Jacobs' Sister

In Memory of Ira Heilicher
Howard (Buddy) & Phyllis Harris

The Shirley R. Abelson Aleph School Fund

In Honor of Ethan Melnick
Bryan & Nina Badzin

In Honor of Harold Scherling's 70th Birthday
Robert & Norma Segal

In Honor of Marilyn and Rich Chern's Special Anniversary
Jeffrey & Geri Sweet

In Memory of Vivian Calmanson

Judge Allen & Marcia Oleisky

Mazel Tov On Ethan's Birth

Tony & Alli Rubin

In honor of the the birth of Ethan Melnick
Rabbi Kassel Abelson

Tributes continued

The Steven G. Rice Fund for Physically & Mentally Challenged

In memory of Murray Brandys

In appreciation of Andrea Weisberg & Daniel Rutman for Friday night dinners

In honor of Gloria Rice's birthday

In honor of Shlomo Gedaliah's birthday

*In memory of Herman Rice & Rossel Rice
Malka Rice*

The Sophie & Jerome Teener Fund

In Memory of Murray Brandys

Mrs. Jerome (Sophie) Teener

The Torodor-Levy Family General Scholarship Fund

In Honor of The Bat Mitzvah Of Hannah Goldenberg

Bill & Sharon Torodor

USY Ramah High School in Israel Fund

In Memory of Ruth Kirschner

Sandy & Deborah Selnick

Abelson-Aronson Endowment Fund

In honor of the 15th anniversary of Steven & Jennifer Feinberg

In honor of the 15th anniversary of Anthony Cohen & Susan Greenberg

In honor of the 15th anniversary of Kathryn & Tyler Rendleman

In honor of the 20th anniversary of Mark & Francee Conner

In honor of the 20th anniversary of Michael S. & Anne Goldstein

In honor of the 20th anniversary of Mark & Usha Abramovitz

In honor of the 20th anniversary of Stuart & Cindy Tapper

In honor of the 25th anniversary of Allan & Kathy Share

In honor of the 50th anniversary of Lee & Barbara Bearmon

In honor of the 55th anniversary of Thomas & Corine Feinberg

In memory of Vicki Walzer

In memory of Murray Brandys

In memory of Vivian Calmenson

In memory of Charlotte Shapiro

In memory of Sally Levitan

In memory of Helen Dobrin

Rabbi Kassel Abelson

Rabbi Kassel Abelson USY Leadership Fund

In honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Noah Lipnick

In honor of the Bat Mitzvah of Jocelyn Rosen

In honor of the Bat Mitzvah of Clara Lerner

In honor of the Bat Mitzvah of Hannah Goldenberg

Rabbi Kassel Abelson

Yahrzeit Contributions

In memory of:

Contributed by:

Tillie Aldes

Donna Brochin

Jerome Bach

Barbara Bach

Howard Cohen

Harry & Terry Cohen

Miriam Cooper

David & Kathy Cooper

Arnold Dobrin

Stanley & Carol Dobrin

Francie Dorfman

Edith Goldish

*Dr. Gary Goldish &
Dr. Bonnie Bongard*

Anna Drucker

Harold Drucker

Lillian Drucker

Harold Drucker

Cecelia Forbes

Sally Forbes Friedman

Phillip Friedman

Shirlee Friedman

Sally Forbes Friedman

Gertrude Gaines

Harold & Ruth Atkin

Bessie Gittelson

Morton & Marilyn Percansky

Joe Gleekel

Alvin & Barbara Gleekel

Samuel Goldish

Jeffrey & Cindy Goldish

Louis Goldstein

Dr. James & Marlene Bukstein

Linda Greenberg

Michael & Gail Milchman

Sam Greenberg

Harley & Ellen Greenberg

Judge Myron Greenberg & Shelley

Amos Heilicher

Elissa (Lisa) Heilicher

Frances Herman

Lowell & Marsia Herman

Rachel Raviv Hoffer

Marsha Raviv

Fred Jacobs

Harry & Shelley Jacobs

Rose Kaplan

Harriet Kaplan

Helen Karsner

Bruce Karsner

Ruth Karsner

Ceill Bell

Leonard Kaufman

Dalia Katz

Rose Kivatinetz

Joseph & Shirley Novich

Idele Koritz

Harold & Susan Koritz

Ruth Kronick

Dr. Stuart & Sue Ellen Borken

Jacob Lazer

Eleanor Gantman

Mary Lebedoff

*S. Bruce &
Lisa Lebedoff Peilen*

Renee Ribnick Levy

Jeffrey Levy

Hannah Malinsky

Roslyn Tarshish

Fruma Mann and Yair Mann

Arie Mann

Harry B. Mulowitz

Lena Goldberg

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*Dr. Brian Tell &
Linda Nass-Tell*

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Aaron & Marcia Pinkus

Samuel Rotenberg

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Fred Rothman

Libby Rothman

Nathan Rudoy

Florence Rudoy

Rose Sadoff

Harold & Jacqueline Sadoff

Clara Sandler

Elisabeth & Norman Sandler

Howard Schlaifer

*David Schlaifer &
Julie Ritz-Schlaifer*

Dolores Schlaifer

Ella Schloff

Irvin & Ruth Schloff

Rose Schwartz

Lois Siegel

Clare Schwartz

Mary Silverman

Reuben Silverman

Morton & Artice Silverman

Rachel Silverstein

David & Ruth Silverstein

Florence Skolnick

Marilyn Goldman

Betty Jane Snyder

Daniel Snyder

Sima Devorah Stein

Maxine Robbins

Sheldon Stewart

Allan & Kathy Share

Emanuel Wolf

Libby Rothman

Memorial Plaques

"The Life has ended, but the light can never be extinguished"

It is our custom at Beth El to memorialize our departed loved ones with memorial plaques. These beautiful plaques are placed in the memorial alcove outside of the Fiterman Chapel for the entire first year and then the entire month of the Yahrzeit date each year after that.

The cost of a plaque is \$500, with the proceeds supporting programs at Beth El throughout the year.

Please contact Marilyn Weisberg at 952-873-7303 for more information or to order a plaque.





Back by popular request ...



Kibbitz & Play

WITH
Beth El Women's League

TUESDAY - November 29th, 2011

2:00 - 8:00 P.M.

Beth El Gruman Social Hall

Cost: \$14 in advance (\$15 at the door)

Prizes!



Snacks will be served all day. At 5:00, a delicious dinner will be served.

Kibbitz You can play before dinner or start after dinner or play the entire six hours!



BRING YOUR FRIENDS!!



Prizes will be given out all day!

Questions? Call Marion at 952-544-3004 and Myrna Feldman 952-545-3651.

Your check is your reservation - Mail your check made payable to Beth El Women's League to:
Chick Held, 3412 Oak Ridge Rd Apt 314, Minnetonka, MN 55305

community **בצ'בור**

Bestselling Author Coming to Minneapolis

The Israel Center of the Minneapolis Jewish Federation, the Sabes Jewish Community Center and the Jewish Community Center of the Greater St. Paul Area are excited to host bestselling Israeli author, Meir Shalev, as the second guest of the Culture BLVD: Israeli Author Series on Wednesday, November 9th, at 7:00 p.m. Shalev is a bestselling author in Israel, Holland and Germany. His books include *A Pigeon and a Boy*, *Alone in the Desert*, *But a Few Days*, and *Russian Romance* - one of the top five bestsellers in Israeli publishing history. His latest book, *My Russian Grandmother and her American Vacuum Cleaner*, is a family memoir. Meir Shalev's appearance is also part of the 2011 Twin Cities Jewish Book Fair. For a complete schedule, go to www.stpauljcc.org. The Culture BLVD: Israeli Author Series will continue on Thursday, December 1 with Eshkol Nevo. A light reception and book signing will follow both presentations. The author's books are available for purchase at Barnes and Noble's Minnetonka location. Both events are set to take place at the Sabes Jewish Community Center located on the Barry Family Campus at 4330 South Cedar Lake Road, St. Louis Park. Tickets are \$12 for general admission, \$10 for students, seniors and JCC members. For tickets and group orders of 8 or more, contact the JCC box office at 952-381-3499 or tickets@sabesjcc.org.

Beth El Student Leads Fundraising Effort for the Humane Society

Beth El student, Max Sigal is chairing an important fundraising effort for the Animal Humane Society. Items most needed are:

- Kongs
- Peanut Butter
- Soft Dog Treats
- Bleach
- Gentle Leaders
- 6ft. Nylon Leashes
- Lint Rollers
- Laundry Detergent
- Canned Kitten Food
- Pig-Ear Dog Chews

Donate at Chuck & Don's Pet Food Outlet (3525 Vicksburg Lane in Plymouth. Please stop by or call 763-559-0146 to purchase an item in Max Sigal's name for Animal Humane Society), OR drop your donations in the collection box near the Beth El reception desk. Some food items are not accepted - please check the Animal Humane Society website for details at www.animalhumanesociety.com. For more information, please call 763-551-7901. Please make your donation no later than November 15.



BETH EL SYNAGOGUE
5224 W. 26th Street
Minneapolis, MN 55416-1901

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Linda Goldberg
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Jerry Frick
Education Director
Mary Baumgarten
Marketing & Communications Director
Danelle Cunningham
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Mollie Feldman
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Karen Burton
President, Beth El Synagogue
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President, Men's Club
Allen Oleisky
President, Women's League
Karen Rubin
President, Beth El Rishon USY
Brandon Klugman
President, Bethelers
Freda Golden

DATED MATERIAL

Beth El Youth Department
proudly presents...
DISNEY'S
BEAUTY
AND THE
BEAST
JR O

December 15 @ 7:00 p.m.
December 17 @ 7:30 p.m.
December 18 @ 2:00 p.m.
*Special Character Lunch for kids 12 & under
and their families on Sunday at 1:00 p.m. in the
Victor Hall (Reserve your spot by calling 952-873-7330)*
Order tickets at www.besyn.org/usy-play

Help support The Play by placing an ad in our Adbook.
This program adbook is seen by over 1200 people and a great value for advertising or to place a special message.
For details or to order tickets, email mollie@bethelusy.org or call 952-873-7330.