



# Congregation Beth El

A seasonal, egalitarian synagogue affiliated with the Conservative Movement

Founded in 1947

32 Gorton Avenue • Old Colony Beach • Old Lyme, CT • 06371

website: [www.synagogueoldlyme.org](http://www.synagogueoldlyme.org)

Tammuz/Av 5782

July 2022

## President

Lisa Semel  
917-913-9722  
[lisasemel@gmail.com](mailto:lisasemel@gmail.com)

## VP Membership

Brian Cutler  
[beachshulmembership@gmail.com](mailto:beachshulmembership@gmail.com)

## Treasurer

Rick Hyne  
[richard.hyne@gmail.com](mailto:richard.hyne@gmail.com)

## Recording Secretary

Andrea Fenton  
[fentonland2@gmail.com](mailto:fentonland2@gmail.com)

## Corresponding Secretary/ Newsletter/Ritual

Sharon Waxenbaum  
[shanaaviv@gmail.com](mailto:shanaaviv@gmail.com)

## Board of Directors

Ira Feigenbaum  
Mindy Jason - Tree of Life  
Anita Kaplowitz  
Shari Most  
Peter Patten - Tzedakah boxes  
Ruth Spitz - Youth Services  
BJ Diefenbacher - IPP

## Past Presidents

Alex Rappaport\*  
Joseph Bernstein\*  
Jacob Gottlieb\*  
Allen Rosenberg\*  
Maurice Wallet\*  
Arthur Guttenplan\*  
Solomon Tilles  
Al Snyder\*  
Ephraim Libbin\*  
Ruth Kanter\*  
Evelyn Filkoff\*  
Arthur Cohen\*  
Harvey Wallet\*  
Sandy Steinberg  
Milton Rulnick\*  
Peter Patten  
BJ Diefenbacher

\*z"l May their memory be for a blessing



Shalom Congregation Beth El members and friends,

We have now held our first two weeks of Friday night services, both the Youth Services and Adult Services. If you have a youngster, our 7:00 pm children's service is a great way for your child to begin learning what they need to know in preparation for their *B'nai Mitzvah*. We welcome adult visitors to come and join in our weekly Torah discussion held during services that follow at 7:30 pm.

In other news, I'm excited to share that on **August 19<sup>th</sup>**, at **7:00 pm**, we will hold special services to celebrate Congregation Beth El's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary. At this time, we will dedicate our beautiful new *Aron Kodesh*, *Holy Ark*, built by Steve Wallet (see interview on page 3) as well as honor Steve and our Capital Campaign donors. Services will be followed by a festive *Oneg Shabbat*, held outside (weather permitting). We will enjoy wine and cheese and special sweets for dessert (including the always welcome Hershey bars)! Thank you in advance to my co-chairs for this event, Shari (Wallet) Most and Mindy Jason.

If you would like to help in the preparation, please reach out to one of us. If you have pictures you'd like to share from over the years at CBE, please send them to me and I will put them on our website.

On behalf of the Board, we look forward to seeing you soon!

Lisa



Please join us for a special  
Friday evening service

August 19<sup>th</sup> • 7:00 pm

as we celebrate our 75<sup>th</sup> year,  
thank our Capital Campaign donors  
& dedicate our beautiful new Ark.



Thank you for your generous donations!

Ruth & Andy Spitz- In celebration of the birth of our granddaughter, Ariel Noa.

Sharon & Preston Waxenbaum - In celebration of the birth of our niece, Ariel Noa, daughter of Amy Spitz and Alan Khorshidi, granddaughter of Ruth & Andy Spitz.

Erin & Brad Dennison and Family - In celebration of the birth of our cousin, Ariel Noa, daughter of Amy Spitz and Alan Khorshidi, granddaughter of Ruth & Andy Spitz.

Erin & Josh Waxenbaum and Family - In celebration of the birth of our cousin, Ariel Noa, daughter of Amy Spitz and Alan Khorshidi, granddaughter of Ruth & Andy Spitz.

The Rosenberg Siblings, Alex, Jean, Toby and Andy - In celebration of our sister, Ellen (Lyn) Rosenberg's 60<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Ruth & Andy Spitz - In memory of Helen Spitz.

Sandy & Peter Patten - In memory of Helen Spitz, mother of Andy Spitz.

Ruth Spitz and Sharon Waxenbaum - In memory of our grandfather, Fred Snyder, at the time of his *yahrzeit*.

Ruth Spitz and Sharon Waxenbaum - In memory of our uncle, Marvin Snyder, at the time of his *yahrzeit*.

## Milestones & Mazal Tovs

Mazal tov to the Ellen & Joel Mandell Family:

- Granddaughter Jenna graduated from George Washington University and will attend Columbia University for a master's degree in Public Health.
- Grandson Logan graduated from high school and will attend Maryville University.
- Granddaughter Devon graduated from North Carolina State University.
- Granddaughter Rachel, a junior at the University of Delaware, took a Birthright trip to Israel.



## Candy Fund

Lynne & Ken Hyne - In honor of our grandson, Alex B.

Sara & Nathan Taylor - In honor of our children, Eleanor and Harrison.

Ruth & Andy Spitz - In honor of our grandchildren Dylan Fucella and Ariel Korshidi.

Erin & Brad Dennison - In honor of our new cousin, Ariel.

Amy Spitz - In honor of Ariel Korshidi.

Lyn Rosenberg - In honor of CBE's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Marian & Rick Hyne - In honor of our grandchildren, Lily, Brady and Austin Hyne.

Contact Ruth Spitz at [rspz123@yahoo.com](mailto:rspz123@yahoo.com) to sponsor!

## Shabbat Candle Lighting Times



Friday	July	1	7:58 pm
Friday	July	8	7:58 pm
Friday	July	15	7:56 pm
Friday	July	22	7:54 pm
Friday	July	29	7:51 pm
Friday	Aug	5	7:46 pm
Friday	Aug	12	7:41 pm
Friday	Aug	19	7:35 pm
Friday	Aug	26	7:28 pm



## Happy Birthday!

Joel Mandell - 83 <sup>rd</sup> bday!	July 1
Alexander Weisman	July 3
Jackson Weisman	July 3
Andy Spitz	July 5
Anita Kaplowitz	July 7
Jamie Summer	July 14
Brad Dennison	July 18
Steven Wallet	July 25

## Happy Anniversary!

Carol & Larry Bojarski	July 12
------------------------	---------

## A Conversation with Steve Wallet

*Your family's roots run deep in their connection to Congregation Beth El. Your father, Harvey, grandfather, Moe, and great-grandfather, Abraham, were involved in support of CBE since the time our property was just a vacant lot. What impact did their involvement have on you, growing up and today?*

Yes, there is no doubt that CBE has been a big part our family, given it's roots go all the way back to my great-grandfather, Abraham Wolotsky, one of the original founders. I've always felt a special connection to our little synagogue, with fond memories of Friday night Youth Services after a long day on the beach. Even if our true motivation as kids was the Hershey candy bars we received, our participation in the actual service definitely provided lasting memories that solidified our appreciation for our Jewish heritage. It was also great to see how much pride and dedication my father had for the synagogue and that just made that little brick building mean that much more to me and, ultimately, my children, as I watched them participate in the services, ice cream socials and book sale events. Five generations of memories are just very special and I know many others in our congregation have similar feelings and experiences.

*How did the Ark project come to be?*

Upon learning that there was going to be a renovation project to modernize our synagogue, I wanted to



**Leonard Cohen**, the Canadian folk singer who fused Jewish mysticism with pop mythology, wrote several hit songs over his 50-year career. However, none of them were as successful as "Hallelujah," which has been covered at least 300 times and played at weddings, funerals, religious services and every possible occasion inbetween. With its allusions to King David and Samson and Delilah, questioning of a higher purpose and obscure but tantalizing lyrics, few works by a Jewish artist have been subject to so much scrutiny and interpretation, much to the bafflement of its composer.

The new documentary, "Hallelujah: Leonard Cohen, A Journey, A Song" seeks to explore the song's relationship not only to its creator, but also to Judaism in general.

"Hallelujah" was released on the 1984 "Various Positions" album when Cohen was already 50. It shows how his Jewish upbringing in Montreal and love of questioning

contribute in some way. Although by day I work in a corporate environment, in more recent years I have been learning to build custom furniture. While some of the early projects were small, I eventually progressed to building a wall unit that had quite a bit of detail and it required me to hone my carpentry skills. Surprisingly, it came out very well. When I heard



Steve Wallet, with daughters, Diana (left) and Kayla (right), the 5th generation of their family at CBE.

about the CBE project and remembered how difficult it was to open and close those Ark doors during the High Holy Day services, I thought why not build a new one. So, I volunteered to build it. Little did I know how much work it was actually going to involve.

*Why was it important to you to rebuild the Ark? What was your motivation?*

Quite simply, I wanted to do something for our synagogue that would compliment the changes we were going to make to its overall appearance. I also thought it would be meaningful to dedicate the Ark to our founders, builders and past presidents, since they have been instrumental in keeping our little synagogue going over the past 75 years.



certain aspects of the faith, including how he "was touched as a child by that kind of charged speech I heard in the synagogue," played a pivotal role in its creation. Cohen began work on "Various Positions" when he was in his 40s, the time when, according to Jewish tradition, Jews may begin studying *Kabbalah*.

Who does "Hallelujah" belong to? Is it even Jewish? Is it even Cohen's? When one hears the song enough times, and realizes it's touching everyone who hears it on some deep, imperceptible level, it becomes something else: a piece of art that simply came into the world, perhaps, as the song itself hints, through divine providence.

"Hallelujah" is a song of endless mysteries, the largest of which is: how did this Talmudic ballad transform from a Leonard Cohen obscurity to an inescapable American standard? The author of this review, Andrew Lapin, believes, "Jews can reasonably ask whether this song has become too secularized over the years, but it's nice to know that one of the great Jewish poets and songwriters of our time found a little piece of immortality."

Jewish Telegraph Agency 07.03.22

# Sponsor an Oneg!

Martina Shapiro



In Hebrew, *Oneg Shabbat* means joy of Sabbath, and it often refers to the refreshments and celebratory gathering held after Friday evening services.

It is a custom to make a donation at this time in honor of or memory of a loved one, or for a special occasion. Available dates:

July 15 • July 22 • July 29  
• Aug 26 • Sept 2

Thank you to our sponsors:

Sandy & Peter Patten - In celebration of our 60th wedding anniversary.

Lisa Semel & Jon Guthart - In honor of our beautiful nieces, Hillary, Beth and Sarah Semel.

Nancy Bazilian and Jan Rosenberg - In memory of our father, Benjamin David Rosenberg.

Marian & Rick Hyne - In celebration of our 45th wedding anniversary.

Please contact Sharon Waxenbaum at 631-748-8459/  
shanaaviv@gmail.com to choose your *Shabbat* date. Use Venmo **Congregation-Bethel** or please make your check payable to Congregation Beth El and send it to:

Rick Hyne at 19 Danielle Drive, Wayne, NJ 07470.



Congregation Beth El's

Tree  
of  
Life

If you are looking for a meaningful way to remember a loved one, or to commemorate someone's accomplishment or a happy event, you could mark the occasion by adding a leaf to our CBE Tree of Life! (See the order form at the end of this newsletter.)

Please speak with **Mindy Jason** at 860-559-7557 or email her at [mjason@flrcpa.com](mailto:mjason@flrcpa.com).



Kindling *Shabbat* candles

## Friday Youth Services

were off to a great start on July 1<sup>st</sup> as we welcomed back friends from last season! The children proudly showed off their new Hebrew and English reading skills as they took turns leading services. Of course everyone couldn't wait to receive their sweet *Shabbat* treat, a Hershey chocolate bar! Children can bring their parents and grandparents to services, which begin at 7:00 pm.



Reciting *Kiddush*!



Leading *Adon Olam*!



Four generations of Feigenbaums!

Photos: Preston Waxenbaum

# Jewish Websites



**www.jta.org**

Founded in 1917, the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, JTA, is a global source of news and analysis on issues of Jewish interest. Its reporting reflects the wide spectrum of religious, political and cultural identity that exists among Jews today and serves as an international syndication service for more than 70 Jewish publications and websites.



**www.kveller.com**

Whether you grew up observing *Shabbat* every Friday night or had your first taste of matzah ball soup when you married into a Jewish family, there's no one way to parent Jewish kids. Kveller presents ideas you can run with for first-time parents, interfaith parents, queer parents, adoptive parents and everyone in between. The site hopes to provide information and inspiration that's right for you and your family.



**www.thenosher.com**

This go-to guide covers everything from how to make the best matzah ball soup to explaining the secret Jewish roots of fish and chips. The Noshier reports on Jewish restaurant trends, tips on the best new Jewish and Israeli foods at Trader Joe's and offers guides to Jewish food in cities across the globe.



**www.myjewishlearning.com**

This site empowers Jewish discovery, offering articles, videos and other resources to help navigate all aspects of Judaism and Jewish life. It's geared toward all backgrounds and levels of knowledge. Whether you're seeking a refresher on how to light the *Chanukah* menorah or looking for a new perspective on the week's Torah portion or a newcomer contemplating converting to Judaism, this is the place to start.



**www.heyalma.com**

Hey Alma is a feminist Jewish culture site that offers a diversity of voices. It provides articles about pop culture, politics, news, identity and holidays, all through a Jewish lens. They use their platform to raise the voices of all Jews, especially those who often don't get heard enough in the organized Jewish world, including Jews of Color, queer Jews, Jews by choice, and Mizrahi and Sephardic Jews.

**You can sign up to get posts delivered directly to your inbox!**



Tisha B'Av  
August 6<sup>th</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup>

*Tisha B'Av*, literally meaning the 9th of Av (the Jewish month), will take place this year beginning at sunset on August 6<sup>th</sup> and end on the evening of August 7<sup>th</sup>. It is observed as a day of mourning. While we recall misfortunes and calamities experienced by the Jewish people throughout history at this time, the main focus of the day is looking back on the destruction of the First and Second Temples in Jerusalem and the Jewish diaspora that followed. We also look for the lessons of hope that can be found in the saddest day on the Jewish calendar.

People still continued to fast, even after they rebuilt the First Temple after it was destroyed by the Babylonians in 586 BCE. The Romans destroyed the Second Temple in 70 CE and this marked the start of a long exile period for the Jewish people. Over time it became a custom to recall other tragedies on this day, such as the expulsion of Jews from England in 1290 and during the Inquisition in Spain in 1492, as well as the mass deportation from the Warsaw Ghetto during WWII.

Many traditional mourning practices are observed on this day, such as fasting, avoiding certain types of work, avoiding bathing for pleasure (it is permitted to bathe in cool water to remove dirt or perspiration), shaving or wearing cosmetics, not wearing leather shoes and abstaining from sexual activities. The Book of *Eicha*, Lamentations - the prophet Jeremiah's poetic expression of sorrow over the destruction of Jerusalem and the First Temple - is read, and mourning prayers are recited in the synagogue.

*Tisha B'Av* is the culmination of a three-week period of mourning. Weddings and other parties are generally not permitted during this time and it is customary to refrain from cutting hair, listening to music, eating meat or drinking wine (except on *Shabbat*) from the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 9<sup>th</sup> of Av.



*Rosh HaShanah*  
Sunday, Sept 25 - Tuesday, Sept 27

*Yom Kippur*  
Tuesday, Oct 4 - Wednesday, Oct 5

**Wedding presents can be tricky to choose.** Cookbooks might be a thoughtful gift for newlyweds who like to cook, aspire to cook or just love cookbooks. Here is a list of some of the most beloved and trusted Jewish cookbooks for any new couple (or for anyone looking for information and inspiration!)



### **Joan Nathan's Jewish Holiday Cookbook**

Every Jewish kitchen should have at least one of Joan Nathan's cookbooks, if not several. Classic Jewish holiday dishes from the queen of American Jewish food are an absolute must.



### **The Book of Jewish Food: An Odyssey from Samarkand to New York** by Claudia Rodin

This classic book may not have fancy photos on every page, but it's a book of deep substance, history and deliciousness, whose recipes are researched and perfected. Anyone who is interested in Jewish food will want to devour it from start to finish.



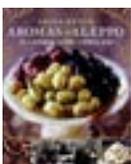
### **The Book of New Israeli Food** by Janna Gur

The flavors and spices of Israeli cuisine can be exciting and overwhelming. This cookbook provides an education on the origins of Israeli food itself, as well as dozens of perfect classic recipes from basic hummus to green Persian rice, stews, babka and more.



### **Zahav: A World of Israeli Cooking** by Michael Solomonov

This award-winning cookbook is part storytelling and part mouth-watering recipes that any newlyweds will be excited to tackle together.



### **Aromas of Aleppo: The Legendary Cuisine of Syrian Jews** by Poopa Dweck

This book brings the traditional recipes and flavors of traditional Syrian cooking to life with personal stories and beautiful photos. There are delicious recipes, but also a fascinating history of the Syrian Jewish community.



### **The Gefilte Manifesto: New Recipes for Old World Jewish Foods** by Yoskowitz and Alpern

The authors' goals have always been to bring New World sensibilities and flavors to Old World foods, like gefilte fish, kugel, challah and other Jewish classics. Their cookbook is a perfect new-meets-old book that is beautiful and the perfect gift.



### **Modern Jewish Cooking** by Leah Koenig

This stunning cookbook offers the perfect guide to modern, yet traditional dishes, with beautiful photos, creative twists and truly trustworthy recipes.



### **Modern Jewish Baker** by Shannon Sarna

For the baker in your life, this beautiful book gives an overview of 7 different Jewish doughs, including challah, babka, bagels, pita, rugelach, hamantaschen and pita, while giving tons of fun variations with which home bakers can experiment. Each chapter walks you through the best tools to master each recipe and shares tips for what each dough should look and "feel" like, plus step-by-step visuals.



### **The New York Times Jewish Cookbook** edited by Linda Amster

This enormous volume offers more than 825 recipes from around the world, which is sure to keep even the ambitious new cooks busy for some time.



### **The Moosewood Cookbook** by Mollie Katzen

This vegetarian cookbook has been a classic in Jewish kitchens since its release over 30 year ago for good reason: the vegetable-forward recipes are simple, healthy and perfectly complement *Shabbat* meals, holiday dinners or everyday eating.

Thanks to Shannon Sarna thenosher 06.2017



## Project Re-Connect

Congregation Beth El would like to re-establish connection with former members of our synagogue community, regardless of where they now live.

We maintain a database of emails, phone numbers and addresses of current and former members. If you know of people who might like to receive our newsletter and announcements, and perhaps participate in a Zoom service, please send their names and email addresses to **Brian Cutler** at: **beachshulmembership@gmail.com**

[www.synagogueoldlyme.org](http://www.synagogueoldlyme.org)



CBE has a website! Read our story!  
Browse through our photo gallery!  
Look back on past newsletters!

## Congregation Beth El has Cards for Every Occasion!

You can acknowledge a loss or happy occasion such as a graduation, anniversary, birthday or wedding with a card from CBE! If you make a contribution to the synagogue, **Carol Bojarski** will send one for you! Call her at 860-508-3635 or email her at **cbojo9@hotmail.com**.



We also have cards with a picture of the synagogue on the front and plenty of room for your message inside! Purchase a packet of cards and you will have one on hand!

Because Brookside Avenue is the open street this season, OCBA has asked that we do not park along the synagogue fence on Gorton or Broughel Avenues. Please park in the lot on Gorton Ave across from 33 and 35 Gorton Ave.



We welcome new advertiser!  
Laysville Hardware



860.434.7727

171 Boston Post Road • Old Lyme, CT 06371  
email: [laysvillehardware@sbcglobal.net](mailto:laysvillehardware@sbcglobal.net)  
[www.laysvillehardware.com](http://www.laysvillehardware.com)

CBE newsletters are published in June/July/August/September/Chanukah/Pesach.

Please send your good news: simchas, birthdays and anniversaries to:

Sharon Waxenbaum at [shanaaviv@gmail.com](mailto:shanaaviv@gmail.com)  
or call  
631-748-8459



Donations to CBE by check should be made out to Congregation Beth El and mailed to **Rick Hyne, 19 Danielle Drive, Wayne, NJ 07470**

Our **Venmo** account is: **Congregation-Bethel** (hyphen between Congregation and Beth and no space between Beth and el)

## AT-HOME CAR CLEANING

Inside & Out  
WE COME TO YOU!

Mobile Car Cleaner  
**Alexis Fenton**

860-876-7797  
[alexisfenton88@gmail.com](mailto:alexisfenton88@gmail.com)  
Old Lyme, CT

Call to book appt.



Barbara Crowley (860) 434-9727

168 Lyme Street • Old Lyme, CT 06371  
[thechocolateshell@gmail.com](mailto:thechocolateshell@gmail.com)  
[thechocolateshell.com](http://thechocolateshell.com)



# Congregation Beth El

*A seasonal, egalitarian synagogue affiliated with the Conservative Movement*

32 Gorton Avenue • Old Colony Beach • Old Lyme, CT • 06371

## Annual Membership Form

Welcome to our synagogue by the sea! We invite you to join our congregation!

### Member Contact Information:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Beach Address (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_ Facebook \_\_\_\_\_

### Membership Dues:

Although we are a seasonal congregation, our expenses are incurred year round.  
We encourage you to be generous with your support.

_____ \$36 (minimum)	_____ \$118	_____ \$540
_____ \$54	_____ \$180	_____ \$720
_____ \$72	_____ \$360	_____ \$ Other

Please Venmo\* or make checks payable to **Congregation Beth El**.

Please mail check and completed form to:

**Lisa Semel, CBE VP Membership • 70 Old Colony Road • Old Lyme, CT 06371**  
**(off season at 312 W. 119th Street • New York, NY 10026)**

or

**Brian Cutler • 55 Old Colony Road • Old Lyme, CT 06371**

\*Our **Venmo** account is: **Congregation-Bethel** (hyphen between Congregation and Beth  
and no space between Beth and el)

# Congregation Beth El

*A seasonal, egalitarian synagogue affiliated with the Conservative Movement*

32 Gorton Avenue • Old Colony Beach • Old Lyme, CT • 06371



## Tree of Life Order Form

Donor Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Order \_\_\_\_\_ Leaf @ \$75 OR \_\_\_\_\_ Stone @ \$295

S  
A  
M  
P  
L  
E  
S



In honor of  
our children  
Ephraim & Menashe  
with love  
Asenath & Joseph  
Jacobson

In celebration of  
the marriage of  
Rachel & Jake Isaacson  
  
Rivkah & Isaac  
Abramson

In memory of our  
beloved mother  
Yocheved Moses  
  
Miriam & Aaron  
Amramson

Line 1 (12 characters): \_\_\_\_\_

Line 2 (14 characters): \_\_\_\_\_

Line 3 (18 characters): \_\_\_\_\_

Line 4 (20 characters): \_\_\_\_\_

Line 5 (17 characters): \_\_\_\_\_

Line 6 (9 characters): \_\_\_\_\_

Do you wish to have your donation acknowledged? Send to the person/family recognized at:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Please Venmo\* or make checks payable to **Congregation Beth El**. Mail your order & payment to Lisa Semel:

**Summer Mailing Address:** 70 Colony Road • Old Lyme, CT 06371 **Phone:** 917-913-9722

\*Our **Venmo** account is: **Congregation-Bethel** (hyphen between Congregation and Beth and no space between Beth and el