



Congregation Beth El

A seasonal, egalitarian synagogue affiliated with the Conservative Movement

Founded in 1947

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

website: www.synagogueoldlyme.org

Iyar/Iyar 5786

June/July 2026

President

Lisa Semel

917-913-9722

lisasemel@gmail.com

VP Membership

Lucy Blatter

beachshulmembership@gmail.com

Treasurer

Rick Hyne

richard.hyne@gmail.com

Recording Secretary

Andrea Fenton

fentonland2@gmail.com

Corresponding Secretary/ Newsletter/Ritual Chair

Sharon Waxenbaum

shanaaviv@gmail.com

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*z"l May their memory be for a blessing



Dear Family and Friends of Congregation Beth El,

Welcome to our 2026 season! As we begin another year together, I am reminded of what makes Congregation Beth El so special. We may be a small congregation, but we are a vibrant, welcoming community, connected by friendship, faith and a shared commitment to Jewish life. Our congregation thrives thanks to the dedication of our volunteers, including our all-volunteer Board of Directors, whose time and effort help make our programs and events possible.

We have an exciting season ahead, with a variety of opportunities to gather, celebrate and connect (see page 3). Be sure to mark your calendars for our 3rd annual Gala, Dancing Under the Stars, on August 15th, which promises to be a wonderful evening of fun and community.

Thank you for being part of Congregation Beth El. I look forward to seeing you throughout the season as we share another great year together.

Am Yisrael Chai!

Lisa





Sharon & Preston Waxenbaum - In celebration of the 50th wedding anniversary of Lori & Steve Beyer.

Donna & Scott Semel - Will sponsor the *Oneg Shabbat* on July 3rd honor of Lisa Semel & Jonathan Guthart for their years of service to CBE.

[Correction: Congregation Beth El Board of Trustees
- In support of the **American Jewish Committee**, the IDF Widows and Orphans Organization and the Jewish National Fund, to provide support to people and communities across Israel.]



Congregation Beth El's

Tree of Life

If you are looking for a meaningful way to remember a loved one, or to commemorate a happy event, mark the occasion by adding a leaf or stone to our CBE Tree of Life! Please speak with **Mindy Jason** at **860-559-7557** or email her at **mindysjason@gmail.com** to arrange the wording and to place your order.



Would YOU

Like to Join OUR Board?

A very special aspect of Congregation Beth El is that it is run entirely by volunteers!

We don't have the luxury of paid, fulltime staff members responsible for our congregation.

What we DO have is a dedicated group of people who are willing to share their time and talents to support our synagogue.

If you are interested in joining the CBE Board of Trustees for the upcoming calendar years 2026-2028, please contact Ruth Spitz at:

516-458-4440 or rspz123@yahoo.com

Congregation Beth El

Presents

Gala Under The Stars

LIVE MUSIC

APPS, DESSERTS & DANCING

ALL WELCOME BYOB

Congregation Beth El
32 Gorton Avenue, Old Colony Beach
in Old Lyme

SATURDAY, AUGUST 15 7:30-10PM



Congregation Beth El
@Congregation-BethEl

\$30 VENMO OR CHECK AT DOOR

For planning purposes,
please RSVP to
PARTYatBETHEL@gmail.com
by August 7th

See p 11 for sponsorship information! 2



Shabbat Candle Lighting Times

Friday, June	19	8:08 pm
Friday, June	26	8:09 pm
Friday, July	3	8:08 pm
Friday, July	10	8:06 pm
Friday, July	17	8:02 pm
Friday, July	24	7:56 pm
Friday, July	31	7:49 pm

Sponsor an Oneg!



In Hebrew, *Oneg Shabbat* means joy of Sabbath, and it often refers to the refreshments and the 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 3 • July 10 * July 17 • July 24 • July 31
Aug 7 • Aug 14 • Aug 21 • Aug 28 • Sept 4

Please contact Sharon Waxenbaum at 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

Friday Evening Youth Services 7 pm



We are proud of our pre-B'nai Mitzvah-age children as they display their Hebrew and English reading skills during the summer, taking turns leading us in parts of the services.

Children can bring their parents and grandparents to services, which begin at 7:00 pm. They will begin on July 3rd and continue through Labor Day weekend.

S. Waxenbaum



Too shy to take a part? Join us anyway! Of course all children will receive their sweet *Shabbat* treat, a Hershey's chocolate bar!

Ruth Spitz

CBE Summer 2026 at a Glance

Friday Evening Services 7pm/7:30 pm

Join us as we welcome *Shabbat* together. Stay and schmooze at our tasty *Oneg Shabbat*. Youth Services begin at 7 pm, followed by Adult Services at 7:30 pm.

July 3 through August 28.

Sun, June 28 Community Garden Party 10 am-Noon

Join us as we plant flowers to beautify the landscape around the synagogue. Refreshments provided! Bring tools/gloves if you have them.

Sun, July 19th Ice Cream Social/Book Sale 2 pm - 4 pm

NOTE NEW TIME! Including games for the kids. All you can eat for \$5 a person, \$18 for a family of 4.

Sun, Aug 9 Ice Cream Social/Book Sale 2 pm - 4 pm

NOTE NEW TIME! Including games for the kids. All you can eat for \$5 a person, \$18 for a family of 4.

Sat, Aug 15 CBE Gala Under the Stars 7:30-10 pm

Our annual hit event returns! Hors d'oeuvres and dancing with live music. (7:30 – 8 pm schmoozing and food, 8 pm music begins.) BYOB, cover of \$30 pp. Watch for more details.

Sun, Sept 6 Ice Cream Social 2 pm - 4 pm

All you can eat 'til the ice cream is gone! No book sale, but games for the kids. \$5 a person, \$18 for a family of 4.

High Holy Day Services in Person and Zoom

Welcome 5786 with our CBE community. Services will be led by Ari Kramer, davening with us for the 19th year. Join us for *Tashlich* as we walk to the beach during *Rosh HaShanah* and symbolically toss our misdeeds into the ocean.

Rosh HaShanah Fri, Sept 11, Sat, Sept 12, Sun, Sept 13

Yom Kippur Sun, Sept 20 Mon, Sept 21



The Jewish Obligation to Teach Your Child to Swim

In Jewish law, parents are required to meet the material and educational needs of their children. Along with this, one of the most charmingly specific requirements for parents is teaching their children to swim.

The Talmud lists five primary obligations for a father (parents) to his son (and daughter):

1. **circumcision** - brings a child into the Jewish covenant
2. **redemption** - if child is a firstborn male (*Pinyan HaBen*)
3. **Torah study** - learning prepares a child to navigate their spiritual life
4. **learning a trade** - prepares a child to support themselves
5. **finding a spouse** - ensures a future family and opens the door to another generation

Rabbi Akiva added swimming as a sixth essential skill to "save a life." *Kiddushin 29a-30B*

They may not have lived in a world with backyard pools, but the ancient rabbis did live in a world with rivers, seas and cisterns. Therefore, teaching a child to swim was a necessary skill. Today, approximately



4,000 people die of accidental drowning in the United States annually, one quarter of them children. These deaths are largely preventable. Accidental drowning happened in ancient times as well. Swimming is a skill that saved lives and continues to do so.

There are other talmudic passages that describe parental obligations in more detail, such as providing food and shelter. But the obligation to teach a child to swim stands out because it is so much more specific and because the potential payoff is preserving the life of the child which, as we learn elsewhere, is akin to saving an entire world.*

Some scholars explain that the obligation arose from the necessity of traveling for business that might include water navigation. It is also viewed as a way to teach children to "stay afloat," navigating independently in a challenging, sometimes dangerous world.

* *"Whoever saves a single life is considered to have saved the whole world." Sanhedrin 37a. This profound teaching, Pikuach nefesh, preserving human life, takes precedence over almost all other considerations.*

With thanks to My Jewish Learning

Tisha B'Av August 12th - August 13th

Tisha B'Av, literally meaning the 9th of Av, is observed as a day of mourning. While 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. Also, we look for the lessons of hope that can be found on



the saddest day of the Jewish calendar.

Many traditional mourning practices are observed on this day: fasting, avoiding certain types of work, avoiding bathing for pleasure, not shaving or wearing cosmetics, not wearing leather shoes and abstaining from sexual activities. The Book of *Eicha*, Lamentations, is read and mourning prayers are read in the synagogue.



PJ Books • Jewish Books for Jewish Children • FREE!

What is PJ Library?

PJ Library sends free, award-winning books that celebrate Jewish values and culture once a month to families with children from birth through 12 years old. These stories spark conversations that inspire the whole family to explore and celebrate what they love about Jewish life. A newer program, *PJ Our Way*, is for kids ages 9-12 and it's kid-driven.

The program was created by the nonprofit Harold Grinspoon Foundation (HGF) in keeping with its mission to help people connect to Jewish values, traditions and culture, while building vibrant Jewish communities. The HGF partners with local Jewish organizations to fund PJ Library and make it available in their community.

How do I sign up?

Signing up is free, easy, and takes less than 3 minutes. Join today! Visit their website: pjlibrary.org

Why Observe Mitzvot?

One often hears someone Jewish saying, "It's a *mitzvah*!" usually referring to a charitable, beneficial act performed by another person. However, the Hebrew word *mitzvah* does not mean "a good deed" in that sense.

Mitzvah literally means "commandment." Jewish tradition states that exactly 613 *mitzvot* are found in the Torah: 248 positive commandments (things you should do) and 365 negative (things you should avoid).

It is not simply a "good deed," for example, to refrain from murdering or stealing. Feeding the poor, acting kindly to a stranger or observing *Shabbat* are much more significant in the Jewish tradition than mere divine suggestions on how to be good.

Those of us who live in the Western world are often uncomfortable with the idea of being "commanded" to do something because it seems to deprive us of the right to choose how we behave. The Torah itself says that when God gave the commandments, God declared:

Behold, I have set before you the blessing [of observing the commandments] and the curse [the potential punishment for failing to observe the mitzvot] - therefore, choose life!

It seems that even God recognized that the Jews had a choice in the matter.

After God rescued the Jewish people from slavery in Egypt, God expected that the Israelites would, in turn, observe the *mitzvot* in eternal, loving gratitude for this redemption. Yet, gratitude only goes so far, especially when it comes to observing such commandments as *kashrut*, keeping kosher, or *Shabbat*. For the past 3,000 or so years, every generation of Jews, rabbis and scholars, has analyzed and argued about exactly why the Jewish people should continue to observe the *mitzvot*.

And it is not just 613 *mitzvot* that we are talking about! Generations of rabbis continue to update, adapt and generate new, more modern commandments, all understood to be derived from the original 613. Today, Jews no longer practice animal sacrifices, yet there are modern *mitzvot* (often the subject of ideological controversy) that deal with questions relating to organ donation, *kashrut* and interfaith relations. *Mitzvot* deals with every aspect of how one should go about leading a Jewish life.

The Torah generally explains that the Jewish people should observe the *mitzvot* simply because God commanded us to do so (or because of the potential negative consequences that would result from non-compliance.) Others have:

- endeavored to prove that the *mitzvot* are all completely rational, logical actions which any moral and ethical people would welcome
- claimed that the commandments actually improve us as human beings, refining us as upright and just people
- felt doing God's commandments actually has a cosmic effect upon the

spiritual fabric of all creation

- rejected the importance of asking this question entirely, arguing that the only legitimate reason for the performance of *mitzvot* is in order to obey God's commandments and fulfill our part in the covenant between God and the Jewish people.
- observed the *mitzvot* because it helps them to identify and feel a part of the larger Jewish community and it is pleasurable, a joy, to celebrate the Jewish holidays and home rituals.

Whatever reason motivates someone to observe the commandments, in Jewish tradition that is how we behave in this world, towards our fellow human beings and the world we live in. The *mitzvot* are a uniquely Jewish approach to living a holy life in this world.

Thank you to Jewish Learning



High Holy Days 2026/57877
Rosh HaShanah Fri, Sept 11th - Sun, Sept 13th
Yom Kippur Sun, Sept 20th - Mon, Sept 21st
Services in Person & via Zoom • Watch for details!



Project Re-Connect

Congregation Beth El would like to re-establish connections 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 **Lucy Blatter** at:

beachshulmembership@gmail.com

CBE offers Venmo!

Congregation Beth El

@Congregation-BethEl

Congregation Beth El

@Congregation-BethEl

venmo



Scan QR Code for payment

Congregation Beth El Note Cards



CBE stationery is now available! Blank inside, these 4.25 x 5.5 inch cards are great for a handwritten thank you or for dropping a quick note!

4 cards for \$18
10 cards for \$36

Please contact Carol Bojarski at cbojo9@hotmail.com.

Mail checks made payable to Congregation Beth El to Rick Hyne, 19 Danielle Drive, Wayne, NJ 07470 or Venmo: Congregation-Bethel.

Congregation Beth El Recycles!

Time to get started on a little spring-cleaning!



CBE is collecting gently used paperback and hardcover books, CDs and puzzles (with all the pieces!) to be donated for sale at our Ice Cream Socials/Bookfairs.



Please contact Ruth Spitz at rspz123@yahoo.com or Sharon Waxenbaum at shanaaviv@gmail.com in May.

Please help us to improve our inventory!

Contact Ruth Spitz • rspz123@yahoo.com



Push the Pushke

"If every Jew in North America set aside ten cents a day, that's \$600,000!," wrote author, lecturer and *mitzvah* man, Danny Siegel. In his push to reinstitute the *pushke* (Yiddish for *tzedakah* box) in households everywhere, he reminds us that nickels and dimes, when gathered together, buy a lot of *mitzvah* power. So, to welcome the upcoming New Year 5786, get a *pushke* from Peter Patten - or make one!



Keep a box in the laundry room for that loose change left behind in our pockets.

Peter Patten has obtained new JNF *tzedakah* boxes. If you wish to turn in a full box or if you would like a new one, please contact Peter at peterpatten@att.net.



Read...
Relax...
Renew!

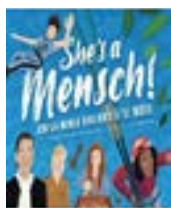
In this challenging time for Jews, shadowed by the events of October 7th and rising antisemitism, the idea of celebrating Jewish women who broke barriers, pioneered new fields and made a difference in the world is especially welcome. Here are four recent collections.



Chutzpah Girls: 100 Tales of Daring Jewish Women

By Julie Esther Silverstein and
Tami Schlossberg Pruwer

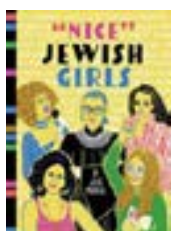
The profiles in this book span the period from the biblical Sarah to the change makers of the 21st century, more than 3,000 years of Jewish life. Though the women are from different eras and broke ground in different fields, they "share a legacy of using their influence not for personal gain but to uplift their communities." The women featured include a selection drawn from politics, arts, entertainment, science, law, education, religion, space exploration, Jewish leadership and more.



She's a Mensch! Jewish Women Who Rocked the World

By Alana Barouch and Rachelle Burk
Geared to ages 5-10

This book opens with the line: "They Rock! Jewish women 'round the world have talent, strength and smarts. They shine like stars in every field from science to the arts." Co-author Burke remarked, "You want to get girls thinking at an early age about how they can do anything. For the women we profiled, even their childhoods are fascinating."



"Nice" Jewish Girls

By Julie Merberg Illus. Georgia Rucker

The author explained that she felt an immediate level of comfort with her subjects as she researched them, relating to their warmth and humor or commitment to social justice, education and family. Her biographies are extensive and are highlighted by Rucker's bold and colorful illustrations.



Iconic Jewish Women: 59 Inspiring, Courageous, Revolutionary Role Models for Young Girls

By Aliza Lavie

This book is clearly aimed at *Bat Mitzvah*-aged girls. Lavie provides thoughtful guidance for *Bat Mitzvah* planning, encouraging readers to select a woman whose life story speaks to them and honor her by incorporating her into the *Bat Mitzvah* ceremony. Each biography includes sections with project and activity ideas, from one that focuses on ways to "Give Back," such as finding organizations that support causes connected to the woman chosen by the *Bat Mitzvah*, to one with suggestions on how to get "Out of Your Comfort Zone." Lavi includes Israeli women not as well known in the United States, such as Miriam Ben-Porat, Israel's first female Supreme Court judge, and Yehudit Nisayho, one of the Mossad agents who captured Adolf Eichmann.



Over the years, other books have been published about Jewish female role models, women who have refused to allow society make choices for them:

- **The Invisible Thread: A Portrait of Jewish Women** by Diana Bletter and Lori Ginker.
- **Real-Life Jewish Women That Changed the World**, by Lumina Stories, a coloring book of influential Jewish women.
- **RBG's Brave & Brilliant Women: 33 Jewish Women to Inspire Everyone** by Nadine Epstein, biographies selected in collaboration with Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

Thanks to Sandee Brawarsky, Hadassah Mazgazine March/April 2025

Congregation Beth El has Cards for Every Occasion!

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!



Zucchini Kugel

Zucchini kugel is delicious by itself, but add some fresh, bright herbs like basil and mint and you have an updated dish that's perfect for the spring and the summer. Also, you could just use fresh parsley for a more subtle flavor.

The kugel can be served warm or at room temperature, so it's a great recipe to have when you're entertaining and have a rotating roster of dishes going in and out the oven.

It's also a gluten-free kugel recipe. You can make it with matzah meal, almond flour or your gluten-free flour of choice. It's perfect for Passover, but it's so good and easy you'll find yourself making it year-round.

Ingredients

- 2 lbs zucchini (2 large, 4-5 medium or 6-7 small)
- 4 large eggs
- 2 tsp fresh lemon zest
- 2 Tbsp chopped fresh mint

- ½ cup matzah meal (or almond flour or gluten-free flour)
- 2 tsp kosher salt
- 1-2 tsp black pepper
- 2 Tbsp olive oil

Directions

1. Using a spiralizer or vegetable peeler, make long noodles out of zucchini.
2. Preheat oven to 350°F.
3. Add 2 Tbsp olive oil to a 9×13 baking dish and place in the oven to heat up while you prepare the remaining ingredients.
4. In a large bowl, whisk the eggs with lemon zest, mint, basil, salt, pepper and matzah meal.
5. Add zucchini and stir gently until completely mixed.
6. After oil has heated in the pan for around 5-10 minutes, add the zucchini mixture to pan.
7. Using a spatula or the back of a spoon, smooth out the top.
8. Bake for 45-55 minutes or until the edges are crispy and the kugel is set in the middle.
9. Once kugel has cooked through, remove from the oven and allow to cool for at least 20 minutes before cutting. Serve at room temperature or warm.



Hot Dog Buns

These soft, fluffy homemade hot dog buns are easy to make and perfect for elevating your next cookout or summer barbecue.

Ingredients

- 2¼ tsp yeast
- ¼ tsp sugar
- ¾ cup warm water
- 3½ cups bread flour
- ½ cup mashed potatoes
- 1 Tbsp sugar
- 2 tsp salt
- 4 Tbsp + 1 tsp vegetable or canola oil
- 1 egg + 1 beaten egg for glaze
- poppy seeds (optional)

Instructions

1. Place yeast, ¼ tsp sugar and warm water in a small bowl to proof.
2. Add bread flour, mashed potatoes, sugar, salt, oil and 1 egg in the bowl of a stand mixer. Using the paddle attachment, mix for 10-20 seconds.
3. Add yeast-water mixture and change to dough hook. Mix on medium speed for 8-10 minutes, until dough is shiny, smooth and bounces back.
4. Place dough in lightly greased bowl with plastic wrap over the top. Allow to rise for 1.5 – 2 hours.
5. Remove dough and divide into 16 even pieces.
6. Roll each piece into a rope around 2.5 inches long and 0.5 inches wide. Place on a baking sheet lined with a silicone baking mat and cover again with plastic wrap. Allow to rise another 1.5-2 hours.
7. Preheat oven to 350°F. Brush each bun with beaten egg. Top with poppy seeds, if desired.
8. Bake for 18-20 minutes, until tops are just golden.
9. Allow to cool and slice down the middle.

"A Higher Authority..."

The origin story of the first hot dog, which was definitely not *kosher*, is disputed. The two dominant narratives are that hot dogs came from Frankfurt, Germany (the frank) or from Vienna (Wien), from which we get the word "wiener wurst." Whether it was Austrian or German, this u-shaped sausage link was an affordable street food for the working class. They soon became known as "daschund sausages" after the dog that they resemble.

The hot dog, as we know it today, is undeniably an American innovation. So why is a hot dog different from other sausages? The story begins in 19th century New York, with two German-Jewish immigrants. In 1870, Charles Feltman sold Frankfurt-style pork-and-beef sausages out of a pushcart in Coney Island, Brooklyn. Sausages not being the neatest street food, Feltman inserted them into soft buns.

This innovative sausage/bun combo grew to be known as a hot dog (though Feltman called them Coney Island Red Hots). Jewish butchers in the Lower East Side caught on to this emerging 19th century food trend and developed their own *kosher* beef hot dogs. Theodore Krainin, a Russian-born Jewish butcher, founded the Hebrew National Kosher Sausage Factory in the Lower East Side in 1905. Their production methods met higher standards than were required by law, leading to their famous advertising slogan, "We Answer to a Higher Authority!"

Kosher hot dogs were popular among Americans of all backgrounds, not only for their quality and taste, but also for their association with higher food safety standards. From its first inspection, Hebrew National was described as having a higher standard than required by food safety laws at the time. *Kosher* certification was one of the only ways that consumers could be certain that their hot dogs

were not only pork-free, but also humanely slaughtered. They caught on fast among both Jews and the general public, thanks to great taste, its *kosher* status and higher food safety standards.

In 1916, Polish-Jewish immigrant Nathan Handwerker opened a hot dog stand to compete with Charles Feltman, his former employer. Feltman's had grown into a large sit-down restaurant, but Handwerker charged half the price by making his eatery a "grab joint." "Nathan's Famous" conquered the hot dog world. While his all-beef dogs were not made with *kosher* meat, he called them "kosher-style," thus underscoring that they contained no horse meat.

Hebrew National's self-supervised *kosher*-ness was not accepted by the more stringent Orthodox. But non-Jews, believing *kosher* dogs were inherently better, became the company's primary market. Eventually, Hebrew National received the more established Triangle-K *kashrut* supervision. Most Orthodox Jews, however, still don't accept these hot dogs as *kosher*.

Over the last quarter of the 20th century in America, the Orthodox community has gained prominence and their opinions, and food preferences, hold more weight in the food industry. The community's strict *kashrut* demands, and sizable purchasing power, created a viable market, and *glatt kosher* hot dogs hit the scene. Abeles & Heymann, in business since 1954, was purchased in 1997 by current owner Seth Leavitt. Meeting the demands of the Orthodox community's increasingly sophisticated palate, their hot dogs are gluten-free with no filler. Recently, they've begun producing a line of uncured sausages and the first *glatt kosher* hot dogs using collagen casing. *Glatt kosher* hot dogs can now be purchased in nearly 30 different sports arenas and stadiums.

An informal survey presented their top three hot dog brands: **Hebrew National** (always reliable), **Abeles & Heymann** (a summer must-buy at Trader Joe's, offering the best prices on the market) and **Jack's Gourmet** (which makes a killer chorizo).

Thanks to Nosh e-zine



Education as Allyship?

"Caravan for Democracy (CFD) is a 10-day fully subsidized trip for non-Jewish student leaders who have never been to Israel. Since 2012, the program has provided over 700 students from over 120 academic institutions across the USA with the opportunity to explore the Jewish and democratic country of Israel. It is through travel experience and opportunities they meet with political, cultural and community leaders from diverse backgrounds and faiths.

CFD fosters constructive dialogue about Israel and the Middle East on U.S. college campuses by offering non-Jewish student leaders a firsthand experience of Israel. Participants explore its history, democracy and contributions to the world through diverse speakers, immersive tours and respectful peer discussions. The program encourages questions and challenges, equipping students to return as confident advocates for informed, thoughtful dialogue. Post-October 7th, CFD is more vital than ever in shaping global-



minded student leaders.

As a Filipino migrant studying international affairs at Kennesaw State University, Orlando Valdez was struck by how one-sided conversations about Israel felt on his campus. "I believed it was my duty as a scholar to understand what was really going on." This sense of responsibility led him to Jewish National Fund-USA's Caravan for Democracy. CFD offered Orlando not

only factual content and understanding, but also meaningful relationships and a passion for Israel advocacy. "Meeting the actual people shaped my view on Israel and what life is like there."

When Orlando returned home, he was compelled to act. He stepped into student leadership and, in partnership with campus organizations, helped advance state legislation that secured a definition of antisemitism in Georgia law.

Today, Orlando views advocacy as an ongoing commitment. His message to other non-Jewish allies is clear: "Change your assumptions, seek truth at the source and stand unequivocally with your Jewish and Israeli friends."

Allyship refers to the behaviors and practices that leaders take to support and advocate with others.

To learn more about Caravan for Democracy or to nominate a candidate, visit jnf.org/caravan.



Galilee Bee Queens is part of the broader Bees for Peace project, founded 12 years ago by Yossi Aud. In the western Galilee, only a short distance from the Lebanon border, the Bee Queens work to foster cooperation between their diverse communities and help stem the decline in bee populations.

The close to 50 "bee queens" who make up this group of women, Jews, Muslims, Christians and Druze, some secular and some observant, live in towns, villages and collective settlements in an area representing much of the Western Galilee.

Hiam Afifi, a Muslim woman, is a mentor for the group. "I was immediately drawn to the idea of this project. It's not just a project, but a worldview representing a deep connection between Arab and Jewish women, a shared destiny and a peaceful future.

In addition to the Galilee chapter, seven other bee communities touch the lives of over 350 women throughout the country, from the Lebanon border in the north to the Negev in the south. Participants learn beekeeping and honey production, while also getting the opportunity to interact with other ethnic populations. "The important value learned is that everything in the world is connected to everything. As bees are crucial to their environment in their roles as pollinators, everything a person does affects all connections and contexts," Aud explains.

As the Galilee Bee Queens approach its third year, the group is looking beyond the conflict with Iran and Hezbollah in Lebanon with plans to expand its reach with a visitor's center, shop and honey-making facilities.



CONGREGATION BETH EL GALA UNDER THE STARS

SPONSORSHIP

Please consider sponsoring our gala!

**We are looking for leadership gifts to help us
continue to host these community-building events.
Donors will be publicly acknowledged at the gala.**

BRONZE DONORS - \$180 DONATION 🍷

SILVER DONORS - \$360 DONATION 🍷🍷

GOLD DONORS - \$540 DONATION 🍷🍷🍷

PLATINUM DONORS - \$720 DONATION 🍷🍷🍷🍷

DIAMOND DONORS - \$1018 DONATION 💎

Bronze and Silver Donors Include 2 Tickets for Entry
Gold and Platinum Donors Include 4 Tickets for Entry
Diamond Donors Include 6 Tickets for Entry

**For planning purposes, please consider
making a contribution by August 15th**

Cut On Dotted Line To Return With Check

Count Me In! Enclosed is my contribution to bring life to our community at the Beth El Gala.

Name/s: _____

Contribution Level: _____

**Contributions
can be made by
check or Venmo.**

**If by check, please make check payable to
Congregation Beth El
Mailing check prior to August 7th for Gala:
497 Joshuatown Road,
Lyme, CT 06371**

Congregation Beth El
@Congregation-BethEl

venmo



THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION AND GENEROSITY. WE ARE GRATEFUL!!



Congregation Beth El

A seasonal, egalitarian synagogue affiliated with the Conservative Movement

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

Donation Form

Remembering is an essential Jewish value. Honoring those who have been in our lives, the beauty and struggles that they lived, and the hopes and dreams they passed down to us, are part of our own journeys.

In Jewish tradition, giving *tzedakah* on the occasion of a *yahrzeit* is a way to honor their memory by performing a good deed in their name.

We also welcome you to celebrate a happy occasion or honor an achievement by sharing the event with our Congregation Beth El community!

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- Asenath & Joseph Jacobson - In honor of our children, Ephraim & Menashe.
- Miriam, Aaron and Moses - In memory of our beloved mother, Yocheved.
- Rivkah & Isaac Abramson - In celebration of the college graduation of our twins, Esau and Jacob.

Message:

Donations will appear in the CBE newsletter. Please fill-in the info below so that it can be acknowledged.

Snail Mail Address of Honoree or *Yahrzeit*

Name: _____

Address: _____ City/State/Zip: _____

Snail Mail Address of Donor

Name: _____

Address: _____ City/State/Zip: _____

Email: _____

Please send check and donation wording to:

Rick Hyne 19 Danielle Drive Wayne, New Jersey 07470

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

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



Tree of Life Order Form

Donor Name: _____

Address: _____ City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Order _____ Leaf @ \$118 OR _____ Stone @ \$318

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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 contact **Mindy Jason** for more info and to place an order: **mindysjason@gmail.com/860-559-7557**.

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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 make checks payable to **Congregation Beth El**.

Please mail check and completed form to:

Rick Hyne 19 Danielle Drive, Wayne, NJ 07470
or Venmo Congregation-Bethel*

Lucy Blatter, Membership VP beachshulmembership@gmail.com

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(hyphen between Congregation and Beth, no space between Beth and el)