



# Beth Emet <sup>בית אמת</sup>

THE FREE SYNAGOGUE

CHADASHON

חדשון



The Jewish Lens Project  
Sixth grade students explore Jewish values through photography  
See page 9 for more photos and details

Spring 2014

## From the Rabbi



Reprinted from speech given at Beth Emet's Annual Meeting on March 17, 2014

As we begin our preparations for Passover, the holiday in which we celebrate our

becoming a people, it's an ideal time to take stock of our community. The High Holidays may be the time to look inward at ourselves, to do a *cheshbon hanefesh*—an accounting of our souls—but Passover is the ideal time to do an evaluation of our communal soul—*cheshbon hanefesh hekehilatit*.

What have we accomplished since last year?

Last year's annual meeting took place right before the Sankofa—the youth Civil Rights trip with Second Baptist Church. It was an eye-opening and challenging experience to explore how 50 years after “Letter From a Birmingham Jail” and the March on Washington, race and racism still shape our experiences and affect our society today.

I am proud that the Sankofa trip was featured in the Union for Reform Judaism (URJ) Magazine—a national magazine distributed to all affiliated Reform Jews—as an example of an outstanding youth program.

The Sankofa trip exemplifies what is superior about our youth programs at Beth Emet. We take a holistic approach to working with our youth by creating an environment and programs that contribute to the spiritual, emotional, intellectual, and social growth of our youth and their families.

Our retention numbers tell us that what we are doing is resonating with the community.

Not one of our students dropped out after their bnai mitzvah last year and, in fact, two new students joined our 8th grade program, giving us a post bnai mitzvah retention rate of 113%! And our retention rate in our high school programs is more than 70%.

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But there's more to the story than just impressive numbers. We take pride in the quality and variety of our youth activities.

The leadership of the Campaign for Youth Engagement of the Reform Movement has recognized our youth director Yoni Siden's thoughtful

approach to working with teens, and invited him to speak at the URJ biennial last December. Yoni has created a safe space where our youth can be themselves while challenging them to grow in their Judaic knowledge and their ability to put Jewish teachings into practice; a place where they can develop spiritually and emotionally, work together to make our world a more just and compassionate place, and learn leadership skills from adults who guide and support them while



*Sankofa trip, 2013*

allowing them to grow from their mistakes.

Last year at the annual meeting, I spoke about the importance of developing partnerships with other organizations so that we can benefit from their expertise and expand the reach of our programs. This year our *Chavayah*—high school education program—has ventured into a partnership with the Jewish Council on Urban Affairs (JCUA). JCUA runs a week-long summer social justice program called Or Tzedek that exposes teen's to social justice issues and gives them opportunities to work with organizations that are grappling with these issues. This year, we wanted to teach community organizing skills to our teens in the Beth Emet community so they can more effectively act on social justice issues, and JCUA has expertise in this area. Our Beth Emet teens are fortunate to be learning and building skills with other teens from the Chicago-area who have also participated in the Or Tzedek program. This joint group of teens is now working together to repeal the law that allows the concealed carry of weapons into religious institutions.

Those who have analyzed the recent PEW study of Jewish life agree that investing in our youth is a critical takeaway from this study. At Beth Emet we are way ahead of the curve; in fact, we are paving the way. Beit Sefer—our pre-K through 6th grade program—



continues to thrive. We are fortunate to have Marci Dickman who has recruited an excellent faculty to teach our children and

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## From the Rabbi

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who ensures that our programs are engaging and of the highest quality.

This year, she experimented with a midweek class that meets online for students who prefer this option over coming to Beth Emet on Thursdays. It has been a success for these students, and we hope to expand our use of technology in our educational programs in the coming year. What's amazing about Marci is in addition to her big vision for Jewish education at Beth Emet, she also cares about each individual student and family. Marci is passionate about Jewish learning, and she works tirelessly to make sure that it is accessible to everyone whatever their learning styles, their special needs, or their challenging schedules. Marci finds a way to make Jewish learning available and attractive to all.

It is no wonder that with Marci at the helm, our Beit Sefer program has grown 30% over the last four years. Our youngest Beth Emet members also saw some changes in their program. This is the first year our Early Childhood program is offering an extended day program. Kathy has had to grapple with new challenges that an extended day requires—such as providing hot lunches and dealing with nap time—but the program is beginning to take off and we now offer Early Childhood families the opportunity to have their children stay until 4 p.m. four days a week. I'm so appreciative of Kathy who recognized the



## Rabbi London Selected as One of 28 of America's Most Inspiring Rabbis by the Jewish Daily Forward

Selected from hundreds of entries from readers everywhere, the national Jewish publication selected Rabbi London as one of the 28 "Men and Women Who Moved Us" in 2014.

The nominating letter recounts how a recording of Martin Luther King Jr. speaking at Beth Emet prompted Rabbi London to invite members from a nearby Baptist church to co-host Shabbat dinner and discuss race relations in the Evanston community. The evening of courageous conversation attracted several hundred people to services and a dinner which spurred interfaith, race-related book and play discussions; bibliodrama workshops, concert collaborations, and a bus trip to the civil rights sites in the South, with 38 high school students from both congregations.

needs of our families and took on, in addition to her myriad other responsibilities, this challenge of creating an extended day program. We are looking into the possibility of extending the day

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## Embracing Holiness

For the past several years during Rabbi London's tenure as senior rabbi, we have designated themes that give us the space to explore and keep us focused

throughout the year. *Our Stories, Our Journey* was illuminating as we spent the year learning from one another and creating new shared experiences. *Building Bridges* was relatively easy to define yet challenged us to think of pathways in which we can build and embrace together. This year's theme however, *Embracing Holiness*, has been both an eye opening and soul-searching experience.

Holiness is difficult to describe and define. Its qualities are mysterious by nature, and its presence may inspire awe, strike fear, or even suggest amazement. For some, holiness may seem dangerous or scary, and for others it offers opportunities for blessing, protection, or power.

The Hebrew word *kadosh* means set apart, elevated, or made special; throughout our lives we set apart certain days, specific places, or special relationships, and we designate them as holy.

BEKKI HARRIS KAPLAN

I was struck by this one recent Saturday night when reciting *Havdallah*, which means separation. We thank God for giving us the wisdom to separate the holy from the profane, the special from the ordinary, the sacred from the secular. It is through this action that we stretch beyond ourselves to encounter the Godliness within us. For God is holy.

How do we embrace holiness and is it only in those moments that are spiritual? How can I bring holiness into my own sphere and what does it mean to "do" acts of holiness for another. Once it was named, the world of possibilities appeared to be endless. And isn't that what this journey is all about? Helping someone who is sick or offering an extra dollar to someone who doesn't have enough to buy a coffee. Closing one's eyes during the *Sh'ma* and really "feeling" the spirituality in that moment or opening the door for someone whose hands are too full to succeed. Whether you've had an opportunity to explore this year's theme at Beth Emet or paused in your own day-to-day routine to define what this means for you, I hope it has been as eye opening to you as it has for me. May we each find holiness and pause each day to embrace that which is holy around us.

## President's Pen



Reprinted from speech given at Beth Emet's Annual Meeting on March 17, 2014

The Constitution and By-Laws of Beth Emet require a meeting of the Congregation in March of each year. Unlike the United States Constitution, they do not require a yearly message from the President. Nonetheless, that has become the custom and I do not intend to disappoint. But before discussing the state of the Synagogue, I'm going to claim a point of personal privilege. I want to take a few moments to say something about my experience in my first year of the presidency.

When I accepted this position a year ago, I didn't really know what to expect. What I knew was that a lot of people told me it would be a lot of work, and either explicitly or implicitly manifested their sympathies. Many of you thanked me for taking on what was viewed, at least tacitly, as a burdensome and thankless task.

I'm here to tell you that you had things upside down and reversed. It is I who owe you the thanks for allowing me the opportunity to do this. Because whatever the burdens may be, they are far surpassed by the personal rewards.

Now, I'm not going to pretend that being president hasn't involved some alterations to my life. If the law was already a jealous mistress, Lizzie jokes that I now have two open and notorious mistresses. But consider the benefits of my polyamorous lifestyle. Being president has necessitated that I look inside myself and constantly re-examine and engage with my own Judaism. More importantly, it has required looking beyond myself and continually focusing on the needs of others. It has required me to listen and think hard about questions regarding the past, present and future of the broader

Jewish community, and this community in particular. And, perhaps most important of all, it has allowed me the opportunity to get to know so many of you. There have been so many wonderful new and deepened relationships, which, more than ever, have made Beth Emet a home for my family and me. In short, being president has caused an increased focus in my life on that which is meaningful, and if that has entailed a recalibration of my daily activities then all I can say is what a blessing.

I say all this not, I hope, as a matter of self indulgence, but because I want you to consider what is too often not spoken about – the genuine rewards of stepping forward and becoming more involved, in leadership or otherwise, as those who are have been elected tonight have agreed to do. In my view, the rewards of a genuine commitment far exceed the accompanying burdens.

Now let me turn to the state of this congregation. In a word, this congregation



Adults and kids enjoy the new Mitzvah Appeal event Family Game Night

is, in my view, strong and thriving in its core mission. We have so very much to be proud of; to begin with, the lifeblood of this congregation is the engagement of its members. That engagement is both broad and deep, and becoming ever more so over time. There are so many examples.

DAVID GRAHAM

From the FIAT (Family Issues Aging Task Force) committee, which has organized a whole series of events, seminars and discussions drawing people from all over the area to discuss important issues to the continued work of our Soup Kitchen and all its volunteers, serving more than 100 people week in and week out. There is our *Ozerim* committee, honored in February at an Interfaith Action of Evanston Vision Keepers Dinner, and the large number of volunteers who either personally lead or organize the numerous educational and joint learning sessions that occur every week throughout the synagogue. The list could go on and on. The list goes on and on.



Beth Emet's Ozerim (Helpers) Committee Co-chairs Simon Anolick, Kathy Kaberon, Deborah Render & Gita Weintraub were honored on February 16 at Interfaith Action of Evanston's Vision Keepers Dinner.

And one need only have attended some of the events that have occurred during just the past few months to see the vibrancy of this community on display. The retreat a couple of months ago at OSRUI had more than 100 people of all ages, spending time, on the one hand, on sledding, and family activities, and, on the other, on profound discussions about the role of religion in our lives. Over 190 people attended Family

Game Night, a new Mitzvah Appeal event which included dozens of families with young children. There were a couple of hundred people here for Purim festivities and for the recent Kol Emet weekend with performance, in which the Beth Emet

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## Treasurer's Report

JEFF MANN

Reprinted from speech given at Beth Emet's Annual Meeting on March 17, 2014

As I near the end of my three year term as Treasurer, I reflect back on my relationship with Beth Emet. My wife, Letitia, and I joined the congregation in 2003. We have two children, both of whom spent time in the Early Childhood program and in Beit Sefer. My daughter, Katherine, who is just about to turn 15, had her bat mitzvah here two years ago and my son Nathan, who is 11, will have his bar mitzvah two years from now. My wife, who was not born Jewish, converted and recently had her bat mitzvah. During these years, we developed many relationships with other congregants, Rabbi London, Bekki, Arik, Marci, and the many others that make Beth Emet meaningful to my family and so many other families.

I became involved at the board level four years ago – serving one term as a Board Member and since then as Treasurer. Prior to that time, I really didn't have much of an awareness of what went on behind the scenes at Beth Emet. I paid my membership commitment each year, I gave to the Annual Mitzvah campaign, and I attended various events mostly revolving around my children, but also at

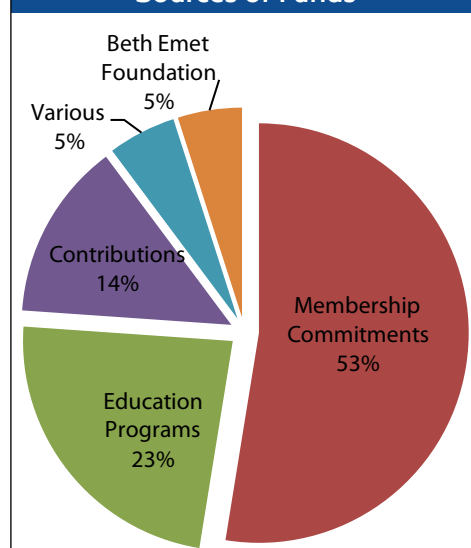
the High Holidays and various other times during the year. I had no sense as to Beth Emet's inner workings, the composition of its membership base, nor its financial situation. I trusted that there were other people in leadership who spent time focused on those things that were required to make sure Beth Emet was a viable, and vibrant, organization. After spending four years involved in the inner workings of Beth Emet, I can tell you that there is a very dedicated group of people who care greatly about this institution, who spend countless hours working to make Beth Emet a better place, and who are focused on doing the most with what we have. And what we have is an institution that offers a wide-ranging set of programs and services to a membership base of nearly 700 families.

Beth Emet accomplishes this through an annual operating budget of approximately \$2.2 million. Our revenues and expenses each year have been relatively stable, although we are constantly challenged to keep our expenses flat and our revenues from declining. In the past three years, our bottom line has varied from a small operating surplus to a small operating deficit. As shown in the Sources of Funds pie chart, our revenues are contributed from a variety of sources. Membership commitments make up our largest source of funds, followed by our education programs, contributions (primarily the Mitzvah campaign, and a variety of other sources – not least of which are funds from the Beth Emet Foundation which currently contribute around 5% of our revenues. Many other congregations benefit to a greater degree from foundation contributions – so please consider including Beth Emet in your estate planning and becoming a member of the Dor L'Dor society.

Our expenses, as shown in the pie chart to the left, are comprised primarily of

personnel costs, which make up just over one-half of our expenses (these do not include personnel within our education programs). Nearly one-fourth of our expenses relate to our education programs, around 10% are related to the costs associated with the building, and the remainder of our expenses are for everything else – which includes worship

Sources of Funds

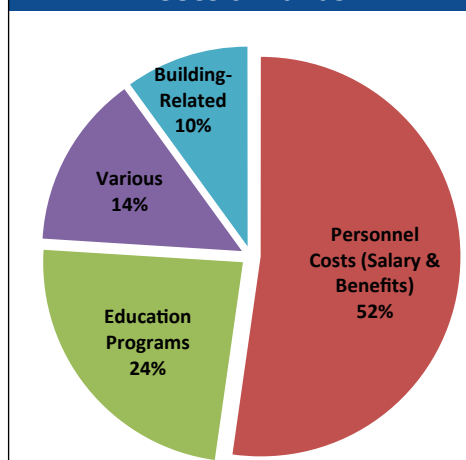


and music activities, fundraising costs, and various other smaller categories.

We also recognize that we operate within an aging building, which continually requires more than the routine amount of maintenance. Several years ago, we implemented a new building reserve fund. Through this fiscal year, our fourth year of the program, we will have collected and set-aside nearly \$200,000 of funds to be used toward the repair or replacement of a major unexpected (and thus unbudgeted) capital item. By the end of this fiscal year, our building reserve account will have a net balance in excess of \$125,000. Major expenditures that have tapped this fund over the years have included the repair of our classroom floors, roof repairs, and most recently repairs to the external sanctuary doors.

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Uses of Funds







## On Worship

CANTOR ARIK Y. LUCK

*Kol Emet: The Jewish Music Project*, is Beth Emet's music committee. Now

on our seventh year, Kol Emet's mission not only provides the congregation and greater community with rich Jewish musical experiences, but also allows opportunities for Jewish musical educational enrichment and encourages the composition of new Jewish music. This year, I am happy to announce *The Kol Emet Prize*, a new Jewish music composition competition for University students throughout the United States, Canada, and Israel; and introduce this year's winner, Avner Finberg.

Last fall, we sent applications to virtually every major academic music institution and Jewish seminary/cantorial school

seeking anyone who may be interested in composing a new piece of Jewish music set to the Shabbat evening liturgy as found in *Mishkan T'filah* (the Reform prayer book). Applicants were asked to create the piece specifically for a cantor and piano and it had to include congregational refrain (a place where the congregation can sing along). The applicants were provided with an option to add a formal choir part or to have additional instrumental accompaniment.

Over the past several months, members of the Kol Emet committee and I have been reviewed the submissions which have come to us from all over the country, Canada and Israel. The winning student, Avner Finberg, will receive not only a financial award, but will be flown to Evanston for our June 13 Kol Emet Shabbat service, where his winning

piece *Hashkiveinu*, will receive its world premiere.

This project has been the brain child of my dedicated Kol Emet committee for several years, and I am so proud that, at long last, our first year of full competition has come into fruition. We were honored Dr. Samuel Adler of the Julliard School—one of most prominent living Jewish composers today— participated as guest judge.

When you attend our Kol Emet Shabbat service, you will have a chance to participate in singing the winning piece, meet Avner Finberg, and learn more about his process and inspiration. I hope that you will join us for what is sure to be a historic and proud Shabbat evening.

L'Shalom,

Arik Luck



## Music Builds Community

TERRY ANNE WOHL

On the wintry eve of Saturday, January 18, 2014, two days before

our nation observed Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, the gospel choir of Second Baptist Church along with the youth and adult choirs of

Beth Emet, joined together to create glorious music in honor of our visiting troubadour, Rabbi Noam Katz.

In light of the freezing temperatures outside, hovering between 13 and 21 degrees, my fellow singers and I were

happily surprised to see nearly all of the seats in the sanctuary filled with enthusiastic friends and family members from both congregations. The event was a beautiful way to nurture and unite our  
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*Kol Emet's Artist in Residence Rabbi Noam Katz performs with Beth Emet's youth and adult choirs and the gospel choir from Second Baptist Church.*



## Celebrate Lag b'Omer and Join the Drum Circle

LINDA SCHNEIDER

Had you asked me 10 years ago what I'd be doing at the age of 60, facilitating drum circles would not even have been on my radar screen. Yet, to my delight – and occasional nervousness – here I am, pursuing my passion for music and rhythm by facilitating drum circles, including an upcoming one with the Beth Emet community on Lag b'Omer, Saturday, May 17.

At its simplest, a drum circle is just a group of individuals who sit in a circle and play drums and other percussion

instruments like shakers, wood blocks, and tambourines, making music in-the-moment. But with the guidance of a trained facilitator, a drum circle can be magical as the group of individuals transforms into a music-making community in which each person is of equal importance.

Anyone and everyone can play in a drum circle. No prior experience is needed, and I provide the instruments (though people are welcome to bring their own if they have them). Unlike most music experiences in our society, the drum circle is not about music “study” or “performance,” and there are no “rights”

or “wrongs.” Rather, the circle is about our inherent nature as rhythmic beings, and the joy of joining together to play and express ourselves creatively.

I first discovered the joy of making music in-the-moment about six years ago at a week-long workshop with David Darling, a Grammy-winning cellist, at Omega Institute in New York. I left the workshop determined to find a way to bring that joy into my life on a regular basis, and facilitating drum circles is the route I've chosen.

I hope to see you at Beth Emet's drum circle on Saturday, May 17!

See page 11 for details

## Music Builds Community

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spiritual communities.

Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., spoke at Beth Emet in 1958, and his guidance is still felt today among Beth Emet's members and leaders. In keeping with King's dream for all people, no matter their race, to “sit down at the table of brotherhood,” Beth Emet hosted a sumptuous Mediterranean-style buffet before the concert for the singers and musicians of both congregations.

There are several interesting quotes I have found relating to the importance of incorporating music into community building and worship. The following words of Plato struck a happy chord, “Music gives a soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination and life to everything.”

After further searching for biblical quotes, I found numerous references to the importance of music. I especially enjoyed the passage in 1 Chronicles 6:31-33, in which David appointed musicians to be in “charge of the service of song in the house of ADONAI after the ark had found a permanent resting place.” And Psalm 92: 2 affirms: “It is a good thing to give thanks unto the LORD, and to sing praises unto Thy name, O Most High.”

I sometimes joke that music is my religion, but I am truly grateful to Rabbi Andrea London and Cantor Arik Luck for offering multiple ways for our congregation to deepen our faith and practice in Judaism through music, as well as to build spiritual community beyond our synagogue walls.

**KOL EMET: THE JEWISH MUSIC PROJECT**

**KOL EMET**  
**shabbat**

**Friday, June 13**  
**8:00 pm**

Join us for a service where we will explore varying exciting Jewish composers from yesterday and today, as well as premiere the winning composition from our annual Kol Emet Prize for Young Composers.





## Director of Lifelong Learning

MARCI DICKMAN

Sometimes we are given the opportunity to embrace holiness when we listen.

"I know a moment when God was at my house," said Asher, age 6, "When my sister and I got up and met in the hallway and held hands for just a

minute."

"... when we celebrate my great grandma's birthday today" shared Aubrey, age 5.

Sometimes we are given the opportunity to embrace holiness when we speak. We share a kind word when someone is down, we offer encouraging words to a struggling student, or sing the *Sh'ma* prayer with our Cantor.

Sometimes we are given the opportunity to embrace holiness when thanking God for the warmth of the sun, for being surrounded by family and friends, for the ability to care.

Sometimes we are given the opportunity to embrace holiness when we celebrate together.

Dylan, age 6, suggested, "When we have Shabbat together it could be holy."

Sometimes we are given the opportunity to embrace holiness in an "ah ha" moment, when pouring over a text with a friend or when a conversation with peers leads to deeper understanding. A first grade class explored holiness during a discussion on fairness and economic justice. They asked:

"Could the poor people get money from a bank?" "What if they're sick and can't go to their job?" and, the very difficult question, "How do you know if the person who says they need help really does?"



*Gan Yom Rishon (Sunday class for children age 3-4 and parents) class learn about Havdallah.*

That last question led to a longer discussion of whether it is better to risk helping someone who might not genuinely need the help, or not help someone who it turns out does really need help.

None of these questions have easy answers, and it is impressive how thoughtfully and conscientiously the students are working to understand them. Sometimes the holiness is in the question and not in the answers.

Sometimes we are given the opportunity to embrace holiness with our actions: when we pick up someone else's trash, hold the hand of a sibling while waiting for ones carpool, or share a smile of understanding.

Sometimes when we embrace holiness, we can fulfill the responsibility of *Kedoshim Tihyu*, by being present and aware for others, by recognizing our roles in helping others, and by identifying ways we can partner with God. Abraham Joshua Heschel wrote it this way:

A Jew is asked to take a *leap of action* rather than a *leap of thought*: to surpass his needs, to do more than he understands in order to understand more than he does. In carrying out the word of the Torah he is ushered into the presence of spiritual meaning. Through the ecstasy of deeds he learns to be certain of the presence of God. [1953]

The spaces within Beth Emet are often filled with *Kedusha*, as collectively and individually we embrace holiness.



*Fifth grade Beit Sefer students prepare for their Prophet Party, a culmination of learning about all the prophets in the Torah.*



*Second grade Beit Sefer students create a mural showing how their hands can improve the world by practicing Tikkun Olam.*



## Jewish Lens Project

This winter, sixth grade Beit Sefer teacher Jonathan Hartman-Seeskin and photography instructor Chris Wynn, worked with our sixth grade students on the Jewish Lens Project, an exciting curriculum that engages participants to explore Jewish values, identity and tradition while discovering the diversity and unity of *Klal Yisrael* (Jewish Peoplehood). The project coupled the emotional impact of photography with traditional text-based learning. It empowered the students to strengthen their link to Judaism and then express their ideas through their own photographs and commentary. During the month of February, the Crown Room was transformed into the Jewish Lens Gallery, enabling the entire congregation the opportunity to view this unique exhibit.



The congregation was invited to view the Gallery on display in the Crown Room during the month of February.



**Project Peace** by Kyla Pearlman. Value-Peace.

*"They shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, nor shall they learn war anymore" (Isaiah 2:4). My value is peace. This picture shows peace. Jewish children made these projects at Beit Sefer and they represent peace. This shows peace because it is telling people to choose peace over war.*



**I Get By With a Little Help From My Friends** by Claire Dana. Value-Community.

*We all have strengths and we all have weaknesses. We are the same in many ways and different in many ways, but we are all friends who deserve respect from one another. We are all part of one special community.*

## Photos from the Cover (clockwise)

**Chevruta** by Rachel Orenstein  
Value-Education & Study

The definition of *chevruta* is friendship or companionship. Chevruta is a traditional way to study in which a pair of students discusses a Talmudic text that they both share. My picture shows two friends studying together in the library. I chose this Jewish value because I think that studying is one of the most important things that you can do.

## Man Contemplating Thoughts

by Jordan Selch  
Value-Peace

Hillel said: "Be like one of Aaron's students, loving peace and pursuing it, loving people and bring them to the Torah" (Pirkei Avot 1:12). This picture represents peace because it is a man contemplating over his thoughts in a synagogue and coming to peace with himself.

## Remembering the Past

by Anna Wittcoff  
Value-Remembrance

This picture shows two people pointing at their loved ones who passed away. In Beth Emet's chapel, it shows a group of plaques of people who have died. It is a Jewish tradition to remember those who have died. By putting a plaque on the wall, it shows that you will never forget that person who passed away.

## Kedoshim Tihyu

by Hannah Lipman  
Value-Embracing Holiness

The Torah is loved and a very holy piece of Jewish life. In this picture, a girl is embracing the Torah.

## Upcoming Events and Classes

### The Arik Einstein Phenomenon

Monday, April 28, 7:30-9:00 pm

with Ilana Axel and Cantor Arik Luck



Arik Einstein – one of Israel's most beloved popular singers – passed away this year, leaving Israelis and Jews around the world bereft of one of their favorite sons. Ilana Axel, an American-Israeli

who has followed Einstein's career explores Einstein's influence upon Israeli popular music. The class will include multiple listening samples with English translations or explanations of each, Q & A, and lively discussion.

\$10 fee. To register visit the Members Login site, email [dgilbert@bethemet.org](mailto:dgilbert@bethemet.org) or contact Debbie at 847-869-4230 ext. 308. Visit [www.bethemet.org](http://www.bethemet.org) to view other course offerings this Spring!

### Women of Faith Who Inspire Us: Passing on the Legacy to Future Generations

Sunday, May 4, 2:00-5:00 pm

Join us for an afternoon discussion of the women of faith who have fostered our spiritual and life choices. Come to hear speakers who share ways in which we can pass on the legacy of faith and interfaith respect and dialogue to new generations. This retreat is co-sponsored by Soul Space Interfaith. Learn more and register at [www.soulpaceinterfaith.org](http://www.soulpaceinterfaith.org).

### Challenges Facing the Future of the Jewish Community

#### JUF Dessert Reception with Hannah Rosenthal

Wednesday, May 28, 2014 at 7:30 pm

(Due to inclement weather, rescheduled date)

Influenced by the work and experience of her father, a rabbi and Holocaust survivor, as well as her own experience studying to become a rabbi, Hannah Rosenthal has led a life marked by a passion for social justice. An inspired leader, Hannah Rosenthal was the former Special Envoy and head of the Office to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism during the first Obama Administration (November 2009–October 2012) and is the former executive director of Chicago Foundation for Women and Jewish Council on Public Affairs. Share an informative evening as the current CEO/President of the Milwaukee Jewish Federation explores the current challenges facing the Jewish community.

Sponsored by the 2014 Jewish United Fund-Israel Emergency Fund. For more information on this event or to RSVP, please contact Maya Avinadav of the Jewish United Fund by email [mayaavinadav@juf.org](mailto:mayaavinadav@juf.org) or call 312-444-2810.

## Family Issues Aging Task Force (FIAT)

This past November Beth Emet launched its inaugural FIAT sponsored programs to engage in conversations on aging well and wisely. FIAT has welcomed a variety of speakers to provide educational, spiritual, and social resources to our members. In February, FIAT welcomed Rabbi Rachel Cowan for a *Wise Aging Celebration* – a Shabbat filled with lively Torah discussion and dialogues about what it means to find meaning in later years. Please visit Beth Emet's website to learn more about FIAT, its past programs, and resources for further exploration.



This spring, FIAT continues the programs for women 60 and over with facilitators Martha Holstein and Phyllis Mitzen. Take some time out for yourself, come have tea, and join these lively conversations on the emotional, physical and spiritual transformations that we experience as we age.

### Explorations of Our Changing Selves—a Tea and Discussion for Beth Emet Women 60 and Over

**Monday, April 28 at 3:00 p.m.** – Explorations Our Changing Selves: Aging Women in Fiction

**Monday, May 12 at 3:00 p.m.** – Explorations Our Changing Selves: An Extended Life Span

RSVP to Beth Emet at [info@bethemet.org](mailto:info@bethemet.org) or 847-869-4230.

## Tikkun Leil Shavuot with One Jewish Evanston Tuesday evening, June 3

This year One Jewish Evanston celebrates the receiving of the Torah. Beth Emet will partner with Jewish Reconstructionist Congregation, the Lomdim Chavurah, Minyan Shirat Ha'Agam, the Evanston Orthodox Minyan, and Northwestern University Hillel. In addition to worship opportunities, study that evening will focus on *Kedoshim Tihyu*, Embracing Holiness. Watch EmetMail and our website for further details.



**Services at 8:00 p.m. Tikkun to follow**

**Wednesday, June 4 at 10 a.m. Shavuot Morning Services, including Yizkor (Memorial) Services**



## Naming Consecration 2014



Twenty-six kindergarten, first grade, and second grade students were honored at a special consecration service on February 23 to mark the beginning of their formal Jewish study. One by one, along with their parents, the students stood on the bima to share the meaning of their Hebrew name. The entire group then stood under a Tallit as they received blessings from Rabbi London, Cantor Luck and their parents.

Kindergarten: Jacob Black, Oscar Breslow, Anna Friedman, Alana Gerbie, Matea Goldfarb, Billy Gordon, Sofia Greenfeld, Asher Kaplan, Tyler Kaplan, Aubrey Levin, Owen Maman, Gabriel Silver, Dylan Stiller, Cecile Visa, Oceane Visa, Lucas Hereford ; First grade: Rivka Joshi, Nathan Sotnick, Spencer Jones; Second grade: Eli Kaplan, Ben Roman, Ruthie Seder, Nathan Shoenthal, Jonah Chen, Maya Chung, Miles Friedman

At the London Home  
1424 Washington St. in Evanston

**Saturday, May 17 at 7:00 p.m.**

Vegetarian Potluck Dinner



Celebrate Lag b'Omer at the home of Rabbi Andrea and Danny London. There will be a bonfire, singing, storytelling, and a drum circle led by Linda Schneider. Drums and percussion will be provided or bring your own musical instrument (no experience required!). People of all ages welcome - it's sure to be a fun time for everyone! Please bring a potluck vegetarian dish to share. In case of inclement weather, celebration will be cancelled. If not sure, please check the home page of the Beth Emet website. Please RSVP to the Beth Emet office by Thursday, May 15 at [info@bethemet.org](mailto:info@bethemet.org) or by calling 847-869-4230.

## Kabbalat Torah (12<sup>th</sup> grade) Graduation and Gesher (7<sup>th</sup> grade) Tekkes, Friday, May 16 at 6:30 p.m.

Kabbalat Torah (KT) is Beth Emet's confirmation program. Seven of our high school seniors will lead us in worship and reflect on their Jewish identity as part of our Shabbat service. Don't miss out on this opportunity to wish the KT Class a *mazel tov* as they prepare to move on to the next stage in their life journey.

KT participants: Daniel Antman, Emily Isaacson, Hannah Kaplan, Emma Leff, Sophie Leff, Aaron Raus, and Anni Zuckert.

Gesher (7th grade) teens have spent the year building the bridge to Jewish adulthood as they explore themselves, their Judaism, and their community. As part of Gesher Tekkes (ceremony), they celebrate a new step in their Jewish journey. Participants include: Jack Aaron, Michael Abramson, Isabella Allen, Jaime Berkovich, Beth Canel, Sydney Cramer, Stephen Decker, Daniel Greenwald, Ethan Harvey, Leah Hurwitz, Ella Kanter, Aaron Kite, Claudia Levens, Bradley Pawlow, Hannah Sattler, Ilan Elenbogen Siegel, Graciela Styler, and Maxime Visa.

## New Face at Beth Emet!



This winter Beth Emet welcomed **Susan Baum** to the staff as Communications and Programs Manager. Most recently she served as Director of Communications for the Lillian and Larry Goodman Foundations, and prior, was Media Relations Manager at Spertus Institute of Jewish Studies for nearly six years. In her role at Beth Emet, she manages all facets of the Congregation's print and online communications and will play an integral role in congregational-wide programming.

You can reach her by email at [sbaum@bethemet.org](mailto:sbaum@bethemet.org) or by calling 847-869-4230 extension 300. Feel free to stop by and introduce yourself next time you are in the Beth Emet office.



## Director of Youth Programs

YONI SIDEN

In 5774 the congregation embarked on a journey of *Embracing Holiness* inspired by the passage from Leviticus at the very center of the Torah: *kedoshim tihiyuh*. At every life stage we confront similar questions over and over, albeit in markedly different contexts. Questions of meaning, of morality, of universalism versus relativism, of honesty and truth, and of spirituality. We have crises of faith, moments of transcendence, and times so confusing and contradictory we do not know which way is up. The very process of living our lives takes us on incredible journeys to ask incredible questions, often leaving us wading through the liminal space where language fails us. It is here, I believe, that we can truly come to understand *kedoshim tihiyuh*, that we can *embrace holiness*.

Teenagers are in an incredibly powerful developmental moment – a time when their job is to wrestle with new ideas, experiment with ways of being, and challenge established knowledge. It is a time of tremendous growth and change, and of loosely defined journeys that push the limits. It is for all these reasons I find my work exhilarating – what is greater than joining young people in a process of discovery? I often say that our programming meets teens where they are at; our programs strive to honor their journey, to provide space for questions, for relationships, and for growth.

Beth Emet Youth Programs provide innumerable moments of transformation: in worship when an inner sense of calm settles in or a deep tension is finally brought to consciousness; in Torah study when an ancient document becomes a living text illuminating our present; in community organizing training when authentic relationships are realized;

in Gesher (7th grade class) when the physical and emotional changes of adolescence are given context; in BESSY (high school youth group) when a Shabbat Open Mic night allows space for the free expression only available during a separation in time; in my office when teens informally stop in to process life's challenges, celebrate successes and accomplishments, and share their plans to change the world. These experiences alone are incredible moments, but they are enhanced when our teen leaders, adult advisors and educators, and clergy, allow moments to sit within the indescribable, to live within the tension.

I encourage you to read the following reflections written by teens in this section, all of whom are incredible leaders in our community. (A shout out for all the other teens not able to write for this issue of the Bulletin, but who so thoughtfully contribute to our growing community!)



## Women of the Wall

LUCY SATTLER

*Tenth grader Lucy Sattler was selected as one of 30 finalists for Moving Tradition's competition to travel to Israel and pray with the group Women of the Wall. Below she recounts her experience and reflects on gender inequality in Israel affecting all Jews today.*

The *Kotel* (Western Wall) is a sacred, holy site for every Jew. Women, however, currently do not have equal rights. Women are not allowed to pray from the Torah, and some people in Israel protest – yelling and throwing things – when women wear *talitot* (prayer shawls) and pray out loud at the *Kotel*. Furthermore, the side for women is significantly smaller than that for men.

Women however, were recently granted the right to sing and wear a *tallit* at the

*Kotel*, although not everyone has come to terms with this. Violence has erupted, pulling us apart as Jewish people. To the ones interrupting and wreaking havoc, I address the following to you:

The women who would like to be closer in this way with God and wear a *tallit* should be able to do so. The same is true for raising your voice in prayer. The women who are fighting for this equality are not trying to change the minds or ways of people who honor the old traditions. They simply seek to allow women to have the ability to pray as men do, if they choose to do so.

Next, is the controversial topic of women diminishing the prayers of men. Why should the prayers of men be any more significant than the prayers of women? Women are God's children, too! Indeed

what could be more sacred than being the bearer of our children?

Finally, we reach the problem of women not having the right to read from the Torah at the Western Wall. If the goal of prayer is to worship God, it is then counterproductive to prohibit people from doing so.

As Jews, we know what it is like to struggle. Why would we make people of our own religion feel this way? In conclusion, the main idea of our entire religion is to honor and pray to God. To respect God and fully be Jews, everyone should be able to pray without restrictions.

*To hear Lucy's D'var Torah from March 28 about her experiences, visit [www.bethemet.org/prayer/sermons](http://www.bethemet.org/prayer/sermons)*





## BESSY President's Message

EMILY ISAACSON

The BESSY board started off the year with our annual board retreat, excited about our new and unique event ideas and motivated to be more thoughtful about how we plan and run events. Six months later we're thrilled by the success of our events and the closeness of our community. Our first event of the year was our annual kickoff where we headed to Second City after some delicious pasta at Rabbi and Danny London's home.

BESSY Board then spent time working with the NFTY regional board to plan their kickoff event, held at Beth Emet. Events like our open mic night gave some of BESSY's more musically and creatively inclined members an opportunity to share their skills. And we couldn't pass up the opportunity to

do an event themed around the once in a lifetime experience of Thanksgiving. Our most recent event was a Thowback B'nai Mitzvah Party where we danced to some of our favorite seventh grade tunes while reminiscing about the great times at our own bar and bat mitzvot.

We've also spent time selling t-shirts and mugs to raise money for Heifer International, an organization that provides animals to families in third world countries to use as a source of income. Seeing as BESSY's mascot is a cow, the proceeds from our t-shirt and mug sales will go toward buying cows through Heifer. BESSY can't wait to continue to strengthen our community and enjoy each other's company.

**Emily Isaacson**  
BESSY President 5774  
New Trier High School, senior

## KT Goes to NYC

*Kabbalat Torah (or KT as it's affectionately known) is Beth Emet's Confirmation program. We celebrate KT in 12<sup>th</sup> grade and invite all students to participate in a year of study, a social action project, a trip to New York with Rabbi Andrea London, and more.*

When I was planning to go on the Kabbalat Torah trip to New York last month, I forgot one important thing: to tell my friends I was going. Of course, my family and friends that are in KT with me (they're basically family) knew. But to me, going to New York with Rabbi London was so obviously something that I was going to do; it didn't occur to me that it was even news to share. To me,

that's what made the KT trip so special—I've been looking forward to it for years. To be honest, I didn't know what to expect going in; we got the itinerary just an hour before we got to the airport. But the surprise was a good thing; we went in without judgments and were able to fully immerse ourselves in what we were learning.

I didn't expect to feel culture shock within the Jewish community, somewhere I've grown up in. But I was out of my element in some of the synagogues we visited. I had never been to a *mikvah* (ritual bath) before, or gone to services where men and women are separated, but I learned so much from,

and have so much respect for, those congregations we visited. I am looking forward to Wednesday nights at Rabbi London's house to continue learning and having meaningful discussions about our Judaism and culture.

**Anni Zuckert**  
Evanston Township High School, senior



## Celebrate Yoni Siden, Director of Youth Programs

Friday, May 9 during the BESSY Kabbalat Shabbat Service

In April it was announced that our Director of Youth Programs, Yoni Siden, will be moving to New York City in June to attend Columbia University's Post-Baccalaureate Pre-Medical program. During his tenure at Beth Emet our youth and their parents have benefitted from his leadership, compassion, insightfulness, teaching and organizational abilities. While we are extremely saddened by Yoni's departure, we know you will join us as we wish him well. There will be several celebrations and opportunities to say thank you to Yoni, one of which will be as part of the BESSY Kabbalat Shabbat service on Friday, May 9th. If you wish to help with the planning, please contact Marci Dickman, Director of Lifelong Learning and/or Karen Isaacson, Youth Enthusiasts Co-Chair.





## Director of Early Childhood

KATHY KABERON

One of the most thrilling parts of my job is spotting the “holy” moments that happen every day with young children. Their enthusiasm for learning, delight in the world and joyful friendships are front and center for our youngest students, as they notice and appreciate the world around them.

Our teachers have made some sacred moments visible on the school hallway bulletin board. Please stop by and take a look. And please—give me a call if you’re eager to spend some time in our sacred space!



*“I’m nurturing this baby doll the way my parents show love for my new baby sister.”*



*The holiness of good times and shared experiences with friends.*



*Each child chooses to paint in a unique and beautiful way.*



*Braiding challah together on Grandparents Day*

### Grandparents Day 2014

What could be more sacred than passing on Jewish traditions from one generation to the next? We recently invited Grandparents/ Special Friends to visit on a Friday morning, and everyone had the opportunity to braid a challah, sing with Cantor Luck and welcome Shabbat together.



*Having Grandparents and Special Guests visit our classroom was wonderful!*

## Tot Shabbat

**Third Saturday of each month at 9:00 a.m.**

This is a lively 30-minute Shabbat service geared toward children under 5 and their parents or grandparents. Join the fun as we sing with Cantor Luck, dance with Torahs, and enjoy a story from Rabbi London. Afterwards, everyone gathers for a lox and bagel brunch where the children can play while the adults schmooze.

**May 17 and June 21 at Beth Emet**

**July 19 and August 16 Tot Shabbat goes to the beach!** Meet up at Lighthouse Beach/Noah’s Playground located at 2611 Sheridan Rd., Evanston (North of the Evanston Art Center).





## Beth Emet Soup Kitchen

JESSIE MACDONALD

*Tzedakah is not about giving;  
Tzedakah is about being.*  
(Rabbi Bradley Shavit Arson)

Spring greetings from the Beth Emet Soup Kitchen! Passover is just behind us – it's been a rich time to reflect on the meaning of our lives and how we understand Judaism's teaching to do *g'milut chasadim*, acts of loving-kindness and to practice *tikkun olam*, repair of the world. During the Passover seder, a cup of wine is left for Elijah, the prophet who appears as a poor man to see if he will be accepted within our homes and hearts. It is easy to see a parallel in the Soup Kitchen Wednesday night dinners. There are many moments at each dinner when the soul of Elijah emerges in a stranger's weary appearance. How do we feel about the person before us? Do we recognize our common bonds of humanity even if we dress, smell or act differently?

The Beth Emet Soup Kitchen is one branch of a tree of support for individuals in need in our community. Like the other soup kitchens in Evanston, Beth Emet is able to offer a place for people to eat a hearty meal, to escape from the weather and to relax and rest for an hour. For homeless individuals, this is a welcome respite but a very limited one. The Soup Kitchen



*Volunteers make tuna noodle casserole for over 100 guests.*

also serves another important purpose; it gives volunteers the opportunity to face their own attitudes about homelessness, poverty, and mental illness. Hopefully people come away from their experience with a broader, more compassionate view and then carry that understanding into other areas of their lives. It's not enough to give food to the hungry. We must advocate for a more just society that allows people to earn enough money to both eat and pay rent; a society that provides housing for people of all income levels; a society that provides equal access to quality health care and education; and a society that acknowledges the dignity and worth of every individual.

At this time of year, reflecting upon the holiday that just ended, we are reminded that *Mitzrayim* (Hebrew name for Egypt) should not be thought of only as an ancient land where we were once slaves. *Mitzrayim* today is the place where all those members of our society dwell who don't have enough food for themselves or their families, who don't have affordable housing or medical care, who are homeless or without community support, who lack a living wage or decent schools. *Mitzrayim* exists for too many people today in America. Welcoming the stranger and feeding the hungry is only the first step that we can take to loosen the bonds of slavery that come with hunger, homelessness and poverty. During this springtime of renewal, let us continue together to build a community of justice and compassion.

### Beth Emet Soup Kitchen is now on Facebook!

'Like' our new Facebook page to keep a pulse on the latest events and volunteer opportunities. We'll share volunteer experiences, showcase soup kitchen guests and their stories, post behind-the-scene pics, and maybe even offer up some of our favorite recipes! Through Facebook, we hope to form an even stronger community around our mission – to feed hungry individuals in the atmosphere of warmth, comfort and graciousness.



### Ozerim

Beth Emet's volunteer corps of "helpers" supports congregants in a variety of ways. These include:

- Cooking and delivering a *Shabbat Connection* meal every Friday. Recipients may be new parents, those in mourning, living with illness, or moving into a new home.
- Providing rides to medical appointments, worship services and synagogue functions.
- Leading shiva minyans.

- Helping Beit Sefer students build cross-generational bridges by delivering Purim baskets to congregants.

We always welcome new volunteers. The time commitment is small, but the opportunity to share the gift of community is large. We especially need cooks and drivers, and volunteers willing to be trained to lead shiva minyans.

If you would like to help or learn more, please contact Debbie Render at 847-675-5412 or [deborah.render@gmail.com](mailto:deborah.render@gmail.com).

## Philanthropy

Beth Emet makes a commitment to providing its members with spiritual guidance, enriching learning opportunities for people of all ages, and ways in which to engage and lead a meaningful Jewish life. Philanthropy, via the Mitzvah Appeal and other special campaigns, helps to ensure that we can continue to make the same commitment into the future. Annual giving, over and above membership dues, is essential to the life of every congregation, including our own. As you consider your philanthropic portfolio this year, please keep Beth Emet at the top of your list. We do not always think of our synagogue as a place to invest our most significant charitable giving, but your gift enriches the very Jewish community that plays such an integral role in all of our lives.

**Thank you to our Mitzvah Appeal Donors! See page 26 for a complete listing.**

## Beth Emet Foundation

Established in 1965, the Foundation is an endowment designed to support the synagogue in perpetuity and to advance its religious, educational and social action programs. The Foundation has been, and continues to be, funded through generous gifts from Beth Emet members and others in the Jewish community. Many of the funds that are a part of the Foundation provide their income to the synagogue while leaving the principal untouched, a key approach to the future success of our community.

The Foundation currently has over \$2.4 million in assets. This past fiscal year, income from these assets provided more than \$100,000 to support a wide variety of Beth Emet programs, from operations support to camp and study in Israel scholarships, from adult educational programs to ongoing support for the synagogue *Chadashon* (bulletin).

In this challenging investment climate, increasing the Foundation's asset base is

more important than ever. We encourage members to read more about the Foundation's history and purpose under "Giving" on the Beth Emet website.

Through the Foundation, we not only give to others, but we give to ourselves. Supporting our house of prayer, our programming and our commitment to *tikkun olam* strengthens us as a community.

If you would like to learn more about giving opportunities, please contact any member of the Board of The Beth Emet Foundation.

### Foundation Board

*David Herpe, President*  
*Sheryl Bartol, Treasurer*  
*Marc Blumenthal, Secretary*  
*Karl Berolzheimer*  
*Scott Hurwitz*  
*Tony Nocchiero*  
*Shari Reiches*  
*Brad Wynn*  
*David Zarefsky*

## The Dor L'Dor Society



**Leave a Lasting  
Legacy to Beth  
Emet  
It's The Opportunity  
Of A Lifetime**

*"As my parents planted for me, so do I plant for my children"—Talmud Sotah 49a*

Our ancestors understood the primary relationship between Jewish life and community support. They knew that without Torah there is no bread, and without bread there is no Torah. When our founders created Beth Emet, they affirmed this important connection sustaining the Jewish People.

They called our new congregation *The Free Synagogue*, a place committed to learning, social justice and individual

expression. And they provided the necessary funding to build and support our new sacred home, making it possible for Beth Emet to take root, to grow and to thrive.

Now it is our turn. Now it is our responsibility. Now it is up to each of us to continue to provide for the generations to follow. Help assure our synagogue's future by making a specific bequest to Beth Emet in your will or trust.

By naming Beth Emet as a beneficiary of your estate, you automatically become a member of the Dor L' Dor Society.

You will be recognized as a sustaining member of the congregation, or if you prefer you may choose to remain anonymous. You do not have to be retired-anyone can make a planned gift at any time.

Including the synagogue in your estate

plan is easy, requires no expenditure during your lifetime and there can be tax saving benefits for your estate. And whatever amount you kindly designate for this purpose will remain known only to you.

Become a philanthropic role model for your heirs by leaving a lasting legacy of Tzedakah to Beth Emet. Unrestricted contributions will become part of the Beth Emet Foundation's *Assuring Our Future* endowment fund supporting the synagogue's programs and services. Contributions can also be directed for a specific purpose with the guidance of the Rabbi.

*Remember Beth Emet in your future planning, and Beth Emet will always remember you. Learn more online at [www.bethemet.org/giving/dor-ldor-planned-giving](http://www.bethemet.org/giving/dor-ldor-planned-giving). It's the opportunity of a lifetime.*





## The Beth Emet Gan (Garden)

PATTI GERBIE

Did you know sunflowers can be used to clean up radioactive waste?

They can extract pollutants, including radioactive metal contaminants, through their roots and store them in the stems and leave! Because of these properties they are the international symbol of nuclear disarmament. Today, researchers in Japan are planting sunflowers to soak up radiation from the Fukushima nuclear disaster.

We were really not aware that sunflowers had such powers when we planted them last year in our Beth Emet GAN. They bloomed beautifully, towering over the

bushes and the playground. It's time now to plan for this Spring's planting season, to get ready to turn the beds, remove the leaves and determine what seeds/plants



*First graders plant for spring.*

to sow. Last year's crop of kale, beans, peppers, zucchini, tomatoes, cucumbers and dahlias grew in abundance and beginning on the first Wednesday of July, we harvested and delivered many pounds of fresh vegetables and flowers to the Soup Kitchen.

For three months, every Wednesday we brought garden-fresh food into the kitchen to be used in the meals

and decorate the tables for our guests' dinner that evening.

The GAN is a wonderful Beth Emet venture enriching the lives of those who are involved. There is the opportunity to get your hands dirty, make new friends, learn new things, teach your children, and best of all provide fresh produce for the soup kitchen. With that in mind, do consider joining this effort. The rewards are many and the season is short.

As we begin to make plans for cultivating the GAN this season, we welcome your participation. Please call Beth Emet 847-869-4230 or send an email to [reception@bethemet.org](mailto:reception@bethemet.org).

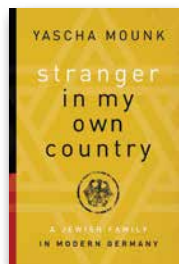
Let's continue to make our GAN grow....



## Book Review

SOPHIE BLACK

*Stranger in My Own Country: A Jewish Family in Modern Germany* by Yascha Mounk



New York, Farrar, Strauss and Giroux, 2014

What is it like to be a Jew living in Germany in the post-World War II era? Yascha Mounk tells his personal feeling about that, and from his story, one gathers that it is a mixed blessing. He is treated by the populace with a combination of deference and insolence, and he finds both uncomfortable and repugnant. Although many Germans, particularly the youngsters in school, believe that there are no Jews left in Germany, Jewish life there really never stopped.

After the war many Jewish refugees from Eastern Europe were living in Displaced Persons Camps in German territory. Few of them could return to their place of origin, and it took time to get visas to

Israel or the United States. When the anti-Semitic campaigns in Poland broke out in the late '60s and '70s, numerous Jews left to go west and ended up in Germany. The same can be said of the Russian migrations since 1989.

The author is rather stingy with biographical information. He was born in Germany. His mother and maternal grandparents were Polish Jews who were driven out of Poland in 1968. Ala, his mother was told that if she wanted to pursue further studies in sound engineering, she should go to the University in Detmold, Germany. She never planned to stay there, but she married a fellow Polish immigrant, who was entitled by virtue of his ancestry to claim German citizenship. They divorced, but the citizenship stayed with her and passed on to Yascha. He was born several years later. The only thing that the author

tells about his father is that his parents were never married to each other.

Mounk grew up knowing nothing about Judaism. It had no significance on his life. However, if his mother heard the word *Jude* on the street, she would cringe. When a teacher asked each student his religion, he answered that he was Jewish. That led to laughter, and he wanted to know what was funny.

As soon as he finished school, he left Germany to begin his University training in England, and currently he is in a doctoral program at Harvard. He loves the United States, especially New York, and in the book's conclusion he decides that he is no longer a Jew. Rather he elects to become a New Yorker, a person free of tradition. While his analyses about German/Jewish relations are plausible, his later ideas about being unencumbered by history and tradition need more thought and personal growth. Freedom is not without responsibilities, and the author has not yet learned this.



### Center for Jewish Mindfulness

**Rabbi Jordan Bendat-Appell**

Mindfulness itself is not a practice that is specific to any religious tradition. Rather, *mindfulness is a human capacity*. At the Center for Jewish Mindfulness (CJM), we integrate the powerful techniques of mindfulness with the profound intellectual, ethical, and spiritual wisdom of Jewish tradition. This approach, which we call *Torah and Mindfulness*, facilitates a lived Judaism that is grounding and inspiring, while spurring us to grow ethically. It helps give an authentic Jewish spiritual language and practice that can bring Jewish wisdom alive. We believe that Jewish mindfulness is working when it open us up to others and eventuates in engaged action.

In order to facilitate this type of community engagement, the CJM offers a regular Jewish mindfulness meditation group (at Beth Emet). Additionally, we offer workshops, retreats and classes in partnership with established Jewish organizations such as synagogues and schools throughout the community. Please check our website for up to date information on upcoming programs: [www.jewishmindfulness.net](http://www.jewishmindfulness.net) or contact me at [Jordan@jewishspirituality.org](mailto:Jordan@jewishspirituality.org).

*Looking upon leads to mindful remembrance. Mindful remembrance leads to action.*

-B. Talmud, Menachot 43b



Jewish Mindfulness Meditation meets at Beth Emet every Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. No RSVP required.

### March 1 Marked Official Kick Off of Youth Fundraising Campaign



More than 70 people attended an event at the Dawes House on March 1 to celebrate Beth Emet's widely acclaimed youth programs and to launch the fundraising campaign that will generate \$150,000 to support youth programs for the next five years. Whether you have grown kids, teens, younger children or simply appreciate the benefits of the youth programs at Beth Emet, your support is critical in ensuring successful programming will continue. Go to the Beth Emet website to download the pledge form or contact Karen Isaacson and Joe Frank (Campaign Co-Chairs) or Bekki Harris Kaplan for more information. We are 40% on our way to meeting our goal, and with your help we will make a difference.

### Beth Emet Community Retreat

**Debbie Siegel & Marco Acevedo**

The retreat, for the second year in a row, has been a respite for our family in so many ways. The built-in babysitting—carried out by such warm and creative individuals—afforded us the rare opportunity to study, read, and even squeeze in some R&R in a beautiful setting, away. The mix of ages and generations present lent a special quality, which made us feel all the more integrated into the Beth Emet Community, already so welcoming, from the start.



### Beth Emet Hosts its Thirteenth Annual Naomi Ruth Cohen Institute's Community Mental Health Conference

**Suicide: Responding and Creating Hope on Sunday, June 1st**

**Jill Randell**

This conference will provide the opportunity to explore and analyze the latest knowledge and developments and how to adopt the research into suicide prevention.

Larry Cohen, Institute Founder and Past President of Beth Emet will open the conference. Father Charles T. Rubey, Director, Catholic Charities LOSS Program will speak. Dr. Michael Horowitz, President of The Chicago School Education System will introduce the panel: Dr. David Clark, Assistant Dearn for Clinical Research and Professor

of Psychiatry at The Medical College of Wisconsin, Dr. Cheryl King, Professor at the Department of Psychiatry and Psychology at The University of Michigan, and Heidi Bryan, suicide attempt survivor and author of "Must be Witches in the Mountains." Discussion groups will be led by highly experienced professionals. One of the discussion groups, "Suicide and the Older Adult" will be led by Beth Emet member Dr. Martha Holstein.

The conference hours are 10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. If you have any questions, please call the conference hot line at 847-869-4230 x335 or visit the website, [www.noamicoheninstitute.org](http://www.noamicoheninstitute.org).



## Welcome New Members *Hachnasat Orchim: Welcoming Each Other*

An important value that we hold in the highest regard at Beth Emet is that of *Hachnasat Orchim*, welcoming each other. This past year we had 47 member households join the more than 650 other member households, and together we continue to build a stronger, more vibrant community. Below you will find their names, and if you happen to know one or more, please reach out and join us in welcoming them to the Beth Emet community. And if you happen to meet a new member either at Beth Emet and/or in the greater community, please extend a welcoming hand. It makes all the difference.

Jonathan & Lynn Appleton - child: Lila	Lisa Gordon - child: Billy	Jeff Mono & Steve Greenberg
Susan Baum - child: Henry	Norma & Phillip Gordon	Andy Montgomery & Shelli Patt - children: Joshua & Ronen
Herb & Jane Beller	David & Patricia Greenfeld - child: Sofia	Art & Amanda Moswin
Gloria Berger	Joshua & Leslie Herman - child: Gabriel & Nathaniel	Jason Price & Mara Siler-Price - children: Alexandra & Zoe
Bruce & Lori Berman - children: Elana, Noah & Samantha	Lindsay & Benjamin Janasiak - child: Rayna	Phyllis Richmond & Chris Scotese
Marc & Beverly Breslow - children: Jax & Oscar	Hollis & Mike Jones - child: Spencer	Shari Rogers & Dave Hereford - child: Lucas
Daniela & Simon Burnham - child: Noah	Keren & Sopan Joshi - children: Leela & Rivka	Jack Rosenberger & Joe Mazanec
Alissa & Jin-Ho Chung - children: Daniella, Maya & Tessa	Tamara Kaldor - child: Isabella	Michael & Kim Rowe - children: Jeremy, Emily & Annalise
Ila Deutsch	Eric & Lynn Kaplan - children: Eli & Jake	Anna & Joe Seder - children: Ari & Ruthie
Arnold & Susan Fielkow - children: Shira, Steven, Svetlana, Michael & Justin	Matt & Alexis Kaplan - children: Gabrielle & Tyler	Sara Shapiro
Mitch & Kim Fisher - children: Aaron, Helen, Isaac, & Moses	Dan Lefkovitz & Alison Segal - children: Amos & Isaac	Andrew Shoenthal & Rozi Bhimani - children: Anna & Nathan
Benson Friedman - child: Ilan	Sandi & Elizabeth Lerner	Julian & Susan Sotnick - children: Anthony & Nathan
Peter Friedman & Lisa Acker - children: Anna, Lucie & Miles	Jesse & Josh Levin - children: Aubrey & Elijah	Andrew & Danielle Steele
Susan Davis Friedman - child: Ilan	Toby Manewith - child: Nate	Tracy Teweles & Christiaan DeBrauw- children: Miles Shapey & Rosetta Shapey
	Jordan Mann & Meredith Matthews	Jill Topolski - children: Max & Meagan
	Laura & Barry Miller - children: Beth & Solomon	CJ & Danielle Wagner - children: Judah & Lola
		Rebecca Wolf & Jeff Snider child: Emily

## IN THE BETH EMET FAMILY (*Through March*)

**Helene and Donald Spak** welcomed the birth of their grandsons, **Lake Spak** and **Jordan Schechner**.

**Mayta and Ron Spitz** welcomed the birth of their granddaughters, **Jordyn Spitz**, and her cousin **Simone Spitz**.

**Mayta and Ron Spitz** announce that their daughter **Marissa** was promoted to the rank of Sergeant in the United States Army. She is stationed at the United States Army Research Institute of Environmental Medicine in Natick, MA. where she serves as a research assistant.

**Lisa and Howard Sachs** celebrated the marriage of their son, **Ben** to **Kat Keish**.

**Deborah and Robert Render** celebrated the marriage of their son, **Nathan** to **Tal Bendor**.

**Nikki and David Zarefsky** welcomed the birth of their granddaughter, **Isabella Zarefsky**.

**Kalman Resnick and Benetta Mansfield** welcomed the birth of their grandson, **Abraham Resnick Miller**.

**Judith Gravdal and Murray Gordon** celebrated their marriage. **Brad Zakarin and Amy Stanley** welcomed the birth of their son, **Henry Zakarin**.

**Sandy and Bob Cutler** welcomed the birth of their granddaughter, **Hannah Rose Cutler**.

**Rachel and Cantor Arik Luck** welcomed the birth of their daughter, **Tallulah Yaira Luck**.

**Nancy Liebman and David Futransky** celebrated the birth of their granddaughter, **Mila Janelle Liebman**.



**Gracie Styler**  
March 1, 2014  
Daughter of Nancy  
Liskar and Bruce Styler

Hi! My name is Gracie and I'm a 7th grader at Nichols Middle School.

My favorite subjects this year are science, math, reading, French, fine arts, and gym. I love to draw and do crafts, to sing, and to have fun. I love animals.

For my mitzvah project I am volunteering at an after-school program for kids with disabilities. I have worked with special-needs kids before and I love it.

I'm looking forward to becoming a bat mitzvah because people will treat me like an adult and I will be more involved in the Jewish community. I'm also looking forward to celebrating with my family and friends.



**Beth Canel**  
March 8, 2014  
Daughter of Andria and Lee

Hi my name is Beth Canel and I attend Wilmette Junior High

School. At school I like reading, math, social studies, and Physical Education. Tennis and soccer are my favorite outside activities. I am a member of the USTA or the United States Tennis Association where I plan to compete in tournaments this year. This summer I helped kids learn how to read. This was my favorite mitzvah project because I helped kids learn a skill that they would use for the rest of their lives. The reason why I am looking forward to being a bat mitzvah is because it is an experience that will change me as a Jew. Also, it is fulfilling a mitzvot that is important in Judaism.



**Sarah Bloom**  
March 22, 2014  
Daughter of Chava  
Alpert and Michael  
Bloom

Hi! My name is Sarah

Bloom and I'm in 7th grade at Chicago Jewish Day School. I like to read, do art, play soccer and hang out with friends. For my mitzvah project I have been volunteering at the Beth Emet and Ravenswood Community Church soup kitchens. Right after my Bat Mitzvah I will be Maria in my school's play of The Sound of Music and you're all invited to come! I am super excited to celebrate my Bat Mitzvah with my friends and family!



**Hannah Sattler**  
March 29, 2014  
Daughter of Marcy  
Barson and Peter Sattler

My Name is Hannah Sattler! I go to Haven

middle, where my favorite subject is English. I like to write, play the guitar, and practice my Tae-Kwon-Do. I also like hanging out with my friends.

My Bat mitzvah project was helping a girl with disabilities at Beth Emet, and finding out what her lifestyle is like. It was very fun being with her and getting to know her, and honestly, I would have done this even if I didn't have my bat mitzvah coming up. I chose this project because I have always felt a connection with kids with disabilities, and I wanted to make a change in how people treat these kids.

My favorite part about my project was that I got to see this girl / my friend be more independent at home, because there she has an electric wheel chair and machine that lets her communicate with other people. I got to experience her be herself, which is just like being with any of my other friends.

### **Hannah Sattler** *Continued*

What I am most looking forward as the process of becoming a bat mitzvah continues, is that I will be looked at in a different way. For example, I will hopefully be seen as a Jewish adult, and I am excited to take on the responsibilities that are given to you, once you are a bar or bat mitzvah.



**Jeremy Rowe**  
April 12, 2014  
Son of Kimberly and Michael

I am an 8th grade student at the Chicago Waldorf School. I love

outdoor activities including fishing, mountain biking, sailing, water skiing, and snow skiing. I enjoy music and play the baritone horn in the school band. My Mitzvah project involves helping a food pantry near my school.

*Ilan Elenbogen Siegel, Gracie Styler, and Leah Hurwitz celebrating Purim as preschoolers at Beth Emet.*







Jack Aaron  
April 26, 2014  
Son of Allison and Todd

Hi, my name is Jack. I like to run, play soccer, basketball, tennis and

swim. My favorite of those sports is basketball. I have a Golden Retriever named Sammy and she's one of the cutest dogs in the world. My favorite school subject is social studies. I attend Haven Middle School in Evanston.

My Bar Mitzvah project is about helping other people. I'll do this by participating in the Race Against Hate which is sponsored by the YWCA. They have 3 races - a 1 mile, 5K and 10K race. Since I love running so much, I decided to raise money to make this event more successful and to spread the positive messages that this event represents. So I'm going to visit elementary schools to persuade and organize other kids to run or walk the 1 mile race to see that they can achieve goals and show support for the history behind what this race means to our town. During the race, I will also hand out water or Gatorade to runners and encourage them. I also plan to run the 5 or 10K race to set an example. The Race Against Hate was created when Ricky Byrdson, the former Northwestern's Men's Basketball coach, was senselessly killed in front of his house during an act of violence which I oppose.

What I am most looking forward to about becoming a Bar Mitzvah at Beth Emet is the satisfaction of being able to go on stage (or the bima in this case) and knowing how hard I've worked to get there. It's going to teach me to never have stage fright again. If I can go up and sing in front of 50 people including my friends, it will be a huge achievement to me along with finally being considered a Jewish adult. I'll be very proud of myself and grateful to all the people that helped me especially my Mom who studied with me all the time.



Sydney Cramer  
May 3, 2014  
Daughter of Beth Wilner and Jordan Cramer

Hi! My name is Sydney Cramer. My Bat Mitzvah

is this coming May and I am really looking forward to it. I go to Haven Middle School and I enjoy travel soccer and swimming. I also like drawing, crafty activities and listening to music. I wanted to do something hands on and be able to interact with people for my mitzvah project, so I chose Housing Options. Housing Options provides safe, affordable housing here in Evanston for people with chronic mental illnesses. My family and I used to go there every once in a while and serve meals on holidays, and I really look forward to going back. The whole process has been great so far and I can't wait for the big day!



Ilan Elenbogen-Siegel  
May 10, 2014  
Son of Dina Elenbogen and Steve Siegel

My name is Ilan Elenbogen-Siegel. I go to Nichols Middle

School and I am in 7th grade. I like to play basketball, play guitar, and draw. As part of my community service for my bar mitzvah I have been volunteering in the soup kitchen and it has been a pleasure to have the chance to help people. I've been going to Beth Emet practically my whole life and I am excited to now be a full member of the community.



Leah Hurwitz  
May 17, 2014  
Kelly Austin and Scott Hurwitz

Hi, my name is Leah Hurwitz! I am 12 years old and I go to Haven

Middle School in Evanston. My favorite subjects in school are history and math. After school, I like to play tennis, act and hang out with friends.

For my Mitzvah project I was a peer mentor at an organization called Special Gifts Theater. I chose Special Gifts Theater because it combines two things I am very interested in: working with kids with special needs and acting. Once a week I attended rehearsal where I helped my buddy, Daniella, play the role of the frog in a play called Sam the Giggling Goose. I enjoyed learning the skills of how to work with special needs kids.

I look forward to taking on more responsibilities as a Jewish adult after my Bat Mitzvah.



Jaime Berkovich  
June 7, 2014  
Son of Robert and Alice Bluestone

My name is Jaime Berkovich. I am a 7th grade student at Nichols

Middle School in Evanston, IL. I am into computers, tennis, debate and British TV shows. I live with my mom, dad, my little sister Maya and my 2 cats. A surprising fact about me is that my first language was Russian.

My bar mitzvah Torah portion is part of *B'haalot'cha* which talks about the episode in the Sinai desert where Jews complain about having to always eat manna. I am looking forward to my bar mitzvah and becoming a Jewish adult.

## Executive Officers



**David Graham**  
President, Second Term

David Graham and his wife, Lizzie, have been members of Beth Emet for 24 years. They have each served on the Board of Trustees and co-chaired the Mitzvah Appeal together. David also co-chaired the Board's Strategic Planning Committee during his time on the Board. David and Lizzie's four children, Hannah, Jordan, Nora and Sophie, all attended the Beth Emet religious school and celebrated their B'nai Mitzvah at the synagogue. In his spare time David practices law at Sidley Austin LLP, where he is a member of the Executive Committee and a global chair of the firm's Securities Litigation practice. He is also active in various nonprofit organizations, including the Jewish Council on Urban Affairs and Metropolitan Family Services. David is a graduate of Haverford College and the University of Chicago Law School.



**Neal Moglin**  
Vice President, Second Term

Neal Moglin is a litigation partner with Foley & Lardner where he is the Vice Chair of the firm's Insurance & Reinsurance Litigation Practice. Neal has been recognized as one of "America's Leading Lawyers for Business" by Chambers USA and as one of the "10 Leading Lawyers for Insurance and Reinsurance in the United States" by Legal 500 US. Neal moved to Chicago in 1988 after receiving his law degree from Vanderbilt University (Neal received his bachelor's degree from Vanderbilt in 1985 with a double major in English and Art History). In June of 1990 he met Mark Tendam and in 1995, Neal and Mark moved to Evanston. They joined Beth Emet shortly thereafter. Mark Tendam is an Evanston Alderman, representing the 6th Ward. Neal and Mark were married by Rabbi London on November 26, 2011.



**Susan Zukrow**  
Vice President, Second Term

Susan and her husband, Jeff Mackevich, have been members at Beth Emet since 1998. Their three daughters: Rani (25), Stephanie (23) and Carrie (18) have all participated in religious school at Beth Emet and have been Madrichot, as well. All the Mackevich girls are OSRUI lifers, active in NFTY-CAR and have participated in EIE high school semester in Israel. Jeff has been a member of the soup kitchen since its founding,

creating great music for guests and volunteers. Susan has served on the Beth Emet board and co-chaired the strategic planning committee. She has an MBA and completed the executive financial program at the University of Chicago. After 25 years in executive positions at the *Chicago Tribune*, Susan now does marketing consulting and is a partner in a high-tech start up.



**Murray Gordon**  
Treasurer, First Term

Murray has been a member of Beth Emet since 1982. His three sons, Jonathan, Micah and David, became b'nai mitzvah at Beth Emet and graduated from its Hebrew and religious school programs. Micah and David were in Beth Emet's early childhood education classes. After receiving a BA from Brandeis University, a JD from Loyola University Chicago School of Law, and an LL.M. (Taxation) from NYU School of Law, Murray worked for 37 years in international tax, tax controversy, audit defense, and transfer pricing as a tax director in industry, law firm tax partner, and executive director with Ernst & Young LLP in New York, from which he retired in July 2013. He is still frequently consulted by both major corporations and the Internal Revenue Service. In addition to being a member of the Illinois and United States Tax Court Bars, he is a certified public and certified management accountant. Murray's hobbies include cycling (on dry roads), and playing classical and commercial trumpet. He is married to Judi Gravdal, who has been a part of Beth Emet since 1990, and is a proud stepfather to Judi's daughter, Damara Youman, a registered nurse and certified nurse midwife.



**Simon Anolick**  
Secretary, Second Term

Simon has been a member of Beth Emet since moving to Evanston in 1993. In fact, this move was a return after being an undergraduate at Northwestern when he would come to Beth Emet for services. Simon has served two-three year terms on the Board. He has been active on numerous committees including Adult Education and Worship. Simon served as co-chair of the Cantorial Search Committee, which found Cantor Arik Luck, and as a co-chair of Beth Emet's Ozerim Committee. Outside of Beth Emet, Simon is a patent attorney with Motorola Mobility, is addicted to CrossFit, is an avid swimmer and runner, and enjoys reading, yard work and beekeeping. Most importantly, he is the proud father of Judah (18), Sophie (17) and Harel (14).



## Board of Directors/First Term



### Ellen Blum Barish

Ellen has been an active member of the Beth Emet community in a variety of ways since she and her husband, David became members in 1996. Because of all the questions her curious daughters, Emily and Jenny Rose, asked along the way to their b'nai mitzvah, Ellen was prompted to take adult education classes. Those courses led to her bat mitzvah in 1999 and several years as a fifth grade religious schoolteacher. She continues to be a regular at Rabbi London's Friday Torah study and Beyond Om/Spiritual Practice gatherings. Ellen helped launch and facilitate content for the "Our Stories, Our Journey" blog, was a member of the MLK committee that produced an evening of courageous conversation with Second Baptist Choir and occasionally offers editorial support for the Bulletin. She was featured in a recent Bulletin "Doers Profile" for her interfaith activities, a subject she also addressed as a Fourth Friday speaker in 2012. Ellen has taught Torah from the bima on Selichot and recently with her husband, meturgeman-style. Outside of the synagogue, Ellen is a writer, editor, writing educator and private writing coach. Her features and essays have appeared in *Newsweek*, *Self*, *The Chicago Tribune*, *Tablet*, *Literary Mama* and many of her essays have aired on Chicago Public Radio. Her book of essays on family life, *Views from the Home Office Window* was published in 2007 and she is currently working on a collection of linked essays through a Jewish spiritual lens. She teaches writing at Northwestern and North Park universities and at several Chicago-area adult education venues. Ellen plays folk guitar and djembe drum, and she loves to take pictures. Her photographs were recently on display at Curt's Café.



### Rebecca Galler

Rebecca "Becky" Galler and her husband Steve are celebrating chai - 18 years as members of Beth Emet. They have two children, Andy (18) who is a freshman at the University of Michigan and Julie (16), a junior at Evanston Township High School. Both attended Hebrew and religious school at Beth Emet and celebrated their b'nai mitzvah here as well. Becky graduated from the University of Pennsylvania with a degree in political science. She worked for a law firm in Washington, DC, and then moved to Chicago in 1987. After a brief stint writing for *People* magazine and serving as an account executive at Sheila King Public Relations, Becky joined the Chicago Chapter of the American Jewish Committee where she served as Assistant Area Director. At AJC, she was in charge of the organization's interreligious affairs activities which included outreach to Chicago's Christian and Muslim communities. She helped organize interfaith clergy retreats, dialogues and organized and led annual missions to Israel for non-Jewish religious leaders. She also coordinated the organization's public relations department. Since retiring from AJC to raise her children full-time, she has served as a volunteer for many local organizations including Planned Parenthood, Personal PAC, PTA, Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America, Girl Scouts, and Evanston Scholars. At Beth Emet, Becky has served on the Mitzvah Appeal committee and is an active volunteer at the Soup Kitchen.



### Mel Gerbie

Melvin Gerbie graduated from Northwestern University Medical School. After internship and residency in Obstetrics and Gynecology, an American Cancer Society Fellowship and two years in the U.S. Army, he went into private practice at Northwestern. He became the George H. Gardner Professor of Gynecology when he joined Northwestern's Medical Faculty Foundation as Chief of Gynecology in 1997. He served as President of the Northwestern Medical School Alumni Society and the Nathan Smith Davis Society. For his contributions to Northwestern, he received the Alumni Service Award and the Alumni Association Merit Award. He is a past president of the Chicago Gynecological Society and the Central Association of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. He has served on numerous committees and commissions of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. For the past five years, he has been active in adult immunization education, particularly HPV and Pertussis. He continues to teach at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine and is on the Medical School Admissions Committee. He volunteers at the Community Health Center in Chicago in the Colposcopy and Gynecology Clinic. He is the husband of Patti Gerbie, past president of Beth Emet.

## Board of Directors/First Term *continued*



**Rob Levin**

Rob and his wife Lisa have been involved with Beth Emet for many years. They have five children: Andrew (19), Maddie (18), Jason (18), Drew (16) and Max (13), all participating in either Beth Emet's religious school and/or youth programs over the last fifteen years. He is a CPA with an MBA from Indiana University Kelly Graduate School of Management. He has 20 years of financial executive management experience and is currently the SVP of Finance and Administration for Inciscent Labs Group, a private equity company that invests in high growth software startups. He is also a founding member, past president and long-time treasurer of the Ted Fund, an Evanston based not for profit that enables public school children with limited financial resources to take part in quality, fee-based summer camps.



**Jeff Mann**

Jeff and his wife, Letitia, have been part of the Beth Emet community since 2003. They have two children, Katherine (15) who is a freshman at ETHS and Nathan (11) who is in fifth grade. Katherine celebrated her bat mitzvah at Beth Emet in 2012 and Nathan is an active participant in Beit Sefer as he prepares for his bar mitzvah in 2016. Jeff has a B.S. in Accounting from Arizona State University and an M.B.A. from the Fuqua School of Business at Duke University. Jeff spent 17 years at Bank of America where he was involved in making mezzanine, minority and control-oriented investments in private companies. He left Bank of America in 1996 and was a founding partner, and is currently the Chief Operating Officer, of Silver Oak Services Partners, a private equity firm located in Evanston focused on making control investments in business, consumer, and healthcare service businesses. Jeff previously served on Beth Emet's board as Treasurer from March of 2011 through March of 2014.



**Abbey Prujan**

Abbey Prujan and her husband, Peter Steinhouse, have been members at Beth Emet since 2007. Their two daughters, Ruth (12) and Pearl (9) attended the Early Childhood program and now attend Beit Sefer. Abbey has been a site supervisor for the Beth Emet Soup Kitchen since 2009, participated in Cantor Luck's search committee, and is an active volunteer around Beth Emet. She is excited to be joining the Beth Emet board. Abbey is a double graduate of Northwestern University and is now a Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor and Certified Drug and Alcohol Counselor. She practices individual and family therapy with adolescents and adults in her Evanston office. Abbey loves knitting, reading, tennis and spending time with her family.



**Brad Wynn**

Brad and his wife Chris have been members of Beth Emet since 1989, except for a four year hiatus when they lived in Toronto. They have four children who went through Beit Sefer and two of whom were b'nai mitzvah at Beth Emet. He is always excited to spend time with his wife and family and to seek out new adventures, mostly in the great outdoors. Brad has spent his entire professional career in the financial services industry, mostly for large Wall Street banks, and now with LGIMA, the U.S. subsidiary of British based Legal & General Investment Management. He has spent the past several years involved with the Mitzvah Appeal campaign, the last two as co-chair. Brad is also currently on the Board of Directors for the Beth Emet Foundation.

### Board of Trustees 2014/15 Officers

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\* denotes deceased



*Thank you for your generosity*

*Any donations received after March 1 will appear in the next Bulletin.*

## 2013 MITZVAH APPEAL CAMPAIGN WINDING UP!

The Mitzvah Appeal Committee is very pleased to report that as of the end of February we met our goal, and raised \$234,600. To date, 318 households (45% of the Beth Emet community) have generously supported the campaign.

This year's Mitzvah Appeal truly reflects our community's values of coming together and sharing responsibility. This campaign makes a tremendous impact by supporting meaningful educational opportunities and innovative programs as well as so much more that match the needs and values of our community. We all benefit from its success.



*Richard and Arlene Steele with Brad Wynn at Mitzvah Appeal event held at the home of Arlene and Harvey Coustan.*

As part of the Mitzvah Appeal, the Committee hosted five wonderful events this year that included a Saturday evening of Bonfire, Booze & BBQ complete with a lively sing-a-long led by Cantor Luck and tasting by FEW Spirits held at the home of Neal Moglin and Mark Tendam; a lovely evening of mingling with Rabbi London included food and wine provided by Dan Sachs and his team at Bin36 held at the home of Arlene and Harvey Coustan; a downtown lunch hosted by Jim Cahan at

Sidley Austin, LLP featuring Charles Coustan, the Executive Director of World Bicycle Relief; a brunch featuring our very own U.S. Representative Jan Schakowsky with State Senator Daniel Biss filled with lots of insightful conversation on the latest hot topics, and the first annual family game night held at Beth Emet, which was a rousing success filled with BINGO, twister and so much more!

Thank you to everyone who has already contributed to the Mitzvah Appeal. If you have not yet made a gift, it is not too late to do so! Pledges are being accepted and you have until the end of April to complete payments. Please do your part by adding a tax-deductible donation. For more information, contact Bekki Harris Kaplan at 847-869-4230, ext. 304, or [Bkaplan@bethemet.org](mailto:Bkaplan@bethemet.org).

### The 2013 Mitzvah Appeal Committee

*Sheryl Bartol, Stopher Bartol, Suzanne Coffey, Steve Galler, Patti Gerbie, Elaine Lev, Lisa Levin, Rob Levin, Abbey Prujan, Abbey Romanek, Tamar Selch, Arlene Steele (Co-Chair), Rich Steele (Co-Chair), and Brad Wynn (Co-Chair)*



*Cantor Luck & Diana Cohen share a laugh at the Mitzvah Appeal event in November.*

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## Thank you for your generosity

Any donations received after March 1 will appear in the next Bulletin.

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Any donations received after March 1 will appear in the next Bulletin.

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We thank the congregants who make a *Terumah* (Gift) as part of their annual membership commitment to support the synagogue's annual operation budget to help Beth Emet fulfill its goals of providing excellence in serving our congregants and the community through their voluntary contributions:

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 In honor of the marriage of Daniel Render and  
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*Barbara Shapiro*

### A Special Thank You...

*The babysitting for the High Holidays is supported in part by contributions made in memory of Edith Fink.*

*We are grateful for an anonymous donation that allows us to provide scholarships for the Community Retreat.*

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*Charles and Hillary Coustan*  
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 In appreciation  
*Tim Montgomery*  
*Barbara Kaufman*  
*Joan and Ed Magin*  
*Mark and Ann Feldman*  
 In memory of Ilene Adler  
*David Adler*  
 In memory of Daniel S. Schechter  
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 Thank you with great appreciation for contributing to a very meaningful High Holiday experience  
*Jerry and Nancy Fink*  
 In memory of Ned Century  
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 In honor of the naming of Spencer Edward Lane  
*Barbara and Mark Schoenfeld*

In honor of the birth of Lake Iver Spak and Jordan Benjamin Schechner  
*Helene and Donald Spak*  
 In memory of Jerry Crown  
*Danielle Crown-Pfeifer and Jeremy Pfeifer*  
 In memory of Arthur Gunzberg  
*Guy and Joan Gunzberg*  
 In honor of Ethan Ray Harvey becoming a Bar Mitzvah  
*Monte Levinson, Linda and Mark Harvey*  
 In memory of Noel Snyder  
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*Helene Rosenberg*  
 In honor of their marriage  
*Judith Gravdal and Murray Gordon*  
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 Thank you with great appreciation for contributing to a very meaningful High Holiday experience  
*Jerry and Nancy Fink*  
 In appreciation of the beautiful High Holiday Services  
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 In honor of their marriage  
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 In honor of Ethan Ray Harvey becoming a Bar Mitzvah  
*Monte Levinson, Linda and Mark Harvey*

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In memory of Jimmy Chatz  
*Vera Chatz*

In honor of Aaron Kite becoming a  
Bar Mitzvah

*Sharon Ephraim and David Kite*

In memory of Robert Baskin  
*Howard Baskin*

In memory of Herbert Ross  
*The Ross Family*

In memory of Alan Rosenberg  
*Helene Rosenberg*

### Rabbi Knobel's Discretionary Fund

In honor of the birth of Lake Iver  
Spak and Jordan Benjamin Schechner  
*Helene and Donald Spak*

In honor of Pauline T. Last  
*Dr. Jules and Marilyn Last*

In memory of Dorothy Garfield  
*Monte Levinson, Linda and  
Mark Harvey*

### Executive Director's Discretionary Fund

Diana Kindzred  
Thank you with great appreciation  
to the Executive Director,  
Administrative Staff and  
Maintenance Staff for contributing  
to a very meaningful High Holiday  
experience  
*Jerry and Nancy Fink*

### Life Long Learning Director's Discretionary Fund

In memory of Lea Schepps  
*Deborah and Robert Render*  
In honor of Aaron Kite becoming a  
Bar Mitzvah  
*Sharon Ephraim and David Kite*

### Beth Emet Foundation Funds

*The Beth Emet Foundation is a  
separate financial entity whose  
purpose is to serve as a carefully  
managed repository for specified  
donations intended to provide long  
term support to the Synagogue. For  
more information, please contact the  
Foundation President, David Herpe  
at [foundation@bethemet.org](mailto:foundation@bethemet.org).*

### Assuring Our Future Fund

*(to offset general synagogue expenses)*  
In honor of the birth of  
Isabella Louise Zarefsky  
*Nancy and Jerry Fink*

### Dr. Richard I. and Marian Kaufman Leo Baeck Scholarship Fund

*(subsidizes Beth Emet's Leo Baeck  
candidate scholars at Leo Baeck School  
in Haifa, Israel, or, to promote special/  
supplemental educational programs for  
young children and families sponsored  
by Beth Emet)*

In memory of Alan Garland,

In memory of Rachel Kaufman,

In memory of Ella Kousnetz,

In memory of Carol Sterkin,

In memory of Robert (Robbie)

Robinson, and

In memory of Dr. Richard H. Evans

*Richard I. and Marian Kaufman*

### Jewish Education: Lifelong Learning Opportunities' Fund

*(to provide a critical mass of funding  
to develop and support new models for  
successfully engaging participants in  
meaningful study at any or all of life's  
stages)*

*Jerry Fink*

In honor of the marriage of  
Judith Graval and Murray Gordon  
*Don and Jean Horstmann*

In honor of the birth of Simone Spitz,

In honor of the birth of

Hannah Cutler, and

In memory of David Citron

*Nancy and Jerry Fink*

### Rabbi Peter and Elaine Knobel Fund

*(to support the synagogue's programs  
and services)*

In honor of the birth of Lake Spak,

In honor of the marriage of Daniel

Render and Emily Olson,

In memory of Ronald Penner, and

In memory of Helen DeGraf

*Janet C. Parker*

In memory of Stanley Wiener

*The Reiches Family*

### Harvey J. Rice Youth Scholarship Fund

*(to support scholarships for Beth Emet  
students to attend Jewish camps)*

*Dr. Jules and Marilyn Last*

In memory of Alan Rosenberg

*Robyn, Josh and Jordyn Ackerman*

### Harold Miller Fund for the Homeless

*(makes funds available to Beth Emet's  
Tzedakah. Fund Committee for the  
support of homeless in Evanston and  
surrounding communities)*

In honor of Ada Golbus and

Esther Fox

*Janet C. Parker*

In memory of Richard Romanoff  
*Nancy and Jerry Fink*

### Lenore Sherwin Education Fund

*(provides opportunities for creative  
and innovative Judaic educational  
programming for early childhood  
through twelfth grade at Beth Emet)*

In memory of Lenore and

Samuel Sherwin

*Sally and Fred Rotenberg*

### Samuel Sherwin Memorial Scholarship Fund

*(provides scholarships for children at  
Beth Emet to attend Olin Sang Ruby  
Union Institute Camp in Wisconsin  
or other comparable religious affiliated  
camps)*

In memory of Lenore and

Samuel Sherwin

*Sally and Fred Rotenberg*

In honor of the birth of

Sidney Leo Shapiro

*Debra Horberg*

### Spiritual Music Fund

*(to support teaching, incorporation  
and use of music in education  
programs and our Shabbat and festival  
observances)*

In memory of Ron Fink

*Jerry and Nancy Fink*

In honor of the 75th birthday of

Michael Mitzen

*Michael Bass*

In honor of Terrie and Bruce Stickler

*Allan and Beverly Brodsky*

In memory of Shirley Kaplan

*The Wexman and Barnard Families*

### Edward E. Yalowitz Memorial Fund

*(to support the acquisition,  
maintenance or improvement of  
equipment, programs or physical  
plant at Beth Emet, and to allow the  
Congregation to engage in significant  
activities, including providing  
assistance to Synagogue members  
in need, which would not otherwise  
be possible because of budgetary  
restrictions)*

*Lois Moss*

In memory of Dr. Martin Barnett

*Janet Iltis*

In memory of Alan Rosenberg

### Adult Education Fund

*(to support the Adult Education  
program)*

In memory of Rabbi Dr. Bernard

Grossfeld

*Barbara Andrews*

In honor of the special birthday of  
Teddy Aronson

*Rebecca and Paul Fields*

In honor of Marci Dickman

*Diana Kindzred*

In memory of Alan Rosenberg

*Phyllis and Bob Steiner*

*Rebecca and Paul Fields*

*Cindy Seide*

*Joan and Robert Fragen*

*Sylvia and Joseph Stone*

*Bob and Sandy Cutler*

*Wendy Paul*

*The Peter Horwitz Family*

*Nancy and Jerry Fink*

*Irene Landau*

*Janet Reed*

### Beth Emet Soup Kitchen Fund

*(to provide funds for feeding the  
hungry at Beth Emet on Wednesday  
evenings)*

In honor of Terrie and

Bruce Stickler's anniversary

*Beverly Brodsky*

In honor of Beverly and Allan Brodsky

*Terrie and Bruce Stickler*

In honor of Levi Goldman

*Lorraine Lazar*

In honor of Beverly Brodsky's

birthday

*Terrie and Bruce Stickler*

In honor of Mark and

Nancy Garfen's anniversary

*Sharlene and Don Garfield*

In honor of Barbara Garfen and

Bob Berner's anniversary

*Sharlene and Don Garfield*

In honor of Allan, Beverly and

Nicole Brodsky

*Maureen and Michael Jordan*

In honor of Eileen Chapman's

birthday

*Margot and Joel Behrmann*

In honor of Adina Romain

*Karin and Harvey Kellner*

In honor of Reva Denlow

*Laurence Byer*

*Nancy and Dan Engel*

In honor of the Prujan-Steinhouse

Family

*JoAnn Prujan*

In honor of the birth of

Abraham Garza Resnick Miller

*Sandie and Bob Morgan*

In honor of the marriage of

Judi Graval and Murray Gordon

*Annette Kron*

*Betsy Fuchs*

In honor of Eden Rafilson

*Marilyn Abbey*



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In honor of the birth of  
Hannah Rose Cutler  
*Mareon Arnold*  
For a speedy recovery –  
Leslie Schwartz  
*Lorraine Lazar*  
For a speedy recovery –  
Jessie Macdonald  
*Susan Weinstein*  
In memory of Billy Kolen  
*Lizzie and David Graham*  
In memory of Mildred Goodman  
*Lizzie and David Graham*  
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*Lenore and Joel Weinberg*  
In memory of Betty Bodenheimer  
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In memory of Robert Romain  
*Karin and Harvey Kelber*  
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*Julie and David Singer*  
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*Lisa Trotter*  
In memory of Roslyn Blumenfeld  
*Edna Cohen-Brittain*  
In memory of Bryan Koehler  
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In memory of Ivan Sharps  
*Lizzie and David Graham*  
*Donna and Ben Wolf*  
In memory of Dorothy Garfield  
*Mark and Allison Bauman*  
*Karin and Harvey Kelber*  
*Laverne Lund and Richard Nielsen*  
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*Sandra and Fred Hayes*  
*Marilyn Crow*  
*Ellinor and Marvin Forland*  
*Larry Fisher*  
*Linda and Gertrude Zis*  
*Linda Sugar*  
In memory of Sydney Burstein

*Jim Burstein*  
In memory of Shirley Kaplan  
*Leslie and Stuart Shulruff*  
*Karin and Harvey Kelber*  
In memory of Robert T. Turner  
*David Turner*  
In memory of Alan Rosenberg  
*Nancy and Dan Engel*  
*Arlene and Rich Steele*  
*Jessica Feldman*  
In memory of Keiko Miller  
*Lizzie and David Graham*  
In memory of David Baum  
*Leslie and Stuart Shulruff*  
In memory of Jack and Frances  
Century, Ned Century and  
Stephanie and Casimir Century  
*Carla Century and Stuart Pacella*  
In memory of Renee Grossman  
*Lizzie Graham*  
In memory of Leo Machabanski  
*Lizzie and David Graham*  
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*The Ozerim Committee of Beth Emet*  
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**Choir Fund**  
(to support the ongoing work of the  
Beth Emet Volunteer Choir)  
Thank you with great appreciation  
for contributing to a very meaningful  
High Holiday experience  
*Jerry and Nancy Fink*

In memory of Morrie Brickman  
*Gert Schachtman*  
**Early Childhood Equipment Fund**  
(to help provide new equipment for the  
Beth Emet Nursery School)  
In honor of Kathy, Daniel and  
Eli Kaberon  
*Robert and Deborah Render*  
In memory of Dorothy Garfield  
*Mort and Reva Denlow*  
*Sue Cohn*  
In memory of Stanley Wiener  
*Nisan, Sarah, Eliana and*  
*Kadya Chavkin*  
**Early Childhood Scholarship Fund**  
(to assist families with tuition for the  
Early Childhood program)  
In honor of the naming of her  
grandsons, Raphael and  
Michael Gruber  
*Karen Kerr*  
In honor of the birth of Jordyn Spitz  
*Susan and Mark Blumenfeld*  
In memory of Deborah Greenberger  
*Paul and Rosalie Greenberger*  
**Happy Day Fund**  
(to support Beth Emet The Free  
Synagogue)  
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Daniel Render and Emily Olson  
*Helene and Robert Gerstein*  
In honor of the special birthday of  
Teddy Aronson  
*David and Tina Herpe*  
*Judy and Dick Rhodes*  
In honor of Daniel Shulman being  
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*Sherry and Larry Guthman*  
In honor of Ella Kanter becoming a  
Bat Mitzvah  
*Lauren Silverman and Janis Levine*  
In honor of the special birthday of  
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*The Goldwasser Family*  
In honor of the marriage of  
Judith Gravdal and Murray Gordon  
*Marilyn and Cameron Hendershot*  
In honor of Aaron Kite becoming a  
Bar Mitzvah  
*Jane Weintraub and Clark Ellithorpe*  
In honor of the marriage of  
Nathan Render and Tal Bendor and  
In honor of the 90th birthday of  
Teddy Aronson  
*The Horwitz Family*  
In honor of Gail Doeff and the 1st  
Anniversary of the Upstairs Café  
*Jonathan Yenkin and Susan Fisher*

In honor of the birth of  
Isabella Zarefsky  
*The Kaberon Family*  
*Nikki and David Zarefsky*  
In honor of the marriage of  
Judith Gravdal and Murray Gordon  
*Jane Feldman Fields*  
In honor of the marriage of  
Danny Greenberger and Mari Franks  
In honor of the birth of Lake Spak  
In honor of the birth of Jordyn Spitz  
and Simone Spitz  
In honor of the birth of  
Jordan Schechner  
In honor of the marriage of Ben Sachs  
and Kat Keish  
In honor of the marriage of  
Nathan Render and Tal Bendor  
In honor of the birth of  
Isabella Louise Zarefsky  
In honor of the birth of  
Abraham Garza Resnick Miller  
In honor of the birth of  
Henry Jacob Zakarin  
In honor of the marriage of  
Judith Gravdal and Murray Gordon  
In honor of the birth of  
Hannah Rose Cutler  
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(to support the Saturday morning  
Kahal worship community)  
*Danny London*  
*Anonymous*  
In honor of the marriage of  
Daniel Render and Emily Olson,  
In honor of the marriage of  
Nathan Render and Tal Bendor,  
In honor of Leslie Schwartz and  
Paul Fields,  
In honor of the marriage of  
Ben Sachs and Kat Keish,  
In memory of P. Craig Smith,  
In memory of Ruth Leavitt  
*Ada Golbus and Esther Fox*  
In honor of their granddaughter,  
Elinor, becoming a Bat Mitzvah  
*Carol and Peter Hamilton*  
In honor of the special birthday of  
Teddy Aronson  
*Rabbi and Tamar Weissberg*  
*Helene and Harry Rhodes*  
*Chava Alpert and Michael Bloom*  
*Diana Kindzred*  
In appreciation of  
Marilyn Hendershot  
*Diana Kindzred*  
In honor of Aaron Kite becoming a  
Bar Mitzvah  
*Jonathan Yenkin and Susan Fisher*

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In memory of Alan Rosenberg  
*Ada Golbus and Esther Fox*  
*Michael Slater*  
*Diana Kindzred*  
*The Reiches Family*  
 In thought to Rebecca and Paul Fields  
*Ada Golbus and Esther Fox*  
 In honor of their marriage  
*Judith Gravdal and Murray Gordon*  
 In honor of the marriage of  
 Judi Gravdal and Murray Gordon  
*Anonymous*  
 In honor of the Kahal Va'ad working  
 so hard to invigorate the community  
*Chava Alpert and Michael Bloom*  
 In memory of Marvin Leiner  
*David Roston*  
*Ada Golbus and Esther Fox*  
 In memory of Richard Romanoff  
*Ada Golbus and Esther Fox*  
 In honor of the marriage of  
 Judith Gravdal and Murray Gordon  
 In honor of the Bar Mitzvah  
 mentoring of Aaron Kite by  
 David Zarefsky, and  
 In honor of the Bar Mitzvah  
 mentoring of Aaron Kite by  
 Adrian Durlister  
*Sharon Ephraim and David Kite*

### Kol Emet Fund

(to support the effort of making Beth Emet a center for Jewish music in the Chicago area)

In honor of Barb Wertico  
*Karen and Michael Isaacson*  
 In memory of Shirley Kaplan and  
 In honor of the marriage of  
 Judith Gravdal and Murray Gordon  
*Sandra and Robert Morgan*

### Library Fund

(to purchase books for the library in memory of Bruce Gordon)

*Sarah Chavkin*  
 In honor of the birth of  
 Sidney Leo Shapiro  
*Paul and Rebecca Fields*  
 In honor of the marriage of  
 Judith Gravdal and Murray Gordon  
*Matthew Magnone*

### Memorial Fund

(to support Beth Emet The Free Synagogue)

In memory of Laurence Kaufman  
*Law Offices of Schoenberg, Finkel, Newman and Rosenberg, LLC*  
 In memory of Ilene Adler  
*Fran and Stuart Zimmerman*  
 In memory of Helen DeGraff

*Betsy Fuchs*  
 In memory of Ned Century  
*Elaine Finnegan*  
*Nancie, Lauren, and Stephanie Blatt*  
*Scherrye Horton*  
*The O'Reilly Family*  
*Raymond and Arlene Handler*  
*Julian Cybulski and Laura DeMaestri*  
 In memory of Louise R. Gordon  
*Gerald (Jay) Gordon*  
 In memory of Maxine Ehrenberg  
*David Leib and Anne Gendler*  
 In memory of Arthur Gunzberg  
*Judy and Dick Rhodes*  
*Anne and William Goldstein*  
 In memory of Vivian Lewis  
*Eve Schwartz*  
 In memory of James Chatz  
*Ilene and Jerry Kaplan*  
 In memory of Shirley Kaplan  
*Beth, Phil, and Kaiya Steele*  
*The School of Theater and Music at UIC*  
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 In memory of Alan Rosenberg  
*Peter, Andrea and Margalit Friedman*  
*Gert Schachtman*  
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 In memory of Mandel Gordon  
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 In memory of Robert Kruger  
 In memory of Pauline Schneider  
 In memory of Darlene Sokol

### Mitzvah Appeal

In memory of Helen Moss  
*Marilyn Moss Hendershot*  
 In memory of Michael Fields and  
 In honor of Mollie Hart becoming a

Bat Mitzvah  
*Rebecca and Paul Fields*  
 In memory of Harvey Grodzin  
*Ina Grodzin*  
 In honor of Nola Penn  
*Sheldon Mostovoy*  
 In honor of the marriage of  
 Judith Gravdal and Murray Gordon  
*Sophie Black*  
*Beth Strum and Becky Lowery*

### Music Fund

(to assist Beth Emet's music program)  
 In honor of the 45th anniversary of  
 Terrie and Bruce Stickler  
*Nicole Brodsky*  
 For the speedy recovery of  
 Corinne Lee and Sheldon Cohen  
*Lorraine Lazar*  
 In honor of Eileen Chapman's very  
 special birthday  
*Muriel and Marvin Glick*  
 In honor of Barb Wertico  
*Fran and Allan Klenetsky*

### Network Fund

In honor of the special birthday of  
 Eileen Chapman  
*Corinne Lee and Sheldon Cohen*  
 For the speedy recovery of  
 Eileen Chapman and Lenore Novar  
*Lorraine Lazar*  
 In memory of Richard Romanoff  
*Corinne Lee and Sheldon Cohen*

### Ozerim Fund

(to provide support for those in the congregation in need of healing)  
 Amy Stanley and Brad Zakarin  
 In honor of the marriage of  
 Judith Gravdal and Murray Gordon  
*Scott Layne*  
 In memory of Herbert Hanan  
*Arlene, Michael and Ira Berke*  
 In memory of David Citron  
*Carole Kern and Family*  
 In honor of the Ozerim Committee  
 being chosen as Vision Keepers by  
 the Interfaith Action of Evanston  
*Don and Sharlene Garfield*

### Simferopol Fund

(to provide a vibrant Jewish Community in Simferopol Ukraine)  
*Barbara Kaufman*  
 In memory of Laurence Kaufman  
*Paul and Rosalie Greenberger*  
*Electronics Representatives Association*  
*Robert and Louise Freeman*  
 In gratitude  
*Barbara Kaufman*



## Thank you for your generosity

Any donations received after March 1 will appear in the next Bulletin.

In memory of Ned Century  
*Mimi Spivack*  
 In memory of Phyllis Shonfeld and  
 In memory of Alan Rosenberg  
*Barbara Kaufman*  
 In memory of Max Simon  
*Paul and Rosalie Greenberger*

### Special Donations

(to support the work and projects of  
 Beth Emet)

*David Hymes*  
*Steven Andes*  
 In honor of the 65th birthday of  
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*Caryn Peretz*  
 In memory of Alan Rosenberg  
*Dick and Judy Rhodes*  
 In memory of Herbert Ross  
*The Ross Family*

### Tzedakah Fund

(to provide grant money to support  
 causes, organizations and projects  
 promoting justice, equality and social  
 well-being)

*Andy and Tony Nocchiero*  
*Paul and Rosalie Greenberger*  
 In memory of Helen DeGraff  
*Mareon Arnold*  
 In memory of Sam Cohn, Daniel  
 Levenson and Norman Benow  
*Larry Arnold*  
 In honor of Teddy Aronson's special  
 birthday  
*Heidi Levin*  
 In memory of Shirley Kaplan  
*Helene Rosenberg*

### Tzur Hadassah Fund

(to support our sister community,  
 Kehilat Tzur Hadassah in Israel)

In memory of Larry Kaufman  
*Isac and Rosemary Kapulski*

### Yahrzeit Fund

(in memory of a loved one)

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 Julia Siegelman  
*Barbara Freedman*  
 Jacob Hamburger

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Stephen Hamburger  
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*Beverly and Michael Huckman*  
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Janet Reed  
Jeanette Berman  
Michael and Joan Berman  
Philip Rubin  
*Michael and Bridget Rubin*  
**Youth Programming**  
*(to provide funding for Beth Emet's many youth activities)*  
In memory of Adelaide Yanow  
Tom Lenz  
Tania Girodani  
Reva and Mort Denlow  
Lillian Charney  
Jeffrey Cole

Floyd and Bobbie Babbitt  
Joanne Kraft  
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Constance Malinowski  
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*City of Chicago Department of Law*  
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In honor of Rebecca Raus  
*Nancy and Stanley Zeitz*  
In honor of the birthdays of Nina Kavin and Kerry Miller  
*Bekki and Dan Kaplan*  
In honor of the birthday of Karen Isaacson  
*Bekki Kaplan*  
In memory of Adelaide Yanow  
*The Family of Adelaide Yanow*  
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*Gabriel and Lynn Gruber*, in honor of the naming of their grandsons  
Raphael and Michael Gruber  
*Patty Bloomfield*, in honor of her daughter Sophie becoming a Bat Mitzvah  
*Barbara and Mark Schoenfeld*, in honor of the naming of their

grandson Spencer  
*The Kanter Family*, in honor of Ella becoming a Bat Mitzvah  
*Linda and Mark Harvey*, in honor of Ethan becoming a Bar Mitzvah  
*The Ephraim-Kite Family*, in honor of Aaron becoming a Bar Mitzvah  
*Hana Iverson and Tami Reiken*, in memory of their loving father, Earle  
*The Family of Patti Gerbie*, in honor of her special birthday  
*Robert Eisenberg*, in memory of his son Jeffrey  
*Nancy Liskar and Bruce Styler*, in honor of Gracie becoming a Bat Mitzvah

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*Gabriel and Lynn Gruber*, in honor of the naming their grandsons  
Raphael and Michael Gruber  
*The Ephraim-Kite Family*, in honor of Aaron becoming a Bar Mitzvah  
*Dick and Emily Axelrod*, in honor of their 45th wedding anniversary  
*Diane Bernstein and Irwin Katz*, in honor of the special birthday of Patti Gerbie

## YIZKOR ELOHIM (Sept 14, 2013 – March 5, 2014)

Sarah Glassman, mother of Myra Glassman  
Arnold Levin, father of Rob Levin  
James Fitzgerald, father of Peter Fitzgerald  
Ann Montgomery, mother of Andrew Montgomery  
Dr. Edwin Weinfield, father of Debra Horberg  
Eve Waldman, aunt of Sharon Fleishman and sister-in-law of Rhoda Fleishman  
Arthur Gunzberg, father of Guy Gunzberg  
Vivian Lewis, sister of Marcia Baum and aunt of Stuart Baum  
Jerry Crown, father of Danielle Crown-Pfeifer  
Marty Block, brother of Gita Weintraub  
Dorothy Garfield, mother of Don Garfield  
Inga-Mari Doeff, mother of Erik Doeff  
Selwyn Blum, brother of Muriel Levinson  
Noel Snyder, mother of Cindy Holmes  
Ed Carmody, father of Elizabeth Lerner  
Herbert Ross, father of Harry Ross  
Bryan Koehler, son-in-law of Anne and William Goldstein  
Max Bodenheimer, step-father of Helene Rhodes  
Jimmy Chatz, husband of Vera Chatz

Joseph Merel, uncle of Martin Merel  
Shirley Kaplan, wife of Bill Kaplan  
Jeremy Greenberg, cousin of Debbie Gordon  
Alan Rosenberg, husband of Helene Rosenberg and father of Jim Rosenberg  
Seymour Gabel, father of Robyn Gabel  
Robert Baskin, father of Howard Baskin  
Neil Reid, son-in-law of Norbert and Barbara Weisman  
Stanley Wiener, father of Todd Wiener  
Marshall Salkin, father of Robert Salkin  
Jamie Goldfarb, father of Ariel Goldfarb  
David Baum, son of the late Bernie and Barbara Baum  
Nellie Sandler, mother of Valerie Kretchmer  
Marvin Leiner, husband of Ann Leiner  
Robert Kruger, brother-in-law of Lynn Kaminer and Dan Ray  
Richard Romanoff, brother of Robert Romanoff  
Mollie Silver, grandmother of Jill Topolski  
Adelaide Yanow, mother of Wendy Yanow  
Marcia Miller, mother of Stephen Miller  
*Continued on page 33*

## YIZKOR ELOHIM

*Continued on page 32*

Pauline Schneider, mother of  
Linda Schneider  
Leo Machabanski, father of  
Hector Machabanski  
Darlene Sokol, mother of Jodi Portnoy  
Myer Lissner, uncle of Nancy and  
Susan Glick  
Marjorie Alschuler, cousin of Arlene,  
Michael & Ira Berke  
Steve Fleckman, brother of Ron Fleckman

## Honor the Leadership of Beth Emet's Network

### Friday, June 13 following Kabbalat Shabbat Services

For 30 years Beth Emet's Network, an independent auxiliary of the congregation, has provided both cultural and recreational programming, as well as contributed to a warm and welcoming atmosphere for all members. From giving kiddish cups to b'nai mitzvah students to sponsoring Shabbat dinners, to offering opportunities to see opera and the Chicago Cubs, Network has been an integral part of the Beth Emet community. As part of Kol Emet Shabbat on Friday, June 13 we will both thank and honor past and current Network leadership as well as all members who have been supportive over the years.

## Stay Connected

Staying connected is critical to knowing all the great things that happen at Beth Emet! Recognizing that we have many ways in which people like to be reached, there are numerous ways in which to learn more! Below is a list of all the various communication mediums at Beth Emet, and as always, we love to hear from you as to how we can improve ways in which to reach you. Please send your feedback to Bekki Harris Kaplan at [bkaplan@bethemet.org](mailto:bkaplan@bethemet.org) or by calling extension 304.

### Chadashon—The Beth Emet Bulletin

The *Chadashon* is the primary written communication piece, and is published quarterly and includes updates from the various aspects of the Beth Emet community and interesting opportunities to learn more about our members and what makes Beth Emet so special. The latest digital copy of *Chadashon* can be found on the Beth Emet website at [www.bethemet.org](http://www.bethemet.org).

### EmetMail

The Beth Emet e-newsletter, *EmetMail*, is sent bi-weekly. If you don't currently receive *EmetMail*, please contact the office at [info@bethemet.org](mailto:info@bethemet.org) and let us know how we can include you!

### Postcards

Postcards are another one of Beth Emet's written communications pieces that are sent every two months. Listing all dates for upcoming activities and worship services, these mailings keep everyone informed of what's happening at Beth Emet and offers you an opportunity to note dates for the upcoming three month period.

### The Beth Emet Website ([www.bethemet.org](http://www.bethemet.org))

The Beth Emet website houses the most up-to-date information and resources.

### Beth Emet Facebook Page

Become a friend of Beth Emet's Facebook, and connect with those you may already know or those whom you wish to meet! "Share" or "like," and the Beth Emet community will grow! Share a photo that you took at Beth Emet and tag us on your Facebook page.

## Contact Us!

Our staff is here to assist you in any way we can. To reach any staff member, please call 847-869-4230, and then dial the individual's extension.

Rabbi *Andrea C. London* x 306

Cantor *Arik Y. Luck* x 306

Executive Director, *Bekki Harris Kaplan* x 304

Director of Lifelong Learning, *Marci Dickman* x 310

Director of Early Childhood, *Kathy Kaberon* x 305

Director of Youth Programs, *Yoni Siden* x 314

Rabbi Emeritus, *Peter S. Knobel* x 306

Assistant to Clergy, *Wendy Yablon* x 306

Communications and Program Manager, *Susan Baum*, x 300

Education Programs Administrator, *Debbie Gilbert* x 308

Reception, *Ann Graham & Cindy Seide* x 301

Staff Accountant, *Cheryl Coyne* x 302

Facility Manager, *Ron Mangas* x 319

Security Director, *Butch Mayer* x 319



## From the Rabbi

*Continued from Page 3*

until 6 p.m. next year.

This year we have also seen exciting developments for congregants on the other side of the age spectrum. Another finding from the PEW study is that the Jewish community is aging. Beth Emet is no exception to this trend. Forty percent of our congregation is over age 65, and it is important that we address their interests and concerns. At last year's annual meeting, I spoke about the work of the Family Issues and Aging Taskforce (FIAT), led by Patti Gerbie, that had been talking to congregants and meeting with experts in the field of aging to determine what kinds of programs would be of interest to the older segment of our community and their families. They have organized several panel discussions on issues of aging and illness, convened a women's group, and sponsored a weekend with Rabbi Rachel Cowan who spoke to us about issues of aging in the Jewish community and shared with us the curriculum she has been developing on the spirituality of aging called *Wise Aging*. Soon we will convene a *Wise Aging* group at Beth Emet.

The Adult Education program, chaired by Helene Rosenberg, continues to offer high-quality, diverse, and plentiful adult learning opportunities. We have experimented with technology in this area as well. Rabbi Knobel has been teaching Talmud and Bagels over Skype from Florida, and we are exploring how to expand the use of technology in our Adult Education programs.



*During Unity Weekend, volunteers helped paint the nonprofit shop Ten Thousand Villages.*

In social action news, Unity Weekend last year was a big hit. With Nancy Bashook at the helm we partnered with several of the churches for a weekend of volunteering and sharing our religious traditions. We welcomed members of churches here on Friday night, and the Unitarian Church and St. Nicks invited us to their communities over the course of the weekend. As part of Unity Weekend, we also planted the Beth Emet garden. As soon as the snow melts, we'll plant the garden again!

I've mentioned the outstanding work of Yoni, Marci, and Kathy this year. I also want to recognize Cantor Luck and Bekki. Purim was again a big hit this year under the Cantor's direction, the Rabbi Noam Katz weekend was also a tremendous success, and we are so proud that Cantor Luck was invited to perform *Moishe Oysher* at the URJ biennial.

Bekki, as always, works tirelessly to support everything we do at Beth Emet—from what you see—such as programs and communications—to what you don't see, such as the internal operations that keep the congregation running smoothly. We are indebted to Bekki, our energizer bunny, who keeps all these balls in the air and with a smile on her face. Recently, she has added working with our new fundraising consultants, Ter Molen, to begin our preparations for fundraising for our building and for other needs in our community. I am delighted that she has hired Susan Baum to help with our ever-changing and complicated communication needs. Susan is working with Bekki and Jessica Kaplan to redesign the website. Susan is also working to optimize our communications.

It's a pleasure to work with the rest of the Beth Emet staff who demonstrate every day how much they care about the community and everyone with whom they interact. They approach their work with passion, commitment, kindness, and understanding. We are fortunate to have such a dedicated team.

I have shared with you the positive things happening in our community and some of our goals for next year. We also have challenges, in particular in the financial areas of our operation. I'm not trying to avoid them, but David Graham and Jeff Mann have covered them thoughtfully and thoroughly in their speeches outlining what our challenges and choices are and how we are going to address these issues in the coming year.

In this week's *parasha* (Torah portion), *Shemini*, is the ceremony for the installation of the priests for service in the Tabernacle. What a fitting *parasha* on which to elect board members and officers to serve the community.

In the *parasha*, God says to Moses about the priests who serve:

*Bikrovai Ekadesh, v'al panai kol ha'am ekaved* - Through those close to me I will be made holy, and gain glory before all the people. (Leviticus 10:3)

Gunther Plaut, in his commentary on the Torah, explains: "Those who are called to leadership, especially religious leadership, are singled out not for privilege but for responsibility."

Besides the awesome cookies that are served at the board meetings and the cool name badges that board members get to wear, board leadership is about responsibility to the community. I am honored that the new and returning board members have chosen to take on this awesome responsibility, and I am humbled to work with people of such immense talent and dedication.

I particularly want to thank our president, David Graham, for his leadership, support, and guidance. David is a role model of what it means to be a serious and engaged Jew. He cares

*Continued on Page 35*

## President's Pen

*Continued from Page 4*

choir and Beth Emet youth choir, together with the Second Baptist Gospel choir and a full band, performed with our guest artist, Rabbi Noam Katz, and Cantor Luck performed with the Beth Emet choir and youth choir, as well as the Second Baptist gospel choir, to a packed house.

This past December, I was able to attend the URJ Biennial in San Diego. Cantor Luck was also selected to perform there, and reprised his *Moishe Osher* role to hundreds of attendees who came away not only smiling but stunned by the quality that we are blessed with week in and week out. I had a chance to watch our youth director, Yoni Siden, also present with youth directors from other synagogues and was able to compare what we do at Beth Emet to what is done elsewhere. And the comparison underscored that our programs are head and shoulders above what is happening elsewhere. One of our most fundamental tasks as a synagogue is to engage our children and youth in Judaism, in order to form lasting attachments. The proof is in the pudding; our Beit Sefer and youth programs are thriving. And the number of our post bar and bat mitzvah youth who remain actively engaged is virtually unparalleled in

the Reform world.

Finally, I want to say a word about our Rabbi – who was recently named by *The Jewish Daily Forward* as one of the 28 most inspiring rabbis of 2014. For an example of that inspiration, I highly recommend you go on the website and listen to her March 14 D'var Torah – just an ordinary, weekly D'var Torah – which is a powerful discussion of the Amalekites, their recurring role and their metaphorical relevance to our contemporary life. The combination of compassion, the courage to speak out and a depth of *halachic* learning is a rare one – and we are blessed to have it in Rabbi London and all our Klei Kodesh.

These are just some of the multitude of our strengths.

The Board of Trustees has, however, undertaken systematic examination of a variety of issues this past year in an effort to identify how we can further improve, what should be our priorities and what is it specifically that should be done. To make these inquiries manageable, the Board has been divided into various task forces, each assigned an area of inquiry (with the recognition that, at the end of the day, many of these areas are interrelated). Each task force has been assigned the responsibility to report back

to the Board with recommendations.

Among the task forces are the following:

- (1) A task force on strategy charged with defining and prioritizing Beth Emet's most important strategic needs over the next 3-5 years, including providing a framework for increasing revenue and overall financial stability.
- (2) A task force focused on improving opportunities for member engagement and on fostering relationships among members.
- (3) A task force re-examining our current dues model for membership, and whether there are alternatives or adjustments that may be fairer and serve us better, including allowing us to attract more members. Jeff Mann has already previewed some of these issues in his remarks tonight.
- (4) A task force examining how we can improve our leadership development and training processes.
- (5) A task force charged with raising funds to secure the future of our exceptional youth program.
- (6) A task force charged with analyzing near-term alternatives under the vision provided by the Master Plan for integrated renovations of our various physical spaces.

At the same time all this work has been proceeding, preliminary work on a capital campaign is under way, under the guidance of a committee chaired by Sharon Ephraim, in which we are being assisted by expert campaign consultants. That campaign is, of course, the next step in following up on the Master Plan. But any campaign is likely to address more than just our building. I guarantee you'll hear much more about this during the course of this year.

These task forces are at various stages in their work, but have begun to report their findings and recommendations to the

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## From the Rabbi

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deeply about this community and the Jewish people, and he is continually striving to deepen his knowledge and understanding of Judaism. He is also smart, a strategic thinker, and a real *mensch*. He has been a great partner and source of inspiration over the last year. Moses and Aaron couldn't lead the Israelite community alone. They needed the priests to help them serve the community and perform the sacrifices in the sanctuary. So too at Beth Emet do we need lay and professional leadership

working in partnership to serve our community. Fortunately, we do not have sacrificial duties, but, like the priests of old, we are tasked with bringing people close to God through living the values of our faith. Our responsibility is to make this a holy place where people feel cared for, valued, and challenged to live lives of goodness and justice.

I feel privileged to work with a leadership team that takes this mission seriously; people who care deeply about each other and our faith and are continually striving to make Beth Emet a vibrant and caring community.

## President's Pen

*Continued from Page 35*

Board, and will continue to do so over the next several months. The first task force to report was the Strategy task force, whose results and recommendations of were presented and preliminarily discussed by the Board this past February 18. Let me share some of their conclusions.

The Strategy task force concluded that the key to strengthening Beth Emet's future, including its financial future, lies in making certain investments. To quote the report, "In doing so, Beth Emet can expand its membership base, increase philanthropic stewardship and create new avenues for outside revenue thereby building a stronger financial foundation for our future." Of these three potentials for increasing revenue, however, the first two – not only retaining but attracting new members, and increasing philanthropy – were considered the best bets.

Specifically, the Strategy task force has recommended investments in three separate areas, and made clear that each of them is vital. First, are certain initial stage improvements to the building, to be made consistent with the vision of the Master Plan – including, work we should no longer put off such as improved seating in the sanctuary, as well as creating a more welcoming and inviting physical space.

Second, we need to invest in additional personnel. Perhaps most importantly, we need to hire a development director to stimulate and coordinate our philanthropy. Not just with respect to a capital campaign (where such assistance is a virtual necessity), and not just with respect to yearly giving – where, candidly, our efforts are too often diffuse and ad hoc. A development director is also vitally important to kick-start *L'Dor v Dor*, our program for encouraging testamentary bequests, which will be critical to building the synagogue's endowment and ensuring its future.

In addition, the Strategy task force noted that our Klei Kodesh are stretched, and additional support in the form of an assistant rabbi may be highly desirable. For some time now, we have been effectively operating as a synagogue with a single rabbi. That is virtually unheard of for a congregation with 700 households. It is astonishing that Rabbi London is able to do all that she does but it is not a healthy prescription for the future or even the present.

Third, the Strategy task force also recommended targeted funding for improved technology (including with respect to social media), and for membership access and outreach initiatives.

In short, the Strategy task force concluded that we're going to have to spend money, in the form of targeted investments, in order to make money.

That leads me to our financial footing. While this congregation is strong and thriving, its financial condition is an area that needs to be improved. Here's the big picture.

Our revenues have been stagnant while our expenses haven't risen and will continue to rise. Let me start with the revenues. We, as a congregation, are heavily dependent – unusually dependent – on dues revenues for funding our operational budgets. But our dues are already high, and as a practical matter we can't just keep raising them.

That means there are really only three ways to increase revenues: find more members to pay the dues, increase philanthropy (including building an enlarged endowment which can relieve dues pressures), or find new outside revenue.

The last of these is being actively explored but there's nothing certain. The first – increasing membership – is something we think we can make headway on, and we're going to work hard on it because we think we have some real competitive advantages.

But as the Strategy task force concluded, this may require investments. And there are some broader societal headwinds blowing in the opposite direction, as the much – discussed Pew report recently suggested.

Philanthropy, however, is an area in which there is real and obvious room for progress. Only about 14% of our yearly budget comes from philanthropy, including the Mitzvah Appeal and everything else, and only about 5% comes from the Foundation. That is far, far lower than most other congregations our size, where the philanthropic share alone is frequently 30% or more of the annual budget (quite apart from capital campaigns and the like). We like to think of ourselves as egalitarian, with equal or near equal contributions by all. But that will not work and does not work in the real world, and it is not the way that religious institutions, or any non-profits for that matter, have been able to sustain themselves. In short, there's an opportunity here – but it requires us to face realities squarely and organize ourselves appropriately.

What about the expense side? The truth of the matter is that we are pretty bare bones. That doesn't keep our expenses from rising, however, due to cost of living increases and in order to ensure that we are able to retain the key staff who are vital to what we offer and what we do. Accordingly, any meaningful reduction in expenses would essentially require cutting a major area of programming – for example, Early Childhood, Beit Sefer or Youth programming. But these constitute our future, and are important sources for new potential members.

Where does this squeeze leave us? With a set of hard choices. It appears that we will run a relatively modest deficit this fiscal year; next year's is almost certain to be meaningfully larger. Do we pull back and make deep cuts that will crimp our present and future? Yet what the Strategy task f

*Continued on Page 38*

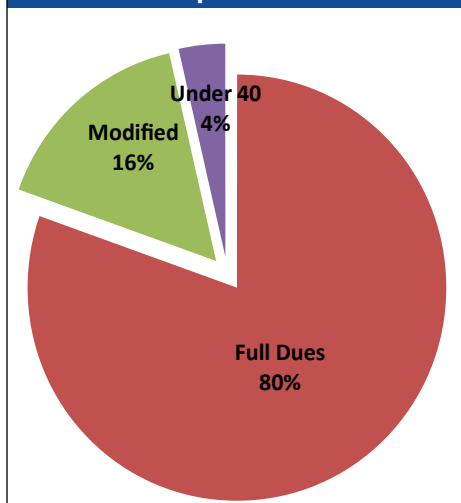


## Treasurer's Report

*Continued from Page 5*

Overall, our membership composition has not changed much over the last few years. As shown in the two pie charts, full due paying members comprise just over one-half of our membership base, but importantly contribute 80% of our revenues from membership commitments. Members that are on modified dues comprise 37% of our membership base and contribute 16% of our membership commitment revenues. The under 40/ Early Childhood category make up the balance. We have worked to lower the barriers to being a member of Beth Emet by allowing this group, the younger families among us, to self-determine their membership commitment. While I mentioned that the overall composition

### Membership Commitments



of our membership base has not changed significantly, there has been a longer-term trend (one that was exacerbated by the recent recession) whereby a greater proportion of our members ask for a modification of their membership commitment amount. Our membership commitment rates are among the highest in the area.

Beth Emet has what is called a "fixed dues" or "fixed commitment" membership model. This model treats each household unit pretty much the same. Two-adult households are asked to pay a certain

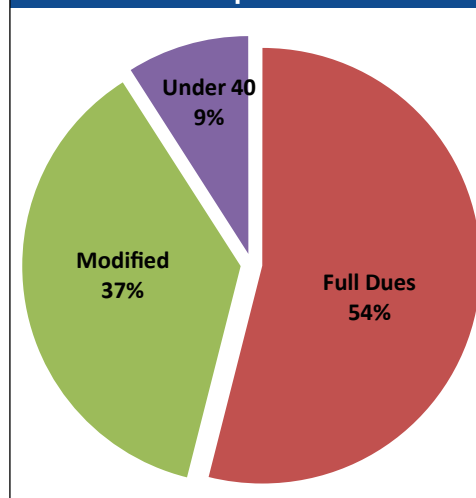
amount, households with one individual a different amount, and within each of these designations, if you are over 70, yet a different amount. We ask you to pay these amounts irrespective of your financial capacity to do so, nor even your desire or willingness to contribute. If you cannot afford to pay the stated rate, we provide you the opportunity to ask for a reduction. However, this is a process that can be very uncomfortable for our members to pursue, and most assuredly is a barrier to the recruitment of new members.

Revenues from membership commitments comprise over one-half of our operating funds and are thus extremely important to our financial security. However, the fixed dues model has been breaking down not just at Beth Emet, but at countless other congregations across the country. The reasons why are many and varied, but they include the following: in a recent report (not the one focused on Jewish life, but a different one), 29% of all millennials (Americans between the ages 18 and 33) are not affiliated with any religion – this percentage is at or near the highest levels of religious disaffiliation recorded for any generation in the last 25 years; membership in a synagogue is not viewed as compulsory as it once was; in today's society, individuals place a greater emphasis on their own needs over the needs of the community; in today's hyper-connected world, spirituality and faith-based connections can be found in many places that don't necessarily include belonging to a defined membership base tied to a physical location; the increasing rate of interfaith marriages - which in and of itself is not the issue as many of these marriages do result in a Jewish family – but these unions have not been consistently embraced historically, thus there is a generation of families that at some point felt less than welcomed into our broader community; and I could go on.

However, I believe there is another important reason for this breakdown; we live in a society that is fast-paced

and many families suffer from being over-committed. They not only find it increasingly difficult to commit time to being Jewish and participating in the Jewish community, but they think about the financial aspect of being a member through a different lens. The concept of stewardship, and what I mean by stewardship as it relates to Beth Emet, is that we have a collective responsibility for ensuring the sustainability and continued existence of Beth Emet - not just for any one member's needs, but for the needs of all members and the community around us. This stewardship concept for many members has been lost and instead the membership relationship takes on more of a "fee-for-service" mentality – not too dissimilar from being a member at the local health club. In this context, members

### Membership Households



ask "what am I receiving in return for what I am paying?" For these families, many of whom are just looking for a place to go to High Holiday services, an education for their children (for which they pay extra), or for the knowledge that someone will be there for a life event, the price of membership in their minds can be too high. Again, the concept of stewardship has been lost. The idea that supporting Beth Emet is about making sure Beth Emet is here for the community (which includes the individual) but recognizes

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## Treasurer's Report

*Continued from Page 37*

and places a greater emphasis on the responsibility we all have in helping those around us be more connected to the Jewish faith.

Thus – fixed membership “dues or commitments” whereby households are expected to pay a set amount billed annually becomes a barrier not just for attracting new members, but also in keeping current members. I mentioned last year that Beth Emet is one of 17 synagogues across the country that has been involved in a Community of Practice task force organized by the URJ that is examining various revenue models and thinking about alternative ways in which a synagogue can fund itself. As part of this effort, I have assembled a task force and have been studying various revenue models and discussing what changes, if any, could we make at Beth Emet to lower the barriers to membership, ease the burden and anxiety around the adjustment process, and bring back (or better

emphasize) the concept of stewardship. We have to balance any changes we make with an understanding that we will be impacting over one-half of our revenues. However, if we do nothing and continue going down the same path year in and year out, I believe it will be increasingly difficult to not only grow our membership base, but importantly, to retain our membership base, and generate the funds necessary to continue to offer the wide ranging set of programs and services our members expect of us.

Our task force will be discussing its findings and recommendations with the Board over the next few months with an eye toward reworking our membership commitment process beginning in calendar year 2015/2016. We will spend this next upcoming year communicating what changes are to come. These changes will endeavor to reduce the financial barriers to membership along with an emphasis on the importance of stewardship. Whatever changes we make, we will still need to generate the same

amount of commitment revenues as in the past and we will continue to ask those of you who have the means to contribute, to continue to do so generously, and for those of you who have greater financial constraints, to continue to contribute a meaningful amount that reflects your commitment to Beth Emet to ensure it remains a viable and vibrant organization for the community around us.

While my role as Treasurer is coming to an end, I have agreed to continue to serve on the Board of Beth Emet where I will spend my time focused on the re-examination of the membership commitment process. I will also continue to work with the new Treasurer and Bekki on the finances here at Beth Emet.

Whether you participate in only one thing, or all things that Beth Emet offers, your support of this institution allows Beth Emet to continue to achieve its mission. We are incredibly grateful to those of you who give generously and we thank all of you for being members of Beth Emet.

## President's Pen

*Continued from Page 36*

orce is telling us is that more spending, not less, is what's required for a longer term fix – including the addition of a development director. So, do we embark instead on a couple years of transitional experimentation, with the goal of balanced budgets put somewhat to the side while these efforts are given time to develop and take off, and then reassess whether we have succeeded in boosting revenues? Perhaps. But if we're going to go down such a path, we need to do so with our eyes wide open.

I am, in fact, inclined to go down this path but this will be a key issue for discussion at the Board level in the

coming months. My inclination to do so is not because I'm a believer in supply-side economics, or some sort of cock-eyed optimist; while I've been accused of many things over the years, no one has ever accused me of being wildly optimistic in my outlook and assessments. It is because over the past year I have seen, up close and personal, and over and over again, the strengths of this congregation and devotion of its members. It is because I know we have something very special that is worth preserving and fostering that I have the confidence to take risks. And it is because I know, and you know, that we cannot afford to take for granted that which we too often treat as an immutable given – the existence of a vibrant Jewish community in our midst that will be

there for us, for our children and for the generations to come. This is our community, we bear responsibility for it, and we need to step up to the plate. I have every confidence that we will.

One year ago, at the annual meeting I said: “We must either devise new funding models or find new revenue sources or come to grip with our fiscal constraints and the choices they entail. These issues may not be acute in the short term but the medium term is not that far off.” My message today has not changed except in one respect: I believe that today we are farther along the path to potential action plans. But they are not without risk. And we will need your help; I need your help. Together, I believe, we will move forward from strength to strength.

## May-June-July Worship Services

**Erev Shabbat – Friday, May 2**

5:30 p.m. – Bonim/Kochavim Family Shabbat Dinner

5:45 p.m. – Reception

6:30 p.m. – Kabbalat Shabbat Service

**Shabbat Morning – Saturday, May 3**

9:30 a.m. – Shabbat Minyan

9:30 a.m. – Kahal Shabbat

10:30 a.m. – Sydney Cramer Bat Mitzvah

**Erev Shabbat – Friday, May 9**

8:00 p.m. – BESSY Shabbat Service with Torah Reading

Oneg Shabbat

**Shabbat Morning – Saturday, May 10**

9:30 a.m. – Ilan Elenbogen Siegel Bar Mitzvah with Kahal

9:30 a.m. – Shabbat Minyan

**Sunday, May 11**

8:45 a.m. – Weekday Minyan

**Erev Shabbat – Friday, May 16**

5:45 p.m. – Reception

6:30 p.m. – Kabbalat Shabbat /Kabbalat Torah

6:30 p.m. – Gesher/Tekkes (ceremony)

**Shabbat Morning - Saturday, May 17**

9:00 a.m. – Tot Shabbat and Kiddish

9:30 a.m. – Shabbat Minyan

9:45 a.m. – Kahal Shabbat

10:30 a.m. – Leah Hurwitz Bat Mitzvah

3:30 p.m. – Beyond Om: *Spiritual Practice for the Jewish Soul*

7:00 p.m. – Lag b'Omer Celebration

**Erev Shabbat – Friday, May 23**

5:45 p.m. – Reception

6:30 p.m. – Kabbalat Shabbat with Fourth Friday Speaker

**Shabbat Morning – Saturday, May 24**

9:30 a.m. – Kahal Shabbat

9:30 a.m. – Shabbat Minyan

**Sunday, May 25**

8:45 a.m. – Weekday Minyan

**Erev Shabbat – Friday, May 30**

5:45 p.m. – Reception

6:30 p.m. – Kabbalat Shabbat

Shabbat dinner and conversation sponsored by the Interfaith Family Task Force to follow

**Shabbat Morning – Saturday, May 31**

9:30 a.m. – Shabbat Minyan

9:30 a.m. – Kahal Shabbat

12:00 p.m. – Shabbat Pot Luck Lunch

**Tuesday, June 3**

8:00 p.m. – Erev Shavuot Service -Tikkun Leil Shavuot with One Jewish Evanston

**Wednesday, June 4**

10:00 a.m. – Shavuot Morning /Yizkor Service

**Erev Shabbat – Friday, June 6**

5:45 p.m. – Reception

6:30 p.m. – Kabbalat Shabbat

**Shabbat Morning – Saturday, June 7**

9:30 a.m. – Kahal Shabbat

9:30 a.m. – Shabbat Minyan

10:30 a.m. – Jaime Berkovich Bar Mitzvah

**Sunday, June 8**

8:45 a.m. – Weekday Minyan

**Erev Shabbat – Friday, June 13**

8:00 p.m. – Kol Emet Shabbat with Adult Choir

Oneg Shabbat to honor network

**Shabbat Morning – Saturday, June 14**

9:30 a.m. – Kahal Shabbat

9:30 a.m. – Shabbat Minyan

**Erev Shabbat – Friday, June 20**

5:45 p.m. – Reception

6:30 p.m. – Kabbalat Shabbat with Torah Reading in Meturgaman-style

**Shabbat Morning – Saturday, June 21**

9:00 a.m. – Tot Shabbat and Kiddish

9:30 a.m. – Shabbat Minyan

9:45 a.m. – Kahal Shabbat

3:30 p.m. – Beyond Om: *Spiritual Practice for the Jewish Soul*

**Sunday, June 22**

8:45 a.m. – Weekday Minyan

**Erev Shabbat – Friday, June 27**

5:45 p.m. – Reception

6:30 p.m. – Kabbalat Shabbat with Fourth Friday Speaker

**Shabbat Morning – Saturday, June 28**

9:00 a.m. – Tot Shabbat

9:30 a.m. – Shabbat Minyan

12:00 p.m. – Shabbat Pot Luck Lunch

**Erev Shabbat – Friday, July 4**

5:45 p.m. – Reception

6:30 p.m. – Kabbalat Shabbat

**Shabbat Morning – Saturday, July 5**

9:30 a.m. – Shabbat Minyan

9:30 a.m. – Kahal Shabbat

**Erev Shabbat – Friday, July 11**

5:45 p.m. – Reception

6:30 p.m. – Kabbalat Shabbat

**Shabbat Morning – Saturday, July 12**

9:30 a.m. – Shabbat at Lighthouse Beach Park and Pot Luck Lunch

**Sunday, July 13**

8:45 a.m. – Weekday Minyan

**Erev Shabbat – Friday, July 18**

5:45 p.m. – Reception

6:30 p.m. – Kabbalat Shabbat

**Shabbat Morning – Saturday, July 19**

9:00 a.m. – Tot Shabbat

9:30 a.m. – Shabbat Minyan

9:45 a.m. – Kahal Shabbat

**Erev Shabbat – Friday, July 25**

5:45 p.m. – Reception

6:30 p.m. – Kabbalat Shabbat

**Shabbat Morning – Saturday, July 26**

9:30 a.m. – Shabbat Minyan

9:30 a.m. – Kahal Shabbat

12:00 p.m. – Shabbat Pot Luck Lunch

**Sunday, July 27**

8:45 a.m. – Weekday Minyan

### Congregational Shabbat Morning Service & Potluck Lunch

#### Saturday, July 12 at 9:30 a.m. at the Lighthouse, Evanston

Celebrate a Shabbat morning at Lighthouse Beach picnic shelter, located just north of the parking lot at 2611 Sheridan Road. If weather is questionable, please check the home page of the website. Following services, there will be a festive potluck vegetarian lunch. Please bring a side dish, salad or dessert for 10 people, and we will supply the main dish, beverages and chairs. Shabbat services for those with young families are also invited to join. Please note that there will be no Kahal or Shabbat Morning Minyan service at Beth Emet.

### Miss a D'var Torah?

Catch up by listening or reading text from past services on Beth Emet's website. Visit [www.bethemet.org/prayer/sermons](http://www.bethemet.org/prayer/sermons)





Spring 2014

The Bulletin is supported in part by the Debbie Perlman Memorial Fund of the Beth Emet Foundation

BULLETIN (USPS 52140) is published four times per year by  
Beth Emet The Free Synagogue,  
1224 Dempster, Evanston, IL 60202.  
Periodicals Postage Paid at Evanston, IL 60202.

Postmaster: Send address changes to

Beth Emet The Free Synagogue  
1224 Dempster, Evanston, IL 60202.  
Ph: 847-869-4230 Fax: 847-869-7830  
e-mail: [reception@bethemet.org](mailto:reception@bethemet.org)  
website: [www.bethemet.org](http://www.bethemet.org)

Change Service Requested

## FLAMES TO HEAVEN ONE HUNDRED FORTY-SIX

*Daily Questions*

I am frightened, Holy one,  
Of uncertainties. The questions,  
Speculations, unknown features,  
Riddles without answers.

Todays follow in their narrowed path,  
New duties, treatments, routines,  
All concocted to stabilize.  
Yet I distrust their efficiency.

Sliding, slipping, gasping,  
Limbs stiff, I hesitate.  
No easy climbs, no careless tasks.  
Help me consolidate.

Yet alone, unlock my puzzle,  
Lending strength to attempt each day.  
Still my fright with words that praise You,  
Slow my breath with sustaining Care.

The mission of Beth Emet is to enrich and expand the Jewish content of members' lives through worship, study, and fellowship opportunities; to promote the integration of Jewish ethical teachings into members' daily lives; and to apply these teachings collectively to the betterment of society and the broader Jewish world.

Rabbi Andrea C. London  
Cantor Arik Y. Luck

Bekki Harris Kaplan, *Executive Director*  
Marci Dickman, *Director of Lifelong Learning*  
Kathy Kaberon, *Director of Early Childhood*  
Yoni Siden, *Director of Youth Programs*

Rabbi Peter S. Knobel, *Emeritus*  
David Polish, *Founding Rabbi, z"l*

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Printed on  
Recycled Paper