

**Congregation Beth El of the Sudbury River Valley**  
**Virtual Board Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday May 26th, 2022 7:30pm**

**In attendance:** Ann Barysh, Barbara Miller, Carolyn Schwartz, Debbie Glass, Jerry Kazin, Jim Billings, Jocylyn Bailin, Judy Goldberg, Marla Lewitus, Michelle Fineblum, Neil Frieband, Steve Breit, Steve Probst **Staff:** Beth Schine, Scott Newman, Shoni Aronovich, Rabbi Josh Breindel.

**Welcome:** Jim Billings

**Hebrew with Janet:** Janet Buchwald: Kum! Stand up, arise!

Kum'i – feminine form

Kom'mut – resistance, to fight injustice in a way that elevates

**Minutes from April 28th** – Jocylyn Bailin

*Minutes unanimously approved*

**Questions about reports:** all

To Scott – please clarify your regular office hours. Scott: M-F, same hours as BE office. Will schedule meetings upon request.

**Motion to Transfer Funds:** Neil Frieband

Motion: I move that the Congregation Beth EL Board of Directors authorize the Treasurer to transfer \$50,000 of spendable funds from The Beth El Fund for Jewish Education and Culture to the Beth El Fund for the Future.

*Motion approved: unanimously*

**Update on Interim Cantor Search:** Rabbi Breindel

Rabbi extends his gratitude to Jim, Michelle, and Carolyn for the amount of time and effort they have put in to this endeavor.

The demand for interim cantors this year far exceeded the supply. The vast majority of congregations that are looking for interim cantors for this coming year will not have one. The same holds true for interim Rabbis. The job market is crazy and demand far outpaces supply. This year alone there are two cantorial students currently scheduled to enroll at Hebrew College; they already have job offers and haven't even graduated! Lynn Targrove will keep an eye out for us and steer someone to us if she thinks they would be a good match.

Rabbi Breindel reached out to his personal networks to try and find someone. There was one promising candidate but then her husband got a job in another state and she followed him.

We have another potential candidate – this person has served locally as an interim cantor for two years and might consider joining us for next year. This person would be part time and would not do any pastoral work. If this person does not pan out we may look to bring in an intern.

**Covid Task Force: Jim Billings**

The Covid task force is recommending that we uphold the current policy of requiring masks in the building, with the exceptions noted in the last congregational message. They will reconvene in early July to reevaluate the situation.

**Annual Meeting: Jim Billings**

The Annual Meeting is on June 12st at 10:00am. IT is important that ALL Borad members do their absolute best to be in attendance. The decision to hold it in-person or on Zoom or hybrid will be made closer to the date. IF we meet in person AND you are someone who wishes to speak unmasked you must test negative that morning before the meeting. The clerk is responsible for maintaining a check in sheet and keeping track of numbers.

**Motion:** The Board of Congregation Beth El authorizes the current and future presidents of Congregation Beth El to make the decision as to whether the Annual Meeting will be held in person or remotely.

*Motion Approved: unanimously*

**Capital Budget Presentation: Jerry Kazin**

Spreadsheet shared with the Board. If you would like a copy please ask Jerry.

Some details:

- We recently received a \$5,000 security grant from CJP. Would like to use it to upgrade our official front doors – at this time they are functionally not secure.
- Gender-neutral bathroom: There has been no decision made yet but the trend is towards putting it in the classroom wing. The one estimate that we have received so far for this work is \$51,000.
- Appearance committee: Has requested another \$36,000 for continued updates to classrooms, library, Cantor's office and more. These items were presented to the Board, but not voted on, several months ago.
- Upcoming maintenance: The parking lot will need to be redone in some fashion in the next 3-5 years. This will be expensive.
- Many standard expenses that we have every year – cleaning, window repair, etc.
- Current Capital budget request is \$118,550.

**Discussion:**

- There have been some private funding offers for the GN bathroom, although it is unclear as to whether there are any restrictions on these offers. Question: should we fundraise for this particular project (like we did for the kitchen)?
- Due to codes and regulations the only viable space for the GN bathroom is in the classroom wing. We asked the town for a waiver for some of the code restrictions and they refused. If it is placed there and the Cantors office is there we will need to co-opt a classroom (classroom #5), as the current space is not large enough for both a

bathroom and an office. The assumption that the Cantor's office needs to be larger was challenged.

- Question: What furniture is needed for the Library and Cantor's office: Answer: The current table setup in the Library doesn't work well – not a navigable or welcoming space. There is also a tear in the current rug. The Cantor's office, if the renovations go through, will be larger and will likely need more furniture.
- Question: what security upgrades are we considering? Answer: we are looking in to options such as shatterproof and/or bulletproof glass, window film (to obscure seeing inside), and others.
- We do not have this kind of money to spend. There is currently \$22,000 in the Capital Budget Fund. Currently if we spend at normal levels the Carob Tree fund will last another 13 years. If we borrow a huge amount of funds (\$130K) to balance the budget the CTF will last us 6 years. The other funds run by the allocations committee are not set up for capital spending. The groups that have worked hard on all this are to be commended for their incredible dedication and effort that they have put in. However, we cannot spend ourselves into oblivion, no matter how good our intentions are.

Jerry withdrew the Capital Budget. He will get further estimates, re-work the budget, and present it to the Board at the June 9<sup>th</sup> meeting.

### **Executive Session invoked: 8:45pm**

Vote taken during Executive Session:

***Motion: To approve the operating budget for 2022-2023 as proposed, including the following elements:***

- Standard Dues of \$3400 per member household (\$200 increase)
- Standard cost-of-living compensation increases for Beth El staff of 4.0%
- Estimated High Holiday ticket revenue of \$7,200
- Providing a security guard while school is in session but not during services
- An expectation that the Allocations Committee will fund \$26,500 for marketing/membership recruitment using funds they administer
- Funding for an interim cantor, with expected total cost to Beth El of \$80,000 including benefits
- Various other adjustments from the current-year budget
- An understanding that the Board may choose to request an assessment on members to cover an end-of-year budget gap in excess of recent norms.

***Motion approved: In favor, 9; opposed 3; abstaining, 1***

### **Meeting Adjourned: 9:54pm**

Respectfully submitted,

Jocelyn Bailin

Clerk, Congregation Beth El of the Sudbury River Valley

**Attached Reports:**

Rabbi

Education

Tikkun Olam

Temple Admin

Talmud Torah

## Rabbi's Report April-May 2022

### Ritual

- Celebrated **Bernie and Linda's grandson Louis** by calling him to Torah on 5/7.
- **Rohan Green-Vaswani** was called to Torah as our community's newest bar mitzvah on 5/14.
- I **solo'ed for two Friday evenings** in a row (leaders were sick/had conflicts). It was a rare pleasure...and I'm looking forward to continuing to partner with layity.
- Working with Scott, Shoni and Amy on **Shavuot hike** (10 AM on Sun., 6/5).

### Lifecycle/Pastoral

- **Some congregational anger around Supreme Court decisions.**
- **Anxiety and tension in general;** mirrored in other local communities.
- Officiated at **funeral for Larry David** (son of Liz and Barry David) with Lorel.
- Officiating at **conversion for adult non-member** (they are joining) next week.
- Officiating at **conversion infant of non-member;** they are looking forward to getting involved in our community.
- Having **introductory Zoom meeting with a couple** – they're expecting their first child and would like to meet with me before discussing membership.

### Community outreach/events

- **Coordinating MetroWest Shavuot celebration.**
- Signed **Reform petition around abortion rights**
- Signed on to become member of **J-CAN rabbinic advisory board.**
- Partnering with **anti-Semitism task force** on Sudbury definition initiative.

### Programming and education

- Preparing for fourth session of **Jewish F&SF bookclub.** Roughly two dozen ppl.
- Offered **Israel through Hasidic Tales** one-shot on 5/5.
- **Siyyum Shabbat** was on Friday 5/13 – mazal tov to our grads! We have no Siyyum students for the next year.
- Will participate in **end of year religious education event** on 5/22.

### Administrative

- Working with leadership on process of finding an **interim cantor.**
- Will take a week off from May-June. Coordinating with the office/Ritual.

**Beth El Board meeting**  
**May, 2022**  
**Administrator's Report**

**Brief update on numbers:**

- Membership stands at 232
- Dues collection as of 5/19 was \$480,559. Final bills go out at the end of this month, will be following up on those with significant outstanding balances,

**Recent events requiring support in planning/coordination:**

- May 13 – Funeral (Larry David) at Beth El Friday afternoon
- May 13 – Siyyum celebration at services Friday evening
- May 14 – Bar mitzvah (Rohan Green Vaswani) with community catered Kiddush
- May 20 - first Shabbat Rinah that was planned and executed by a core group of Rinah musicians.

**Ongoing/Current Activities/Projects:**

- **Transfer from Chaverware to ShulCloud:** Onboarding process is ongoing – if all goes well, first step in the transition will happen by the end of June.
- **Calendaring meeting** – is set for June 8 – if you received an invitation and have not yet replied, please do so ASAP.
- **COVID task force** – recently met to reassess in light of highly transmissible variant – recommended return to mask mandate in building, outdoor Kiddush.

**I continue to be involved with the following on a regular basis:**

- Working with members of committees who are planning events, providing support around creating emails, coordinating publicity schedule, Zoom hosting
- Responding to phone calls from members with questions about schedules, accessing video archives, Zoom links, billing
- Weekly meetings with rabbi, president, and staff
- Technology for Zoom/hybrid programs - Planning, setting up, testing in advance



I.

## Youth and Family Education Board Report, May 2022

### Looking back since last report:

a. **Three (3) final class days** were a huge success.

i. We partnered with the Sanctuary Committee in another 'trailblazing' collaborative model. 1. Ann Kramer, Ann Barysh, Judy Katz, and Jane Brauer and Scott Newman

1. Designed and executed a program explaining what it means to be a refugee. Program was for families with kids of all ages at differing levels, through a book to the whole group, parents, and then another to each class with a 'guest reader'.
2. Each student benefited from the reading of two books. They then engaged in a conversation with guest readers about what it might be like to be displaced from home.
3. Former refugee Tania Vitvitsky was a guest speaker who addressed congregation at large as well as parents of students.
4. The full program needed to be shifted to virtual on short notice when we heard that many were out with COVID (and other) and planning to be absent.

i. Scott and the faculty facilitated the pivot swiftly and professionally as usual, while keeping goals and curriculum intact, as we have learned to do for the past several years.

1. We acknowledge and appreciate our amazing faculty and the Sanctuary Committee for this wonderful program.
2. Serves as a solid model for future activities with other committees. (We have similarly partnered with Tikkun Olam in past as well.)

b. **Last Sunday of BE InSpired! was May 22<sup>nd</sup>,**

- i. Classes had a little time for closure
  0. Teachers created pre-written personal affirmations to their students which were placed on certificates and sent home.
  1. While in classes, Sheila Goldberg and Rabbi Josh led a parent activity where they designed a blessing for the teachers to be used in the ceremony to follow.
- ii. We had a warm and haimish 'learning appreciation' ceremony led by Rabbi Josh and Scott.
  0. Teachers were thanked for their care and education of our students, then presented with flowers and gifts. Scott taught a song of blessing for teachers to everyone and it was sung to the faculty by all.
  1. Blessing written by parents was delivered as part of the ceremony.
  2. The Family Hebrew class was honored in an abridged "Siyyum HaSefer" ceremony, celebrating our youngest students completing their learning of Alef Bet.
  3. Rabbi Josh offered blessings as we go forth into summer.
  4. She-he-cheyanu, motzi, and a sandwich luncheon was provided for all in attendance to

celebrate our community and the beginning of summer.

**Looking ahead / other:**

- a. **Registration** for the year will be open next week. i. We believe most if not all students will re-register.
- b. **Families are overall very pleased** with the education their children are receiving and the holy connections to community. There have been many positive comments and expressed intent to re-register. "Family Shabbat" concept continues development for June 10<sup>th</sup>

**a. Full-Congregation / Family Shabbat is here!**

- i. Has been the dream of Scott and Rabbi Josh for years. COVID got in the way after our first pilot event.
  - ii. We will have a family-oriented Shabbat experience that will set a springboard model for the coming year. It will be time, content, and age-appropriate for all who attend, infant through senior citizens.
  - iii. **Summer**
1. This first pass is being designed and executed by Rabbi Josh and Scott. Then we will bring other members in and form a committee to help further develop the monthly experience for our congregation. It will be interactive, fun, early enough for young families, late enough for commuters, and appropriate for anyone who would like to attend.
- i. Scott will be hosting a pool and BBQ party for the outgoing and incoming Bar Mitzvah class before the year ends. This is to further develop community in that age cohort. Date TBD
  - ii. Tot Shabbats continue every 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of the month – through summer. All are welcome.
  - iii. As the summer concludes, we will have a gathering in late August to kick off the new school year. TBD
  - iv. Scott will take on normal office hours over the summer, since there are no Sunday classes.

**The Blessing Written by Parents for the Teachers:**

*Dear teachers and educators:*

*We appreciate, so greatly, your love for our kids. We can see this in the patience, resilience and kindness that you've shared with them.*

*Through your flexible and responsive guidance, you have crafted a sense of Jewish identity for our students that is expansive and artistic, exciting and inclusive.*

*You've inspired a sense of excitement and fun through your positive, creative attitude.*

*You've helped your students to be their best selves, for meeting them where they are and seeing them for who they are.*

*You've truly created a space to which our children want to return! For all these blessings, and many more, we thank you!*



We have had, and plan to continue having meaningful, interesting, fun, informative programs this year and in the future. We love sharing them within our community and welcoming others from beyond our community.

We will have additional help to get the word out in the future, about all we do here, and make Beth El visible again in the greater community. Bringing programs to our community during the pandemic was taken seriously by the Adult Ed Committee. We did our best to bring the community together with a wide variety of satisfying programs.

(I crossed paths w R. Nehemiah Polen at the Marchette art event at Goodnow Library. Inquired if he still does Adult Ed gigs, Yes! He had nice candid remarks to offer about Rabbi Josh:) And he saw Larry recently in SF, Beth El still has a strong connection with him.)

### **Recent Event**

**Anita Diamant Sunday May 1, 7:00pm**

**Live and on Zoom**

Member and bestselling author Anita Diamant joined us for an excellent program about her latest book

**Period. End of Sentence**

**A New Chapter in the Fight for Menstrual Justice**

--An approximate total of 70 attended with 30 in person. Marjorie Pechet presented the hybrid program in an interview format (as well as decorating, and contacting members to bring refreshments).

--Deb Oppenheimer and a guest from Hope and Comfort also offered a shorter presentation within the program, about the need for period products at the Sudbury Food Pantry and in the great community. We collected both funds and period products for Hope and Comfort. It was an important program for anyone interested in social justice in everyday life.

--We had a high schmooze factor after the program. Chatting, noshing, talking about the program, catching up in person.

--Planning could have been smoother. Lessons learned. Procedures in review for smoother planning in the future. As hybrid we needed to have both Zoom and Room ready for prime time. We are grateful to everyone who assisted in making it work.

Thanks to Marjorie Pechet for inviting Anita on behalf of Adult Ed.

### **Israel Independence Day Film Festival**

**Started May 4, sign up is still available, with 14 days for viewing.**

An excellent group of films for the first IIFF. **Our discount code is YOMH22. \$18 of the \$40 ticket price reverts back to Beth El.**

### **Middot Class with Cantor Emerita LZ-K**

**Final 5 sessions to meet in May and June**

**Started Wednesday May 4**

### **Exploring the Secret Lives of Our Ancestors: Midrash Writing Course**

**Rabbi Breindel and Lisa B Feld**

**Mondays, Started May 9 - June 13**

**Sponsored by Ritual and Adult Ed**

**See Beth El Events on the website. Looks great.**

**The Jewish Fantasy and Sci-Fi Book Club**

**May 25 He, She and It, by Marge Piercy.**

Join in and/or feel free to share with friends outside the community.

Our Sci-Fi Rabbi and Librarian Stephanie Bennett held the first three sessions in February, March, and April.

They explore themes and perspectives on Jewish life and culture.

**Jewish Lives Book Club May & June**

We will continue with the **Jewish Lives Book Club series From Yale University Press**

**Two Lives:** Gertrude and Alice

Thursday, May 26, with Rosie Rosenzweig

**Einstein:** His Space and Times

Wednesday, June 29, 7:30pm, with Marcos Szydlo

**Additional Spring Program Considerations**

--Invite a panel of young Jews from outside of Beth El to share how they experience Jewish life.

--Invite a panel of young Beth El Alums to share how they experience Jewish life.

--A session or short series on Retirement, as another wave of congregants joins this lifestyle, Rabbi Wax may be a possibility. She has training in wise aging, etc.

--More ideas to be finalized or discussed at our next Adult Ed Meeting.

**Beginning Hebrew**

Will follow up to see if anyone is interested in a class before the Holidays.

**Summer:** Possibility of Adult Ed as a co-sponsor for a summer concert.

**Next Year: Consider some high impact guests/programs for our own community,** where we can also invite the greater community, locally and regionally. Perhaps also partnering with groups from the city or region to co-sponsor a program or concert.

**We aim to bring the community together more often in person in the coming year to educate and to build community.**

**Library:** I have been in touch with Hadley and Stephanie to review the available budget, and to connect them per Judy Goldberg's request regarding anti-racist titles for children.

**Behind the scenes**

I put in a lot of time toward making connections and learning processes for publicizing our events. It's been hit or miss, when I do have time, but there is some forward motion. Beth and Svetlana have helped. There are always other unexpected issues to address in a timely manner that come up throughout the year.

**Process Doc**

I will work on more process docs for future program planning, both per event and for mapping seasons and years of programming. In addition to committee ideas, we receive suggestions which have resulted in good programs.

**Marketing, PR, Outreach**

Adult Ed and other committees will benefit from a contractor offering marketing support for our programs. We look forward to this. This will be more efficient, save time, and reduce stress.

**Thank you for your support and don't forget to take advantage of programs, and to encourage others inside and outside of Beth El to join us.**

Best,  
Barbara Miller  
VP Talmud Torah/Adult Education



I.

## Youth and Family Education Board Report, April 2022

### Looking back since last report:

1. **Great to be back in the building!** There is a wonderful buzz and excitement among our families and children.
2. **We had a Havdalah** and movie night that drew about 30 people combined kids and adults.

i. This was a test program to see if there would be interest.

1. Students stuck oranges in cloves and were invited to make a Havdalah candle for home use.
2. Instructional Havdalah led by Rabbi Josh with Scott on guitar
3. All were served a pasta dinner with salad
4. Movie: Prince of Egypt due to proximity of Passover.
5. Event was considered a success by all!

c. We had a Passover family learning program called "Escape From Egypt"

- i. Was a round-robin program with stations led by our faculty
- ii. Families traveled around with their child's age-cohort to gain a puzzle piece at each station, that when put together, assembled a key to the final activities:
  0. There was a plague obstacle course, featuring a physical challenge for each plague. The goal was to move through each plague in chronological order, earning the freedom to:
    1. **Make a "freedom cup" craft project. See pictures [here](https://photos.app.goo.gl/DZhdHZAHSd2QdaAk7).**
  2. A great time was had by all.

### Looking ahead:

a. **There are three** (3) more class days left in the year.

i. I want to acknowledge and appreciate our amazing faculty that has held us together through in-person and virtual learning this year. They are amazing.

1. **Last Sunday of BE InSpired! is May 22<sup>nd</sup>**, when we will have a 'learning appreciation' ceremony – the details of which are forming right now. We will appreciate our teachers with spoken words and gifts, our families with BE InSpired! goodies, and students with special trinkets that symbolize and display their learning.
  - . We will acknowledge our community togetherness with a "See you soon" picnic.
  - i. We will officially open registration for the coming year.
  - ii. We will invite all to the brand new "Family Shabbat" concept in development for June 10<sup>th</sup>:
2. **Family Shabbat is here!**

Has been the dream of Scott and Rabbi Josh for years. COVID got in the way after our first pilot event.

- i. We are rebooting, and planning to have a family-oriented Shabbat experience that will set the model for the coming year. It will be time-content-and age- appropriate for all who attend, infant through senior citizens.
  - 1. First pass is being designed and executed by Rabbi Josh and Scott. Then we will bring other members in and form a committee that will eventually take over the task of planning the monthly experience for the congregation. It will be interactive, fun, early enough for young families, and appropriate for anyone in the congregation that would like to attend.

**d. Summer**

- i. I would like us to have a camp/summer blessing activity before we leave
- ii. Tot Shabbat every 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of the month – through summer
- iii. We will try to schedule (previously unsuccessful) family summer activities

# **Teen Education and Engagement Report**

**May 2022 - Shoni**

iv.

## **High School**

- v. Last Friday we celebrated our first in-person Siyyum in three years! We had four graduates this year, and their presentations were thoughtful and inspiring. We were also able to renew the tradition of Siyyum family dinner with the rabbi, which was hosted at Beth El this time. Our younger Upper School students celebrated the end of the year in an epic night out at Apex, where we played a challenging escape room and enjoyed a nice dinner together.

## **Middle School**

The concluding session of the joint MS program was last Wednesday, in which we celebrated Israel's Independence Day.

Planning for next year is underway. According to the current structure, we will only have three 7th graders in the collaborative next year, as we do not have any incoming 6th graders. Three middle school families have joined us this year, with one of them unfortunately moving away in the summer.

## **J-LOFT + HiBuR**

We celebrated the end of our second school year with a lovely Lag Ba'omer bonfire last Sunday at TBS. As we wrap up this year's budget, I'm happy to report that Beth El's revenue from J-LOFT alone is \$6,500. Next year under the J-LOFT umbrella we will be offering the RAC program with a weekend in DC, a service trip to NOLA, and HiBuR - in addition to several academic tracks.

HiBuR - we are expecting to run the program in its usual format. We already have 11 participants on the Boston side, including 3 from Beth El. Next year's program is open.

## Tikkun Olam Update – May 2022

*We have a jam-packed report this month! Our fellow members are engaged in Tikkun Olam on many levels and in many ways. Join us in being inspired, and consider joining in! Email [tikkunolambethel@gmail.com](mailto:tikkunolambethel@gmail.com) if I've missed anything or if you don't see contact info. Thanks to all for your important and holy work!*

### Antiracism Working Group

- On April 19, four members of the Antiracism Working Group attended the Grand Opening of Women Empowerment House in Dorchester. Last year, Executive Director Stacey Borden, spoke at Beth El and we ran a household goods drive for Women Empowerment House, spearheaded by Elaine Barnartt-Goldstein.

Caption: Grand Opening, Women Empowerment House, Dorchester, April 19, 2022. Left to right: Beth El members Martin Brauer, Elaine Barnartt-Goldstein, Judy Goldberg and Karen Blumenfeld, with State Senator Jamie Eldridge.

- Our April monthly meeting featured discussion of an article by Dr. Chanda Prescod-Weinstein titled [What to the Black Jew is Passover?](#) Four discussion prompts (“Four Questions”) were provided, and participants were invited to donate to a cause of Dr. Prescod-Weinstein’s choice to compensate her for our use of her article.
- Following the Board of Directors’ endorsement of an antiracism [Resolution](#), leaders of the Antiracism Working Group are continuing to work with board members, staff and clergy toward operationalizing the goal of becoming an antiracist congregation.
- We are working with Beth El families of young children and the Director of Youth and Family education to expand the book offerings in the synagogue library to include broader representation.
- Building on existing resource lists, we are assembling a list of resources with respect to hiring Black, Indigenous and other People of Color (BIPOC) and connecting with BIPOC-owned businesses as suppliers.

Contacts: Judy Goldberg and Karen Blumenfeld ([antiracism@BethElSudbury.org](mailto:antiracism@BethElSudbury.org)) **Sanctuary Committee:**

- BE InSpirEd Refugee/Immigration Day: Ukrainian Guest Speaker, Tania Vitvitsky

Sunday, May 15 at 10:00 am

Beth El’s religious school program - BE InSpirEd – will include a read-aloud program featuring books about refugee and being “a stranger in a strange land.” Guest speaker Tania Vitvitsky, an American citizen in Sudbury who was born in Ukraine, will be speaking about the recent history of Ukraine and Russia, what is going on now, and what people like us can do - and are doing - to help. *Parents of children who are attending BE InSpirEd that day are invited to hear Tania’s talk in person.* Due to Covid considerations, everyone else is cordially invited to attend on [ZOOM](#).

In conjunction with this program, The Beth El Sanctuary Committee asks for your help supporting Jewish Family Services of Metrowest as they prepare for the newest refugee arrivals. JFS seeks:

- Brand new (in original packages) men’s underwear
- Brand new (in original packages) men’s socks
- Brand new (in original packages) children’s socks (all sizes)
- “Gently used” (clean, no rips, etc) children’s clothes
- Boys - size pre-K to grades 5/6 - shirts, shorts (seasonal needs)
- Girls - age 6- 12 - tops, shorts (no jeans)

- Packages of disposable DIAPERS, all sizes
- Packages of PULL-UPS (larger sizes: 3,4,5)
- Children's BOOKS - all ages

For info on legislative action, contact [Kath Bean](#). For info on the Ayala family, contact [Judy Katz](#) or [Judy Sletzinger](#). For info on Friday afternoon stand-outs or other Sanctuary Committee activities, contact [Carl Offner](#).

### Combating Antisemitism Task Force:

- Thank you to Beth El's Board for accepting the IHRA (International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance)'s [Working Definition of Antisemitism](#) on behalf of the congregation. This states that: *"Antisemitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities."* To combat antisemitism, it is important to establish a common definition. This definition has been accepted by over 450 entities, including the UN, many countries, local jurisdictions, and organizations, including the Religious Action Center of URJ and the Anti-Defamation League.
- To combat extremist hate we have set out to build an interfaith and secular network of support – initially in our town, and then more widely. By bringing together groups who don't regularly interact, but that often share common values, (including, but not limited to, faith-based groups) we will build a powerful community that will speak out strongly against incidents or statements that impact any of us. Our theme is "I've Got Your Back" and our upbeat unifying events are characterized as "Interdependence Days" – starting June 19<sup>th</sup>, 2022 (Juneteenth). More info to come!
- We continue to send our support to targets of hate – including antisemitism – and have developed a process for contacting numerous organizations in the event of a local incident we wish to publicize. We are also building a list of Metrowest antisemitism contacts with a view to taking action as a group, and to build on our own pilot event.

Please send any questions or comments to Task Force co-chairs [Martin Brauer](#) or [Andy Goldberg](#). New members are always welcome!

### Inclusion Committee:

Inclusion is happy to report that the gender-neutral restroom committee has completed its work and presented to the board. The board passed a motion to build a gender-neutral restroom by Sept. 2023. The next step is for Jerry Kazin, VP of Tsibur, to present the options to the board for configurations of the restrooms. The Inclusion Committee is working hard on collaborative projects with other congregations in the area for mental health programming next year. They are waiting to hear back on a CJP mental health grant as well. Carrie Fuchs and Maxine Haron will be taking over as co-chairs of the Inclusion Committee officially July 1, 2022. For more information about the Inclusion Committee, contact Susan Tohn.

### Green Team: This month:

- Whooee! All you Sudbury residents – well done! At Town Meeting on May 4, you declared a Climate Emergency and approved hiring a Sustainability Director.
- On Wednesday, May 18 from 7-8PM – come learn about induction stoves. The [Jewish Climate Action Network](#) is collaborating with [Energize Wayland](#), Green Lincoln, [Energize Lexington](#), [Harvard Energize](#), and [Green Newton](#) on a Zoom learning event on the climate-friendly alternative to gas stoves. If you cook with gas, you may not be aware of the drawbacks. Burning gas releases nitrogen dioxide, small particulate matter, and carbon monoxide, all components of air pollution. Cooking on a gas stove increases kids' risk of current asthma by 42 percent. Ventilation can work well to remove air pollution but only if the exhaust hood over the



gas stove is strong enough, if it vents outdoors, and you remember to use it. When your stove is ready for replacement, your best bet is to replace it with an electric or induction stove. An induction stove is not your usual electric stove. Andee Krasner (Greater Boston Physicians for Social Responsibility and co-author with Rocky Mountain Institute of a report on gas stoves), will talk about the health risk of gas cooking. Yes, neighbor testimonials who use induction and lots of time for Q&A. Click here to learn more and register.

- On Monday, May 23, from 7:30-8:30PM, Beth El's Green Team, in collaboration with MassEnergize, will present a Zoom evening on sustainable gardening for your home. Jessica Baker, a Beth El member, Certified Master Gardener, and volunteer at the Garden in the Woods will talk about how we can reduce our carbon footprint, support the local ecosystem, improve air and water quality, and still create beautiful spaces. She'll discuss the principles of sustainable landscaping and steps every home gardener can take to help the environment. Again, testimonials and time for your questions! See the attached flyer to learn more. Contact me if you want to register. Contact Linda Klein if you've questions.
- Do you live in Sudbury? Have you signed up for clean green electricity? Check out Sudbury's community electricity aggregation, and choose Sudbury Class 1 Green! It's so easy. Right now, going green is cheaper than the electricity from Eversource (really)!
- Check out climate actions your household can take: <https://community.massenergize.org/JCAN> Want ideas on what you can do? Contact John Harper at [jpharper47@gmail.com](mailto:jpharper47@gmail.com) to connect with a Green Team member. Join the GreenTeam list-serv by emailing [greenteam-subscribe@members.bethelsudbury.org](mailto:greenteam-subscribe@members.bethelsudbury.org)

### **Collection of Hygiene Products: Period. End of Sentence.**

In coordination with Anita Diamant's May 1 Adult Ed sponsored talk about her book, *Period. End of Sentence: A New Chapter in the Fight for Menstrual Injustice*, a discussion was held about local efforts to deal with this problem and a drive was organized to collect personal hygiene and period products (for distribution to those in need across Greater Boston, through the nonprofit Hope & Comfort). Many of those attending the event donated much needed products. If anyone is interested in donating products, they can be dropped off at the Sudbury Senior Center until May 13th. Online donations can be made at [Hope and Comfort](#) and (their) wish list items can be ordered through their [Amazon](#) wish list. For more information on period or hygiene poverty or ways to help, contact [Deborah Oppenheimer](#) or Hope & Comfort. For more info, contact [Deborah Oppenheimer](#).

### **Tzedaka Hevra:**

- Update: At our April meeting, we heard about, discussed, and voted on, groups to receive funding.
- Are you interested in expanding the reach of your Tzedakah but aren't quite sure how? Our Hevra meets every two months to learn about Jewish charitable organizations in the United States and Israel that are helping people and changing the world...and to enjoy a communal meal, because - Beth El. We currently fund about 25 charitable organizations and are looking ahead to next year, expecting an increasing need of our funds. During our meetings, we learn about and determine which organizations are worthy of our funding and reflect our priorities. We often hear directly from their representatives about the work they do, what they will do with our funds, and what they plan to do in the future. If you want to give but may not have time to research and understand enough about the wide range of charitable organizations in need of money, consider joining our Hevra, which is open to any Beth El member. We welcome new members. For info, email [Ira Silver](#).

### **MetroWest Free Medical Program:**

Go to [this link](#) for the most recent newsletter for the program's latest updates. We are grateful to the many Beth El volunteers who play such a key role in the program! For more info, contact Beth El member Gary Hirsch.

### **Support and Connection for Beth El members:**

Hevra Mishpacha, Beth El's caring community initiative, continues to facilitate support between members of the congregation. If you or anyone you know would appreciate and/or benefit from a friendly call, a ride, a warm meal, an extra set of hands, or anything else you can think of, please don't hesitate to reach out to Carol Sheingold or Jocylyn Bailin. If you'd like to volunteer to be part of the support network, please contact either of these two folks as well!

### **Help for Congregants Who Need Food Assistance:**

Any congregants who could use some food assistance should contact [Deborah Oppenheimer](#) directly; all information will be kept confidential. If any Sudbury resident needs assistance in getting pantry groceries delivered to them at home, that too can be arranged.

### **Blood Drive:**

We hope to reschedule as soon as it is Covid-safe to do so. Any questions, please contact [Jordan Oshlag](#). **Tzedek**

### **Scholarship Fund:**

We are proud of our current scholar, Laura Jaime Lopez. Laura plans to graduate in May with a BA in Criminology, a concrete step in her plan to become a Latina police officer. The Committee is preparing to review applications for Fall scholarship recipients. For info: Janet Buchwald ([luckydog18@comcast.net](mailto:luckydog18@comcast.net)).

### **COVID-19 Support Services From CJP:**

If COVID-19 has affected someone you know financially, the CJP WarmLine (1-800-CJP-9500) may be able to assist. With one phone call or by filling out a simple online form, trained Warmline counselors can begin to help navigate available services across the Jewish community. [JewishBoston.com](http://JewishBoston.com) also has additional information about community resources during the COVID-19 crisis. Anyone feeling overwhelmed with sadness, anxiety or stress, or who wants to harm themselves or others, can access the mental health, emotional support and suicide prevention program Call2Talk by dialing 2-1-1, calling 508-532-2255 or by texting C2T to 741741.

### **Covid-19 volunteer opportunities:**

Our community rises to the current Covid-19 challenge! The JCRC, Jewish Family & Children's Service, and

others offer many volunteer opportunities. If you're able to help, please take a look at their websites:

[www.jfcsboston.org/Volunteer/Volunteering-at-JF-CS](http://www.jfcsboston.org/Volunteer/Volunteering-at-JF-CS) [www.jcrcboston.org/covid-19/](http://www.jcrcboston.org/covid-19/)

**Thanks to everyone for your holy work!** If I've missed anyone's Tikkun Olam efforts at Beth El, please let me know. We'd like to share the news with the community! If something here interests you, and you don't see contact information, let me know and I'm happy to connect you.

L'shalom,

MichelleFineblum,VP,TikkunOlam [tikkunolambethel@gmail.com](mailto:tikkunolambethel@gmail.com) BethEl'sTikkunOlamwebpage