

**Congregation Beth El of the Sudbury River Valley**  
**Virtual Board Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday June 9th, 2022 7:30pm**

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

**Welcome:** Jim Billings

We are here to do the business of Beth El. It is holy work and I think you all for being part of it.

**Hebrew with Janet:** Janet Buchwald: Naso – full circle  
Ayin, Gimmel, Lamed – the root for to circle, to be round  
Ma’agal – a path, a circle, an orbit  
Agil—an earring  
Ma’ageil – circle drawer, miracle worker

**Minutes from May 26<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting** – Jocylyn Bailin  
*Minutes unanimously approved*

**D’var: Rabbi Breindel**

This is a time for our congregation to be thinking about wholeness and love. With so much going on in the world we need to bring blessing into our fractured places. This weeks’ parasha includes the priestly blessings. The last word of this ancient benediction is “shalom”. Peace. Sh’leimut is wholeness. We have been a community apart for over two whole years now and it’s difficult to stay together, But we are here, we are a holy community, let us connect with one another and bless one another and bring wholeness and healing not only to our Beth El community but to the greater community and the world.  
Rabbi led the Board in the priestly blessing.

**Virtual Hevre presentation: Carolyn Schwartz**

Carolyn wanted to report that the committee has been meeting regularly and getting both the logistics and the technology prepared. They are planning to present this at the Annual Meeting and ask the congregation for support in recruiting members.

Q; Does this require a vote at the Annual Meeting if it is only a temporary trial?

A: Unknown. Jim will look into this and let Carolyn know.

**CLI update: Rabbi Breindel**

I am very concerned about the state of our Beth El community. The past two years have been difficult for all of us – and not just at Beth El. Rabbi reports that he is hearing the same across all religious and secular communities. We need to find a way to pull together and help us to become whole once again. We are having difficulty getting people to come back into

Beth El in person, and are starting to look into new initiatives to bring us together. To that end we have purchased two tents that are being set up in the Gan HaDorot, the Beth El garden. They will be set up with tables and chairs any time there is any sort of gathering in the synagogue.

How does this connect with CLI? The Rabbi's project was looking at ways to build community, and to this end he is proposing that we set up approximately 10 intimate, in-person meetings in the BE garden under these tents. These group meetings will hopefully be a conduit to getting to know one another. We want to find out one another's skills and passions, who we are and what we bring to our community. There will be food and drinks; we might purchase and/or we may ask people to bring a nosh. By reminding people of the power and joy of being together in person we hope to reunite our sacred community.

Q: can we invite new prospective members to these gatherings?

A: probably not – these are mainly geared towards current members. If you bring someone along we will not turn them away, but there are other works in the plans that will be geared towards prospective members.

Q; Will these be geographically based? Will these have themes?

A: Not sure about the geographic idea. As far as the themed idea, it was thought about and discarded for now.

Rabbi: I am eternally grateful for a congregation that acknowledges the importance of continuing education and study for the clergy. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

### **Interim Clergy Search: Rabbi Breindel**

Finding a new clergy person has been a difficult process. A good number of Beth El congregants have put tremendous effort into this endeavor, and I want to express, publicly, to the Board, my gratitude. As I noted last month, we switched gears to looking for an interim clergy person, and this process has been extremely challenging as well. There simply are very few interim cantors available and many congregations looking. We had found someone who looked to be a great fit for us. Unfortunately, she had some concerns about the position that we could ultimately not accommodate. She has offered to serve as our chazzan for the High Holidays. A few of our lay leaders have also offered to do this as well. At the same time, Jim has authorized Carolyn and the Rabbi to reach out to Hebrew College and to the job posting boards to continue to search for someone who would take on the position of High Holiday soloist and interim cantor. They will keep the Board updated on this search.

Our upcoming Bar/Bat Mitzvah students need to know that they will be supported as they prepare for their simchas; to that note we will need funds to hire tutors for these students. As for Shabbat services, we are looking to set up a more predictable schedule for the upcoming year. Carolyn is reaching out to our guest cantors from the past year to see if any of them would like to join us once a month for Shabbat morning services. She is also in conversation with our lay leaders to find out if any of them would like to take on regular monthly Shabbat morning leadership. The rabbi will lead solo on Friday nights; in order to do so he will need to hand off some other responsibilities. He is working on this with Carolyn, Jim, and Michelle.

## **Board Slate for 2022-2023/5782-5783: Jocelyn Bailin**

The Nominating Committee has put in a lot of time and effort to pull together the slate of nominees for the upcoming Board. Here is a taste of our process:

November/December: NomCom members start reaching out to the current Board members and gathering feedback about their Board service. Included in these conversations (sometimes there are more than one) are gathering feedback about their Board service, asking about plans – do they want to stay on the Board in this position? Is there another position they might be interested in? Are there other committees or areas of Beth El they would like to get involved with?

In January/February NomCom meets to review the conversations, and, based on the results start building a preliminary Board slate. NomCom then starts the process of looking to fill any empty Board positions.

February/March/April is Board building. NomCom works with clergy, VP's and committee chairpersons to identify and recruit talent for upcoming leadership potential. NomCom makes calls to potential Board members, explaining the role of the Board and their responsibilities. NomCom makes as many calls/emails as it takes to fill the positions.

And...the result of all this is what you see here.

***Motion: To Approve the Slate for Congregation Beth El Board of Directors for 2022-2023/5782-5783***

***Motion Approved: unanimously***

## **Capital Budget Presentation: Jerry Kazin**

Based on the feedback from the Board at our last meeting, Jerry has reworked the Capital Budget. Jerry plans to present the budget tonight and at the Annual Meeting in three parts. If you would like a copy of Jerry's presentation, please ask him for it.

Our current available Capital Funds are:

Capital Fund – for annual costs and special projects - 43k

Building Fund – reserves for significant building needs – 130K

### Part 1: Required Annual Costs

These include the regularly occurring costs:

Cleaning, maintenance, supplies.

As well as any repairs or capital needs that have come up during the year: eg, broken windows, computer upgrades, lighting needs, repairing/securing the rear sanctuary door, etc. In addition this includes a transfer of 5k to the regular operating budget to cover any emergency needs that may arise during the year. This has been standard practice for years.

Total: \$23,350

### Part 2: Special Projects – Appearance/Beautification budget:

This includes the continued work by the Appearance/Beautification Committee The Appearance/Beautification project is to continue the work being done in the classroom wing, including rugs, furniture, window treatments and such. We will proceed with this project once we have identified and secured the funding.

Total for Appearance/Beautification: \$30,700

### Part 3: Special Projects – Gender-Neutral Bathroom

Specifics presented as to why the GN bathroom needs to be located in this particular location, along with architectural drawing, plumbing code requirements, etc. This cost is based on a single quote. The GN bathroom is included because the Board voted to build one by September 2023. We will proceed with this project once we have identified and secured the funding.

Total for Gender-Neutral Bathroom: \$57,100

#### **Discussion:**

**Q:** How will we get the funds for all this work? The total amounts are far beyond our budget.

**A:** First of all, I plan to present the budget as I presented here, that we will only proceed with these projects if and when we have identified and secured the funding.

Secondly, we could borrow 25k from the Building Fund and fundraise for the remainder. This would be targeted fundraising, like we did for the kitchen.

**Q:** Concern raised by several Board members that targeted fundraising will impact total fundraising. The Board already voted to approve XXXX in the budget for general fundraising – people set aside a certain amount of money for Beth El, and if they give to the targeted fundraising they may well not participate in general fundraising.

**A:** When we did targeted fundraising for the kitchen we still had a fairly normal fundraising year – the impact was minimal.

**Response:** The congregation was much larger then. More folks to spread around the fundraising.

**Q:** Could we push out the bathroom completion date to December 2023 and then split the cost between two budgets?

**A:** This doesn't help us at all. Even with funding only half the project, when taken along with our regular yearly capital costs we are talking about completely draining the capital budget. Typically we add 10k to the Capital Budget every year. That's not nearly enough to complete the second half of the project. And we are left with zero funds in our Capital Budget for anything else for at least two years.

**Q:** typically it is the finishes that drive up construction costs considerably. Can we consider less expensive hardware and finishes?

**A:** Jerry will get multiple quotes. Only had time to get one before this meeting.

**Q:** can we please break out costs – how much for the bathroom? How much for the Cantor's office? How much for the storage space?

**A:** It's difficult to break apart these costs. The vast majority is for the bathroom. The storage space is just paint and furnishings. The Cantor's office is largely paint and some furniture. Much of the existing furniture can be moved into the new office.

**Q:** The problem is, we voted to build a GN bathroom without knowing the cost. In hindsight we should not have done this.

**A:** We won't do this if we don't have the funds.

**Q:** How did it come about that we are losing a classroom? How has this classroom been utilized in the past? Is the school ok with losing a classroom?

**A:** The GN bathroom and Appearance/Beautification committees solicited input from various people about the use of classroom 5. A number of years ago it was divided into two spaces, half for storage and half for a small classroom. Currently the entire space is being used as storage. Yes, the school is losing a classroom. However, the committee identified other spaces (sanctuary, loft, library) that could be used as classroom spaces during school hours such that the loss of this classroom is mitigated.

**School response: Ed Director and VP Education**

During the past two years we have not been using the classrooms, or have been using them minimally, due to the pandemic. You cannot base your study of how the classrooms are being used based on the past two years. Furthermore, the sanctuary and the loft are not suitable classroom spaces, for noise reasons. The library also cannot be counted on as a classroom space because it is frequently in use for other purposes during this time. Classroom 5 does get used during the school time. And the Education director was not consulted by either committee about any aspect of classroom usage - classroom 5, or other alternative sites, at all during this process.

***Motion: The Board of Directors approves the regular Capital Budget – Required Annual Costs***

***Motion approved: unanimously***

***Motion: The Board of Directors recommends that the Special Projects be undertaken when the funding can be made available***

***Motion failed: In favor 4, Opposed 7, Abstention: 4***

**Meeting Adjourned: 9:55pm**

Respectfully submitted,

Jocelyn Bailin

Clerk, Congregation Beth El of the Sudbury River Valley

**Attached Reports:**

Rabbi

Education: Middle and High School

Tikkun Olam

Temple Admin – brief update on numbers

Talmud Torah

## Rabbi's Report May-June 2022

### Ritual

- I **solo'ed for a Friday evening** last week.
  - While I was away, record LOW numbers reported (no one in sanctuary for Friday and light on Saturday). This reflects broad trends in the Jewish world...and I would like for us to be the exception
- Thanks to Scott, Shoni and Amy for their partnership for our **Shavuot hike**).
- Working with Scott on pilot family-friendly Shabbat (dinner included!) on 6/10
  - Board presence will help send strong message of support and value.
- Coordinating possible July joint **Shabbat at Wayland beach with B'nai Torah**.

### Lifecycle/Pastoral

- **Anxiety and tension in general**; mirrored in other local communities.
- **Officiated at wedding** of strong prospective members – encouraging them to join.

### Community outreach/events

- **Coordinated MetroWest Shavuot celebration**.
- Signed **Reform petition around gun restrictions**.
- Offered teaching/blessing to open **JCAN meeting**.
- Presented on **Shavuot for first rabbi brunch at Shillman house** in over two years!
  - Thanks to Elaine B-G for inspiring me and helping to coordinate.
- Partnering with **anti-Semitism task force** on Sudbury definition initiative.
- Will offer opening invocation for MetroWest Jewish Day School graduation.

### Programming and education

- Offered **Shavuot through Hasidic Tales** one-shot on 6/2.
- Working with Shoni and community partners for new JLOFT school year.

### Administrative

- Working with leadership on process of finding an **interim cantor**.
- Working with leadership on process of new **permanent cantor search**.

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

For those keeping a close watch on dues receipts:

Dues collection as of 6/3 was \$487,198. (Additional \$6,500 from report two weeks ago) Final bills for 2021-2022 went out today

\*No change in membership in last two weeks.

Everything else from the report two weeks ago stands.

## **Talmud Torah/Adult Education**

June 6, 2022

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.

Bringing programs to our community during the pandemic was taken seriously by the Adult Ed Committee, bringing community together with a wide variety of satisfying programs.

### **Jewish Lives Book Club May & June**

We will continue with the **Jewish Lives Book Club series**.

#### **Postponed, watch for new date in June**

**Two Lives:** Gertrude and Alice

Rosie Rosenzweig will lead discussion

**Einstein:** His Space and Times

Wednesday, June 29, 7:30pm,

with Marcos Szydlo

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

Final sessions meeting in June

#### **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.

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

is continuing with more monthly sessions. Join in and/or feel free to share with friends outside the community. Our Sci-Fi Rabbi and Librarian Stephanie Bennett started in February, Average 20 attendees. They explore themes and perspectives on Jewish life and culture.

#### **Coming together in person and online**

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

Live and on Zoom

--An approximate total of 70 attended with 30 in person. 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**

Marjorie Pechet presented the hybrid program in an interview format. Deb Oppenheimer and a guest from Hope and Comfort also offered presentations. 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, discussing the program, catching up in person.



--**Planning could have been smoother. Lessons learned.** 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..

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

Will follow up on how many sign ups returned funds to Beth El. Excellent films offered.

### **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. Conflicts came up with our meeting times throughout the year. Need to pivot better next year. We look forward to meeting as a committee in person.

### **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.

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.

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

Congregants have also been suggesting possibilities for next year. (We may come up with a form for reviewing ideas we receive throughout the year.)

**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 a more efficient process.

**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

# **Teen Education and Engagement Report**

**June 2022 - Shoni**

## **High School**

With Siyyum and the last day of Hebrew School behind us, we begin planning for next year (in which there will be no siyyum, since we will not have 12th graders).

The HS as a whole is expected to be larger thanks to a significant group of incoming 8th graders - two of whom joined this past year.

The Monday night calendar for next year is currently being finalized.

## **Middle School**

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.

Next year's JLCMW Middle School program will take place at CBT.

## **J-LOFT + HiBuR**

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 13 participants on the Boston side, including 3 from Beth El. Next year's program is open for 10th and 11th graders.

An initial funding of \$15,000 from CJP has already been received.



## Tikkun Olam Update – June 2022

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!*

**New V.P. of Tikkun Olam Nominated!** Please join me in thanking Allison Alter, who has accepted the nomination to be Beth El's next V.P. of Tikkun Olam as of July 1. Allison did a wonderful job coordinating our gift card campaign for Afghan refugees, collaborating with two other local synagogues and a local church. She's also a member of the Sanctuary Committee and has been active in Tikkun Olam activities outside Beth El for many years. Allison has two young children in our school. Thank you for stepping up, Allison!

### Sanctuary Committee:

We've been working to collect goods needed by Jewish Family Services, which is directly helping refugees in this area. Ann Kramer has been leading that, and as you've probably seen, it's really been quite successful.

We also are investigating how we may work together with HIAS in support of refugees right now -- particularly those from Ukraine but also those on the Southern border. This is partly a matter of aid to specific families, but it is even more a matter of changing government policy, and that's something we're going to be taking seriously.

On May 5, we coordinated with Scott Newman in a program about refugees for the younger children. Jane Brauer, Ann Barysh, Ann Kramer, and Judy Katz were directly involved in reading to the children. And then we welcomed Tania Vitvitsky to speak about her background and the current situation in Ukraine. Tania lives in Sudbury, is from Ukraine and still has significant family still in Ukraine. She has visited regularly, and we asked her to speak to help make the situation there more real for all of us.

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 Committee activities, contact [Carl Offner](#).

### Combating Antisemitism Task Force:

- Please join us from 2 to 4 on June 19, 2022 (Juneteenth) to join with other members of the community to celebrate "Interdependence Day." Our theme is "I've Got Your Back" and our purpose is to hold upbeat unifying events to combat extremist hate by building an interfaith and secular network of support – initially in our town, and then more widely. *We'll be outdoors at 251 Old Sudbury Rd. (Rt.27)*. 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. We're happy to report that the ADL/URJ has fully funded a grant proposal we submitted for this work. See the flyer from the office or email [Martin Brauer](#) or [Andy Goldberg](#) for details.
- 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. 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 [URJ](#), [CCAR](#), and the [Anti-Defamation League](#).
- 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!

### Antiracism Working Group

- On June 1, 7 members of the Antiracism Working Group attended a vigil in Framingham,, *The MetroWest Inter-Faith Vigil Against Hate: Standing with the Black Community After the Buffalo Massacre*. A member of the Working Group helped to plan the vigil.
- 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.
- On May 22, the Antiracism Learning Group read and discussed "The Sweetness of Water," by Nathan Harris.

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

**Blood Drive:** We are pleased to announce that we just scheduled a Blood Drive for July Thursday July 21<sup>st</sup>, 2022 2- 7. More details to be announced! Any questions, please contact [Jordan Oshlag](#).

### Inclusion Committee:

We applied for and were granted a CJP Ruderman grant to do 3 programs on mental health and the arts that will run starting in the fall. Carrie Fuchs and Maxine Haron wrote and will be implementing the programs. The board voted to create a gender neutral bathroom at Beth El by September 2023. Carrie Fuchs and Maxine Haron will be the new co-chairs of the inclusion committee starting July 2022. The inclusion committee is working on collaborating with metrowest congregations to bring programs that focus on mental health and Judaism next year. For more information about the Inclusion Committee, contact Carrie Fuchs or Maxine Haron.

### Green Team:

- Huzzah! You Beth El members are awesome! You've taken almost 500 actions to reduce your carbon emissions. Imagine a forest of 6,000 trees on Hudson Road and knowing that we, Congregation Beth El, did this! You've done that. And that's just the impact of the dozens of Beth El members already on the MassEnergize/JCAN climate platform. Many more of you have taken actions as well. Thank you!
- What can you do? See the <https://community.massenergize.org/JCAN> climate platform and check out the many effective actions. Simply put, it's about us – all of us - taking climate action.
- What's an induction stove? Four answers:
  - 1: The climate-friendly successor to gas stoves
  - 2: A way to cook quickly with no carbon monoxide emissions in your home (zero, zilch, nada)
  - 3: Definitely not the electric stove in my parent's home with the rings of glowing pain!
  - 4: All of the above. (Hint: choose this answer!)
- In May, the Jewish Climate Action Network joined Energize Wayland and other groups in hosting a webinar on induction stoves. Cooking on a gas stove increases kids' risk of asthma by 42%. Andee Krasner (Greater Boston Physicians for Social Responsibility and co-author with Rocky Mountain Institute of a report on gas stoves) helped us learn about the benefits of switching to induction stoves. When your stove is ready for replacement, consider an induction stove. [Click here to see the recording.](#)

- What is sustainable landscaping? Four answers:
- 1: An opportunity to create a beautiful home garden
- 2: How you can reduce your carbon footprint and support your local ecosystem.
- 3: An excuse to boost your happiness (really, the NYT says so!)
- 4: All of the above. (Hint: choose this answer!)
- In May, Beth El's Green Team teamed with MassEnergize to present a webinar on sustainable gardening.
- Jessica Baker, Beth El member, Certified Master Gardener, and volunteer at the Garden in the Woods walked us through why and how to create beautiful spaces in our own gardens. Testimonials by three Beth El's finest gardeners made it real. Did you miss it? Want the recording and Jessica's very helpful PDF of info links? Click on the Beth El Green Team page on Beth El's website.
- Want to green your electricity? Do you live in Sudbury? See your town's community electricity program, and choose Sudbury Class 1 Green. It's so easy (really). Live elsewhere? Contact the Green Team.
- Questions? Info overload? Contact John Harper at [jpharper47@gmail.com](mailto:jpharper47@gmail.com) to connect with a Green Team member. Join our list-serv by emailing [greenteam-subscribe@members.bethelsudbury.org](mailto:greenteam-subscribe@members.bethelsudbury.org).

#### **Tzedaka Hevra:**

- Update: At our June meeting, we discussed what issues we'd like to explore next in the way we give tzedaka.
- 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](mailto: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.

#### **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](#).

#### **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.

**Tzedek Scholarship Fund:**

We are proud of our current scholar, Laura Jaime Lopez. Laura graduated 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,

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