## THE TIDINGS

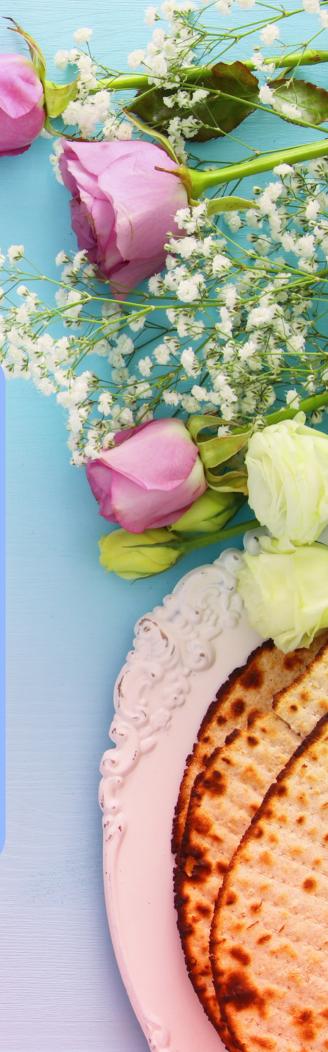
BULLETIN OF BETH ISRAEL, NORTHFIELD, NJ

**APRIL-MAY 2024** 

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Happy Pesach!



## **April-May Services and Programs**

Parashat Sh'mini		
Leviticus	9:1-11:47	

### **Pesach (Passover)**

Erev Shabbat Service, Wolff Chapel, 5:30 PM 5 Fri

21 Religious School Chocolate Seder, 10:30 AM Sun

No Shabbat Morning Study

6

Sat

Fri

19

Fri

22 Erev Pesach/First Night of Passover Mon First Night Seder, in our homes

23 First Day of Pesach

Parashat Tazria Leviticus 12:1-13:59 Tue Pesach First Morning Festival Service, Wolff Chapel, 10:30 AM Clergy Cook-Off: Matza Brei Your Way Lunch in the Weis Lobby, 12 Noon RSVP Appreciated by April 19 to

12 Erev Shabbat Service, Wolff Chapel, 5:30 PM

bethisrael@cbinorthfield.org or 609-641-3600

13 Shabbat Morning Study, Cohen Library, 9:15 AM Sat "Gender and Distinction from the Torah to Today"

Erev Shabbat/Chol HaMoed Pesach Svc 26 Fri Wolff Chapel, 5:30 PM

Parashat Metzorah Shabbat HaGadol Leviticus 14:1-15:33 27 Special Torah Study: Song of Songs

Sat Cohen Library, 9:15 AM Shabbat/Chol HaMoed Pesach Morning Service, Wolff Chapel, 10:30 AM

Tot Shabbat/Tot Pesach, Wolff Chapel, 6:00 PM Dinner for Tots and Families follows the service. Contributions welcome but not required: Please just come (but RSVP by April 17) "Late" Erev Shabbat Svc, Wolff Chapel, 7:00 PM

29 Seventh and Final Day of Pesach (Reform) Mon Pesach Festival Morning and Yizkor Memorial Service.

Wolff Chapel, 10:30 AM

20 Shabbat Morning Study, Cohen Library, 9:15 AM Sat "A Plague on Both Your Houses"

## May

All services held in the Beth Israel Engelberg Sanctuary, and Erev Shabbat (Friday night) services held in the Wolff Chapel are streamed on our website, www.cbinorthfield.org, and on Facebook at www.Facebook.com/BethIsraelNorthfield

3 Erev Shabbat Family Service, Fri Wolff Chapel, 5:30 PM

Services are also live streamed and archived on our You Tube Channel. Google

4 Shabbat Morning Study, Cohen Library, 9:15 AM Sat Shabbat Morning Service: Bar Mitzvah of Nick Silverberg, Engelberg Sanctuary, 10:30 AM

"Beth Israel Northfield You Tube."

## Yom HaShoah **Holocaust Heroes** and Martyr's Remembrance Day

Shabbat Morning Study in the Cohen Library is also streamed live using Zoom, https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6096413600 or use Meeting ID 609 641 3600.

6 Community Yom HaShoah Observance, Mon at Beth Israel, 6:30 PM. See page 15 below.

## Parashat Kedoshim Leviticus 19:1-20:27

- 10 Erev Shabbat Service, Fri Wolff Chapel, 5:30 PM.
- Shabbat Morning Study, Wolff Chapel, 9:15 AM
   Sat Shabbat B'Yachad: Special Joint Shabbat
   Morning Svc of Beth Israel and Shirat HaYam,
   10:30 AM at Beth Israel

Kiddush Luncheon follows the service. See page 16 below.

## Yom HaZikaron/Yom Ha'Atzma'ut Israeli Memorial Day and Israeli Independence Day Program and Concert

13 Yom HaZikaron/Yom HaAtzmaut Observance Mon Milton & Betty Katz JCC, 501 N. Jerome Rd, Margate City, 5:30 PM

Details to follow

## Parashat Emor Leviticus 21:1-24:23

- 17 Tot Shabbat/Tot Pesach, Wolff Chapel, 6:00 PM
- Fri Dinner for Tots and Families follows the service.
  Contributions welcome but not required;
  Please just come (but RSVP by April 17)
  "Late" Erev Shabbat Svc, Wolff Chapel, 7:00 PM
- 18 Shabbat Morning Study, Wolff Chapel, 9:15 AM
- Sat Shabbat Morning Service:

  Bar Mitzvah of Aden Birks

  Engelberg Sanctuary, 10:30 AM

## Parashat Behar Leviticus 25:1-26:2

- 24 Erev Shabbat Service,
- Fri Wolff Chapel, 5:30 PM
- 25 No Shabbat Morning Study Sat

## Parashat Bechukotai Leviticus 26:3-27:34

- 31 Erev Shabbat Service, Fri Wolff Chapel, 5:30 PM
- June 1 Shabbat Morning Study, Sat Cohen Library, 9:15 AM

## Shir HaShirim, The Song of Songs Saturday, April 27, 2024 Cohen Library, 9:15 AM

Is it erotic love poetry? Does it really say what it seems to say? Is it a metaphor? Does it matter? And what is it doing in the Bible?



Shir HaShirim, the Song of Songs, one of the strangest books in the Hebrew Bibie, is traditionally read in a synagogue setting during Pesach - either on the Shabbat of Chol HaMoed (the intermediate days) or sometime during the week. There are some customs which feature this book after the seder; it was printed at the end of some traditional haggadot. Come hear for yourself this powerful poetry, and decide if you agree with the once controversial call to include it in the Bible!

-3-



## **Different Questions** for a Difficult Year

## Message from Rabbi Michael L. Feshbach



It is supposed to be about redemption! Things were supposed to be better. From "degradation to dignity," the Haggadah promises us. "From slavery to freedom, from despair to joy." From danger to safety. Not, as has seemed the case these past six months, the other way around.

One highlight of the Passover Seder, of course, are "the four questions." The pressure is on, as all eyes turn, traditionally, to the youngest one present, who is expected to lead the chant. Hebrew schools have been known to feel the heat on this as well, as we interrupt general learning of the language to "teach to the text," making sure our students are ready for this annual "performance."

The thing is, though, the questions which seem so set in stone and fixed by a particular melody... they were meant as a sample, as an example. Originally, it was not that you had to ask these questions. This was a model, a template, an exercise in engagement. The point was - at this meal, at this ceremonial celebration, we are meant to ask questions! The point of Passover... is an actual discussion! If we are just reading off of someone else's script, no wonder it seems rote, and we add a fifth question - "can we eat yet?"

Even some of the stories in the Haggadah which may have the effect of putting us to sleep are far different if put into context. Four ancient rabbis with hard to pronounce names are discussing the meaning of the Exodus so far into the night that their students have to come and tell them it is almost time to recite the morning Sh'ma. Snooze! I thought this had to be the most boring blurb in the whole Haggadah.

I thought it was boring, that is, until I realized that these four rabbis living at the time of the revolt against Rome. And what were they doing? They were discussing the meaning of freedom and redemption... precisely in their own lives, by plotting a rebellion! They were making the message real! And their students warning? "Masters, beware! The sun is coming up. Roman soldiers are starting their patrols. Do something more innocuous. Act like you're praying or something!"

If the words are meant to get us into our own discussion, are there, then, different questions we can ask at our Seders during this very difficult year?

Here are a few suggestions. Think of this as my Four Questions for you, as Passover draws near this year:

continued on the next page

### continued from the previous page

- Wine is meant as a symbol of joy. (If you remember kosher wine the way it used to be so thick you could cut it with a knife, and super sweet, you would get why this is the case.) We removed drops from our cup... to remind us that to achieve our freedom, our enemies had to suffer. And that, in fact, was for the Egyptian soldiers! What about their families? What about those who were not actively coming against us? And so, this year can we not have compassion, can we make a place to acknowledge the suffering of others, even if our cause is just, and we have a right to live in freedom and safety?
- The Seder features young people, at both the four questions and in its description of four types of children. This year, can we picture children in our own world, in different circumstances, but still in need? There are the captives, the hostages, totally innocent, ripped from their families (or who saw their own families slain!), their lives changed forever. And, yes, there are children on the other side being taught to hate us, perhaps, but too young to have yet done anything about that. The Haggadah tells us to "see" different kinds of children. Can our eyes, indeed, be open?
- There is a reading in the traditional Seder which Reform Jews often skip. (It is also in the part after the meal, and too many skip or rush through that part anyway.) It is from Psalms 79 and 69, and Lamentations 3. The words read: "Pour out Your fury on the other nations... for they have devoured Jacob and desolated his home. Pour out Your wrath on them, so Your blazing anger may overtake them. Pursue them in wrath, and destroy them from God's heavens." Um. What can we say? Our rage is real, our anger is justified, and it feels real and feels honest to have some way to acknowledge that. But in real life? On the field? In the desolation of Gaza? I believe with all my heart that this is, in fact, a just war. But can we not hold on to the distinction between justice and revenge? And what happens to us if that is a line we cannot hold?
- The entire saga begins as a tale of fear fear of the "other," of those who are different, those who might swarm or overwhelm or "poison the blood" of pure Egyptian society. How many of the conflicts raging around us now the Hamas attack, the war in Ukraine, the forces tearing our own country apart how much of this originates in fear of the "other." Who are we afraid of? The fear moves us, but are the reasons real? Who do we see as different and apart? And what lies ahead? When the fighting is done, or possibly even just on hold, how can we find a way to live together?

These are some of the questions on my plate, and in my heart, at the season of Redemption this year. What about you?

My family joins me in wishing you, your families, all of us and all the world a sense of liberation, redemption and hope, this holiday season, and beyond. Indeed, for all of us: next year in Jerusalem!

## Message from Linda Karp, President

Thank you to everyone who purchased a **Pot of Gold** ticket and a special THANK YOU to our Board of Trustees for their hard work and commitment in selling these tickets! We are also grateful to Susan Sokalsky for her hard work in making sure all the tickets were sold!



The drawing was held on Sunday, March 24 at Purim, so if you did not get a phone call that day.....sadly you did not win. Our 2024 budget is depending on the income from The Pot of Gold so to each of you we say THANK YOU!

When you read through this edition of The Tidings you will see the tremendous variety of activities that we have planned. We are trying very hard to meet the needs of all our congregants, so please let us know what you are interested in attending.

In a few weeks, we will be gathering with our families to celebrate Passover. Even though the story behind Passover took place thousands of years ago, the annual holiday celebration ensures that the events of the past are not forgotten. It's a holiday about strength, perseverance, and liberation. As we share a sacred meal with loved ones, we learn about the history of the Jewish people, and participate in a yearly ritual of tradition and remembrance. This is what we must pass on to each generation.

When you sit down to your Passover Seder, please remember our Jewish families who are still struggling with life in Ukraine, in Israel and other places around the world.

As we close our Seders with the familiar words, "Next year in Jerusalem," please offer an additional prayer: "Next year may all families be together."

Chag Pesach Sameach" "Happy Passover."

I wish the best for you and your families, Linda Karp

## April Showers Bring May Flowers

## Message from Susan Sokalsky, Executive Director



We move into Spring with a full slate of programs. Rabbi Feshbach is offering another Adult Education series: "Maimonides: The Man, the Code and the Guide", Thursday afternoons through April and May. Tot Shabbats continue monthly, the third Friday of the month, The JPlace Book Group will meet May 1st and June 5.

Our goal is to provide lifelong Jewish learning from our toddlers to our most senior members. The first morning of Passover we will celebrate the Festival with a morning service followed by a "Matza Cook-off" Our chef will be Rabbi Feshbach and, we hope, some others. We remember our loved ones through Yizkor services on the last day of Passover, April 29th.

Sisterhood will hold its semi annual Thrift Sale on Sunday, May 5th and Monday May 6th. Watch your email for set up dates. Our Sisterhood has stood as the backbone of Beth Israel forever. Monies raised during these sales fund programs and upgrades throughout the Temple that the budget cannot support. Volunteer to help Sisterhood help Beth Israel. Please reach out to me and say yes I can help!!

And Sunday, June 2nd will be our annual BBQ beginning at 4:30. This is a multigenerational event.

As we enter this season of redemption may we see a return to courtesy, civility and peace in our world. As my family would say: "a Zeesin Pesach!"

Susan



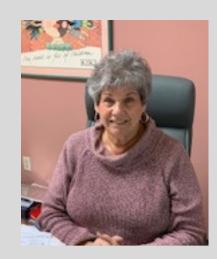
## Message from Director of Education Cookie Feldman

What do Passover and chocolate have in common?

Not too much we would think unless we are talking dessert.

This year, however, they have a great deal in common as we celebrate Passover in Sunday school with a **Chocolate Seder**.

Most of the time in our Sunday school seders, the food is hardly touched. When you change it up and add chocolate



matzo, sour gummies, and lots of chocolate milk, the plate is happily eaten.

We will have our **Sunday School Chocolate Seder on Sunday, April 21, at 10:30 am.**Parents are welcome to join, but need to RSVP so we can be set up properly. We would love some parents to make chocolate matzoh as we need quite a bit. If you are willing to help us out with some seder plate ingredients, let me know.

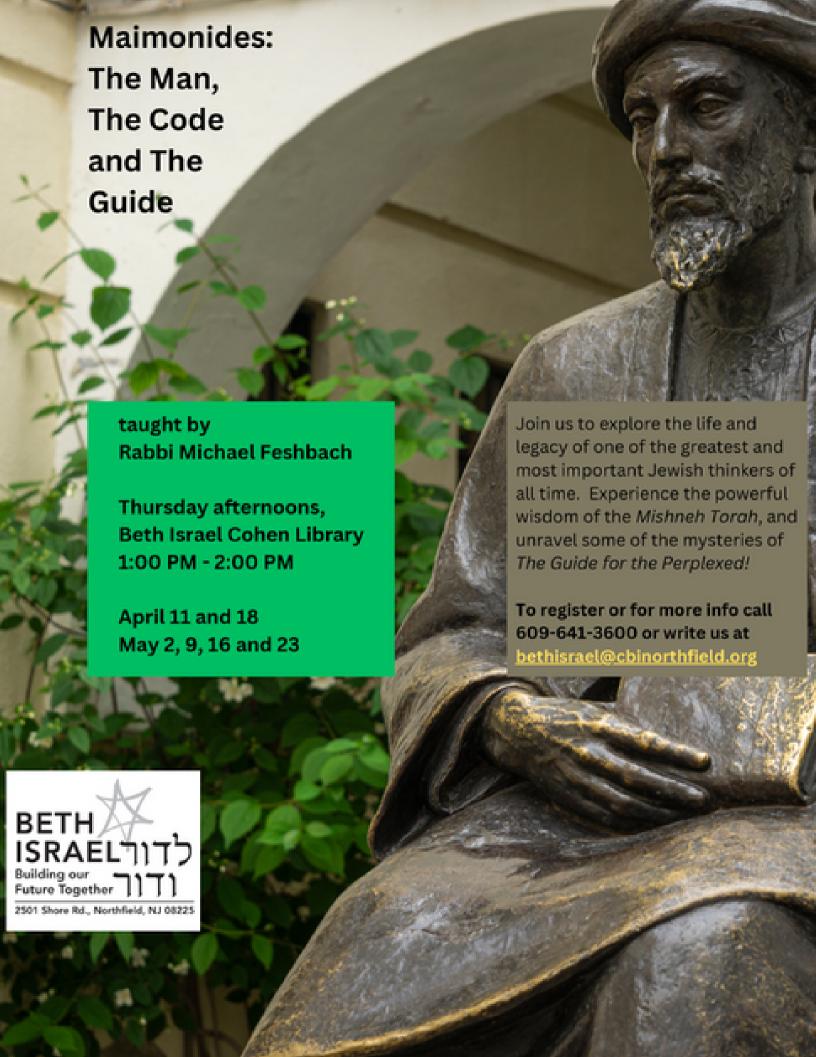
We have a **Tot Shabbat on Friday, April 19th at 6 pm**. We will be welcoming Passover with a Tot service, Shabbat Dinner (probably Pizza, despite the Passover theme), and activities for the kids. Please RSVP to me if you can join us.

As we wind down the year of Religious School, I want to thank everyone for their support this year. Our staff works hard to make Sunday School and mid- week online Hebrew engaging and educational. We try to impart Jewish values, customs and holidays, history, and Hebrew in all our teaching. As outstanding as our staff may be, we wouldn't be successful without your continued encouragement.

A heartfelt thank you to Stephanie Albert, Lauren Albert, Sindy Baker, Lea Glina, Felicia Niven, and Julie Novick. A special *Kol Hakavod* (well done) to our madrichim; Sadie Kent, Miller Lichtenwalner, Ethan Mitnick, and Matthew Pattillo. We are very lucky to have such a wonderful staff.

Our **last day of Sunday school is May 5.** We will continue our mid-week Hebrew lessons through June. Our **Annual End of Year Barbecue will be on June 2.** As always, it will be a great family day to celebrate Beth Israel and your children. (And watch for details of a **Pot Luck Shabbat Dinner, outdoor service and Pool Party** at Rabbi Feshbach's home in July!)

Best Wishes for a Sweet Passover, Cookie













JPlace Book Group

Join us for a lively discussion.

Conversations always
evolve into interesting
and diverse views
on life issues.

Cohen Library, Wednesday, May 1, 2024 1:00 PM

The Echo of Old Books Barbara Davis

A novel about the magical lure of books and summoning the courage to rewrite our stories by the bestselling author of The Keeper of Happy Endings and The Last of the Moon Girls.





Join us for a lively discussion.

Conversations always
evolve into interesting
and diverse views
on life issues.

Cohen Library, Wednesday, June 5, 2024 1:00 PM

*Kantika*Elizabeth Graver

A dazzling Sephardic multigenerational saga that moves from Istanbul to Barcelona, Havana, and New York, exploring displacement, endurance, and family as home. Exploring identity, place and exile, Kantika also reveals how the female body serves as a site of both suffering and joy. A haunting, inspiring meditation on the tenacity of women, this lush, lyrical novel from Elizabeth Graver celebrates the insistence on seizing beauty and grabbing hold of one's one and only life.



The Secret Message of the Seder and Spiritual Preparation for Pesach A Conversation on Zoom

Wednesday, April 17, 2024, 7:30 PM

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6096413600 or use Meeting ID 609 641 3600

Join us for a conversation and exploration by Zoom of two aspects of Passover: a wild theory about the Secret Message of the Seder, and ways to go beyond all the physical work, and spiritually prepare ourselves for this important holiday. Indeed, there are ways in which, through the very act of purging leaven and cleaning our homes, we can come to purge our hearts of pride, and clean our hearts of that which rises up in unhelpful ways. Thus can the holiday at which we are the most focused on food take on some of the power of that other Jewish observance earlier in the year, at which we are, at least in theory, the most removed from what we eat and drink.



## Our May B'nai Mitzvah

Nicholas Silverberg, son of Adam and Christine Silverberg

Aden Birks, son of David and Alisse Birks

May 4

**May 18** 

Nicholas Silverberg is a 7th grader at Fernwood Middle School. He is gearing up for a busy spring, playing for his school baseball team, as well as the local travel team.

Nick also plays the saxophone and is a member of his school's drumline.



He is working hard to finish preparing for his Bar Mitzvah on May 4! Aden is in 7th grade, attending Fernwood Middle School in Egg Harbor Township. He is almost a black belt in Kempo karate. He plays the bassoon in his school band and previously played the saxophone. He loves computers, video editing, playing and creating games.



## YOM HASHOAH

UNTO EVERY PERSON THERE IS A NAME

## Remembering the 6 million Jewish victims of the Shoah

**MONDAY, MAY 6, 2024** 

at 6:30PM - PROMPTLY

## CONGREGATION BETH ISRAEL 2501 SHORE ROAD NORTHFIELD, NJ 08225

This commemoration will be held in person.

For questions, please contact the Sara and Sam Schoffer Holocaust Resource Center at 609-652-4699.

The community is grateful to the following organizations for their assistance in providing both leadership and guidance for our observance of Yom HaShoah:

Beron Jewish Older Adult Services
Board of Jewish Education of Atlantic and Cape May Counties
Chabad Stockton University
Office of the Dean of Students at Stockton University
Garr-Greenstein Friedenberg Jewish War Veterans Post 39
Generations after the Shoah
Holocaust Survivors' Committee
Jewish Family Service of Atlantic and Cape May Counties
Jewish Federation of Atlantic & Cape May Counties
Milton & Betty Katz Jewish Community Center
Sam Azeez Museum of Woodbine Heritage at Stockton University
Sara and Sam Schoffer Holocaust Resource Center at Stockton University
Seashore Gardens Living Center
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Stockton University Hillel



A COOPERATIVE COMMUNAL EXPERIMENT!

# JOINT REFORM SHABBAT MORNING SERVICES

followed by a kiddush luncheon and dynamic discussion

Join us for the second of our cooperative community Reform services!

Torah study precedes the service.

Come to the Beth Israel Cohen Library on Saturday, May 11 at 9:15 AM as we explore the portion of the week, the "Holiness Code" from Leviticus 19.





SATURDAY, MAY 11, 2024 • 10:30AM BETH ISRAEL • 2501 SHORE ROAD, NORTHFIELD, NJ

Service Led by

RABBI MICHAEL FESHBACH - Beth Israel CANTOR/RABBI RHODA HARRISON - Beth Israel CANTOR JACQUELINE MENAKER

Reform Spiritual Leader • Shirat Hayam RABBI GORDON GELLER





Rabbi Emeritus, Shirat Hayam

RSVP for the luncheon by Wednesday of the week of the service, to either bethisrael@cbinorthfield.org • 609-641-3600

or to cantorjacki@shirathayamnj.org • 609-822-7116









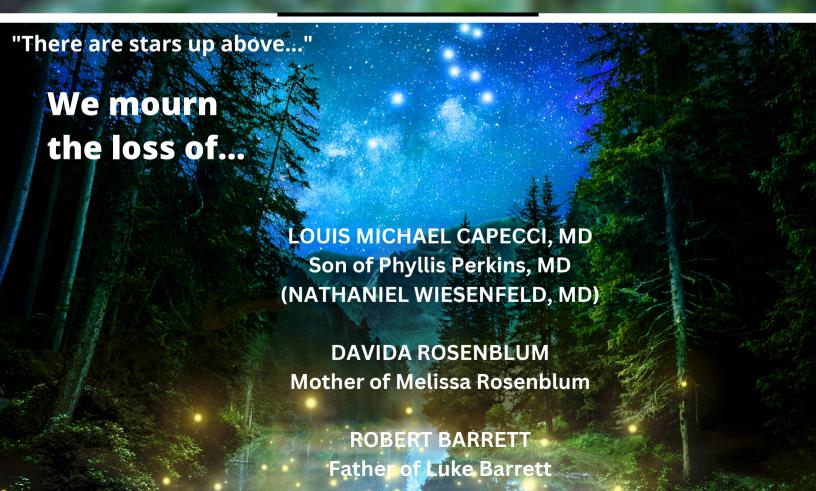


## We share the news of...

## **Mazel tov to:**

Adam & Christine Silverberg on the Bar Mitzvah of their son Nick

David & Alisse Birks on the Bar Mitzvah of their son Aden





## **Covenant Society**

Beth Israel is devoted to being open
to anyone who wishes to participate in Jewish life.
The members of our Covenant Society, through their generosity,
allow us to fulfill this sacred mission.
We thank these families.

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EZRAT YISRAEL (Helpers of Israel) Continued

Tom & Robin Shields
Steve & Pam Sinderbrand
Mark & Lisa Stein
Dr. Glenn & Geri Zuck

We thank those members who wish to remain Anonymous

if you are in a position to do so, please consider participating in our Covenant Society.

This is what enables us to remain open to any and all those who would come to us!



## Life & Legacy contributors

Life and Legacy is a partnership of the Harold Grinspoon Foundation and the Jewish Community of Atlantic and Cape May Counties that promotes after-lifetime giving.

Beth Israel Legacy Donors remember the past and make a promise to the future that Beth Israel will remain a thriving dynamic Jewish home.

Join us on this sacred quest.

Call for more information.

#### THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

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## In Memory Of.

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Recovery of Barbara Scarpa – Rich & Lisa Belkin

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