



pray • learn • celebrate

CONGREGATION BETH EL

AN EGALITARIAN CONSERVATIVE JEWISH CONGREGATION

Beth El E-News

May 11 - 18, 2018 / 26 Iyar - 4 Sivan 5778

Shabbat Behar-Bechukotai BAT MITZVAH OF EMMA JOHNSON

MAZEL TOV TO...

Melissa & Richard Johnson on the Bat Mitzvah of
their daughter, Emma Johnson
and to Ilene & Eric Bosch, Emma's grandparents

SERVICE SCHEDULE

Friday, May 11

7:30 AM Morning Minyan
Hot Breakfast will be served.
6:00 PM Kabbalat Shabbat Services
7:42 PM Candle Lighting

Saturday, May 12

10:00 AM Shabbat Services
Bat Mitzvah of Emma Johnson
10:30 AM Children's Services

Sunday, May 13

8:30 AM Morning Minyan

Monday, May 14

7:30 AM Morning Minyan

Tuesday, May 15 - Rosh Chodesh

7:15 AM Morning Minyan
Rabbi's Jewish Wisdom Class follows.

Wednesday, May 16

7:30 AM Morning Minyan

Thursday, May 17

7:30 AM Morning Minyan

Friday, May 18

7:30 AM Morning Minyan
Hot Breakfast will be served.

CONGREGATION BETH EL INVITES YOU TO JOIN US FOR

Children's Shabbat Services

Children's Services will take place
throughout the year each
Saturday morning in the Music Room
at Congregation Beth El.

10:30 AM - 12:00 PM

Join us for Kiddush immediately
following services.

Join Peri Cook as she leads the Children's
Services each Shabbat with special activities
and stories based on the weekly parsha.

Peri pulls ideas from the torah readings each week and applies them to a craft, group activity or
story telling to help the children connect to the parsha and their Judaism.

Peri has designed Saturday morning Services to be all about Shabbat - using books and a Shabbat-
friendly craft and circle time, creating a wonderful sense of community. If the weather permits,
there is outdoor play time too.

Come join us!

Free of Charge & Open to Everyone!

Please call the synagogue with any questions: 203-374-5544



CONGREGATION BETH EL

1200 Fairfield Woods Road, Fairfield, CT 06425 • 203-374-5544 • www.congbethel.net



Jewish Wisdom Class with Rabbi Kormis

**Tuesday mornings following
minyan.**
Please join us. Everyone welcome!

**Fifth Session of Congregation Beth El
Study & Discussion Group**

**Join us at Beth El on
Wednesday, May 16th at Noon**

Subject:

70 years of Israel Independence:

Personal Reflections:

**Participants will share their most vivid, meaningful,
tragic, humorous story, memory, artifact
or hope regarding the Jewish State.**

The goal is to explore a complex subject in depth through a respectful discussion leading to an understanding of the facts and assumptions that are the basis of our opinions. Individual from the group will present contrasting points of view, which will be the basis of our discussion. Reading materials or videos will be distributed prior to each session. Participants are encouraged to read and view this information in order for the sessions to be productive.

Contact pslipof@optonline.net, if you are interested in attending & want to receive the materials.

Bring a dairy lunch; beverages and munchies will be provided.

The Jewish Founding Father: Alexander Hamilton's Hidden Life



ADULT EDUCATION COMMITTEE PRESENTS:

ANDREW PORWANCHER

**TUESDAY, MAY 15th
Time: 7:30 PM
1200 Fairfield Woods Rd.
Fairfield, CT 06825**

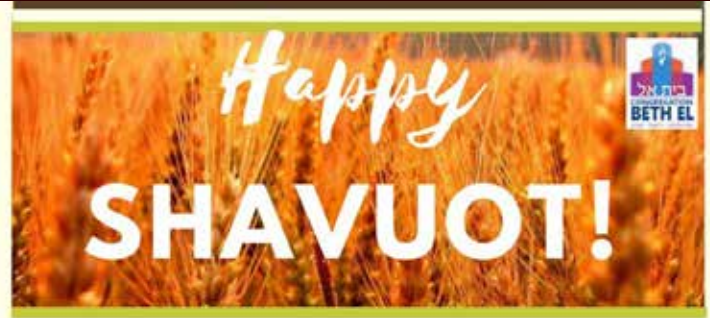


Thousands of miles from the Old World, on a sun-kissed island in the West Indies, a young boy named Alexander Hamilton began a most unlikely journey in the 1750s. His meteoric rise from Caribbean obscurity to American founder has long captivated historians and, more recently, theater audiences. Yet one crucial aspect of Hamilton's life has remained submerged for centuries: the weight of the evidence suggests that he was in fact Jewish. Drawing on untapped sources in the West Indies, Andrew Porwancher makes the case for Hamilton's Jewish upbringing and explores his ongoing relationships with Jews throughout his lifetime.

Andrew Porwancher (Ph.D. Cambridge, A.M. Brown, B.A. Northwestern, summa cum laude) is a core faculty member of the Institute for the American Constitutional Heritage. He is the author of *The Devil Himself: A Tale of Honor, Insanity, and the Birth of Modern America* (Oxford University Press, 2016) and *John Henry Wigmore and the Rules of Evidence: The Hidden Origins of Modern Law* (University of Missouri Press, 2016), an inaugural book of the series "Studies in Constitutional Democracy."

Dr. Porwancher is currently at work on a book entitled *The Jewish Founding Father: Alexander Hamilton's Hidden Life* (under contract with Harvard University Press). In 2015-2016, he served as the Alastair Horne Fellow at the University of Oxford. He is on sabbatical as a Senior Research Fellow at Yeshiva University in the fall of 2017 and the Carwood Fellow at Princeton University in the spring of 2018.

FREE ADMISSION. LIGHT REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED.



Shavuot marks the giving of the Torah - the five books of Moses - to the Jewish people. Traditionally, the holiday is celebrated with a dairy feast. We welcome you to celebrate the holiday with friends and family at Beth El.

Saturday, May 19th

- 6:00 PM: Bring your own dairy dinner
We will serve dessert - make your own ice cream sundaes
- 6:45 PM: Mincha Service
- 7:15 PM: Study session with Justin Beck
"Climbing the Ladder of the Omer"
- 8:00 PM: Musical Interlude with Hazzan Shamash
- 8:15 PM: Study session with Rabbi Kormis
"What Really Happened at Sinai"
- 9:00 PM: Ma'ariv Service

Sunday, May 20th

- 10:00 AM: Shavuot Services
Each Religious School class is preparing its own part for the Shavuot festival service
- 10:45 AM: Program for preschool age children with a parent or caregiver in the school wing
- 12 Noon: Celebratory Kiddush lunch for all, including special Religious School award presentations

Monday, May 21st

- 10:00 AM Shavuot Services
- 11:15 AM Yizkor Service
- Kiddush follows services, sponsored by Sisterhood
- 4:15 PM Ice Cream Party at the home of Brian & Emily Shamash



Join us for a *Shavuot* Celebration!

Monday, May 21, 2018
4:15 pm

at the home of
Hazzan Brian & Emily Shamash
270 Shelter Rock Road
Fairfield

Join us for ice cream sundaes
and an afternoon Mincha service.

Erev Shavuot Bring-Your-Own Family Dinner, Services
& Study Session on Saturday, May 19 at 6:00 PM.

Shavuot Services will be held at Beth El on
Sunday, May 20 & Monday, May 21 at 10:00 AM.

Please RSVP by Friday, May 18 to
203-374-5544 or hazzanshamash@bethelfairfield.org

Brought to you by the Spiritual Life Committee of Congregation Beth El Fairfield
1200 Fairfield Woods Road, Fairfield, CT 06825



THE BOOK THIEF

Based on the novel of the same name.
While subjected to the horrors of World War II Germany,
young Liesel finds solace by stealing books and sharing
them with others. In the basement of her home, a Jewish
refugee is being protected by her adoptive parents.

Tuesday, May 22nd
7:00 PM

1200 Fairfield Woods Road, Fairfield
203-374-5544 • bethelfairfield.org

This program is free and open to the community.
Light refreshments will be served.

SPONSORED BY THE ADULT EDUCATION COMMITTEE
OF CONGREGATION BETH EL

Questions? Contact Amy Sheinberg at sheinbergs@aol.com.

Tzedakah Box May 2018 Charity of the Month is ADL

ADL's Mission is to stop the defamation of the Jewish people
and secure justice for all people, irrespective of religion,
color, national origin, ethnicity, gender and sexual
orientation.

Emma Johnson, a Religious School 7th Grader,
(and this week's Bat Mitzvah)

selected ADL to be featured as a Charity of the Month
in a class contest. Emma's presentation won 3rd prize.
Please support her chosen charity by donating generously.
"How Often is More Important than How Much"

Thank you Fran Glucroft and Amy Gershberg, chairs



BASIC SPONSORED KIDDUSH

\$250
feeds approximately 75 people

This kiddush will include bagels and cream cheese,
egg salad, tuna fish, herring (both wine sauce and
cream sauce if available), crudite with hummus or
guacamole, sliced cheese, one fruit in season,
challah, pastries/cookies, coffee and tea, seltzer
and juice, ceremonial wine, paper goods, paid
custodial and kitchen help.

EXPANDED SPONSORED KIDDUSH

\$360
feeds approximately 75 people

This kiddush will include bagels and cream cheese,
egg salad, tuna fish, whitefish salad, herring (both
wine sauce and cream sauce if available), 4 1/2 lbs.
lox, sliced tomatoes and onions, fruit salad or sliced
fruit as available, sliced cheese, crudite with hummus
and guacamole, pastries/cookies, challah, ceremonial
wine, coffee and tea, seltzer and juice, paper goods,
paid custodial and kitchen help.

In order to offer enough food for your additional guests beyond 75,
there will be an additional cost of \$3.50 per person for the Basic Kiddush
and \$5 per person for the Expanded Kiddush.

OPTIONAL ENHANCEMENTS

With enough notice we may be able to add menu items at additional cost such as tuna pasta salad, quiche,
poached or roasted salmon, whitefish filet, blintzes, French toast, kugel, salads, cheese spreads, mozzarella,
tomato and basil platters, yogurt parfaits, grain dishes, "kid" friendly food such as mac & cheese or pizza bagels,
and additional beverages. These items will be prepped at Beth El by volunteers limiting your cost to product only.

Options to sponsor kiddush for a Bar/Bat Mitzvah, by preparing your own food in our kitchen
or by bringing in a caterer must be discussed in advance with Susan Mittag.

Please help us maintain our commitment to our Kiddush tradition by: sponsoring for an anniversary, a birthday,
retirement, yahrzeit, baby-naming, another milestone or just because! Ask friends and family to sponsor with
you. Partial sponsorships are welcome. Call us with questions.

Susan Mittag: 203-374-5544 congbethel@aol.com or Fran Glucroft: 203-373-1759 fgucroft@gmail.com

Yes, I would like to sponsor a Kiddush.

Basic Kiddush Expanded Kiddush Enhancements (you will be contacted to discuss menu choices)

I/we want to prepare our own food or bring in a caterer

Occasion for sponsoring _____ Estimated # of guests beyond 75 _____

Name _____

Phone _____ Email address _____

Please return this form to: Congregation Beth El, 1200 Fairfield Woods Road, Fairfield, CT 06825

**TZEDAKAH PROJECT
CHARITY OF THE MONTH:**

MAY 2018



Mission to stop the defamation of the Jewish people and secure justice for all people, irrespective of religion, color, national origin, ethnicity, gender and sexual orientation remains intact and relevant, even a century after its founding.

Our Jewish values inform our work and the change we seek in the world. These values also guide the strategy and tactics of all of our programs and activities globally, nationally and locally.

Emma Johnson, a Religious School 7th Grader, selected ADL to be featured as a Charity of the Month in a class contest. Emma's presentation won 1st prize. Please join us in wishing her a *laila hakavod* and support her chosen charity by donating generously.

*Amy Gerilberg & Fran Clouff
Chairwomen of the Tzedakah Project*

"How Often is More Important than How Much"

**Make Someone
Happy with a Brick
Fundraiser!**

Congregation Beth El Fairfield is pleased to announce a new BRICK WALKWAY along the main entrance of our Synagogue!

You can simply list your family name or commemorate one of life's simchas – either in the past or near future. Please think about purchasing the lifelong gift of an engraved brick. Not only are you helping to build a more beautiful entrance to the Synagogue, but you are also making a permanent mark by investing in Congregation Beth El Fairfield! With your support, we are looking forward to a new brick walkway installed by Rosh Hashanah!

YOUR CHOICE OF BRICKS:

4" x 8" \$72

Three lines, 20 characters per line

8" x 8" \$118

Eight lines, 20 characters per line

Engraving Suggestions:

In Honor of the Marriage of
Mollie and Jake Horowitz
June 1, 2017

In Honor of the Birth of
.....
September 19, 2005

The Goldfarb Family
Bar/Bat Mitzvah of
April 16, 2014

25th Anniversary of
Steve and Marcy Kramer
August 24, 2017

The Congregation Beth El Brick Campaign order form is attached. Or download the brick order form and drop it off at the synagogue office with your payment, or return it via email with your payment method.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Mitch Podob or Steve Robifker at bricks@bethelfairfield.org

**Leave a lasting legacy with your words set in stone!
Don't miss the opportunity to honor the special people in your life!**

Thank you, in advance, for your generous support!

Congregation Beth El Fairfield • 1200 Fairfield Woods Road, Fairfield, CT 06825 • 203-374-5544

**CLICK HERE FOR
BRICK ORDER FORM**

**PLANT TREES IN ISRAEL
& SUPPORT BETH EL**

As a member of Beth El, which is an affiliate congregation of United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism, we have an opportunity to earn money for our synagogue when you participate in one of the following:

- Plant Trees in Israel in honor of friends or loved ones.
- Make a donation to any of JNF's many projects in Israel.
- Purchase anything from the JNF store.

It's easy, quick and doesn't cost you anything extra! Buy or donate through the JNF/USCJ button on our synagogue website and 20% will go back to Beth El. Another 5% will go to United Synagogue to support congregational Israel programs. Help Israel through the work of JNF.

CLICK HERE TO GO TO THE BETH EL WEBSITE

Spread the word to your friends and family! All orders and donations must originate from the JNF/United Synagogue button on our synagogue's website to be credited to this program.

You can also call 1-800-542-TREE (8733) and mention our congregation.

Go to our website, www.congbethel.net and click on the box (sample below) located on our

We are collecting dresses, shoes, purses and jewelry for The Cinderella Project, which benefits teen girls in the Southeast Bronx, the poorest Congressional district in our country. Please help. Collection deadline is Thursday May 24th.



**Prom & Party
Dresses
Needed
lightly
worn**



Collection Box at Beth El Lobby

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO ATTEND THE
GRADUATION CEREMONY OF
THE MERKAZ CLASS OF 2018 / 5778

Jewish Senior Services
4200 Park Avenue, Bridgeport

Sunday Evening, June 3rd at 7:30 P.M.



Luke Adelstein		Rachel Portnay
Jennifer Ball	Anarina Gross	Brooke Fowning
Samantha Ballas	Shayna Cruder	Jenna Rosenstein
Morgan Beck	Margalit Hausman	Rachel Salem
Shane Carley	Allison Hazen	Joshua Stein
Benjamin Dachman	Gabrielle Hirsch	Diana Wallet
Josh David	Kaleigh Karmal	Andrew Weinstein
Melanie DeAngelo	Sophia Pappas	Daniel Wolfeiler
Alyson Dentz	Caroline Podob	Jake Yellen
Adam Frank		Matthew Yellen

*Please Join Us At A Reception
To Honor The Graduates Following The Ceremony*

Merkaz Receives Funding from the Federation for Jewish Philanthropy of Upper Fairfield County, the Synagogues of Eastern Fairfield County, Family Foundations, and Private Donors

home page, under the photo of our building. Just follow the instructions to plant your trees or make a donation to JNF. And while you are there, take a look at our website as well!

Supporting Israel Helps Our Synagogue

Plant Trees with JNF



The United Synagogue
of Conservative Judaism



Jewish
National Fund

Please note that all donations will be charged in U.S. dollars by JNF-US.

All donors will receive an immediate electronic receipt from JNF-US.

Contact Info:

Susan Mittag,

Executive Director

203-374-5544 / smittag@bethelfairfield.org

1200 Fairfield Woods Road, Fairfield, CT 06825

CHECK OUT BETH EL'S WEBSITE!

www.bethelfairfield.org

For your convenience, sign-up forms for current events are available on the website.

CONGREGATION BETH EL



OPERATION
HOPE

MONTHLY MEAL PROJECT

DID YOU KNOW?

- The Operation Hope Community Kitchen serves over 40,000 meals a year.
- Congregation Beth El is responsible for providing 1,500 meals a year.
- You can help by signing up to provide a dinner for 50 people. Prepare your own meal or purchase a catered meal from your favorite market.
- You can make a donation to the new Operation Hope Fund. Your proceeds will be used towards a meal when there is a volunteer gap.



READY TO HELP?

If you would like to volunteer to prepare a meal for Operation Hope, please complete the form below and return to the Beth El office or email Jeni Cook-Mack at jenicook@hotmail.com. Meals should be brought over to 50 Nichols Street in Fairfield (around the corner from the police station) between 2:00 and 3:00 PM on your chosen day. Label all containers with your name(s) AND Congregation Beth El. Please also label each container with the contents. Thank you for your help!

You will be reminded of your date and you will be thanked!

**Yes, I/we want to provide a meal to the Operation Hope Community Kitchen.
Please contact me using the phone or email information below.**

Yes, I/we would like to contribute to the fund to provide a meal when there is a volunteer gap. Enclosed is my check in the amount of \$ _____. (Made payable to Congregation Beth El)

Name _____
Street/City/State/Zip _____
Phone _____ Email _____

Return form to Congregation Beth El, 1200 Fairfield Woods Road, Fairfield, CT 06825