

**BEN & BERNICE
FITERMAN B'NAI
MITZVAH PROGRAM**



Beth El

SPRING/SUMMER 2019



Schwartzberg family volunteering for the Mitzvah Event: Family Hamantaschen Baking

**Packing Your Bags – What
Will You Take With You?**

It's Time To Pack: Don't Forget...

I don't know about you, but I stress out about packing, so much so, that I often start laying things out on a bed weeks before my departure date.

Whether you are going to camp, travelling to Israel or leaving for college, I know that you will have the basics covered: underwear, pajamas, clothing, comfortable shoes, toiletries, electronics, photos and other miscellaneous items.

I have some things that I hope you will have added to your list prior to your departure.

They are not things that will take up room in your suitcase, however, they will definitely provide you with warm fuzzies while you are away.

We hope that you will take with you memories of....

- Celebrating Shabbat at Beth El
- Students and their staff working together to attain goals
- Wonderful relationships between students and their teachers
- The excitement of testing out of a t'fillah unit or a Bayit Skill
- The fulfilment you as a teacher feels when a student tests out of a t'fillah you worked so hard on with them
- Learning a new trope in preparation for your Torah reading
- Participating in the 5th-6th grade Shabbaton
- Attending site visits with Mitzvah Corps
- Staff development sessions aimed at helping you, the teacher, in your teaching and in personal development
- The many wonderful encounters you had with Rabbi Davis, Rabbi Olitzky and Cantor Abrams.
- Mary's encouragement every step of the way
- Being part of the warm and welcoming Beth El community.

I hope that these memories will be a source of comfort and inspiration to you wherever you may be and however long you will be gone. Please don't forget us; we won't forget you.

Mary Baumgarten, Education Director

CAMP & ISRAEL PROGRAM SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Did you know that because of the support of a variety of donors, we were able to give out \$33,000 in scholarships this year?

Shira Aronow	Daniel Goldenberg	Andre Kristal	Molly Schochet
Ben Aronow	Wyatt Greenberg	Seth Kristal	Anya Schwartzberg
Marissa Beugen	Kalman Greenberger	Zoe Lipschultz	Sofia Seewald
Noah Bulgatz	Noa Gross	Isaac Lipschultz	Matthew Shapiro
Sidney Bulgatz	Carly Herman	Ruby Livon	Lauren Vegas
Tomi Bundt	Tyler Herman	Isabel Nathan	Eitan Weinstein
Libby Cohen	Gabriel Kahn	Johnna Parks	Max Yousha
Micah Davis	Gabriel Kaplan	Julia Salita	Jonah Yousha
Lily Feinberg	Elijah Kaufman	Taubie Sanders	Sarah Yousha
Mabel Glaser			

Mazal tov to our scholarship recipients. Enjoy your summer!

A special thank you to our TaRBuT Master Teachers, Teen and College Teaching Staff, Sunday Torah Plus teachers and Haftarah tutors who are all the pillars of our program.

TARBUT MASTER TEACHERS

Talor Blustin
Lex Dorfman
Sam Herman
Lilly Kaufman
Elaine Sadoff
Brenda Schwartzberg
Bill Torodor
Sheryl Sue Warren
Volunteer: Howard Sadoff

SUNDAY TORAH PLUS TEACHERS

Susie Chalom, Nevi'im Specialist
Steve Greenberg, T'fillin/T'filah Specialist
Rachel Klein
Danny Levey
Larry Pepper
Dana Yugend-Pepper
Nina Shragg
Eitan Weinstein

TARBUT LEAD TESTER

LilyAnne Bernard

HAFTARAH TUTORS

Randi Anderson
Abbey Baker
Diane Baumwald
Etta Bernstein, Haftarah Tutor & Torah Trope Teacher
Amy Shapiro
Naomi Zuk-Fisher

TARBUT TEEN AND COLLEGE TEACHING STAFF

Shira Aronow	Sophie Goldenberg	Mira Malka
Ben Aronow	Wyatt Greenberg	Ethan Meisler
Noah Bulgatz	Ivy Greenberg	Johnna Parks
A.J. Bulgatz	Kalman Greenberger	Lucy Rendleman
Tomi Bundt	Noa Gross	Dani Rosen
Izzi Gilbert Burke	Daniel Grossman	Julia Salita
Libby Cohen	Gabrielle Herman	Taubie Sanders
Alexa David	Gabe Kahn	Molly Schochet
Anthony David	Gabe Kaplan	Anya Schwartzberg
Koby Davis	Deana Karchevsky	Sofia Seewald
Yonah Davis	Justin Krelitz	Matthew Shapiro
Leo Dworsky	Mathew Krelitz	Jonah Smith
Daniel Eyal	Andre Kristal	Lauren Vegas
Lily Feinberg	Seth Kristal	Elana Warren
Haya Fine	Isaac Lipschultz	Sarah Yousha
Daniel Goldenberg		

STUDENTS AND TEACHERS OF THE MONTH (MARCH & APRIL)

STUDENTS

1ST YEAR

Max Gottstein
Dahlia Karch
Nathan Lewis
Sophia Moldo
Andre Rees
Des Rubenstein
Ilan Schein
Brianna Schwartzberg
Max Walstien
Asher Zipkin

2ND YEAR

Lauren Fraser
Lily Kurman
Torii Schmidt
Sophia Segal

3RD YEAR
Jonah Kaufman
Isaac Sanders
Jacob Weiss

RIMONIM

Mabel Glaser
Eli Kaufman

TEACHERS

1ST YEAR

A.J. Bulgatz
Alexa David
Anya Schwartzberg

2ND YEAR

Anthony David
Daniel Grossman

3RD YEAR

Shira Aronow
Chaya Fine

RIMONIM

Talor Blustin
Sophie Goldenberg

Our Four Children and their B'nai Mitzvah Experiences

by Michelle Yousha



The Yousha family celebrating Jonah & Max's b'nai mitzvah in October 2018.

Whew...At the end of the bar/bat mitzvah weekend, a happy feeling of relief and exhaustion settles in. As each of our three weekends culminated, pride, accomplishment and gratitude filled us up. These events were a milestone in the Jewish journey, but certainly not an end.

As I reflect on the b'nai mitzvah of our four children, my heart is full of warm memories of the day of Abigail's Bat Mitzvah in 2012, Sarah's Bat Mitzvah in 2015, and Max and Jonah's B'nai Mitzvah in 2018. However, not just the individual days, but the entire process and our deep daily connection to Judaism come to mind.

For my family, preparing is not just about the day of, but rather a path of Jewish learning and real-life engagement as we moved towards this significant milestone and now beyond. Fortunately for us, this is an integral mission of Beth El's B'nai Mitzvah program as well.

In fifth grade, Beth El students enter the TaRBuT program to begin preparation. Unlike many training programs, this one focuses on learning to be able to participate and lead throughout their lives. When I studied for my own Bat Mitzvah, it was in preparation for the day of and with the assistance of a cassette tape - memorizing Torah, Haftarah, and all the prayers that I would recite or lead on the bimah on that day. In contrast, my four children alongside their peers and individually with the Rabbis, Cantor, and teachers, learned the lifelong skills of reading Torah and leading prayer by examining the text, learning Torah and Haftarah trope, and understanding the "whys" behind the various traditions, services, and commandments.

At our simchas, our out of town family members who came to share in celebration, smothered us with positive feedback about the vibrant Shabbat community of engagement that is Beth El. At Max and Jonah's B'nai Mitzvah, one cousin said, "It is amazing to see learning going on in every single nook and around every corner."

To me, having TaRBuT take place on Shabbat morning is genius. It welcomes families to Beth El, builds community, and creates a deeper connection and commitment to Shabbat for our children. Additionally, via Junior Congregation, the TaRBuT students actually experience the spirituality of communal prayer as they recite in a service setting.

Following their B'nai Mitzvah, all of our children continue to come to Beth El on Shabbat mornings to attend services, to learn to teach in the Rimonim post B'nai Mitzvah program, and to be TaRBuT teaching and testing staff. For all of this, we are grateful.

VOLUNTEERS

Sue Blehert, Mitzvah Corps Liaison
Riva Kupritz, Scholarship Committee Co-Chair
Pam Lehman, Divrei Torah Rehearsal Tutor
Elise Lieberthal, Scholarship Committee Co-Chair
Debbie Mann, Divrei Torah Rehearsal Tutor
Howard Sadoff, Tutor
Penny Sanderson, Administrative Support

Mitzvah Events Committee: Abbey Baker, Andrea Binder, Michelle Fraser, Michelle Gendlin, Liz Grossman, Becky Kristal, Lori Kurman, Carolyn Mirviss, Michelle Parks and Naomi Zuk Fisher

Scholarship Committee: Abbey Baker, Betsy Birnberg, Roni Falck, Dani Fischer, Amy Friedman, Nancy Gildin, Jeff Gottstein, Mike Klein, Lori Kurman, Jill Lewis, Abigail Loyd, Amanda Simpson, Dori Weinstein and Amy Weiss

Thank you to all of our volunteers. We couldn't do it without you.

B'NAI MITZVAH: February - August 2019

Sarah Binder	Addie Mirviss
Sadie Feldman	Beatrice Moldow
Ashley Gendlin	Henry Salita
Lily Greenberger	Oliver Salita
Dahlia Herman	Ben Simpson
Jonah Kaufman	Zoey Tenenbaum
Abby Meisler	Eliana Wolfe
Nina Miller	

WE HONOR OUR GRADUATES...

TARBUT SENIORS & THE COLLEGES THEY WILL ATTEND

LilyAnne Bernard.....Pace University, NYC
Anthony DavidIowa State University
Yonah Davis.....University of Wisconsin: Madison
Sophie GoldenbergVanderbilt University, Tennessee
Aodhtan GrossTulane University, New Orleans, LA
Gigi HermanUniversity of Wisconsin: Eau Claire

8TH GRADE TALMUD TORAH GRADUATES

Cece Cohen
Josi Fiterman
Sasha Fogel
Carly Herman
Eli Kaufman
Talia Rodich
Sally Rendleman
Noah Rutman
Juliana Seewald

8TH GRADE HMJDS GRADUATES

Jonathan Cohen
Micah Davis
Johanna Kaplan
Vanya Kase
Ruby Livon
Jack Mintz
Isabel Nathan

*Mazal tov to all of our graduates.
May you continue from strength to strength.*

IT DIDN'T SEEM REAL...

By Jacob Weiss



September 14th, 2019 – that date seemed so far away when I learned my bar mitzvah date in August 2017.

It didn't seem real when I first started preparing for my bar mitzvah. There was so much to learn and a whole process to get through before then. Now that I am five months away and almost finished with TaRBuT and Torah Plus, it seems much more real.

I feel like I learned a lot in fifth and sixth grade and the program is set up in a way that it is fun while you are learning. You are learning with friends and are learning from other former students – some that recently had their own bar or bat mitzvah.

Learning trope was a challenge at first but I enjoyed digging into my parsha and learning what was unique about my part. I liked talking with Rabbi Davis about my parsha and thought it was cool that he could pull out ancient texts to help me answer my questions.

The date comes faster than you think, and all of your hard work pays off. I am proud to say that I learned something every time I attended my sessions in TaRBuT, Nevi'im and Torah Plus.

Mitzvah Events

FAMILY HAMENTASCHEN BAKING



Chandler/Windhorst family hard at work baking hamentaschen



Olivia Chandler & Johnna Parks having fun baking hamentaschen

BRING YOUR DOG TO SHOLOM HOME



Taliah Eyal at Sholom Home to visit residents with her dog

Fiterman Mitzvah Corps – It’s Not What You Think

By Justin Krelitz

Mitzvah Corps is a program for 8th graders at Beth El to learn about philanthropy and performing mitzvot. At least that’s what I thought it was at first. But that isn’t right at all. Mitzvah Corps is a program that teaches kids about tikkun olam, repairing the world. It equips participants with the tools they need to be successful when giving or helping others. As Jews, one of our core beliefs is making the world a better place. Mitzvah Corps taught me why and how to do this.

On one of our site visits, we went to a place called Perspectives. Perspectives is an organization that is dedicated to breaking cycles of poverty and helping families. When we went there, we played board games with kids and then ate dinner with them. It was great! A couple of weeks later I found myself there again. Now I volunteer every week. I help kids, and also our community.

I am so grateful that Mitzvah Corps exists at Beth El and that I participated in the program.



Justin Krelitz with Chef Dan from Kids’ Cafe at Perspectives

Mitzvah Corps Grants

Due to the generosity of the Fiterman Family, our Mitzvah Corps program teaches 8th graders about philanthropy. They visit four local organizations and then allocate monies to them after reviewing their grant applications. Mitzvah Corps participants made the following allocations this year:

Minneapolis Jewish Federation.....	\$600
JCRC.....	\$700
Perspectives.....	\$1,000
Cookie Cart	\$700

Our heartfelt thanks to the Fiterman Family for underwriting the costs of our Mitzvah Corps Program.

Mitzvah Corps Visit To Cookie Cart



***Mabel Glaser and Justin Krelitz
baking in the Cookie Cart kitchen***



***Sabrina Rubenstein baking cookies with
one of Cookie Cart's teen employees***



***Brian Krelitz, Mabel Glaser, Sabrina Rubenstein, Mary Baumgarten,
Johanna Kaplan, Micah Davis and Justin Krelitz at Cookie Cart***

Pack Your Jewish Self

Ahhh...It's Almost Summer!

You're off to camp...off to college...off to work...about to embark on a year of travel...going away for the summer or to begin the next chapter of your life. Whoo hoo!!! Exciting times. What can you take with you besides your clothes, electronics, sunscreen? If you're off to camp, bring your skills at leading services – or parts of; your ability to read Torah and/or haftarah; your knowledge of t'fillah. Bring it all and share it with your fellow campers. If you're off to begin the next chapter of your life, take these same skills and join a Hillel on a college campus, find a Moishe House wherever you are, or find a synagogue teaching job in Torah. Stay involved!

You are rock stars and can do...you know how! Don't be afraid to make mistakes. Pack your courage and faith. Pack your Jewish self and bring it with pride wherever you go. And in that way, you'll have an instant community – one that will feel familiar, safe, and nurturing.

And most importantly...have a great time. We will be so happy to see you when you return.

Cantor Audrey Abrams

Bringing Camp Home

I used to love my summers as a teenager – whether it was camp, or a USY summer program, or another organized Jewish activity. For me it was the place I could really be myself. As we reflect on the summer, we often think about what we want to take with us. There are so many items – tangible and not – that help us further grow and mature and develop. But what we often forget is that which we need to leave behind. I was only able to be myself when I made sure to leave my troubles and worries back at home.

Perhaps it was much easier in an age without social media and smartphones (we would always come home to hear from our neighbors about the movies and songs we missed over the summer). Still, it was something that ensured that I could really walk my path in life. This is what we want for our children. This is why they spend all year counting down until camp begins. This is why they say things like, “I may reside in St. Louis Park, but I live at Camp Ramah.” We want our kids to really live. We want them to thrive.

At the essence of Judaism is the balance of inclusion but also separation. God created the world through separation; kashrut is predicated on separation; even the service that we recite to end Shabbat is Havdalah—separation. Today it is our challenge to separate ourselves from the world of the school year and embrace and immerse ourselves in our Jewish summers. And then our goal, if we go about it correctly, is that, instead of focusing on what we should be bringing with us, we can focus on what to be bringing back.

Rabbi Avi Olitzky