

The Star

Bi-monthly newsletter from
Congregation Beth Elohim
in Acton, Massachusetts



Having trouble viewing in email? [View as Webpage](#).

January/February 2025 • Tevet/Shevat 5785

- Scientists Are Welcome at Beth Elohim
- CBE and Na'aseh Help Alleviate Food Insecurity
- Recalling the Early Days of CBE: Jeff and Marlene Bergart
- Joyfully Jewish into the School Year
- The People of Chelm Want to Know...
- Lifecycle and Milestone Events in our Community
- Calendar
- Donations
- Resources
- Feedback/get in touch

In this issue...

Shalom! 2025 has arrived with many blessings, including several wonderful pieces submitted to us for this issue of The Star. We thank contributors Bob Ferrara, Sarah Coletti, Jeff Bergart, Chips Naparstek, Cindy Kalish and Robin Young. We had hoped to have this issue ready closer to the first of the year — but, as we all know, the holidays were a double-whammy this time around, with latkes and eggnog in stiff competition.

We hope you take time to savor each and every one of the treasures within. If the length of this issue causes any technical or spam filter issues at your end, please let us know at communications@bethelohim.org.

Here's to being Joyfully Jewish in 2025!

Scientists Are Welcome at Beth Elohim



Sinai and
Synapses

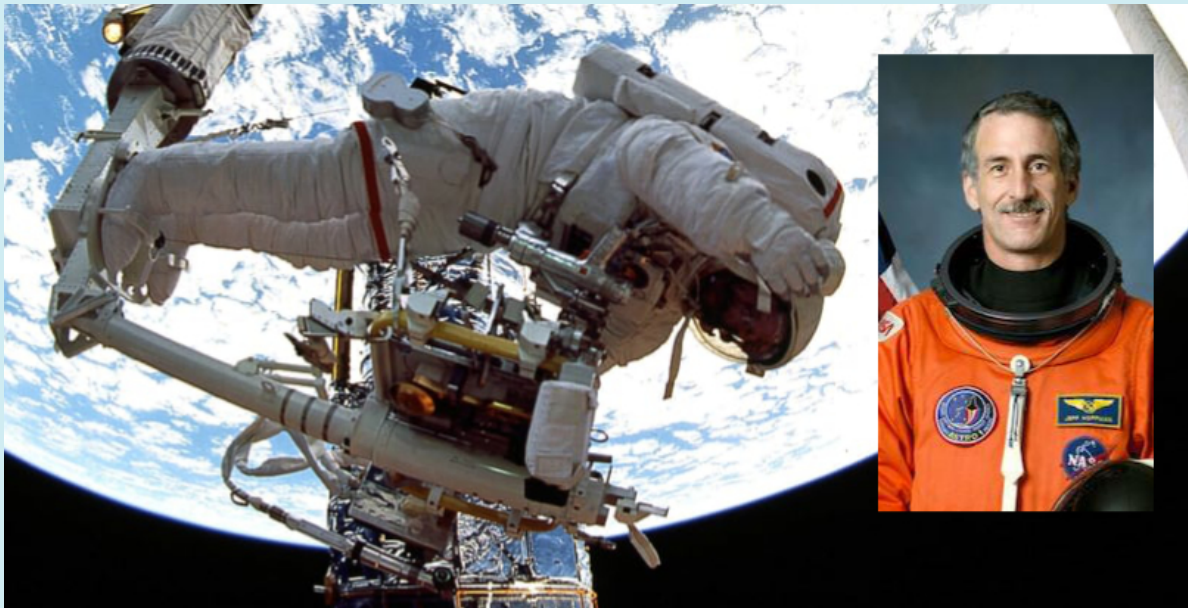
Scientists in Synagogues

By Bob Ferrara

Back in 2023, Beth Elohim was one of just 15 communities selected to receive a very special "Scientists in Synagogues" grant. The grant award provided funds and support for us to host six top flight scientists in cooperation with the CBE Brotherhood's Sunday Breakfast Series.

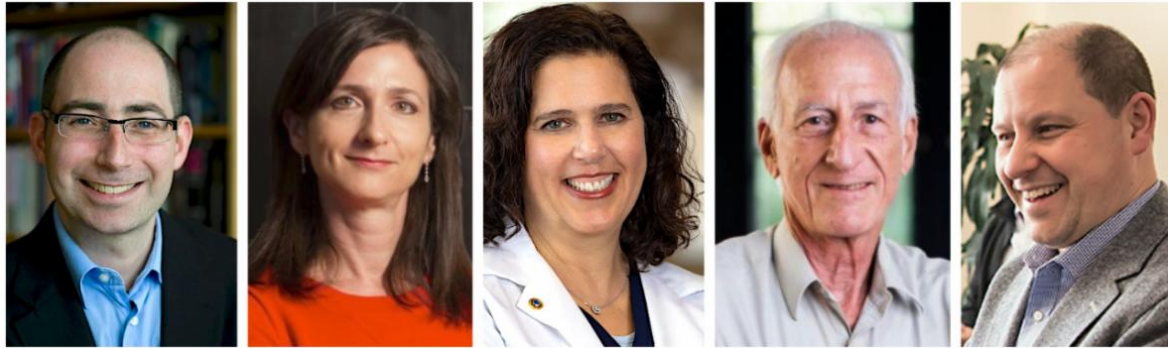
Rabbi David first heard about the grant opportunity and brought it to the attention of congregant Joe Formaggio. Joe, an MIT Physics Professor and a top flight scientist himself, created a team which successfully applied for the grant and then organized the CBE program. Every speaker had something important to share.

For example, one popular speaker, Astronaut Jeff Hoffman, was the first person to take a Torah scroll into space. These two photos are from his "[Space Torah](#)" project.



We live in a region with many outstanding scientists so recruiting really cool speakers was not as difficult as you might think. Perhaps a more important success factor was partnering with the Brotherhood. Andrew Gruskay and Dan Carp provided excellent logistical and technical support, while Don Hoban and the outstanding Brotherhood breakfast crew offered their great breakfasts at every occasion. After all, what's an engaging event without good food!

While not a scientist by training, Rabbi David is certainly interested in science. So for his introductions to several of the talks, he was able to make connections to Torah and Jewish teaching. In fact, the grant organization's newsletter of November 26, 2024 led off with his preview of a presentation by MIT astrophysicist Sara Seager. The article had the engaging – and accurate – title of ["A Jewish Take on the Search for Extraterrestrial Life"](#).



The five scientists that we have hosted: Professor David Kaiser, "Einstein's Legacy: Studying Gravity in War and Peace" (October 15, 2023); Professor Sara Seager, "Planetary Atmospheres and the Search for Signs of Life Beyond Earth" (December 17, 2023); Dr. Robyn Cohen, "Asthma disparities: A journey towards helping kids and families breathe a little easier" (March 2, 2024); Professor and astronaut Jeffrey Hoffman (May 12, 2024); Professor Ezra Zuckerman Sivan, "The 7 Day Week: The Surprising Science of this Jewish Gift to the World" (November 24, 2024).

For descriptions of the talks – along with recordings of several of them – visit www.bethelohim.org/scientists.

Besides Rabbi David and Joe, the speaker program team included congregants Bob Ferrara, Rachelle Horwitz-Martin, and Matt Liebman. As of this writing, they are still seeking to organize one final tour next spring to a vital local laboratory engaged in world-class science. Stay tuned!

*Members of the CBE
"Science in the Synagogue"
team in action (top to
bottom):*

*Rabbi David and Joe
Formaggio attending a kick-
off program in New York
City after we were accepted
into the program.*

*Matt Liebman making a
presentation to the*

sponsoring organization
about our talks.

*Bob Ferrara and Matt
Liebman with MIT Professor
Ezra Zuckerman Sivan at
his talk on November 24,
2024.*

*Professor Zuckerman Sivan
kept us very entertained!*



CBE and Na'aseh Help Alleviate Food Insecurity

By Sarah Coletti, chair of Na'aseh

The line formed even before we got there to prepare for last week's Christmas dinner. By the time the doors opened at Cor Unum, there were more people than could be seated in the hall. The team, which included about 15 people from CBE and some 8 or 10 regular staff quickly got to work serving the waves of people arriving for a dinner of cocktail shrimp, salad, ham and roast beef, carrots, potatoes with a cupcake for dessert. Glasses and cups were kept full of juice, milk, water and coffee. The servers and dish washing crew kept busy for a couple of hours. Around 200 people were served.

CBE has been staffing Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and Easter dinners for a couple of decades. Lori Lotterman for the past fourteen years has organized teams of 12-20 volunteers to help feed needy people of Lawrence. It is just one of the food initiatives that Na'aseh, our social justice group, supports.

Below, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day crews (2024), kitchen prep photos (2022)





Though Acton and its surrounding towns are wealthier on average than Lawrence, we too have residents who struggle with food insecurity. More than 1,000 residents live at the federal poverty level in Acton and Boxborough, according to 2019 Census Data. Community Supper in Acton, served weekly at Mount Calvary Church, provides nutritious meals to all who come. Four or five times a year Congregation Beth Elohim sponsors the meal which serves some 60–80 guests. Barbara Frank is chief cook and organizer of the CBE-hosted events. Funds to support this effort come from the Alex Young Fund (donations welcome). Na'aseh and Sisterhood also underwrite some meals.

The number of local families receiving food assistance has risen dramatically since the

pandemic (up 61%). Local and regional food pantries exist to serve these families with the help of donors like Na'aseh. One ongoing effort is our collection box for Family Table, a food pantry run by JF&CS, Jewish Family and Children Services in Waltham. The raisins and whole wheat crackers people drop off in the bin at the front door of CBE contribute to the offerings that are packaged and delivered by volunteers throughout eastern Massachusetts. Melissa Kaplan Morse leads this effort, having first become involved with Family Table when her son chose it as a bar mitzvah project, years ago.

Na'aseh has also been involved in food drives to benefit Acton and Stow food pantries. Rick Silverman has helped organize our High Holiday food drive, collecting grocery bags of food donated by congregants and delivering truckloads to the food pantries.

Our latest initiative for helping to fill the food needs of people in our local community is the Mini Pantry. The idea came from Eagle Scout, Mattias LaCroix, who built and installed the mini pantry, with the support and coordination of Barbara Frank. The mini-pantry is available when the larger food pantries are not so serves as a good backup for people needing to supplement their larder. Hebrew school students and members of Sisterhood, Brotherhood, Choir, and Na'aseh have all helped to make sure the mini pantry is kept replenished from the kitchen cabinet Na'aseh keeps stocked.

Income inequality has sharply risen in the past decade. While it is sad that such a need exists in our largely wealthy community, we can be proud of the generosity of our members who donate time, money, and food to help. Na'aseh will continue to advance those efforts.

Sign up for Na'aseh News by e-mailing socialaction@bethelohim.org to keep up to date on these and our other social justice actions.

Top: Jodie Zwirn, Barbara Frank, Emily Blumberg, and Lindsay Rosenman at the Community Supper. Middle: Kitchen crew at work at Mount Calvary Church preparing the Community Supper. Bottom: Lindsay Rosenman, Eagle Scout Mattias LaCroix, Barbara Frank, Rabbi David, and Na'aseh chair Sarah Coletti with the well-stocked mini-pantry.



Recalling the Early Days of CBE: Jeff and Marlene Bergart

We continue our feature of



interviews with members who helped bring CBE into being. In asking these folks to tell us about their origins with CBE, we hope to also learn more about our congregation's humble beginnings -- and what it meant to have a Jewish community born in Acton. This month we feature Jeff and Marlene Bergart.: Here is their story — and CBE's — in their own words.

Jeff & Marlene celebrating 17,000 days of marriage at Lake Louise.

Married in 1976, we couldn't afford a home in the "Jewish" communities of Lexington or Newton. But we wanted to be somewhere where we could invest in and be part of building a thriving Jewish community for our family.

In 1977, after Jeff got a new job with DEC in Maynard, we moved from Arlington, MA to the "sticks" of Acton. There were cows at the end of our street and very few Jewish names in the phone book. But we had heard of a small active Jewish group in town and Marlene discovered that the local Triple-A (Donelan's) market even had some borscht on the shelf, albeit covered in dust!

We began going to services in Maynard (at Rodoff Shalom) led by a small, devoted group called Congregation Beth Elohim (which had been incorporated in 1973). Services were led by a wonderful young, at-the-time lay leader, named Lewis Mintz in a small house converted into a temple. The Hebrew school used a door across a bathtub as the teacher's desk!

Jeff, a finance guy, volunteered to become CBE's Treasurer in 1978. Gerry Finkle handed Jeff a shoe box full of bills, receipts, and a check book — so Jeff set up the first "modern" CBE accounting system, complete with financial statements for members and the board.

In 1979 we had 48 member families and dues were \$500. We started looking for an existing building in Acton to buy to call home. Many places were examined but none seemed to fit the bill. So, Jeff began to raise money to pay for architectural plans for a new temple to be built on the land CBE had bought several years earlier (see newspaper article below).

Congregation Beth Elohim to build synagogue in Acton

By DORRIS HILBERG

ACTON — A permanent home for Congregation Beth Elohim is closer to reality following a recent vote of the member families who approved a plan to build a new synagogue in Acton. The congregation, all members of the Jewish faith, consists of 48 families from the Acton-Concord area, who have been meeting at Temple Rodoff Shalom in Maynard for several years.

The decision of the congregation was made at a meeting on Tuesday, August 29, when 26 out of 29 families voted to go ahead with plans to construct their first and permanent Temple in the town of Acton.

According to Denis Friedman, co-chairman of the committee which explored all the possibilities of building the new synagogue, preliminary plans call for a one-story structure with a basement, and which would contain classrooms. A sanctuary would contain approximately 1300 sq. ft., and the building would cover short-term needs of the congregation, providing space for classroom instruction. Although a separate committee has been formed to handle the financial portion of the project, Friedman estimated

that the cost of the new synagogue would be in the neighborhood of \$130,000. Funds will be raised from among the member families of Congregation Beth Elohim, and Friedman indicated that they will "look for and accept additional help where offered."

Friedman estimated that the Jewish community in Acton could include 150-200 families, and that the new structure would interest other members of the faith to join the congregation. The congregation hopes to be able to afford a full time Rabbi to tend to their needs; the present Rabbi is Louis Mintz of Natick.

The present membership includes families from Acton, Concord, Stow, Boxborough and Littleton.

"Once we're established," said Friedman, "we'll need all the help we can get." With the vote of the congregation to go ahead with plans to construct the new synagogue, a substantial financial burden will be assumed by the member families whose dream of a permanent home for their congregation becomes a reality.

Initial plans call for groundbreaking for the new synagogue in the spring or early summer of 1979.

Once we had the plans, we still needed a mortgage to proceed. By now we had 68 members, and everyone agreed that we ALL had to stay members to afford the cost. Also, to get a mortgage from The Co-operative Bank, we needed guarantors. Sixteen families anonymously stepped forward, each guaranteeing \$10,000 of the mortgage. That was a huge amount of money for young families just starting out back then!!

When Rodoff Shalom sold their building, they generously donated the proceeds to CBE. Jeff made the somewhat controversial call to use the funds for paving the parking lot instead of installing air conditioning. He told the Board that "G-d will provide." Sure enough, when word got around about not affording air conditioning, several families scheduled to have B'nai Mitzvot the following summer came forward with the funds needed to install the AC.

The dedication of the new temple was a huge event in town! On the day of the dedication, Jeff organized a march of the Torah scrolls from Maynard to their new home in Acton. Tears were in everyone's eyes as we marched up Route 27, around the temple and stopped inside at the synagogue doors and Rabbi Mintz affixed the mezuzah. And as part of Acton's ecumenical spirit the local church groups threw our kitchen crew out of the kitchen saying, "Go celebrate, we've got this."

Jeff, at center, in the march from Maynard to Acton. Marlene, not pictured here, is in the back pushing a stroller.



The “First” Temple came in on time and on budget. The first mortgage was paid off when the Temple was later expanded, and the guarantors were relieved of their obligations. Jeff retired as Treasurer in 1985.

Since then, CBE has grown and become a real part of Acton’s religious community. Rabbi Mintz, after speaking at an ABRHS graduation glowingly reported overhearing an elderly non-Jewish couple call him “the town Rabbi.” Yom Kippur became a school vacation day, and many more Jewish foods found their way to the shelves of Acton’s markets.

The Bergarts continue to be active in the Temple. Jeff has been on the board in different capacities over the years and Sous Chef Jeff has been part of the Brotherhood’s kitchen crew from its inception. Two of their most memorable experiences have been attending CBE’s two-year Me’ah program and CBE’s 2016 trip to Israel.

CBE's 2016 trip to Israel — in front of the Wailing Wall.



Joyfully Jewish into the School Year

By Cindy Kalish, CBE Director of Education

As we begin the second half of the school year, I have been reflecting on the past few months since I began as Director of Education here at CBE. The theme of *Joyfully Jewish at CBE* could not be more appropriate. I have been looking through photos from the past four months and am struck by the amount of joyful learning that has been happening here.

Once a month we literally fill an ELC classroom with our youngest pre school families at Temple Tots with Jodie. Friendships are forming between children and parents while Jewish lessons are being taught. Just down the hall, somewhere between 12–14 Kindergarten Students are having the most delightful time singing and hearing stories and making crafts with Morah Naomi. Clearly the word has gotten out that they are having so much fun playing with their mitzvah animals because the class keeps growing and growing in numbers! There is nothing sweeter than being “welcomed” into Morah Naomi’s classroom by one of her students who shows you to your chair and offers you something to “eat or drink!”

Our first and second graders are working their way through the aleph-bet through a variety of ways – Aleph bet yoga poses and word building are popular choices. They are making their own class Torah and they love a good story.

Temple Tots with Morah Jodie



Morah Naomi (at Tot Shabbat); second grade yoga



Third and fourth graders are having a blast with Morah Leslie and enjoyed a special morning of learning about creation with their families. Students, along with their grown ups (and some younger siblings) used their imagination to re-create their versions of the days of creation. They also did an activity where they attempted to put a broken pot back together. As you may imagine, so many lessons were learned from this project. Some pretty profound conclusions were drawn by our 8- and 9-year-olds.

Our third through sixth graders meet on Tuesday afternoons and well as Sundays. While third

grade has their class with Leslie and focuses on Hebrew learning, fourth through sixth grade is also learning Hebrew and broadening their understanding of Jewish themes through electives. This past Fall we focused on the theme of *Yira* which is a Hebrew term for awe and wonder. There is an element of fear in *yira* as well. Students had the opportunity to explore through improvisational theatre, creating a podcast, or creating an immersive pop-up experience. Under the direction of teachers, Ilana Epstein, Bryna Klevan and Jess Rosenblatt the students created powerful presentations for parents and guests before the school vacation. After the presentations we concluded our Fall semester of learning with a community gathering and lighting of the first candle for Hanukkah – in preparation for the holiday when it finally arrived during vacation.

I am looking forward to more Joyful Jewish learning as we head into 2025 and will focus my next article on the goings-on in our fifth through ninth grade classrooms.

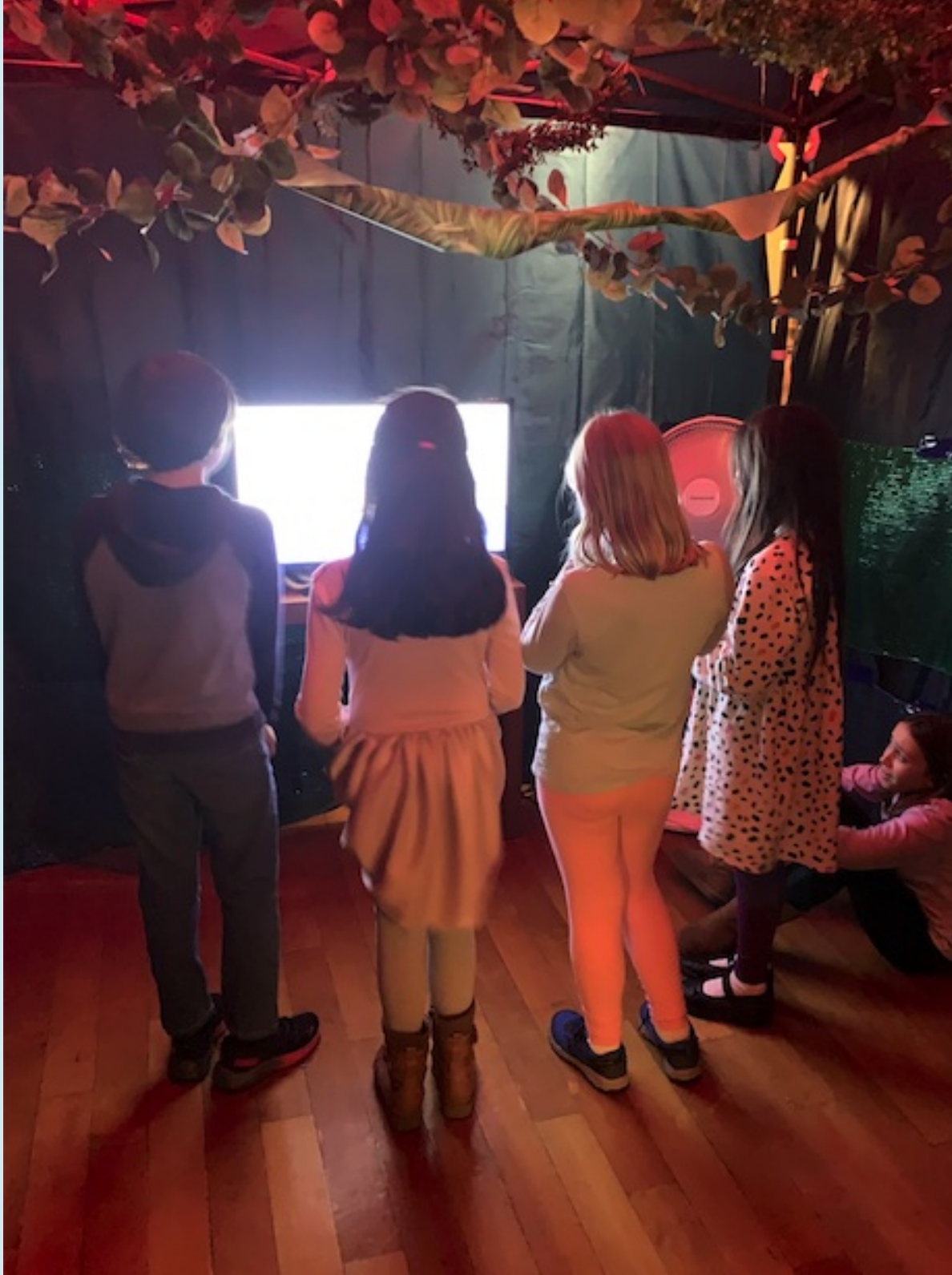
Celebrating Sukkot with Morah Leslie



Eighth- and ninth-graders baked apple cake with Morah Bryna



The immersive pop-up experience of Yira (awe)



The People of Chelm Want to Know...

In our busy lives, we do not often take time to reflect on the rich history and wisdom contained in the enormous body of Jewish texts. But, thanks to Bob Ferrara and Waky, the "People of



Illustration by Maurice Sendak.

Chelm" column challenges us to grapple with questions drawn from the long and rich history of Jews and Judaism.

Immigration has been an important national topic these past several months. Most of us no longer experience what immigrants in a new and often hostile country face every day. This question recalls the situation a century ago when many of our families first arrived in America.

QUESTION: The powerful inscription on the Statue of Liberty reads in part "...Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, the wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed to me, I lift my lamp beside the golden door!" These memorable words of poet Emma Lazarus were placed at the base of the statue, during the period of massive immigration of Eastern European Jews and southern Italians to this country.

And nowhere were the "huddled masses" so crowded together as in the teeming tenements of New York City's Lower East Side. This region of lower Manhattan, from the East River to Third Avenue, from the Bowery to 14th Street, is about one and a half square miles in area. Can you estimate the number of Jews who lived in the Lower East Side in, say, 1910?

Ponder your response – and find the answers below.

Lifecycle and Milestone Events in Our Community

B'nai Mitzvah:

On November 2, Ben Young celebrated becoming a B'nai Mitzvah. Below are (top) Ben and Cantor Sarra, (middle) Ben with siblings Ace and Maddy, and (bottom) Ben with his siblings and his very proud parents Robin and Andy. Yasher Koach, Ben!





Has your family celebrated a recent simcha or milestone? Send us up to 5 photos with a brief description; and we will make a selection to include in our next newsletter.

Email communications@bethelohim.org.

What's happening at CBE this month?

Visit our [online calendar](#) for up-to-the-minute programming.

Donations

The congregation thanks our members, their relatives and friends, and the larger community for recent donations to CBE. If you do not see your donation, please look for it in our next donations email, or contact communications@bethelohim.org. *Note: The list that follows acknowledges two months of donations, instead of the usual one month. We hope to return to one-month lists next month.*

Adult Education Fund

Bob & Deena Ferrara / In memory of Amy Michelson's father, Malvin Jay Michelson-Thierry
Ellen Valade

Ethan Sokol & Kristine Fong / To support the Israeli Dancing Program

Mara J. Falk / On the occasion of Mara's mother's yahrzeit

Michael & Laura Young

Stephen Richter

Alex Young Social Action Fund

Beth Schrager & Jeffrey Handler / In memory of Marty Hirsch

Ellen Valade

Mara J. Falk / On the occasion of Ralph Feibelman's yahrzeit

Marcy & Don Hoban

Marty & Diane Krasnick

Amy Naparstek Israel Scholarship Fund

Andrea Harris / In honor of Bill Harris

David & Chips Naparstek / In memory of our beloved daughter, Amy, on the occasion of her yahrzeit

David & Chips Naparstek / In loving memory of Chips's father, Ben Harris, on the occasion of his yahrzeit

David & Chips Naparstek / In honor of Linda Friedman, with love and best wishes for a happy birthday

David & Chips Naparstek / In appreciation of our good friends, Ellen and Steve Parker

Ellen Valade

Linda & Denis Friedman / Happy Birthday to Chips Naparstek with love

Marcy & Don Hoban / In appreciation of the Naparstek's for their business

Rabbi Michael Luckens & Sharon Schumack

Cantoral Fund

Alan & Arlene Weiss

Ellen Valade

Ethan Sokol & Kristine Fong / In memory of Arielle Sokol

Matt Liebman & Amy Michelson

Stephen Richter / In honor of Cantor Sarra

Capital Fund

Alan & Arlene Weiss / From the estate of Fran and Kenneth Nathanson for new carpeting

Annual MLK Breakfast

Chips & David Naparstek

Jeanine Wood

Kelene Blumstein

Nancy Settle Murphy

Stella Ko

Sue St. Croix

Victoria Campbell

Chesed Fund

Ellen Valade

Jennifer & Adam Hoffman / In memory of Martin Hirsch

Jonathan Summer & Hilary Agin / In memory of Marty Hirsch

Stephen Richter

Choir Fund

Alan & Arlene Weiss

Ellen Valade

Fred & Dorrie Goldstein / In celebration of the birth of Micky and Brian Foley's son, Joey Leo, grandson of Waky

Marcy & Don Hoban

Marcy & Don Hoban / In appreciation of the Wachters, Wachtells, Mintzes, and Seigels for their business

Family Education Fund

Lori Lotterman & Gary Kushner / In memory of Malvin Jay Michelson-Thiery, father of Amy Michelson

General Fund

Alan & Arlene Weiss / In memory of Noah Lechhook, son of Alex Lechhook and Randi Wallen

Alan & Arlene Weiss / In memory of Jerome and Selma Nathanson, Arlene Weiss's parents on the occasion of their yahrzeits

Alan & Arlene Weiss / In memory of Mel & Leona Weiss, parents of Alan Weiss, and Fran & Kenneth Nathanson, aunt and uncle of Arlene Weiss

Alan & Peggy Berko / In memory of Marty Hirsch

Beth Schrager & Jeffrey Handler / In memory of Ira Schrager, father of Beth Schrager

Beth Schrager & Jeffrey Handler / In memory of Sandra Lotterman

Bob & Kathie Becker / In memory of Malvin Jay Michelson-Thiery

Bob & Kathie Becker / In memory of Marty Hirsch

Bob & Kathie Becker / In memory of Sandra Lee Lotterman

David & Chips Naparstek / In memory of Marty & Jo-Ellen Hirsch

Ed & Nancy Kleiman / In memory of Ed's Father, Louis Kleiman, on the occasion of his yahrzeit

Ellen Valade

Frank Cohen & Linda Gordon-Cohen / In honor of CBE's New Membership Class of 2024-2025

Gary & Judy Budiansky

Iva Gardner

Jeff & Sandy Haber

Joseph & Rosalie Oliveri / In memory of Sandra Lotterman

Karen Pollak / In honor of Steven Levine's Birthday

Linda & Denis Friedman / In loving memory of our dear friends, Jo-Ellen & Marty Hirsch

Linda & Denis Friedman / In loving memory of our parents; Frances & Max Friedman, and Lillian & Manny Pogoda

Mara J. Falk / On the occasion of Henny R. Bauer's yahrzeit

Marcy & Don Hoban / In appreciation of the Beckers, Biales, Formaggios, Gruskays, Liebman, Greens, and Kontoffs for their business

Naomi & Sean Anderson

Peter Galland

Rick & Cindi Silverman / In memory of Marty Hirsch

Robin & Andy Young / In honor of Ben Young's Bar Mitzvah

Ronni Kenger / In memory of Marty Hirsch

Stanley & Qingna Barsky

Stephen Richter / With thanks for the recent hikes up Monadnock and Wachusett mountains
Stephen Richter / With thanks for the Brotherhood-Sisterhood Wine and Cheese in the
Sukkah event
The Wiles Family / In memory of our beloved Aunt Jo Ellen and Uncle Marty Hirsch

High Holiday Appeal

Alan & Arlene Weiss
Albert Mendelsohn & Emily Tamilio / On behalf of our attending Yom Kippur services
Allan & Ellen Krueger
Amy & David Leers
Arye Hess
Barry & Jo-Anne Nyer
Bob & Deena Ferrara
Bob & Kathie Becker
Brian & Elizabeth Hess
Cindy Kalish & Martha Brockway
Daniel & Laura Kelmar
Danya Zimmer-Bloomstone & Benjamin Bloomstone
David & Chips Naparstek
Debbie & Jeff Wesson / In memory of Marty Hirsch
Debbie & Jeff Wesson
Ed & Nancy Kleiman
Ed & Nancy Kleiman / In memory of Ed's brother, Philip Kleiman, on the cocasion of his
yahrzeit
Edward & Michele Adelman
Erik & Lindsay Rosenman
Ethan Sokol & Kristine Fong
Frank Cohen & Linda Gordon-Cohen
Fred & Dorrie Goldstein / In loving memory of Dorrie's parents Manya and Carl
Rosenkopf, and of Freddy's parents Minnie & Sidney Goldstein.
Gary & Judy Budiansky
Gary Kushner & Lori Lotterman
Hope Davis & Robert Brown
Ina & Malcolm Burdine / In memory of our parents Dorothy and William Hyman, and Ada &
Isadore Burdine
Jay & Linda Hakerem
Julie & Robert McCall
Julie Agapite & Neal Silverman
Lauren Solomon
Lee & Rachel Gwaltney
Les & Judy Kramer
Linda Minkoff
Michelle & Chris Siegert
Mindy & Jeff Fishman
Rabbi Lewis Mintz & Naomi Katz Mintz
Rick & Cindi Silverman

Rita & Larry Grossman
Ron & Joanna Honig
Steve & Susan Michelson
Steven & Sara Levine
Sue Wood / In memory of Dr. Sinclair Scala, Sue's father
Susan & David Pinsky
The Zwirn Family
William & Leslie Schroeder

Iris and Gerson Stutman Beautification Fund

Alan & Arlene Weiss / In memory of Iris Stutman
Beth Schrager & Jeffrey Handler / In memory of Iris Stutman
Ellen Valade
Fred & Dorrie Goldstein / In memory of our dear dear friend, Iris Stutman

Joan Snyder Library Fund

Hayim Lapin & Maxine Grossman / In memory of David Snyder
Laura & Ryan Gehl / In memory of David Snyder
Matt Bauer / In memory of David Snyder
Ellie & Abe Schuchman / In memory of David Snyder
Philip Avner / In memory of David Snyder
Susan Vitale / In memory of David Snyder

Na'aseh Social Justice Fund

Ellen Valade
Mara J. Falk / On the occasion of Ilsa Bauer Feibelman's Yahrzeit
Marcy & Don Hoban
United Church of Christ Congregational of Boxborough / In support of the film screening

Rabbi Lewis Mintz Fund

Ellen Valade
Fred & Dorrie Goldstein / In memory of Marty Hirsch, a very special person
Marcy & Don Hoban
Stephen Richter

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Alan & Arlene Weiss
Ellen Valade
Marcy & Don Hoban
Marcy & Don Hoban / In appreciation of Rabbi David's inspirational leadership
Matt Liebman & Amy Michelson
Stephen Richter

Religious School Fund

Beth Schrager & Jeffrey Handler / In honor of the birth of Joseph Foley, grandson of Waky
Fred & Dorrie Goldstein / In memory of Deanna Schroeder a sweet & capable Madricha

Scientists in the Synagogue Event

Gary & Judy Budiansky / In recognition of Dr. Sivan's Science with a Shmear Presentation

Rachelle Horwitz-Martin & Robert Martin

Stewart Seidler

Yahrzeit Plaques

Jennifer & Adam Hoffman / In memory of Marty Hirsch

Sandy Roschelle & Peter Darlow / in memory of Miriam & Irving Roschelle

The People of Chelm Want to Know...

ANSWER TO QUESTION POSED ABOVE:

Ellis Island and the Statue of Liberty welcomed millions of Jews fleeing persecution in Eastern Europe to these shores in the decades around the turn of the last century. The American Jewish poetess Emma Lazarus was acutely aware of this persecution and, during the early 1880s, wrote extensively about the Jewish people's suffering in Europe. She died too young in 1887, years before her words were inscribed in bronze at the base of the great statue in 1903. For so many Jews at that time, the path to freedom she described led through Ellis Island to the Lower East Side. In 1910, **540,000** Jews were crammed into its one and half square miles. This estimate comes from Paul Johnson's highly readable "History of the Jews". He further notes that in the tenements of the Tenth Ward the density reached just over 700 people per acre, more than 100 times that of a normal suburban setting.

Resources

CBE's [Chesed Committee](#) | Contact us in a time of need

[18 Doors](#) (formerly InterfaithFamily of Greater Boston)

[Anti-Defamation League incident reporting](#)

[CJP \(Combined Jewish Philanthropies\)](#)

[CJP SeniorDirect](#)

[Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life](#)

[Hadassah of Nashoba Valley Facebook](#)

[Hebrew College events](#)

[Jewish Bereavement Support Group](#)

[JewishBoston.com](#)

[Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Boston](#)

[Jewish Family Service of Metrowest](#)

[Keshet](#) | A national organization that works for full LGBTQ equality and inclusion in Jewish life

[Mayyim Hayyim | Living Waters Community Mikveh](#)

[Oneinforty.org](#) | BRCA awareness, education, and support

Visit the [Resources](#) page on our website for our complete resource list.

Feedback/get in touch with us!

Let us know what you think! What do you like or not like about our format or content? If there is someone or some effort or group you'd like to see featured, please write to communications@bethelohim.org.

Until next time,

The Star editorial and design team — Gary Budiansky, Maida Fund, Rick Green, Miriam Beit Aharon, Beth Schrager and Lauren Solomon

Visit us at www.bethelohim.org



Congregation Beth Elohim | 133 Prospect Street | Acton, MA 01720 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!