

# We Are THE FUTURE

Issue No. 1

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# אנחנו העתיד



The Newsletter of  
Congregation  
Beth El's  
Religious School

## Our News



## החדשות שלנו

### Chag Hanukkah Sameach!

It is hard to believe that it's already December--3 months into the '22-'23 school year! Until this point we have focused primarily on restructuring our school, implementing our new curriculum, and getting to know one another so that we can create a school environment that is not only academically excellent, but also warm and personal; a place where each one of us--staff, parents, and students--know we are valued and understood and essential for making our school [and shul!] community great.

At this point the school staff have noticed we've hit a stride and Sundays seem to be moving pretty smoothly with a schedule that works well for the students and teachers.

We have also assessed Hebrew reading levels for Grades 2-7, and they are now working in "Havruta," i.e., in pairs in a study partnership in what will become our own Beth El Religious School "Beit Midrash," our own "House of Study." This traditional method of study allows learners to get one-on-two attention from teachers as they practice Hebrew letters, sounds, words, and eventually attempt to translate and chant Torah. This is, without a doubt, the most tried-and-true, effective, and traditional way to learn Hebrew solidly and at one's own pace.

# we Are אֲנַחְנוּ הַעֲתִיד

## THE FUTURE

And so with the learning side of things rolling steadily, it's now time implement a method of communication between the school staff and families that will begin to build our community and also ensure that we all are (literally) on the same page, After some consideration, it was determined that a monthly newsletter for the school would be very helpful.

The name "Anachnu HeAtid" means, "We are the Future," and this could not be more true! Congregation Beth El, and specifically the families that have chosen to enroll in Beth El's Religious School, have taken a bold and essential step to ensure the future of our Jewish Community here in Windsor. Our school is committed to the ideal that every child in our program will be given the best opportunity for learning and growth in Jewish identity, ritual, tradition, values, and faith. As your Spiritual Leader and School Director, I believe that the Jewish education our young people need in this modern world must be pluralistic and egalitarian if they are to be equipped to carry on leadership and Judaism in our communities and in their own homes. And so I assure you that we are doing all we can to educate our children to not only participate, but to be leaders in diverse Jewish spaces as well as in the secular community.

Congregation Beth El's Religious School: We Are The Future! So come along with us, find out what we are doing every month in this newsletter, and let's build a community for our children and for ourselves in this place!

I wish you a Hanukkah filled with Light and Laughter, Joy and Peace, and a Happy (secular) New Year!

Hazzan Devorah

# come see HOW we Learn!

## November 2022

### JUNIORS (Jr Kindergarten thru Grade 1)



We completed lessons on Shabbat Blessings and have started learning to make Havdalah. As we continue this unit with Marley (Shabbat & Havdalah), we are building "Shabbat Boxes" - handmade kits with everything we need to take Shabbat into the World! Also we have been learning Shabbat songs, the Alef Bet, and numbers in Hebrew!

### YOUNGERS (Grades 2 thru 4)

Class with Ilia is always fun, especially when he teaches us Blessings for Food and we talk about G-d in Nature. Last month we wrote our own Midrash, talked about what Torah says about how to treat animals, and made a "plate movie" about the Creation of the World in Bereshit (Genesis).



We are well on our way in the 2022-2023 Religious School Year, and we have big things to tell you about how we are growing and learning in our Jewish identity!

## OLDERS (Grades 5 thru 7)



“Mercha, tip’cha, munach, etnachta!” Walk into our classroom and you will hear us learn to chant Torah with Hazzan Devorah (oh wait, that rhymes!), and join fascinating discussions with Inanna about how we might have reacted to the epic Biblical adventures if we were some of the characters in Torah: Noach, Avraham, Lot, Sarah, and Hagar!

## KULANU! (All of Us!)

Together we learn tefillah and are building the skills to eventually lead a service of our own. Last month we all practiced leading the prayers Sh'ma, Bar'chu, and Elohai Neshama with Hazzan Devorah. We also worked to strengthen our Hebrew reading skills with Gabi. Watch out Beth El - we will be up there leading services on the bima in no time!



# Here's what's going on in the community for Hanukkah!



Don't miss out on this special holiday event! Be sure to register by Dec 13th!

Bring In  
**HANUKKAH**  
at Beth El!

**A COMMUNITY EVENT FOR ALL AGES!**

**FRIDAY DECEMBER 16, 2022**

**5:45pm: Joyful Musical Shabbat Service with Hazzan Devorah and Cantor Tracey**

**6:30: Holiday Dinner Party!**

**Games!** Adults \$20 Kids 6-12 \$10 Under 6 FREE

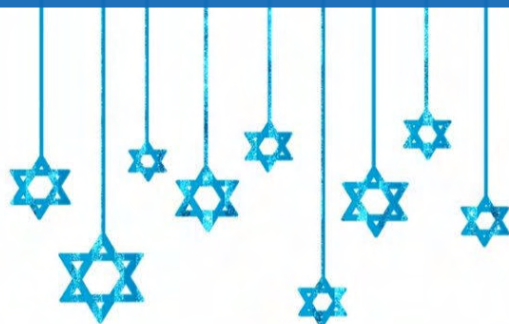
**Live Music!** **Latkes!** **ART ACTIVITIES FOR KIDS!**  
and more!

Tickets available for purchase until Dec 13th by phone 519-969-2422  
eTransfer to [bethelwindsor@cogeco.net](mailto:bethelwindsor@cogeco.net)  
or on the donation page of our website:  
[bethelwindsor.ca/donations/](http://bethelwindsor.ca/donations/)

THE SHABBAT SERVICE WILL BE HOLIDAY-THEMED AND FUN FOR ALL AGES. THE KIDS ARE LEARNING PRAYERS WE WILL SING IN THIS SERVICE AND WILL BE INVITED TO HELP TO LEAD IF THEY ARE IN ATTENDANCE!

We also will have activities for the kids:  
Crafts and Games and Music that will be live and interactive.  
Plus...FOOD! Come for dinner!  
Bring in Hanukkah with us!

**This one is easy! It's right after Religious School on Sunday, Dec 4th!**



*Just in time for Chanukkah!*

*2nd Annual Holiday & Judaica Market*

*Sunday, Dec. 4, 2022*

*12:00 noon to 3:00 pm*

*Congregation Beth El Social Hall*

*2525 Mark Ave.*

*Cards, Gift bags, Menorahs, Candles,*

*Judaica, Jewelry and More!*

*Dairy Lunch available*

*Cash, Visa or Mastercard*

*Brought to you by C.B.E. Friendship Circle*

*Stay for Lunch! The Hanukkah Market begins at Noon!*

# CHECK OUT THESE WINTER PROGRAMS AT BETH EL!

It's a really easy and fun way for kids to learn Havdalah: The end of Shabbat and beginning of the new week. Make it part of the Saturday evening bedtime ritual for the family! This is not only for kids, though! Anyone any age will enjoy this!

Congregation Beth El Invites You To

# Havdalah


# in Pajamas

Saturday Evenings beginning December 10 and continuing into January, and February!  
7-7:20 pm  
**ON ZOOM ONLY**

Wear your favorite pajamas and enjoy a musical Havdallah. It's short, it's sweet, and it's comfy and warm in your home during these winter months!

Join in Hazzan Devorah's Personal Zoom Room:  
460-456-8086

**In order to ensure a safe Zoom environment, all participants will enter through a Zoom Waiting Room. Please be patient as you are admitted.**



These  
may  
be of  
interest  
to the  
Adults  
in the  
Family:

HAVE YOU ALWAYS  
WONDERED HOW SOME  
PEOPLE CAN CHANT TORAH  
FROM THE SCROLL? IT  
LOOKS FUN, RIGHT?

Well here's the truth: It  
is **SUPER** fun and **YOU**  
can learn to do it too!

\*\*THIS CLASS IS FOR ADULTS WHO  
ARE ABLE TO SOUND OUT HEBREW  
WORDS AT A MINIMUM. HOWEVER  
YOU DON'T NEED TO BE AN ADVANCED  
READER--CHANTING TORAH WILL  
STRENGTHEN YOUR READING. IF YOU  
ARE UNSURE OF YOUR HEBREW  
READING LEVEL, PLEASE ASK  
HAZZAN DEVORAH--SHE CAN  
ASSESS YOU AND GET YOUR READING  
UP TO SPEED IF NEED BE!



Torah Chanting Class will meet once a week  
for 6 weeks on ZOOM!

You choose from 2 options:

Thursdays: 7-8pm (Jan 26, Feb 2, 9, 16, 23, and March 2)  
OR  
Fridays: 11am-Noon (Jan 27, Feb 3, 10, 17, 24, and March 3)

Cost: **FREE** for Beth El Members,  
"Chai x 4" for Non-Members (\$72)  
Limit 4 students per section

Contact Hazzan Devorah if you are interested:  
[devorah@bethelwindsor.org](mailto:devorah@bethelwindsor.org)

## Are You Considering Judaism?

Do you want to learn  
more but don't know  
where to start?

**We can help!**

An Introduction to Judaism Class at  
Congregation Beth El  
may be right for you if:

- You are curious about Judaism and want  
to learn more  
OR
  - You feel drawn to Judaism and are curious  
about conversion  
OR
  - You are Jewish but would like to brush up  
on some of the basics  
OR
  - You are part of an interfaith family and  
want to be more involved  
OR
- (Insert YOUR Reason Here! There are  
endless possibilities!)

An Introduction To  
Judaism Class at  
Congregation Beth El  
is forming soon!



If you are interested in  
learning more  
about Judaism, please let  
Hazzan Devorah know:  
[devorah@bethelwindsor.org](mailto:devorah@bethelwindsor.org)



# Here's what's new next month for our newsletter:

*MORE PHOTOS OF THE KIDS IN SCHOOL! If your child was not pictured this month, do not worry--we will do our best each month to get all of the kids in.*

*A STUDENT AND STAFF MEMBER OF THE MONTH PAGE.*

*These will be chosen randomly. Most months we will choose three students so that by the end of the year we have highlighted all of them.*

*IF YOU HAVE IDEAS TO MAKE THIS BETTER, LET US KNOW! This Newsletter is a Work in Progress. We will add to it and tweak it over time. Please do not hesitate to let us know if you have ideas for fun content and if there are things you wish we would share with you in it.*

*Email us at:*

*[bethelreligiousschoolwindsor@gmail.com](mailto:bethelreligiousschoolwindsor@gmail.com)  
to let us know what you think!*