



## A Message from the Staff

As members of Beth El Synagogue Center's professional staff, we are grateful for the partnership we share with dedicated and active lay volunteers. Each of us feels pride and a special connection to Beth El and its members, and we feel privileged to be part of this warm, caring, and creative community. Our extraordinary range of synagogue programming is only possible as we partner with wonderful people such as Sandy and Jack Gruenberg, Jayne and Darren Peister, and Julia Keltz and Zach Seiden.

Sandy and Jack have made such a big impact at Beth El over the last forty years, since joining in 1980. They give by imparting and sharing their knowledge of Judaism and Chesed. Jack was the director of Beth El's Religious School for eighteen years. He created the Youth Community as a way for children to learn in an informal setting. After also teaching at Solomon Schechter, he now leads a Saturday morning discussion group and a Thursday afternoon parasha class at Beth El. Sandy also taught at Solomon Schechter for many years. At Beth El, she has been an officer, co-chair of the Chesed Committee, and is currently president of Sisterhood. They have four children, four children-in-law, and nine grandchildren!

Jayne and Darren Peister joined Beth El in 2001 along with their daughters Emma and Sophia. Since then, they both have been very involved in many aspects of our shul. Darren, who has won three Emmys for his work in film and editing, has produced and edited numerous videos for Beth El. Jayne retired from pharmaceutical sales at Lilly USA after thirty years, and has held several leadership roles at Beth El, including in the Religious School and on the Board of Trustees. She also helps coordinate events such as the Safrai Art Exhibit and more recently is co-chair of the Green Team, bringing recycling and sustainability to Beth El.

Although they have been members of Beth El for a shorter time than their co-honorees, Julia Keltz and Zach Seiden have shown why they are worthy recipients of the Lapid Award. Julia grew up at Beth El and celebrated her Bat Mitzvah here. Though she is a busy physician at Westchester Medical Center, she is active in the Religious School Parent Organization and serves on the Clergy Search Committee. Zach, a kindergarten teacher in New Rochelle, has lent his talents to the inaugural Comedy Night and has organized the Young Parent Happy Hour. He is currently a member of the Religious School Board and the Board of Trustees.

All of us on the Beth El team give our warm wishes of mazal tov to the honoree and award recipients this evening.