

Shofar



Shvat - Adar I 5779 • January/February 2019



Rabbi's Message

Sabbatical: Of Crops and Teachers (Including Rabbis)

Among the many revolutionary ideas of the Torah is the practice of the sabbatical year — an extrapolation of the weekly Sabbath day as a time for renewal and rejuvenation. The Torah's vision of the sabbatical is a year in which the land is allowed to lie fallow so that it can regain its vitality and fertility. It is a time in which farmers relinquish mastery over their fields and simultaneously liberate themselves from the hard work of tilling and tending.

The sabbatical year magnifies the scope of the Sabbath day. Going beyond the weekly respite from physical labor, the sabbatical declares that there is more to life than work, and that the value of life is intrinsic and transcends

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Tu BiShvat Celebration

January 26

10:00 a.m. Shabbat Holiday Service
with Environmental Theme
Noon: Seder and Potluck Luncheon
(See page 3)



Purim Carnival
March 17, 11:00 a.m.

**Megillah Reading and
Purim Spiel**
March 20, 7:00 p.m.
(See page 5)

Worship Schedule

JANUARY

Friday, January 4

7:00 p.m. Family Shabbat Service with guest David Solomon from Heller High

Saturday, January 5

Parashat Va-eira, Exodus 6:2-9:35
10:00 a.m. Shabbat Minyan Service and Torah Study

Friday, January 11

8:00 p.m. Shabbat Evening Service

Saturday, January 12

Parashat Bo, Exodus 10:1-13:16
10:00 a.m. Shabbat Minyan Service and Torah Study
10:30 a.m. Young Family Shabbat Experience and Bagel Breakfast

Friday, January 18

8:00 p.m. Shabbat Shirah, Evening Service with the Choir and Tefillah Band

Saturday, January 19

Parashat B'shalach, Exodus 13:17-17:16
10:00 a.m. Shabbat Shirah, Minyan Service and Torah Study

Monday, January 21

Tu B'Shvat

Friday, January 25

8:00 p.m. Shabbat Evening Service

Saturday, January 26

Parashat V'itro, Exodus 18:1-20:23
10:00 a.m. Shabbat Minyan Service and Torah Study
Noon Tu B'Shvat Seder and Luncheon (see page 3)

FEBRUARY

Friday, February 1

8:00 p.m. Shabbat Evening Service with the Tefillah Band

Saturday, February 2

Parashat Mishpatim, Exodus 21:1-24:18
10:00 a.m. Shabbat Minyan Service and Torah Study

Friday, February 8

7:00 p.m. Family Shabbat Service with the Choir

Saturday, February 9

Parashat Trumah, Exodus 25:1-27:19
10:00 a.m. Shabbat Minyan Service and Torah Study

Friday, February 15

8:00 p.m. Shabbat Evening Service

Saturday, February 16

Parashat T'zaveh, Exodus 27:20-30:10
10:00 a.m. Shabbat Minyan Service and Torah Study

Friday, February 22

8:00 p.m. Shabbat Evening Service with the Tefillah Band

Saturday, February 23

Parashat Ki Tisa, Exodus 30:11-34:35
10:00 a.m. Shabbat Minyan Service and Torah Study

Torah Chanters November - December 2018

Hillary Angeline

Jude Bergman

Gari Bloom

Liz Cohen

Max Cooper

Emily Dickholtz

Karen Donohue

Larry Epstein

Ava Fox

Carol Gardner

Rabbi Gluck

Sarah Gluck

Shira Gluck

Nora Holler

Michele Holler

Ed Malberg

Andrew Manrique

Sam Stark

Lila Stark

Donna Tischfield

Sam Yarkoni

Temple Calendar Webpage

<http://www.ourbethel.org/luach-beth-el>

Shofar Submissions and Deadline

The next issue of the Shofar will be March-April 2019. PLEASE NOTE: The deadline for submissions is February 15. Submit articles via email to: ShofarEditor@templebethelnj.org.

In the subject line, please use the following naming convention: Shofar Month/Shofar/Committee Name or Professional Staff Name.

Torah Portions

You can read a Weekly Torah Commentary by visiting the Union of Reform Judaism's web page: www.reformjudaism.org/learning/torah-study

Rabbi's Message, continued from page 1

what we are able to produce. In this spirit, the laws of the sabbatical year enter into the realm of social and commercial relationships. All debts are cancelled and all indentured servants are released in the seventh year, making it a time to rebalance the scales of justice that tilt toward inequality.

Over time, the commercial aspects of the sabbatical year became impractical and ceased to be observed. But they remain on the books, as it were, and the rabbis teach us that their role is to inspire us to internalize the spirit of the sabbatical and integrate it into our lives. This we accomplish by seeing our weekly celebration of Shabbat in light of these teachings and by seeking to practice their vision of justice in our social and commercial relations during the other six days of the week. In Israel, observant Jews still follow the agricultural aspects of the seventh year by refraining from consuming the produce raised on the Land of Israel. Instead, they eat stored grain and produce raised outside the Land of Israel.

In modern times, the concept of the sabbatical has been extended to teachers and rabbis as a time to focus on scholarship. In academic settings, a sabbatical can encompass a semester or an entire academic year, offering professors an opportunity to engage in new areas of scholarship or writing, freed from their regular teaching schedule and administrative duties.

For contemporary rabbis, the length of time allotted for a sabbatical is largely circumstantial, often making possible a shorter period of time dedicated to a focused project or course of study. Some rabbis travel to Israel, as I have done in the past. Others will spend time at a seminary or other academy of learning. Some devote time to writing or

another form of creative effort.

This January and February, I will be taking the fourth sabbatical of my 28-year tenure as the rabbi of Temple Beth-El. Two of my previous sabbaticals were spent in Israel, where I engaged in independent study at the Reform movement's seminary, HUC-JIR, in Jerusalem. During my third sabbatical, I studied Talmud locally, under the guidance of a retired professor from the Jewish Theological Seminary. During this sabbatical, I will be working on a new version of our Temple Beth-El siddur, the prayer book that we have been using since 2010. I also look forward to visiting other synagogues to experience their services and liturgical traditions. It is rare for a congregational rabbi to be able to participate in worship at other synagogues, so I am looking forward to this.

I am grateful to the leadership of our congregation and to my senior staff colleagues for making it possible for me to take this time away. I am especially appreciative of Cantor Pincus, who will be assuming responsibility for the pulpit, with the support of extremely capable and devoted lay leaders. (Cantor Pincus will also be responsible for pastoral care, so if a pastoral emergency arises, please contact her directly.) Were it not for her great talent and devotion to our congregation, this sabbatical time would not be possible.

I look forward to my sabbatical and to returning in March refreshed and renewed, having made significant progress on a new siddur that will enrich the ritual life of our congregation.

L'shalom,

Rabbi Arnold S. Gluck

Come Celebrate Shabbat and Tu BiShvat

Saturday, January 26

Tu BiShvat is the **New Year of the Trees**: a time to express gratitude for the bounty of the earth and celebrate connection to the land of Israel. It is also an opportunity for spiritual renewal.

Our celebration starts with a Shabbat morning service at 10:00 a.m., with worship directed toward care and appreciation for the environment. This will be followed by a Tu BiShvat seder at noon, led by Cantor Pincus and Sarah Gluck.

Due its enthusiastic reception last year, the practice of mindfulness will serve to ground our seder observance. As always, we will drink the traditional four cups of wine (grape juice) and eat different kinds of fruits and nuts that grow in the land of Israel and are grouped by Kabbalistic constructs. A pot-luck luncheon will follow, and a rousing, fun song session concludes the day.

Register at: www.tinyurl.com/TBETuBiShvat2019



A Note From Our Cantor

Toward the end of the 19th century, some Jewish musicians who had been trained in the classical, European tradition discovered artistic possibilities in the folk-song of their people. They were of eastern European origin, had been educated in a Jewish atmosphere, and had grown up with Jewish folk-song. In parallel with the nationalist movements arising at the time, there was a newly revived Jewish national movement. This stirred their own consciousness and turned their interest to their people's songs.

The political, the artistic, and the religious were intertwined. The pain and anger at having been subjected to severe restrictions on their lives, pogroms, and forced concentration in a segregated region of Russia called the Pale of Settlement, gave birth to an intense nationalist identity during the 1880s onward. Instead of trying to break free from their Jewish identity or to change their Judaism to make it more like Christianity or secular culture, a group of Jewish intellectuals decided to raise it up and put it in conversation with modernity. There was a flowering of Yiddish literature, a Yiddish theater movement started, and a wealth of Yiddish newspapers and periodicals sprang up.

The musical group tasked itself with cultivating Jewish folk-song for solo and piano accompaniment, later for choir and instruments, but also with creating original compositions. In 1908, a Society for Jewish Folk Music was organized in St. Petersburg, with the aim of collecting folk songs and arranging them in artistic forms. The goal was to create, not only through the new settings, but also through the curation and preservation of the old tunes, a uniquely Jewish music. The society began to publish the work of its members and started a movement that spread to Moscow, Poland, Austria, and later Palestine and the United States. Its impact on the course of Jewish music was profound, despite the fact that due to the outbreak of World War I, the original society existed formally for fewer than 10 years. The art music movement it fostered

inspired a new interest in the music of Ashkenazi Jews throughout Europe and America, laid the foundations for the Jewish music and Klezmer revival in the United States, and was a key influence in the development of Israeli folk and classical music.

And people have been arguing about what makes music "Jewish" ever since. Here is what Abraham Idelsohn, one of the most influential forbears on the study of Jewish music, had to say on the topic:

Artistically successful arrangement of folk-song depends not merely upon faithful adherence to the melody....the musician must have absorbed the spirit of the tune, and be moved by the emotions which gave it birth, so that, instead of caricaturing the melody by reason of unsuited harmonization, he give it fuller expression through instrumental accompaniment. He needs must preserve the simplicity of the folktune...the value of all artistic labor in the realm of folk music rests with the composer's regard for and preservation of the song's own character...so imbued must he be with the spirit of the song from which his theme sprang....

As you can see, Idelsohn had a pretty exacting idea of how to make "Jewish" music. Although you may not have thought about it much, most of us do the same: This is "real"; that is "fake." This is "authentic" and that is not. This is good and that is bad, etc. This spring, I will offer three classes on Yiddish, Sephardic and Israeli art music. Our first goal will be to enjoy the music that will be performed and listen to it for itself. But as we proceed through, we will also ask: How does it affect us? Is it good? Is it Jewish? Is there a difference? What is the basis for our connection here? Stay tuned....*February 26 at 7:00: Yiddish Art Music, April 23 at 7:00: Sephardic Art Music, and May 14 at 7:00: Israeli Art Music.*



Shabbat Shirah



Friday, January 18
8:00 p.m.

On Shabbat Shirah (the Sabbath of Song), Moses and Miriam danced and sang songs of thanksgiving to God for the parting of the Sea of Reeds and the escape from Egypt. These outpourings are recorded in the book of Exodus and captured in the famous “Shirat Hayam” or “Song of the Sea” and the verses that follow. Every Shabbat B’shalach, we experience with them our deliverance from slavery to freedom as we remember our communal history. Please join us with the choirs, Kathy Shanklin, and the Temple Beth-El Tefillah Band as we celebrate the foundation of our ethical values and faith through music and song!

Purim is coming! Purim is coming!

Mark your calendars!

Purim Carnival

March 17, 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

(opens at 10:30 for the littlest kids up to kindergarten)

Megillah Reading and Purim Spiel

March 20, 7:00 p.m.

What will the theme be this year?

Pop music? Pop culture? Celebrities? Music parodies? Memorable comedians?
...the mystery continues. Stay tuned!

Far from the Home I Love...

The Jewish Immigration Story in Song

For thousands of years, the Jewish people have lived and thrived all around the world, and only recently have they established a modern Jewish homeland in Israel. At the Dec. 16 cantorial concert, Cantor Pincus, along with our guests, Cantor Maria Dubinsky and Cantor Vladimir Lapin, beautifully evoked the multi-faceted tapestry of the Jewish immigration experience, weaving together a vast array of music and song.

In doing so, they transformed the social hall into a soulful journey. Ranging from the whimsical, somewhat satirical refrain in *Leben Zol Columbus*, to the haunting yet spiritual *Yidn zingen Ani Maamin* (excerpts below), the music evoked a range of emotions that encompassed laughter, hope, fear and tears.

spirited meetings (most with chocolate – thanks to Susan Steinfeld) where we exchanged ideas about how to enhance the experience, with the benefit of hindsight from last year.

Our heartfelt thanks to our committee, to Amy Rubin for all of her kind assistance, and, of course, to our hardworking office and custodial staff.

Thank you to all who joined us and for extending invitations to friends and family to join us as well. We are so very grateful to all who took the time to share a bit about their own family's immigration story through pictures. The photos submitted helped the committee tell our congregants' stories and share some of their history, thus deepening relationships in our community. It would

Leben Zol Columbus

Ay, it's great,
Everyone, sing along:
Long live Columbus!
Brothers, drink a toast to
life—I'cayim!
Oh, long live Columbus
for discovering this new land!

Be merry!
Pay no heed to the
grumblers.
Jews, shout:
Long live Columbus!

Yidn Zingen Ani Maamin

Let's all sing now: "I believe"—
If we do not sing it—it will sing itself anyway.
Both at evening and at dawn, I believe,
"Even though he may tarry, even though..."

As wonderful as the cantors were, the afternoon would not have been complete without the incredible contributions of our choirs, Kolot El and Soufganiyot, our very dedicated Tefillah Band and our accompanist Kathy Shanklin.

Jim and I would like to share our gratitude for having the honor of chairing this event. We want to thank the cantor and Temple Beth-El leadership for this wonderful opportunity to work with a fantastic committee. We had

be incredible to learn more about the congregation's family stories; there is a wealth of history and inspiration to be learned and appreciated.

We also want to thank our sponsors, who make events like these possible and who support Temple Beth-El in indispensable ways.

Finally, we also would like to thank the TBE community for supporting this event and spending your afternoon with us.

Beth and Jim Lavranchuk, Concert Committee Chairs



Far from the Home I Love...

The Jewish Immigration Story in Song

Thank you to the cantors who lent their voices and talents:

Cantor Emily Wigod Pincus

with Special Guests

Cantor Maria Dubinsky

Cantor Vladimir Lapin

Thank you to our generous sponsors!

Conductor

Anonymous (2)
Liz and Dave Cohen
Dorothy Wigod

Soprano

Jay and Pam Lavroff
Susan and Ed Steinfeld

Alto

Andrea and Patrick Bradley

Tenor

Anonymous
Caren Bateman and Keith
Chanoch
David and Debbie Herman
Barbara and Russ Johnston
Leigh and Shari Miller
Henry and Carol Nerenberg
Leonard and Ann Robinowitz
Amy and Ken Rubin

Bass

Rande and Janet Aaronson
Cindy and Mark Andrews
Gari and Charley Bloom
Vicky Farhi
Rabbi Arnie and Sarah Gluck
David Goldberg and
Cindy Scott
Beth and Jim Lavranchuk

Marsha and Ed Malberg
Rick and Bev Miller
Stakeholder Advisory
Services
Jay and Donna Tischfield
Steve and Elayne Weitz

Our thanks to our performers...

Kolot-El Adult Choir

Jonathon Andell, Mark Andrews, Andrea Auerbach,
Cheryl Bailes, Dave Cohen, Liz Cohen, Karen Donohue,
Shelley Drozd, Leigh Freeman, Beth Lavranchuk,
Jim Lavranchuk, Donna Lewin, Ed Malberg, Carol Nerenberg,
Henry Nerenberg, Marcia Shubitz, Susan Steinfeld,
Ronnie Weyl, and Jeff Wilson

Soufganiyot Youth Choir

Delilah Bergman, Emily Dickholtz, Alex Herskovitz,
Febee Herskovitz, Olivia Lavy, Talia Lavy, Julie McCloskey,
Elan Moalam, Nathaniel Pincus, and Isabella Russo

Accompanist

Kathy Shanklin

Tefillah Band

Lou Binder, drums
Jay Lavroff, clarinet and alto
saxophone
Zohar Lavy, djembe
Evan Lerner, tenor saxophone
and guitar
Henry Nerenberg, guitar
Barry Rosenberg, trombone
Vicki Schwartz, violin
Alan Zeldin, bass



From Our President

Winter — The Warmest Season



The unpredictable weather pattern engulfing the Hillsborough metropolitan area has everyone wondering what's coming next. We went from a "one day tee shirt, next day parka" autumn to a November blizzard to a 65-degree first day of winter. The Old Farmer's Almanac is predicting heavier than normal snowfall. And who knows what Punxsutawney Phil will see in February. One thing is certain: it's going to be cold outside. Further complicating things is the return to standard time and the shortness of the days, which have us waking up and leaving home in the dark and returning in the dark. It's almost as if we're living underground. But do not despair! December 22 began the lengthening of days, and regardless of what the thermometer says, at Temple Beth-El winter is among the toastiest times of year. How can this be, you ask? Simple. Even if the weather outside is frightful, the closeness of our community, the *menshlichkeit* we express to one another and the energy and deep meaning of our worship always, as my Grandma Eva used to say, warms the cockles of our hearts. Some great examples of this are Shabbat Shirah, Tu BiShvat and our weekly Shabbat worship.

Shabbat Shirah, the beautiful Sabbath of Song, is observed this year on Friday, January 18. The Torah portion is *B'shalach*, Exodus 13:17 through 17:16, which contains *Shirat Hayam*, the Song of the Sea, sung by our people when the Red Sea parted to permit the escape from Pharaoh's pursuing army. The words of this passage describe the incredible event of our deliverance:

*We will sing to God, for God has triumphed gloriously
The horse and his rider has God thrown into the sea
God is my strength and song, God is my salvation
This is my God, whom I will praise
My father's God, whom I will exalt ...*

*With the blast of Your nostrils the waters were piled up
The floods stood upright like a heap
The depths were congealed in the heart of the sea...*

This portion also contains the familiar words of the *Mi Chamocha* that we recite each Shabbat:

*Who is like You among the mighty, O God
Who is like You, glorious in holiness
Awesome in praises, doing wonders ...*

To celebrate Shabbat Shirah, Cantor Emily Pincus, our adult choir Kolot El and the Tefillah Band will enhance our worship with abundant and beautiful music to warm the spirit and elevate the soul. This musical infusion into our worship makes Shabbat Shirah a service you will not want to miss.

Tu BiShvat, the "New Year of the Trees," occurs each year on the 15th of the month of Shevat. This is one of four new years on the Hebrew calendar. Tu BiShvat marks the end of the rainy season in Israel, when the earliest-blooming trees shake off the cold and begin a new fruit-bearing cycle.

We celebrate Tu BiShvat with a Seder, during which we pray, study, sing and enjoy a meal featuring fruits singled out in the Torah when praising the bounty of the Holy Land. Our Tu BiShvat Seder will be held this year on Saturday, January 26, at noon, following Shabbat morning services. We will savor the warmth of each other's company and bask in the glow of this beautiful tradition.

And while Rabbi Gluck will be on sabbatical during January and February, our Shabbat worship will continue to be something you'll want to experience every week. On Fridays we welcome the Sabbath in prayer and song to help us all wind down from our pressures and routines. On Saturday mornings we have our minyan service and Torah study, which is both an intimate and fulfilling way to celebrate Shabbat. If you've never been to one of our Shabbat morning minyan services, I strongly encourage you to give it a try. The lively discussions that are a staple of this worship will leave you wanting more!

So do yourself a favor. Join with your Temple Beth-El family to enjoy Shabbat Shirah, Tu BiShvat and our weekly Shabbat observances. And feel the warmth from within!

L'shalom,

Jay Lavroff

president@templebethelnj.org

From the Education Directors

Let's Speak for the Trees!

This month, we celebrate Tu BiShvat, Jewish Arbor Day, also known as *chag ha-ilanot*, the Birthday of the Trees, or New Year of the Trees. Tu BiShvat falls on January 21 this year, and our joyful TBE celebration will be held on Saturday, January 26. Because Tu BiShvat falls in the middle of our winter season, we must consciously remind ourselves that the holiday originated in Israel, where the beauty of spring begins to reveal itself at this time of year. As the seasons change, the hills of the desert become, for a short while, a brilliant green; wild cyclamen bloom pink, white, and red in the rocky soil; and the fragrant blossoms of almond trees scent the air.

Tu BiShvat has a long and varied history, with antecedents in biblical and talmudic times. The theme most commonly ascribed to Tu BiShvat today is the environment. Tragically, there are far too many places the world over, including right here at home in the U.S., where neglect and exploitation of the earth has led to natural disasters in increased numbers and magnitude.

The holiday of Tu BiShvat asks us to be thoughtful about the earth and the environment, and so we must do what we can. Just like the Lorax, the creatures in the Dr. Seuss story of the same name, let us seek to protect the trees and nature as a whole. Though we may not be able to plant outdoors in New Jersey in January, we can dedicate ourselves to thinking every day about how we can contribute to caring for and preserving the environment. There are many ways, both big and small, to be more environmentally active. This Tu BiShvat, let's dedicate ourselves to learning more and becoming more involved.

There are some wonderful stories and sayings from our tradition that highlight the importance of trees and our responsibility to take care of the natural world, while still utilizing its gifts. One of the most famous is the story of Honi the circlemaker.

Once Honi was walking along the road and saw a man planting a carob tree. Honi asked, "How long before it will bear fruit?" "Seventy years," the man answered. "Are you sure you will be around in seventy years to enjoy its fruit?" The man answered, "I found this world filled with carob



Sarah Gluck



Lisa Friedman

trees. Just as my ancestors planted before me, so I will plant for my children."

Finally, Tu BiShvat helps us connect to the Source of all being. It reminds us that nature is a gift from God, and that we should be grateful. This month, we can be even more mindful of the natural world and express gratitude, as the poet Leah Goldberg (1911–1970) does so beautifully in this poem (which you can find on page 87 of our TBE siddur):

Teach me, O my God, to praise and to pray
For the mystery of a leaf withering away,
For the splendor of ripe fruit,
For this freedom — to see, to feel, to breathe,
To know, to hope, to falter.

Teach my lips a blessing and a song of praise
For the renewal of Your time each day.
Lest my day — today — be the same as yesterday.
Lest my day become for me — routine.

May our gratitude for the beauty and bounty of nature be renewed each day, and may our commitment to act as the earth's loving stewards never become routine.

Happy Tu BiShvat!

Note:

Like the Fourth of July, the name of the holiday is simply the date on which it falls: the 15th of the month of Shvat. *Tu* is the letters *tet* and *vav*, which have the respective numeric values of 9 and 6, put together (right to left) and pronounced as a word. *BiShvat* means "in [the month of] Shvat."

Young Families at Temple Beth-El

There are several great opportunities for families with children grade 2 and younger in January and February:



Friday, January 4

Join other young families for a pizza dinner before our monthly family Shabbat service.

Dinner is at 6:00 p.m., services begin at 7:00.

RSVP required.

Visit <https://tinyurl.com/TBEYFPizzaDinnerJan2019> to register.

Saturday, January 12

Join us for a dedicated Young Family Shabbat Experience at 10:30 a.m. There will be an interactive service geared to our youngest children along with a bagel brunch.

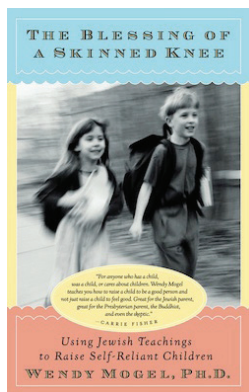
Watch for more information on how to register.

Saturday, January 26

Join us for our 3rd Annual Young Family Pajama Party with special musical guest Sheldon Low.

This program is a highlight and singing with Sheldon is a treat not to be missed.

Program will run from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.



Sunday, February 10

Young Family Schmooze at 9:15 a.m. with book discussion.

Join us for a discussion of the book *The Blessing of a Skinned Knee* by Wendy Mogel. This beloved bestseller offers a practical, inspiring roadmap for raising self-reliant, ethical, and compassionate children.

We honor our Legacy Circle:

Anonymous (4)
Rande and Janet Aaronson
Lou and Myrna Binder
Gari and Charles Bloom
Mike Bloomstein
Jody and Gary Cohen
Liz and Dave Cohen
Rabbi Arnold and Sarah Gluck

Julie and Greg Hirsch
Chrys Jochem
Barbara and Russ Johnston
Andy and Leslie Kass
Bob Krovetz
Jay Lavroff
Leigh Miller
Rick Miller
Robin and Larry Osman

Art and Betty Roswell
Amy Rubin
Lillian Swickle
Goldie Taub
Irwin Vogel
Steve and Elayne Weitz
Ann Weinstein
Bruce and Marlane Wolf

Please remember Temple Beth-El with a gift in your will, trust, retirement account or life insurance policy.

A legacy gift ensures that the community will continue to serve future generations.

Contact Lil Swickle at LegacyCircle@TempleBethElnj.org.

NFTY-GER Teens Make a Difference in their Communities

Originally published November 20, 2018 on the NFTY blog, www.gardenempire.nfty.org/blog. Reprinted with permission.

NFTY is steeped in a rich history of social activism. We are commanded by our faith and urged by tradition to continuously seek to improve our world. The values of tikkun olam and tzedek are some of the fundamental pillars of our organization. The great Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. stressed the extraordinary power that a group of passionate people possesses. Together, with our brimming enthusiasm and staunch resolve, we can accomplish incredible things. NFTY-GER teens proved this to be true this past weekend.

On Saturday, teens from around the NFTY-GER region came together for Mitzvah Day with AETY at Anshe Emeth Memorial Temple. Participants learned about hunger and homelessness in New Brunswick, working with Elijah's Promise to make applesauce, prepare silverware bundles, and learn about creating a sustainable food system to reduce hunger in New Jersey. Elijah's Promise is one of the work sites for Urban Mitzvah Corps, a program to which NFTY-GER has a strong connection.

Temple Beth-El's youth group, SMOOCHY, took some time to help our environment. Shayna Friedman, SMOOCHY's president, recounts the experience: "This past weekend SMOOCHY teens traveled to the beach in Long Branch, New Jersey and worked together to clean up trash. Together we were able to fill about five bags with trash littered on the beach. We also learned about the harm that trash on the beach and in the ocean can cause to sea animals. It was a great day and I feel like we really made a difference." With climate change on the forefront of the news every day, these teens found a way to contribute to the solution in a tangible way!

Temple Ner Tamid's youth group, NuTTY, has been really energized around the topic of gun violence prevention. This weekend, the group began making orange para-cord bracelets to raise awareness on the topic of gun violence. Sarah Grossier, NuTTY Board member, says, "We came up with the idea after the shooting at Tree of Life Synagogue and we wanted to find a way to help. Lots of people at our temple wear these bracelets so we plan to sell them at religious school and donate the funds to victims of gun violence." What a great way to bring one of NFTY's program priorities home to their congregation!

In the midst of holiday shoppers at Target, Temple B'nai Jeshurun teens walked the aisles, stocking their carts full of travel-sized toothbrushes, deodorants, razors, and snacks. These items were not for their upcoming Thanksgiving trips, though. The teens were searching for the most useful and price-effective items to distribute on next month's Midnight Run in New York City. During the Midnight Run, more than 20 others will hand out essential items to those in need in NYC.

NFTY-GER is so proud of its participants for embodying the 13 Principles of NFTY, including tzedek, tikkun olam, and kehillah. Has your youth group done something amazing to repair the world lately? Share it with us so we can lift up your success!



Temple Beth-El SMOOCHY teens cleaning up a beach in Long Branch, NJ

dk
deli king of clark

30 Clarkton Drive
Clark, New Jersey 07066
(732)-574-2040
fax (732)-574-3447

Toll Free 1-800-410-DELI



Jewish LIFE January and February

Enriching mind, body, and spirit.



AT TBE

Trope with Cantor Pincus

Sunday, 9:00-10:00 a.m.
Jan. 6, 13, 27; Feb. 3, 24; March 10, 24, 31

Biblical Hebrew

Sunday, 10:00-11:30 a.m.
Jan. 6, 13, 27; Feb. 3, 10, 24; March 3, 10, 24, 31;
April 7, 14

Inner Ladder: Continuing Mussar Steps

Monday, 7:30-9:00 p.m.
Feb. 4: Silence

TBE Reads/Jewish LIFE: *Letters to My Palestinian Neighbor*

Join Sarah Gluck and the TBE Reads book group for a two-part conversation about Yossi Klein Halevi's most recent bestseller.
Tuesday, Feb. 5 and 12
7:00 p.m., room location TBD

Israeli Dancing

Most Thursdays throughout the year at 7:30 p.m.

Jewish Film Series: *Who the Jew Are You?*

Saturday, Feb. 9
7:00 p.m. at TBE
An award-winning documentary. Cantor Pincus will lead a discussion after the film.
Suggested donation: \$7/person
Co-sponsored with Cultural Arts

UPCOMING AROUND THE COMMUNITY

What is a Bias Incident or Crime and How to Respond

Wednesday, January 9
6:30 p.m. at the Conference Center of Raritan Valley Community College, Branchburg
For more information and to register: email peppy.margolis@raritanval.edu

Irma Horowitz Film Series

Thursday, Jan. 10
6:30 p.m. at the JCC
Three short films — *The Gravedigger's Daughter*, *Paperrock*, *Home Made* — by students of the Ma'aleh School of Television, Film, and the Arts in Jerusalem, with discussion following each film.
Fee: \$18/person includes falafel dinner

Dr. Ruth is coming to town!

Sunday, January 13
11:30 a.m. at the JCC
Jewish LIFE is thrilled to welcome world-renowned therapist, Dr. Ruth Westheimer. Dr. Ruth is the author of the recently released and extremely charming graphic memoir, *The Amazing Story of Dr. Ruth*. Don't miss this opportunity!
Fee: \$18/person includes brunch
Call 908-725-6994 x9018 to register



Aryeh Green, My Israel Trail: Finding Peace in the Promised Land

Sunday, January 27
12:00 p.m. at the Flemington Jewish Community Center
Fee: \$10/person
Call 908-782-6410 to register

WishMakers, a Tulip Winery Film

Thursday, February 7
7:00 p.m. at the JCC
WishMakers is the story of the Tulip Winery, which was established in a residential, adult special-needs community, the Village of Hope, in Israel's Jezreel Valley. Discussion with filmmaker Cheryl Halpern to follow.
Fee: \$10/person
Call 908-725-6994 x9018 to register

Click for the 2018-19/5779 [Jewish LIFE Program Guide](https://www.sbjcc.org/jewish-living/jewish-life/) (<https://www.sbjcc.org/jewish-living/jewish-life/>)

Jewish LIFE (Learning Is for Everyone) is made possible in part by a grant from the Jewish Federation of Somerset, Hunterdon and Warren Counties.

Save the Date

Saturday, February 23 6:30 p.m.

TBE's Empty Nester/Baby Boomer Pot-luck Dinner

Location TBA

Watch for more information as the date nears.

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TBE Reads

Unorthodox: The Scandalous Rejection of My Hasidic Roots by Deborah Feldman

January 15, 7:15 p.m.

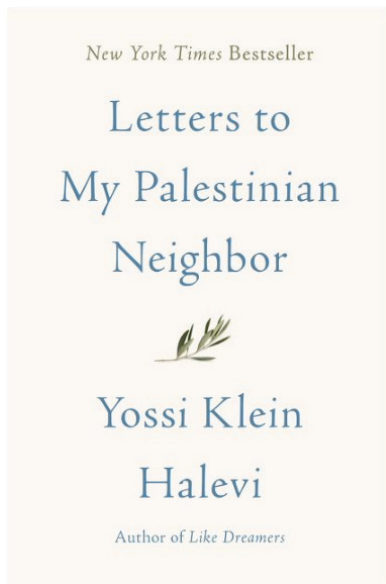
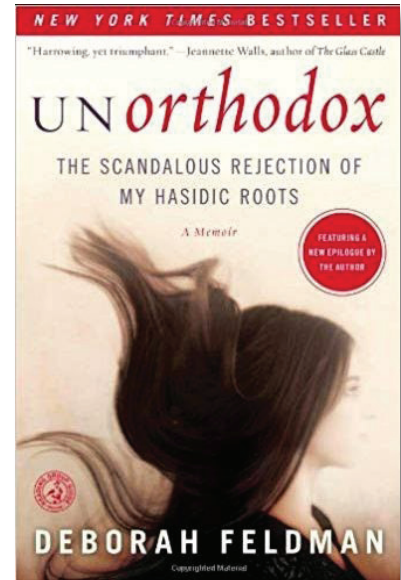
TBE's bookclub, TBE Reads, is tackling *Unorthodox, the Scandalous Rejection of My Hasidic Roots*, by Deborah Feldman.

As a member of the strictly religious Satmar sect of Hasidic Judaism, Deborah Feldman grew up under a code of relentlessly enforced customs. It was stolen moments spent with the empowered literary characters of Jane Austen and Louisa May Alcott that helped her to imagine an alternative way of life.

Eventually she found the pluck and determination to leave, as she recounts in this brave and sensitive memoir.

Discussion led by Andrea Bradley.

RSVP to Debbie Herman at daherman@mac.com



Letters to My Palestinian Neighbor by Yossi Klein Halevi

Two sessions: February 5 and February 12, 7:00 p.m.

Letters to My Palestinian Neighbor is one Israeli's powerful attempt to reach beyond the wall that separates Israelis and Palestinians and into the hearts of "the enemy." In a series of letters, Yossi Klein Halevi directly addresses his Palestinian neighbors and describes how the conflict appears through Israeli eyes. Halevi untangles the ideological and emotional knot that has defined the conflict for nearly a century. In lyrical, evocative language, he unravels the complex strands of faith, pride, anger and anguish he feels as a Jew living in Israel, using history and personal experience as his guide.

Halevi's letters speak not only to his Palestinian neighbor, but to all concerned global citizens, helping us understand the painful choices confronting Israelis and Palestinians that will ultimately help determine the fate of the region.

Discussion led by Sarah Gluck.

RSVP to Debbie Herman at daherman@mac.com



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Lifecycle

Our condolences to...

Caryn Brandt, on the passing of her father, Ira Sussman
 Alan Leventhal, on the passing of his mother, Natalie Barbara Leventhal
 Jay Tischfield, on the passing of his brother, Jack Schnee
 Terry Wallin, on the passing of his mother, Dorothy Wallin
 Stanley and Tina Kanterman, on the passing of their son, Brian Kanterman

Mazel Tov to...

Joe and Shelley Drozd on the marriage of their daughter, Rebekah, to Brian Weber
 Bob and Shari Albin on the marriage of their daughter, Amanda, to Daniel Rosenblum
 Arie' and Jan Gorban on the marriage of their son, Ben, to Danielle Montag
 Neil and Debbie Friedman on the engagement of their son, Ross, to Rachel Calman. A September wedding is planned.
 Lillian Swickle on the engagement of her grandson, Robert (Bobby) Baxter, to Ashley DeChelfin
 Rabbi Murray Levine on the arrival of his first great grandchild on New Year's Eve. Name TBA at his bris in early January.



Rabbi Keren Gorban (far left) joins her parents, Arie' (l) and Jan (r), flanking the happy couple, Ben Gorban and Danielle Montag.

Bob and Shari Albin escorting their daughter Amanda to the chuppah, where Daniel Rosenblum awaited his bride.

Our Caring Community

Kesher Network: For those who are unable to attend our worship and simcha events and some adult education classes, our video streaming service is the next best thing to being there. Navigate to new.livestream.com/OurBethEl from a personal computer or mobile device (apps are available for [apple](#), [android](#) and [roku](#) devices) for a list of upcoming and recent livestream events from Temple Beth-El.

Shiva Minyans: For a leader or participants, call Amy Rubin or Cantor Pincus.

Mitzvah Committee: To offer or request help, please contact Carol Ahlert, carolahlert@yahoo.com, or 908-359-9357.

Ladles of Love (New initiative of soup or bread to lift the spirit): To offer to help deliver care packages or to suggest someone who might need a little extra love, contact Andrea Bradley abradley616@gmail.com.

In the event of a loss during the evening or on the weekend, call Cantor Pincus at 908-722-0674, ext. 315, or 646-420-2838.

To share your family's news in the *Shofar*, call Dina Fisher in the temple office. Please contact Dina with information about significant occasions, hospitalizations, or the loss of a loved one.

Prayer for Healing Cards: Cards are available in the temple lobby to let those in need of healing know that their names were included in our Mishebeirach prayer. The cards can be mailed as postcards by writing the address over the Temple Beth-El watermark or directly inserted into get well cards.

Acts of Tzedakah

General Fund

With wishes for a Happy Chanukah to the temple family
Andrew and Shari Farmer
 In memory of Elaine Roswell
Arthur and Betty Roswell
 In appreciation of Cantor Pincus
David Sandler
 In honor of the inspiring women in the B'not Mitzvah class
Ken and Amy Rubin
 In honor of Carol Gardner on the occasion of her bat mitzvah
Laura and Mitch Wienick
 To help support the congregation's kiddushim
Martin and Zina Wolin
 In memory of Mark Wolin
Martin and Zina Wolin
 In memory of Raba Wolin
Martin and Zina Wolin
 In honor of Lila Stark becoming a bat mitzvah
Simon Stark and Rhona Ferling
 In honor of Dina Fisher and Amy Rubin
Simon Stark and Rhona Ferling
 In appreciation of Larry Epstein
Simon Stark and Rhona Ferling
 In honor of Gari Bloom's adult bat mitzvah
The Murphy Family
 In appreciation of the RAC Trip
Patrick and Andrea Bradley

Adult Education Fund

In appreciation of Rabbi Gluck and Sarah Gluck
Adrienne Sherman
 In honor of the Adult B'not Mitzvah Class of 2018
David and Debbie Herman

Brotherhood Youth Scholarship Fund

Carol Ahlert
Jason Shapiro
Jeff Stuart
Keith Holler
Ken Rubin
Marc and Diane Milgram
 In honor of Donna Tischfield, Liz Cohen, Michelle Holler, Karen Donohue, Carol Gardner, Gari Bloom and Hillary Angeline on their b'not mitzvah
Ellen and Bruce Davidson
 In honor of Cantor Pincus
David Sandler

Cantor's Discretionary Fund

In honor of Amy Rubin
James and Beth Lavranchuk
 In honor of Harold and Rochelle Levin's new granddaughter, Cadence
Jay and Patricia Lavroff
 In honor of Susan and Ed Steinfeld's wedding anniversary
Jill Magidson
 In honor of the B'not Mitzvah Class of 2018
Oscar Gonzalez and Jodi Siegal
 In support of the Banot and Cantorial Concerts
Russ and Barbara Johnston
 In appreciation of Cantor Pincus
Steven Sloan

Jules Swickle Chesed Fund

Dan and Rebecca Guss
 In honor of Harold Sharlin
Goldie Taub and Rabbi Murray Levine
 In honor of Hillary Angeline, Gary Bloom, Liz Cohen, Karen Donohue, Carol Gardner, Michele Holler, and Donna Tischfield becoming b'not mitzvah
Larry and Robin Osman

Israel Scholarship Fund

In honor of the engagement of Rachael Calman and Ross Friedman
Ellen Calman

Library Fund

In memory of Florence R. Levinson
Stuart and Edith Rugg

Memorial Fund

In memory of Jules Blake
Barbara Blake
 In memory of Harry Brody and Gustave Kaitz
Bruce and Revallee Brody
 In memory of Ida Okun
Charles and Madelyn Okun
 In memory of Nathan Seinfeld
David Sandler
 In memory of Beverly Sandler
David Sandler
 In memory of Alfred Sweetwood and Roberta Meyers
Edmond and Gail Meyers
 In memory of Bernice Skowronek
Joshua and Marion Skowronek

In memory of Iva Tiplitz
Matt and Andrea Wolkofsky
 In memory of Esther Cohen
Rita Fink
 In memory of Roslyn and Leonard Eber
Robert and Beth Moran
 In memory of Irving Cooperman
Robert and Frances Taber
 In memory of Walter Greenbaum
Robert and June Greenbaum
 In memory of Renee Krovetz
Robert Krovetz and Ellen Stept
 In memory of Claudia Johnston
Russ and Barbara Johnston
 In memory of Dora Kirsch
Stanley Mendelson
 In memory of George Rugg
Stuart and Edith Rugg

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

In honor of the brit milah ceremony for their son, Ryden Everett
Amanda and Richard Hannum
 In honor of Ben and Danielle's wedding
Arieh and Jan Gorban
 In appreciation of Rabbi Gluck
Ben Gorban
 In memory of Elaine Roswell
Arthur and Betty Roswell
 In memory of Hilda Blaustein
Arthur and Betty Roswell
 In memory of Jeffrey Rugg
Stuart and Edith Rugg

Religious School Scholarship Fund

In honor of Gari Bloom on the occasion of her bat mitzvah
Elizabeth Coogan
 In appreciation of Temple Beth-El
Rich and Zahava Schaefer

Social Action Fund

In honor of the Adult B'not Mitzvah Class of 2018
Rick and Bev Miller

Temple Beth-El has many funds available to which members can contribute. Donations to these committed funds help support Temple programs and enable us to continue to maintain a high level of programming for our community.

- | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| • General Fund | • Cultural Arts | • Library | • Social Action Fund |
| • Adult Education | • Garden | • Mazon Hunger Fund | • Torah Restoration Fund |
| • Ariel E. Malberg Memorial Fund | • Holocaust Education | • Memorial | • Yad Chazakah Fund |
| • Beautification | • Israel Matters | • Prayer Book | • Youth Activities |
| • B'nei Mitzvah Special Needs Fund | • Israel Scholarship Fund | • Rabbi Gluck's Discretionary Fund | |
| • Brotherhood Youth Scholarship | • Jules Swickle Chesed Fund | • Religious School Enrichment | |
| • Cantor Pincus' Discretionary Fund | • Keshet | • Religious School Scholarship Fund | |

A Bounty of Fruits and Vegetables

Although it's still cold and wintry outside, Jews everywhere will soon celebrate the "New Year of the Trees," Tu B'Shvat. This holiday takes place on the 15th of Shevat in the Hebrew calendar, and marks the beginning of spring in Israel; it is one of four annual new years described in the Mishnah. It's a time to celebrate the natural world, and to express our gratitude for the fruits of the earth and everything that grows.

Traditionally, a bounty of fruits and vegetables graces the Tu B'Shvat table. In some parts of the world, Jews partake in a Tu B'Shvat Seder meal, complete with prayers and food blessings. Others celebrate with a picnic under the trees or simply making a meal featuring the fruits of the season. Jewish schools often hold outdoor parades; students wear white and make baskets overflowing with fruit. In Israel, people are encouraged to plant trees and give back to the earth, which is similar to our U.S. tradition of Arbor Day.

In keeping with today's environmental concerns, some people also prepare a vegetarian meal to celebrate the ecological aspect of the holiday. Eating a meatless meal impacts the environment in a positive way; offers more opportunities to integrate fruits, vegetables, and grains into the menu; and helps us appreciate the source of our food and our connection to the earth.

Typical foods served on Tu B'Shvat include fruits, nuts, grains, and vegetables. Almond trees bloom in Israel at this time of year, so almond-laden foods often make an appearance on the holiday table. A Tu B'Shvat Seder will feature at least 15 different types of fruits and vegetables.

It is also customary to include the seven species mentioned in the Torah: wheat, barley, grapes, figs, pomegranates, olives, and dates. All the recipes below incorporate at least some of these, and the first one gets them all into one delicious muffin. So enjoy celebrating Tu B'Shvat with these delicious foods, and dream a little dream of spring.

Seven Species Muffins

These scrumptious muffins include the seven species of the Torah - wheat, barley, figs, dates, pomegranate, olives, and grapes.

Ingredients

¾ c. golden raisins	1½ c. all-purpose flour
½ c. dried figs	(¾ c. all-purpose + ¾ c. whole wheat flour will work too)
½ c. dates	½ c. barley flour
1¼ c. unsweetened almond milk	2 tsp. baking powder
¼ c. applesauce	½ tsp. baking soda
1 tsp. cinnamon	¼ tsp. salt
½ tsp. allspice	¾ c. pomegranate seeds
2 large eggs	½ c. chopped walnuts
⅓ c. light olive oil	Nonstick cooking spray or paper muffin tin liners
½ c. sugar	Topping Ingredients (optional)
½ c. brown sugar	2 tbsp. turbinado sugar
1½ tsp. vanilla extract	¼ tsp. cinnamon

Directions

If your raisins are particularly dry, cover them with water and bring to a boil. As soon as the water boils, turn off the heat and let the raisins sit in the water to plump for 10 minutes. Drain and pat dry with a paper towel.

Preheat oven to 400 degrees F. If your figs have tough stems on them, remove them and discard. Roughly chop dates and figs, and set aside.

Use a blender or food processor to blend, until very smooth, the dates, figs, almond milk, applesauce, cinnamon and allspice. The end result should be similar to the texture of apple butter or smooth fruit preserves. Set mixture aside.

In a medium mixing bowl, whisk together eggs, light olive oil, sugar, brown sugar, and vanilla extract.

In a large mixing bowl, sift together flour, barley flour, baking powder, baking soda, and salt. Gently mix the pomegranate seeds into the dry mixture, making sure the seeds are well coated with flour.

Make a well in the middle of the dry ingredients. Pour the fruit mixture from the blender into the well.

Add the egg mixture to the well.

Fold the dry ingredients into the wet ingredients until the dry ingredients are just moistened and a lumpy batter forms. Do not overmix; if you do, your muffins will turn out heavy and dense. Fold raisins and chopped walnuts into the muffin batter with a light-handed stir.

Spray a small amount of nonstick cooking spray into the bottom of each muffin tin, or use paper muffin cup liners. Divide the batter equally into muffin cups, filling each cup to the top and mounding the surface slightly. If you'd like to top the muffins, mix the sugar and cinnamon together in a small bowl with a fork. Sprinkle about ½ tsp of the cinnamon sugar mixture evenly across the surface of each muffin.

Place muffins in the oven and immediately turn the heat down to 375 degrees F. Bake for 25-27 minutes, until the tops of the muffins are golden brown and a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean. Let muffins cool for 10 minutes before removing from the tin and cooling on a rack. Do not let the muffins cool completely in the tin; they are quite moist and may stick to the tin if you leave them there too long. Serve warm.

Source: [Toriavey.com](#)



Pomegranate Syrup

This is a delicious ingredient of the stuffed dates below. It is also wonderful served over vanilla ice cream. Pomegranate syrup will keep in your refrigerator for up to six months. If you cannot find 100% pomegranate juice in your supermarket, using a “from concentrate” brand will still yield tasty results. Makes about $\frac{3}{4}$ cup.

Ingredients

2 c. pomegranate juice
1 $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp. fresh lemon juice
 $\frac{1}{4}$ c. granulated sugar

Directions

Combine all ingredients in a small saucepan over medium heat and stir until the sugar dissolves. Lower the heat to medium-low and gently simmer for 30-60 minutes (the time will vary with the heat of your stove). Although you don't need to stir it, keep an eye on the mixture to make sure it doesn't boil. Once it has reduced down to about $\frac{3}{4}$ cup, turn the heat off, and transfer it to an airtight storage container to cool completely before putting it in the refrigerator.

Source: *Kveller.com*

Stuffed Dates

Ingredients

5 medjool dates
2 ounces soft goat cheese (not crumbled)
Pomegranate syrup (see above)

Makes 10 bites

Directions

Cut the dates in half and take out the pits, if necessary. Scoop out a small amount of flesh from each side to make a slightly larger cavity. Stuff each half with goat cheese; about 1 to 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoons per date half. Arrange on a serving platter, cheese side up, and drizzle with pomegranate syrup (a little goes a long way) immediately before serving. Or you can put the syrup on the side for dipping. Serve at room temperature.

Source: *Kveller.com*



Fig and Goat Cheese Sandwiches with Caramelized Onions

Ingredients

8 slices of wheat and barley bread	1 T. olive oil
1 large yellow onion, sliced	4 T. unsalted butter
10 ounces soft goat cheese (not crumbled)	Salt to taste
14 large fresh figs, ends removed and thinly sliced	

Makes 4 sandwiches

Directions

Warm 1 tablespoon of olive oil in a medium sized sauté pan over medium heat. Add the onions and a pinch of salt. Cook for 15-20 minutes, stirring frequently, until onions have softened and turned light brown in color. Remove from heat and set aside (or store in the fridge in an airtight container for up to two days).

To assemble the sandwiches: layer slices of goat cheese, caramelized onions and fig slices, making sure that goat cheese is the first and last layer for each sandwich (it should be touching the bread).

To grill sandwiches: In a large sauté pan or on a griddle, melt 1 tablespoon of butter over medium heat. Place the assembled sandwich in the butter and grill for 2-3 minutes per side, until the bread turns golden brown and crisp. Serve immediately.

Source: *Kveller.com*



Brotherhood

A New Year's Resolution

Twenty years ago, I became a member of Temple Beth-El. I was 35 years old and my wife and I had a 2½-year-old daughter. I joined the Brotherhood, as we had just moved from Lancaster, PA, and I thought it would be a good way to meet new people. Several years later I was asked to join the Board and served for many years. I enjoyed the social aspects, helping with fundraising efforts for our Brotherhood Youth Scholarship Fund and engaging in some learning opportunities. During this time, I added two more children to my family, got divorced and lost my father, but the one constant was Brotherhood. It's been the center of my temple life through good times and not so good times, and all of my life's transitions the past 20 years.

My fellow Board members and I try to develop programs that appeal to a wide variety of congregants. We've noticed that turnout at some of our events this year has been a

little light, and part of that may stem from our method of outreach to you. We will try to be more proactive to raise awareness of our events and will be using Instagram, the temple bulletin board and other means to communicate with the community. I hope as we come to the New Year, temple members will consider resolving to try to support one of our upcoming programs. My mother used to say to my children and me about food, "Try it; then you buy it." Like many of us in Brotherhood, you may find you enjoy our programs and getting to know some of our members to make lifelong connections.

Wishing you a Happy New Year (second time for us!) and looking forward to seeing you at one of our upcoming events. Please don't be a stranger.

Sheldon Stept
Co-President

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Sunday, March 24, 2019

Brotherhood will honor
Cindy and Mark Andrews
as our 2018-19 Persons of Honor.

Watch for more details.

APPLICATION DEADLINE NEARS!

February 1, 2019 is the deadline to
receive applications for the
Brotherhood Youth Scholarship Program.

Applications may be found at
[www.ourbethel.org/engage/groups/brotherhood/
brotherhood-youth-scholarship-fund/](http://www.ourbethel.org/engage/groups/brotherhood/brotherhood-youth-scholarship-fund/)

College Connection

The College Connection team sent out eighty packages to TBE college students for Chanukah. This is a record number of students receiving gifts from TBE through the College Connection!

First-year students received an electric menorah, a card, gelt, a dreidel and a pair of Chanukah socks. Upper classmen received a bright Chanukah banner, Chanukah slippers, a card, a dreidel, and gelt. We received positive feedback from many students relaying their appreciation for our temple remembering them at Chanukah!

It is never too late to sign up your college student for TBE's College Connection. They will receive packages from the temple at Rosh Hashanah, Chanukah and Passover. Just let Cindy Scott know your student's name, college address, and email by sending an email to c.scott93@yahoo.com.



Renaissance Happenings

The Scoop

The late December Chanukah social was a spirited, festive occasion made special by the Steinfelds, who opened their home to us. The luncheon buffet of bagels, lox and cream cheese, plus members' homemade specialties, and our host's phenomenal chocolates, were a welcome display, leaving all satiated. Forthcoming event ideas for the 2019 Renaissance calendar were offered and discussed, so mark your calendars for our initial starters this February and May. Our many thanks and appreciation to Susan and Ed for graciously hosting, and to Fran Taber for coordinating this holiday event.

Esther Wallach
Renaissance Group

Birds Of A Feather

This winter or looking ahead to spring, would you like to partake in an activity to get your blood moving? How about a weekday afternoon of bowling for some senior fun? Let us know if this or another activity motivates you by submitting your Birds of a Feather suggestions to Harriet at harriethaler7324@gmail.com and stay tuned. Let's see where this takes us!

New Members

We acknowledge our latest members Jonathon Andell, Amy and Alan Berger, Hirshel and Roselle Jaffe, Pam Sloan, and Susan and Ed Steinfeld, who have all graced us with their participation.

Mark Your 2019 Calendars

Wed., Feb. 13 Performance at MPAC: Love Letters
7:30 p.m. Morristown, NJ

Join us for an imaginative theater piece on Valentine's eve at Morristown's Performing Arts Center, which stars married actors Jill Eikenberry and Michael Tucker of TV's "L.A. Law" fame. Tickets are priced at \$39, \$49 or \$59. If interested, please purchase directly via www.mayoarts.org, or call the box office at 973-539-8008 to reserve seats. An optional group dinner venue in Morristown prior to curtain is also planned. Please RSVP your interest to Esther at 908-371-1370 or hwallach77@comcast.net

Sun., May 5 Senior brunch and play: Little Shop of Horrors, Voorhees High School, Glen Gardner, NJ

Tickets include a noontime brunch; the show begins at 2:00 p.m. For best available seats, contact Barry at barryskolky@yahoo.com or 908-963-4863. Prices are \$20 for the center section; \$15 for the side section.

Sun., May 19 Paid-Up Membership Luncheon
1:00 p.m. Location to be announced.

The Renaissance Group is a 50+ social group that gets together to share interests, experiences, and activities. New membership is welcomed! Should you wish additional information about the group, or want to contribute to the Renaissance Happenings column, we welcome your submissions on a learned experience or human interest story. Please contact Harriet Thaler at 908-788-0269 or thalerz@embarqmail.com.



The Renaissance members enjoyed a Chanukah luncheon at Susan and Ed Steinfeld's home. Left to right: Paul Walitzky, Marty and Zina Wolin, Zorina Walitzky, Ellen Brown, and Rita Fink



Susan Steinfeld and Harriet Thaler enjoy some Chanukah fun.

Sisterhood

Come Connect with Sisterhood!

Women's Torah Talk

The next Women's Torah Talk for Sisterhood members is scheduled Jan. 22 (snow date is Feb. 19) at the home of Shuey Horowitz, 23 Hayes Court, Hillsborough.

Join Marcy Rosenfeld as she leads a lively conversation on Parshat Yitro from Exodus 18:1–20:23. This is a casual version of Torah study that is easy to relate to on a personal level. Come to the discussion even if you didn't read the portion; all will be welcome to join the conversation.

Please email your RSVP to Marsha Malberg at memalberg@aol.com

Torah Talk is one of the exclusive benefits of Sisterhood membership. Women may join Sisterhood at Torah Talk.

Casual Breakfast

Sisterhood invites all women to meet for a free and casual get-together over breakfast at 9:00 a.m. Jan. 27. Membership is not required.

This meeting will be a great opportunity to stop by and find out Temple Beth El's Sisterhood is not your mother's Sisterhood. These types of events typically feature a speaker or program, but this gathering is to specifically hear how Sisterhood can be part of your total TBE experience.

Join us for bagels, juice, coffee and tea, as well as other goodies. We hope to see you there.

Please watch TBE email blasts and other forms of communication announcing a joint Brotherhood and Sisterhood social event for February.

Honoring Laura Miller — Sisterhood Woman of Valor, 2018

Sisterhood held its annual Woman of Valor dinner on Dec. 6, 2018, honoring this year's very deserving recipient, Laura Miller.

Candles burning brightly in the Chanukah menorahs that served as table centerpieces added to the festive evening, attended by approximately 50 Sisterhood members. Together with Laura's family and friends, we enjoyed a delicious and plentiful Italian dinner and desserts catered by Alfonso's in Hillsborough.

As part of the special evening, Sisterhood collected contributions in Laura's honor, for Safe + Sound of Somerset County (formerly the Women's Resource Center). Sisterhood matched the \$603 in donations, dollar for dollar, for a total of \$1,206. We thank Laura for all she has contributed over the years and all she continues to do, in her devoted and loving way, for Temple Beth-El and the greater community.



Laura Miller surrounded by previous Women of Valor: back row, l-r: Ronnie Weyl, Karen Kaplan, Marsha Malberg, Cindy Andrews, Barbara Johnston, and Marcy Rosenfeld; front row: Simma Friedman, Laura, Lillian Swickle, and Cindy Scott.

Below, from left: Felicia, Jessica, Laura, Wesley and Amanda



Woman of Valor Dinner Honoring Laura Miller December 6, 2018

Biography given by Sisterhood Co-Presidents Fern Jurgenrau and Karen Kaplan at dinner

Laura was born to a very loving family in New York City, a long, long time ago in a galaxy far, far away. At least it seemed that way when, in 1968, she moved from New York City to Raritan, New Jersey and attended Raritan High School. On her first day of high school, she wore knee-high go-go boots, a mini skirt and metallic stripe top, while her new classmates wore long, pleated, plaid skirts.

In her sophomore year in high school Laura met the love of her life, Sig. She then attended Montclair University, and he went on to Rutgers University and chiropractic school in Kansas City, Missouri. They married in 1978 and were happily married for 37 years. They moved to Florida, and Sig opened a chiropractic office; she was his office manager for several years. They then moved on to Kansas City, Missouri where she worked for Intertec Publishing Company selling advertising space and he worked as a chiropractor.

After Kansas City they moved back to New Jersey briefly. Then Sig was offered a college teaching job and it was on to Sunnyvale, California and a new practice. In 1986, the triplets were born 12 weeks early. Welcome to the world, Felicia, Jessica and Wesley....a life-altering event. They weren't expected to survive, but they had the best doctors and nurses at Stanford University taking care of them. Of course, they also had a mother and father who were devoted to loving them and getting them the best care.

Laura then became a stay-at-home mother to triplets. At this point Laura became a 24-hour mom and her life was turned upside down, with three children who still needed medical care. They had 50 mini bottles of formula on hand in the fridge at all times, heart monitors and oxygen for all, daily visits to the doctor for each one of them, and round-the-clock nurses for a year. Then there was physical and occupational therapy, with evaluations every six months until age three.

On the triplets' second birthday, all of the doctors and nurses from Stanford University attended and were singing "Itsy Bitsy Spider" on the living room floor. It doesn't get much better than that.

In 1991 the family joined Temple Isaiah in Walnut Creek, California, where they were members for 10 years. They belonged to a chavurah and participated in many social and fundraising events. Laura volunteered on many committees including the Thanksgiving Drive, fundraising auctions and progressive dinners. Then there were the Hebrew school days of chauffeuring back and forth.

When the triplets made their b'nai mitzvah, it was one of the best days of Laura's life. Watching them on the bimah together, chanting from the Torah, was such a proud moment.



Over the years Laura became a basketball, baseball, soccer, dance, gymnastics, chorus, Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts mom who was always on the go.

The family moved back to New Jersey in 2001, when the triplets were entering high school. Laura's house became the "go-to" place, and there always had to be snacks when the girls watched Oprah. The family joined Temple Beth-El in 2002 and the triplets were confirmed that year.

"My greatest accomplishment is my children," Laura said. "In raising triplets you always have to be aware of fairness. I would always count out their M&M's and put 17 grapes in each lunch bag. To this day they will comment if they think one is getting more than the other. And when writing their names, I always have to do it in birth order. Sometimes we have our own special language. They are my world."

Today, Felicia is the lead school counselor at Wayne Valley High School in Wayne, New Jersey. Jessica works in the clothing department at TJMaxx in Bridgewater. Wesley works in research and development for Celgene Pharmaceuticals in Summit. He married Amanda Conklin in June 2017. There is another Mrs. Miller and another "daughter"! Amanda works in internal communications for Wyndham Hotels in Parsippany.

Shortly after joining TBE, Laura became involved in Sisterhood and served on the board for several years. She co-chaired the rummage sale for many years, and has helped in the gift shop and Chanukah shop.

In 2011 Laura became involved in the Sisterhood Purim bag program. The coordinator at Temple Shalom in Bridgewater showed Sisterhood their Purim bag system, which has been adapted for TBE.

Since the beginning, Sisterhood's goal has been to improve the Purim bag program to include the entire community. The increase in revenue each year has allowed Sisterhood to fund many projects. It takes an incredible number of volunteers to execute this huge undertaking. It gives Laura great pleasure to know that Sisterhood has been able to play such an important role in TBE life and that she and Cindy Scott have been instrumental in that effort.

"I am grateful to have met so many caring people here at TBE," Laura said. "Now it's time to get moving on to Purim 2019."

Laura has also volunteered at the Somerset County 4-H Fair the past two years, helping TBE in its lemonade/food booth, which, like the Purim bag program, is a major fundraiser.

We are so happy to have Laura back on the Sisterhood board. This is a very well-deserved honor. We are so very proud to call Laura Sisterhood's 2018-19 Woman Of Valor.

Purim Bags — Spreading Holiday Cheer

With the arrival of a new secular year comes an annual rite of winter at Temple Beth-El — Sisterhood's program of sending Purim bags filled with goodies.

Sisterhood board members Laura Miller and Cindy Scott are already at work planning the details for this year's program. Letters announcing the event will go out in mid-January alerting congregants to order deadlines, costs and delivery dates.

The program's success is attributable in part to a variety of participation levels that help ensure every temple member receives a bag. Among the ways to participate:

- Congregants can buy bags and designate specific recipients.
- Congregants can pay a flat fee of \$180 to have their names listed on a Golden Grogger card that will be on every bag delivered to every recipient — a way to share personal wishes for a happy Purim to everyone receiving a bag.
- Congregants can choose a mitzvah donation option in which congregants can anonymously send a bag to someone who otherwise would not receive one.

While the program has achieved 100 percent success in giving a bag to every member, only about 30 percent of temple families purchase even one bag. Every donation counts, and no donation is too small. Purchasing just one

bag for donation helps Sisterhood continue its successful tradition.

The 2018 program resulted in the delivery of more than 500 bags, and Sisterhood hopes to achieve similar success this year. Purim bag assembly is scheduled at 9:00 a.m. Sunday, March 10 at the temple, and bags can be picked up starting at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday, March 17. Bags for temple members and staff will cost \$6 each. Bags are \$10 each for people who are not temple members. Orders are due by Friday, Feb. 15. Purim begins at sundown on Tuesday, March 19.

The annual program is Sisterhood's largest and typically benefits a needed project at the temple. Proceeds from past Purim bag programs have helped fund the recarpeting project at the temple as well as the purchase of a stove, freezer and refrigerator for the kitchen. A portion of proceeds also has been donated for future improvements to the Beit Midrash.

There are a number of ways to support this year's program: buy bags to support needed projects at TBE; help assemble bags; and sign up to deliver bags. More than 50 drivers helped deliver bags in 2018, and as many or more are needed this year, especially to make deliveries in Bridgewater, Hillsborough and Somerset.

To volunteer for deliveries or assembly, please email Laura Miller at auramiller5254@gmail.com or Cindy Scott at c.scott93@yahoo.com

Social Action

Repairing the World...One Mitzvah at a Time!

News from Reform Jewish Voice of New Jersey

Reform Jewish Voice of New Jersey is the state advocacy arm of the URJ's Religious Action Center. We support building connections with our state legislators, advocating for issues such as gun safety, immigrant justice, and environmental stewardship, and gathering together as Jews to speak to our values. For more information about RJVNJ, visit www.rjvnj.org.

Many in our TBE community have attended house meetings, our annual Trenton Advocacy Day, training sessions for civic engagement, rallies such as the New Jersey Women's March, and more. We welcome all to join and make our collective voices heard. Sign up for email news and action alerts at rjvoiceofnj@gmail.com.

We invite you to join us for some exciting upcoming events:

Monday, March 18 – RJVNJ Trenton State Advocacy Day

This is a highlight of our year with learning, meeting with legislators, and gathering with Reform activists from around the state. Please save the date and join us in Trenton.

May 19-21 – Consultation on Conscience, Washington, D.C.

This is a tremendous Religious Action Center social justice conference. Attendees will hear great speakers, learn advocacy skills, how to lobby our congressional representatives, and more. We hope you will be part of our delegation to experience this opportunity and help us bring home what we learn.

We will also use this opportunity to gather all New Jersey attendees for a Reform Jewish Voice of New Jersey breakfast.

Early bird discounted registration rates are available through Jan. 30; we receive an extra discount for coming as a delegation. Register at <https://rac.org/consultation-conscience-2019>.

May our voices together bring light and warmth this winter and beyond.

Please email questions or ideas to Liz Cohen, co-chair of RJVNJ, at rjvoiceofnj@gmail.com.

Social Action

Repairing the World...One Mitzvah at a Time!

As an outgrowth of last year's interfaith event "Many Faiths, One Home," Temple Beth-El joined a new Greenfaith Circle, The Mid-Garden State Circle. Greenfaith Circles are small, local collectives of congregations interested in pursuing environmental initiatives together. Our partners in this endeavor include North Branch Reformed Church, The Islamic Society of Basking Ridge, St. Bernard's Catholic Church, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, and The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Somerset Hills. We have held several planning meetings during the past year, attended by me and Vicki Schwartz as delegates from TBE, and would like to broaden our outreach to other TBE members who may be interested in participating. Please email david@decarchitect.com if you are interested.

Our next event will be the Tu BiShvat Seder on Jan. 26. Tu BiShvat, the birthday of the trees, is always an

appropriate time for an environmentally themed service. This year we invite members of our fellow Greenfaith Circle congregations to join us, and so want to present an especially engaging and interactive event.

My initial thought is to organize the activity around learning how to measure our own individual carbon footprints. Trees are both our best friends when trying to manage and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and also among the most vulnerable victims of a changing climate, since they have a hard time relocating away from threatening local conditions. Let's celebrate the new year of the trees by learning how to mitigate our personal contribution to climate change. Stay tuned for more information about dates in early January for planning meetings to create the Tu BiShvat Seder activity.

Dave Cohen, Social Action Chair

Interfaith Hospitality Network

Leigh Freeman, Coordinator — IHN / Temple Beth-El

Our next hosting date is Feb. 3-10

2019 IHN Hosting Schedule

Feb. 3-10

Apr. 7-14

Jun. 2-9

Aug. 11-18

The Interfaith Hospitality Network of Somerset County (IHNSC) is a not-for-profit organization that provides many layers of services for homeless families with children. IHNSC provides a valuable service, as most other programs for homeless families do not provide the range of services to families with children.

Temple Beth-El hosts clients of IHN six times a year, approximately February, March or April, June, August, October or November and December. The families call Temple Beth-El "home" for a week and our volunteers give their time to assure that the families have a warm and welcoming stay with good food, compassion, play, and lots of good conversation.

Getting involved requires only a few hours from one to six times a year...you choose your level of involvement. Every volunteer is an important mentor to our IHN families.

Please visit www.tinyurl.com/TBEIHN or call the appropriate coordinator listed below to schedule a volunteer shift. Always check the IHN Coordinators Contact List in each issue of the Shofar, as it's possible that there have been changes. **Each volunteer is expected to honor their commitment to the IHN hosting week. If a volunteer is unable to fulfill their commitment, they should contact another volunteer and swap dates.**

IHN Coordinators Contact List

Function	Name	Main Phone	Other Phone	Email Address
Coordinator	Leigh Freeman	908-359-2724	908-391-1397 (c)	dancer.leighfreeman@att.net
Dinner Shift Volunteers	YOUR NAME HERE			
Evening Shift Volunteers	Julie Hirsch	732-580-8246		jbghirsch@gmail.com
Overnight Shift Volunteers	Sharon Sietz		908-256-6483	sharon.sietz@gmail.com
Meals	YOUR NAME HERE			
Food/Supplies	Mara White	908-231-1518	301-704-6066 (c)	mara@alumni.brown.edu
Linen Pick-Up	Cindy Andrews		908-635-6858 (c)	cjrandrews@gmail.com
Set-Up/Breakdown	David Cohen	609-683-5766		david@decarchitect.com
IHNSC/Day Center	Karen Donohue	908-704-1920	908-217-0217 (c)	karen@ihnsc.org

Yahrzeits J a n u a r y

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We extend our deepest sympathy to those of you who will be marking a loved one's Yahrzeit in the coming month. Below are the dates for the Yahrzeits we will be reciting during Shabbat services.

To be read on January 4 and 5

Bob Friedman, brother-in-law of Lillian Swickle
Libby Rita Friedman, mother of Neil Friedman
Sol Goldberg, father of Michael Goldberg
Gustave Kaitz, father of Revalee Brody
Dora Kirsch, mother-in-law of Stanley Mendelson
William Margulis, husband of Arleen Margulis
Edward Reynolds, father of Mark Reynolds
Celia Shubitz, grandmother of Gerald Shubitz
Gene Alden, father of Vicki Brody
George Rugg, father of Stuart Rugg
Irving Glatt, father of Evelyn Silverstein
Annaliese Stuart, aunt of Robert Adler
Fannie Febesh, mother of Ilene Rothschild
Stephanie L. Graham, wife of James Graham
Ben Lavin, father of Liz Cohen
Harry Schwartz, uncle of Sylvia Rubin
Sophie Brown, mother of Marvin Brown
Gussie Osman, grandmother of Larry Osman
Amy Garthly, mother of Amy Rubin
Max Adler, father of Robert Adler
Jack Cudzynowski, uncle of Joseph Cudzynowski

To be read on January 11 and 12

Harry Bernstein, grandfather of Amy McBride
Harold Gliksman, brother of Michael Gliksman
Esther Rubin Polokoff, grandmother of Kenneth Rubin
Carole Vitelli, mother of Scott Richard
Edward Klein, father of Leslie Klein
Charles Lowenthal, grandfather of Lynn Small
Richard Schiff, uncle of Rick Miller
Ethel Tischfield, mother of Jay Tischfield
Rose Della Ventura, grandmother of Stephen Swinick
Albert Waldorf, father of William Waldorf
Betty Weiss, mother of Michael Weiss
Reba Wolin, mother of Martin Wolin
Lawrence T. Bernstein, uncle of Amy McBride
Louis Faer, father of Beverly Bober
Maurice Goldberg, father of Gari Bloom
Norman Miller, father of Rick Miller
Shalom Weyl, father of Lewin Weyl
Leona Berkowitz, mother of Steve Berkowitz
Gussie Bernstein, grandmother of Amy McBride
Julian Freedman, stepfather of Cindy Weiss
Ida Vogel, sister of Max Spinner
Ernest A. Compain, grandfather of David Gold
Rosalie Weitz, mother of Steven Weitz
Fryderyk Wojcik, father of Annie Heimberg
Harry Brody, father of Bruce Brody
Rose Greenberg, mother of Elaine Krantz
Anne Marie Lavranchuk, mother of James Lavranchuk
Morris Bailin, father of Gary Bailin
Lawrence Bouchonville, father of Maria Landau
Ida Drexler, grandmother of Howard Engler
Marilyn Engler, mother of Howard Engler

Lillian Giniger, grandmother of David Kornberg
Herman Rubin, husband of Sylvia Rubin
Joseph Silverman, father of Lloyd Silverman
Selma Smith, mother of Joseph Smith

To be read on January 18 and 19

Rebecca Cohen, mother of Saul Cohen
Lorraine Perlin, sister-in-law of Beatrice Cohen
Ina Roistacher, grandmother of Mara White
Mary White, mother of Michael White
Leon Blitman, stepfather of Mara White
Samuel Gerber, father of Jennifer Gerber
Larry Hillman, father of Lillian Swickle
Shana Rudnitsky, mother of Jennifer Haftel
Fanny Wohl, grandmother of Robyn Becker
Toby L. Allaway, sister of Carol Levison
Philip Tesser, father of Laurie Novak
Morris L. Wang, father of Andrea Auerbach
Arnold Sietz, father of Sharon Sietz
Jeffrey Stelman, father of Jaime Gerard
Ida Toborowsky, mother of Robert Taber
Ann Gordon, grandmother of Julie Hersh
Elaine Wedeen, mother of Ken Wedeen
Leon Fish, father of Andrea Bradley
Gail Ellen Gold, mother of Sarah Gold and David Gold
Irvin Goldman, brother of Shari Albin
Alexander Finn Miller, father of Susan Brown
Roz Ringel, mother of Jeff Ringel
Rebecca Spevack, mother of Gail Wohl

To be read on January 25 and 26

Dr. Raymond Taub, husband of Goldie Taub
Cindy Cipos, sister of Barry Hoffner
Rosalie Stark, mother of Simon Stark
Anna Herskowitz, grandmother of Helene Fine
Herbert Landesman, father of Glen Landesman
Lucien Sabah, uncle of Ghislaine Silverman
Anne Siegelau, mother of David Siegelau
Paula Mittleman Edelson, cousin of Goldie Taub
Rose Feldman, grandmother of Larry Osman
Julius Frenkel, grandfather of Gary Friedman
Peter Stein, brother of Mitchell Stein
Sandra Haftel, mother of Benjamin Haftel
Bernard Simon, father of Carol Landesman
Howard Strand, father of Thomas Strand
Florence Zatz, mother of Iris Naroden
Sema Bienes, mother of Zina Wolin
Gail Bashein Shinske, mother of Caryn Shinske
Beth Gold Soodik, grandmother of Kimberly Beman
Sol Weinstein, father-in-law of Ann Weinstein
Alice Bober, mother of Michael Bober
Sol Feldman, grandfather of Larry Osman
Morris Katchen, father of Beverly Cohen
Simon Schutzman, grandfather of Cheryl Nelson
Abraham Small, grandfather of Brian Small

Yahrzeits February

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We extend our deepest sympathy to those of you who will be marking a loved one's Yahrzeit in the coming month. Below are the dates for the Yahrzeits we will be reciting during Shabbat services.

To be read on February 1 and 2

Edward M. Fink, husband of Rita Fink
Lillian Jurgrau, mother of Fern Jurgrau
Ida Springer, aunt of Gerald Shubitz
Farra Tebbi-Lewis, daughter of Farajollah and Mahin Tebbi
Norma Albin, mother of Robert Albin
Lawrence deMackiewicz, brother of Carrie Feuer
Fannie Kaplin, mother of Phyllis Greenberg
Bernard Levin, father of Harold Levin
Loretta Block, mother of Felicia Falzone
Lillian Etkins, mother of Donna Etkins
Eva Brooks, aunt of Cindy Mangel
Rebecca Taub, mother-in-law of Goldie Taub
Raymond Bateman, Jr., brother of Caren Bateman
Joseph Beck, father of Michael Beck
Samuel Chasin, grandfather of Gerald Shubitz
Stanley Engler, father of Howard Engler
Sidney Spector, father of Susan Plan
Augusta Koen, mother of Peter Koen
Martin Leeds, father of Jodi Bloom
Bert Schneider, father of Arthur Schneider

To be read on February 8 and 9

Perry Goldfeder, great uncle of Lynn Small
Norman Kohn, father of Hal Kohn
Rose Reinhart Sayne, mother of Morton Reinhart
Roslyn Sietz, mother of Sharon Sietz
Charles Mangel, father of Howard Mangel
Norman Weitman, father of Nanette Mantell
Sarah Zerring, mother of Judith Goldberg
Philip Auerbach, father-in-law of Andrea Auerbach
Janice Hoffner, mother of Barry Hoffner
Ralph B. Jackson, father of June Greenbaum
Paul Novak, father of Dr. Gerald Novak
Henry Schwartz, father of Vicki Schwartz
Harry Cohen, father of Rita Fink
Sara Rechtleben, mother of Deborah Tompa
Minnie Hammer, mother of Diane Foss
Bernard Weigl, grandfather of Lynn Small
Irene Cohen, sister of Stanley Kanterman
David Mendelson, brother of Stanley Mendelson
Shaul Yarkoni, father of Yaniv Yarkoni

To be read on February 15 and 16

Vincent Falzone, father of Scott Falzone
Miriam Meyer, aunt of Alan Fass
Lillian Freed, mother of Diane Morrison
Bertha Posner, aunt of Marcy Rosenfeld
Irv Rabinowitz, father of Sarah Gluck
Jessica Schoenberg, sister of Isa Beck
Al Freiman, father of Roy Freiman
Marion Friedberg, mother of Morton Friedberg

Cary E. Goldberg, father of Lisa Goldberg
Miriam Halpern, mother of Morris Halpern
Rose Spinner, mother of Max Spinner
Adam Goldberg, brother of Carl Goldberg
Mary Beth Lieb, mother of Wendy Spinner
Benjamin Wald, father of David Wald
Estelle Freeman, mother of Richard Freeman
Ruth Papier, grandmother of Shelley Drozd
Harold Jurgrau, father of Fern Jurgrau
Bette K. Lewin, mother of Carol Levison

To be read on February 22 and 23

Roslyn Newman, grandmother of Jan Miller
Sophia Tentler, mother of Simona Rivkin
Rabbi Matthew Derby, father of Frank Derby
Augusta Auerbach, mother-in-law of Andrea Auerbach
Martha Lottman, mother of Liz Cohen
David Stern, father of Jason Stern
Louis Zibulsky, grandfather of Robyn Becker
Ellen Fischer, mother of David Fischer
Alfred Goldberg, grandfather of Shavaun Glikzman
Charles Insler, father of Elayne Weitz

To be read on March 1 and 2

Max Chanoch, father of Keith Chanoch
Anne Finkelstein, mother of Beth Lavranchuk and Lori Blond
Ira Foss, brother of Bernard Foss
Morris Goldstein, father of Marcia Shubitz
David Marcus, father of Richard Marcus
Marjorie Silverman, wife of Lloyd Silverman and mother of Jeff Silverman
Daniel Wachtel, loved one of Ann Weinstein
Anne Feurman, mother of Ileen Bradley
Paul Glaser, father of Shelley Drozd
William Knauer, father of Leonard Knauer
Sarah Wang, mother of Andrea Auerbach
Beverly Weitman, mother of Nanette Mantell
Karen Zweig, mother of Lauren Iannucci
Dorothy Dallow, mother of Brian Dallow
Mrs. Judith Jaffe, mother of Rabbi Hirshel Jaffe
Herbert Ringel, father of Jeff Ringel
Mary Rugg, mother of Stuart Rugg
Marion Seinfeld, grandmother of David Sandler
Rose Faer, mother of Beverly Bober
George Okun, father of Charles Okun
Bernice Jacobs Sarnoff, mother of Nancy Burke
Charles Feurman, father of Ileen Bradley
William Irving Klinghoffer, father of Doris Moshinsky
Bathsheva Malberg, mother of Marc Malberg and Edward Malberg
Morris Schenkman, father of Eugene Schenkman

January

Calendar of Events

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Tuesday, January 1

New Year's Day
Offices Closed

Wednesday, January 2

7:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, January 3

7:30 p.m. Jewish LIFE: Israeli Folk Dancing

Friday, January 4

6:00 p.m. Young Family Pizza Dinner
7:00 p.m. Family Shabbat Service

Saturday, January 5

10:00 a.m. Shabbat Minyan Service and Torah Study

Sunday, January 6

9:00 a.m. Jewish LIFE: Trope with Cantor Pincus
9:00 a.m. Religious School
10:00 a.m. Jewish LIFE: Biblical Hebrew
10:30 a.m. RS Grades 6/7 Retreat Parent Meeting
5:00 p.m. RS Madrichim Meeting

Monday, January 7

4:30 p.m. Hebrew School
6:30 p.m. Post-Confirmation
7:00 p.m. Mah Jongg
7:30 p.m. Ritual Committee Meeting

Tuesday, January 8

7:00 p.m. Young Family Initiative Meeting

Wednesday, January 9

4:30 p.m. Hebrew School
6:30 p.m. Confirmation Academy
7:00 p.m. Sisterhood Board Meeting
7:30 p.m. Confirmation Parent Meeting
7:30 p.m. Brit K'hillah Meeting
7:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, January 10

7:30 p.m. Jewish LIFE: Israeli Folk Dancing

Friday, January 11

RS: Grades 8 and 9 Field Trip to New York, time TBD
8:00 p.m. Shabbat Evening Service

Saturday, January 12

10:00 a.m. Shabbat Minyan Service and Torah Study
10:30 a.m. Young Family Shabbat Experience and Bagel Breakfast

Sunday, January 13

9:00 a.m. Jewish LIFE: Trope with Cantor Pincus
9:00 a.m. Jewish Spirituality Group
9:00 a.m. Religious School
10:00 a.m. Jewish LIFE: Biblical Hebrew
11:00 a.m. Jewish LIFE: The Amazing Story of Dr. Ruth

Monday, January 14

4:30 p.m. Hebrew School
6:30 p.m. Post-Confirmation
7:00 p.m. Mah Jongg
7:30 p.m. Oversight Committee Meeting

Tuesday, January 15

7:15 p.m. TBE Reads: *Unorthodox*

Wednesday, January 16

4:30 p.m. Hebrew School
6:30 p.m. Confirmation Academy
7:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, January 17

7:30 p.m. Jewish LIFE: Israeli Folk Dancing

Friday, January 18

8:00 p.m. Shabbat Shirah with the Choir and the Tefillah Band

Saturday, January 19

10:00 a.m. Shabbat Minyan Service and Torah Study
7:30 p.m. Youth: SMOOCHY Shul-in

Sunday, January 20

9:00 a.m. No Religious School: MLK Weekend

Monday, January 21

Tu BiShvat
Martin Luther King Day
Offices Closed
7:00 p.m. Mah Jongg

Tuesday, January 22

7:30 p.m. Women's Torah Talk

Wednesday, January 23

7:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, January 24

7:30 p.m. Jewish LIFE: Israeli Folk Dancing

Friday, January 25

8:00 p.m. Shabbat Evening Service

Saturday, January 26

10:00 a.m. Shabbat Minyan Service and Torah Study
Noon Tu BiShvat Seder
5:00 p.m. Young Family Pajama Party with Sheldon Low

Sunday, January 27

9:00 a.m. Jewish LIFE: Trope with Cantor Pincus
9:00 a.m. Religious School
9:15 a.m. Sisterhood Breakfast: Nutrition and Food Allergies
10:00 a.m. Jewish LIFE: Biblical Hebrew

Monday, January 28

4:30 p.m. Hebrew School
7:00 p.m. Mah Jongg
7:30 p.m. Religious School Committee Meeting

Wednesday, January 30

4:30 p.m. Hebrew School
6:30 p.m. Confirmation Academy
7:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, January 31

Post-Confirmation Trip to Charleston
7:30 p.m. Jewish LIFE: Israeli Folk Dancing

Visit our online calendar at www.ourbethel.org/about/calendar/ for more information, room locations and updated information.

February

Calendar of Events

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Friday, February 1

Post-Confirmation Trip to Charleston
7:00 p.m. Family Shabbat Service

Saturday, February 2

Post-Confirmation Trip to Charleston
NFTY-GER Maccabiah
10:00 a.m. Shabbat Minyan Service and Torah Study

Sunday, February 3

IHN Hosting Week
Post-Confirmation Trip to Charleston
9:00 a.m. Jewish LIFE: Trope with Cantor Pincus
9:00 a.m. New Member Breakfast
9:00 a.m. Religious School
9:15 a.m. Brotherhood Board Meeting
10:00 a.m. Jewish LIFE: Biblical Hebrew

Monday, February 4

IHN Hosting Week
4:30 p.m. Hebrew School
6:30 p.m. Youth Culture Committee
7:00 p.m. Mah Jongg
7:30 p.m. Ritual Committee Meeting
7:30 p.m. Inner Ladder: Continuing Mussar Steps

Tuesday, February 5

IHN Hosting Week
7:00 p.m. TBE Reads: *Letters to My Palestinian Neighbor*

Wednesday, February 6

IHN Hosting Week
4:30 p.m. Hebrew School
6:30 p.m. Confirmation Academy
7:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, February 7

IHN Hosting Week
7:00 p.m. Jewish LIFE: Film *Wishmakers*, a Tulip Winery Film
7:30 p.m. Jewish LIFE: Israeli Folk Dancing

Friday, February 8

IHN Hosting Week
8:00 p.m. Shabbat Evening Service with the Choir

Saturday, February 9

IHN Hosting Week
10:00 a.m. Shabbat Minyan Service and Torah Study
7:00 p.m. Jewish LIFE: Jewish Film Series *Who the Jew Are You?*

Sunday, February 10

IHN Hosting Week
9:00 a.m. Young Family Book Discussion: *The Blessing of a Skinned Knee*
9:00 a.m. Jewish Spirituality Group
9:00 a.m. Religious School
9:15 a.m. Brotherhood Breakfast
10:00 a.m. Jewish LIFE: Biblical Hebrew

Monday, February 11

4:30 p.m. Hebrew School
6:30 p.m. Post-Confirmation
7:00 p.m. Mah Jongg
7:30 p.m. Oversight Committee Meeting

Tuesday, February 12

7:00 p.m. TBE Reads: *Letters to My Palestinian Neighbor*

Wednesday, February 13

4:30 p.m. Hebrew School
6:30 p.m. Confirmation Academy
7:00 p.m. Sisterhood Board Meeting
7:00 p.m. Jewish LIFE: He's Not Lazy: Empowering Your Son to Believe in Himself
7:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, February 14

7:30 p.m. Jewish LIFE: Israeli Folk Dancing

Friday, February 15

NFTY Convention
8:00 p.m. Shabbat Evening Service

Saturday, February 16

NFTY Convention
10:00 a.m. Shabbat Minyan Service and Torah Study

Sunday, February 17

NFTY Convention
9:00 a.m. No Religious School: Presidents' Weekend

Monday, February 18

NFTY Convention
Presidents' Day
Offices Closed
7:00 p.m. Mah Jongg

Tuesday, February 19

7:30 p.m. Women's Torah Talk (Snow Date)

Wednesday, February 20

7:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, February 21

7:30 p.m. Jewish LIFE: Israeli Folk Dancing

Friday, February 22

RS: RAC Trip to Washington
8:00 p.m. Shabbat Evening Service with the Tefillah Band

Saturday, February 23

RS: RAC Trip to Washington
10:00 a.m. Shabbat Minyan Service and Torah Study
6:30 p.m. Baby Boomer/Empty Nesters Potluck Dinner

Sunday, February 24

RS: RAC Trip to Washington
9:00 a.m. Jewish LIFE: Trope with Cantor Pincus
9:00 a.m. Religious School
10:00 a.m. Jewish LIFE: Biblical Hebrew

Monday, February 25

RS: RAC Trip to Washington
4:30 p.m. Hebrew School
7:00 p.m. Mah Jongg
7:30 p.m. Board of Trustees Meeting

Tuesday, February 26

7:00 p.m. Jewish LIFE: Yiddish Art Music

Wednesday, February 27

4:30 p.m. Hebrew School
6:30 p.m. Confirmation Academy — No Grade 10
7:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, February 28

7:00 p.m. Jewish LIFE: Mike Reiss: Springfield Confidential
7:30 p.m. Jewish LIFE: Israeli Folk Dancing

Contacting Temple Beth-El

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To Contact the Temple Beth-El Staff by email:

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