

Shofar



Cheshvan - Tevet 5780 • November/December 2019



Rabbi's Message

Why We Need to Support ARZA and Vote in the Zionist Elections

On Yom Kippur, I urged us to remember that we Jews are family. We are bound to one another by history and destiny, so what happens to any one of us should matter to each and every one of us. At the same time, we are also extremely diverse. We are Reform and Ultra-Orthodox, religious and secular. We are American, Israeli, Moroccan, Argentinian, Uzbeki, Australian, and more. We are Sephardi, Ashkenazi, Ethiopian, and Mizrachi. We speak almost every language on the planet. We are colorful and contentious, different in so many ways, and yet, we are also the same because we are Jews, one family, through thick and thin, through bitter and sweet.

Continued on page 3

In this issue...you can click on the page you would like to read first.

Acts of Tzedakah	11
Calendar	26-27
College Connection.....	17
Cultural Arts.....	20-21
Interfaith Thanksgiving Service.....	6
Ladles of Love	7
Leaves of Love	7
Legacy Circle.....	6
Lifecycle (TBE Family News).....	10
President's Message.....	4
Rabbi's Message.....	1, 3
Recipes.....	18-19
Renaissance	20
Ritual.....	20
Security at TBE.....	8
Shomrim Volunteers.....	8
Sisterhood.....	21
Social Action (IHN)	22
Torah Readers.....	5
Triple Threat - Yaniv Yarkoni.....	14-15
URJ Biennial	9
Worship Schedule	2
Yahrzeits	24-25

Interfaith Thanksgiving Service Honoring IHN

Tuesday, November 26, 7:00 p.m.

At St. Bernard of Clairvaux Church, Bridgewater

Consecration of New Religious School Students

Family Services

Friday, December 6, 7:00 p.m.

Jewish LIFE Israeli Film Series

"90 Minute War"

Saturday, December 14, 7:00 p.m.

[See page 16](#)

Shabbat Chanukah

Friday, December 27, 6:00 p.m.

Sixth Night of Chanukah

Bring your chanukiah and seven candles!



Worship Schedule

NOVEMBER

Friday, November 1

7:00 p.m. Family Shabbat Service

Saturday, November 2

Parashat Noach

10:00 a.m. Shabbat Morning Service with Bat Mitzvah of
Liel Raines Moshe

Friday, November 8

7:30 p.m. Erev Shabbat Service with the Choir

Saturday, November 9

Parashat Lech L'cha

10:00 a.m. Shabbat Minyan Service

Friday, November 15

6:30 p.m. Shabbat Seder Welcoming New Members

Saturday, November 16

Parashat Vayeira

10:00 a.m. Shabbat Morning Service with Bat Mitzvah of
Samantha Pock

Friday, November 22

7:30 p.m. Erev Shabbat Service with the Tefillah Band

Saturday, November 23

Parashat Chayei Sarah

10:00 a.m. Shabbat Minyan Service

Tuesday, November 26

7:00 p.m. Community Interfaith Thanksgiving Service at
St. Bernard of Clairvaux Church, Bridgewater

Thursday, November 28

Rosh Chodesh Kislev

Friday, November 29

7:30 p.m. Erev Shabbat Service

Saturday, November 30

Parashat Tol'dot

10:00 a.m. Shabbat Morning Service with Bat Mitzvah of
Allyson Ganz

DECEMBER

Friday, December 6

7:00 p.m. Family Shabbat Service with Consecration

Saturday, December 7

Parashat Vayeitzei

10:00 a.m. Shabbat Minyan Service

Friday, December 13

7:30 p.m. Erev Shabbat Service

Saturday, December 14

Parashat Vayishlach

10:00 a.m. Shabbat Minyan Service

Friday, December 20

7:30 p.m. Erev Shabbat Service

Saturday, December 21

Parashat Vayeishev

10:00 a.m. Shabbat Minyan Service

Friday, December 27

6:00 p.m. Chanukah Shabbat Service with the Choir and
the Tefillah Band

Saturday, December 28

Parashat Mikeitz

Rosh Chodesh Tevet

10:00 a.m. Shabbat Minyan Service

Temple Calendar Webpage

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

Shofar Submissions and Deadline

The next issue of the Shofar will be
January-February 2020. PLEASE NOTE: The
deadline for submissions is December 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](http://www.reformjudaism.org/learning/torah-study)

Rabbi's Message, continued from page 1

As Reform Jews, our vision for Israel and the Jewish people is one that embraces our diversity as a positive value. We want a Jewish world and a Jewish state where every Jew can feel at home and express themselves fully and freely. This vision was shared by Israel's founders, who pledged in their Declaration of Independence that the Jewish State would "guarantee freedom of religion, conscience, language, education and culture..." Unfortunately, Israel has failed to live up to this promise, by maintaining an official state rabbinate that gives Orthodoxy a virtual monopoly on Jewish religious life.

Orthodox Jewish institutions in Israel receive approximately \$1 billion of funding from the government each year, while the Reform and Conservative movements combined receive only a little over \$3 million. This needs to change, and we can help make that happen by supporting ARZA, the Association of Reform Zionists of America, which every member of this congregation has the opportunity to do through our annual giving to TBE. Our gift to ARZA helps to grow and sustain our Israeli Reform Movement by providing funding for its synagogues and schools, to make up for some of what they don't receive from the government.

This year, we have a huge opportunity to advance our values and claim our place in the Jewish family by voting in the elections for the World Zionist Congress, the Parliament of the Jewish people. Four years ago, the Reform movement won 39 percent of the American Jewish vote, which translated into real power, influence, and \$4 million a year in funding for our institutions in Israel and around the world. Our goal this time is to double that amount, and we can do it if... if we vote!

It is time for our fellow Jews to understand that we Reform Jews are not stepchildren in our shared Jewish family. We deserve to be treated as equals, and our Jewish way of life deserves respect, here and in Israel. Polls consistently indicate that a majority of Israeli Jews want religious freedom and pluralism, and many of them are voting with their feet.

This year, on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, Reform services were held in 70 locations throughout Israel, exposing more and more Israelis to a beautiful and meaningful egalitarian Jewish practice. Our growing Israeli Reform Movement now numbers 50 congregations, and our Hebrew Union College campus in Jerusalem has ordained more than 100 Israeli Reform rabbis. They need and

deserve our support.

Voting for the World Zionist Congress will take place online starting January 21, 2020 and will continue until March 11, 2020. All Jews over the age of 18 are eligible and it takes less than 90 seconds to cast your vote. Our campaign team will be providing detailed instructions to guide you.

I urge you to support ARZA as part of your annual giving to TBE, and to stand up for Reform Judaism and religious pluralism in Israel by voting in the World Zionist Congress Elections. I will be on ARZA's slate of candidates, and with your help I look forward to representing you next October in Jerusalem, when the 38th World Zionist Congress convenes. This is our moment to stand up and be counted; to stand with and for our fellow Reform Jews in Israel and throughout the world. Together we can make a difference!

L'shalom,

Rabbi Arnold S. Gluck



VOTE REFORM

#VoteReformWZC

**DO YOU BELIEVE THE REFORM MOVEMENT
SHOULD HAVE A STRONGER PRESENCE IN ISRAEL?**

**IF SO, WE'D LOVE FOR YOU TO GET INVOLVED IN THE
WORLD ZIONIST CONGRESS ELECTION!**



Vote Reform

World Zionist Congress Elections | January 21-March 11, 2020 | ARZA.org

arzenu
ארצנו

UNION for
REFORM
JUDAISM

World Zionist Organization
הסתדרות הציונית העולמית

ARZA* ארצה

From Our President

Beyond the Hug: How to Deepen Our TBE Ties

As I reflect upon our recent High Holiday worship, I continue to return to thoughts on the impact that Temple Beth-El has had in my life, both as a long-time congregant and a relatively new president still getting my feet wet in this role. And much of what I wish to accomplish during these next two years is to do everything possible to ensure that our special community can become equally meaningful to each of you.

From the beginning of my time serving as a vice president (now five years ago), I have been greatly impressed by what I observe when I sit on the bimah during the High Holidays. From my slightly raised vantage point (but one that allows me to face all of you), I am able to see our whole community worshipping together, in one place, at one time – and it is a powerful and awe-inspiring sight to behold. If I had a completely impractical wish for something we could change during the holidays, I would have each and every one of the members of our community take turns on the bimah so they can see what I see and feel when seated in that place of honor – and share that amazing sense of awe and inspiration.

With this in mind, I will summarize some of my words from the president's address that I gave during the morning service on Yom Kippur. I share them because of the very kind response it received and to take this opportunity to again convey my feelings about what I would like Temple Beth-El to mean to each member of our sacred community.

When I think of places that can be considered a refuge, a haven, or a sanctuary from the outside world, I first think about my home. It's a place where we can be ourselves, with unconditional acceptance, warmth, caring and love. Home is also where we can reflect on the day's events and put things into perspective for ourselves and our loved ones. Ultimately, home is where we try to make sense of the world around us.

But isn't Temple Beth-El that same kind of place? Here we teach, we care, we celebrate life's joys and life's sorrows. We unconditionally accept everyone for who they are. This is a place where you can always find a network of supporters. Perhaps a difference between your "house home" and your "temple home" is that at Temple Beth-El, the events of the world pass through the lens of a Jewish identity. And in this home we also try to make sense of the world from that perspective, with hope that there is great value from understanding the insights that can be derived from thousands of years of teachings on issues that have inevitably occurred in other contexts over our history as a people.

If you've spent any time here at Temple Beth-El, you've probably noticed that everyone who comes onto the bimah gets a hug – and sometimes we are so busy making sure

we get our hugs in, we step on toes, bump into each other or take a really long amount of time to find our chairs. And I suppose I've become a pretty big "hugger" myself over the last few years.

But I personally like to separate the world of hugging into three categories. There are regular hugs that mean thank you, good job or I kind of like you. There are embraces that are meant to convey deep meaning, such as "I love you" or "I'm so sorry for your loss." But there is a middle ground of hugging, which I like to call the Squeeze. I think you know a regular hug when you get it, and I hope you know what an embrace is. But the "Squeeze" is a bit of a different animal.

A Squeeze is characterized by putting both arms around someone, holding them just a little closer and a little tighter than a hug and holding the position for just a few seconds longer than a hug. No words need be spoken, but it conveys a special meaning – perhaps something like "I care about you" – possibly more than you realized. And when you are on the receiving end of a proper Squeeze, you have no choice but to think, "Wow, that was really nice."

So, how is all of this connected to Temple Beth-El? I think for many of us, Temple Beth-El is the place we give hugs – which is very nice. But I suggest that we work toward taking this to the next level.

I would ask you to consider whether Temple Beth-El would feel just a little more like home if we gave each other Squeezes instead of hugs? How would it feel if we held one another AND Temple Beth-El just a little tighter, a little closer for a little longer? How would it feel if each of us could open ourselves up to this community just a little bit more?

I'm not talking about money, although I am always happy to have those types of conversations. I'm really talking about emotion, engagement and how each of us can individually connect just a little bit more with each other and with our special place at Temple Beth-El. If we were able to do that, then I know from my own experiences that our temple home could become so much more meaningful in each of our lives – and that our community will be so much the better for it.

I thank all of you for what you do for each other every day. And in the year 5780, please consider how you can hold your temple home just a little bit closer, a little bit tighter for a little bit longer. And how each of us can make Temple Beth-El a more meaningful part of our lives.

Leigh Miller

President@templebethelnj.org





Join Our Team of Torah Readers

Have you ever chanted from the Torah before? Do you think that is impossible and reserved only for congregants fluent in Hebrew and the ancient Torah melodies?

Think again! At services, we sing the Shema and V'ahavta. That prayer is taken directly from the Torah and we sing it using Torah melodies! If you feel comfortable singing the Shema and V'ahavta, you already know the melodies you need to chant from the Torah!

We have opportunities to chant on both Friday nights

and Saturday mornings. So let us know what dates can work for you. We will confirm a date and provide you with written materials and an audio recording of three verses. To ensure your success, our tutor, Larry Epstein, will work with you several times, culminating in practicing from the Torah (on the bimah) a week before you read at services.

Email Rabbi Gluck to express your interest:
rabbigluck@templebethelnj.org

Thank you to our Torah readers for September and October.

Jake Cohen
Larry Epstein

Sarah Gluck
Emma Kelner
Jim Lavranchuk

Ed Malberg
Sam Stark
Zachary Zaborenko

Jillian Zack
Rick Zack

Thank you to our Torah and Haftarah Readers for the High Holy Days:

Joy Auerbach
Beth Borrus
Derek Boxer
Dave Cohen
Karen Donohue
Michelle Engler

Shayna Friedman
Leslie Kass
Jim Lavranchuk
Ed Malberg
Matthew McCloskey

Kristen Rodrigues
Marcy Rosenfeld
Talia Rubin
Vicki Schwartz
Dhani Skole

Lindsey Skole
Sam Stark
Lewin Weyl
Jeff Wilson
Ethan Wolkofsky

An Interfaith Service of Thanksgiving

In Celebration and Support of
Somerset County's Interfaith Hospitality Network for the Homeless (IHN)


With participation from the clergy, musical direction, choirs, and musicians from
The Roman Catholic Church of St. Bernard of Clairvaux,
North Branch Reformed Church, and Temple Beth-El

November 26, 7:00 p.m.

St. Bernard of Clairvaux Church
Bridgewater


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



WITH YOUR LEGACY,
THE FUTURE IS BRIGHT

HOW WILL YOU ASSURE
JEWISH TOMORROWS?



To create your Jewish legacy contact:
Lillian Swickle, Chair
LegacyCircle@TempleBethElnj.org



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Assuring Jewish TOMORROWS
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Jewish Community Foundation of the
Northwest
LIFE & LEGACY program and the
JCF & LEGACY logo are trademarks of the
Jewish Community Foundation. All rights reserved.

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.

Family Shabbat Service
and
Consecration of New Religious School Students

Friday, December 6
7:00 p.m.

During the service, our new Religious School students will be called to the bimah to receive a blessing, a certificate of consecration, and a small gift.
Mazal tov to all our new students and their families!

Sukkot-Simchat Torah 5780 – Leaves of Love on Our Tree of Life

This year we added a new and special element to our celebrations of Sukkot and Simchat Torah. All who attended were invited to make “Leaves of Love,” by sharing a cherished ideal or value on a colorful cut-out of a paper leaf. Those leaves were then hung on a tree made of real branches and twigs representing our Tree of Life.

This word cloud represents values from our Leaves of Love. How fortunate are we to have such a rich and abundant harvest to nurture and sustain us in this New Year!



Continuing Security Efforts

As you likely saw during the High Holidays, Temple Beth-El has made visible improvements in security in and around the synagogue. The first and clearly most visible change was the installation of protective bollards around our facility (see photos).

During the past few years, temple leadership has been keenly evaluating several security-related areas that could use upgrades. The process has been accelerated as a result of a \$100,000 grant we received in September from the New Jersey Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness to be used for these improvements. The funds, which will be disbursed over time to coincide with expenditures, are in addition to the contributions made by TBE membership and designated for security upgrades.

Additional enhancements are likely during the next year. The process begins with the selection of specific products that suit our needs best while fitting into our budget, having them professionally installed, and incorporating the changes into TBE operational structure. The first areas where changes are likely will include a new access control system, an upgraded alarm with panic buttons, and a closed circuit TV system that will canvass the interior and exterior of the building.



Other aspects of the project include exterior door upgrades, blast-resistant coatings on exterior windows, exterior lighting upgrades, electronic door-locking apparatus, and some internal construction to improve traffic flow within the temple. It is our hope that most of the major upgrades will be completed before Rosh Hashanah 5781 (September 2020).

Evan Lerner

Chair, Security Committee

ChairSecurity@templebethelnj.org



Thanks to those who served as a shomer or shomeret during the Holy Days:

Rhona Ferling
Harold Levin

Jay Lavroff
Jodi Siegal

Evan Lerner
Kevin Skole

For more information on the Shomrim corps,
contact Harold Levin (hblevin58@gmail.com)



**Join us for an
unforgettable
experience!**

Join Temple Beth-El's delegation to the URJ Biennial 2019.

URJ.org/Biennial #URJBiennial



URJ BIENNIAL 2019
DECEMBER 11 - 15 • CHICAGO, IL

Lifecycle

Our Condolences to

Dorothy Radowitz on the passing of her beloved father, Harvey Weiss
 Shelley Berger on the passing of her beloved mother, Rose Tauber
 Jill Wedeen on the passing of her beloved father, William Flacks
 Jack Friedman on the passing of his beloved father, Martin Friedman
 Ghislaine Silverman on the passing of her beloved mother, Lydie Altes
 Paula Kornberg on the passing of her beloved father, Mario Lorenzoni
 David Hersh on the passing of his beloved brother-in-law, Craig DeJager

Upcoming B'nei Mitzvah

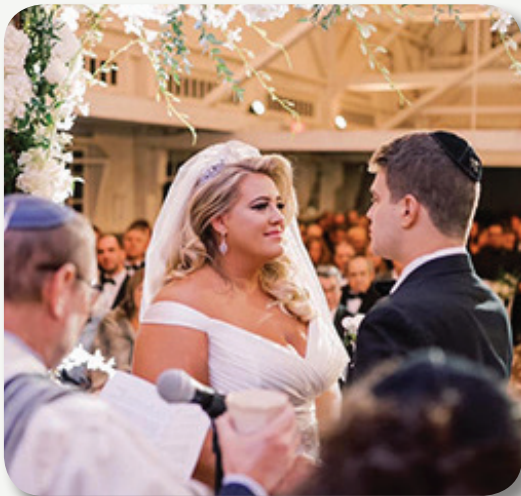
Liel Raines Moshe, daughter of Tatiana and Ran Raines Moshe, on November 2
 Samantha Pock, daughter of Pam and Michael Pock, on November 16
 Allyson Ganz, daughter of Elyse Robbins, on November 30

Welcome to the World

Mackenzie Grace arrived on September 17, welcomed by parents Maddie and Dan Keppeler,
 big brother Landon and joyful grandparents Cindy Scott and David Goldberg

Mazal Tov to

The Brandman and Trautman families on the marriage of Matthew Brandman to Juliette Trautman. Matthew and Juliette met in Religious School at TBE and have been together since Confirmation Class in 10th grade.



Juliette and Matthew Brandman



The Keppeler Family

Our Caring Community

Keshet 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, contact Amy Rubin.

Mitzvah Committee: To offer or request help, please contact Amy Rubin.

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 Rabbi Gluck at 908-722-0674, ext. 311, or 908-229-1618.

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 Donation

Contributions to this account are used where they are needed most, and often make special programs possible.

In honor of Amy Rubin
Russ and Barbara Johnston
 In memory of Harry and Rachel Bensoul
Rich and Zahava Schaefer
 In memory of Max Schaefer and Pearl Schaefer-Datinowitz
Rich and Zahava Schaefer
 In memory of Martin Friedman
Elisa Bergman
 In honor of Amy Rubin
Rena Gitlitz
 In honor of grandson Daniel William Gluzi
Gary and Deborah Tompa

Memorial Fund

Contributions to this fund support the ritual life of the congregation, including making special ritual events possible.

In memory of Leslie Rosner
Bob and Margo Siroty
 In memory of Sondra Rosner
Bob and Margo Siroty
 In memory of Joseph Paulanski
Linda Paulanski
 In memory of Ariel Eden Malberg
Stuart Endick
 In memory of Rona Greenberg
Bobbie D'Angelo
 In memory of Ida Cudzynowski
Joseph and Barbara Cudzynowski
 In memory of Arline Zedeck
Rita Fink
 In memory of Ethel Hamelburg
Rita Fink
 In memory of Sophie Levine
Rita Fink
 In memory of Irving Siroty
Bob and Margo Siroty
 In memory of Louise Arens
Bob and Margo Siroty

In memory of Aileen Gluck
Glen and Carol Landesman
 In memory of Tyler Landesman
Glen and Carol Landesman

Cantor's Discretionary Fund

Gifts to this fund enable the cantor to assist congregants who are in need and to support our community's music programs.
 In honor of Student Cantor Emily Simkin
Russ and Barbara Johnston

Rabbi Gluck's Discretionary Fund

Gifts to this fund enable Rabbi Gluck to assist congregants in need and support important causes.
 In honor of Rabbi Gluck
Russ and Barbara Johnston
 In memory of Martin Friedman's years of life
Jack and Simma Friedman
 In memory of Miriam Rose Tauber
Chuck and Shelley Berger
 In memory of Beatrice Epstein
Jane and William Waldorf
 In memory of Aileen Gluck
Adrienne Sherman

Jules Swickle Chesed Fund

Gifts to this fund, created in honor of one of our founding members, will enable acts of loving kindness for those in need.
 In memory of Harry and Rachel Bensoul
Rich and Zahava Schaefer
 In memory of Max Schaefer and Pearl Schaefer-Datinowitz
Rich and Zahava Schaefer

Social Action Fund

Donations to this fund support the temple's wide range of social justice initiatives.
 In honor of Kathy Shanklin
Jay and Pam Lavroff

Beautification Fund

Your gift will help maintain, beautify, and decorate our building.
 In honor of Andy and Nancy Feusse
Russ and Barbara Johnston

Youth Scholarship Fund

Your support will provide scholarships to our temple youth, for Jewish camps, events, and/or trips.
 In honor of Harold Levin
Russ and Barbara Johnston

Security Fund

Gifts to this fund help keep our community safe.
 In honor of Andy and Nancy Feusse
Jay and Pam Lavroff

Ariel E. Malberg Memorial Fund

Gifts to this fund support efforts for those in need, particularly the homeless and those suffering from mental health issues or addiction.
 In honor of Student Cantor Emily Simkin
Jay and Pam Lavroff

Ritual Donation

Gifts to this area support the ritual life of the congregation.
 In honor of Jodi Siegal
Russ and Barbara Johnston

Cultural Arts Fund

Your contribution will support programs related to art, culture, food, dance, etc.
 In memory of Harry Wolin
Martin and Zina Wolin
 In memory of Joseph Brienens
Martin and Zina Wolin

Israel Matters

Your contribution will foster our connection to the State of Israel and its people.
 In memory of Aileen Gluck
Michael and Judith Goldberg

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.

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

Red Sea, Burning Bush, Mah Jongg

by Caryn Shinske

Every so often, I think about some of the big mysteries of Judaism that have intrigued me since my Hebrew school days long ago.

Did the Red Sea really part, allowing our ancestors to escape 40 years of brutal slavery and an evil dictator? Did Moses hear the voice of God coming from a burning bush? And how is it that Moses' staff instantly transformed into a serpent?

I've listened to the many explanations and interpretations of these mysteries over the years, soaking in the metaphors behind their lessons in order to expand my own knowledge.

And so, it was with this level of interest that I decided to try to understand yet another great mystery of Judaism, one that has confounded our people for decades, yet brought them together as inevitably as if gathering for the High Holy Days.

Mah jongg.

The very mention of mah jongg sparks smiles and delight among the Jewish women I know. It seems to be as Jewish as, well, matzoh ball soup!

So how did this game become so popular in our community?

Mah jongg was born in China in the 19th century and was the conglomeration of several other games that had been played in ancient societies for hundreds of years, according to a September article at MarthaStewart.com, exploring the positive impacts of mah jongg on mental health.

That article, as well as another at MyJewishLearning.com, indicate that mah jongg's popularity in the United States exploded during the 1920s, but interest started to wane by the end of that decade as the game became more complex and playing groups developed their own "table rules" that were increasingly convoluted.

Enter a group of undeterred Jewish women, who enjoyed the game so much that they would not let it die off, even as its popularity decreased. The women formed the National Mah Jongg League in 1937 and developed a card that is updated annually to identify winning runs, or patterns,

to achieve "mah jongg," as well as the standard regulations for the game.

Unlike a lot

of games, however, players must buy a card every year – currently \$8 – because the patterns change.

But what is it about Jews and mah jongg? Any number of reasons, according to MyJewishLearning.com:

- Jewish women's circles played the game regularly during World War II while their loved ones were off at war, providing an inexpensive form of entertainment and bonding;



Our loyal mah jongg group enjoying the start of another game.

- Jews who fled Nazi Europe and ended up in Shanghai, China became involved in local culture and adopted the game, eventually bringing it to the United States in the mid-20th century;
- The sale of mah jongg cards has been a successful fundraiser for Jewish organizations, particularly Sisterhood or Hadassah groups;
- The game became popular at Jewish vacation sites in the mid-20th century, such as in the Borscht Belt of New York's Catskills region. Women would play the game every day during the week as a way to bond and pass the time while waiting for husbands and fathers to drive up from New York City on the weekends.

My own unscientific research has found that mah jongg brings players together in a way I haven't seen with other games. Mah jongg seems to inspire fellowship. Players eagerly gather for hours at a time, seated around tables, eyeing their bams, birds, craks, dots, soaps, dragons and flowers in covertly developed runs while maintaining Las Vegas-quality poker faces.

Hardcore players are fully fluent in rules that could fill a policy manual.

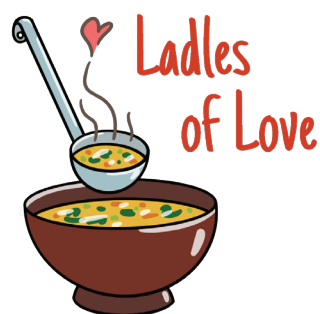
I decided to find out more, especially after my aunt and a cousin in Maryland clapped with glee one weekend last year when I casually mentioned I might be interested in learning the game. Within seconds, I was being introduced to my aunt's friends as a new player who could be a "fourth" during visits from Jersey. No matter that I had never even played the game.

The next thing I knew, my cousin and her friends rustled up a game at their temple and had me sit and watch, ostensibly to learn. After 10 minutes, I was having flashbacks to the nightmare that was ninth-grade geometry, when absolutely nothing made sense except, perhaps, the spellings of isosceles and Pythagoras. Watching mah jongg frustrated me. Too many rules to remember and follow, with no discernible logic to them.

"Yeah, next," I thought.

Continued on page 13





Ladles of Love: Second Year

Ladles of Love is kicking off its second year with a fresh batch of homemade soup and sweet breads to help warm the hearts and bellies of members in our community who could use a little extra nourishment and tender loving care.

Seven TBE members gathered on a recent Sunday to restock the Ladles of Love freezer. Together, they prepared 19 loaves of Jenny's Pumpkin Bread and 18 quarts of Harvest Barley Soup.

Participating cooks included Andrea Bradley, Kim Beman, Shelley Gomolka, Michelle Holler, Laura Miller, Caryn Shinske and Mara White.

Since its launch in 2018, more than 78 community members have received Ladles of Love care packages, delivered by more than 15 TBE volunteers. To date, more than 35 TBE volunteers have participated in one of five community cooking sessions, making 115 quarts of soup and loaves of sweet bread. Additional cooking sessions will be announced at a later date.

With the freezer restocked, Ladles of Love now needs volunteers to help deliver care packages. Please email Andrea Bradley at abradley616@gmail.com if you would like to help with deliveries.

Ladles of Love is generously underwritten by the Jules Swickle Chesed Fund.



Michele Holler, Laura Miller, Shelley Gomolka, Kim Beman and Mara White in the TBE kitchen making the soup and bread to be delivered as part of Ladles of Love.

Mah Jongg, *continued from page 12*

Months later, I still couldn't let go of what in tarnation was so enticing about mah jongg.

Then, a friend took pity on me and said if I was serious about learning the game, she would teach me, but I'd have to buy a card first. I ordered one from the national organization and eagerly awaited its arrival in the mail.

For my lesson, my friend dumped a set of 144 mah jongg tiles out on a table and made me organize them by suit. We played a modified game, and I started to develop a rudimentary understanding of it. To me, mah jongg is similar in concept to Rummikub, a game I played frequently with my grandmother when I was a teenager and young adult.

I found myself intrigued by the strategy as we played. The same fire-in-the-belly that I get from a competitive game of Scrabble, Monopoly, Boggle or any other strategy-focused board game had the synapses in my brain firing full blast.

After my lesson, I decided to check out TBE's weekly mah jongg game, held Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. in the library and open to all TBE and Sisterhood members, regardless of experience level. Those in attendance were focused on their own tiles as we played, yet patient as I made mistakes, and kind in their instructions to me.

I've been warned, however, that some players in general can be cutthroat in how they play, and certain mah jongg

rule violations can, ahem, "inflame passionate debate."

I haven't caused any such conflagration. Yet.

My fellow players have been gracious and helpful as I learn with each game. I am enjoying meeting other members of our TBE community, kibitzing with them, having a fun couple of hours away from the daily grinds of work and life, and feeding the strategy craving I apparently enjoy more than I realized.

The socializing, the debate, the intensity, the schmooze... who could resist? These are core cultural aspects of being Jewish. No wonder so many play the game. Of course, it could also be the sweetness I experienced one October night when I was finally able to figure out the patterns on my card and keep a straight face among the veterans at my table, long enough to throw my arms up in the air and yell, "Mah Jongg!"

<https://www.nationalmahjonggleague.org/>



Triple Threat

It's just another average training weekend for Yaniv Yarkoni....a 50-mile bike ride on Saturday, followed by a 10-mile run on Sunday. Once in a while, he adds on a 45-minute lap session in the pool. If that sounds grueling, it is, but competing in triathlons is what Yaniv loves to do. "I enjoy the sense of achievement after setting an ambitious goal and conquering all the challenges along the way," he explains.

Yaniv did his first triathlon back in 1998. His father had recently passed away, and he was searching for a unique way to honor him that was a little different from the other usual avenues. Although Yaniv has had a longstanding interest in fitness and nutrition, his first triathlon was



Yaniv Yarkoni running in the Atlantic City Ironman Triathlon.

Photo by Amanda Yarkoni

challenging. In fact, he recalls being one of the last to finish, but he found it exhilarating, and soon he was planning his next triathlon, and then the one after that. Belonging to local tri clubs and his dedication to hard training were soon rewarded with successful finishes in the top three age groups.

Fast forward 21 years, to September 2019, his third time competing in the Atlantic City Half Ironman. "You need a lot more discipline for this race than other tri distances," he explains. Competitors are required to do a 1.2-mile swim, a 56-mile bike ride, and a 13.1-mile run. It turned out to be Yaniv's personal best yet (5:19), as he succeeded in shaving off time in all three disciplines from his prior-year time. Earlier this summer, Yaniv competed in the NJ State Triathlon and finished in the top 15%, which qualified him to compete in the USA Triathlon Age-Group National Championship in Cleveland, Ohio. "It was truly an honor to be invited and compete among the best athletes in the country – it was an amazing experience," he enthuses.

Yaniv finds triathlon involvement captivating for various reasons, mainly the element of friendly competition, while staying healthy through regular exercise and stress reduction. "It's a great way to clear your mind," he adds. Above all, Yaniv aims to continually improve on his personal milestones.

His passion for the sport has also shaped his professional goals. He earned his MS degree in nutrition in 2005, but the exacting requirements of sports nutrition for triathlons galvanized him to go back to school to become a registered dietitian (RD) in 2013. Over the years, he has helped individuals reach their fitness and weight management goals as a personal trainer and nutritionist. "I firmly believe exercising and eating healthfully can be fun and not a chore," Yaniv affirms.

"It's really crucial to get the nutrition piece of this event right," he continues. "You may exercise for an hour but also be careless with poor nutrition the remaining 23. Eating and drinking nourishes you and propels you forward, both in training and in races."

Experience and his professional knowledge has given Yaniv insight into exactly what he needs to power himself through long endurance events, from the right amount of fluid ounces of sports drink to maintain optimal electrolyte/hydration status, to how often he consumes the gel packs needed to fuel his energy and stamina during the grueling bike/run. "The last thing you want to do is 'bonk' – burn out during the event. It is crucial to constantly replenish sugar and vital calories; otherwise, it can be a long, unfulfilling day," he explains.

Rest and recovery are equally important. The first few days after a tri, Yaniv takes a lighter workout load to recover, usually a light jog or ride, along with dynamic stretches to ease muscle soreness. But aside from that, he trains year round. In the fall and winter off-seasons, he focuses on weight training to build muscle and spins on his stationary bicycle. In the spring, he switches to outdoor biking and running slowly to build up distance, especially during long weekend workouts. Yaniv's favorite discipline is running, followed by biking, with swimming a distant third.

TMB Racing, a tri training group, also helps Yaniv keep his motivation high and gives him the opportunity to train with other local triathletes toward similar goals. The close-knit tri club community provides members with camaraderie and support, while pushing each other at training sessions. "We really enjoy each other's company, and a little friendly competition never hurts."

But where would an athlete be without his cheering squad? Yaniv's family, naturally, are his biggest fans, but they also play a huge part in helping him sustain his training regimen over the long term. "It's really a group effort. Everyone in the family has to be involved," he says. "You need a lot of support from your family to continue training at the level necessary to compete in this sport. I couldn't do it without a lot of support and love from my wife Tamar and my children, Sam and Amanda." He remembers fondly how, when the children were small,

Continued on page 15

Triple Threat, continued from page 14

Tamar helped them create an inspirational sign to hold up and cheer Yaniv on for his first Ironman race. This special sign reads "Go Daddy Go!" and remains near and dear to him to this day.

In the end, says Yaniv, successfully competing in triathlons comes down to a lot of self-discipline and being in the moment. It is easy to get distracted by what's happening around you, whether it's other competitors, your own discomfort, or the sound of the crowds cheering.

"It is often very hard to remain focused and keep your mind on your goal for such a long period of time, but it's definitely rewarding once you cross the finish line," he avows. "Life, too, is so complex, with a lot of distractions and stumbling blocks. But challenging yourself to overcome these hurdles is gratifying. It's always easier to achieve my goals when I think about my loved ones." Yaniv reflects, too, that "races could be seen as a set of examples for my kids, helping them find strength to overcome any difficulty in life."

Yaniv hopes to complete his first full Ironman distance in the near future. And this fall, he was asked to pace the Princeton Half Marathon runners into the 13.1 mile finish line. Inspired to start your own training regimen? "One of the best ways to start a tri is to register for an event on your calendar to give yourself a goal," he advises. "Be careful, though: once you complete your first tri, you may find yourself coming back for more."



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Temple Beth-El Jewish Film Series presents

THE 90 MINUTE WAR

**Saturday, December 14
7:00 p.m.**

Doors open at 6:45 p.m.

In Hebrew with English subtitles
Not rated, 90 minutes
Suggested donation \$7/pp or more

RSVP required to Simona at
bakerec@comcast.net



About:

The Israeli-Palestinian conflict has lasted 100 years; 100 years of war, bloodshed, bitterness, suffering; 100 years of stalemate, intransigence and failed peace deals. And now, it's all over! They've finally found the solution: A game of soccer. The winner gets to stay. The loser leaves forever. And no whining.

Awards:

Best Actor, Best Supporting Actor, 2015 Israeli Academy Awards.

Reviews:

"In a deft feint, Halfon's satire has something serious to say about the contested issues that divide two peoples."

Discussion after the film, led by Dave Cohen, will explore the film's implications for Israelis in our increasingly radicalized world.



College Connection

College Connection Rosh Hashanah Packages Bring New Year's Cheer to TBE's College Students

This past High Holy Days celebrations also included our temple's College Connection program sending Rosh Hashanah greetings to more than 70 TBE college students.

In case you do not know about the program, College Connection is an outreach from TBE to our college students three times a year: at Rosh Hashanah, Chanukah and Pesach. We send a small physical package containing meaningful goodies, as well as email messages from Sarah Gluck from the Religious School and temple clergy.

This year's Rosh Hashanah package included Israeli goodies such as chocolate bars and honey sticks; a fruit

bar; a pack of teddy grahams; mechanical pencils; a magnet Jewish holiday calendar (from the JCC); and a card. We received feedback from several students thanking us for thinking about them during the High Holy Days, and for the thoughtful gifts.

It is never too late to add your college student to the program. Send their physical and email college mailing information to Cindy Scott at c.scott93@yahoo.com.

Cindy Scott

Cultural Arts

Cultural Arts Happenings for November and December

"Here's to another great year of wonderful movies!" Now it's become a slogan for our Jewish Film Series, which has grown stronger every year and has many followers and supporters. Consider becoming a sponsor to help us to continue our highly educational and entertaining Jewish/Israeli film program! Write with your questions on matters of sponsorship to Simona: bakerec@comcast.net.

Our Jewish film program is intertwined with a few of our temple committees in an effort to promote conversations at TBE about issues relevant to our community and dear to our hearts. We would welcome more committees and individuals to participate in film screenings (contact Simona) and in leading discussions.

December 14, Saturday, 7:00 p.m. **"90 Minute War"**

Co-sponsored by TBE Social Action and Cultural Arts Committees

A discussion of the film, and its implications for Israelis on our increasingly radicalized world, will be led by David Cohen following the presentation.

The Israeli-Palestinian conflict has lasted for years, bringing war, bloodshed, bitterness, suffering, stalemate, intransigence and failed peace deals. And now, it's all over! They've finally found the solution: A game of soccer. The winner gets to stay. The loser leaves forever. And no whining.

Doors open at 6:45 p.m., to a delicious spread of snacks, treats, coffee, tea and beverages. The film will be screened at 7:00 p.m. Make sure to see our flyers and big poster in the lobby. An RSVP is required to Simona Rivkin, Cultural Arts chair, at bakerec@comcast.net.

Israeli folk dancing with ruach also continues, as it has for 15 years.

This year we started on Sept. 19, with our professional dance instructor, Sara Alter, who has been teaching Israeli dance for more than 25 years. Sara instructs children and adults from the age of two to more than 80 years young, capturing their hearts and spirit with her grace and overflowing energy. We also have a new dancing floor. Remember, the first dancing session is free for newcomers. So, what are you waiting for? You will lose yourself in the rhythms of the dance, tuneful music and feel great as your endorphins kick in!

When: every Thursday from 7:30 p.m. until 9:00 p.m., except holidays.

Cost: \$15 at the door, or prepay for five sessions (\$50 for five). Ask Simona how and when to prepay.

See our flyer and ad box in this issue of the Shofar; there are more flyers in the lobby.

The Cultural Arts Committee hope to enhance your joy, pleasure and knowledge as you participate in the programs of Jewish cultural life that we bring to you!

L'Shalom

Simona Rivkin

Cultural Arts Committee

A Jewish Thanksgiving

When I explain Sukkot to my non-Jewish friends, I often find myself describing it as a sort of Jewish Thanksgiving. And indeed, although the two holidays obviously stem from different religious, cultural and historical traditions, they have certain parallels that are striking. In fact, these similarities actually have a historical frame of reference, according to the website ToriAvey.com. Both the Pilgrims and the Jews were victims of religious persecution. After the expulsion of Jews from Spain in 1492, a small group of Jews eventually made Holland their home. Later, the Pilgrims escaped England in 1608 to avoid the increasing intolerance of their views at home. Both the Jews and the Pilgrims settled in Holland because of the country's tolerance for a spectrum of religious views and practices.

The Pilgrims only spent a decade in Holland before leaving for the New World (America), but they were certainly there long enough to interact with the local Jewish population; the Pilgrims also may have witnessed Sukkot celebrations during this time.

While many Christian groups had their own harvest celebrations at this time, there are some particular aspects of Thanksgiving that seem at least loosely connected to Sukkot. The first Thanksgiving meal in 1621 is said to have been eaten outside, somewhat akin to the Sukkot tradition of dining outside in the sukkah. Sukkot, like Thanksgiving, is a holiday of welcoming; the Pilgrims welcomed the

Wampanoag Native Americans to the original Thanksgiving table, as a gesture of gratitude for the survival skills the Wampanoag people had taught them. This is similar to the way in which Jews are encouraged to welcome friends and extended family to dine in the sukkah. The cornucopia, a Thanksgiving symbol of plenty, bears at least a passing resemblance to the shofar.

Like Sukkot, the first Thanksgiving was a multi-day celebration; some accounts say it lasted three days, others seven. Over the years, it became customary to observe a single day of thanks during the harvest season, which evolved into the holiday we now celebrate as Thanksgiving. And of course, there's the food: both Sukkot and Thanksgiving feature bountiful menus of delicious, seasonally inspired foods.

So, while we may never know for sure if the first Thanksgiving was inspired by Sukkot, it's intriguing to think about!

Source: Adapted from an article featured in ToriAvey.com, July 29, 2018.

And now, what you've all been waiting (and wading through the history bit) for: the recipes. These fun options for your Thanksgiving table offer a special Jewish flair, combining our Jewish identity with our American heritage. Happy Thanksgiving!

Butternut Squash Kugel

Ingredients

2 10-ounce bags of frozen butternut squash (defrosted)
1 stick of melted margarine or butter
1 c. sugar
1 c. flour
3 eggs
1 c. milk
Cinnamon to taste

Directions

Mix all ingredients together in stand mixer, or with an electric mixer until blended and smooth.

Grease a 9×9 pan (or 9×13 for thinner kugel). Sprinkle the top with cinnamon. Bake at 350 degrees until firm, approximately 45 minutes to 1 hour.

Source: *The Melting Pot*, a cookbook put out in the early 1980s by the Hebrew Academy of Long Beach Women's League.



Lemon Tahini Roasted Broccoli

Ingredients

3–4 T. tahini, to taste
Juice of half a lemon
2 large cloves garlic, minced
½ tsp. kosher salt
Several grinds black pepper
2 T. olive oil
4 c. broccoli, cut into 1½-inch florets

Preparation

Preheat the oven to 450 degrees and line a baking sheet with foil. Place all of the ingredients except for the broccoli in a large bowl and whisk to combine. Add broccoli and toss well to thoroughly coat. Scatter on the pan and bake for 10 minutes. Serve hot for the best flavor, squeezing a little extra lemon juice on top if you wish.

Source: Annabel Epstein, JewishFoodExperience.com



Pumpkin Spice Mashed Potato Knishes with Cranberry Mustard Dipping Sauce



Prep time: 45 minutes

Cooking time: 35 minutes

This Thanksgiving version of the knish has a pumpkin-spiced dough that is filled with mashed potatoes and dipped in a cranberry mustard sauce.

Ingredients

For the dough:

- 1 large egg
- ½ c. vegetable oil or liquid schmaltz
- 1 tsp. white vinegar
- ½ tsp. baking powder
- ½ tsp. salt
- 2 tsp. pumpkin pie spice
- 1½ c. flour, sifted (may not need it all)

For the filling:

- 1 lb. russet potatoes
- 1 small white onion, diced
- ¼ c. olive oil or liquid schmaltz, plus 1 T., divided
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- 1 tsp. salt
- ¼ tsp. black pepper
- 1 egg yolk

For assembly:

- 2 egg yolks for glaze

For the cranberry mustard sauce:

- 1 12-ounce bag fresh cranberries
- 1 T. fresh ginger, minced
- Zest from 1 orange
- ¾ c. granulated sugar
- ½ c. orange juice
- ¼ c. water
- 2 T. Dijon mustard

Instructions

1. First, make the dough. In a large bowl, whisk together egg, oil and vinegar. Then add in baking powder, salt and pumpkin pie spice. Start adding in flour and kneading until the dough is neither sticky nor falling-apart crumbly. If you add too much flour, just add a little water. Cover and let rest for at least an hour, or refrigerate overnight.
2. Prepare the cranberry sauce. In a medium saucepan, combine cranberries, ginger, orange zest, sugar, orange juice and water. Bring to a boil while stirring, and then lower to a simmer. Cook for 15 minutes or until the cranberries burst and the sauce is thick. Strain through a mesh sieve into a bowl. You can save the cranberry pieces to sprinkle over oatmeal or yogurt. Stir in Dijon mustard (you can use more or less mustard to taste) and place in the refrigerator to cool and thicken slightly.
3. Next, make the knish filling. Wash, peel and chop the potatoes. Add salt, cover with cold water in a large saucepan and bring to a boil. Simmer for about 15 minutes, until potatoes can be easily pierced with a knife. While the potatoes are cooking, heat a medium sauté pan over medium heat and add 1 tablespoon oil or schmaltz. Sauté the diced onions until soft, about 4-5 minutes. Then add garlic and sauté for another minute. Once the potatoes are done, drain and immediately mix in the remaining oil, remaining salt, onion, pepper and egg yolk and mash with a potato masher until combined.
4. Now it's time to assemble! Preheat the oven to 375 degrees F. Roll the dough on a lightly floured surface until ⅛-inch thin. Then cut out the dough, using a 3-inch round cookie cutter and remove excess dough. Flatten circles with your palm to form 4-inch circles. Put a tablespoon of filling in each circle, fold up four sides and pinch the corners together. Fold the edges over to one side and carefully secure to form a ball. Mix 2 egg yolks with a splash of water and brush the mixture all over the knishes. Bake for 25 minutes or until golden brown, and serve hot with cranberry Dijon mustard sauce.

This recipe by Amy Kritzer originally appeared in "The Jewish Week."

What Are YOU Hungry For?

Shofar readers, I'd like to know what kind of recipes you'd like to see. Are you looking for new twists on old favorites? Recipes for special dietary needs? Global cuisine? I'd welcome any and all ideas and contributions for this column – including YOUR recipes. It would be great to feature some recipes from our own Temple Beth-El congregation. Food is a great way to connect people! So please give me your food for thought at ShofarEditor@templebethelnj.org.

Rhona Ferling

Renaissance Happenings

The Scoop

A lively October evening was enjoyed by members who gathered to dine together at the Stoney Brook Grille and afterward attend the "Capitol Steps" performance at Raritan Valley Community College. With true impressionistic ability and fast-paced satirical comedy, this talented troupe hit the mark with a show full of laughs! Our many thanks to Eileen Ruderman for suggesting this fun event and restaurant venue.

Esther Wallach

Renaissance Group



On the June trip to Bordentown, N.J., Renaissance members posed in front of a statue of Thomas Paine

Upcoming: Mark Your 2019 Calendars



Noon, Sunday, Dec. 15, 2019: Chanukah Gourmet Pot-Luck at the Steinfeld residence, Somerset Run

Watch for the particulars forthcoming from Fran Taber to RSVP and note your culinary contribution. We are planning a new game. Just bring yourself!

New Members

Welcome new members: Diane and Bernard Foss, Yosefa Greenstein, Debra Schaffer, Ellen and Gary Gailin, and Gail Wohl. Looking forward to your joining us at the Chanukah party gathering as we celebrate and put together our calendar suggestions for 2020.

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.

Ritual

Share your Joy and Blessings — Host an Oneg

Hosting a Friday night oneg is a wonderful way to celebrate a special birthday, anniversary, baby naming or other special occasion with the congregation. Hosting is also an excellent way to build community with fellow congregants. The following dates are available for committees, families or individuals to host and, no worries, instructions will be provided!

11/22/19	1/31/20
12/6/19	2/14/20
12/13/19	2/21/20
12/20/19	5/29/20
1/10/20	

If you are interested, please contact Jodi Siegal at jsdegonzalez@gmail.com or 908-541-1170.



Sisterhood

Come Connect With Sisterhood!

A new Jewish year means a busy fall for Temple Beth-El Sisterhood, and there is plenty planned as we head toward the secular holiday season.

Thanksgiving Baskets

Please consider donating to the Religious School's annual Thanksgiving food drive, which coincides with Sisterhood's annual preparation of Thanksgiving baskets for those in need.

Turkeys are always needed for this collection and may be dropped off during temple hours in the temple kitchen freezer. Monetary donations to help pay for items purchased for the drive also are welcome. Checks made payable to TBE Sisterhood may be left in the Sisterhood mailbox in the temple office.

To volunteer to help assemble baskets at 11:00 a.m. on Sunday, Nov. 24, email Barbara Johnston at bjohnston1836@gmail.com.

Woman of Valor

Please join us in December as we honor Jodi Siegal, this year's Woman Of Valor.

Jodi's hard work and dedication to both Sisterhood and TBE will be celebrated at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 19 in the kitchen social hall. The evening will include a catered dinner, wine, beverages and dessert. The event is free for paid-up Sisterhood members.

Sisterhood will continue the Woman Of Valor celebration on Friday, Dec. 20, by sponsoring an oneg in her honor immediately following Erev Shabbat services.

Email Fern Jurgrau at tbepitafern@gmail.com or call her at (908) 963-4921 by Wednesday, Dec. 17 to reserve your seat at the dinner, or to help with the oneg.

Judaica Gift Shop

Sisterhood is looking for a Sister who has an interest in retail and is willing to "woman" the temple gift shop on Sunday mornings when religious school is in session.

Fresh ideas for merchandise also are welcome, since purchases from the Sisterhood-run shop mean supporting charities, paying for capital needs around the building and finding unique items that often are unavailable elsewhere.

TBE members and visitors can support these important endeavors by coming to the shop for everything from basic ritual items to special purchases for b'nai mitzvot and other simchas. To continue providing beautiful Judaica not available at chain stores, the shop is updating its inventory of mezuzot as well as baby, marriage and house blessings regularly.

Merchandise is available in a variety of price points for items such as Shabbat candlesticks and kiddush cups, hand-painted silk and hand-embroidered challah covers, as well as zvat candles from Israel. A quality selection of tallit from Israel are also available. Sisterhood also can assist those who want to support the Women of the Wall program in Israel by purchasing a special Women of the Wall tallit.

The shop is open on Sundays during religious school hours. On weekdays when the TBE office is open, Amy Rubin and Dina Fisher can assist anyone wanting to visit the shop. Sisterhood members always receive a 20 percent discount on purchases.

To help out at the shop, email Donna Tischfield at njbird@optonline.net or Laura Miller at auramiller5254@gmail.com.

Save the Date

Mark your calendars for a lively Sunday morning discussion in January with Myron Sugerman.

Mr. Sugerman is the guest speaker for the jointly sponsored Sisterhood, Brotherhood and Jewish Life Breakfast at 9:00 a.m. on Jan. 26, 2020.

A former gangster, author, entrepreneur, father and "grad-pa," Mr. Sugerman is the author of the book *"The Last Jewish Gangster ... From Meyer to Myron."*

Mr. Sugerman was born in Newark in 1938 and at age 21 followed his father's footsteps into the family business – coin-operated amusements. For more than a half century, he did business with notorious and dangerous individuals, including top-ranking members of the Genovese and Gambino crime families.

Learn more at <http://myronsugerman.com/>

To attend the breakfast, email your RSVP to Karen@repsfitnesssupply.com or tbepitafern@gmail.com.

Social Action

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

Clothing Drive and Recycling Efforts

Clothing Drive: We are collecting clothing for Cathedral Square Senior Citizen's Housing in Trenton. Any clothing for men, women and children (grandchildren of residents) is welcome. Sheets and towels are also needed. A collection box will be in the temple lobby.

Reuse and Recycle: If you have any of the following items, place them in a box in the coat room. Everything will be used or recycled.

- Yarn
- Plastic bottle caps from soda and water bottles

- Cotton fabric (if you used to sew)
- Gift cards with no credit left
- Pens and markers which no longer work; used wooden pencils
- Used (still wearable) shoes
- Cancelled postage stamps
- Greeting cards and notepads

For questions about where items will go, please contact Kathy Shanklin at kathyss@earthlink.net.

Interfaith Hospitality Network

Leigh Freeman, Coordinator — IHN / Temple Beth-El

Our next hosting date is Dec. 22-29

2019-2020 IHN Hosting Schedule

Dec. 22-29	Feb. 2-9	Apr. 19-26
Jun. 7-14	Aug. 2-9	

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 <https://tinyurl.com/TBEIHNDec2019> 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

IHN's Holiday Cookie Bake-Off



**Enter our holiday baking contest
and help homeless families gain
independence!**



Youth **and** Adults! Enter your favorite holiday cookie in
IHNSC's Holiday Cookie Bake-Off.
Questions? Visit ihnsc.org/bakeoff or call 908-704-1920.

TBE's 5780 High Holiday Food Drive a Success

Thanks to the many congregants who donated 440 bags of food weighing roughly 3,800 pounds, and to the 36 volunteers who assisted in collecting, packing, carting and schlepping those bags to the food bank. We also collected approximately \$800 in donations for the food bank.

A special thanks to Car Rentals, Inc. in Piscataway for loaning us the truck for the day.

This food drive makes a meaningful contribution to people in need in our community. Thanks to all who made it a success.

After unloading the truck, the TBE volunteers pose with Marie Scannell of the food bank.



Yahrzeits November

[Click here to return to Page 1](#)

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 November 8 and 9

Abraham Fineman, father of Melissa Ringel
Simon Birnbaum, uncle of Linda Paulanski
Ruth Levenberg, mother of Richard Levenberg
Aaron Plan, father of Michael Plan
Benjamin Shapiro, father of Irene Lieberman
Eugene Bradley, father of Patrick Bradley
Jerry Hirsch, father of Greg Hirsch
Benjamin Schlosser, father of Lynn Levine
Alexander Markowicz, stepfather of Amy McBride
Evelyn Spinrad, mother of Marcy Rosenfeld
Rona Greenberg, mother of Amanda Hannum and sister of Bobbie D'Angelo
Morris Simon, father of Janet Halpern
Hilda Slackman, mother of Rhonda Brown
Meghan Bradley, daughter of Ileen and Robert Bradley
Stephen Holler, father of Keith Holler
Mona Feirson, cousin of Marilyn Muzikar
Joseph Lieberman, father of Madelyn Okun
Paul Young, father of Anita Tolman
Maurice Zedeck, brother-in-law of Rita Fink
Rebecca Landsman, mother of Alison Hoffner
Isabelle Mendelson, wife of Stanley Mendelson
Morton Hersh, father of David Hersh
Lois Naroden, mother of Alan Naroden
Lila Stein Kroser, mother of Marla Lerner

To be read on November 15 and 16

John McBride, father of Mark McBride
Warren Thaler, husband of Harriet Thaler
Arlene Golub, mother of Jill Geller
Louise Fidelman, mother of Wayne Fidelman
Mildred Ellenberg, mother of Naomi McGlashan
Myer Kaplan, father of Ellen Davidson
Raymond Boschen, father of Karen Kaplan
Anna Novak, mother of Gerald Novak
Joseph Miller, father of Lorin Miller
Sondra Silverstein, mother of Fern Smith
Marc Jurgrau, brother of Fern Jurgrau
Jacob Blaustein, father of Betty Roswell
Marc Rosberger, father of Molly Rosberger
Seymour Roth, father of Lori Roth
Elayne Cohen, mother of Randy Cohen
Al Kamine, husband of Fern Kamine, father of Harold Kamine
Murray Berger, father of Alan Berger
Martin Rosenel, father of Richard Rosenel

To be read on November 22 and 23

Eileen DeJager, sister of David Hersh
Erwin Naroden, father of Alan Naroden
Stanley Gluck, father of Arnold Gluck
Joseph Nerenberg, father of Henry Nerenberg

Renee Krovetz, mother of Robert Krovetz
John Gunzler, father of Nicole Oringer
Fanny Horowitz, mother of Sidney Horowitz
Penina Decter, friend of Sheenagh Hirsch
Rachel Friedberg, wife of Morton Friedberg
Felix Hermann Brown, husband of Susan Brown
Marilyn Kohn, mother of Hal Kohn
Tseelah Grinberg, mother of Michelle Gerner
Susan Small, mother of Brian Small
Julius Greenhut, grandfather of Robert Adler
Annette Rothman, mother of Shelley Gomolka
Shirley Steinman, mother of Judith Steinman
Arnold Irving Snyder, father of Ken Snyder
Sidney Shubitz, father of Gerald Shubitz
Fae Shubitz, mother of Gerald Shubitz

To be read on November 29 and 30

Alfred Sweetwood, husband of Gail Meyers
Molly Waldorf, mother of William Waldorf
Pauline Klinghoffer, mother of Doris Moshinsky
Harold Freed, father of Diane Morrison
Ruth Schwartz, mother of Sandy Schwartz
Shirlee Hersh, mother of David Hersh
Roslyn Eber, mother of Beth Moran
Jeffrey S. Rugg, nephew of Stuart Rugg
Sidney Herman, father of David Herman
Herman Mintz, brother of Goldie Taub
Lester Raynes, brother of Harriet Thaler
Jack Adler, grandfather of Michael Cohen
Melva Shulman, mother of Evette Adler
Jeffrey Peck, father of Jacki Skole
Joseph Skolky, father-in-law of Gayle Skolky
Stacie Michelle Goldstein, sister of Seth Goldstein

To be read on December 6 and 7

Max Osman, grandfather of Larry Osman
Herman Bloomstein, father of Michael Bloomstein
Ira Tiplitz, father of Andrea Wolkofsky
Laura Shapiro, sister of Irene Lieberman
Nat Schnitzer, grandfather of David Schnitzer
Gustave Miller, father of Shuey Horowitz
Mildred Hillman, mother of Lillian Swickle
Zena Fish, mother of Andrea Bradley
Philip Schwartzman, father of Tina Kanterman
Ruth Uhlfelder, aunt of Robert Adler
Anna Zelnick, mother of Zelda Reinhart
Herb Cohen, father of Michael Cohen
Karen Andell, wife of Jonathon Andell
Ida Kaye, grandmother of Susan Plan
Karl Friedman, grandfather of Doris Moshinsky

Yahrzeits December

[Click here to return to Page 1](#)

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 December 13 and 14

Myra Novy, sister-in-law of Max Spinner
Arthur Brooks, father of Cindy Mangel
Herman Adler, grandfather of Robert Adler
Alan Hatoff, father of Harlee Hatoff
Leonard Eber, father of Beth Moran
Alan Ross, brother-in-law of Bobbie D'Angelo
Marvin Skowronek, brother of Joshua Skowronek
Jaqueline Miller, mother of William Miller
Harry Berkowitz, uncle of Marcy Rosenfeld
Beverly Sandler, mother of David Sandler
Murray Stern, father of Lisa Dickholtz
Estelle Bauer, mother of Elaine Goldsmith
Esther Cohen, mother of Rita Fink
Alfred Bloom, father of Andrew Bloom
Samuel Friedman, father of Neil Friedman
Florence Levenson, mother of Edith Rugg
Charlotte Cohen, aunt of Shelley Drozd
Irving Miller, uncle of Gayle Skolky
Mary Rucci, mother of Victoria Freiman
Glenn Rankin, husband of Stacy Rankin
Donald E. Grafer, brother of Chris Grafer
Julian Lerner, father of Evan Lerner
Joel Keiles, brother of Ann Weinstein
Jill Stuart, mother of Jeff Stuart
Harry Spinner, brother of Max Spinner
Harry Schrier, father of Sally Rosen
Elaine Roth, stepmother of Bobbie D'Angelo
Marvin Raynes, brother of Harriet Thaler

To be read on December 20 and 21

Eva Gitterman, mother of Matthew Gitterman
Irving Levine, father of Alvin Levine
Stanley Charles Goldstein, father of Seth Goldstein
Rochelle Glaser Freedman, mother of Cindy Weiss
Bernice Skowronek, wife of Joshua Skowronek and mother of Brian Skowronek
Morton Blaustein, brother of Betty Roswell
Julian Arthur Kahn, father of Hillary Angeline
Jules Blake, husband of Barbara Blake
Estelle Malin, mother of Marilyn Muzikar
Walter Greenbaum, father of Robert Greenbaum
Morton Swickle, brother-in-law of Lillian Swickle
Esther Kaminetsky, mother-in-law of Fern Kamine
Ethel Gardner Rosenfield, mother of Lee Rosenfield
Harold Arens, father of Margo Siroty
Eric Strand, brother of Thomas Strand
Roberta Meyers, wife of Edmund Meyers
Sondra Katz, mother of Pauline Schneider

To be read on December 27 and 28

Bertha Bloomstein, mother of Michael Bloomstein
Alexander Howard, brother of Sidney Horowitz

Ira Sussman, father of Caryn Brandt
Anne Weintraub, grandmother of Sheldon Stept
David Diamondstein, father of Leslie Kass
Jill Kaplan-Goret, sister of Mitchell Kaplan
Howard Gross, brother of Carol Ahlert
Elsie Keiles, mother of Ann Weinstein
Shirley Berger, mother of Alan Berger
Lewis M. Bloom, father of Charles Bloom
Dorothy Wallin, mother of Terry Wallin
David Schoor, father of Marla Schoor
Nathan Seinfeld, grandfather of David Sandler
Alan Stept, father of Sheldon Stept
Beatrice Cohen, grandmother of Michael Cohen
Natalie Barbara Leventhal, mother of Alan Leventhal
Sadie Bailin, mother of Gary Bailin
Greta Bollag, grandmother of Laura Miller
Jack Schnee, brother of Jay Tischfield
Karen Hargey, mother of Joseph Keim
Brian Kanterman, son of Stanley and Tina Kanterman and brother of Jason Kanterman
Benjamin Drazin, father-in-law of Max Spinner
Barbara Kass, sister of Henry Nerenberg

To be read on January 3 and 4

Samuel Attner, father of Paul Attner
Barney Walitsky, father of Paul Walitsky
Sylvia Applebaum, grandmother of Seth Goldstein
Donald Gorka, stepfather of Wendy Horowitz
Benjamin Wilson, father of Jeffrey Wilson
Marvin Siegel, father of Craig Siegel
Jack Vogel, father of Dana Colon
Mildred Trachtenberg, mother of Alta Malberg
William Margulis, husband of Arleen Margulis
Edward Reynolds, father of Mark Reynolds
Gustave Kaitz, father of RevaLee Brody
Claudia N. Johnston, sister of Russ Johnston
Dora Kirsch, mother-in-law of Stanley Mendelson
Evelyn Weinberger, mother of Daniel Weinberger
Irving Glatt, father of Evelyn Silverstein
Lena Holzer, grandmother of Phyllis Feinblum
Edythe Schrier, sister of Sally Rosen
Elaine Roswell, sister of Arthur Roswell
William Levine, grandfather of Jeremy Bloch
Howard Richman, great-uncle of Lynn Small
Doris Orgel, mother of Phyllis Feinblum
Beverly Yourman, mother of Amy Berger
Evelyn Southland, mother of Stuart Southland
Jackie Spinner, wife of Max Spinner and mother of Michael Spinner
Marshall David Paulanski, husband of Linda Paulanski
Jack Spinrad, father of Marcy Rosenfeld
Amy Garthly, mother of Amy Rubin

Calendar of Events

Friday, November 1, 2019

7:00 p.m. Family Shabbat Service with Kabbalat Torah

Saturday, November 2, 2019

10:00 a.m. Shabbat Morning Service with Bat Mitzvah of Liel Raines Moshe

Sunday, November 3, 2019

9:00 a.m. Religious School
9:15 a.m. Brotherhood Board Meeting
9:15 a.m. Young Family Schmooze
10:00 a.m. Jewish LIFE: Biblical Hebrew
11:00 a.m. Religious School — Alternative Hebrew
2:00 p.m. Freedom Song

Monday, November 4, 2019

6:30 p.m. Youth Culture Committee
7:30 p.m. Ritual Committee

Wednesday, November 6, 2019

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

Thursday, November 7, 2019

7:00 p.m. Mah Jongg
7:30 p.m. Jewish LIFE: Israeli Folk Dancing

Friday, November 8, 2019

7:30 p.m. Erev Shabbat Service with the Choir

Saturday, November 9, 2019

10:00 a.m. Shabbat Minyan Service
7:30 p.m. Brotherhood Fundraiser

Monday, November 11, 2019

7:00 p.m. School Committee Meeting

Tuesday, November 12, 2019

7:00 p.m. Jewish LIFE: Adult Confirmation with Rabbi Gluck

Wednesday, November 13, 2019

4:30 p.m. Hebrew School
6:30 p.m. Confirmation Academy
7:00 p.m. Sisterhood Board Meeting
7:15 p.m. Confirmation Parents Meeting

Thursday, November 14, 2019

7:00 p.m. Youth — SMOOCHY Meeting
7:00 p.m. Mah Jongg
7:30 p.m. Jewish LIFE: Israeli Folk Dancing

Friday, November 15, 2019

NFTY-GER Fall Kallah
6:30 p.m. Shabbat Seder Welcoming New Members

Saturday, November 16, 2019

NFTY-GER Fall Kallah
10:00 a.m. Shabbat Morning Service with Bat Mitzvah of Samantha Pock
6:00 p.m. Baby Boomer/Empty Nester Friendsgiving

Sunday, November 17, 2019

NFTY-GER Fall Kallah
9:00 a.m. Brotherhood Breakfast
9:00 a.m. Religious School and Grade 2 Family Ed
10:00 a.m. Jewish LIFE: Biblical Hebrew
11:00 a.m. Brotherhood Bike Collection
11:00 a.m. Religious School — Alternative Hebrew

Monday, November 18, 2019

6:30 p.m. Post-Confirmation
7:30 p.m. Board of Trustees

Tuesday, November 19, 2019

7:00 p.m. Greenfaith Meeting
7:00 p.m. Jewish LIFE: Adult Confirmation with Rabbi Gluck

Wednesday, November 20, 2019

4:30 p.m. Hebrew School
6:30 p.m. Confirmation Academy

Thursday, November 21, 2019

6:00 p.m. Oversight Committee "Retreat"
7:00 p.m. Mah Jongg
7:30 p.m. Jewish LIFE: Israeli Folk Dancing

Friday, November 22, 2019

5:00 p.m. Post-Confirmation trip to Rutgers Hillel
7:30 p.m. Erev Shabbat Service with the Tefillah Band

Saturday, November 23, 2019

10:00 a.m. Shabbat Minyan Service
3:30 p.m. Youth: Mall Scavenger Hunt
7:00 p.m. Game Night

Sunday, November 24, 2019

9:00 a.m. Religious School and Grade 1 Family Ed
9:15 a.m. Social Action: Review of Biennial Resolutions
10:00 a.m. Jewish LIFE: Biblical Hebrew
11:00 a.m. Religious School — Alternative Hebrew
11:00 a.m. Thanksgiving Basket Assembly
7:00 p.m. Brotherhood Social

Tuesday, November 26, 2019

7:00 p.m. Community Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

Thursday, November 28, 2019

Offices Closed — Thanksgiving Weekend
Thanksgiving Day

Friday, November 29, 2019

Offices Closed — Thanksgiving Weekend
7:30 p.m. Erev Shabbat Service

Saturday, November 30, 2019

10:00 a.m. Shabbat Morning Service with Bat Mitzvah of Allyson Ganz

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

December

Calendar of Events

[Click here to return to Page 1](#)

Sunday, December 1, 2019

Offices and Religious School closed —
Thanksgiving Weekend

Monday, December 2, 2019

6:30 p.m. Post-Confirmation
7:30 p.m. Ritual Committee

Tuesday, December 3, 2019

7:00 p.m. Jewish LIFE: Adult Confirmation with
Rabbi Gluck

Wednesday, December 4, 2019

4:30 p.m. Hebrew School
6:30 p.m. Confirmation Academy
7:30 p.m. Brit K'hillah Meeting

Thursday, December 5, 2019

7:00 p.m. Youth — SMOOCHY Meeting
7:00 p.m. Mah Jongg
7:30 p.m. Jewish LIFE: Israeli Folk Dancing

Friday, December 6, 2019

Taste of NFTY (Grades 6, 7, 8)
7:00 p.m. Family Shabbat Service with Consecration

Saturday, December 7

Taste of NFTY (Grades 6, 7, 8)
10:00 a.m. Shabbat Minyan Service

Sunday, December 8, 2019

Taste of NFTY (Grades 6, 7, 8)
9:00 a.m. Chanukah Gift Shop
9:00 a.m. Religious School
11:00 a.m. Religious School - Alternative Hebrew

Monday, December 9, 2019

7:30 p.m. Oversight Committee Meeting

Wednesday, December 11, 2019

URJ Biennial
7:00 p.m. Sisterhood Board Meeting
7:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, December 12, 2019

URJ Biennial
7:00 p.m. Mah Jongg
7:30 p.m. Jewish LIFE: Israeli Folk Dancing

Friday, December 13, 2019

URJ Biennial
7:30 p.m. Erev Shabbat Service

Saturday, December 14, 2019

URJ Biennial
NFTY-GER Fall Kallah
10:00 a.m. Shabbat Minyan Service
7:00 p.m. Jewish LIFE: Film Series: "90 Minute War"

Sunday, December 15, 2019

URJ Biennial
8:30 a.m. Chanukah Gift Shop
9:00 a.m. Religious School
9:15 a.m. Brotherhood Board Meeting
9:15 a.m. Young Family Schmooze
11:00 a.m. Renaissance Chanukah Party
11:00 a.m. Religious School — Alternative Hebrew

Monday, December 16, 2019

6:30 p.m. Post-Confirmation

Tuesday, December 17, 2019

7:00 p.m. Jewish LIFE: Adult Confirmation with
Rabbi Gluck

Wednesday, December 18, 2019

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

Thursday, December 19, 2019

6:30 p.m. Woman of Valor Dinner
7:00 p.m. Mah Jongg
7:30 p.m. Jewish LIFE: Israeli Folk Dancing

Friday, December 20, 2019

7:30 p.m. Erev Shabbat Service

Saturday, December 21, 2019

10:00 a.m. Shabbat Minyan Service
7:00 p.m. Game Night

Sunday, December 22, 2019

Chanukah, First Candle
IHN Hosting Week
3:00 p.m. Choir to Assisted Living Chanukah Event

Monday, December 23, 2019

Chanukah
IHN Hosting Week

Tuesday, December 24, 2019

Chanukah
IHN Hosting Week

Wednesday, December 25, 2019

Offices Closed
Christmas Day
Chanukah
IHN Hosting Week

Thursday, December 26, 2019

Chanukah
IHN Hosting Week
7:00 p.m. Mah Jongg
7:30 p.m. Jewish LIFE: Israeli Folk Dancing

Friday, December 27, 2019

Chanukah
IHN Hosting Week
6:00 p.m. Chanukah Shabbat Service with the Choir and
the Tefillah Band

Saturday, December 28, 2019

Chanukah
IHN Hosting Week
10:00 a.m. Shabbat Minyan Service

Sunday, December 29, 2019

Chanukah
IHN Hosting Week

Monday, December 30, 2019

Chanukah

Contacting Temple Beth-El

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