

Shofar



Nissan - Iyyar 5780 • April 2020



Rabbi's Message

The Blessings of "K'ilu"

"In every generation we must see ourselves as if we personally went forth from Egypt..."
(The Haggadah)

Until now, I have never fully appreciated the significance of these two little words, "as if." In Hebrew, one word suffices to say this, and that word is "k'ilu." Children seem to understand innately the possibilities of k'ilu. They play dress-up, have imaginary friends, and generally allow their imaginations more play than their older, more inhibited counterparts.

But k'ilu is much more than fun and games. It is a critical element for generating empathy and inspiring action, and for cultivating hope, maintaining courage, and coping with difficult circumstances.

In the Talmud we are told that we should pray "as if" the shechinah, G-d's presence, were before us. Why "as if?" Did our sages doubt that G-d was present? We can't know the exact state of their faith or doubt, but it is fair to say that our rabbis understood the challenge of remaining optimistic when times were hard. Their answer was to think, pray, and act "as if" in order to help us find our way to hope and faith. We begin with imagination, with k'ilu, because if we can imagine it, we can come to feel it and embody it.

The k'ilu of Passover has had a profound impact on the values and spirit of our people for thousands of years. Imagining ourselves as slaves. Steeping ourselves in the mindset of the downtrodden, through the rituals and recitations of the Seder and seven days of eating matzah, has made us deeply sensitive to oppression in all forms, and galvanized our resolve to fight such degradation wherever it appears. And, seeing ourselves "as if" we were liberated from Egyptian bondage has imbued our people with hope and faith that redemption will yet come.

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Worship Schedule

All worship services are being conducted online during the coronavirus crisis. Please join us.
For more information about Zoom and how to use it, visit <https://www.ourbethel.org/connect-with-zoom/>

APRIL

Friday, April 3, 2020

6:00 p.m. Kabbalat Shabbat Online
Via Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/535547696>

Saturday, April 4

Parashat Tzav, Leviticus 6:1-8:36
10:00 a.m. Shabbat Morning Torah Study
Via Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/693812954>

Wednesday, April 8

First night of Pesach/Passover
First Seder

Thursday, April 9

Yom Tov Pesach
Second night of Passover
Congregational Second Seder
RSVP: <https://www.ourbethel.org/events/community-second-seder/>

Friday, April 10

6:00 p.m. Kabbalat Shabbat Online
Via Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/535547696>

Saturday, April 11

Chol HaMo-eid Pesach, Holiday Reading: Exodus 33:12-34:26
10:00 a.m. Shabbat Morning Torah Study
Via Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/693812954>

Tuesday, April 14

Yom Tov Pesach
7:00 p.m. Seventh Day Services with Yizkor
Via Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/398841930>

Worship services after Pesach may be moved to Zoom if the Governor's Stay at Home order remains in effect. Check the website: <https://www.ourbethel.org/about/calendar/>

Friday, April 17

6:00 p.m. Kabbalat Shabbat Online
Via Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/535547696>

Saturday, April 18

Parashat Sh'mini; Leviticus 9:1-11:47
10:00 a.m. Shabbat Morning Torah Study
Via Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/693812954>

Monday, April 20

Erev Yom HaShoah – Holocaust Remembrance Day
7:00 p.m. Yom HaShoah Service

Friday, April 24

6:00 p.m. Kabbalat Shabbat Online
Via Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/535547696>

Saturday, April 25

Parashat Tazria - M'tzora, Leviticus 12:1-15:33
10:00 a.m. Shabbat Morning Torah Study
Via Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/693812954>

Monday, April 27 to 29

Yom HaZikaron and Yom HaAtzma'ut
Israeli Memorial Day and Independence Day

Thank you to our Torah and Haftarah readers for November, December, January, February and March

November:

Karen Donohue
Larry Epstein
Allyson Ganz
Ed Malberg
Samantha Pock
Daniel Raines
Moshe
Liel Raines Moshe

December:

Liz Cohen
Michele Holler
Robin Osman
Sam Stark
Donna Tischfield
Sam Yarkoni

January:

Michelle Engler
Larry Epstein
Jim Lavranchuk
Liel Raines Moshe
Dylan Reynolds
Leanna Reynolds

February:

Derek Boxer
Karen Donohue
Ed Malberg
Talia Rubin
Sam Stark
Lila Stark
Jillian Zack

March:

Harry Fromberg
Matthew Goldman
Jessica Graham

Temple Calendar Webpage

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

Shofar Submissions and Deadline

The next issue of the Shofar will be May/June 2020. PLEASE NOTE: The deadline for submissions is April 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*

In normal times the Passover Seder is an “as if” experience. We imagine that Elijah will come when we open the door. We eat horseradish to help us imagine the bitterness of slavery. This year most of us will have the added element of needing to imagine our family and friends sitting with us around our tables due to the coronavirus. Thankfully we have technology like Zoom to help us gather virtually, to help us feel “as if” we were “really” together.

But this time of crisis demands of us an extra dimension of “as if.” It calls us to see ourselves as if we were among those most affected, so we will be moved to act responsibly and compassionately to assist and protect them. This begins with obeying the orders to stay at home and practice social distancing, but it can go far beyond that.

Some members of our community are sewing masks for the caregivers (they are happy to share instructions on how to do this). Others are donating to the Somerset County Food Bank, which is serving increasing numbers of people who are experiencing food insecurity. Some are providing direct relief to families who have lost their

income (individuals have donated funds to the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund for me to disburse anonymously to members of our community who are in need). Dozens of our members are volunteering through our Helping Hands efforts; you can join them by sending an email to HelpingHands@templebethelnj.org. These are just some of the blessings of *k'ilu*, of the moral resolve that can come from seeing ourselves as if we were among the afflicted.

As we prepare for Pesach under these strange and extraordinary circumstances, let us embrace the spirit of *k'ilu*, that we may expand our sympathy and compassion to all who are affected by this crisis. As we gather for Seder, may our distance from each other be only physical. May we feel each other's warmth and love. May we feel the nearness of God. And may Pesach renew our hope for deliverance from all that constrains us and the entire human family.

Chag Pesach sameach!

Rabbi Arnold S. Gluck

Rabbi Gluck and Student Cantor Simkin
will lead us in an

Online Community-wide Second Seder

Thursday, April 9 • 6:00 p.m.

This is a wonderful opportunity for our temple family to connect for a joyous holiday celebration!

Register at:

<https://www.ourbethel.org/events/community-second-seder/>

Links and resources will be sent to you upon registration.



Shabbat Online

Kabbalat Shabbat Worship

Fridays, 6:00 p.m. Yahrzeits will be read.

Connect via Zoom (<https://zoom.us/j/535547696>) or
Livestream (<https://livestream.com/ourbethel>)

Prayers will also be shown on screen.

Shabbat Morning Torah Study with Rabbi Gluck

Saturdays at 10:00 a.m.

Connect via Zoom (<https://zoom.us/j/693812954>)

Update on our Cantorial Search

We are pleased to announce that the work of our cantorial search process is complete. The committee recommended to the Board of Trustees that we offer the position to Cantor Risa Wallach, and the Board approved the recommendation. Cantor Wallach has informed us enthusiastically that when she is formally offered the position she will accept.

We Congratulate Student Cantor Simkin

We are also pleased to announce that Student Cantor Emily Simkin will be the new cantor of Temple Emanuel of Edison, New Jersey following her ordination this spring. Emily has served our congregation enthusiastically during this year, especially considering the demands on her as a fifth-year cantorial student, a substantial commute to Hillsborough, and being limited to 15 hours a week. We are grateful for the warmth and spirit she brought to us, and we wish her every success in the years ahead.

Our Search

The process that brought us to this conclusion involved an immense amount of time and effort on the part of a great committee that was chosen to represent the diversity of our community. Under the outstanding leadership of First Vice President Gary Cohen, this group worked diligently and thoroughly in fulfilling the promise we made to our congregation a year ago, when we found ourselves in need of a cantor after placement season was effectively over. That commitment was to choose the best candidate available to serve the many needs of our congregation. The committee considered a large pool of candidates, and conducted onsite interviews with six of them. Here is the list of committee members and the cohorts of our congregation they represent.

2020 Cantorial Search Committee

Donna Lewin – Trustee, Young Family Initiative, and children's choir
 Ed Malberg – Ritual Committee co-chair, trustee, past president, choir member, Renaissance
 Henry Nerenberg – choir member, band member, Guitar B'Ivrit member, service accompanist, composer
 Jay Lavroff – Immediate past president, band member, chair of our last cantorial search
 Jodi Siegal – Oversight Committee counselor for spirituality, trustee
 Leigh Miller – Temple president
 Lynn Small – Oversight Committee, secretary, Young Family Initiative
 Marci Taylor – Former B'nei Mitzvah Coordinator
 Melissa Pyle – Oversight Committee counselor for education
 Ronnie Weyl – Choir member, Spirituality Group
 Andrea Bradley – Second vice president, Brit K'hilah Task Force

Ex-Officio:

Rabbi Arnie Gluck
 Sarah Gluck – director of education

Advisory:

Alta Malberg – vocal coach
 Kathy Shanklin – accompanist
 Lisa Friedman – director of education

Search Process

The process began with a thoughtful analysis of the needs of our congregation and the skills we seek in a cantor so as to best meet those needs. The committee conducted a visioning exercise that resulted in establishing the following criteria:

1. WORSHIP

We seek a cantor with excellent liturgical skills and ability in chanting Torah and haftarah, one who will be inspiring and spiritual in ways that will touch the hearts and souls of our congregation. We want a cantor who will engage us in song and prayer, and be a great partner with our rabbi.

2. MUSIC and MUSICALITY

We seek a cantor who has a lovely voice, who can perform and also lead us in song, one who will be an effective and inspiring leader of our choirs and bands, and work well with Kathy, our accompanist. Our cantor must have strong musical skills, pitch and tonality. We seek a cantor who will respect the customs we have developed over the years and who will bring new musical creativity and repertoire, one who will inspire us and bring joy and spiritual uplift.

3. EDUCATION/TEACHING

We seek a cantor who will be an engaging and effective teacher to our young people, who will work well with our b'nei mitzvah, teach trope, and continue to build our program of post-b'nei mitzvah chanters. Our cantor must be knowledgeable in Torah and Jewish tradition, and also committed to his/her continued growth and professional development.

4. LEADERSHIP

We seek a cantor who will be a leader of our community, one who will take initiative in developing opportunities for our members, who is well organized, well rounded and mature. We are looking for a cantor who will be a strong partner to the other members of our professional staff and our lay leadership.

5. PASTORAL/INTERPERSONAL SKILLS

We seek a cantor who will be approachable, warm, sensitive and caring in relating to our members and will exhibit these qualities when providing pastoral care, in partnership with our rabbi. Our cantor must have strong skills and experience in ministering to the sick, offering support and counsel to those in need, and in life-cycle officiation. We seek a cantor who will become an integral part of our TBE family.

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From Our President

Finding Meaning in Challenging Times

The last three weeks have been as challenging as any in my recent memory, and I suspect this statement is true for each and every one of us. And while it is easy (especially for me) to focus on the things that are not-so-great at the moment, I think it is also an opportunity to take stock of the blessings in our lives and the positive things that we can take away from our current circumstances.

For instance, normally I spend my days running through airports, driving back and forth to New York City or spending the day in meetings in windowless conference rooms. But on a recent day, I had the opportunity to take a two-hour walk throughout my neighborhood on a truly glorious afternoon. I saw people fishing in a stream near our house, I saw families sitting in lawn chairs, talking with neighbors and watching their kids playing in the street (all practicing proper social distancing, of course). And most people driving in cars or riding bikes past me were even considerate enough to give a little wave hello.

My family recently experienced the loss of a loved one — but we've also been able to share that loss with our friends, family and temple community in unexpectedly comforting ways. Because of the blessing of technology our community is using for the first time, we were able to share all five of our evening shiva minyans with between 50 and 100 family, friends and temple community members who took the time to join us, and feel grateful that so many that were able to participate that would normally not have been able to do so.

I'm grateful for the opportunity to have our children at home with us (they really aren't children any longer). But it is certainly comforting for the four of us to be together and navigate what has suddenly become a topsy-turvy world. And we are about to welcome a new member to our family. A puppy is joining our household, because why not have a meaningful distraction at a time when we can all

be together, share the responsibilities and bring something positive to the family during these unprecedented times?

And finally, it is a blessing that we are able to come together as a community each Shabbat using that same new technology, which was not available even a few years ago. For me, Shabbat has always been a ritual more than anything else. Come to synagogue, say the prayers, sing along with the cantor, talk with friends, eat a little nosh and then go home. But in the challenges and difficulties of the last few weeks, I have come to discover my personal true meaning of Shabbat — and will try to remember this period of discovery and hope that I will continue to always embrace this time of the week.

While I suspect there will be more difficult days ahead of us than there have been behind us, one of the few certainties we can count on is our temple clergy, professional staff, temple leadership and temple community to be there for all of us. I have learned that lesson over and over again in the last nine months and most of all, with all of your kindness and support of my family, I have learned it all over again in recent days.

Please be assured that while we are still figuring out how to navigate this new dynamic world, with distance learning, Zoom religious services and limited access to friends and loved ones, Temple Beth-El is working hard to stay connected and wants to be part of the solution, as we keep our lives together and meet the personal challenges that we face.

Leigh Miller

President@templebethelnj.org



Cantorial Search, *continued from page 4*

Next Steps

A small committee of two or three individuals will be appointed by President Leigh Miller to negotiate the terms of employment. Once the Board approves those terms, the hiring of Cantor Wallach and the contract will be presented at a special congregational meeting, which is required to formally engage new clergy.

A transition committee will be appointed that will assist Cantor Wallach and her spouse to acclimate and be warmly welcomed into our TBE family before she begins her tenure with us in July.

We look forward to sharing more information about our new cantor and to introducing her to our congregation in person when circumstances permit.

As always, we thank you for the tremendous support and solidarity of our community, especially in challenging times such as these.

We pray for you and your loved ones that you should be safe and healthy, for the sick for *r'fuah shleimah*, and strength and courage for our fellow Americans and the entire human family.

L'shalom,

Rabbi Arnie Gluck
rabbigluck@templebethelnj.org

Leigh Miller,
President
president@templebethelnj.org

Gary Cohen
First Vice President
Chair, Cantorial
Search Committee
firstvp@templebethelnj.org

How Temple Beth-El Is Coping In Our Current Environment, and Other Important Updates

Thank you to our temple staff and leadership team for their incredible efforts to keep our community moving forward. Efforts like Helping Hands, Ladles of Love and our group of dedicated Shomrim, in combination with the deployment of technology in new ways, have enabled our community to come together for worship, education and to just “be in touch.” These are the connections that will continue to renew the strength of our bonds in our amazing TBE family.

Worship and Religious School Services

As all of you know, our temple building, and religious school have been closed since March 15th in advance of Governor Murphy’s March 21st executive order.

In the past two weeks, we have transformed ourselves into a “Zoom” congregation, gathering online for worship services, religious school classes, adult education classes and confirmation/post-confirmation academies. Our transition to distance connectivity has gone well, not perfect, but improving. And, while it is obviously not the same as being together, we are making the best of an imperfect situation. Your continued feedback on how to improve and of course, your continued participation, is always welcome!

Our Temple Community and Staff

Although our physical temple offices are closed, our temple staff is continuing in its roles and responsibilities, working virtually. Our maintenance staff continues to be present at our building, performing maintenance activities, cleaning and monitoring our sacred spaces. Our temple is absolutely open (virtually) for business! Please see the TBE Staying Connected article for all ongoing temple activities!

All of our temple committees have moved their meetings to virtual platforms. All of our tenants/renters have ceased using the facility. The Montessori school and other religious communities that share our space have also moved online and are not occupying our space. While this means a significant disruption to our rental income sources, we are hopeful that these activities will return to normal once the governor’s executive order is lifted.

As of now, we are not aware of any member of our TBE family who has tested positive for COVID-19, though we are aware that many of us have members of our extended families and friends who have been infected. We remain committed to doing everything in our power to prevent the spread of the virus and encourage all of our members to be diligent in observing every precaution.

Upcoming Temple Events

All of our b’nei mitzvah families that were scheduled for bar/bat mitzvah celebrations through June 30 have agreed to move the b’nei mitzvahs to open dates during the fall of 2020. Of course, should circumstances change, hopefully for the better, we will re-evaluate. We know how terribly disappointing this is for our b’nei mitzvah families. We look forward to celebrating with the families once life returns to normal!

We’ve also had to postpone all other major temple activities through June 30, including fundraising activities such as our annual gala. We’ve informed our honorees and are tentatively planning to reschedule this to the fall of 2020. We hope that other fundraising activities planned for the summer will be able to continue (in particular, the 4-H Fair in August.)

Sale of our Beit Am Building

Most of you know the building just to the north of Temple Beth-El on U.S. 206, what we refer to as the Beit Am, has been for sale. For many years and until summer 2018, a tenant ran an early childhood education center in the Beit Am. In January 2019, we agreed to sell the Beit Am to a franchisee of K9 Resorts Luxury Pet Hotel. The good news is that there will be substantial improvements to the property and we are looking forward to having a new neighbor.

The not-so-good news is that the sale has not yet closed. Hillsborough Township required both the buyer and seller to prepare and submit separate applications and plans for approval by the Hillsborough Board of Adjustment to facilitate the sale. Engineering and professional planning work was required for our site plan, variance and subdivision applications, even though no physical alterations or changes to the use of the temple property are being made. The applications and plans were submitted to the township in July 2019. After months of review and requests for additional information by the township, the temple and K9 had been hoping to appear before the Board of Adjustment as early as November or December 2019. Because of further delays and last-minute changes by the township, we were then told January, then February and finally March 2020.

Temple Beth-El’s application was heard and approved by the Board of Adjustment on March 4. K9’s application was scheduled to be heard that same night but had only gotten started when the township called a close to the meeting due to the late hour. We were told that evening that K9’s application would continue at the Board meeting in early May, but after an appeal, the township agreed to have a special meeting for K9 at the end of March. Unfortunately, as a result of the coronavirus, all township board meetings have been postponed. We are still hopeful that the Board of Adjustment will find a way to meet (in person or virtually) for the May meeting, but we have not yet heard from the township.

So, despite best efforts and strong collaborative work by both parties, we find ourselves in a perfect storm of events that is beyond our control. K9 had hoped to be up and running by the year-end holidays and that is now in doubt. For us, we find ourselves without a vital stream of income (and incurring expenses for real estate tax, utilities and expense related to the sale of the building) for the nearly two years since our tenant vacated the building. We will continue to keep you apprised of developments on the sale of the Beit Am. Hopefully we’ll have good news soon.

Continued on next page

Important Updates, *continued from previous page*

In Summary

As you can see, we continue to move forward. We hope that this addresses some of the questions we've been hearing. Most importantly during these times, where we might feel more isolated from our community than ever, it is critical that we continue to communicate (using all forms of media and technology at our disposal), so please never

hesitate to reach out to our TBE staff or TBE leadership with questions, concerns or issues. There should never be a doubt that our community is stronger together.

Leigh Miller

President@templebethelnj.org

Pandemic Positivity: An Attitude of Gratitude

Rabbi Meir taught that we should recite 100 blessings every day. (Talmud Men. 43a) (See this list of 100 blessings offered by author Dannie Siegal: <https://blogs.timesofisrael.com/100-blessings/>).

This teaching reminds us to approach life with an attitude of gratitude and to look for the things that bring us joy, even amidst the challenges. Here we all are, stuck inside, many of us glued to our Zoom screens. Surely, there is something we can find for which to be grateful. Surely, there is a silver lining, right?

We asked several congregants what blessing they have found during this challenging time. Here are a few things we heard:

- My kids are home taking their college classes remotely. Suddenly, my nest is full again. And I'm loving this opportunity to spend time with my family.
- I've not had a practice of talking to my grown kids regularly, but lately I'm talking to my kids and grandkids every day. That routine is nice.
- I'm hearing more from people. Friends who moved away are calling to check in. Family that we see mostly on holidays have called to check in. And I'm checking on people, too. It's like we can't be together, but we can still be there for each other.
- My next-door neighbor (a five-year-old) put pictures of rainbows and hearts on his front door. I felt inspired to do the same. We're spreading cheer to all the passersby.
- I'm not completely stuck inside. I can get outside and get some fresh air during the daytime. If I were commuting to an office, I'd rarely see how pretty the springtime is.
- While my son and husband are filling their days with school or work, I've been cooking and I'm really enjoying it.
- I'm grateful for the technology connections we have in this day and age. When my grandmother left her homeland, she could only write letters. She never saw her mother's face again. I'm so lucky that I can still see my grown daughter via Zoom or FaceTime.

- I'm enjoying puzzles again. I haven't had time for puzzles in ages.
- I am grateful for the opportunity to try things that I have long wanted to try but been unable to because of various commitments — new recipes, walking leisurely through a park or forest to look for the perfect photo, taking a nap, sitting quietly and looking out the window.
- I'm comforted by focusing on "what is" rather than "what if."
- We had a family game night over Zoom. We haven't all been together in a while because we are all over the country. Why didn't we think of this technology solution sooner? It was so fun.
- It's extraordinary that out of something so challenging comes such lovely connections.
- I learned that my job is an essential job. I never thought of what I do as "essential." While I don't get to have as much free time as other people, I actually feel differently about the work that I'm doing.
- I got to go out to ride my motorcycle and I played softball with my kids. The work slowdown is stressful, but what I get to do instead is really special.
- I am grateful to be able to work from home and not have my day be a constant hurtling to and fro, driving long distances and barely having time to take a break for lunch. There is time every day now to enjoy my meal, and to simply be still, even if for just a few minutes at a time.
- This year, I can take more time with my garden than usual. I am really enjoying observing everything that happens in more detail: seeing tiny buds unfurl, daffodils and tulips opening up to the sky, and, having set up a birdfeeder for the first time, watching all the species that come to dine. Out in the fresh air, without a watch or a smartphone, I find a lot of peace in nature.

We'd love to hear your silver linings. Send them to: AttitudeofGratitude@templebethelnj.org

Taking Our Youth Beyond the Synagogue Walls

Over the past two months, our teens have participated in a number of terrific travel experiences. Our TBE overnight experiences are designed around Shabbat, to offer our teens the opportunity to further develop their Jewish identities through meaningful, hands-on learning and authentic Jewish experiences beyond the walls of the synagogue. Another central cornerstone of these experiences is broadening our teens' Jewish social experience by forging meaningful relationships with one another.



In January, we took our eighth- and ninth-graders to New York City. Our itinerary included visits to the historic Central Synagogue to celebrate Shabbat, Torah study as a group, an exploration of the 9/11 Museum and Memorial, Times Square, and Madame Tussaud's Wax Museum. Highlights included riding the subway, learning more about the events of 9/11, and sleeping in a hotel with our friends!



In early February, juniors and seniors in our post-Confirmation program made their way to Atlanta, Georgia. Here we spent time learning about Jewish history, the civil rights movement, and the ways in which these intersect. Our itinerary included visits to The Temple (a historic Reform congregation in Atlanta with significant ties to social justice and the civil rights movement); The Center for Civil and Human Rights; and Sunday morning services at The Ebenezer Baptist Church. Another highlight was time spent involved in a community service project with Open Hand Atlanta, an organization that seeks to eliminate disability and untimely death due to nutrition-sensitive chronic disease.

At the end of February, our 10th-grade Confirmation class



traveled to Washington, D.C. for the L'Taken Seminar for Social Justice with the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism. L'Taken is an educational leadership program that exposes students to a variety of issues, such as economic justice, reproductive rights, gun violence prevention, immigration, disability rights, and more. In addition to learning sessions, Shabbat celebration, visiting the United States Holocaust Museum, and free time to explore and socialize, the program culminated with a day on Capitol Hill, meeting with staff in the offices of both our New Jersey senators and our House representative to lobby on issues of importance.

The first weekend in March brought our sixth- and seventh-grade overnight retreat to URJ Camp Harlam. In partnership with Temple Shaari Emeth in Manalapan, our young teens had a chance to learn, build relationships, and celebrate Shabbat outside the



synagogue. This age-appropriate, one-night, first taste of an overnight experience helps our children develop their Jewish identities, while growing in confidence and independence.

A common thread of all these immersive experiences is the opportunity to celebrate Shabbat from beginning to end with their peers outside the walls of our synagogues. Our teens come to understand that their Judaism and their Jewish identity is always with them and that there are many equally significant ways to experience our Judaism. To find out more about future trips and how they can enrich your child's Jewish sense of self, please reach out to Lisa Friedman.

Welcome TO THE WORLD

Olivia Horch

Arrived November 1, 2019 to join her big sisters Tessa and Gracie. Mazal tov to Melissa Thompson and Matt Horch on this sweet addition to their growing family!



Olivia Horch



Luke Alexander Nesheim

Born December 30, 2019 to joyous parents Bryan and Jessica Nesheim. Grandparents Bob and Shari Albin are happy to show off pictures of Luke to whoever asks.



Luke Alexander Nesheim

Shawn Ethan Singer

Born February 11, 2020 to loving big sister Madison, and parents Rachel and David Singer. Grandparents Neil and Debbie Friedman are simply over-the-moon in love already.



Shawn Ethan Singer, held by big sister Madison

Lifecycle

Our Condolences to

Michael Cohen on the passing of his beloved mother, Elaine Smith
Carol Levison on the passing of her long-time companion, Bob Newman
Diane Foss on the passing of her beloved sister, Elaine Philipse
Gayle Harris on the passing of her beloved mother, Marilyn Levy
David Kornberg on the passing of his beloved mother, Libby Kornberg
Shari Miller on the passing of her beloved mother, Esther Samson

Mazal Tov to

Melissa Thompson and Matt Horch on the arrival of their third daughter Olivia
Bob and Shari Albin on the arrival of Luke Alexander Nesheim to their daughter Jessica and her husband, Bryan Nesheim
Neil and Debbie Friedman on the arrival of their grandson, Shawn Ethan Singer, to their daughter Rachel and her husband, David Singer
Hal and Kathy Kamine on the arrival of their granddaughter, Waverly Micale Kamine, to their son Matt and his wife Jade
(Get an overload of sweetness with baby pictures on page 9)

Our B'nei Mitzvah Students

Harry Fromberg, son of Kim and Evan Fromberg, on March 14
Jessica Graham, daughter of Scott and Natalie Graham, on March 14
Other b'nei mitzvah ceremonies that would have occurred this month are postponed during the coronavirus crisis

Our Caring Community

Helping Hands: At this time of forced separation, we are reaching out to everyone in our community with affection and concern for your well-being. Our primary concern is for the health of each and every one of you, and especially for those among us who are most vulnerable. Whether you need assistance, or whether you want to help support your fellow congregants, reach out to HelpingHands@TempleBethElNJ.org.

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 memory of Joseph Beck
Michael and Isa Beck
 In appreciation of the adult confirmation class
Karen Spring
 In memory of Ed Meyers
Jay and Pam Lavroff
Lynn Lesser Nutis
 In honor of Jodi Siegal being named Woman of Valor
Jay and Pam Lavroff
 In memory of Leon Blitman, Ina Roistacher, and Mary White
Mara and Michael White
 In honor of Susan and Ed Steinfeld's 50th anniversary
Bob and Margo Siroty
 In memory of Richard Katz and Alan Schneider
Anonymous
 In memory of Amy Heinel Garthly
Ken and Amy Rubin

Rabbi Gluck's Discretionary Fund

Contributions to this fund enable Rabbi Gluck to assist congregants in need and support important causes.

In memory of Jessica Schoenberg
Michael and Isa Beck
 In memory of Ed Meyers
Gail Meyers
Goldie Taub
 In appreciation of Rabbi Gluck
Phyllis and David Feinblum
 In honor of their son Dylan becoming a bar mitzvah
Mark and Grace Reynolds

Cantor's Discretionary Fund

Donations to this fund assist congregants who are in need and support our community's music programs.

In honor of their son Dylan becoming a bar mitzvah
Mark and Grace Reynolds

Memorial Fund

Contribution to this fund support the ritual life of the congregation.

In memory of Lucien Sabah and Marjorie Silverman
Jeff and Ghislaine Silverman
 In memory of Melvin Wolfson
Edward and Laura Kasaukas
 In memory of Mildred Schoenfeld
Eugene Schenkman
 In memory of Jack Cudzynowski
Joseph and Barbara Cudzynowski
 In memory of Thelma Paulanski
Linda Paulanski
 In memory of Rose Mintz and Rebecca Taub
Goldie Taub
 In memory of Vicki Feinblum
Phyllis and David Feinblum
 In memory of Leo Holzer
Phyllis and David Feinblum
 In memory of George Rugg
Stuart and Edith Rugg
 In memory of Fanny Wohl
Robyn and Andrew Becker
 In memory of Ida Okun
Charles and Madelyn Okun

Cultural Arts Fund

Gifts to this fund support programs related to art, culture, food, and dance.

In memory of Victor Vigdergaus and Sophia Tentler
Simona Rivkin and Ted Baker
 In memory of Reba Wolin and Mark Wolin
Martin and Zina Wolin
 In memory of Dorothy Wallin
Terry and Ann Wallin
 In memory of Bob Newman
Judy Waller

Ariel E. Malberg Memorial Fund

Gifts to this fund, named in memory of a beloved child of congregants, will help support programs for those suffering from homelessness, addiction or mental health issues.

In memory of Roz and Herb Ringel
Melissa and Jeff Ringel

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 Leon Fish
Andrea and Patrick Bradley
 In honor of Rhona Ferling
Andrea and Patrick Bradley

Kesher Fund

Gifts to this fund enable access to worship services to those unable to attend services due to illness or distance.

In memory of Al Kamine, Esther and Morris Kamnitsky, Ruth B. and Samuel J. Rosenblum, and Leon Rosenblum
Fern Kamine

Religious School Scholarship Fund

Donations to this fund help us ensure that each child receives a fundamental Jewish education.

In honor of their son Dylan becoming a bar mitzvah
Mark and Grace Reynolds
 In appreciation of Larry Epstein, Dina Fisher and Amy Rubin
Mark and Grace Reynolds

Social Action Fund

Gifts to this fund support the temple's wide range of social justice initiatives.

Keith and Nicole Oringer

Youth Scholarship Fund

Donations to this fund help provide scholarships to our temple youth, enabling them to attend Jewish camps, youth events, and/or trips.

In honor of Lee Rosenfield's recognition from HUC-JIR
Amy and Ken Rubin

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

What's New at TBE? Actually, Quite a Bit

The past few weeks have seen tremendous change in our everyday lives. At TBE, we've been working hard to remain connected despite social distancing and to support one another through this challenging time.

Helping Hands

Perhaps the best example of the strong sense of community that is the hallmark of Temple Beth-El is the response to the Helping Hands initiative. The effort was launched to ensure that our beloved congregants are safe and cared for. More than 60 congregants have offered to be a helping hand as part of this effort. Volunteers range in age from pre-b'nei mitzvah kids to octogenarians.

Starting with our older and at-risk population, Helping Hands volunteers are reaching out to our congregants to check on them and offer support. Volunteers have gone grocery shopping and done errands on behalf of people who can't or shouldn't be out in public these days.

In preparation for Passover, Helping Hands is working to create and deliver complete Seder plates for those who are unable to get out. And through a connection with Stage House Tavern in Somerset, the Helping Hands crew has been distributing a dozen free hot meals each day to TBE congregants.

Thanks to Robin Osman for coordinating this important effort and to the many congregants ready to run to do a mitzvah in service of others in their community.

Judaism teaches that all Israel is responsible for one another. If you can lend a hand, or if you need a hand, contact HelpingHands@TempleBethElNJ.org.

Moving Online

With the order to "stay at home," TBE staff and leadership have had to pivot from in-person activities to connecting via online platforms – primarily Zoom.

- **Kabbalat Shabbat** worship services are now being conducted over Zoom, and the response has been heartwarming. People have remarked that being together with the familiar words and songs has been very calming in these tumultuous times.
 - Join us next Shabbat. You can connect via Zoom (<https://zoom.us/j/535547696>) or Livestream (<https://livestream.com/ourbethel>)
- Rabbi Gluck has led a deep dive into the weekly Torah portion during a **Shabbat morning Torah study**. Participants have appreciated the chance to catch up with one another while studying together.
 - Come learn some Torah insights next Shabbat: <https://zoom.us/j/693812954>
- Rabbi Gluck's **adult Confirmation class** moved smoothly to an online format with classes conducted over Zoom. So, too, did the **Young Family Pajama Havdalah**.
- Sarah Gluck and Lisa Friedman, along with the **Religious School** faculty, designed a structure to stay connected with the students. During the regularly scheduled religious school hours, students have Zoom sessions with their teachers and come together for a t'filah (worship) session.

- Lisa Friedman has been regularly posting to TBE's Lifelong Learning Facebook group to keep our school families informed of online activities, resources, craft ideas and more. If you haven't already, join the Lifelong Learning at Temple Beth-El group on Facebook to get in on the flow of ideas.
- **Shivah sessions** over Zoom helped the community show love and support to a fellow congregant who lost her mother.
- Committee meetings and small group gatherings have shifted quickly to conducting business or connecting online. The Jewish spirituality group and TBE Reads both had sessions on Zoom, our Oversight Committee has used this platform, and our Board of Trustees held its regularly scheduled meeting by Zoom on March 30.
- Looking ahead, our annual **Congregational Second Seder** will be held over Zoom this year, bringing families from across our community together into one big holiday celebration. We're asking people to register so we can appropriately plan the technology platform. Learn more at <https://www.ourbethel.org/events/community-second-seder/>

Securing the facility

As part of our increased security efforts, a corps of Shomrim (guardian) volunteers have been providing extra eyes and ears during worship services and religious school for the last several months. With the building quiet, our Shomrim are now caring for the building differently.

The Shomrim who are able are now stopping by the temple property to ensure that the building is secure. Since this effort started, the building has been checked on five or six times a day. Sometimes a Shomer(et) will park their car and sit in the parking lot so the building shows activity.

Giving the Gift of Life

Temple Beth-El has been hosting blood drives for over 50 years, and this year is no exception. When TBE made the decision to suspend in-person activities, leadership determined that the blood drive was a life-saving effort that must go on. Many other blood drives had been cancelled, making the blood shortage worse during a public health crisis.

Jodi Siegal, our long-time blood drive coordinator, worked with the Red Cross, to determine how we could utilize more space in our otherwise empty facility to maintain social distancing during the blood drive. The drive was a great success for the Red Cross with 47 units of whole blood collected and three power red donations. The blood donated at the drive has the potential to save about 141 lives!

During this time of uncertainty, people are feeling isolated, anxious, frightened, and in need of strength. We can be strong for one another. We can support each other. We can connect virtually, if not physically. The warm and vibrant spirit of Temple Beth-El can inspire us. We are stronger together.

Free Fun At Home: Take A Course, Travel The World

Many of us are weeks into self-quarantining at home as a result of COVID-19. Some of us are getting along just fine, venturing out as needed for groceries and other key staples as permissible under current state orders.

But for others who cannot venture outdoors due to health vulnerability, mobility and other reasons, cabin fever may have already gone into overdrive. For those with computer access, here are some activities in the larger virtual community that may offer some respite to our self-quarantine.

YouTube.com: Is there something you have always wanted to learn but never had the time or motivation? That time has arrived! There are thousands of videos and tutorials on numerous topics, from cooking to knitting (learn new stitches and patterns), painting to do-it-yourself home decoration projects, exercising and more.

Are there long-ago TV shows, musicians or comedians you remember fondly? Go to YouTube, type some key words into a search bar and see what comes up. You may be pleasantly surprised by what you find. Chances are if you type in a topic that interests you, there's a video for it.

Coursera.org: Home-schooling isn't limited to today's youth. Visit this site, which offers a variety of free online courses in numerous disciplines without requiring you to pursue a degree.

If your child or grandchild is in college, why not sign up for a free course related to the discipline your loved one is studying? You can become study buddies or help one another grow intellectually as you delve deeper into an interesting topic. Or, sign up for an online course with some friends and create a connection that way. Now's the time to take that course on Greek mythology, introductory Spanish or British literature that you were always interested in but never had time to pursue.

SeniorPlanet.org: This website targeted to those 60 and older offers a variety of free lunch-and-learn sessions. Among the many offerings: games; facts about COVID-19; how to access and participate in Zoom meetings; how to search for, find and listen to podcasts; pet topics; and age-appropriate exercises to keep up or build your energy. Similar information may also be found at www.aarp.org.

Virtual tours: A number of websites are offering free virtual tours of amazing places around the world, from blooming gardens to architectural masterpieces and world-renowned art museums.

- The New York Botanical Gardens recently had a virtual walk-through tour of its ongoing orchid show, which can be viewed for free through its Facebook page (just type in New York Botanical Gardens in the search bar atop your Facebook page), in addition to free tours of blooming magnolia trees and other parts of the property.
- If you love to travel, visit TravelZoo.com and search for 20 Amazing Places You Can Visit Without Leaving Home. You do not have to take the free TravelZoo membership registration to do this tour.
- Prefer nature? Go to Google.com and type in The Best Natural Parks to Visit – Virtually. This tour is available on TravelZoo's blog, but you can access it via Google if you prefer not to do the free registration to become a TravelZoo member.
- For museum buffs, Time.com explains how to visit some of the world's most famous art museums from the comfort of your home, via <https://time.com/5803389/museum-closures-virtual-art-coronavirus/>
- The Israel Museum also is welcoming virtual visitors via <https://www.imj.org.il/en> to view exhibits, paint museum masterpieces and engage in children's activities. Upon arrival at the site, click the *A in the upper left corner of the page to get a drop-down menu to switch the page over to English.

If none of these topics interest you, use your computer – or pen and paper! – to write – or voice-record! – favorite memories. Create a blog of sorts that you can share with loved ones during family computer meetings, or create it as a surprise gift for loved ones.

Describe anything — how were you feeling the day you graduated school? What was your first thought upon the birth of each of your children? Of all the trips you may have taken over the years, which was your favorite? What personal milestone in life was most meaningful to you and why? What have been your hopes and dreams? What would your loved ones be surprised to know about you that they didn't already know? This not only opens up great discussion topics during the ongoing self-isolation period, but preserving these memories and feelings will provide priceless memories for your loved ones years from now, when self-quarantine is but a distant memory.

The Results Are In: World Zionist Congress Elections

From January 21 through March 11, 2020, Temple Beth-El and our Reform Movement campaigned in the World Zionist Congress Election. This was the one democratic opportunity we had to have our Reform voices heard in Israel and throughout the world, and to work to implement the values we hold dear — pluralism, equality, freedom, and ensuring the future of Israel as a Jewish and democratic state.

Rabbi Gluck and I are incredibly grateful to all of our core team volunteers, our leadership and to all who voted. We are also grateful to the Reform Movement, partner organizations and affiliates. We are pleased to report that more than 31,000 Reform Jews took the time and money to raise their voices, be counted, and make an impact in support of our movement.

In this year's election, Vote Reform/ARZA/Vote Reform and Reconstructionist Movement garnered 31,500 votes. Coming in first place, we remained the largest Zionist organization in the United States and should not be taken for granted. Here are some more points to put this into perspective:

- We (Reform ARZA) came in first, with nearly 10,000 votes more than the second place slate (See chart this page). We still don't know if Rabbi Gluck will be selected to serve at the World Zionist Congress this fall. Those details are pending.
- In comparison to the 2015 election, we increased votes by nearly 50 percent, with 10,000 new voters. This is especially impressive because we also came in first in 2015. This proves that our people care deeply about creating a Jewish, democratic Israel that values pluralism, equality and freedom.
- is more than double the voter turnout of the 2015 election and the highest number of votes in the 30 years of history for this election. The overwhelming increase in voting is a very positive sign! It reflects the increased awareness of the importance of the World Zionist Congress and the National Institutions in Israel to American Jews. This is crucial to the future of Israel.
- powerful progressive block in the World Zionist Congress. Including Mercaz (Conservative Movement) and Hatikvah (The Progressive Bloc), our progressive block has more than 54,000 votes, about 45% of the total.

This year, the grassroots campaign began with a Reform Movement-wide campaign, including our own. Our congregation was one of hundreds of that participated in encouraging every Reform Jew to cast a vote for the ARZA slate. It is because of our efforts as a community that our movement was able to make waves across the country and the globe.

In his November Shofar article, Rabbi Gluck outlined the importance of this election and the importance of a strong showing by the Reform movement:

"A large representation for Reform Judaism at the World Zionist Congress will give us the power to promote religious freedom, pluralism and equality for all Jews, including personal status issues such as marriage, divorce, and conversion; equal access to holy places like the Kotel; and more. It will result in increased funding for Reform Judaism in Israel and the Diaspora. And it will also increase our representation in the World Zionist Organization and the Jewish National Fund (JNF), which allocates money for land purchases throughout Israel. Increasing the strength of our voice in these Jewish national institutions will enable us to make them more reflective of our Reform Jewish values."

It is with deep gratitude that we thank all those who worked tirelessly for our congregation in this campaign. You all displayed an unbelievable effort to get out the vote. We must build on our success and continue to support Reform values in Israel in the coming years.

Beth Lavranchuk

World Zionist Congress Preliminary Election Results

SLATE	VOTES
Vote Reform	31,500
Orthodox Israel Coalition – Mizrahi	21,698
Eretz Hakodesh	20,023
MERCAZ USA	14,666
ZOA Coalition	10,313
American Forum for Israel	8,132
Hatikvah	7,932
Shas Olami	2,046
Kol Yisrael	1,752
Dorshei Torah V'Tziyon	1,373
Herut Zionists	1,157
Vision	1,036
Americans4Israel	857
Israel Shelanu	769
Ohavei Zion	375
2020 TOTAL	123,629

(While the ARZA slate is the big winner, we don't yet know who won the dinner at Zahav, the Israeli restaurant in Philadelphia. That winner will be drawn at some point this spring. Stay tuned for more about that.)

Israeli Politics: 3 Elections, 11 Months

By Ryan Maizel

It's a confusing time in Israeli politics. On March 2, 2020, Israel had its third election since last April. It's especially confusing to those of us in the United States when we hear things like, "They can't form a government!" What does that even mean?! Our American news agencies try to explain it by using comparisons to our own government, which seems only to add to the confusion.

On a recent trip to Israel, I had the privilege of learning about Israel's politics and political system from Prof. Reuven Hazan, from the Political Science Department at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. I'd like to share a little bit of what I learned, in the hope that it helps us understand what's going on in Israel's politics today, and better engage with our fellow Jews there.

An election is an election... right?

We all know how elections work, right? Someone runs against someone else, everybody votes, and the winner gets the office. Obviously, it doesn't work quite that way in the United States, so it shouldn't surprise us that things are a little different in Israel, too. I'm not going to explain the various differences between the types of government – I couldn't do it justice compared to Prof. Hazan's explanation – so I'm going to talk about the difference in how the elections work for the legislature, and why that creates the jumble we're seeing in Israel right now.

Here are two key differences to understand first:

- In the U.S., we vote for people, but in Israel they vote for parties.
- In the U.S., we have an election for the executive branch of government (the president, but I'll call this the "administration") that is separate from the election of the legislative branch (Congress). In Israel, the legislative branch (the Knesset) forms the administration.

So here's how the election works: The Knesset has 120 seats available. Multiple parties "run" in the election. (There were effectively eight parties in the most recent elections; I'll describe them later.) Each party selects its list of up to 120 representatives, and ranks them from number one to number 120. This ranking is important after the election. When Israelis vote, they choose only their preferred party, not a specific person. Once the votes are counted, a party is granted a number of seats in the Knesset proportional to the votes it received. For example, if a party receives 10 percent of the votes, it would be granted 10 percent of the seats in Knesset, or 12 of the 120 seats. These seats will be filled by the first 12 people on the party's list.

Forming a government... er, administration

With me so far? Now the Knesset has to "form the government." Just like our own government, Israel's is made up of various departments responsible for specific public functions – defense, education, etc. – and each

needs someone to lead it in order for the government to operate. The most senior official in each department is called a minister, and each department is called a ministry. The prime minister oversees all the ministers. Collectively, the prime minister and other ministers are called the cabinet.

Forming the government is where things start to get difficult in Israel these days. In order to accomplish this, the members of Knesset ("MK") recommend one person to lead this effort. That person's job is to negotiate with all the elected parties, or at least enough of them to produce a simple majority, on what roles each party will play in the government – what ministry each will have a representative to oversee. This "coalition government" is then voted on by the Knesset. If they receive a majority of votes to proceed, the ministers take their offices.

Many parties, but who's celebrating victory?

If the parties can't form a government that can earn a majority of votes, then new elections have to take place, allowing people to change their votes and realign the Knesset to, hopefully, resolve this.

Describing all the parties in depth is more than I can cover, and the Israeli newspapers do a much better job of that. Here's a brief summary of the parties and their previous coalitions:

- Endorsed Netanyahu for prime minister last time; these are generally referred to as "right wing," "conservative" or "hawkish" parties:
 - Likud – Netanyahu's own party;
 - Yamina/Right Wing Union – combined "Zionist" party;
 - Shas – Orthodox Jewish party; and
 - United Torah Judaism – ultra Orthodox Jewish party.
- Endorsed Gantz for prime minister last time; these are generally referred to as "left wing," "progressive" or "dove" parties:
 - Blue and White – generally centrist party;
 - Labour/Meretz – joint party, formed in order to strengthen a recently weak Labour party; and
 - Joint List – another joint party, formed of the four Arab parties.
- Unclear PM endorsement
 - Yisrael Beiteinu – led by Avigdor Lieberman, it generally stands opposite the Orthodox parties.

And, once again, no one group has enough votes for a clear majority! In the meantime – and this is important to recognize – the last government successfully formed stays in place. So, Bibi Netanyahu stays prime minister, and all the other cabinet positions stay the same, as well as the policies they operate under. I wonder if we'll see another election again, soon!

Rediscovering My Jewish Self In Israel

By Caryn Shinske

Fate has just handed you the trip of a lifetime to a place you've always wanted to see, but didn't think would ever happen, and in a way that most visitors would never experience.

You tell family and friends, hoping they'll share your happiness. In most cases, they do.

But then the inevitable questions come when some learn the trip is to Israel.

"Are you scared?"

"Will you be safe?"

"Is it a good time to go there, with all the fighting and tension?"

"I don't know that I could go there and risk my safety. Aren't you worried?"

Once I was accepted into the Blank Leadership Development Program through the Jewish Federation of Somerset, Hunterdon and Warren Counties (JFEDSHAW), I didn't give those four questions much thought.

The program is spearheaded by George and Harriet Blank to help develop the next generation of leaders in our Jewish communities. The Blanks are very active in a variety of philanthropic endeavors to support Israel and JFEDSHAW.

I didn't know a thing about the program until I was contacted in spring 2019 by Temple Beth-El leadership, asking if I would accept being nominated for the program. My many work and personal responsibilities made me a bit skeptical at first, but I decided to talk to other TBE congregants who were past program participants. Each of them assured me the program was a worthy experience, if not downright life-changing.

After mulling it over, I agreed to be nominated for the program. Weeks later, I went before a JFEDSHAW selection committee for an interview. I eventually received a letter in June confirming my acceptance and detailing a list of requirements for participation.

Starting in September, I and 14 other Blank fellows, as we would come to be known, began attending monthly classes focused on various aspects of leadership and their connection to Judaism. We had presentations by and discussions with business leaders, scholars and clergy. Conversations started in December about the mission trip that we would be taking to Israel from Feb. 19 to 28. We had our final class in March and will "graduate" in June.

This Israel trip wasn't going to be several days at the Dead Sea, Eilat or shopping at the shuk. This was a serious trip, where we would meet with renowned educators, scholars, military leaders, journalists and others who would teach us everything we didn't know about Israel, how Israel views the Diaspora, and how it all ties into Jewish leadership — advocating for Israel, understanding and appreciating our history, and leading our communities back home. Every day was going to be a 12-to-14 hour schedule of activities including lectures, presentations by the fellows on why specific parashot are moral lessons in leadership, history lessons in front of centuries-old structures and some fun, too.

It turned out that every day was special and more amazing than the previous one.

The day we arrived in Israel, we recited Shehechyanu from the rooftop of the Aish HaTorah building facing the Kotel, wrote out prayers to place in the Western Wall, and

then sang and danced with strangers and armed soldiers during Kabbalat Shabbat.

We shared Shabbat dinner with Israel Defense Forces soldiers, who told us why they left their native lands and families to come and defend Israel. On another night, we broke bread at the Brothers For Life club home with IDF combat veterans, who told us about their injuries and efforts to break the stigma of mental illness resulting from post-traumatic stress disorder.

I listened with awe as a tough-looking IDF brigadier general talked about the importance of practicing chesed, or kindness, before taking us further into a southern Israel military base near the Gaza border to witness training exercises.

We went to Yad Vashem to pay respects to those who suffered through the Holocaust, and to remind ourselves why it is up to us and future generations to ensure such a heinous reign and master plan never happen again.



The Blank Leadership fellows with George Blank (back row, second from right) atop the Aish HaTorah World Center building and the Kotel in the distance.



Left: Geopolitical expert and Israel Defense Forces Ret. Col. Miri Eisin, briefing the Blank Leadership fellows on political tensions with neighboring Syria and explaining the history and rise of Hizbollah.

Below: The four Blank fellows making their first trip to Israel are (front) Beth Sholom member Stacey Friedlander, (middle, from left) TBE members Ryan Maizel and Caryn Shinske, and (back) Jed Weinstein.



We visited sick children at a hospital and home in Holon, to appreciate why Israel will take children from around the world – enemy countries included – to give them life-changing heart surgeries.

Just about everything I have ever learned and intuited about being a Jew was challenged. I came to recognize that my Jewish identity of going to temple twice a month on average, being able to read Hebrew – but neither translate nor understand it – and participating in culturally related activities isn't enough anymore. My Judaism has been a block of Swiss cheese...a foundation, but full of holes. I want to fill in those holes and continue learning.

This trip humbled me on multiple levels.

It made me realize that the struggles my parents went through to put my siblings and me through Hebrew school and bar and bat mitzvahs were an incredible gift that I cannot squander.

It made me appreciate the depth of love of Judaism that my Orthodox family members wear on their sleeves and social media accounts.

It helped me understand that being a Jew is about identity. It's about being myself, living my birthright, loving my cultural traditions and ensuring that my being a proud Jew isn't limited to a couple of Kabbalat Shabbat services every now and then. It means singing, dancing, reading, creating and sharing memories, understanding the Hebrew I'm reading, defending the validity of the Jewish state, remembering one more name from the Holocaust and so much more.

So now that I'm home, I've finally had time to ponder those original four questions, and a fifth.

Was I scared? Never.

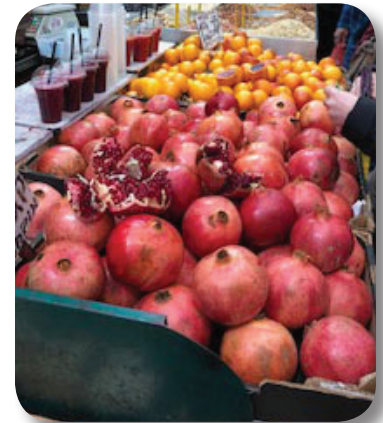
Was I safe? I had the luxury of being on a highly structured and organized tour with a top-notch tour guide and private bus driver. But I also saw many people of all ages all over the country living their lives outdoors, whether walking to a destination, waiting for public transportation, shopping for Shabbat or just enjoying a stroll through the Arab market or the different quarters of the Old City.

Was it a good time to go? Absolutely. The almond trees were in bloom, and I recalled with fondness our Tu Bishvat seder at TBE just weeks prior to the mission trip, when Rabbi Arnie talked about the dormant and growing seasons in Israel.

Was I worried? Yes, but only because the mission went too fast and I wanted more time there. That's why Israel is part of my 2021 summer vacation agenda.

And was the trip life-changing? More than you'll ever know.

I humbly and graciously thank those at TBE who thought me worthy of this experience, as well as George and Harriet Blank, and JFEDSHAW. Most of all, though, I thank Ray and Gail Shinske, my no-nonsense parents of blessed memory, who made it abundantly clear that getting a Jewish education was a non-negotiable proposition in their home. I'm sure they're kvelling that I admit they did the right thing.



Fresh pomegranates and blood oranges at the Mahane Yehuda Market, Jerusalem.



On the border of Syria, with Mount Hermon in the background.

Feb. 19

Overnight flight from Newark to Tel Aviv.

Feb. 20

We hit the ground running as soon as we landed this afternoon, going from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, visiting the Old City and Kotel, writing notes to put in the Western Wall, and ending the evening with an introduction by a Hebrew University poly sci professor/former journalist to the Israeli political structure in comparison with the United States. I tried as hard as I could to stay awake but was mortified after realizing I briefly nodded off during the discussion. Maybe I'll buy one of the professor's books to ease the Jewish guilt?

Feb. 21

Family that has visited Israel before warned me about the breakfast. But this wasn't breakfast. This was a Long Island bar or bat mitzvah cocktail hour on steroids. After saying a hearty hello to my old friends Brie and Gouda, I went for things I normally don't take the time to savor most mornings: a variety of fresh fruit, some lox ... enough protein to fuel the morning without going bonkers.

We had a beautiful day in Jerusalem. After the Grand Canyon-sized breakfast, we listened to a lecture by Avraham Infeld, the most incredible and dynamic speaker I have ever heard, about what it means to be Jewish. Hint: It's not a religion! Next, we went to the Theodor Herzl museum to learn about his dream for a Jewish State and the efforts put forth to achieve it, followed by a trip to Mount Herzl to visit the graves of great Jewish leaders and heroes. We spent the early afternoon at the Mahane Yehuda Market, or shuk, then headed to the Kotel for Shabbat, where we sang and danced with strangers who wouldn't let us stand idly by. Had a wonderful dinner celebrating Shabbat with Israel Defense Forces soldiers and yeshiva students. The lesson of the day? When you're a Jew in Israel, everyone is family.



Feb. 22

Our final day in Jerusalem was spent going to Sabbath services, where women dominated the clergy, ran the Orthodox service in shipshape fashion and showed us what the future could – and should – look like. And the number of men in attendance was wonderful to see. A former deputy mayor of Jerusalem and Knesset member spoke to us during lunch about her experiences and how Israeli Jews view the Diaspora. We also continued debating the concept of feminism in modern Orthodox Judaism. We spent the afternoon on a walking tour of the Old City, seeing places I have only ever heard about in a classroom or read about in the North Babylon (NY) Public Library Encyclopedia Britannica for some report I had to write. Incredible seeing 4,000-year-old history in person. The evening was a free night for us to be social and have a good time. And we definitely did. Tomorrow we head north.

Feb. 23

It's been an emotional day, but one of tremendous learning. We started with a lecture by renowned Holocaust educator Rachel Korazim, who challenged us to view the Holocaust differently from how many of us have been taught, and in a way that has extra meaning and depth. We then went to Yad Vashem, Israel's Holocaust memorial and museum, for a very moving tour (lots of tears). Afterwards, one of our program founders and leaders told his story of escaping Poland with his mother during the Holocaust, after losing eight relatives, including his father. Following lunch, we headed north toward the Golan Heights and stopped at Givat Haviva to hear about the work it is doing to improve Israeli-Arab relations. And, we heard from three amazing teenagers in Givat Haviva's International Baccalaureate Program, who gave us their very wise and mature takes on conflict resolution.

Today's lessons:

- You can't go forward and lead if you don't understand and appreciate your history.
- Remember another name. As in, everyone remembers Anne Frank and Hannah Szenes (more commonly known as Hannah Senesh), but make a point to remember the name of someone lesser known, so that person has someone to say Kaddish for them.
- Listen more, argue less.

Feb. 24

Today we met with Miri Eisin, a retired colonel with the Israel Defense Forces and geopolitical expert, at a viewpoint atop Mount Bental, where Israel meets both Syria and Lebanon. With Mount Hermon in the distance as her backdrop, Col. Eisin gave us an overview of the political tensions in the region, the growth of Hizbollah, and where things stand. Afterwards we took jeep tours through the property of the 250-acre kibbutz resort where we are staying and drove along the border with Syria to get a better understanding of defense needs. We wound down the day with a visit to the Galil Mountain Winery and a wine tasting and used the ride back to the kibbutz to discuss the importance of leaders listening.



Two Torahs on display at the Museum of The Jewish People at Beit Hatfutsot in Tel Aviv.

Today's lesson: There's more to Israel than political tension – there are gorgeous surroundings, productive kibbutzes, farming, tasty wine and much more.

Feb. 25

Incredible day today. We left the Golan Heights in the morning and headed south to the Yemin Orde Youth Village to learn how the center is trying – and succeeding – to help at-risk teens from all over the world transform their lives for the better. Dr. Chaim Peri told us how he developed “The Village Way” instruction technique and shared metrics on the positive changes it's having in Israel. We continued on to Tel Aviv to learn why Israel is “Startup Nation,” visiting the Taglit Birthright Israel Innovation Center and hearing from a tech journalist about why Israel is number three on the NASDAQ behind the United States and China for number of high-tech startups. We rounded out the day by sharing dinner with combat veterans from the Israel Defense Forces at their Brothers For Life house, listening to their personal stories about fighting terrorists, struggling to recover from physical wounds and ongoing issues with PTSD as they work toward happy, healthy lives. A lot of food for very thorough thought.

Feb. 26

Great day for a walk today around Jaffa and Tel Aviv, followed by a visit to an Israel Defense Forces military base near the Gaza border. We met with Brig. Gen. Bentzi Gruber, who lectured on the IDF's code of ethics in the field and walked us through what soldiers look for in urban warfare. We spent a good couple of hours at the base but everything else about our visit is ... classified. After leaving Gen. Gruber, we visited the town of Sderot, often hit by shellings and missiles. A nice little town where safety shelters are as common on the street as ... bus shelters. But life goes on.

Feb. 27

A transformative day. We kicked off the morning with a fun but serious lecture about what it means to be a Jew in Israel and then went to Wolfson Hospital in Holon to learn about the Save A Child's Heart Program. Save A Child's Heart brings children from around the world to Israel for life-saving heart surgery and related treatments that these children couldn't get in their home countries. No child is rejected from the program because of where he or she comes from. This is a humanitarian effort that not only saves lives but transforms them! After the hospital we went to a home the program operates to house children and typically their mothers for months at a time. We played with some of the children and enjoyed seeing them smile and have fun. And surprise, surprise ... a cellphone tantalizes children from Zanzibar the same way it does children in New Jersey. One of our final stops was Beit Hatfutsot Museum, which had many interesting and fascinating displays, from Judaism in ancient times to Judaism in modern pop culture. Next stop: the hotel, our farewell dinner and then the airport.

Feb. 28:

Homeward bound ... I will definitely be back, Israel. Thank you for your hospitality, graciousness and lessons in chesed. I've never been prouder to be a Jew.



Above: TBE's Blank Fellows Caryn Shinske, Ryan Maizel, and Jacki Skole.



Left: Valley of the Communities on the Yad Vashem campus.

Pesach with Pizzazz

Ever on the hunt for fresh new Passover recipes, this year we're featuring some exciting ideas from chef Michael Solomonov, of the famed Zahav restaurant in Philadelphia. If you voted in the recent American Zionist Congress elections, you're probably crossing your fingers hard to win dinner for two at Zahav. But regardless of the outcome, you can always recreate some of Solomonov's Pesach favorites in your own kitchen.

Want some more home-style alternatives? Check out the Mediterranean-style chicken dish for a brisket alternative that can be prepared ahead of time. Like brisket, the flavors in this dish improve overnight. End your Seder (or your Passover meal throughout the holiday) with some Thanksgiving-inspired flavors by serving a delicious, healthyish sweet potato kugel.

Brisket with Spiced Coffee and Cardamom

Prep time: 15 minutes

Cook time: 11 hours, 15 minutes

Serves 8

In a delicious lasagna-style twist on the classic brisket, the braised meat and vegetables are chopped and then layered between pieces of matzo in a casserole dish. To get a head start, prepare the brisket and vegetable filling a day in advance; let cool to room temperature, cover and refrigerate. Just before serving, place the filling in a large sauté pan, cover and rewarm over medium heat, then assemble the casserole as directed. This pairs well with rich, earthy, light-bodied red wines.

Ingredients

Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper
 3 T. ground coffee
 4 T. ground cardamom
 1 brisket, about 5 lbs., fat trimmed to ¼ inch
 Olive oil as needed
 2 large white onions, cut into slices ¼-inch thick
 3 large carrots, peeled and cut on the diagonal into slices ½-inch thick
 5 garlic cloves, minced
 2 c. brewed coffee
 1 c. water
 8 pieces matzoh



Directions

In a small bowl, stir together 4 T. salt, the ground coffee and 3 T. of the cardamom. Place the brisket on a baking sheet and rub all over with the mixture. Cover with plastic wrap and refrigerate for 12 to 24 hours. Preheat oven to 450°.

Place the brisket on a rack in a roasting pan and roast in the oven until the fat is golden brown, 25 to 30 minutes. Transfer the brisket to a slow cooker. Remove 3 T. of the fat from the roasting pan, adding olive oil as needed to equal 3 T.

In a large sauté pan over medium heat, warm the fat. Add the onions and carrots and cook, stirring occasionally, until softened, 10 to 12 minutes. Add the garlic and the remaining 1 T. cardamom and cook, stirring constantly, until fragrant, about 1 minute. Transfer the vegetable mixture to the slow cooker and add the brewed coffee and water.

Cover and cook on low until the brisket is tender, 8 to 10 hours. Transfer the brisket to a carving board and let rest for about 15 minutes. Strain the vegetables from the cooking liquid, reserving the vegetables. Skim the excess fat off the liquid. Transfer the liquid to a large saucepan and simmer over medium-high heat until reduced by half, about 25 minutes; you should have about 2 ½ cups.

Cut the brisket into ½ -inch pieces and coarsely chop the vegetables. Stir them into the reduced liquid. Season with salt and pepper.

Position a rack in the upper third of the oven and preheat the broiler.

In a large bowl of warm water, soak the matzo until pliable but not breaking, 3 to 4 minutes. Place a single layer of matzo on the bottom of a 2 ½- to 3-quart (2.5- to 3-l) casserole dish or Dutch oven, folding and overlapping the pieces as needed to cover the bottom. Add the brisket mixture and seal the top with another layer of soaked matzo. Broil until the top is crispy and browned, about 15 minutes. Serve immediately. Serves 8.

Source: Michael Solomonov, Zahav, Philadelphia



Yellowtail with Beets and Horseradish

Prep time: 30 minutes Cook time: None Serves 4

This Jewish riff on sushi calls for labneh, a Middle Eastern yogurt cheese. If it is unavailable, use plain Greek yogurt instead. And if raw fish doesn't fit in with your dinner logistics or personal tastes, you can always substitute smoked salmon instead.

Ingredients

6 oz. (185 g) hamachi (yellowtail), very thinly sliced
 4 T. (2 fl. oz./60 ml) extra-virgin olive oil
 Kosher salt
 1 red beet, roasted, peeled and cut into matchsticks
 1 1/2 tsp. grated fresh horseradish
 1 T. fresh lemon juice
 1/4 cup (2 oz./60 g) labneh or Greek yogurt
 1 T. chopped fresh chives
 1 T. chopped fresh flat-leaf parsley

Directions:

Arrange the hamachi on four plates, dividing the slices evenly. Drizzle with the olive oil, dividing it evenly, and sprinkle with salt.

In a bowl, stir together the beets, horseradish, lemon juice, labneh, chives and parsley. Place a dollop of the beet mixture on each portion of hamachi and serve immediately. Serves 4.

Source: Michael Solomonov, *Zahav*, Philadelphia

Chicken with Olives, Sun-dried Tomatoes, and Lemon

Serves 6

This is a wonderful stove-top chicken that can be made a day ahead of time. The flavors get better as the dish cools. Rewarm and serve hot.

Ingredients

2 T. olive oil	1/2 c. sun-dried tomatoes in oil, drained and chopped
1 bone-in, skin-on chicken, cut into pieces	1 c. white wine
1 1/4 tsp. kosher salt	1 c. chicken broth
1 shallot, chopped	1/2 tsp. dried oregano
1 lemon, quartered	1/4 tsp. dried basil
1/2 c. pitted mixed olives, halved	2 T. chopped Italian parsley

Directions

Heat the oil in a large skillet over medium-high heat. Sprinkle chicken evenly with the salt. Place chicken skin-side down in the hot pan and cook undisturbed until deep golden brown, about six minutes. Using tongs, flip the chicken to the bone side and continue to cook for another five minutes. Remove chicken from pan and set aside (it will go back in the pan later to finish cooking).

In the same pan, add the shallots and cook, stirring occasionally, for a minute. Add lemon pieces, olives and sun-dried tomatoes and stir to combine. Add white wine, scraping up the brown bits from the bottom of the pan with a wooden spoon. Simmer for three minutes to reduce slightly. Add the chicken broth and return to a simmer. Add the oregano, basil and the chicken back to the sauce. Spoon some of the liquid over the chicken. Cover the pan and simmer gently until an instant-read thermometer registers 165°F, about 25 minutes. Allow the chicken to rest in the sauce for 10 minutes. Stir in the parsley. Serve chicken with pan juices.

Source: Elizabeth Kurtz, gourmetkoshercooking.com

Sweet Potato Cinnamon Swirl Kugel

This is a super-easy one bowl dish that everyone will love! It's simple, nutritious and creamy. Make it a few days in advance and rewarm before serving.

Serves 8

Ingredients:

2 large sweet potatoes
 Extra-virgin olive oil
 1 egg
 1/4 c. almond flour or potato starch
 3 T. maple syrup
 1 tsp. vanilla extract
 1/3 c. almond milk
 Optional: whipped cream or pareve whipped cream for serving

Directions:

Preheat oven to 375°F. Grease an 8 x 8 inch baking dish or a pie plate.

Clean sweet potatoes well and poke a few holes into each potato with a fork. Drizzle olive oil over the potatoes and wrap in aluminum foil. Cook the potatoes wrapped in foil in the oven for 45 minutes to one hour, or until very soft. Cool.

Remove the skin (it should come right off) and place the potatoes in a bowl and mash them. Add egg, almond flour, maple syrup, vanilla extract and almond milk and mix well.

Pour into prepared dish. Drizzle cinnamon on top and swirl with a fork or knife slightly for a nice design. Bake about 30 - 40 minutes until set. Serve warm. Dollop with a bit of whipped cream if desired.

Source: Elizabeth Kurtz, gourmetkoshercooking.com

College Connection

Kudos to the College Connection team for rethinking their typical Passover outreach to college students. In the past, donations were made to two worthwhile organizations: Yemin Orde, a youth village near Haifa, Israel, and Heifer International, an organization working to eradicate poverty and hunger through sustainable community development.

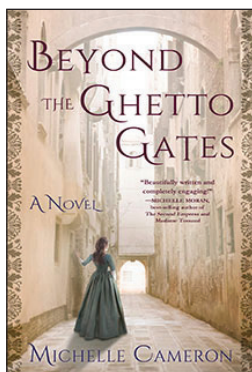
Given the extraordinary situation we are now in with the coronavirus crisis, a donation in the students' honor will be made to the **RWJBarnabas Health Emergency Relief Fund**. Donations to this fund provide supplies and support to the first line responders at a number of hospitals in New Jersey. It is a small token of the appreciation and respect our college students can give these brave healthcare professionals who are dealing with this crisis daily.

One thing won't change, though. Sarah Gluck will send out her Passover e-message to our students, including a note from the College Connection team, explaining why we made this donation in their honor.

Wishing you a safe and meaningful Passover.
The TBE College Connection Team

To donate to the RWJBarnabas Health Emergency Relief Fund, go to <https://www.rwjbh.org/giving/rwjbarnabas-health-foundation/>

TBE Reads *Beyond the Ghetto Gates*



TBE's book group welcomes author Michelle Cameron for a discussion of the book over Zoom.

Time: June 16, 7:00 p.m.

Join Zoom Meeting <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/716548671>
Meeting ID: 716 548 671

"Against the backdrop of Napoleon's invasion of Italy, Cameron weaves an immersive tale of a young Jewish woman torn between her filial duty and passion for a young Catholic soldier. Her portrait of Jews and Catholics grappling with social upheaval in an 18th-century harbor town shines a light on the challenges of nationalism, religion, and bigotry that still plague society today."

— Talia Carner, author of *The Third Daughter, Jerusalem Maiden*, and others



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Sisterhood

Sisterhood: 2020 Purim Bag Mishloach Manot Update

Sisterhood had a very successful 2020 Mishloach Manot effort for its annual Purim fundraiser. We provided a bag or Purim greeting to every one of our 405 temple members, 24 teachers and staff, and about 100 write-in families who are not Temple Beth-El members but received a bag from a TBE member.

We believe our continued success is due to the extreme generosity of our temple community, which wants to be part of giving a Purim bag to every member. This is now the Purim “norm” for TBE! We were also very financially successful and will be making a monetary commitment to the temple that will allow us to pay off the balance of the 200 chairs we purchased last year, as well as a to-be-determined smaller project at the temple.

Some of the highlights of this year’s Purim bag campaign include:

- ✓ We made and delivered 535 bags.
- ✓ members who gave were Golden Grogger givers.
- ✓ The mitzvah bag option continues to be popular: 37 percent of temple orders also included a mitzvah donation, and 140 mitzvah bags were donated.
- ✓ As it did last year, the Temple Membership Committee also sent bags to 0 new members and included a special Purim greeting card from the committee.
- ✓ We had about 52 terrific temple member drivers who hand-delivered more than 500 bags and Purim greetings.

We also offer special thanks to all of those who helped this year. We had 16 multi-generational volunteers who helped assemble all the bags and move them to the TBE library for routing. We extend a huge thanks to Debbie Goldblatt, who spent countless hours organizing the routes

and assigning them to our incredible team of drivers.

Many of the drivers took routes outside of their homes. We had several new temple families take a route, and several drivers are making it a tradition to deliver Purim bags with their children. Other drivers appreciated the option of early bag pickup this year, and each year we try to deliver more bags to those who live outside of our normal driving range. One temple member volunteered to take a route to five recipients outside of the area to fellow temple members because last year a bag was personally delivered to him.

This year we could not have made this effort happen without Amy Rubin, Dina Fisher, Ivy Anglin and the custodial staff. Their “can do” attitude and support in the face of countless challenges made this year’s effort happen. Amy had to figure out how to make our new ShulCloud system do what our old Chaverware system could do every step of the way. She spent hours doing the data entry, and final processing and reporting. Dina helped with the data entry and spent hours helping to do the physical bag routing. Ivy helped prepare all of the Golden Grogger and temple member cards. The custodial staff was always available to help with setup and cleanup.

Also, this effort would not have been possible without the tremendous amount of work and countless hours put in by Laura Miller and Cindy Scott. Sisterhood and our entire temple community owe them a huge thanks. We also want to thank our community partner Weis Market, who gave us an exceptional discount on several items in the Purim bag.

Finally, we want to thank ALL of our temple family, who contributed so generously within their means, whether a Golden Grogger giver, or a first-time giver who made a mitzvah donation. All of these donations, together, continued to let us to touch every single temple member in our community this Purim.



Yahrzeits March

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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.

Read on March 7 and 8

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
Al Kamine, husband of Fern Kamine, father of Hal Kamine
Murray Berger, father of Alan Berger
Martin Rosenel, father of Richard Rosenel

Read on March 13 and 14

George Skowronek, son of Joshua Skowronek and
brother of Brian Skowronek
Alice Seid, grandmother of Kenneth Rubin
Daniel Wachtel, loved one of Ann Weinstein
Frederick Dallow, father of Brian Dallow
Dorothy Levine, mother of Alvin Levine
Rose Grossman, mother of Linda Strand
Augusta Auerbach, mother-in-law of Andrea Auerbach
Richard I. Spivack, father of Michelle Grafer
Joseph Enzer, husband of Lillian Swickle
Arnold Rawicz, uncle of Scott Rawicz
Mildred Schoenfeld, mother of Eugene Schenkman
David Sloane, father of Leslie Marcus
David Stern, father of Jason Stern
Martha Lottman, mother of Liz Cohen
Dennis Greenstein, husband of Yosefa Greenstein
Louis Zibulsky, grandfather of Robyn Becker
Charles Insler, father of Elayne Weitz
Ellen Fischer, mother of David Fischer

Read on March 20 and 21

Arthur Lavin, grandfather of Liz Cohen
Max Chanoch, father of Keith Chanoch
Ira Foss, brother of Bernard Foss
Anne Finkelstein, mother of Beth Lavranchuk
Morris Goldstein, father of Marcia Shubitz
Anne Feurman, mother of Ileen Bradley
Jacob Seckler, father of Ellen Bailin

Paul Glaser, father of Shelley Drozd
Sarah Wang, mother of Andrea Auerbach
Karen Zweig, mother of Lauren Iannucci
Tillie Vogel, mother of Irwin Vogel
Lotte Weyl, mother of Lewin Weyl
Hannah Walitsky, mother of Paul Walitsky
Judith Jaffe, mother of Hirshel Jaffe
Victor Vigdergaus, father of Simona Rivkin
Eileen Lemansky, mother of Ellen Edwards
Joan Bateman, mother of Caren Bateman
Albert Swickle, father-in-law of Lillian Swickle
William Orgel, father of Phyllis Feinblum
Mary Rugg, mother of Stuart Rugg
Marion Seinfeld, grandmother of David Sandler
Herbert Ringel, father of Jeff Ringel
Alfonso Rucci, father of Victoria Freiman
Rose Faer, mother of Beverly Bober
Bernice Jacobs Sarnoff, mother of Nancy Burke
George Okun, father of Charles Okun
Melvin Wolfson, father of Laura Kasauskas
Charles Feurman, father of Ileen Bradley
Jules Swickle, husband of Lillian Swickle
William Irving Klinghoffer, father of Doris Moshinsky
Bathsheva Malberg, mother of Ed Malberg and Marc Malberg

Read on March 27 and 28

Beatrice Schneider, mother of Arthur Schneider
Eva Spivack, grandmother of Michelle Grafer
Charles Fetaya, father of Pat Fetaya
Fay Berger, grandmother of Dana Colon
James Mitchell, father of Donna Tischfield
Charles Steinman, father of Judith Steinman
Richard R. Freeman, father of Richard Freeman
Raymond Redlich, father of Sam Redlich
Dorothy Nerenberg, mother of Henry Nerenberg
Haley Wolin-Swift, niece of Martin Wolin
Sylvia Oppen, grandmother of Tamar Yarkoni
Stuart Tuckman, father of Robert Tuckman
Phyllis Rosenfeld, sister of Alan Rosenfeld
Phyllis Phillips, sister of Jeanette Tuckman
Harvey Freed, brother of Diane Morrison
Alan Wallin, father of Terry Wallin
Dahlia Johnston, mother of Russ Johnston
Tiby Sharlin, sister of Goldie Taub
Sheila Broder, sister of Debbie Friedman
Ben Spinner, father of Max Spinner

Yahrzeits April

[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 April 3 and 4

Robert Gardner, father of Carol Gardner
Agnes Boschen, mother of Karen Kaplan
Robin Callaghan, cousin of Brian Small
Irwin N. Levison, father of Carol Levison
Ida Goldstein, mother of Marcia Shubitz
George Roberts, father of Sharon Hambro
Stanley Gold, grandfather of Kimberly Beman
Bernard Kimmelman, father of Alan Kimmelman
Mollie Schenkman, mother of Eugene Schenkman
Martha Brody, mother of Bruce Brody
Leonard Miller, father-in-law of Laura Miller
David Zelnick, father of Zelda Reinhart
Beatrice Holzer, aunt of Phyllis Feinblum
Abraham Levenson, father of Edith Rugg
Rose Seckler, mother of Ellen Bailin
Robert Rubin, father of Kenneth Rubin
Joan Hope Carter, mother of Pamela Attner
Rosalie Zapolin, mother of Zorina Walitsky
Anne Gomolka, mother of Albert Gomolka

To be read April 10 and 11

Charles Bronston, father of Jan Gorban
Yael Gorban, mother of Arie Gorbman
Benjamin Brown, father of Marvin Brown
Sol Ferling, father of Rhona Ferling
Antoinette Bouchonville, mother of Maria Landau
Herbert Schall, friend of Stanley Mendelson
Barbara Hirschhorn, sister of Betty Roswell
Robert Donohue, father of Karen Donohue
Betty Chaprack, mother of Alice Barrow
David Schnee, stepfather of Jay Tischfield
Ottillie Wasserman, grandmother of Tamar Yarkoni
Abraham Bernstein, uncle of Ann Wallin
Joseph Almeida, father of Joseph Almeida
Felice Platt, sister of Rena Fruchter
Mel Greenberg, stepfather of Amanda Hannum
Benjamin Horowitz, father of Sidney Horowitz
Gertrude Kaplan, mother of Ellen Davidson
Hyman E. Cohen, father-in-law of Barbara Cohen
Jeffrey Mayer, brother of Cheryl Nelson

To be read April 17 and 18

Lloyd Goldberg, father of David Goldberg
Victoria Seren Tuckman, wife of Robert Tuckman
Lillian Richman, great-aunt of Lynn Small
Esther Katz Rosen, aunt of Betty Roswell
Cheryl Bloomstein, wife of Michael Bloomstein
Patricia Klimczak, sister of Joan Weiss
Joseph Kelson, father of Ellen Brown
Edward Ditman, father of Robin Kimmelman
Elaine Freiman, mother of Roy Freiman
Jack Unrot, grandfather of David Sandler
Arnold Friedman, father of Donna Stein
Irving Leventhal, father of Alan Leventhal
Harold Siegelaub, father of David Siegelaub

Joseph Burke, husband of Nancy Burke
David Lyon Herzog, father of Michael Herzog
Ada Sage, mother of Eileen Ruderman
Hadassa Gradowski, mother of Helen Gradowski
Armond Sherman, uncle of Jonathon Andell
Fred Schrier, father of Sheryl Miller
William Weitz, father of Steven Weitz
Rose Roth, grandmother of Bobbie D'Angelo
Fannie Fruchter, mother of Rena Fruchter
Seymour Morrison, brother of Leon Morrison

To be read on April 24 and 25

Gregory Grinberg, father of Michelle Gerner
Sidney Reinhart, father of Morton Reinhart
Herbert Greenberg, husband of Phyllis Greenberg
Bernard Cudzynowski, father of Joseph Cudzynowski
Manuel Erb, father of Erica Erb
Irving Schwartz, grandfather of Debbie Manrique
Margaret Heller, mother of Mark Heller
Stefanie Graham, wife of James Graham, mother of Jessica Graham, and sister of Allison Petito
Milton Skowronek, father of Joshua Skowronek
Frederick Chester, father of Simma Friedman
Henri Samson, father of Shari Miller
Philip Kaplan, father of Mitchell Kaplan
Fannie Friedman, grandmother of Doris Moshinsky
Milton Lottman, stepfather of Liz Cohen
Caryn Katz, sister of Pauline Schneider
Kenneth Lieb, father of Wendy Spinner
Selma Green, aunt of Iris Naroden
John Yourman, father of Amy Berger
Hy Fine, grandfather of Tamar Yarkoni

To be read May 1 and 2

George Paritz, father-in-law of Joshua Skowronek
Lewis Busch, father of Ronald Busch
Esther Snow, aunt of Phyllis Feinblum
Saul Barrow, father of Steve Barrow
Henry Rosewater, grandfather of Jonathon Andell
Judith Sloan, mother of Steve Sloan
Kathleen McBride, mother of Mark McBride
Sanford Krongold, father of Ruth Krongold
Robert Rosen, father of Steve Rosen
Stanley Witlieb, father of Beth Berger
Jean Chanoch, mother of Keith Chanoch
Leo Mayer, father of Cheryl Nelson
Rose E. Seckler, aunt of Ellen Bailin
Roz Hirsch, mother of Allan Hirsch
Richard Schenkman, brother of Eugene Schenkman
Jack Stein, father of Mitchell Stein
Irv Schwartz, father of Sandy Schwartz
Norman Weinstein, husband of Ann Weinstein
Ray Shinske, father of Caryn Shinske
Harold Lane, father of Stephen Lane
Linda Goldblatt, mother of Lisa Friedman
Irving Chaprack, father of Alice Barrow

Social Action

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

Interfaith Hospitality Network

Leigh Freeman, Coordinator — IHN / Temple Beth-El

Our next hosting date is April 19-26

2019-2020 IHN Hosting Schedule

April 19-26 June 7-14 August 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

With the order to remain at home, TBE is unable to host IHN during April. IHN clients will stay at a local hotel. Meals are still needed. Please sign-up to help feed the IHN guests.

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/TBEIHNApr2020> 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		jbhirsch@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

Jewish Hospital Care



- Assisted Living to Patient Care
- Home Health Aide Support for Family
- Homebound Support/Weekly Meeting
- Comprehensive Children's Care plus Day and Evening Respite



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Caren Bateman

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April

Calendar of Events

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Wednesday, April 1

4:30 p.m. Hebrew School — via Zoom
7:00 p.m. Confirmation Academy — via Zoom

Friday, April 3

6:00 p.m. Kabbalat Shabbat Service — via Zoom

Saturday, April 4

10:00 a.m. Shabbat Morning Torah Study — via Zoom

Monday, April 6

7:15 p.m. Spirituality Group — via Zoom
7:30 p.m. Ritual Committee — Via Zoom

Wednesday, April 8

Erev Pesach — First Seder

Thursday, April 9

Yom Tov Pesach, Day 1
Offices Closed
6:00 p.m. Congregation-wide Second Seder —
via Zoom

Friday, April 10

Chol Ha Mo'ed Pesach
6:00 p.m. Kabbalat Shabbat Service — via Zoom

Saturday, April 11

Chol Ha Mo'ed Pesach
10:00 a.m. Shabbat Morning Torah Study — via Zoom

Sunday, April 12

Chol Ha Mo'ed Pesach

Monday, April 13

Chol Ha Mo'ed Pesach
7:00 p.m. Oversight Committee Meeting — via Zoom

Tuesday, April 14

Chol Ha Mo'ed Pesach
7:00 p.m. Pesach Service and Yizkor — via Zoom

Wednesday, April 15

Yom Tov Pesach, Day 7
Offices Closed

Friday, April 17

6:00 p.m. Kabbalat Shabbat Service — via Zoom

Saturday, April 18

10:00 a.m. Shabbat Morning Torah Study — via Zoom

Sunday, April 19

IHN Hosting Week
9:00 a.m. Religious School — via Zoom
10:00 a.m. Jewish LIFE: Biblical Hebrew — via Zoom
11:00 a.m. Religious School - Alternative Hebrew Class
— Individual sessions

Monday, April 20

IHN Hosting Week
6:30 p.m. School Committee Meeting — via Zoom
7:00 p.m. Yom HaShoah Service — via Zoom

Tuesday, April 21

Yom HaShoah
IHN Hosting Week

Wednesday, April 22

IHN Hosting Week
4:30 p.m. Hebrew School — via Zoom
7:00 p.m. Confirmation Academy — via Zoom
7:30 p.m. Women's Torah Talk — via Zoom

Thursday, April 23

IHN Hosting Week
7:30 p.m. Jewish LIFE: Israeli Folk Dancing

Friday, April 24

IHN Hosting Week
6:00 p.m. Kabbalat Shabbat Service — via Zoom

Saturday, April 25

IHN Hosting Week
10:00 a.m. Shabbat Morning Torah Study — via Zoom

Sunday, April 26

IHN Hosting Week
9:00 a.m. Religious School — via Zoom
10:00 a.m. Jewish LIFE: Biblical Hebrew — via Zoom
11:00 a.m. Religious School - Alternative Hebrew Class
— Individual sessions

Monday, April 27

7:00 p.m. Post-confirmation — via Zoom
7:30 p.m. Board of Trustees Budget Review — via Zoom

Tuesday, April 28

Yom HaZikaron

Wednesday, April 29

Yom HaAtzma'ut
4:30 p.m. Hebrew School — via Zoom
7:00 p.m. Confirmation Academy — via Zoom

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

Contacting Temple Beth-El

Temple Office: 908-722-0674 Info @ TempleBethElNJ.org

To Contact the Temple Beth-El Staff by email:

Rabbi Arnold S. Gluck

Student Cantor Emily Simkin

Amy Rubin, Executive Director

Sarah Gluck, Education Director

Lisa Friedman, Education Director

Hanna Lafargue, Director of Youth Engagement

Dina Fisher, Executive Secretary

Ivy Anglin, Religious School Secretary

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