

Shofar



Cheshvan - Tevet 5781 • November/December 2020



Rabbi's Message

Thanksgiving in a Time of Pandemic?

Thanksgiving and the pandemic sound like a contradiction in terms. A plague is ravaging our country. What have we to be grateful for? A lot, actually! And, it is precisely when we are beset by troubles that it becomes all the more important to practice gratitude, if for nothing other than our mental health.

Giving thanks reminds us that what is negative, as real as it is, doesn't constitute the whole story — that the good in our lives doesn't go away because bad things are happening. Seeing that good can lift our spirits and give us strength to cope with the very real challenges we face.

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Interfaith Service of Thanksgiving, November 24, 7:00 p.m.

Blood Drive, November 29, 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. (see page 13)

Shabbat Service Welcoming New Members,
December 4, 6:30 p.m.

Chanukah Happenings (see page 11 for descriptions)

Chanukah Chibbuk, December 6

Chanukah Gift Shop Sidewalk Sale, December 6

Chanukah Food Drive, December 6 to 13

The Art of Making Great Latkes, December 8

Shabbat Chanukah with Menorah Lighting, December 11

Chanukah B'chayon - Chanukah in the Parking Lot,
December 13

The History of Chanukah, December 15

Worship Schedule

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

Standard Zoom Links for all Friday Evening Services

Friday Night Services Via Zoom: https://tinyurl.com/TBErevShabbat Passcode: Sh@bbat Or by phone: 929-436-2866; Meeting ID: 983 6550 9442; Passcode 0119497	Saturday Morning Services Via Zoom: https://tinyurl.com/TBEShabbatMorning Passcode: Shalom Or by phone: 929-436-2866; Meeting ID: 693 812 954; Passcode: 049452
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NOVEMBER

Friday, November 6

6:30 p.m. Erev Shabbat Service Online (See link above)

Saturday, November 7

Parashat Vayeira; Genesis 18:1–22:24

10:00 a.m. Shabbat Morning Service and Torah Study with Bat Mitzvah of Julie McCloskey (See link above)

Friday, November 13

6:30 p.m. Erev Shabbat Service Online (See link above)

Saturday, November 14

Parashat Chayei Sarah; Genesis 23:1–25:18

10:00 a.m. Shabbat Morning Service and Torah Study with Bar Mitzvah of Benjamin Manrique (See link above)

Friday, November 20

6:30 p.m. Erev Shabbat Service Online (See link above)

Saturday, November 21

Parashat Tol'dot; Genesis 25:19–28:9

10:00 a.m. Shabbat Minyan Service and Torah Study (See link above)

Tuesday, November 24

7:00 p.m. Interfaith Service of Thanksgiving

Honoring IHN

<https://tinyurl.com/IHNThanksgiving2020>

Friday, November 27

6:00 p.m. Kabbalat Shabbat Service Online (See link above)

Saturday, November 28

Parashat Vayelei; Genesis 28:10–32:3

10:00 a.m. Shabbat Minyan Service (See link above)

DECEMBER

Friday, December 4

6:30 p.m. Erev Shabbat Service Online Welcoming New Members (See link above)

Saturday, December 5

Parashat Vayishlach; Genesis 32:4–36:43

10:00 a.m. Shabbat Minyan Service Online (See link above)

Thursday, December 10

First Night of Chanukah

First Candle

Friday, December 11

Chanukah, Second Candle

6:30 p.m. Shabbat Chanukah Service and Menorah Lighting (See link above)

Saturday, December 12

Parashat Vayeishev; Genesis 37:1–40:23

10:00 a.m. Shabbat Morning Service with Torah Study and Bar Mitzvah of Ethan Fastag-Rosenfield (See link above)
Chanukah, Third Candle

Sunday, December 13

Chanukah, Fourth Candle

4:00 p.m. Chanukah B'chayon – Chanukah in the Parking Lot and Menorah Lighting

Monday, December 14

Chanukah, Fifth Candle

Tuesday, December 15

Chanukah, Sixth Candle

Wednesday, December 16

Chanukah, Seventh Candle

Thursday, December 17

Chanukah, Eighth Candle

Friday, December 18

Last day of Chanukah

6:30 p.m. Erev Shabbat Service Online (See link above)

Saturday, December 19

Parashat Mikeitz; Genesis 41:1–44:17

10:00 a.m. Shabbat Minyan Service Online (See link above)

Friday, December 25

Temple Offices Closed for Christmas Day

6:00 p.m. Kabbalat Shabbat Service Online (See link above)

Saturday, December 26

Parashat Vayigash; Genesis 44:18–47:27

10:00 a.m. Shabbat Minyan Service (See link above)

Shofar Submissions and Deadline

The next issue of the Shofar will be January-February 2021. PLEASE NOTE: The deadline for submissions is December 15. Submit articles via email to: ShofarEditor@templebethelnj.org.

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

Temple Calendar Webpage

<https://www.ourbethel.org/about/calendar/>

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

Having an attitude of gratitude at such times also helps us to recognize and appreciate the good things that are happening in response to those challenges. Chief among these are all the acts of kindness and caring that are being performed by caregivers, first responders, and essential workers, all of whom are acting heroically to serve the needs of others. We owe it to them and to ourselves to recognize and appreciate their great goodness.

For most of us, our annual Thanksgiving family gatherings will be a casualty of the pandemic, and that will be greatly disappointing. But we can soften the blow by realizing that we still have so much to be thankful for — the fundamental blessings of life and health, the food that sustains us, and the freedoms that we cherish.

As people of faith, the heart of our Thanksgiving is the belief that our fundamental rights and blessings are derived from the very source of life. They are gifts of God, who has lovingly bestowed them upon us all. Pausing to remember this should bring us all joy and uplift.

So let us look to Thanksgiving not with disappointment for what it might not be this year. Let us look instead to the many blessings we have received by the love and grace of God. And let us respond with love and generosity to share those blessings with those who are in need.

This year we will join, once again, with our interfaith partners to celebrate Thanksgiving in song and prayer, and in support of our shared commitment to IHN, the Interfaith Hospitality Network for the Homeless. Please join us for this joyful celebration on Tuesday, November 24 at 7:00 pm at this Zoom link:

<https://tinyurl.com/IHNThanksgiving2020>

May God's blessings of abundance be with you and your loved ones now and always.

L'shalom,

Rabbi Arnold S. Gluck

Interfaith Service of Thanksgiving

In Celebration and Support of
the Interfaith Hospitality Network of Somerset County (IHN)

The brief service will be led by the clergy, musical direction, choirs,
and musicians from The Roman Catholic Church of St. Bernard of Clairvaux,
North Branch Reformed Church, and Temple Beth-El.

November 24, 7:00 p.m.

Direct Zoom Link: <https://tinyurl.com/IHNThanksgiving2020>

Or www.Zoom.us with Meeting ID: 881 3449 3908; Passcode: ThanksIHN

Or dial in: +1 929 436 2866; Meeting ID: 881 3449 3908; Passcode: 326981360



A Note From Our Cantor

I recently purchased the Robert Alter translation of the TaNaKh, the Jewish Bible*. This award-winning translator offers a fresh look at the Biblical text, seen so often in less dynamic and precise language. Reading Alter's translation gave me a new motivation to reread the texts of the Psalms, the 150 *tehilim*. These are poems from our ancient past, used by Jews for the purposes of worship, accompanying the sick and guarding or burying the dead, for sustaining ourselves through difficult times, and really for any spiritual practice that requires some form of written inspiration.

Even the liturgy of our prayerbook, our siddur, contains quotes from psalms sprinkled throughout, which the careful eye can detect, not to mention that we use a series of them in their entirety as a warm-up to the main service.

The psalms form a critical corpus of our Biblical literature, and were sung by the Levite singers in the ancient Temple in Jerusalem. One example, which makes it clear that the psalms were used as music, is Psalm 88:

*A song, a psalm for the Korahites; it is for the lead player on the mahalath to sing out, a maskil for Heman the Ezrahite....
Lord, God of my rescue,
by day I cried out,
by night, in Your presence.
May my prayer come before You.
Incline your ear to my song.
For I am sated with evils,
and my life reached the brink of Sheol.
I was counted among those who go down to the Pit.
I become like a man without strength,
among the dead cast away,
like the slain, those who lie in the grave,
Whom You no more recall,
and they are cut off by your hand.*

The psalms do not shy away from any human emotional state, no matter how sinister, agonizing or elated. The psalm continues:

*You put me in the nethermost Pit,
In darkness, in the depths.
Your wrath lay hard upon me,
and all Your breakers You inflicted. Selah
You distanced my friends from me.
You made me disgusting to them;
Imprisoned, I cannot get out.*

High drama doesn't even begin to describe the suffering ensconced in these words.

During the week of the election at the beginning of November, our country was wracked by emotions not unlike those so vividly illustrated by the psalmist. People on all political sides were anxious, on edge, afraid, angry, saddened, and even despondent. For so many, the election felt like an all-or-nothing scenario. I was struck by the fact that despite our vast polarization as a nation, we were all

feeling many of the same things, at the very same time. We were glued to our televisions and computers, checking our phones, or trying to find a way to stay calm – praying, nervous, hopeful, and doubting that our highest hopes might, or might not, be realized.

In a moment of profound political division, citizens turned out to vote in the highest numbers in history. We proved that even in a time when democracy appears to be in danger, it is simultaneously summoned up to do what it was designed to accomplish.

The columnist George Packer wrote the following on Election Day:

"Today, with the outcome of the election still unclear, these two parts of America are stuck with each other, seeing no way out and no apparent way through, sinking deeper into a state of mutual incomprehension and loathing. The possible exits—gradual de-escalation, majority breakthrough, clean separation, civil war—are either unlikely or unthinkable. We have to live and govern ourselves together, but we still don't know how."

Perhaps this spark of sameness, this moment of othering the other side while also feeling exactly the same as "them," can wake us up to the ways that we are really, in truth, not so different. The fact that reality itself is no longer something we always can agree on is a real issue to be tackled. But at the root, we are really and truly all human. We all cry tears, or feel grief at the loss of a loved one. We all need safety, sustenance, shelter, family (most of us) and some motivation to get out of bed each day. We see the same sun rising each morning, and feel the rain falling on our bodies.

If, as we are taught in the book of Breishit (Genesis), that every person is created in the image of God, *b'tzelem Elohim*, do we really want to allow ourselves to be split up into simplistic boxes of either red or blue that someone else has invented for us? We already know that we could easily descend into fighting and despising each other. But there could be a different story.

What if empathy – trying to put ourselves in the place of another and even grasp what they feel and think – could actually be a way to the link between us, bringing us closer together a bit at a time, and starting the small steps toward building a more whole nation, the vision of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., the beloved community?

I pray that it can. Ken y'hi ratzon.

L'shalom,

Cantor Risa Wallach

**TaNaKh stands for Torah, Nevi'im (prophets) and Ketuvim (writings such as the book of Ruth and Song of Songs.)*



From Our President

Over the summer, I was struck by the timeliness of a teaching from parsha Ki Teitzei in the Book of Deuteronomy. I was intrigued by how relevant the first three verses of Chapter 22 seemed to be in our current circumstances:

- (1) If you see your fellow's ox or sheep gone astray, do not ignore it; you must take it back to him;
- (2) If your fellow does not live near you or you do not know who he is, you shall bring it home until your fellow claims it; then you shall give it back to him;
- (3) You shall do the same with his garment; and with anything your fellow loses and you find: you must not remain indifferent.

To me, this simply means we are all responsible for one another.

As the pandemic grew in March, so did fear and uncertainty. Still, when temple leadership decided to shut down temple activities beginning March 14, we were hopeful this would be over by Memorial Day.

But we also knew we had a lot of work to do. Our religious school needed to shift to all-virtual instruction – and we restarted classes on March 29. Religious services also had to become virtual, and we held our first Zoom service on March 20. We created an outreach program called Helping Hands to connect with our congregants.

All this amazing work happened within two weeks – thanks to seven incredibly dedicated professional staff and clergy – and a small army of wonderful volunteers who knew we needed to continue serving our community.

While this was happening, my family experienced the loss of my beloved mother-in-law, who passed away on Saturday, March 21. Because of the governor's stay-at-home order, we were limited on what we could do in-person, including sitting shivah. But in little more than a day, our temple staff figured out how to create the temple's first virtual shivah minyan and notified the community. Thanks to their commitment, more than 75 families joined us virtually that first Sunday evening.

Even under the most dire, challenging and uncertain circumstances, Temple Beth-El was not indifferent to our needs, ensuring we had the critical support of friends and family in our time of loss. Those days validated for me that Temple Beth-El and the TBE community truly understood that we ARE all responsible for each other.

During the weekend of March 21, we were also concluding our search for a new cantor. Amidst the growing COVID crisis and impending shutdown of the state, our Selection Committee decided to hold a hybrid live and virtual final audition, with a few socially distant participants in the sanctuary and the rest of us online. Cantor Wallach convinced us that day that she was a wonderful talent, and could also handle any situation thrown at her with a great deal of poise. Over the last several months, Cantor Wallach has certainly demonstrated what an excellent choice she is for us.

Whether it is over the last six months or the last 67 years since our temple's inception, I hope the staff and community of Temple Beth-El have supported you as

they have me and my family. On many levels, our connections to each other have grown stronger through this crisis. At the same time, our community's relationship to the temple is a symbiotic one, and right now, your temple is in need of care as well, because the current crisis is causing its financial health to deteriorate.

Earlier this spring, at our town hall and congregational meeting, we discussed our financial situation. To recap, with the closure of our building, we've lost our ability to rent our facility to outside parties, and our fundraising activities have all been cancelled or postponed. So we are currently operating without two important sources of income, which will likely continue well into next year.

When we first outlined our Chazon or Vision Campaign in the town halls, we asked for two things from our community – a Sustenance Campaign of increased annual giving to help us maintain a balanced budget, and a Restoration Campaign to help us recover the capital reserves depleted by the financial losses we are now experiencing. It is the Restoration Campaign I would like to focus on here.

Our Restoration Campaign seeks to raise an additional \$250,000. For every dollar contributed by each of you, we have received commitments from generous donors to match that dollar with two additional dollars. About a dozen families have already committed to sponsor this double-match challenge grant. If we succeed in raising this amount from the congregation, which the double match would bring to \$750,000, we would both replenish diminished capital and also help preserve Temple Beth-El's place in our community with a much longer-lasting impact. We could maintain all our programming, education, social and faith offerings that we've come to know and love from our temple clergy, educators and staff. Because of our broad offerings, we would remain attractive to new members interested in a vibrant, dynamic Reform Jewish experience. And looking down the road a bit, being on solid financial footing ensures we can attract future generations of world-class clergy, educators and staff.

To some, the timing of this campaign, amidst all the on-going uncertainty, will seem a bit curious. We understand some of our members will not be able to participate, and as has always been our practice, we ask that you donate to the Restoration Campaign only if you are comfortable doing so. But in times of need, Judaism has a longstanding tradition that those who can contribute step forward and support the community as a whole, to help ensure our beloved temple remains on stable financial footing.

Let me underscore that this IS our High Holiday Appeal for the year. There won't be any separate ask for High Holiday donations. So whatever you decide to give, be sure to include what you would have donated for the High Holidays.



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President, *continued from page 5*

Likewise, we will not hold any fundraising events for the foreseeable future. So if you would have normally attended the gala we were supposed to have last May, or the gala we won't have in May 2021, or would have attended a cantorial concert, Purim carnival, 4-H fair or miniature golf fundraiser, please consider contributing that money to the Restoration Campaign, too.

No donation is too small – and of course, no amount is too big. And remember that through the double matching grant, every dollar you contribute becomes three.

During last year's High Holidays, I suggested we all needed to get closer to one another, continue to build relationships inside and outside of our community and to treat our beloved institutions with that same care. During those remarks, we all stood up and gave each other big hugs, which felt great. Ultimately, that moment was really just a metaphor for how we need to regard Temple Beth-El. We cannot afford to treat our temple with indifference, so in this time of need, I beg you not to cover your eyes.

If the COVID crisis has demonstrated anything, it is that we are all connected and that our actions have consequences for others. In so many ways, we are all truly responsible for each other, and your temple needs you now more than ever, so please help preserve the future of Temple Beth-El. Give as you are able, and in such a way that you'll feel proud for having contributed to this important effort.

In the year 5781, consider how you can embrace your temple home, but this time, let's be sure the embrace lasts for more than a wonderful moment. Let's be sure to never let go.

Thank you and Shana Tova.

Leigh Miller

President@templebethelnj.org

Welcome Cantor Wallach!

Over the last couple of months, our Cantor Welcome Committee has set up a number of Zoom sessions so various groups could meet Cantor Wallach – like this one with Soufganiyot, the Children's Choir.



From the upper left, Blaise Bailes (and dad Randy), Cantor Wallach, Donna Lewin, Febee Herskovitz, Alex Herskovitz, Talia and Olivia Lavy, Sukie Gamse, and Samantha Petito.

What Being Jewish Means to Me

Every year at our Yom Kippur Reflections Service, several members of our congregation speak about how Judaism, and the experience of being Jewish, has affected their lives, their perspectives and their character. Here, three of the speakers from this year's service offer their thoughts on how being Jewish has impacted them.

Rande Aaronson

When I was a very young boy, I once met another boy with blue eyes. I was startled and amazed. Before this, the only people I knew with blue eyes were members of my family. So, I determined that this must be a sign. We were connected. We would become best friends, buddies for life. We shared something that not everyone did. But to my dismay, time passed, and that boy felt nothing toward me. Having met someone with blue eyes was no more a connection than if he had met someone with lungs or toes. There would be no best friendship, no connection for life. I began to question the whole connection premise.

Years later, my parents sent me to Hebrew school. But I had nothing in common with anyone else in my classes there, either. As it turned out, in the town where I lived and the public school I attended, there was not another child that went to this new kind of school, and so I felt alone and distant. Who were these people? Eventually there was laughter and jokes about the names of grandparents, and uncles with names like Goldie or Moesha, and I joined in, mentioning Hilda and Zalmon. We joked with curse words we learned in this odd language called Yiddish, and I made a friend because we had a few intersections in our lives.

When I went to college, I brought along with me an old menorah for Chanukah. On the first night of Chanukah, I set the menorah up on my windowsill, making sure that the fire sensor in the small cell I lived in would not go off when I lit the first night's candles. On the second night before I lit the candles, there was a knock on my door, and I tentatively answered. There stood someone I hardly knew, and he said to me, "I hear that you are lighting candles; can I come in and light them with you?" We lit the candles together, and by the eighth night there were four of us in my little room, sharing a moment, a memory, a blessing to God for our good fortune.

Many years after that I had four children, two of whom are sons. Each one had his bris in my tiny living room, surrounded by relatives both squeamish and bold. There was nervous energy everywhere, but thank goodness the mohel, Jackie Mason's brother, broke the ice with a few jokes. Soon the room calmed down, smiles broke out and the prayers began. It was at that moment, yes, that moment, that I realized what I had not on my first day of Hebrew school or when I lit the candles at college....I was connected. I was connected to thousands of years of Jewish lives, I was connected to millions of Jews who had experienced this very same moment, I was connected to every Jewish man and woman who had ever lived because of our faith. This was my true blue-eyed moment.

That experience was my Jewish epiphany. We are all connected. Since that moment, every Passover Seder I feel the connection, every sound of the ram's horn on Rosh Hashanah I feel connected, with every challah I rip for my first bite I feel connected. I think of that one boy I met in Hebrew school more than 50 years ago because I still speak with him and we see each other at least once a year. That student who knocked on my door 40 years ago is one of my best friends and always will be. And now you! Today, I am connected to all of you and always will be. For that, I say thank you.

Caryn Shinske

I had the privilege of growing up with a large extended Jewish family. Every year we joined together for important ritual b'nei mitzvot, huge Passover seders, Chanukah gift-giving gatherings and Purim parties. All the kids went to Hebrew school, we collected tzedakah for Israel, and we attended High Holy Day services without fail.

Our gatherings at my maternal grandparents' home in Williamsburg, Brooklyn were filled with lots of laughing, kibbitzing and schmoozing. As a girl, I often played with my cousins during these gatherings, but somehow always ended up in the kitchen, soaking in the discussions and camaraderie of my female elders as they talked about their temple's goings-on and this-and-that simchas, while getting tables in the dining room set for the large family meal about to occur.

Strolling the streets of my nana's and grandpa's neighborhood as a teenager, I would recall my mom's stories about growing up as a conservative Jew in a Hasidic neighborhood. From her I learned about streimels and pais, the strict and gender-defined roles of ultra-Orthodox Judaism, but also where to buy rugelach and babka, and which kosher butcher had the best chicken.

As a child and young adult, these activities and discussions, as well as years of Hebrew school and my bat mitzvah, formed the core of my Jewish identity.

But, I've evolved.

While my childhood memories and teachings are the mortar of my Jewish foundation, the Jew I am today is someone who asks a lot of quiet questions and is both pensive and contemplative. I often feel like the human version of cholent: a mix of this, a dash of that, some hearty things, some leftovers, all stewing together on simmer. What I end up with is a hot and heavy pot of Jewish ... some might say guilt ... I choose to say moral qualms.

So who am I as a Jew at the midpoint of life, and what is my responsibility? I think about this often.

I am a proud, but deeply concerned, Jewish woman. These days, two phrases often spoken by our rabbi are frequently on my mind and pretty much wrapped around my heart.

"If I am only for myself, who am I?"

"You are not obligated to complete the work, but neither are you free to desist from it."

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I sit here, in the Hebrew year 5781 and secular year 2020, saddened by sharp rises in anti-Semitism, racism and bigotry in every form. I have trouble wrapping my mind around the fact that people want to hurt us – and others – simply for being who we – and they – are, and based on stereotype-filled narratives. Skin color, sexual orientation, religion, political stripe. As a Jew and human being, I will not abide it, and I am at a loss to understand how and why any Jew anywhere would not stand up for others, Jew and non-Jew.

We are a people that has been persecuted since the beginning of time. I have been a victim of anti-Semitism, both as a child and adult, more times than I can count. Consequently, I, as a Jew, cannot and will not victimize others.

If I am only for myself, who am I?

I am more than a Jew by birth and training. I am a woman of fierce convictions. I am a Jewish leader. My beloved sister-in-law tells me I am a woman of valor. I have the strength of Sarah, Rachel, Rebecca, Leah and Miriam, and a responsibility to use that strength for good, for people of all races, religions, orientations and backgrounds. We all do. There is much work to be done by myself, and by all of us. Will we sit idly by, or will we take action?

We are the chosen people for a number of reasons. Being silent is not one of them.

To me, being Jewish means:

Posing questions.

Getting answers.

Righting wrongs.

Demanding – and instilling – change.

Embracing education.

Enduring in the face of opposition and oppression.

Succeeding where others have failed.

Contemplating past and present actions.

Asking forgiveness.

Lifting up others.

Helping fellow Jews.

Practicing chesed, or kindness.

Repairing the world.

Remembering that those who don't know their history are doomed to repeat it.

Lighting Sabbath candles.

Honoring the lessons and memories of my parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles and ancestors.

Making my mother's killer brisket, recreating my dad's Jewish chicken soup that would keep us warm for days, and one day mastering my Aunt Bertie's legendary rugelach recipe.

I believe being Jewish means to persevere, and to see that others do so as well.

After all, I am not obligated to complete the work, but neither am I free to desist from it. And if I am only for myself, who am I?

Keith Holler

What does being Jewish mean to me? After I was asked to speak at the reflection service, I spent some time thinking about how to answer this question. I thought about many topics that we as Jews share: our connection to Israel, our shared heritage, our traditions, special holiday foods, and honored religious ceremonies. But to come up with an answer that would ring true to me, I had to go back to my childhood and think of the events and people in my life that formed my Jewish identity.

I was born in the mid 1960s, and grew up for the first 12 years of my childhood in Staten Island, New York. Just before my bar mitzvah, my family moved to Matawan, New Jersey. Pleasant Jewish childhood memories included many cousin b'nei mitzvah, Passover seders, and long holiday services. I made lifelong friends through my association with my local synagogue. Later in my life I had the opportunity to travel to Israel twice, to experience first-hand what life is like in the Jewish state.

In thinking about these Jewish traditions, I thought a lot about the family Passover seders that were led by my uncle, who is still alive today at 94. I remember attending High Holiday services, sitting next to my father, who showed me the holiday traditions that he learned from his father, and who learned from his father before him. I thought about preparing for my bar mitzvah, and also watching my brother and sister complete their b'nei mitzvahs a few years later. I found myself thinking of my parents, grandparents and great-grandparents, who I know performed the same rituals that I am talking about now – many years earlier, and in some cases, in different parts of the world.

Now, before you think I had the most idyllic Jewish childhood of all time, there were some family traditions that I could do without. A few of them include:

- Memories of walking two-and-a-half miles each way to temple during the High Holidays, rain or shine; that definitely did not make my top ten list.
- The yearly "who done it" discussion around the family Passover table about who brought the "wrong" non-kosher soda for Passover. You would think everyone was trying to figure out who shot President Kennedy.
- Missing most of the October 1, 1978 playoff game between the Boston Red Sox and my beloved New York Yankees because the game fell on the first day of Rosh Hashanah. I can tell you that missing parts of that game brought my 11-year-old self to tears.
- Growing up in a "somewhat" kosher home and trying to explain to friends which plates were for meat and which were for dairy, and what the purpose was.
- And lastly, why did Passover have to last eight days? I can tell you that bringing gefilte fish, chopped liver and matzoh to lunch every day did not go over very well at my middle school lunch table.

When thinking about these cherished traditions, I noticed that all of these, yes, even the "not so cherished traditions," brought a smile to my face. I lingered on all these memories, and I didn't want to leave. After a while, it became very clear to me how to answer this question.

To me, being Jewish means having a past to which I am linked by the generations that preceded me, that

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TBE Helps Feed the Community

Temple Beth-El has long been a proud partner of The Food Bank Network of Somerset County. The Food Bank Network provides food and essentials to people at risk in our community. The need is great right now.

High Holy Day Food Drive

Thanks to the many people in our community who supported our 5781 High Holy Day Food Drive despite being virtual. With several opportunities to drop off food at the temple, we collected 1,290 pounds of food and raised almost \$2,000. This is a fantastic effort by everyone at TBE – especially during COVID times.

Chanukah Food Drive

Despite our High Holy Day donations, the Food Bank Network remains in dire need of food, and its shelves are bare. It spends \$35,000 – \$40,000 per month trying to feed everyone. To help, we are running a Chanukah Food Drive.

Drop off food donations at the temple from December 6 to 13, or make a monetary donation by selecting “Food Bank” in the drop down on our website donation form (www.ourbethel.org/give/give-now/). We will forward all monetary donations in full to The Food Bank Network.

Remember, our donations make an immeasurable impact by helping families in need. Your generosity has always been overwhelming and we thank you for your ongoing consideration. Should you have any questions about this food drive, contact David Kornberg, TBE food drive coordinator, at FoodDrive@templebethelnj.org



Our TBE Food Bank volunteers keeping socially distanced after dropping off the food drive donations. L-R: Charley Bloom, a Food Bank staff member, Mike Herzog, Sabina Molander, David Kornberg, Kathy Shanklin and Bob Krovetz.

The mission of The Food Bank Network is to distribute food and to provide other basic human needs to those less fortunate in our community in a manner which recognizes and advances self worth and human dignity. Their method of distributing this food is through three food pantries, located in Somerville, Bound Brook, and North Plainfield, and a warehouse in Bridgewater.

Being Jewish, continued from page 8

prepared their children for their bar and bat mitzvah. Those generations sang Kol Nidre, and then blew the Shofar, like we will do one last time at the end of Yom Kippur. It means lighting Chanukah candles, partaking in Passover seders with family, helping to build a sukkah, and then passing these same traditions to our children.

These traditions go back generations and generations. And, ultimately, I am a link in a chain that will carry these same traditions on to future generations. Although I don't necessarily live my Jewish life the same way as past generations, it still means appreciating the many traditions that I grew up with, both good and bad, and honoring the family members who passed these traditions to me. It means that it is important for me to be that link in the chain, being an active part in passing Jewish traditions that I learned from my grandparents and parents, to my daughter and family, so these same traditions can be passed to future generations – which, I am sure, they will celebrate in their own special way!

Chag sameach and please stay safe.

Chanukah Sidewalk Sale

Drop by for some Chanukah shopping — gifts, decorations, supplies. We will have a selection of must-have items!

Our sidewalk sale will be held during the Chanukah Chibbuk — December 6, 12:30 to 2:30.

If you cannot make this sale or would like to browse non-Chanukah items in the Sisterhood Gift Shop, please contact Kim Fromberg (kfromberg@hotmail.com) to make an appointment.

Lifecycle

Our Condolences to

Libby Kutner on the passing of her beloved mother, Lois Wood
Larry Osman on the passing of his beloved father, Arthur Osman
Beatrice Cohen on the passing of her beloved husband, Saul Cohen
Sheldon Stept on the passing of his beloved mother, Gail Stept
Bobbi Weinstein on the passing of her beloved father, George Lemberger
Iris Naroden on the passing of her beloved father, Harold Zatz
Len Knauer on the passing of his beloved sister, Ruth Meyers
Paul Walitsky on the passing of his beloved wife, Zorina Walitsky

Mazel Tov to

Ellen and Shawn McCloskey on their daughter Julie becoming bat mitzvah on November 7
Debbie and Ralph Manrique on their son Benny becoming bar mitzvah on November 14
Lee Rosenfield on his son Ethan Fastag-Rosenfield becoming bar mitzvah on December 12
Eileen Ruderman on the arrival of her grandson, Max Bennett Ruderman, born on September 17
to parents Jared and Gillian Ruderman (See photo below)
Matt Horch and Melissa Thompson on the naming of their daughter Olivia Ryan Horch,
who joined big sisters Tessa and Gracie a year ago.

Welcome TO THE WORLD



Max Bennett Ruderman

September 17, 2020

Welcomed by his proud parents,
Jared and Gillian Ruderman, and by
grandmother Eileen Ruderman.

Our Caring Community

Keshet Network: For those who are unable to attend our worship and simcha events and some adult education classes, our video streaming service is the next best thing to being there. Navigate to new.livestream.com/OurBethEl from a personal computer or mobile device (apps are available for apple, android, roku device, or Fire sticks) 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: To offer to help deliver care packages or to suggest someone who might need a little extra love, contact Andrea Bradley, ladlesoflove@templebethelnj.org.

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, or Cantor Wallach at 908-722-0674, ext. 315 or 415-290-0743.

To share your family's news in the Shofar, call Dina Fisher in the temple office (908-722-0674 or dinafisher@templebethel.org). 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.

Chanukah Happenings

Chanukah Chibbuk – A Chanukah Hug

Sunday, December 6, 12:30 to 2:30 p.m.

Come out to the temple for Chanukah greetings and to receive our gift of a Chanukah candles to enhance your Chanukah experience.

For more and to RSVP: www.ourbethel.org/events/chanukah-chibbuk/

Chanukah Gift Shop Sidewalk Sale

Sunday, December 6, 12:30 to 2:30 p.m.

Come by and do some Chanukah shopping. We will have a selection of must-have items!

Chanukah Food Drive

Sunday, December 6 to Sunday, December 13

We are again collecting donations of food and money to help support the good and important work of The Food Bank. See page 9 for more information.

The Art of Making Great Latkes

Tuesday, December 8, 7:00 p.m. on Zoom

Come learn some techniques for the perfect latke and be ready to share your secrets!

For more info and links, visit: www.ourbethel.org/events/the-art-latke-making/

Shabbat Chanukah Service with Menorah Lighting

Friday, December 11, 6:30 p.m.

Let's light up our Zoom service with the joy of Chanukah.

Join us via Zoom: www.tinyurl.com/TBEErevShabbat

Chanukah B'chanyon – Chanukah in the Parking Lot

Sunday, December 13, 4:00 p.m.

We'll gather outside the temple to greet each other and join in some Chanukah songs and treats. The menorah will be lighted at 4:30.

For more information and to RSVP, visit www.ourbethel.org/events/chanukah-in-the-parking-

The History of Chanukah, with Rabbi Gluck

Tuesday, December 15, 7:00 p.m. on Zoom

From the Maccabees to present day: Join Rabbi Gluck on Zoom for an exploration of the long history of Chanukah. Have your menorah handy to light at the conclusion of the class.

For more information and Zoom links, visit www.ourbethel.org/events/the-history-of-chanukah/

For more information on these events and Zoom links, visit our Upcoming Events page on our website: <https://www.ourbethel.org/engage/upcoming-events/>

Acts of Tzedakah

General Donation

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

Philip and Jill Grand
Allan and Sheenagh Hirsch
 In appreciation of Josh Lavroff serving as a summer intern
Amy and Ken Rubin
 In appreciation of the Sai Baba community's support of Temple Beth-El during the Holy Days
Amy and Ken Rubin
 In honor of our son Brian becoming bar mitzvah
Rebecca and David Ascher
 In honor of Ryan Maizel, Jacki Skole and Caryn Shinske completing the Blank Leadership Fellows Program
Amy and Ken Rubin
 In memory of Arthur Osman
Harriet Thaler
Charles and Madelyn Okun
Felicia Oberti and Salvatore DiRico
Gail Meyers
Kevin and Jacki Skole
Andrea and Patrick Bradley
Paul Baraniuk
Randi Roth
Michael Marzano
Mitchell Schrek
Edward and Jeanette Tuckman
Chuck and Shelley Berger
 In memory of Saul Cohen, Richard Lavroff, Trevor Anglin, Arthur Osman
Amy and Ken Rubin
 In appreciation of High Holy Day Services
Brian and Lynn Small
Sandra and Steven M. Kaufman
 Speedy recovery to Cindy Andrews
Amy and Ken Rubin
 In appreciation of Temple Beth-El
Sydell Ruth Schulman
Marian Rubin
Sabine Molander
Larry and Helen-Ann Epstein
Tatyana Zeylikovich
 In memory of Zorina Walitsky
Gail Wohl
 In memory of Gregory Susman
Yelena Kalikina
 In honor of Rabbi Arnie and Sarah Gluck, Beth and Jim Lavranchuk
Marc and Nancy Benowitz

Memorial Fund

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

Gail Meyers
Steve and Alice Barrow
 In memory of Sheila Broder
Edward H. Gordon
 In memory of Estelle Julian
Bob Julian
 In memory of Farra Tebbi-Lewis
Farajollah and Mahin Tebbi
 In memory of Isidore Kirsch
Stanley Mendelson
 In memory of Joseph Brienies
Martin and Zina Wolin
 In memory of Leslie Rosner, Sondra Rosner, Louise Arnes, Irving Siroty, Sylvia W. Arens
Bob and Margo Siroty
 In memory of Molly Fass
Alan and Elaine Fass
 In memory of Rosalie Gail Stept
Harriet Thaler
 In memory of Trevor Anglin
Susan and Richard Walters
 In appreciation of the Challah Chibbuk
Jane and William Waldorf
Jay and Donna Tischfield
Jeff and Andrea Stuart
Jeff Schiffman and Fern Jurgrau
Jeff and Barrie Resnick
Morton and Zizi Reinhart
Henry and Carol Nerenberg
Ariel Meltzer
Edward and Marsha Malberg
Donna Lewin and Kenneth Herskovitz
Joseph and Jessica Keim
Andy and Nancy Feusse
Brett Cooper and Lisa Schatz
Edward Gordon
 In memory of Irene Joyce Boulton
Stuart and Edith Rugg
 Speedy recovery to Cindy Andrews
Alan and Marcy Rosenfeld
 In memory of Matilda and Sol Goldberg, Milton and Sarah Zerring and Michael Zerring
Michael and Judith Goldberg
 In memory of Ida Cudzynowski
Joseph and Barbara Cudzynowski
 In memory of Cheryl Bloomstein
Michael Bloomstein
 In memory of Judith Cohen
Edward and Jeanette Tuckman
 In memory of Leona Berkowitz and Estelle Julian
Steve and Jody Berkowitz
 In memory of Brian David Breslow and in appreciation of Harold Levin leading a beautiful shivah service
Janice and David Klein

Rabbi Gluck's Discretionary Fund

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

Jerry Sager
Robert and Shari Schmidt
 In memory of Solomon Mintz
Goldie Taub and Rabbi Murray Levine
 In appreciation of Rabbi Gluck
Shari Farmer
 In memory of Brian David Breslow and in appreciation of Rabbi Gluck's support and service leadership
Janice and David Klein

Cantor's Discretionary Fund

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

In honor of Astra Joyce Gonzalez
Oscar Gonzalez and Jodi Siegal
 In memory of Arthur Osman
Jay and Pam Lavroff
 In memory of Samuel Naroden
Alan and Iris Naroden
 In honor of Jacob Worman becoming bar mitzvah
Kelly and Michael Worman

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 Rachel and Zvi Bensoul
Rich and Zahava Schaefer
 In memory of Jay Jefferson Cooke
Caryn Shinske
 In memory of Zorina Walitsky
Gary and Ellen Bailin
 In memory of Zorina Walitsky
Paula and Alan Zevin
 In honor of Amy Rubin and Jay Lavroff
Robin and Larry Osman
 In honor of Ryan Maizel, Jacki Skole and Caryn Shinske completing the Blank Leadership Fellows Program
Jay and Pam Lavroff
 In honor of Ed Malberg for his support during the bat mitzvah of Sarah Klein 20 years ago
Janice and David Klein

Food Bank

Donations to the Food Bank Network of Somerset County will be forwarded directly to them to support their good work providing food to those in need in our community.

In support of the High Holy Day Food Drive

Jane and William Waldorf

Jay and Marci Taylor

Jeff and Andrea Stuart

Jeff and Barrie Resnick

Donna Lewin and Kenneth Herskovitz

Glen and Carol Landesman

Brett Cooper and Lisa Schatz

Steve and Alice Barrow

Susan Willett and Brian Wood

Ken Snyder and Vicki Schwartz

Kevin and Jacki Skole

Stuart and Edith Rugg

Alan and Marcy Rosenfeld

Jamie and Eric Pear

David and Paula Kornberg

Alan and Robin Kimmelman

Gari and Charles Bloom

Mark and Grace Reynolds

Gail Meyers

David and Janice Klein

Joseph and Jessica Keim

Russ and Barbara Johnston

Andy and Nancy Feusse

Alan and Elaine Fass

Andrea Auerbach

Social Action Fund

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

In memory of Gail Stept

Jay and Pam Lavroff

In memory of Arthur Osman

Andrea and Patrick Bradley

Garden Fund

Donations to this fund help maintain our beautiful courtyard garden, which has been lovingly tended by congregants and provides a place of study and socialization.

In memory of Isidor Taub

Goldie Taub

Adult Education Fund

Contributions to this account will further the wide range of programs that encourage lifelong learning and personal growth.

In appreciation of the film group

Herbert Goodfriend

Arthur and Betty Roswell

Steven and Irene Lieberman

David and Liz Cohen

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 Dorothy Wigod

Marc and Alta Malberg

Cultural Arts Fund

Your contribution will support programs related to art, culture, food, dance, etc.

In appreciation of Challah Chibbuk

Simona Rivkin and Ted Baker

In honor of Bob and Fran Taber's 60th wedding anniversary

Simona Rivkin and Ted Baker

In memory of Arthur Osman and Anne Siegel

Simona Rivkin and Ted Baker

Blood Drive

Sunday, November 29, 8:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

The fall blood drive is coming up. Whole blood or double-red donations for types O, A- or B-.

Register online at www.redcrossblood.org

Search for our drive (Temple Beth-El) by date or ZIP code (08844), and scroll down until you find it. If you need help registering, contact Jodi Siegal at BloodDrive@TempleBethElNJ.org with your full name, preferred time to donate, telephone number/email, and blood type (if known.)

The Red Cross will be using enhanced safety precautions:

1. **All donors must be registered in advance. No walk-in donors.**
2. Temperature will be taken at the door.
3. Masks are required. Please provide your own.
4. Food offerings in the canteen limited to prepackaged snacks and drinks.

Contact Jodi (BloodDrive@TempleBethElNJ.org) with questions or offers to volunteer in the canteen.



Top This!

by Rhona Ferling

Sure, it's fun to come up with new ways to gussy up latkes: beet latkes, cauliflower latkes, even ramen noodle latkes. But what I love more than adding other veggies and ingredients to the pancake itself is taking the classic potato latke and using it as a canvas for complementary and creative toppings.

You can even throw a "top your latke" party and spread out a tray of potato latkes and a diverse array of fixings to allow your guests to top their own latkes in fun and interesting combinations.

So move over, applesauce. Here are 10 delicious ways to top your potato latkes this Chanukah.

1) Caviar and Crème Fraîche

This is my favorite, most decadent way to top latkes for friends and family: a dollop of crème fraîche (or sour cream), a smidge of caviar and a touch of fresh chives will impress and delight.

2) Goat Cheese and Harissa

Get spicy, get creamy and add some Middle Eastern flare on top of those Ashkenormative latkes. The combination of something spicy with the tangy goat cheese is a surprising marriage. Add some fresh mint or lemon zest on top for color and brightness.

3) Guacamole, Sour Cream and Hot Sauce

Tex-Mex latkes? Yes, please. These toppings are easy and a crowd-pleaser. Plus, it's the perfect choice to serve with margaritas.



4) Cheese Curds

If you're already frying potato latkes, why not top them with fried cheese curds, too? Add some gravy on top for a Wisconsin-meets-Montreal Chanukah-perfect mash-up. Get the recipe here: <https://www.myjewishlearning.com/the-nosher/hanukkah-appetizers-fried-cheese-curds-and-mini-latkes/>

5) Tahini and Israeli Salad

Give your traditional potato latkes a little Israeli makeover with some easy chopped Israeli salad (finely diced tomato, cucumber and pepper with a squeeze of lemon juice), and a drizzle of tahini. You can even pretend for a few bites that you are eating healthy food!

6) Smoked Salmon, Sour Cream and Fresh Dill

Classic, simple and basically the most perfect way to eat latkes. Potato latkes were made to be served with salty salmon and tangy sour cream. Add some capers and fresh dill on top.



7) Ricotta, Honey and Sea Salt

A drizzle of honey on top of creamy, slightly sweet ricotta is a classic and delicious combination. Add some flaked sea salt and fresh thyme on top to bring it all together.

8) Pastrami and Mustard

It's a latke that tastes like a deli sandwich! And it's so easy to put this perfect combination together, since there's no additional cooking. If you want to kick this up a notch, add some pickles and caraway seeds.

9) Brisket and Pickled Onion

Rich, luscious brisket on top of crispy potato latkes is a match made in Jewish heaven. Add some tangy quick pickled onions for extra oomph and a pop of color.

<https://www.thekitchn.com/how-to-make-quickpickled-red-onions-cooking-lessons-from-the-kitchn-193247>

10) Chopped Liver Spread and Caramelized Onions

I served this last year for a Chanukah party and they disappeared. I like to make a creamier, Tuscan-inspired liver, but you can go completely traditional with your chopped liver and top with some caramelized onions. Extra points if you also fry your latkes in schmaltz.

<https://www.myjewishlearning.com/the-nosher/passover-recipes-tuscan-style-chopped-liver/>



TBE's New Painting of Peace

by Michelle Engler

Over a year ago, I began my project to earn my Girl Scout Gold Award, the highest award a Girl Scout can receive. The goal is to help your community in some way. I really wanted to do something for Temple Beth-El, as it is one of my favorite places. I really love art and believe that art can inspire and educate.

This led me to the idea of painting a mural in the multipurpose room, which has always had plain white walls even though events are held there all the time (when there isn't a global pandemic). In the mural, I painted a tree of life, as well as different features often seen in Israel, including a camel, an olive tree, and the Israeli flag. I also added the phrase "Shalom al yisrael." This translates to "Peace on Israel," which is what I wanted to portray through the mural, so that when congregants participate

in an event, they will feel peaceful and content. There is so much stress and uncertainty in the world today, and I wanted to create a safe space for everyone to enjoy. Finally, I collected photographs from congregants that they took when visiting Israel and posted them on the mural. The photographs are really beautiful and bring it all together.

I want to thank everyone who helped me to complete this project: Sarah Gluck, Amy Rubin, Lisa Conklin (my Girl Scout leader), my other team members and my mom, who always kept me on track. I hope when things return to some normalcy, you will come to view the mural and leave a comment in the binder that I made.



Renaissance Happenings

Esther Wallach, Renaissance Group

The COVID-19 pandemic is motivating us to develop new coping skills to be healthy in body and mind. Togetherness helps us to do that. Our members sharing what is going on in their day-to-day lives brings us together:

Lines of Your Life

Gayle Skolky: I spend my time reading and folk dancing, and dance along with Ira Weisburd via YouTube. Also, I am now in six book discussion groups, and sign up for Zoom lectures on Jewish Book Council, Jewish Women's Archive, RVCC Holocaust and Genocide Studies, and other Jewish study classes. There are author talks on Simon and Schuster's Facebook page, and Friends and Fiction. I also walk around my block with neighbors. At first, I could barely get around the block once, but now I can walk two-and-a-half miles without stopping. I definitely feel I have made the best I can of this difficult time. I am not bored, but miss seeing friends and family. It's so hard not going into New York City to see Broadway plays and museums, and it's a shame about all the vacation and cruises we had to cancel. But thankfully, we are all healthy and safe.

Esther Kaufman: Family birthday celebrations in September – my daughter Gayle's fiftieth birthday, five days later my son Neil's forty-sixth, and four days later my granddaughter Danielle's twenty-eighth! Yeah simchas!

Susan and Ed Steinfeld: Driveway chats with neighbors and pixel art projects. We are doing well but miss NORMAL! Virtual hugs to all!

Gail Wohl: I do keep surprisingly busy despite so much being closed. I play golf and mah jongg, Zoom with Florida friends and meet up outdoors with friends at the Canal Walk gazebo. And so it goes. Mostly I miss seeing much of my family, but we are thankful that all 12 are well so far.

Art and Betty Roswell: We are okay here at Laurel Circle. They have opened the system to allow visitors in our apartment! That includes Sherree, our exercise person! Our daughter-in-law has brain cancer, but she is coping as well as can be expected.

Lil Swickle: Things are quiet at Canal Walk, where I live. I try to walk each day for a half hour, swim at the JCC three times a week, and chat with a few people outside at the gazebo in the afternoon. I read, do puzzles, play mah jongg online and watch TV. Sometimes I'm bored, but that's better than many who are having a tougher time.

Gail Meyers: Walking outside, gathering with friends on the patio, compiling my mother's recipes into an album for the grandchildren, organizing photos, lots of reading, mah jongg online and Facetiming with my family. I've become an expert at virtual hugs.

Esther Wallach: My days are filled with cooking, baking and searching Google to find new recipes that intrigue me. I have always been interested in dietary nutrition, so this sequestered time has been invaluable to broadening my repertoire. I could never have devoted this much energy to such an exploration prior to COVID. A blessing in disguise!

Harriet Thaler: Thank you for these Lines of Your Life. All Renaissance members are invited to send a few lines for the next issue in January 2021. Email before December 10 to hwallach77@comcast.net. As for me, I find I am woefully unable to accomplish my daily to-do lists. But there is joy in my woe, including walks with my Labradoodle, Bob; going online with friends to play mah jongg as we chat on our phones; Zoom with family and friends, temple book club, and so on. There truly seem to be fewer hours in the day. I compensate by staying up late. Be safe!

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

Sisterhood

This year has been extremely challenging for TBE due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, but Sisterhood continues rising to the challenge to develop strong programming for our growing roster and the TBE community at large.

This year, we have created a new and convenient online version of our membership form to join Sisterhood, at www.temple-beth-el.org/form/sisterhoodmembership. Due to the pandemic, the regular Sisterhood membership fee of \$40 has been reduced to \$18 and the Mitzvah fee of \$58 is \$36. The generosity of those able to pay the full fees is deeply appreciated, and will help cover the fees for someone else unable to pay the regular rate. Membership dues may be mailed to Carol Levison or paid via ShulCloud. Sisterhood dues alone help us accomplish a great deal of what we do for both TBE and the community at large.

Even as we continue to navigate a new way of doing things, Sisterhood is thrilled to announce that this year's roster includes 80 women and four new members. There's room for even more. We encourage every woman to join our community service organization and share their talents or offer their assistance in any way possible.

One of our popular programs every November is the donation of money and turkeys, to ensure that our IHN families and those in need have all the trimmings for a hearty Thanksgiving meal.

Sisterhood will again take the lead on this program, which may change a bit because of the pandemic. Please watch for upcoming TBE and Sisterhood e-blasts on how the entire congregation can help us achieve this annual mitzvah.

We also are working on plans to assist congregants with Chanukah gift needs and other shopping. Currently, the Sisterhood gift shop is open by appointment only. For questions about gift shop inventory or to make an appointment, email Donna Tischfield at dtischfield18@gmail.com.

Among the gift shop's special inventory items are beautiful tallitot for b'nei mitzvot or that special person in your life. A 25 percent discount is available for b'nai mitzvah students.

Despite the pandemic, Sisterhood has had a number of notable programming achievements throughout 2020:

- In September, we participated in the temple-wide "Challah Hug" for Rosh Hashanah. We made cute bags containing seven pieces of hard honey candy, with seven representing the completeness and perfection of all God's creation.
- Summer saw a very successful sale of 115 jars of honey for our annual fundraiser to help the TBE community send families and friends "sweet" thoughts for Rosh Hashanah, as well as these difficult times.
- In March, we held our annual Mishloach Manot Purim fundraiser, resulting in our highest-ever level of participation and proceeds.

Thirty-seven percent of the congregation participated as "Mitzvah Givers" and another 50 contributed at the "Golden Grogger" level. As a result of this generosity, Sisterhood was able to use the proceeds to pay the balance on the 200 new, beautiful and comfy chairs in the social hall. We also made a sizable donation to the TBE Sustenance Fund to pay for a possible future project under consideration.

- Our "Women's Torah Talk" Zoom sessions have become increasingly popular, with sometimes up to 24 women in attendance. The talks are held once a month on Wednesdays at 7:30 pm.

We have changed our format slightly to encourage participation, regardless of whether you have read the parsha. Please join us – we would love to hear your thoughts and opinions.

For more information about TBE Sisterhood and its activities, please contact co-presidents Donna Tischfield and/or Fern Jurgrau.

Clothing Drive

We are collecting clothing for Cathedral Square Senior Citizen's Housing in Trenton. Any warm winter clothing for adults is welcome. Please, no children's clothing or toys. Sheets and towels are also needed. We're accepting donations for Cathedral Square from November 29 to December 6. Drop off at the temple.

For questions, please, contact Kathy Shanklin at kathyss@earthlink.net.



Social Action

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

IHN Update

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a tremendous impact on just about everything around us, and IHN (Interfaith Hospitality Network) is no exception.

When the pandemic hit hard in March 2020, the Somerset County Board of Social Services, which sends 99% of the clients to IHN, shut down. There were two families in the rotation (moving from congregation to congregation), and they were put in a local motel. This is an enormous cost burden to IHNSC (Interfaith Hospitality Network of Somerset County). Thus far, each congregation that would have been hosting that week has been covering that week's costs. In the end, the congregations are supporting IHN at a higher cost than ever.

Each congregation has been providing meals during its scheduled host week. TBE hosted on-site in February 2020, but has since been providing meals to the families at the motel in April, June, August and October. It is fairly certain that the family will remain in the motel into 2021, so we will again supply meals during December 20-26, 2020.

We have been blessed with very generous TBE members who provided money to purchase a meal or two over the months, and one generous member who made a sizable contribution to IHNSC for a complete week of purchased meals, which happened in August. Also, a restaurant provided many meals during the early months of the pandemic.

Although the Board of Social Services has now been open again for four months, IHNSC has not received any referrals. This makes one wonder why no homeless families have come forward for services. It's well known that the food banks are stressed and need more food and product donations than ever. Jobs have been lost, and homelessness nationwide is on the rise. One can only hope that in our Somerset County bubble, people are swallowing their pride and turning to family and friends. But what IHN and TBE have learned, unfortunately, is that the current families are not being helped by family members in any way, which is very disheartening. It makes our involvement with compassion and support more important than ever.

When the COVID-19 shutdown occurred in March, there were two families in the emergency shelter rotation. Since then, one family was moved to Sunrise House, the IHNSC home that houses up to five people. Families in Sunrise House work and pay 30 percent of their individual income for rent, plus \$75 for utilities. They still receive counseling and are saving for the day when they move to an apartment of their own, assuming all the financial obligations. There are currently two families at Sunrise House: Chelsey and her daughter, Nevaeh (age eight), and Mary and her two girls Deborah (age six) and Praise (age seven).

Berta and her two sons José (age 11) and Manases (age eight) remain in the rotation and are living at the motel. José is now fluent in English, with Manases right behind him. Berta has indicated that she, too, wants to learn English, which will be a blessing, as the lean IHN staff have

to sit with the boys during their virtual lessons, making completing all the day-to-day work challenging.

The children in the rotation and at Sunrise House are in school: José and Manases go to school for two hours a day and then go back to the center for three classes virtually. Nevaeh is all virtual, and Deborah and Praise are on the same schedule as José and Manases. The five kids all have school-issued computers.

The Sunrise House families still receive essentials from IHN: toilet paper, paper towels, dish detergent, etc., and a ride to the grocery store to use their food stamps.

IHN continues to provide individual case management, financial case management and mental health counseling for the Sunrise families, as well as for our Phase 2 families (those who are in their own apartments but are having trouble making ends meet).

In an effort to create services during the pandemic and beyond, an IHN board member is reaching out to congregations that are not in the network, to see if any of them have a building they could let us use on a temporary basis during the pandemic, working with CDBG (Community Development Building Development). This would enable IHNSC to reach out to those in need in the community, and it would house up to four families, including the family currently in the rotation.

As a second initiative, IHNSC is looking for clients to participate in its Phase 2 – Continuum of Care program. It would like to offer intensive case management, financial counseling, mental health and basic needs support to families and/or individuals who have experienced or are at risk of homelessness. The goal is to provide needy people and families with the many supportive services and resources that IHNSC offers, which are aimed at fostering stability and independence.

IHN's calendar raffle is the gift that keeps on giving! With daily drawings being held November through January 2021, participants have multiple chances to win, since each winning ticket goes back into the pot. What a fun gift for a loved one for the upcoming holidays or a special occasion! Tickets are only \$10 each. Contact Karen Donohue for tickets.

Looking forward, homelessness is not going away, and collectively we must identify new ways to reach and assist the homeless and make them self-sufficient and successful. The TBE volunteers have been very generous with delicious, healthy meals, time and donations, but there is no end in sight.

L'Shalom,

Leigh Freeman

TBE IHN Coordinator
908-391-1397

Karen Donohue

IHNSC – Director of Volunteer Services
908-217-0217

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 December 20-27

Upcoming IHN Dates:

January 31 - February 7

April 18-25

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

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

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

Please visit www.tinyurl.com/TBEIHNDec2020 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.**

Due to COVID, IHN clients are staying at a local hotel. TBE is not hosting in our building. However, Meals are still needed. Please, sign up to help feed the IHN guests.

IHNSC Raffle Benefits Homeless Families

Tickets are on sale now for the Interfaith Hospitality Network of Somerset County's annual fundraiser. The Holiday Calendar Raffle draws seven winners each week in November, December and January 2021. All tickets are re-entered for each weekly drawing, giving ticket holders 13 chances to win! Each day of the three-month period has a designated value of \$30 to \$100. Winners will receive a check in the mail after each drawing.

Tickets are \$10 and are available by calling Karen Donohue at 908-704-1920 or emailing [Karen@ihnsc.org](mailto:karen@ihnsc.org). You may also stop by IHN's Flynn Day Center, 98 West End Avenue, Somerville, during regular business hours.

IHN provides emergency shelter, transitional housing and support services to families throughout Somerset County, supported by a network of volunteers from 30 religious congregations in the county.

Thank you for your support.

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

Yahrzeits November

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

To be read on November 6 and 7:

Myer Kaplan, father of Ellen Davidson
Anna Novak, mother of Gerald Novak
Mildred Ellenberg, mother of Naomi McGlashan
Dorothy Orgel, aunt of Phyllis Feinblum
Julius Orgel, uncle of Phyllis Feinblum
Joseph Miller, father of Lorin Miller
Gussie Feldman, grandmother of Steven Weitz
Sondra Silverstein, mother of Fern Smith
Al Kamine, husband of Fern Kamine and father of
Harold Kamine
Michael Bober, husband of Beverly Bober
Eugene Bradley, father of Patrick Bradley
Martin Rosenel, father of Richard Rosenel
Rona Greenberg, mother of Amanda Hannum and
sister of Bobbie D'Angelo
Eileen DeJager, sister of David Hersh
Morris Simon, father of Janet Halpern
Stanley Gluck, father of Rabbi Arnold Gluck
Meghan Bradley, daughter of Ileen and Robert Bradley
Erwin Naroden, father of Alan Naroden
Hilda Slackman, mother of Rhonda Brown

To be read on November 13 and 14:

Renee Krovetz, mother of Robert Krovetz
John Gunzler, father of Nicole Oringer
Marilyn Kohn, mother of Hal Kohn
Fanny Horowitz, mother of Sidney Horowitz
Lila Stein Kroser, mother of Marla Lerner
Rachelle Friedberg, wife of Morton Friedberg
Isabelle Mendelson, wife of Stanley Mendelson
Warren Thaler, husband of Harriet Thaler
Tseelah Grinberg, mother of Michelle Gerner
Julius Greenhut, grandfather of Robert Adler
Susan Small, mother of Brian Small
Abraham Feldman, grandfather of Steven Weitz
Arnold Irving Snyder, father of Ken Snyder
Shirley Steinman, mother of Judith Steinman
Raymond Boschen, father of Karen Kaplan
Annette Rothman, mother of Shelley Gomolka
Penina Decter, friend of Sheenagh Hirsch
Sidney Shubitz, father of Gerald Shubitz
Molly Waldorf, mother of William Waldorf
Alfred Sweetwood, husband of Gail Meyers
Pauline Klinghoffer, mother of Doris Moshinsky
Shirlee Hersh, mother of David Hersh
Ruth Schwartz, mother of Sandy Schwartz and grandmother
of Debbie Manrique

To be read November 20 and 21:

Roslyn Eber, mother of Beth Moran
Marc Rosberger, father of Molly Rosberger

Sidney Herman, father of David Herman
Marc Jurgrau, brother of Fern Jurgrau
Jacob Blaustein, father of Betty Roswell
Jeffrey S. Rugg, nephew of Stuart Rugg
Fae Shubitz, mother of Gerald Shubitz
Herman Mintz, brother of Goldie Taub
Murray Berger, father of Alan Berger
Melva Shulman, mother of Evette Adler
Bernice Zeldin, mother of Alan Zeldin
Joseph Skolky, father-in-law of Gayle Skolky
Stacie Michelle Goldstein, sister of Seth Goldstein
Joseph Nerenberg, father of Henry Nerenberg
Herman Bloomstein, father of Michael Bloomstein
Max Osman, grandfather of Larry Osman
Nat Schnitzer, grandfather of David Schnitzer
Morris Snow, uncle of Phyllis Feinblum
Laura Shapiro, sister of Irene Lieberman
Elayne Cohen, mother of Randy Cohen
Edmond Meyers, husband of Gail Meyers
Philip Schwartzman, father of Tina Kanterman
Zena Fish, mother of Andrea Bradley

To be read on November 27 and 28:

Anna Zelnick, mother of Zelda Reinhart
Ruth Uhlfelder, aunt of Robert Adler
Harold Freed, father of Diane Morrison
Karl Friedman, grandfather of Doris Moshinsky
Myra Novy, sister-in-law of Max Spinner
Arthur Brooks, father of Cindy Mangel
Lester Raynes, brother of Harriet Thaler
Alan Hatoff, father of Harlee Hatoff
Herman Adler, grandfather of Robert Adler
Jack Adler, grandfather of Michael Cohen
Harry Berkowitz, uncle of Marcy Rosenfeld
Leonard Eber, father of Beth Moran
Jaqueline Miller, mother of William Miller
Marvin Skowronek, brother of Joshua Skowronek
Beverly Sandler, mother of David Sandler
Murray Stern, father of Lisa Dickholtz

To be read on December 4 and 5:

Samuel Friedman, father of Neil Friedman
Alfred Bloom, father of Andrew Bloom
Mary Rucci, mother of Victoria Freiman
Jeffrey Peck, father of Jacki Skole
Florence R. Levenson, mother of Edith Rugg
Charlotte Cohen, aunt of Shelley Drozd
Esther Cohen, mother of Rita Fink
Emanuel Weitz, grandfather of Steven Weitz
Irving Miller, uncle of Gayle Skolky
Ira Tiplitz, father of Andrea Wolkofsky
Donald E. Grafer, brother of Chris Grafer
Glenn Rankin, husband of Stacy Rankin

Yahrzeits December

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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.

Julian Lerner, father of Evan Lerner
Jill Stuart, mother of Jeff Stuart
Harry Spinner, brother of Max Spinner
Mildred Hillman, mother of Lillian Swickle
Gustave Miller, father of Shuey Horowitz
Eva Gitterman, mother of Matthew Gitterman
Stanley Charles Goldstein, father of Seth Goldstein
Rochelle Glaser Freedman, mother of Cindy Weiss

To be read on December 11 and 12:

Karen Andell, wife of Jonathon Andell
Julian Arthur Kahn, father of Hillary Angeline
Herb Cohen, father of Michael Cohen
Jules Blake, husband of Barbara Blake
Ida Kaye, grandmother of Susan Plan
Michael Karp, father of Jonathan Karp
Estelle Malin, mother of Marilyn Muzikar
Betty Frost Eisner, grandmother of Debora Engler
Ethel Gardner Rosenfield, mother of Lee Rosenfield
Sondra Katz, mother of Pauline Schneider
Alan Ross, brother-in-law of Bobbie D'Angelo
Alexander Howard, brother of Sidney Horowitz
Ira Sussman, father of Caryn Brandt
Estelle Bauer, mother of Elaine Goldsmith
Anne Weintraub, grandmother of Sheldon Stept
David Diamondstein, father of Leslie Kass
Shirley Berger, mother of Alan Berger
Howard Gross, brother of Carol Ahlert
Lewis M. Bloom, father of Charles Bloom

To be read on December 18 and 19:

David Schoor, father of Marla Schoor
Nathan Seinfeld, grandfather of David Sandler
Joel Keiles, brother of Ann Weinstein
Natalie Barbara Leventhal, mother of Alan Leventhal
Marvin Raynes, brother of Harriet Thaler
Sadie Bailin, mother of Gary Bailin
Alan Stept, father of Sheldon Stept
Harry Schrier, father of Sally Rosen
Elaine Roth, stepmother of Bobbie D'Angelo
Greta Bollag, grandmother of Laura Miller
Karen Hargey, mother of Joseph Keim
Jack Schnee, brother of Jay Tischfield
Jack Vogel, father of Dana Colon
Samuel Attner, father of Paul Attner
Benjamin Drazin, father-in-law of Max Spinner
Sylvia Applebaum, grandmother of Seth Goldstein
Marvin Siegel, father of Craig Siegel
Donald Gorka, stepfather of Wendy Horowitz
Barbara Kass, sister of Henry Nerenberg
Mildred Trachtenberg, mother of Alta Malberg
Bernice Skowronek, wife of Joshua Skowronek
Morton Blaustein, brother of Betty Roswell
Claudia N. Johnston, sister of Russ Johnston
Evelyn Weinberger, mother of Daniel Weinberger
Walter Greenbaum, father of Robert Greenbaum

Esther Kaminetsky, mother-in-law of Fern Kamine
Lena Holzer, grandmother of Phyllis Feinblum
Edythe Schrier, sister of Sally Rosen
Morton Swickle, brother-in-law of Lillian Swickle

To be read on December 25 and 26:

Harold Arens, father of Margo Sirotty
William Levine, grandfather of Jeremy Bloch
Elaine Roswell, sister of Arthur Roswell
Howard Richman, great-uncle of Lynn Small
Doris Orgel, mother of Phyllis Feinblum
Beverly Yourman, mother of Amy Berger
Eric Strand, brother of Thomas Strand
Jack Spinrad, father of Marcy Rosenfeld
Jackie Spinner, wife of Max Spinner and mother of Michael Spinner
Marshall David Paulanski, husband of Linda Paulanski
Bertha Bloomstein, mother of Michael Bloomstein
Jill Kaplan-Goret, sister of Mitchell Kaplan
Harold Sharlin, brother-in-law of Goldie Taub
Charles Toborowsky, father of Robert Taber
Irving Cooperman, father of Frances Taber
Dorothy Wallin, mother of Terry Wallin
Gladys Goldberg, mother of David Goldberg
Elsie Keiles, mother of Ann Weinstein
Miriam Cartine, mother of Julie Caliman
Beatrice Cohen, grandmother of Michael Cohen
Ruth Stein, mother of Mitchell Stein

To be read on January 1 and 2:

Brian Kanterman, son of Tina and Stanley Kanterman
Abraham I. Tucker, brother of Barbara Cohen
Maurice Greenberg, father of Elaine Krantz
Richard Katz, father of Pauline Schneider
Mark Steven Wolin, son of Martin and Zina Wolin
Justin Galler, husband of Pat Galler
Milton Levenberg, father of Richard Levenberg
Barney Walitsky, father of Paul Walitsky
Benjamin Wilson, father of Jeffrey Wilson
Alan Schneider, husband of Pauline Schneider
Eleanor Attner, mother of Paul Attner
Michael Zerring, brother of Judith Goldberg
Muriel Levitt, mother of Laura Miller
Nathan Spinner, brother of Max Spinner
William Margulis, husband of Arleen Margulis
Gustave Kaitz, father of RevaLee Brody
Edward Reynolds, father of Mark Reynolds
Dora Kirsch, mother-in-law of Stanley Mendelson
Helen Bernstein, great-aunt of Keith Holler
Elaine Smith, mother of Michael Cohen
Irving Glatt, father of Evelyn Silverstein
Wesley Goldman, father of Shari Albin
Ida Okun, mother of Charles Okun
Amy Heinel Garthly, mother of Amy Rubin

November

Calendar of Events

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Sunday, November 1

8:30 a.m. Religious School - Alternative Hebrew Class
8:45 a.m. Religious School
12:30 p.m. RS: In-Person Activity for Grades PK-2
(weather permitting)

Monday, November 2

7:30 p.m. Ritual Committee Meeting

Wednesday, November 4

No Confirmation Academy
No Hebrew School

Friday, November 6

6:30 p.m. Erev Shabbat Service

Saturday, November 7

10:00 a.m. Shabbat Morning Service with Bat Mitzvah of
Julie McCloskey

Sunday, November 8

No Religious School
3:30 p.m. Membership Committee Meeting
6:30 p.m. Post-Confirmation

Monday, November 9

7:30 p.m. Oversight Committee Meeting

Wednesday, November 11

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

Friday, November 13

6:30 p.m. Erev Shabbat Service

Saturday, November 14

10:00 a.m. Shabbat Morning Service with Bar Mitzvah of
Benjamin Manrique

Sunday, November 15

8:30 a.m. Religious School - Alternative Hebrew Class
8:45 a.m. Religious School

Monday, November 16

7:00 p.m. RS Committee meeting

Wednesday, November 18

4:30 p.m. Hebrew School
7:00 p.m. Confirmation Academy
7:15 p.m. Women's Torah Talk

Friday, November 20

6:30 p.m. Erev Shabbat Service

Saturday, November 21

10:00 a.m. Shabbat Minyan Service

Sunday, November 22

8:30 a.m. Religious School - Alternative Hebrew Class
8:45 a.m. Religious School

Monday, November 23

7:30 p.m. Board of Trustees

Tuesday, November 24

7:00 p.m. IHN Thanksgiving Service

Wednesday, November 25

No Confirmation Academy
No Hebrew School

Thursday, November 26

Thanksgiving Day
Temple Offices Closed — Thanksgiving Weekend

Friday, November 27

Temple Offices Closed — Thanksgiving Weekend
6:00 p.m. Kabbalat Shabbat Service

Saturday, November 28

10:00 a.m. Shabbat Minyan Service

Sunday, November 29

No Religious School
7:00 a.m. Blood Drive

Monday, November 30

7:00 p.m. Post-Confirmation

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

December

Calendar of Events

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Tuesday, December 1

7:00 p.m. B'nei Mitzvah Families Meet-n-Greet with Cantor Wallach

Wednesday, December 2

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

Friday, December 4

6:30 p.m. Erev Shabbat Service Welcoming New Members

Saturday, December 5

10:00 a.m. Shabbat Minyan Service

Sunday, December 6

Chanukah Food Drive
8:30 a.m. Religious School - Alternative Hebrew Class
8:45 a.m. Religious School
12:30 p.m. Chanukah Chibbuk

Monday, December 7

Chanukah Food Drive
7:30 p.m. Oversight Committee Meeting

Tuesday, December 8

Chanukah Food Drive
7:00 p.m. Latke Making on Zoom
7:30 p.m. Ritual Committee Meeting

Wednesday, December 9

Chanukah Food Drive
4:30 p.m. Hebrew School
7:00 p.m. Confirmation Academy

Thursday, December 10

Chanukah Food Drive
Chanukah, First Candle

Friday, December 11

Chanukah, Second Candle
Chanukah Food Drive
6:30 p.m. Erev Shabbat Service

Saturday, December 12

Chanukah, Third Candle
Chanukah Food Drive
10:00 a.m. Shabbat Morning Service with Bar Mitzvah of Ethan Fastag-Rosenfield

Sunday, December 13

Chanukah, Fourth Candle
Chanukah Food Drive
8:30 a.m. Religious School - Alternative Hebrew Class
8:45 a.m. Religious School
4:00 p.m. Chanukah Menorah Lighting in the Parking Lot

Monday, December 14

Chanukah, Fifth Candle
7:00 p.m. Post-Confirmation

Tuesday, December 15

Chanukah, Sixth Candle
7:00 p.m. Jewish LIFE: The History of Chanukah and Menorah Lighting

Wednesday, December 16

Chanukah, Seventh Candle
4:30 p.m. Hebrew School
7:00 p.m. Confirmation Academy

Thursday, December 17

Chanukah, Eighth Candle

Friday, December 18

Chanukah - last day
6:30 p.m. Erev Shabbat Service

Saturday, December 19

10:00 a.m. Shabbat Minyan Service

Sunday, December 20

Meals for IHN
8:30 a.m. Religious School - Alternative Hebrew Class
8:45 a.m. Religious School

Monday, December 21

Meals for IHN
7:00 p.m. RS Committee meeting

Tuesday, December 22

Meals for IHN

Wednesday, December 23

No Confirmation Academy
No Hebrew School
Meals for IHN

Thursday, December 24

Meals for IHN

Friday, December 25

Temple Offices Closed
Christmas Day
Meals for IHN
6:00 p.m. Kabbalat Shabbat Service

Saturday, December 26

Meals for IHN
10:00 a.m. Shabbat Minyan Service

Sunday, December 27

No Religious School
Meals for IHN

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

Cantor Risa Wallach

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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