

Shofar



Shvat - Adar I 5781 • January/February 2021



Rabbi's Message

Signs and Forces of Renewal

One of my favorite things about Tu BiShvat is that it portends the arrival of spring. When my family and I lived in Israel, we used to go out to the Carmel Forest near Haifa on Tu BiShvat to see the cyclamens and the almond blossoms, the first signs of new life. Even in Israel, which is a more temperate climate than New Jersey, it was still quite cold out on Tu BiShvat. Nonetheless, there was new growth to behold.

Here in New Jersey, Tu BiShvat comes in the dead of winter. This year it arrives on Jan. 28, making it a challenge to feel that spring is just around the corner. And yet, Tu BiShvat, with its focus on trees, reminds us that the forces

Continued on page 3

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

Acts of Tzedakah	19
A Patchwork of Heritage	14-15
Calendar	26-27
Cantor	4
Chanukah Recap.....	8
Cultural Arts.....	17
Images for Prayers.....	18
Happy Campers.....	6
LIFE (Learning Is For Everyone).....	16
Lifecycle (TBE Family News).....	17
President.....	5
Purim	12-13
Rabbi's Message.....	1, 3
Racism in NJ	7
Renaissance	20
School Fun	16
Shorashim - Purim	11
Shorashim - Tu BiShvat.....	10
Sisterhood.....	21-22
Social Action (IHN)	22-23
TBE Reads	17
Tu BiShvat History.....	9
What Judaism Means to Me	6
Worship Schedule	2
Yahrzeits.....	24-25

Racism in New Jersey: Seeking Understanding – Pursuing Justice

A conversation about racial justice with special guests
Sunday, January 17, 7:00 p.m. (see page 7)

Tu BiShvat Zoom Seder and Activities

Wednesday January 27, 7:00 p.m. (see page 3)

Shabbat Shirah – The Sabbath of Song

Friday, January 29, 6:30 p.m. (see page 4)

Purim Megillah Reading and Spiel

Thursday, February 25, 7:00 p.m. (see page 12)

Purim Concert with Hadar and Sheldon

Saturday, February 27, 7:30 p.m. (see page 12)

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
--	---

JANUARY

Friday, January 1, 2021

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

Saturday, January 2

Parashat Va-y'chi, Genesis 47:28-50:26

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

Friday, January 8

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

Saturday, January 9

Parashat Sh'mot; Exodus 1:1-6:1

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

Friday, January 15

6:30 p.m. Social Action Shabbat (see link above)

Saturday, January 16

Parashat Va-eira; Exodus 6:2-9:35

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

Friday, January 22

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

Saturday, January 23

Parashat Bo; Exodus 10:1-13:16

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

Wednesday, January 27

Erev Tu B'Shvat

7:00 p.m. Congregational Tu B'Shvat Celebration
(see page 3 for more)

Thursday, January 28

Tu B'Shvat

Friday, January 29

Shabbat Shirah

5:45 p.m. Family Kabbalat Shabbat Service
(see link above)

6:30 p.m. Shabbat Shirah — Sabbath of Song
(see link above)

Saturday, January 30

Parashat B'shalach; Exodus 13:17-17:16

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

FEBRUARY

Friday, February 5

6:30 p.m. Erev Shabbat Service with Kabbalat Torah (see link above)

Saturday, February 6

Parashat Yitro; Exodus 18:1-20:23

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

Friday, February 12

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

Saturday, February 13

Parashat Mishpatim; Exodus 21:1-24:18

9:00 a.m. New Jersey Regional Shabbaton with Temple Ner Tamid, Bloomfield (<https://www.nertamid.org/event/tnt-annual-shabbaton.html>)

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

Friday, February 19

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

Saturday, February 20

Parashat Trumah; Exodus 25:1-27:19

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

Thursday, February 25

Erev Purim

7:00 p.m. Purim Megillah Reading

Friday, February 26

Purim

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

Saturday, February 27

Parashat T'tzaveh; Exodus 27:20-30:10

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

Shofar Submissions and Deadline

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

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

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

of renewal and rebirth in nature are on the move well before they are visible to the eye. By Tu BiShvat the sap is already running in the trees, unleashing the vitality that will soon translate into blossoms and new growth.

There is a lesson we can learn from the trees that we can apply to ourselves. We, too, have the capacity to marshal forces within us that will yield renewal. We can rouse inner strength that can generate new vitality even in times of darkness and chill. With the winter solstice behind us, from here on the days will get longer and the light will grow. Like flowers, we can bend toward the light, both physically and metaphorically.

Physically, we can resist the temptation to fall into a winter torpor and rouse our bodies to physical activity – whatever is appropriate to our personal abilities. Fresh air and sunshine are available even when the air is cold, and the outdoors can be safely enjoyed during these times when indoor activities are ill advised. Metaphorically, we can find new growth of the spirit by inclining ourselves

toward opportunities for Torah, for stimulating learning and invigorating discussion.

This edition of the Shofar is filled with an array of opportunities for study, prayer, acts of justice, fellowship, and much more. I urge you to join us for the many interesting and exciting programs we will be offering.

Above all, I urge us all to take heart and be of good courage. The darkness will pass, as will the pandemic. Hope will be reborn. Nature is stirring, and we can stir our bodies and spirits along with it. May this be a time of renewed optimism and focus on the good that lies ahead and the good we can do for ourselves and others. May 2021 be a good year, a better year, a year of renewed life and strength.

L'shalom,

Rabbi Arnold S. Gluck

Congregational Tu BiShvat Zoom Seder and Learning Sessions

Wednesday, January 27, 7:00 p.m.

Join our clergy and staff in a celebration of Tu BiShvat, the New Year of Trees.

Our evening will begin with a Tu BiShvat seder (you'll be provided a list of food for your setting); then we will break into smaller groups on Zoom for one of the following topics:

- **Environmental Hot Topic** with Dave Cohen
- **A Tu BiShvat craft** with Sarah Gluck
(This session is limited to 10 participants and has a small fee for materials.)
- **A sustainability** activity led by our Confirmation Academy faculty
- **A Tu BiShvat-inspired game**, led by our Confirmation Academy faculty

Register for your preferred breakout at
www.ourbethel.org/events/tu-bishvat-seder-2021/

(Note: Each Zoom session can participate in only one breakout. If you and your family members want to participate in different breakouts, please register separately and join Zoom from different devices.)



A Note From Our Cantor

Niggun de Yoma – Marking Jewish Time with Music



On the Shabbat that fell during Chanukah this past year, we sang the traditional melody for Ma'oz Tzur, set to “Mi Chamocha” during our evening and morning services. In the morning, during a brief rendition of Hallel, I used the same melody to chant the text from Psalm 118, “Hodu L’Adonai Ki Tov” (“praise God for God is good”).

The tradition of singing a signature melody that marks Jewish time for a specific festival is a longstanding Jewish musical tradition. In my study of what is called *nusach*, the traditional chant patterns and arrangement of musical motif in Jewish liturgy, I learned that these signature melodies were called a *niggun de yoma*.

These melodies help to locate us in Jewish time, reminding us that music used for time-bound ritual has a long history in many cultures. In Ashkenazi Jewish liturgical music, specific melodies ground us in the religious calendar. They tell time for us and get us in the spirit of the festival at hand, whether it be the High Holy Days, Sukkot, Chanukah, Pesach, or Shavuot. We even have signature melodies for Tisha B’Av, a very mournful day in the Jewish year. We use the *niggun de yoma* for Tisha B’Av to sing “Lecha Dodi” on Friday nights. Notice how many times the words “traditional” and “tradition” have come up in this essay already!

Think of a song that, when you hear it, immediately takes you back to a specific moment in time. Music helps us access our associative right brain, rather than our linear verbal left brain, though we use both hemispheres to perceive music. Patients who have suffered from cognitive decline have been shown to recall entire songs and their lyrics when music was played for them. They might not recognize people, but deep in their memories, entire songs have been preserved.

Music gives us a texture for our lives, for moments of joy, suffering, contemplation, bonding, dancing, and more. It forms the glue of a cultural identity; certainly this is true of our Jewish identity.

In our times, Jewish music tradition (there is that word again), is continuously being reinvented and reshaped.

Most likely, it always has been in the process of evolution. For us, it might seem like the music of Debbie Friedman z”l, is traditional, such as her Havdalah melody, which is used even in Orthodox circles. Melodies by Shlomo Carlebach might feel traditional to us now, though he took Hassidic niggunim (usually, wordless melodies) and simplified them, creating them in his own style. Some melodies are so popular that they become traditional within one or two years, for example, the “Oseh Shalom” or other Shabbat melodies by the Jerusalem Jewish Renewal community Nava Tehila, or “Ma Tov” by the incredibly gifted living composer, cantor and spiritual leader, Danny Maseng. The Chanukah melody “Ocho Kandelikas” sounds like it could have been brought from 15th century Spain by Sefardi communities; however, it was composed in that style by the Bosnian-born, 97-year-old Sefardi singer-songwriter, Flory Jagody. (As far as I know, she is still performing!)

Speaking of songs, Shabbat Shira falls on Jan. 29. (See box for link.) On that Shabbat, the Song of the Sea from Exodus is chanted, the text that the Israelites sang and danced to when they celebrated their freedom after crossing the parted sea. We are delighted to share some choir videos of beautiful tunes that will be familiar to many, as well as other music appropriate to the Torah portion for the week of Shabbat. We encourage and warmly invite you to join our online service that evening.

We are so fortunate to have so many musical forms, traditions, and world cultures of Jewish music to use for our experiences of worship and lifecycle events. May we continue to find, treasure, savor and enjoy the music of our many traditions as part of the rich Jewish life of our congregation at Temple Beth-El.

L’shalom,

Cantor Risa Wallach

Shabbat Shirah Services

The Sabbath of Song

January 29, 6:30 p.m.

With special appearances by Kolot El, the adult choir

Zoom link: www.tinyurl.com/TBEErevShabbat

Passcode: Sh@bbat

Or by phone: 929-436-2866; Meeting ID: 983 6550 9442; Passcode 0119497



From Our President

Chazon Restoration Campaign – Protecting Temple Beth-El's Future

For many of us, the last nine months have been some of the most challenging of our lives. Throughout these unprecedented times, our Temple Beth-El leaders and staff have worked hard to support our family of congregants and adapt to changing needs. Examples include the Helping Hands and Ladles of Love initiatives; regular phone outreach to all congregants; holding worship services, education and life cycle events virtually; in-person events like the chibbukim; etc. In many ways, our connections to each other and our community have grown stronger than ever, as evidenced by a sustained increase in the number of participants in our virtual events. We hope to retain some of these methods of connection even as the pandemic comes to an end.

Despite our best efforts to operate efficiently, Temple Beth-El is encountering significant financial challenges. Due to the pandemic, some in our community are unable to maintain their level of financial commitment to TBE. We've also been unable to fundraise with annual events such as the gala, 4-H Fair, etc. Additionally, nearly all the groups that normally rent our space have suspended their programs. As a result, we are expecting deficits of around \$300,000 from the last two fiscal years. **We are reaching out to you now because we need your help.**

During the High Holidays, we announced our **Chazon Restoration Campaign** for the purpose of restoring and protecting Temple Beth-El from the financial injury resulting from these challenges. In addition to making up for cumulative losses, the Restoration Campaign was also designed to establish a financial cushion to provide for any pandemic overhang in 2021, for long-overdue capital improvements (such as repaving the parking lot), and to bank enough reserves to ensure our continued financial stability going forward.

We have been blessed by the generosity of a small number of families who have agreed to be foundational sponsors of a double match for contributions made by the rest of the congregation. **For every \$1 you contribute, we will receive an additional match of \$2 – for a total of \$3.** We are now reaching out to the rest of our TBE family to ensure we make the most of this unique opportunity. Our goal is to raise \$250,000 which, with the full double match, means we will generate a total of \$750,000 of much-needed financial support.

We hope that Temple Beth-El is a place of deep meaning for you and that you will help sustain our synagogue, for ourselves and for future generations. With your support, we can continue fulfilling our sacred work for our TBE community.



Letters will be going out in the coming days to ask for your participation in this extremely important fundraising campaign. Please remember that this is the primary fundraising we are doing this fiscal year (which ends on June 30, 2021), as we cannot hold our gala, cantorial concert, or our High Holy Day appeal. When considering your contribution, we ask you to include what you might have otherwise contributed had we been able to hold these other events. And most importantly, please keep in mind that every \$1 you give will be matched by \$2 of additional funding from our double match sponsors.

We thank you for your support of Temple Beth-El. We're stronger together.

L'Shalom,

Leigh Miller

President@templebethelnj.org

TBE Speaks — Survey Update

We are pleased to report that more than 175 members responded to the TBE member survey during November and December. To everyone who participated, an enormous THANK YOU! Your voice matters, and will inform the work of our TBE Reopening Task Force as we begin to think about what TBE life might look like in the next three to eight months. The Reopening Task Force will be meeting in the coming weeks to study the data and glean the takeaways from your responses. As the path forward becomes better defined (a challenging task in the ever fluid-situation we are in), we will continue to share our plans with you. Who knows, we might just ask you to participate in another survey! A special thank you to Jessica Keim and Marci Taylor for their leadership on the member survey.

Stay tuned, and stay healthy.

Andrea Bradley

Second VP and Chair of the Reopening Task Force

What Judaism Means to Me

Comments from the Reflection Service during Yom Kippur

My favorite Hebrew expression is *kol hakavod*. I heard it for the first time from a spectator, screaming from the sidewalk, as I was running the Jerusalem marathon. I was only at about mile five and this person was not just cheering ME. I was among thousands of runners. She was cheering for all of us.

The problem was I had no idea what it meant. And I kept hearing it and seeing the faces of the men, women, and children who chose to use THIS phrase to inspire. Here in the U.S. I'm used to hearing "way to go," "well done," or "good job!" On the surface, those English phrases are how *kol hakavod* can be translated. However, like all Hebrew words, the literal meaning, based on the three-letter root, is "all the honor" or "all the respect." In effect, this stranger was praising us, and telling us, in many ways, "I respect you!"

So why share this as my reflection today? Because respect and honor are the foundation of my Jewish journey here at Temple Beth-El. It is how we treat each other, in an elevated state of love, with respect, that makes our connections here so strong. When I joined Temple Beth-El, I was definitely Jewish. But, I had never been an observant Jew. We came here, like many others did and still do, because it was time to give our little ones a Jewish

education, which I had never had. When I started going to Shabbat services, it was not that I didn't know *our* version of Mi Chamocha, I was not familiar with Mi Chamocha at all, or most of the Sabbath prayers or psalms or customs, for that matter. And yet...I was treated with the utmost respect and kindness, and I was encouraged! It was the support and love I felt that made me feel and know I belong, want to keep coming back to learn and pray, with you.

I have come a long way. I am proud to say I have even read from the Torah six times, in Hebrew (with no vowels!). I am most proud of the fact that I, with my husband Greg, have raised two solidly Jewish children who relish their Jewish identity — even while going to college in Indiana! We have instilled in them the necessity of respect and respecting others, even during times like these, when opinions may drastically differ. I feel like I'm still only at the five-mile marker of my Jewish 26.2-mile marathon journey, with all of you cheering me on. In return, from the bottom of my heart, I have the utmost and deepest respect for all of you...for who you are and what you do for each other and others in need. For that I say to you today, *kol hakavod*.

Julie Hirsch

Calling All Happy Campers

The year 2020 was a very challenging one to be a kid for many reasons, not the least of which were the social challenges that COVID presented. Because of this, the chance to spend part of the summer experiencing the magic of camp will be even more meaningful for our kids. TBE is so lucky to be a part of the Reform Jewish Movement and to have the benefit of an incredible system of camps that is using its broad network to bring in-person camp experiences back for summer 2021. In case you are not familiar with our camping system, our options include Camp Harlam (our regional camp for kids who are looking for a well-rounded camp experience), as well as the Six Points specialty camps. This includes the Sci-tech Academy, Creative Arts Academy, and Sports Academy. If you have a current second through 10th grader and have not yet considered sending them to camp, I highly encourage you to think about it.

As a shared professional with Camp Harlam, I have had the opportunity to be in conversation with both Harlam and our specialty camps about what this unusual summer will look like. Our camps are planning meticulously to reimagine their wonderful programs to maintain the fun, joyful Judaism, and *ruach* (spirit) that makes camp so special, while also keeping health and safety at the

forefront of the conversation. Each camp will make different adjustments based on what the program and the facility require to keep the community healthy, and each camp has created protocols that will continue to evolve as our world does. I am happy to speak with you or put you in touch with the correct people if you are interested in hearing more details about this.

Deciding to send your child to camp is always a large decision with many components, and I recognize that this is even more true now. I would be thrilled to speak with you individually, set up meetings with professional staff members of any of our camps, and facilitate anything else that can help provide clarity for your family. While camp can be an expensive endeavor, please be aware that there are many resources to help alleviate this burden. Temple Beth-El's Brotherhood is proud to provide a scholarship opportunity to our families. Please keep an eye out for an email from me with more information about how to apply. In addition, every new camper is eligible for \$1,000 off the total tuition through the Jewish Federation's One Happy Camper program, as well as additional scholarship money that may be available from the camps themselves.

Hannah Lafargue

A panel discussion in honor of Martin Luther King Day
Sponsored by Temple Beth-El and RAC-NJ

January 17, 7:00 p.m.

Racism in New Jersey: Seeking Understanding – Pursuing Justice



Reverend Lukata Mjumbe

*Pastor of Witherspoon Street
Presbyterian Church and a
community activist, Princeton*



Imam Deen Shareef

*Convener of the Council of Imams
in NJ and the spiritual leader of
Masjid Waarith ud Deen, Irvington*



**Assemblywoman Verlina
Reynolds-Jackson**

*NJ Legislative District 15,
Trenton*

Our guests will share testimony of their personal experiences of racial injustice, and a discussion will follow about their vision of where change needs to start, and how we can be effective allies.

Congregations from around the state will join what should be a powerful program inspiring us to work together to resolve racial disparities and injustices in our state

This program will be held over Zoom. Registration Required.

<https://tinyurl.com/Racism-in-NJ-Registration>

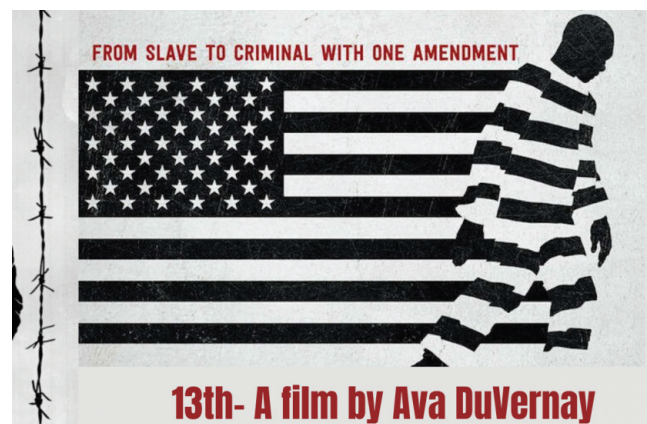
Temple Beth-El's Jewish LIFE Film Series Continues with

"13th"

January 24, 4:00 p.m.

In this thought-provoking documentary, scholars, activists and politicians analyze the criminalization of African Americans and the U.S. prison boom. Director Ava DuVernay explores the injustices at the heart of America's painful racial history by examining the systemic failures of the penal system.

This film is available on Netflix. Please view the film at your leisure and then join Rabbi Gluck on Zoom for a discussion of the themes of the film as part of Temple Beth-El's continuing discussion of racial justice.



Zoom Link: www.tinyurl.com/TBEFilm13th

Meeting ID: 892 3506 2129; Passcode: 0VYbVL

Or dial in: 929-436-2866; Meeting ID: 892 3506 2129;
Passcode: 268752

Chanukah

Chanukah Drive-In Menorah Lighting

TBE made the best of Chanukah during Covid. A Chanukah Chibbuk, online classes, and a drive-in menorah lighting.



Rabbi Gluck and Cantor Wallach lead the festivities – music, singing and, of course, candle lighting!

Chanukah Food Drive a Big Success

Thank you to the many congregants who made donations of food or money for the Chanukah food drive benefitting the Food Bank Network of Somerset County. The drive was a big success, with 750 pounds of food donated and over \$1,500 collected.

Thanks to our great volunteers for help receiving and schlepping donations: David Kornberg (drive coordinator), Kathy Shanklin, Robin Osman, Henry Nerenberg, Debbie Goldblatt, Sabina Molander, Jodi Siegal and Paula Kornberg. The need is great, and every bit helps.

Todah rabah – thank you!

Dave Kornberg

Food Drive Coordinator
FoodDrive@TempleBethElNJ.org



The Tefillah Band members were thrilled to be back together again playing – albeit from an acceptable distance from one another.

The History of Tu BiShvat

Tu BiShvat or the “New Year of the Trees” is Jewish Arbor Day.

Although the celebration of Tu BiShvat has a long and varied history, the theme most commonly ascribed to the holiday today is the environment. It is considered a festival of nature, full of wonder, joy, and thankfulness for creation in anticipation of the renewal of the natural world. During this festival, Jews recall the sacred obligation to care for the world, and the responsibility to share the fruits of the earth with all.

Tu BiShvat falls at the beginning of spring in Israel, when the winter rains subside and the pink and white blossoms of the almond trees begin to bud. It is for this reason that almonds and other fruits and nuts native to the Land of Israel – barley, dates, figs, grapes, pomegranates, olives, and wheat – are commonly eaten during a Tu BiShvat seder (a special ritual meal for the holiday).

What Does “Tu” Mean?

Tu BiShvat is sometimes also called *Chamishah-Asar BiShvat* (the “15th of Sh’vat”), because the holiday is observed on the 15th day of the Hebrew month of Sh’vat, roughly corresponding to February in the secular calendar.

Every letter in Hebrew has a numerical equivalent. Thus, alef equals one, bet equals two, gimel equals three, and so on. The Hebrew letters tet (nine) and vav (six), used to make up the “Tu” in Tu BiShvat, have a combined numerical value of 15 (chamishah-asar in Hebrew). Tu BiShvat, then, is an abbreviated way of saying Chamishah-Asar BiShvat or “15th of Sh’vat.”

When was Tu BiShvat Started?

Tu BiShvat is first mentioned in the *Mishnah*. There, in Rosh HaShanah 1:1, the text speaks of four different new years, all of which are connected to an ancient cycle of tithes. Each year, the Israelites were expected to bring one-tenth (a “tithe”) of their fruits to the Temple in Jerusalem, where they were offered to God and also helped sustain the priestly class and the poor. Since fruit from one year could not be used to tithe for another, the rabbis had to determine when a crop year would begin and end. They chose the month of Sh’vat as the cut-off date, for this is when, in Israel, the sap begins to run and the trees start to awaken from their winter slumber, before beginning to bear fruit.

Some scholars hold that this was also a day for planting trees, especially “marriage trees.” It was customary for parents who had been blessed with children during the preceding year to plant special seedlings on the 15th of

Sh’vat. Cedars were planted for boys, cypress trees for girls. When the children grew up and married, the trees were cut down and used as part of the chuppah. Some Israelis continue this custom today.

Has Judaism Always Valued Trees?

Like Chanukah, Tu BiShvat is a post-biblical festival, instituted by the rabbis. However, the holiday has biblical roots. The tithing system upon which it is based dates back to the Torah and its deep concern with trees, harvests, and the natural world, all of which are at the heart of

Tu BiShvat. Beginning with the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil in the Garden of Eden all the way through to Deuteronomy’s injunction against destroying fruit trees in times of war, our biblical text is replete with trees, both literal and metaphorical. Indeed, the Torah itself often is referred to as an *etz chaim* (tree of life), based on a passage in the Book of Proverbs.

Trees are part of the natural wonder of our world and have always been a special symbol for Jews. Trees were protected in times of war (Deuteronomy 20:19). A midrashic sage said: “Trees were created for man’s companionship.” And Rabbi

Nachman of Bratzlav proclaimed, “If a man kills a tree before its time, it is as though he had murdered a soul.”

In modern times, Tu Bishvat was nourished by the rise of the Zionist movement in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, which re-emphasized the Jewish people’s connections to the land and the natural world. It was the Zionist pioneers who – with strong financial support from Jews throughout the world who donated trees to mark smachot (special occasions) – re-forested the land of Israel, largely under the auspices of the Jewish National Fund (Keren Kayemet l’Yisrael). As a result of this emphasis on tree-planting – on Tu BiShvat and all year long – Israel stands as the only country in the world with an almost constant net growth of trees.

Above all, the Torah itself is seen as a tree of life, a growing and abundant source of spiritual sustenance to a great people. Perhaps this is the best indication of the reverence and respect that Judaism holds for God’s world. The tree has been a symbol of life and continues to be a source of life for Israel today. On Tu BiShvat, we celebrate that life in joy and gladness.

Reprinted with permission from ReformJudaism.org.



This month, we celebrate Tu BiShvat (ט"ו בשבט), Jewish Arbor Day, also known as חג האילנות (*chag ha-ilanot*), the Birthday of Trees. We have weeks to go before spring. Because Tu BiShvat falls in the middle of our winter season, we need to remind ourselves that the holiday originated in the Land of Israel, where the beauty of spring begins to reveal itself at this time of year. As winter becomes early spring, the hills of the desert are, briefly, brilliant green; wild cyclamen bloom pink, white, and red in the rocky soil; and the fragrant blossoms of almond trees scent the air. All our senses are heightened and we remember that the very breath of life is a miracle.

Tu BiShvat also reminds us that we were originally placed on earth to be its stewards and that our obligation to take care of it is ongoing. It reminds us to rededicate ourselves to taking concrete action to preserve the environment. Above all, it connects us to the Source of the beauty and bounty of the natural world, which brings us so much joy and to which we must continually renew our commitment to sustain.

This year especially, as we move through this painful time of pandemic, Tu BiShvat serves to remind us that hope is always available and that renewal lies ahead.

The Hebrew poet Leah Goldberg (1911-1970) expressed her gratitude in this beautiful poem:

Lamdeini Elohai bareich v'hitpalleil	למדני אלהי בריך והתפלל
Al sod aleh kameil al nogah p'ri vasheil	על-סוד עליה קמל על נגה פרי בשל
Al ha-cheirut ha-zot lir'ot lachush linshom	על-החרות הזאת לראות לחוש לגשם
Lada'at l'yacheil l'hikasheil.	לדעת ליחל להכשיל.
Lameid et siftotai b'rachah v'shir haleil	למד את שפתותי ברכה ושיר-הלל
B'hitchadeish z'man'cha im boker v'im leil	בהתחדש זמנך עם-בקר ועם-ליל
L'val y'hi yomi ha-yom — kitmol shilshom	לבלי-יהי יומי -- היום -- בתמול שלשום
L'val yih'yeh alai yomi — hergeil.	לבלי-יהיה עלי יומי -- הרגל.

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

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

Note: The 15th of the month of Shevat. *Tu* is ט"ו, the letters *tet* and *vav*, which, when read from right to left, stand for 9 + 6.



Purim! Purim!

A great holiday for the Jews!

Masks, noisemakers,

Singing and dancing!

Let's make noise,

Rash, rash, rash,

Let's make noise,

Rash, rash, rash,

Let's make noise,

Rash, rash, rash,

With our noisemakers!

Chag Purim! Chag Purim!

Chag gadol la-y'hudim!

Maseichot, ra'ashanim,

Shirim v'rikudim!

Hava nar'ishah,

Rash, rash, rash!

Hava nar'ishah,

Rash, rash, rash!

Hava nar'ishah,

Rash, rash, rash!

Ba-ra'ashanim!

חג פורים! חג פורים!

חג גדול ליהודים!

מסכות, רעשנים,

שירים ורקודים!

הבה נרעשה,

רש, רש, רש!

הבה נרעשה,

רש, רש, רש!

הבה נרעשה,

רש, רש, רש!

ברעשנים!

This popular song is about the joys of making merry on the holiday that commemorates the saving of the Jews in ancient Persia from destruction at the hands of Haman and his henchmen. And make merry we must! Celebratory moments are to be savored!

The Purim story also teaches a serious lesson. Mortal threats to the Jewish people are made, and we need to be vigilant and act to ensure our survival. Tragically, anti-Semitism continues to rear its ugly head. Our obligation, even as we find that extra measure of joy and gladness throughout the month of Adar and celebrate Purim with raucous fun, is to remember to look out for others and work to make the world a better place — in our time and for the future, for our own people and for all people everywhere.

חג פורים שמח! — *Chag Purim sameach!* — Happy Purim!

Sarah Gluck

PURIM VOCABULARY

מסכה (*maseichah, maseichot*), mask(s)

מתנות לאביונים (*matanot la'evyonim*), gifts for the poor (tzedakah)*

מגלה (*m'gillah, m'gillof*), scroll(s)

מגלת אסתר (*m'gillat Esther*), the Scroll of Esther

משלוח מנות (*mishloach manot*), the sending of gifts (Purim baskets)*

פור (*pur, purim*), lot(s)**

רעשן (*ra'ashan, ra'ashanim*), noisemaker(s)

*Esther 9:19: "The month [of Adar] was turned from sorrow to gladness and from mourning to joy. The Jews celebrated days of feasting and merrymaking, of sending packages from neighbor to neighbor and giving gifts to the poor.

**The holiday takes its name from the method Haman used to determine when the Jews would die.

CELEBRATE PURIM

February 25, 7:00 p.m. Via Zoom

Wear a costume. Make a grogger.

Prepare for some frivolity.

Zoom link: www.tinyurl.com/TBEPurim21

Meeting ID: 846 9557 2670; Passcode: YAYEsther!

By phone: dial 929-436-2866; Meeting ID: 846 9557 2670;
Passcode: 4464527230

Purim's Origins

With celebrations including costumes, skits and songs, noisemakers, and gifts of food, Purim is definitely full of fun! Purim is a joyous holiday that affirms and celebrates Jewish survival and continuity throughout history. The main communal celebration involves a public reading—usually in the synagogue—of the Book of Esther (M'gillat Esther), which tells the story of the holiday: Under the rule of King Ahashverosh, Haman, the king's adviser, plots to exterminate all of the Jews of Persia. His plan is foiled by Queen Esther and her cousin Mordechai, who ultimately save the Jews of Persia from destruction. The reading of the m'gillah typically is a rowdy affair, punctuated by booing and noise-making when Haman's name is read aloud.

Purim is an unusual holiday in many respects. First, Esther is the only biblical book in which God is not mentioned. Second, Purim, like Chanukah, is viewed as a minor festival according to Jewish custom, but has been elevated to a major holiday as a result of the Jewish historical experience. Over the centuries, Haman has come to symbolize every anti-Semite in every land where Jews were oppressed. The significance of Purim lies not so much in how it began, but in what it has become: a thankful and joyous affirmation of Jewish survival.

From ReformJudaism.org.

Purim Concert with Hadar & Sheldon

Saturday, February 27, 7:00 p.m.

Guest artists Sheldon Low and Hadar Orshalimy bring holiday happiness to TBE in a virtual holiday celebration. Watch the weekly e-letter for participation links.



The Purim Story: Meet the Characters

Learn about the fascinating cast of characters featured in the Purim story.

The Purim story presents us with a fascinating cast of characters. A misguided king, an evil adviser, a wise cousin behind the scenes, and the brave heroine who saves the day – there's something for everyone in this tale. But it's not just a story about people who may have lived long ago. These characters also show us timeless examples of ego, power, dignity, humility and bravery, and hold plenty of lessons for our modern lives.

Ahashverosh

King of Persia (modern-day Iran). When his queen, Vashti, refuses to entertain guests at the king's feast, he banishes her. Young women from throughout the kingdom are brought to the king to be considered, and Ahashverosh chooses Esther as his new queen.

A powerful king, Ahashverosh expects everyone to obey him unquestioningly. When his queen, Vashti, refuses to appear at the king's feast to show off her beauty to his guests, he listens to his advisers and banishes her. When the king's main adviser, Haman, tells the king that the Jews are disloyal (because they won't bow to the king or Haman), he agrees to Haman's plan to kill all the Jews. But in the end, Mordechai's loyalty and Esther's bravery help the king to see that it's actually Haman who is more of a danger to the king. Ahashverosh allows the Jews to defend themselves from Haman's soldiers, and orders Haman to be hung on the gallows intended for Mordechai.

Vasti

Former queen of Persia (modern-day Iran). Vashti refuses to entertain guests at King Ahashverosh's feast, and is banished.

While little is said in the Book of Esther about Vashti, there is much speculation about her in later writings. Some early commentators suggested that she was wicked and vain. But more modern commentaries see Vashti as an independent-minded, courageous woman, protecting her dignity and self-respect by refusing the king's demands.

Esther

Hero of the Purim story. A young Jewish girl living in the capital city, Shushan, she is chosen by King Ahashverosh to be his new queen. She doesn't tell him, however, that she is Jewish. Finally, when the lives of all the Jews of Persia are in danger, Esther reveals herself, and the king agrees to save the Jews in order to save his queen.

Esther is an icon of faith and bravery in Jewish tradition. When Mordechai asks her to go to the king and plead for her life, and the lives of all the Jews in Persia, she is terrified, because to approach the king without an invitation meant a possible death sentence. But she agrees to go, understanding that she is uniquely placed to be able to help. As Mordechai explains to her, "Perhaps you have become queen for just such a moment." (Esther 4:14)

Moredechai

Esther's cousin, who raised her after her parents died. He saves the king's life when he overhears a plot against the king. Mordechai also incurs the wrath of Haman by refusing to bow to him, which leads Haman to plot to kill all the Jews of Persia.

Mordechai is considered a wise, humble and righteous man. He wants Esther to conceal her Jewishness when she first becomes queen, to make sure she establishes a good relationship with the king, but then encourages her to reveal it at just the right moment to save her people. He saves the king's life, not for a reward, but because it's the right thing to do. And he refuses to bow down to Haman, maintaining his religious practice even in the face of danger. At the end of the story, Mordechai is rewarded for his faith and wisdom.

Haman

The king's vizier (chief adviser). Haman wants everyone in the kingdom to bow down to him, but Mordechai refuses. This leads Haman to decide to kill all the Jews, and he convinces the king to allow the plan. Only the intervention of Esther prevents Haman from carrying out his plan, and Haman is instead hung on the gallows he had erected for Mordechai.

Haman is one of the most villainous characters in Jewish history. A greedy, vengeful, and vicious advisor to King Ahashverosh, he only seeks to increase his own wealth, power and influence (generally at the expense of everyone else around him). Haman is also said to be a direct descendant of Agag, king of the Amalekites. The Amalekites attacked the Israelites as they were leaving Egypt (see the Passover story), and have become symbolic of all the enemies of the Jewish people, so for Haman to be related to Agag connects him directly to centuries of violence and persecution of the Jews.

This article by Elyssa Mosbacher is reprinted with permission from ReformJudaism.org.



A Patchwork of Heritage

January 2021. Imagine for a moment that you are a visitor from another planet. You've somehow arrived in central New Jersey and are standing in, of all places, the Temple Beth-El parking lot, which is empty. There is a structure before you. Although you look around for indications that other beings are present, there are no visible signs of movement. Approaching the structure, you peer through the glass, and somehow find yourself inside. A door beckons you, so you go through it and up the stairs. Hanging in front of you is a large, colorful object with many different patterns and designs. You look more closely and see that it is made up of many small objects that have been pieced together, and that each small object has its own unique design. On each small object there are also series of symbols that go from either side toward the center.

Passing through another door, you discover many more of these large, colorful objects. You continue to move throughout the structure, until you have seen more than 20, and you begin to understand that these objects are important. What are they? What do they represent? Do they mean something?



We human beings, inhabitants of Earth, residents of central New Jersey, members of Temple Beth-El, know that these objects are quilts. And many of us know that each of these quilts is the product of a fourth-grade family education program on the Jewish lifecycle. We know each square represents a significant moment in the life of a family and that each quilt as a whole represents a lived Jewish experience. Because so many of us participated in their creation, we understand that these quilts are our living history, and we count them among the most beautiful and precious artifacts in our temple archives.

The quilts, which hang on the walls on both floors of the school wing and in the stairwells, tell many stories. Each square represents a significant Jewish moment in the life of a family; together, they represent the collective experience of a group of families. With these quilts, the milestone

events of these family cohorts are memorialized for them and the entire temple community. The walls of the temple building are memory walls.

When these fourth-grade families talked about and designed their squares, they also made connections to one another. After the pieces were stitched together, the children took pleasure in seeing their special piece on the wall. They were — are — proud of their Jewish heritage. When our children grow up and eventually move away, the quilts remain: a tangible and very personal reminder of their connection to the temple and their Jewish identity.



The quilts are colorful and beautifully made. They are aesthetically pleasing. They warm the space, and they warm the hearts of all who see them.

As the work of many hands, the quilts represent the down-to-earth, hands-on personality of the congregation. They tell us Temple Beth-El is a warm, people-oriented place. They tell us ours is a community that values preserving and bequeathing Jewish heritage. They tell us ours is a congregation that is proud of and honors its own history.

The grade 4 family ed program was the brainchild of Debra Siroka and Rabbi Gluck almost 25 years ago and continued by Lisa Friedman. The quilts have been lovingly stitched since the beginning by a few congregants who have volunteered their talents and time to transform the individual patches into vibrant living history. Long-time temple members and volunteers extraordinaire Cindy Scott Goldberg and Caren Bateman have been involved from the beginning and have been kind enough to share their remembrances with us. (See page 15.)

The number of families who are represented by the quilts, and the generous, heartfelt contributions made over the years by our dedicated volunteers, are astonishing and deeply moving. When the difficult circumstances of Covid-19 are past and our physical space is once again open and buzzing with activity, remember to stroll through the school wing and marvel at these beautiful pieces of living heritage, not through the eyes of a visiting stranger, but as a member of a community returning home.

L'shalom,
Sarah Gluck

Cindy Scott Goldberg:

I think it started when two of our kids were in fourth grade. It was Caren's and my first quilt (and the temple's first quilt), and we've done them all for the entire 24 years. They have always been a labor of love for me and Caren. It has been a joy to see those squares for the first time with each class and help piece together that particular class's individual squares into their own fourth-grade religious school history/story together. Like each class, every quilt is unique. They are all vibrant in their own way. Caren and I try to complement the unique colors in the squares with the fabric we choose for binding and borders. (Though I



have to say that a few years back, we ventured from the blue family into some more unexpected colors!) Some classes had a lot of students, which meant two quilts for that class. Some classes have been smaller and only needed one quilt. They are all special (like children!), and each tells its own story (as quilts always do). Caren will also tell you the quilter leaves a little bit of themselves in their quilts, so Caren and I are quietly here, too. It's impossible to choose favorites, but some squares were particularly meaningful because of who or what they represented. I love the last two we did, for the 2018-2019 and 2019-2020 classes. The two 2018-2019 quilts are near where the IHN families stay, and I remember that someone told me one of the young children was staring at them because they were so beautiful. Who knows when and how quilts speak to or touch people?

Amy Rubin tells us that she always mentions the quilt project when she does a tour of the school wing with prospective members and says all of her children know where their quilts are.

Caren Bateman:

The quilts have been a pleasure to work on through these years. I believe we started in 1995-1996, and the first quilt may be hanging in the stairwell in the middle of the building [opposite the library]. Credit for most of the quilt work goes to Cindy Scott, who chooses and purchases fabric, sews the lattice strips onto the squares, and adds borders on the quilts. I believe she also cuts the squares now, as we had some issues with sizing in the beginning. I have put bindings on some of the quilts, but Cindy does the bulk of the work and does it very well. (I believe Julie Hirsch has also contributed.) Each quilt has its own character, and they become friends as we work on them. Without children in the school, I don't have as much opportunity to be in the school wing, but I do enjoy visiting my "friends" when I stay overnight with IHN. They are a colorful addition to the walls, and I know that many of our school children search for "their" quilts after they've completed their squares.

The quilts are a tangible project where each child expresses a Jewish life cycle event that has meaning for them and their families. Cindy turns their art into a beautiful wall hanging, preserving part of each child's Jewish identity. I know many people, young and old, have gotten pleasure from these quilts. Many of the children look forward to making their own square — it's almost like a first lifecycle event for them.

Just before I began my temple presidency, I attended the Scheidt Seminar, a conference for newly elected temple presidents. There is a show-and-tell session (a poster-type event), where each participant is asked to bring something, either a project or an idea, to share with the others. I chose to bring pictures of some of the quilts, and they were very well-received!



Jewish LIFE

Lifelong Learning at Temple Beth-El and Around the Community



Intermediate Biblical Hebrew

Sunday, January 10, 17, 24, 31 at 10:30 a.m.

Coping During Covid

Renaissance Group with Rabbi Gluck
Sunday, January 17 at 4:00 p.m.

Social Action Shabbat, in Observance of MLK Day

Friday, January 15 at 6:30 p.m.

Racism in New Jersey –

Seeking Understanding, Pursuing Justice

Interfaith Panel Discussion in Observance of MLK Day
Sunday, January 17 at 7:00 p.m.

Becoming Eve: My Journey from Ultra-Orthodox Rabbi to Transgender Woman An Evening with Author Abby Stein

Tuesday, January 19 at 7:00 p.m.
(Sponsored by the Mercer County Library System)

TBE Film Series: “13th”

View the film in advance and join Rabbi Gluck for discussion
Sunday, January 24 at 4:00 p.m.
See more on page 7

Congregation-wide Tu BiShvat Seder and Activities

Wednesday, January 27 at 7:00 p.m.

Is Democracy a Value in the Jewish State?

Virtual Roundtable from the Leo Baeck Education Center, Haifa, with Member of Knesset Meirav Michaeli, Leo Baeck Headmaster Rabbi Ofek Meir, and four Leo Baeck high school students
Thursday, January 28 (Tu BiShvat) at 12:00 p.m.

TBE Celebrates Shabbat Shirah

Friday, January 29 at 6:30 p.m.

Herzl on the Couch: An Analysis-driven Look at Israel and Israelis, with Rabbi Rich Kirschen

Session 1: Reaction Formation – King David, Groucho Marx, and Moshe Dayan Walk into a Bar...
Sunday, January 31 at 12:00 p.m.
Session 2: Trauma, West Bank Settlers, and the Hastening of the Messiah
Sunday, February 7 at 12:00 p.m.

This Is What Jewish Looks Like

A four-part series of conversations with prominent Black Jews
Monday, February 1, 8, 15, 22 at 11:00 a.m.
(Sponsored by the Temple Emanuel NY Streicker Center)

Film: “Commandment 613”

In this 23-minute documentary, Rabbi Kevin Hale joyfully practices the sacred craft of Torah restoration, bringing new life to scrolls saved in Czechoslovakia during the Shoah.

Online screening, followed by Q & A with filmmaker Miriam Lewin and Rabbi Kevin Hale
Sunday, February 14 (screening at 3:30; discussion at 4:00)

Purim Concert with Hadar and Sheldon

Guest artists Sheldon Low and Hadar Orshalimy bring holiday happiness to TBE
Saturday, February 27 at 7:00 p.m.
(Co-sponsored by TBE, Temple Shalom, Bridgewater; Temple Har Shalom, Warren; and the Shimon and Sara Birnbaum JCC)

Wisdom of Our Sages, Wisdom for the Ages

A four-session exploration of Pirkei Avot with Rabbi Gluck
Tuesday, March 2, 9, 16, and 23 at 7:00 p.m.

All Jewish LIFE programs are brought to you by TBE, unless otherwise noted.

Watch the weekly e-letter or the Upcoming Events page of our website (<https://www.ourbethel.org/engage/upcoming-events/>) for participation links.

School Fun, Al Fresco

The brisk, late-fall temperatures didn't stop our Religious School students from having some outdoor fun back in mid-November. The activities stations ranged from children's yoga to storytime and an obstacle course. It was great to see everyone in person and let the students work off some energy!



Lifecycle

Our Condolences to

Sue Plan on the passing of her beloved mother, Ruth Spector
 Lil Swickle on the passing of her beloved sister-in-law, Naomi Swickle
 Esther Kaufman on the passing of her beloved sister, Bea Kolchin
 Marion Skowronek on the passing of her beloved husband, Josh Skowronek
 Brian Skowronek on the passing of his beloved father, Josh Skowronek
 David Sandler on the passing of his beloved father, Louis Sandler
 Jeff Weinstein on the passing of his beloved mother, Sharon Weinstein
 Donna Stein on the passing of her beloved mother, Yvette Friedman
 Ellen Bailin and Leslie Weintraub on the passing of their beloved sister and aunt, Marilyn Miller
 Dora Cousineau on the passing of her beloved father, Robert Hoag
 Arthur Roswell on the passing of his beloved wife, Betty Roswell
 Steve Barrow on the passing of his beloved wife, Alice Barrow

Mazel Tov to

Wendy and Barry Horowitz on the engagement of their son Shai to Erin Petenko
 Keith Chanoch and Caren Bateman on the arrival of their first grandchild

Our Caring Community

Kesher Network: For those who are unable to attend our worship and simcha events and some adult education classes, our video streaming service is the next best thing to being there. Navigate to new.livestream.com/OurBethEl from a personal computer or mobile device (apps are available for apple, android, 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.

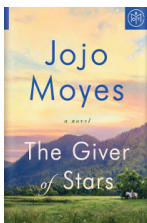
Mitzvah Committee: To offer or request help, please contact Amy Rubin.

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.



TBE Reads: The Giver of Stars

An impulsive British woman, her band of librarians on horseback, a punishing winter in Southern Appalachia, moonshiners with itchy trigger fingers and the town's coal tycoon just begging them to shoot: What could possibly go wrong?

Thus the stage is set for "The Giver of Stars," by Jojo Moyes. Based on the true story of the Pack Horse Library initiative — a Works Progress Administration project that ran from 1935 to 1943 and turned women and their steeds into bookmobiles — Moyes' characters travel into the remote Eastern Kentucky mountains to deliver learning to the most isolated residents.

"The Giver of Stars" is a celebration of love, but also of reading, of knowledge, of female friendship, of the beauty of our most rural corners and our enduring American grit: the kind of true grit that can be found in the hills of Kentucky and on the pages of this inspiring book. Our discussion will be led by Amy Rubin.

January 26, 7:15 p.m.

RSVP to [Debbie Herman](mailto:Debbie.Herman@templebethelnj.org)

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89895709953>

Cultural Arts

The Cultural Arts Committee welcomes everyone to a new secular year and looks forward to the time when we can safely return to temple for a variety of activities, including Israeli folk dancing.

Dancing, for now, continues over Zoom, with Ira, whose studio is in Florida. We have five dancers for our online sessions and are happy to have more.

Our hope is to also resume the beloved Cabaret and Open Mic Night, when it is safe to do so.

To sign up for Israeli folk dancing over Zoom, join the committee or help plan new events, call Simona Rivkin at (908) 369-7884.

L'shalom,

Simona Rivkin,
 Cultural Arts Chair

A Message from Stephanie Gamse and Robin Osman

Hi friends,

During the High Holy Days, my family found ourselves spending a lot of time discussing the photos and art that were used as background images for the prayers. It made me curious how our fellow congregants visualize their personal images of God.

With this in mind, and with the support of TBE leadership, we are collecting images, to use as backgrounds for our service slides. This is where you come in! We invite you and your family to participate. We welcome submissions from both children and adults.

Where do you feel God? Is it the pattern in a flower's petals, or a beautiful sunset? A full donation jar? A sunbeam on your dog or on your yoga mat? Express yourself and help us all engage with your faith, as we worship from home.

We can't guarantee we will use every image we receive, but we will do our best to try to include your submissions. Please send your pictures to MyArt@templebethelnj.org. We'll try to work with whatever format file you send. Let us know if you have any questions.

We look forward to seeing your art!

Sincerely,

Stephanie Gamse and Robin Osman

Guidelines for submissions.

- Do not include your name on the image. Your name will be added later.
- Please avoid clear images of people. Silhouettes are okay. (See sample slide below.)
- Images can be photos or drawings. They should be horizontal, not vertical.
- Images should be simple (not too busy), and lighter colors work better than large areas of dark colors.
- Images with light or blank areas on the top work especially well. (See sample slides below.)
- Your submissions do not have to be quite as light as the examples below. We will make them more transparent when we work with them.



Acts of Tzedakah

General Donation

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

In appreciation of Rabbi Gluck, Amy Rubin and Jay Lavroff
Caryn Shinske
 In memory of Jeffrey Peck
Kevin and Jacki Skole
 In memory of Ruth Bader Ginsburg
Bruce Epstein and Michele Sweeney-Epstein
 In memory of Zorina Walitsky
Amy and Ken Rubin
Dominik and Mary Caruso
Dorothy Midler
 In memory of Ruth Meyers
Kevin and Jacki Skole
Amy and Ken Rubin

Memorial Fund

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

In memory of Ira Tiplitz
Matt and Andrea Wolkofsky
 In memory of Jill Stuart
Jeff and Andrea Stuart
 In memory of Roslyn and Leonard Eber
Beth and Robert Moran
 In memory of Ed Meyers and Alfred Sweetwood
Gail Meyers
 In memory of Herman Mintz
Goldie Taub and Rabbi Murray Levine
 In memory of Harry Wolin
Martin and Zina Wolin
 In appreciation of Harold Levin
David and Janice Klein
 In memory of Zorina Walitsky
Kathryn Cherrington
 In memory of Jeffrey Rugg
Stuart and Edith Rugg
 In memory of Isabella Mendelson
Stanley Mendelson
 In memory of Julius Orgel
 In memory of Dorothy Orgel
Phyllis and David Feinblum
 In memory of Zorina Walitsky
Edward and Jeanette Tuckman
Charles and Madelyn Okun
Harriet Thaler
 In appreciation of the Chanukah Chibbuk
Jay and Pam Lavroff
Phyllis and David Feinblum
Brett Cooper and Lisa Schatz
Morton and Zizi Reinhart
Stacy and David Siegelau
Edward and Marsha Malberg
Gari and Charles Bloom
Joseph and Jessica Keim
Carol Gardner

Rabbi Gluck's Discretionary Fund

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

In memory of Alan Ross
 In memory of Elaine Roth
 In memory of Rona Greenberg
Bobbie D'Angelo
 In memory of Zorina Walitsky
Paul Walitsky
Cantor Jerry and Myrna Schnitzer
Beth and Michael Scher
 In honor of Julie McCloskey becoming bat mitzvah
Jane and William Waldorf
 In memory of Brian David Breslow
David and Janice 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 memory of Harold Zatz
Iris and Alan Naroden

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 Naomi Swickle
Lillian Swickle
Michael and Judith Goldberg
 In appreciation of Ed Malberg
David and Janice 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.

Ken Snyder and Vicki Schwartz
Jerry and Cheryl Nelson
Bob and Margo Siroty
Michael and Judith Goldberg
Craig and Ziva Berlin
Stuart and Edith Rugg
Esther Kaufman-Helfman
Russ and Barbara Johnston
Sharon Sietz
Alan Fayerman
Brian Dallow and Rena Fruchter
Leigh and Shari Miller

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 Zorina Walitsky
Deborah Yamada

Sisterhood IHN Thanksgiving

Donations to this effort helped provide Thanksgiving dinners to residents in IHN transitional housing.

Simona Rivkin and Ted Baker
Alan and Iris Naroden
Keith Chanoch and Caren Bateman
Steven and Layne Weitz
Gail Meyers
Michael and Judith Goldberg
Lou and Myrna Binder
Melissa and Stuart Pyle
Irwin and Dorothy Vogel
Rita Fink
Laura Miller
Morton and Zizi Reinhart
Felicia Oberti and Salvatore DiRico
Lillian Swickle
Jay and Donna Tischfield
Amy and Ken Rubin
Esther Kaufman-Helfman

Renaissance Happenings

Esther Wallach, Renaissance Group

The Scoop

Renaissance Group was pleased to hold a Zoom gathering this past November with Cantor Risa Wallach as our special guest. This wonderful way to socialize safely gave us the opportunity to introduce ourselves to the cantor and she to us. The role of music in one's life was the overarching theme. The cantor's participation elicited a sharing of meaningful musical memories. Ronnie Weyl created a warm and inclusive space, which resulted in robust participation filled with insightful experiences.

Our annual Chanukah celebration, held on the eighth night, was a collaboration of many by the orchestration of our own Harriet Thaler. Starting it off, members received gift bags of delicious homemade chocolates created by Susan Steinfeld, which were delivered by the undaunted efforts of Robin Osman and her TBE Helping Hands volunteer team: Jonathan Andell, Dora Cousineau, Rhona Ferling, Sarah Gluck, Noah Horowitz, Evan Lerner, Kathy Shanklin, and Marian Zeldin. Mission impossible became a reality because of them!

Harriet began the festivities with memories of past Chanukahs at the welcoming homes of the Spinners, Tabers, and Steinfelds. She expressed gratitude at our being able to celebrate together this year on Zoom. Amy Rubin led us in singing the Chanukah blessing as we kindled our chanukiyot. Amy's lovely first menorah lit up



our screens. Our showtime *Laugh It Up* was next on the bill, the headliners being TBE's own talented troupers, Larry Osman and Lou and Myrna Binder.

Watching their schtick gave us belly laughs, over and over! What a true joy to be so wonderfully entertained – one joke after the next! To laugh so in this time of Covid was truly a blessing, and Larry, Lou, and Myrna were all just sensational! We genuinely appreciate the creativity and selflessness that went into their performances. Kudos to Amy for managing the Zoom technology that brought it all seamlessly together.

Mark Your 2021 Calendars

Sunday, January 17 at 4:00 p.m., with Rabbi Arnie Gluck on Blessings During the Time of Covid, and other pertinent topics. <https://tinyurl.com/RenaissancewithRabbiGluck>

Happy Trails to You Until We Meet Again

We extend our absolute best wishes to Fran and Bob Taber on their move to Hamden, Connecticut. Their company will be greatly missed by the Renaissance family, but we will see them on Zoom.

Lines of Your Life

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. So, drop us a few lines.

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.

From Simona Rivkin: We see our three grandkids occasionally, mostly going to their backyard sitting very far from each other. We had a great Chanukah celebration there. It was luckily a relatively mild day and we kept warm with Scotch while the kids opened their many gifts. Standing and shivering and smiling under our face masks, trying to light candles in the wind. That is my best Chanukah memory! Another happy note relates to my oldest grandson, Ellis, a freshman at Rutgers, who decided to learn Russian. So now Ellis and I have an hour Zoom every day. I have become his permanent tutor! Glorious!

Missing You

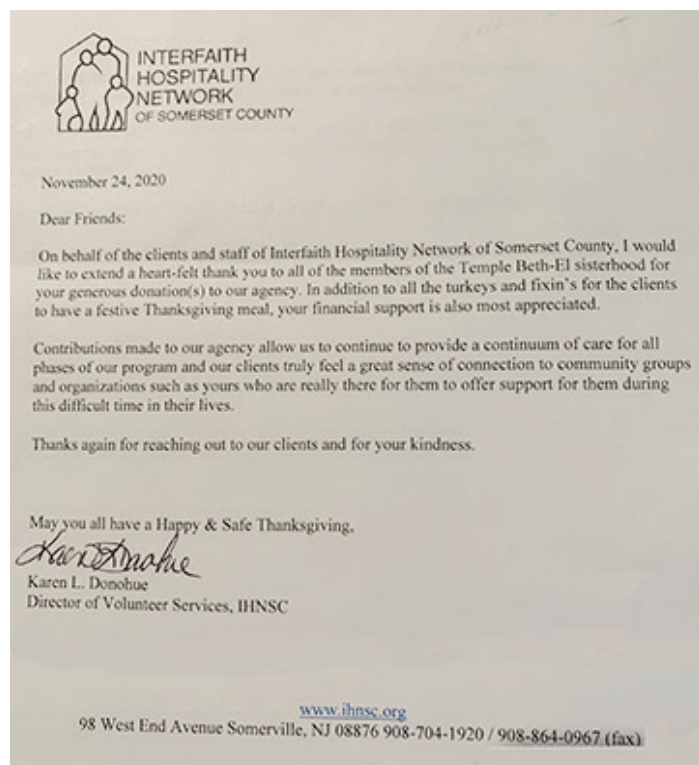
2020: Zorina Walinsky, Julian Spero, and Betty Roswell

Sisterhood

Thanksgiving Baskets

The continuing generosity of TBE members helped make the holiday season especially sweet for Sisterhood.

In November, Sisterhood honored its annual commitment to provide Thanksgiving meals for the Interfaith Hospitality Network, which provides services for homeless families with children. Donations helped Sisterhood provide 15 turkeys and all the “fixings” for dinners for 15 IHN clients. There also was enough money left over to cover other food needs, for which IHN was especially grateful.



Woman of Valor Award

In December, Sisterhood honored all women of TBE as a Woman Of Valor. Choosing a winner for this special honor is an annual Chanukah tradition, in which one woman is recognized for exemplary volunteerism within the TBE community and her community at large.

To that end, the women of TBE spent 2020 demonstrating strength, honor, dignity, character, love and spirituality as they continued to nurture their families, communities and TBE.

To honor the women of TBE, Sisterhood asks that you consider making a donation, in the spirit of tikkun olam, to Safe + Sound, which helps survivors of domestic abuse. The domestic abuse crisis has increased significantly as a result of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Buddies Program

Sisterhood will be partnering in the new TBE pilot connection program “Beth-El Buddies” to meet new people and communicate via phone, Zoom or video.

Sisterhood members interested in being matched with another Sisterhood member they do not know may email Donna Tischfield at dtischfield18@gmail.com.

Frequency of “meetings” will be determined between the two Sisterhood members. We hope this program will be a huge success.

Judaica

The Sisterhood gift shop has a lovely assortment of Judaica items for sale, many at 50 percent off. The shop is open by appointment only, and does not open on Shabbat. To schedule an appointment, email Kim Fromberg at kfromberg@hotmail.com.

We are excited to announce that plans are underway to visit the Judaica shop online, beginning in the spring.

Women’s Torah Talk

Our monthly Women’s Torah Talk program is a continuing success. Participants do not have to read the parsha to join the conversation and share their point of view. To join the next Women’s Torah Talk, email Gayle Skolky at gskolky@gmail.com.

Programming for 2021

Sisterhood is working diligently to provide a series of programs during these challenging times.

January

The inspiring life and work of Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg will be featured as we take a virtual tour in January of the Illinois Holocaust Museum.

Join our Zoom meeting at 5:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 25 to see the museum’s “Notorious RBG, The Life and Times of Ruth Bader Ginsburg.”

For more information about the museum’s presentation, visit www.ilholocaustmuseum.org/rbg/.

February

Join us for a lively discussion at 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 9 on “The Book of Hannah: A Tragicomedy in Three Trimesters” written by Ellen Gelerman, the sister of our board member Carol Gardner.

Ellen’s novel tells the story of an infertile woman named Hannah who finds herself pregnant at age 55. Sadly, her husband, friends and adopted daughter do not share her joy. The book was presented at The 69th Annual Detroit Jewish Book Fair: Virtual for 2020.

Ellen’s book (or the Kindle version) may be purchased on Amazon.com. To prepare for the discussion, you may listen to Ellen discuss her novel on a previous YouTube broadcast of “Mitten Mornings” available at www.youtube.com/watch?v=XIHVizlcJkk.

March

Victoria Abaira, Ph.D., an assistant professor of cell biology and neuroscience at Rutgers University, will discuss “Wired for Touch: The Neurobiology of the Sense that Binds Us To Others.”

Continued on page 22

Social Action

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

Editor's Note: The article below announces a new name for the organization formerly known as the Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN) of Somerset County.



Dear Friends,

We are very excited to announce that the Interfaith Hospitality Network of Somerset County has a new name, HOME of Somerset County, Inc. HOME stands for Housing. Outreach. Multifaith. Empowerment. Those are four core components of our commitment to help homeless and low-income families gain independence and end the cycle of poverty.

Our mission, organizational structure and nonprofit status have not changed. We simply are no longer an affiliate of Family Promise. The decision to separate from Family Promise was not easy, but the board of directors and I feel that the families of Somerset County would be better served by an independent, nonprofit organization that continued close ties with our religious congregations. We will continue to build upon the visionary foundation that was formed almost 30 years ago.

I would like to personally extend my most sincere thank you to all who share our passion in serving homeless families. Our faith community contributes to each family victory by creating opportunities through empowerment. Together we learn about the sensitive hardships that lead families to our door. You have all truly created a network of acceptance, which is the starting point that builds trust with our families. The ability to rely on one another for knowledge, resources and prayer is truly unique and inspiring. I cannot thank you enough for choosing to be active in our mission.

We look forward to continuing this fight to end family homelessness in 2021 with a strong yet comforting name that will continue to create an environment of life-changing experiences and opportunities. The change was effective Jan. 1, 2021.

We wish you a safe and happy new year and please stay tuned for what is to come! To all our congregations and families in need, I would like to welcome you HOME.

Sincerely,

Alyssa Martini

Executive Director
HOME of Somerset County

Sisterhood, continued from page 21

Dr. Abira's presentation will address the importance of touch and its significance during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Participants must RSVP to attend any or all of these programs and be a Sisterhood member. To join Sisterhood at rates reduced due to the pandemic, visit templebethelnj.shulcloud.com/form/sisterhood2020. Fill out the form or download a PDF version, fill it out and mail it to TBE. Please write "Sisterhood" on the memo line of your check.

Wishing all of you a safe, healthy and happy new year!

Fern Jurgrau-Schiffman

Donna Tischfield

Sisterhood Co-Presidents



Sisterhood thanks all TBE members for their generous support of our traditional IHN Thanksgiving drive this year. We met our goal of receiving 15 turkeys, and monetary donations allowed IHN to supply all of the Thanksgiving dinner "fixings" for each of its 15 recipients. Donations were so generous that IHN had extra funds to help cover other food needs during the holiday season. IHN thanks TBE for its continued support of providing a wonderful Thanksgiving meal to other families in our community, making the holiday even more meaningful.

Social Action

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

HOME of Somerset County

Leigh Freeman, Coordinator — HOME / Temple Beth-El

Our next hosting date is Jan. 31 - Feb. 7

Upcoming HOME Dates:

January 31 - February 7 April 18-25

HOME of Somerset County (formerly IHN) is a not-for-profit organization that provides many layers of services for homeless families with children. HOME 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 HOME 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 HOME families.

With the building remaining largely closed due to Covid, TBE is still unable to host HOME (formerly IHN) clients. HOME clients have been staying at a local hotel. Meals are still needed. Please sign up to help feed the HOME families.

Please visit <https://tinyurl.com/TBEIHN-HOMEFeb21> or call the appropriate coordinator listed below to schedule a volunteer shift. Always check the HOME 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 HOME hosting week. If a volunteer is unable to fulfill their commitment, they should contact another volunteer and swap dates.**

HOME Coordinators Contact List

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

Yahrzeits J a n u a r y

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

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

To be read on January 8 and 9

Vicki Feinblum, late wife of David Feinblum
Margaret Levine, grandmother of Jeremy Bloch
Brian Ruderman, husband of Eileen Ruderman
Barry Adler, father of Derek Adler
Sol Goldberg, father of Michael Goldberg
Celia Shubitz, grandmother of Gerald Shubitz
Esther Rubin Polokoff, grandmother of Kenneth Rubin
Bob Friedman, brother-in-law of Lillian Swickle
Matthew Bilt, husband of Susan Bilt
Libby Rita Friedman, mother of Neil Friedman
Betty Weiss, mother of Michael Weiss
Rose Della Ventura, grandmother of Stephen Swinick
George Rugg, father of Stuart Rugg
Annaliese Stuart, aunt of Robert Adler
Stella Birnbaum, aunt of Linda Paulanski
Fannie Febesh, mother of Ilene Rothschild
Ben Lavin, father of Liz Cohen
Harry Schwartz, uncle of Sylvia Rubin
Julian Freedman, stepfather of Cindy Weiss

To be read on January 15 and 16

Fryderyk Wojcik, father of Annie Heimberg
Sophie Brown, mother of Marvin Brown
Gussie Osman, grandmother of Larry Osman
Harry Brody, father of Bruce Brody
Dorothy Bucholtz, mother of Ronnie Weyl
Max Adler, father of Robert Adler
Joseph Silverman, father of Lloyd Silverman
Jack Cudzynowski, uncle of Joseph Cudzynowski
Mary White, mother of Michael White
Harry Bernstein, grandfather of Amy McBride
Ina Roistacher, grandmother of Mara White
Carole Vitelli, mother of Scott Richard
Charles Lowenthal, grandfather of Lynn Small
Albert Waldorf, father of William Waldorf
Edward Klein, father of Leslie Klein
Reba Wolin, mother of Martin Wolin
Richard Schiff, uncle of Rick Miller
Leon Blitman, stepfather of Mara White
Ethel Tischfield, mother of Jay Tischfield
Larry Hillman, father of Lillian Swickle
Maurice Goldberg, father of Gari Bloom
Norman Miller, father of Rick Miller
Shalom Weyl, father of Lewin Weyl
Bob Newman, loved one of Carol Levison
Lawrence T. Bernstein, uncle of Amy McBride
Gussie Bernstein, grandmother of Amy McBride
Toby L. Allaway, sister of Carol Levison
Louis Faer, father of Beverly Bober
Ida Vogel, sister of Max Spinner
Leona Berkowitz, mother of Steve Berkowitz

To be read on January 22 and 23

Rosalie Weitz, mother of Steven Weitz
Ernest A. Compain, grandfather of David Gold
Rebecca Wolinsky, grandmother of Ann Wallin
Rose Greenberg, mother of Elaine Krantz
Anne Marie Lavranchuk, mother of Jim Lavranchuk
Ida Drexler, grandmother of Howard Engler
Marilyn Engler, mother of Howard Engler
Selma Smith, mother of Joseph Smith
Morris Bailin, father of Gary Bailin
Herman Rubin, husband of Sylvia Rubin
Rebecca Spevack, mother of Gail Wohl
Lawrence Bouchonville, father of Maria Landau
Irvin Goldman, brother of Shari Albin
Lillian Giniger, grandmother of David Kornberg
Dr. Raymond Taub, husband of Goldie Taub
Lorraine Perlin, sister-in-law of Beatrice Cohen
Leo Holzer, grandfather of Phyllis Feinblum
Thelma Paulanski, mother-in-law of Linda Paulanski
Fanny Wohl, grandmother of Robyn Becker
Anna Herskowitz, grandmother of Helene Fine
Morris L. Wang, father of Andrea Auerbach
Philip Tesser, father of Laurie Novak
Jeffrey Stelman, father of Jaime Gerard
Ida Toborowsky, mother of Robert Taber
Arnold Sietz, father of Sharon Sietz

To be read on January 29 and 30

Ann Gordon, grandmother of Julie Hersh
Elaine Wedeen, mother of Ken Wedeen
Bernard Simon, father of Carol Landesman
Howard Strand, father of Thomas Strand
Leon Fish, father of Andrea Bradley
Roz Ringel, mother of Jeff Ringel
Gail Ellen Gold, mother of Sarah Gold and David Gold
Rosalie Stark, mother of Simon Stark
Cindy Cipos, sister of Barry Hoffner
Lucien Sabah, uncle of Ghislaine Silverman
Anne Siegelau, mother of David Siegelau
Fannie Kaplin, mother of Phyllis Greenberg
Herbert Landesman, father of Glen Landesman
Rose Feldman, grandmother of Larry Osman
Peter Stein, brother of Mitchell Stein
Paula Mittleman Edelson, cousin of Goldie Taub
Julius Frenkel, grandfather of Gary Friedman

Yahrzeits February

[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 February 5 and 6

Rebecca Taub, mother-in-law of Goldie Taub
Florence Zatz, mother of Iris Naroden
Gail Bashein Shinske, mother of Caryn Shinske
Sema Brieness, mother of Zina Wolin
Raymond Bateman, Jr., brother of Caren Bateman
Joseph Beck, father of Michael Beck
Sidney Spector, father of Susan Plan
Renee Babit, sister of Jay Tischfield
Morris Katchen, father of Beverly Cohen
Simon Schutzman, grandfather of Cheryl Nelson
Sol Feldman, grandfather of Larry Osman
Abraham Small, grandfather of Brian Small
Alice Bober, mother-in-law of Beverly Bober
Edward M. Fink, husband of Rita Fink
Ida Springer, aunt of Gerald Shubitz
Lillian Jurgrau, mother of Fern Jurgrau
Farra Tebbi-Lewis, daughter of Farajollah and Mahin Tebbi
Norman Weitman, father of Nanette Mantell
Lawrence deMackiewicz, brother of Carrie Feuer
Sol Weinstein, father-in-law of Ann Weinstein
Norma Albin, mother of Robert Albin
Bernard Levin, father of Harold Levin
Lillian Etkins, mother of Donna Etkins
Loretta Block, mother of Felicia Falzone

To be read on February 12 and 13

Eva Brooks, aunt of Cindy Mangel
Samuel Chasin, grandfather of Gerald Shubitz
Stanley Engler, father of Howard Engler
Augusta Koen, mother of Peter Koen
Martin Leeds, father of Jodi Bloom
Bert Schneider, father of Arthur Schneider
Roslyn Sietz, mother of Sharon Sietz
Perry Goldfeder, great-uncle of Lynn Small
Rose Reinhart Sayne, mother of Morton Reinhart
Norman Kohn, father of Hal Kohn
Sarah Zerring, mother of Judith Goldberg
Charles Mangel, father of Howard Mangel
Philip Auerbach, father-in-law of Andrea Auerbach
Henry Schwartz, father of Vicki Schwartz
Paul Novak, father of Gerald Novak
Ralph B. Jackson, father of June Greenbaum
Jessica Schoenberg, sister of Isa Beck
Janice Hoffner, mother of Barry Hoffner
Lillian Freed, mother of Diane Morrison
Marion Friedberg, mother of Morton Friedberg
Bessie Tucker, mother of Barbara Cohen
Harry Cohen, father of Rita Fink
Bessie Tucker, grandmother of Deborah Cohen
Miriam Halpern, mother of Morris Halpern
Al Freiman, father of Roy Freiman
Sara Rechtleben, mother of Deborah Tompa

To be read on February 19 and 20

Ida Feinblum, mother of David Feinblum
Harold Brandman, father of Ed Brandman
Matilda Goldberg, mother of Michael Goldberg
Joseph Curau, Sr., father of Joseph Curau
Sylvia Birnbaum Barretti, mother of Linda Paulanski
Dennis Greenstein, father of Shiri Shapira
Bernard Weigl, grandfather of Lynn Small
David Mendelson, brother of Stanley Mendelson
Shaul Yarkoni, father of Yaniv Yarkoni
Bette K. Lewin, mother of Carol Levison
Beatrice Klein, mother of David Klein
Anna Rosen, mother of Rochelle Levin
Irene Cohen, sister of Stanley Kanterman
Vincent Falzone, father of Scott Falzone
Sophia Tentler, mother of Simona Rivkin
Molly Schutzman, grandmother of Cheryl Nelson
Irv Rabinowitz, father of Sarah Gluck
Libby Kornberg, mother of David Kornberg
Matthew Derby, father of Frank Derby
Bertha Posner, aunt of Marcy Rosenfeld
Cary E. Goldberg, father of Lisa Goldberg
Rose Spinner, mother of Max Spinner

To be read on February 26 and 27

Adam Goldberg, brother of Carl Goldberg
Mary Beth Lieb, mother of Wendy Spinner
Ruth Papier, grandmother of Shelley Drozd
Harold Jurgrau, father of Fern Jurgrau
Harriet Morrison, sister-in-law of Diane Morrison
David Marcus, father of Richard Marcus
Marjorie Silverman, wife of Lloyd Silverman,
mother of Jeff Silverman
William Knauer, father of Leonard Knauer
Beverly Weitman, mother of Nanette Mantell
Arnold Rawicz, uncle of Scott Rawicz
Augusta Auerbach, mother-in-law of Andrea Auerbach
Dorothy Dallow, mother of Brian Dallow
Rose Grossman, mother of Linda Strand

January

Calendar of Events

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

Friday, January 1

Temple Offices Closed
New Year's Day
6:00 p.m. Kabbalat Shabbat Service

Saturday, January 2

10:00 a.m. Shabbat Minyan Service

Sunday, January 3

No Religious School
7:30 p.m. Jewish Spirituality Group

Monday, January 4

7:30 p.m. Ritual Committee Meeting

Tuesday, January 4

7:00 p.m. Grade 6 B'nei Mitzvah Meeting: Making Multiple Aliyot (Parents and Kids)

Wednesday, January 6

4:30 p.m. Hebrew School
7:00 p.m. Confirmation Academy
8:30 p.m. RAC Social Justice Seminar for post-confirmation youth

Thursday, January 7

6:30 p.m. Security Committee

Friday, January 8

6:30 p.m. Erev Shabbat Service

Saturday, January 9

10:00 a.m. Shabbat Minyan Service

Sunday, January 10

10:30 a.m. Jewish LIFE: Intermediate Biblical Hebrew
8:30 a.m. Religious School - Alternative Hebrew Class
8:45 a.m. Religious School

Monday, January 11

7:30 p.m. Oversight Committee Meeting

Wednesday, January 13

No Confirmation Academy
No Hebrew School
8:30 p.m. RAC Social Justice Seminar for post-confirmation youth

Friday, January 15

6:30 p.m. Social Action Shabbat

Saturday, January 16

10:00 a.m. Shabbat Minyan Service

Sunday, January 17

No Religious School
10:30 a.m. Jewish LIFE: Intermediate Biblical Hebrew
4:00 p.m. Renaissance with Rabbi Gluck: Blessings in the Time of Covid
7:00 p.m. Racism in New Jersey: Interfaith Conversation on Racial Justice

Monday, January 18

Temple Offices Closed
Martin Luther King Day

Tuesday, January 19

7:00 p.m. Becoming Eve: My Journey from Ultra-Orthodox Rabbi to Transgender Woman
7:00 p.m. RS Committee meeting

Wednesday, January 20

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

Friday, January 22

6:30 p.m. Erev Shabbat Service

Saturday, January 23

10:00 a.m. Shabbat Minyan Service

Sunday, January 24

10:30 a.m. Jewish LIFE: Intermediate Biblical Hebrew
4:00 p.m. Film Series Discussion of "13th" with Rabbi Gluck
8:30 a.m. Religious School - Alternative Hebrew Class
8:45 a.m. Religious School

Monday, January 25

7:00 p.m. Post-Confirmation
7:30 p.m. Board of Trustees
5:30 p.m. Sisterhood: Notorious RBG, The Life and Times of Ruth Bader Ginsburg

Tuesday, January 26

7:15 p.m. TBE Reads: The Giver of Stars by Jojo Moyes

Wednesday, January 27

Erev Tu BiShvat
4:30 p.m. Hebrew School
7:00 p.m. Confirmation Academy
7:00 p.m. Congregational Tu BiShvat Celebration

Thursday, January 28

Tu BiShvat
12:00 p.m. Roundtable: Is Democracy a Value in the Jewish State

Friday, January 29

5:45 p.m. Family Kabbalat Shabbat Service
6:30 p.m. Shabbat Shirah — Sabbath of Song

Saturday, January 30

10:00 a.m. Shabbat Minyan Service

Sunday, January 31

10:30 a.m. Jewish LIFE: Intermediate Biblical Hebrew
12:00 p.m. Herzl on the Couch (Part 1)
3:30 p.m. Young Family Tu BiShvat Experience
8:30 a.m. Religious School - Alternative Hebrew Class
8:45 a.m. Religious School

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

Calendar of Events

Monday, February 1

11:00 a.m. This is What Jewish Looks Like (Part 1)
7:00 p.m. Post-Confirmation
7:30 p.m. Ritual Committee Meeting

Wednesday, February 3

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

Friday, February 5

6:30 p.m. Erev Shabbat Service with Kabbalat Torah

Saturday, February 6

10:00 a.m. Shabbat Minyan Service

Sunday, February 7

12:00 p.m. Herzl on the Couch (Part 2)
8:30 a.m. Religious School - Alternative Hebrew Class
8:45 a.m. Religious School

Monday, February 8

11:00 a.m. This is What Jewish Looks Like (Part 2)
7:30 p.m. Oversight Committee Meeting

Tuesday, February 9

7:00 p.m. Grade 6 B'nei Mitzvah Parent Meeting
7:00 p.m. Sisterhood Book Discussion: "The Book of Hannah: A Tragicomedy in Three Trimesters"

Wednesday, February 10

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

Friday, February 12

6:30 p.m. Erev Shabbat Service

Saturday, February 13

10:00 a.m. Shabbat Minyan Service
9:00 a.m. New Jersey Regional Shabbaton with Temple Ner Tamid, Bloomfield

Sunday, February 14

No Religious School
3:30 p.m. Film: "Commandment 613"

Monday, February 15

Temple Offices Closed
President's Day
11:00 a.m. This is What Jewish Looks Like (Part 3)

Wednesday, February 17

No Hebrew School
No Confirmation Academy

Friday, February 19

6:30 p.m. Erev Shabbat Service

Saturday, February 20

10:00 a.m. Shabbat Minyan Service

Sunday, February 21

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

Monday, February 22

11:00 a.m. This is What Jewish Looks Like (Part 4)
7:00 p.m. Post-Confirmation

Tuesday, February 23

7:00 p.m. RS Committee meeting

Wednesday, February 24

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

Thursday, February 25

Erev Purim
7:00 p.m. Purim Megillah Reading

Friday, February 26

Purim
6:30 p.m. Erev Shabbat Service

Saturday, February 27

10:00 a.m. Shabbat Minyan Service
7:30 p.m. Purim Concert with Hadar and Sheldon

Sunday, February 28

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

Contacting Temple Beth-El

Temple Office: 908-722-0674 Info @ [TempleBethElNJ.org](mailto: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

Hannah Lafargue, Director of Youth Engagement

Dina Fisher, Executive Secretary

Ivy Anglin, Religious School Secretary

RabbiGluck@TempleBethElNJ.org

CantorWallach@TempleBethElNJ.org

AmyRubin@TempleBethElNJ.org

SarahGluck@TempleBethElNJ.org

LisaFriedman@TempleBethElNJ.org

HannahLafargue@TempleBethElNJ.org

DinaFisher@TempleBethElNJ.org

IvyAnglin@TempleBethElNJ.org

Shofar Advertising

To place an ad in the Shofar or for more advertising information, please contact ShofarAdvertising@TempleBethElNJ.org