

# Shofar



Tevet - Adar 5778 • January/February 2018



## Rabbi's Message

### Seeking Higher Purpose in the New Year

A new secular year has dawned, and, as with all things new, it brings the opportunity to greet it with optimism and thoughtfulness for its possibilities.

For some of us, the possibility exists of choosing to do something truly different with our lives in this new year. Most of us, however, will find ourselves carrying forward on a path that has been defined by our prior commitments to family, community, and work. Does this mean that 2018 must be merely a continuation of the things that defined 2017? Not necessarily.

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## Tu BiShvat Celebration

January 30-31

- Origins of the Tu BiShvat Seder, *See Page 4*
- Tastes of the Holiday, *See page 21*
- Young Family Pajama Party, *See page 10*
- Holiday Celebration, Seder and Potluck Luncheon, *See page 3*

Saturday, February 3

## Purim's Coming!

Megillah Reading and Purim Spiel  
February 28, 7:00 p.m.



## Sitcoms in Sushan

## Worship Schedule

### JANUARY

#### Friday, January 5

8:00 p.m. Shabbat Evening Service

#### Saturday, January 6

*Parashat Sh'mot*, Exodus 1:1–6:1

9:00 a.m. Shabbat Experience for Young Families

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

#### Friday, January 12

8:00 p.m. Shabbat Evening Service with Social Action

#### Saturday, January 13

*Parashat Va-eira*, Exodus 6:2–9:35

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

#### Friday, January 19

7:00 p.m. Family Shabbat Service

#### Saturday, January 20

*Parashat Bo*, Exodus 10:1–13:16

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

#### Friday, January 26

6:00 p.m. Blue Jean Shabbat – By Teens, for Teens

8:00 p.m. Shabbat Shirah Service with Tefillah Band and Kolot El Choir

#### Saturday, January 27

*Parashat B'shalach*, Exodus 13:17–17:16

No Shabbat Worship at Temple Beth-El. Come to the Regional Shabbaton (page 18) instead.

### FEBRUARY

#### Friday, February 2

8:00 p.m. Shabbat Evening Service with Brotherhood

#### Saturday, February 3

*Parashat Yitro*, Exodus 18:1–20:23

10:00 a.m. Shabbat Minyan Service and Torah Study followed by Tu B'Shvat Luncheon and Seder

#### Friday, February 9

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

#### Saturday, February 10

*Parashat Mishpatim*, Exodus 21:1–24:18

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

#### Friday, February 16

8:00 p.m. Shabbat Evening Service

#### Saturday, February 17

*Parashat T'mumah*, Exodus 25:1–27:19

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

#### Friday, February 23

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

#### Saturday, February 24

*Parashat T'zaveh*, Exodus 27:20–30:10

9:00 a.m. Shabbat Experience for Young Families

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

#### Wednesday, February 28

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

Thank you to our Torah Readers and Service Leaders for November and December:

#### Torah Readers:

Derek Boxer  
Allison Brenner  
Max Cooper  
Michelle Engler  
Shayna Friedman  
Abigail Goldman  
Matthew Goralnick

Julie Hirsch  
Jim Lavrachuk  
Adam Leach  
Harold Levin  
Ed Malberg  
Matthew McCloskey  
Dhani Skole

#### Service Leaders:

Dave Cohen  
Ed Malberg  
Henry Nerenberg  
Ed Tolman  
Ronnie Weyl

### Torah Portions

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

### Shofar Submissions and Deadline

The next issue of the Shofar will be March-April 2018. PLEASE NOTE: The deadline for submissions is February 15. Submit articles via email to:  
[ShofarEditor@templebethelnj.org](mailto: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

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

## Rabbi's Message, continued from page 1

As Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks tells us, we always have the ability to bring a new attitude and a new perspective to the things we do, even if the tasks we perform are essentially the same as before. He tells the story about three men who worked in a quarry.

"When asked what they were doing," says Sacks, "one replied, 'Breaking rocks.' The second said, 'Earning a living.' The third said, 'Building a cathedral.'"

One of my favorite teachings from Pirkei Avot tells us to "despise no one and call nothing useless, for there is no thing that does not have its place, and no person who does not have his/her time."

Could this be the year for us to decide that our time has come? Could it be that we will gain some new insight into our place in the world? This could take many forms. It could be that we achieve some new sense of purpose in what we are already doing. Or, it could be that we will

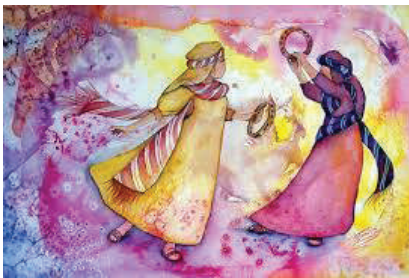
choose to do something different—take on a new task, embark on new learning, or engage in a new act of service.

When we consider the opportunities we might pursue, I urge us to consider what Rabbi Sacks suggests as a guiding principle. Like the person who saw his work in the quarry as serving a higher purpose, let us look for higher meaning in the things we do. Let us seek to make even our small, seemingly mundane acts glow with a sense of sacred duty to do our best and to make a difference. As Rabbi Sacks said, let us seek out those places where "what we want to do meets what is crying out to be done."

May each of us find many blessings in 2018, and may we find many ways to be a blessing to others.

*L'shalom,*

*Rabbi Arnold S. Gluck*



## Shabbat Shirah Friday, January 26, 8:00 p.m.

On Shabbat Shirah (the Sabbath of Song), Moses and Miriam danced and sang songs of thanksgiving to God for the parting of the Sea of Reeds and the escape from Egypt. These outpourings are recorded in the book of Exodus and captured in the famous "*Shirat Hayam*" or "Song of the Sea" and the verses that follow. Every *Shabbat Beshallah*, we experience with them our deliverance from slavery to freedom as we remember our communal history. Please join us with the choirs, Kathy Shanklin, and the Temple Beth-El Tefillah Band as we celebrate the foundation of our ethical values and faith through music and song! Come early (7:15 p.m.) for a nosh *before* services.

## Tu BiShvat Saturday, February 3

Shabbat Morning Worship and Torah Study at 10:00 a.m.  
Tu BiShvat Seder and Potluck Lunch to Follow at 12:00 p.m.

Join us for a spirited Shabbat and holiday celebration!

RSVP online at [tinyurl.com/TBETuBiShvat5778](http://tinyurl.com/TBETuBiShvat5778), or call the temple office (908-722-0674, ext 312). Watch for more information in upcoming temple communications.



טו בשבט

## A Note From Our Cantor

by Emily Wigod Pincus



### The Origins and Meaning of the Tu B'Shvat Seder

There is no halachah, no legal structure to define Tu Bishvat. For this reason, its position in Jewish practice wavers between two opposing poles, which can be understood by reference to two important Jewish leaders of the 20th Century: the modern orthodox scholar Rabbi Irving Greenberg and the last Lubovitcher Rebbe, Rabbi Menachem Schneerson.

According to Greenberg, Tu Bishvat is a minor festival which never achieved even the currency of Rosh Hodesh because there is no trace of the festival in the Bible. In the absence of historical significance, it should only be considered a minor semi-festival. For some, this is reason enough to overlook the holiday. On the other hand, Schneerson says that because Tu Bishvat is a *minhag* (custom), not a *mitzvah* (commandment), one's celebration of it can only give God greater delight (than the observation of commanded holy days). In other words, Tu Bishvat is special precisely because its observance is not required. In this way, one can truly give the offering of one's heart. This prioritizing of contemplative versus compulsory practice is very much in tune with some of the best aspects of contemporary spirituality. Let us consider the development of the Tu Bishvat seder.

The first reference in Jewish history to Tu Bishvat is in the *Mishnah*, Rosh Hashanah 1:1, which is the first mention of a New Year for the trees. This set a date for the mitzvah of tithing one's land as described in Leviticus 27:30: In addition, there were two other mitzvot connected: that of *orlah* (giving young trees a chance to grow), and first fruits as mentioned in Leviticus 19:23-25.



While the Temple existed, Tu Bishvat was just a date to regulate the tithes. The tithed fruit was eaten by priests, Levites, their households, and the poor. Tithes signified the welfare of the priests and Levites, the upkeep of the Temple, and the prosperity of Jerusalem. Following the fall of the Second Temple and the Diaspora, all the way up to the 16th Century, Tu Bishvat disappeared and there was almost no mention of it, although some *piyutim* from Gaonic times found in the *Genizah* ask God for a year of blessing for the trees to be recited during the *Amidah*. But the connection diminished as the Jews had no land to grow fruit on and no Temple to bring it to. During this time, the symbol of the tree replaced the importance of the actual tree in Jewish life. The Torah became the "*Etz Chaim*," the source of spiritual nourishment.

Tu Bishvat eventually revived. It became a focus for the dispersed people's attachment to the Land of Israel, and a way to express gratitude to God. The Temple and the altar were replaced by the seder table. It became a day for celebrating trees and fruits, and for praising and thanking God. So the hidden beginning of nature's yearly renewal became a day of spiritual renewal for Jews. This was not without precedent, because the Rabbis had always learned religious lessons from the natural world. However, there is no evidence of specific Tu Bishvat observance until the late 16th Century custom of eating fruits on Tu Bishvat by the Kabbalists in Tzfat. By the end of the 17th Century, they had created a Tu Bishvat seder: a special festive meal of fruits joined to the recitation of scriptural selections and invested with symbolic and mystic meanings.

In the Kabbalistic book on the holidays, *Hemdat Yamim* (Choice of Days), the seder is described, as well as 30 kinds of fruit, including the seven associated in the Torah with the Land of Israel (Deuteronomy 8:7-8), and four cups of wine. Verses dealing with fruit and trees from the Torah, rabbinic literature, and the *Zohar* were recited. This custom of the Tu Bishvat seder originated with the Ashkenazi Kabbalists in Israel and was later abandoned by the Ashkenazim but adopted by Sephardim both in Israel and in surrounding countries. The chapter in *Hemdat Yamim* describing Tu Bishvat eventually became a book by itself, *Pri Aitz Hadar* (Fruit from a Fine Tree). This was then used as the text for the traditional Kabbalistic Tu Bishvat seder, which was called a "*tikkun*," like "*tikkun lail Shavuot*," rather than a "*haggadah*," as for Pesach. This is because the Tu Bishvat seder is not a "telling" but a "repair." The Kabbalists of Tzfat made a few *tikkuns*. They wanted to



make a spiritual repair in the cosmos, the life of the Jewish nation, and the individual soul.

The Kabbalists compared the eating of the fruit at the seder with the fruit eaten by Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. The purpose of the Tu Bishvat seder is to repair all of one's eating and repair the sin of Adam and Eve, who ate the fruit of the wrong tree. Thus, symbolism of a return to Eden pervades.

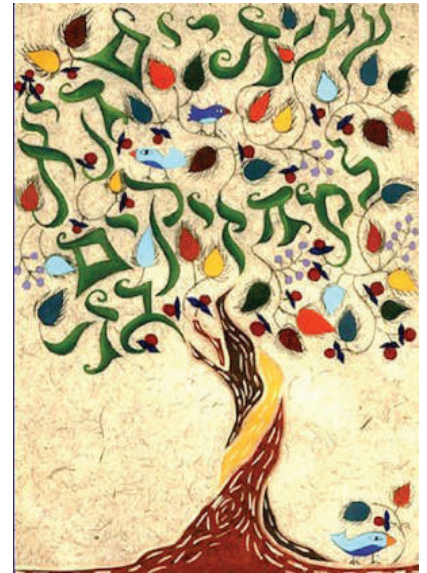
During the seder, two kinds of wine are used. The white represents Tu B'Av, and the weakening of the sun's rays. The red is for Tu Bishvat, signifying new flowering and the victory of spring over winter. Thirteen biblical passages about the produce of God, fruits and plants are read. There are also readings from the *Talmud* (mostly *Zeraim*) and the *Zohar*. The seven fruits of Israel, as mentioned in the *Tanach*, are featured: wheat, barley, grapes, figs, pomegranate, olives dipped in olive oil, and honey dates, as well as new fruits not yet tasted during the season. It also includes and etrog, apple, walnut, carob and almond. Special efforts are made to obtain rare fruits.

To understand the meaning of the seder, it is necessary to explain some of the mystic theory behind it. The central tenet of Judaism is that God is one. The mystics believed that nothing is separate from God: there is God separate from the world and God within the world. What people call "God" is only part of God. The purpose of Kabbalah is to show that it is all only one. Accordingly, "YHVH" symbolizes God's oneness, whereas "Elohim" represents God as manifest in the multiplicity of nature. The Baal Shem Tov said that God is everything, and everything is God, in the same way that the shell of the snail is its home and also part of itself. The *Gematria* for "hateva" (nature) and "Elohim" (God) both equal 86. The mystics used this as a basis for seeing divinity in nature and the belief that the spiritual reality behind the world and the world itself are both one and divine, with God beyond both. Everything in this world is a symbol of a parallel reality in the higher world. According to mystic tradition, when the word of God descended from heaven, it split in two parts: the Torah and the natural world. Therefore, there is divine wisdom in everything.



Almond trees will soon be blooming in Israel.

Tu Bishvat is a time for renewal in nature, and thus also for renewal of the soul. The trees are judged, and it can be regarded as a second Rosh Hashanah for Jews to repent and also to create new insights into Torah. A central belief behind the Tu Bishvat seder is that human actions affect the cosmos and nature. God makes people responsible for creation and seemingly small



actions may have great effects and repercussions. On Tu Bishvat, the actions of eating fruit in holiness with blessings and kavanah, praying for trees to thrive, is thought to affect the trees' future growth and their production of fruit. For this reason, eating fruit is celebrated at the seder as the purest form of eating: nothing has to be killed. Even a vegetable is part of the plant itself, but fruit is a product of the plant whose consumption does not harm the plant in any way.

It celebrates meditative eating, and *tikkun*/repair for Adam and Eve having eaten from the forbidden tree. Tu Bishvat directs thoughts both to the Garden of Eden and to Israel. When farmers brought first fruits, it was with a recitation of gratitude to God for giving the land to the Jews. It reminds Jews of the return to Israel now, and the ultimate redemption: the return to the Garden of Eden, and the redemption of the world. At that point, the revelation of Godliness in all nature would be seen, and then everyone would be a prophet and a mystic with direct experience of God. The Torah metaphor for bliss and closeness to God is an orchard. According to Torah, fruit is the natural food of man.

On Saturday, February 3, we will celebrate Tu Bishvat at TBE at noon following Shabbat services. We will experience mindful eating and the blessing of the many fruits and nuts of the Tu Bishvat seder in a lofty attempt to rain down blessings upon ourselves and the earth. In this way, we can also hope to strengthen our connection to the bounty that sustains us, and our resolve to recognize and retain our role as stewards to the natural world. I hope you'll join us!

## Chanukah Around the World

*We came to drive away the darkness  
In our hands is the light and fire.  
Everyone's a small light,  
And all of us are a firm light.*

This first verse from the beautiful song “Banu Choshech Legaresh,” translated as “We Came to Drive Away the Darkness,” made for a moving conclusion to our recent cantorial concert, with Chanukah as its theme. By all accounts, the concert brought our community's collective light together at literally the darkest time of the year. Cantor Pincus and our guests, Cantor Galit Dadoun and Cantor Jonathan Comisar, masterfully assembled and performed an incredible selection of music. In addition, our Tefillah Band, Adult Choir, Men's Choir and Children's Choir, with the assistance of Kathy Shanklin, all worked very hard and performed beautifully as well. Of course, the concert itself would never have become a reality without the tireless work of Cantor Pincus, who brought her vision to life.

It was an absolute delight to have such an incredible response from our community, with attendance at capacity.

Cantor Pincus, Jim and I are very grateful to all who supported this effort. We had a wonderful hard-working committee (see box). In addition, we had wonderful support and guidance from Amy Rubin. Finally, almost nothing

happens at Temple Beth-El without our caring custodial staff. In this instance, on a busy weekend at TBE, our custodians had to prepare all of the space quickly and efficiently!

We also have to thank our TBE bakers! We had such an embarrassment of riches that we were able to contribute some of it to future onegs. There was an incredible array of choices. We want to thank Susan Brenner for trusting us with her beautiful vases, as well as Amy Rubin for the lovely firefly lights.

We are very grateful to all who graciously sponsored the event, and all who attended. By supporting this event, we were able to meet and surpass our fundraising goal, and by doing so, our community is able to better meet its commitment to fulfilling its vision in the coming year.

It was a joy for Jim and me to have the opportunity to work with everyone and join our small light to yours and to the TBE community.

Best wishes to all for a happy and healthy secular New Year.

*Beth and Jim Lavranchuk*, Concert Committee Chairs



*With sincere thanks to...*

### Concert Planning Committee

Cantor Emily Wigod Pincus  
Beth and Jim Lavranchuk, Chairs

Shelley Drozd, Rita Fink, Leigh Freeman, Ellen Handler, Donna Lewin, Marcy Rosenfeld, Amy Rubin, Eileen Ruderman, Pauline Schneider, Marcia Shubitz, Lillian Swickle







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

**Cantor Emily Wigod Pincus**

*with Special Guests*

**Cantor Galit Dadoun-Cohen**

**Cantor Jonathan Comisar**

*Thank you to our generous sponsors!*

**Conductor**

Mike Bloomstein  
Dave and Liz Cohen  
Lillian Swickle  
Suzy Wigod

**Soprano**

Jay and Pam Lavroff

**Alto**

Andrea and Patrick Bradley  
Bob and Fran Taber

**Tenor**

Caren Bateman and  
Keith Chanoch  
Debbie and David Herman  
Steve and Irene Lieberman  
Leigh and Shari Miller  
Len and Ann Robinowitz  
Betty and Arthur Roswell  
Donna and Jay Tishfield

**Bass**

Rande and Janet Aaronson  
Gari and Charles Bloom  
Revalee and Bruce Brody  
Gary and Jody Cohen  
Rabbi Arnold and  
Sarah Gluck  
Greg and Julie Hirsch  
Russ and Barb Johnston  
Andy and Leslie Kass

Beth and Jim Lavranchuk  
Ed and Marsha Malberg  
Alta and Marc Malberg  
Melissa and Stuart Pyle  
Jeff and Barrie Resnick  
Ken and Amy Rubin  
Vicki Schwartz and  
Ken Snyder  
Steve and Elayne Weitz

***Our thanks to...***

**Kolot-El Adult Choir**

Jonathan Andell, Mark Andrews, Dave Cohen, Liz Cohen,  
Karen Donohue, Shelley Drozd, Leigh Freeman,  
Beth Lavranchuk, Jim Lavranchuk, Donna Lewin,  
Ed Malberg, Carol Nerenberg, Henry Nerenberg,  
Marcia Shubitz, Ronnie Weyl

**TBE Kids Choir**

Ben Bauman, Rebecca Bauman, Hayden Brown,  
Emily Dickholtz, Dylan Falzone, Alex Herskovitz,  
Feebee Herskovitz, Olivia Lavy, Julie McCloskey,  
Nathaniel Pincus, Isabella Russo, Audrey Stark, Lila Stark

**Accompanists**

Jonathan Comisar  
Kathy Shanklin

**Arrangements**

Jonathan Comisar

**Tefillah Band**

Lou Binder, Drums  
David Gold, Bass  
Jay Lavroff, Clarinet and  
Alto Sax  
Evan Lerner, Tenor Sax  
and Guitar  
Henry Nerenberg, Guitar  
Vicki Schwartz, Violin



## From Our President

### The Warmest Time of the Year



During the first week of December I had the pleasure of attending the Union for Reform Judaism Biennial in Boston. You're going to read quite a bit about the Biennial elsewhere in this edition of the *Shofar*, so rather than "pile on" to that subject, I'd like to talk about how warm it is. That may seem like an odd statement, especially since we are in the middle of a deep freeze that has kept the mercury below 20 degrees Fahrenheit for what seems like forever. To further complicate matters, the return to standard time and the shortness of the days has us leaving home in the dark and returning in the dark. It's as if we're living underground. But do not despair! December 22 began the lengthening of days, and regardless of what the thermometer says, at Temple Beth-El, this is one of the warmest times of the year. How can this be, you ask? Simple: Shabbat Shirah, Tu B'Shvat and Purim.

Shabbat Shirah, the beautiful Sabbath of song, occurs this year on Friday, January 26. The Torah portion for this Shabbat is Beshalach, Exodus 13:17 through 17:16. This parsha contains the familiar words of Mi Chamocha, as well as the Song of the Sea, sung by the Children of Israel when the Red Sea parted to allow them to escape Pharaoh's army. The words of this passage describe the incredible event of our deliverance:

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

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

We celebrate Shabbat Shirah with the talents of Cantor Emily Pincus, our adult choir Kolot El, and the Tefillah Band. Through their talents they enhance our worship with abundant and beautiful music that warms the soul and elevates the spirit. Do yourself a favor and attend services on Shabbat Shirah.

Tu B'Shvat, the "New Year of the Trees," occurs each year on the 15th of the month of Shevat. Tu B'Shvat marks the end of the rainy season in Israel, when the earliest-blooming trees shake off the cold and begin a new fruit-bearing cycle.

To observe Tu B'Shvat we hold a seder, during which we eat several types of fruit. Among the fruits we eat are those singled out in the Torah when praising the bounty of the Holy Land, including grapes, figs, pomegranates, olives and dates. Our Tu B'Shvat seder will be held this year on Saturday, February 3, at noon, following Shabbat morning service. We will pray, learn, sing and (of course) eat together, enjoying the warmth of each other's company and basking in the glow of our beautiful community. Further details about the seder are found here in the *Shofar*, and will be publicized elsewhere, too.

And finally, there is the very warm silliness and celebration of Purim. Purim arrives on the 14th of Adar (which this year is the evening of February 28). We read the Megillah Esther, which tells the story of Esther's bravery in foiling Haman's plan to exterminate the Jews. The Megillah instructs that we observe Purim with "days of feasting and gladness, and sending delicacies to one another, and gifts to the poor." (Megillah Esther, 9:1-22). And so, in addition to the Megillah reading, we eat hamantaschen, wear costumes, give shalach manot and make noise with our groggers. The overall joy and zaniness of Purim makes it a holiday that Jews of all ages can warmly embrace. Please join us on Wednesday, February 28 at 7:00 p.m. as Rabbi Gluck and Cantor Pincus lead us in the Megillah reading, and a cast of thousands performs Temple Beth El's internationally famous Purim Spiel. Our Purim celebration is guaranteed to "warm the cockles of your heart."

Come celebrate Shabbat Shirah, Tu B'Shvat and Purim and experience the warmth from within!

*L'shalom,*


*Jay Lavroff*



## *We honor our Legacy Circle:*


Anonymous (5)  
 Rande and Janet Aaronson  
 Lou and Myrna Binder  
 Gari and Charles Bloom  
 Mike Bloomstein  
 Liz and Dave Cohen  
 Rabbi Arnold and Sarah Gluck  
 Julie and Greg Hirsch  
 Chrys Jochem  
 Andy and Leslie Kass  
 Bob Krovetz  
 Jay Lavroff  
 Leigh Miller  
 Rick Miller  
 Robin and Larry Osman  
 Art and Betty Roswell  
 Amy Rubin  
 Lillian Swickle  
 Goldie Taub  
 Irwin Vogel  
 Steve and Elayne Weitz  
 Ann Weinstein  
 Bruce and Marlane Wolf

Please remember Temple Beth-El with a gift in your will, trust, retirement account or life insurance policy. A legacy gift ensures that the community will continue to serve future generations. Contact Lil Swickle at [LegacyCircle@TempleBethElnj.org](mailto:LegacyCircle@TempleBethElnj.org).




HOW WILL YOU ASSURE JEWISH TOMORROWS?

It's not about the zeroes—it's about insuring the continuity of Jewish institutions important to you. A legacy gift of any size makes a difference!



To create your Jewish legacy contact:  
 Lillian Swickle, Legacy Circle Chair,  
[LegacyCircle@TempleBethElnj.org](mailto:LegacyCircle@TempleBethElnj.org)



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## HONORABLE MENSCHEN

**Our mensch for the Winter of 2018 is Jodi Siegal.**

The space allotted for this feature is not large enough to address all that Jodi has done for our community over the years. A constant presence at temple, Jodi is currently a Counselor on the Oversight Committee and has served on nearly every committee we have. Jodi also coordinates our blood drives and the onegs following erev Shabbat services.

We are extremely grateful for Jodi's boundless positive energy and ever-present smile. When you see Jodi, tell her "Te apreciamos! Eres una persona tremenda. Gracias por todo lo que haces." (She teaches Spanish; she'll know what you mean.)

## From the Education Directors

### Time Out for the Soul

Did you finish your homework? Practice piano? Hurry, we'll be late to soccer! Don't forget to pack for the school trip! Got the right backpack?!

Sound familiar? The average week is so full of activity—school and homework, sports, music lessons, play rehearsals, scouts...the list goes on and on. There's also Sunday school, Hebrew school, and other temple activities. Volunteering and community service. Time to visit with extended family and to enjoy being at home with your own family. Time to nourish oneself with exercise, a home-cooked meal, a good book, a daydream...

Time to create, learn, and grow. Time. Time. Time. Time. There never seems to be enough of it.

It's enough to leave one breathless.

And with all that, there's still something else to fit in. At first, it may feel like just another activity to schedule, but it turns out to be a gift. That something is worship. Please stay with me here.

A simple shift in perspective can help us view coming to services not as an activity to cram into the week, for which we need to "find time," but as an opportunity for a time-out from the week's frenetic pace. Yes, getting to temple can be a challenge. It's not always easy to gather yourself or your family, and inclement weather, admittedly,

can be a deterrent. But once you're here, sitting with your community in our beautiful sanctuary, you can slow down, take a deep breath, hear the music, engage with the words, and find some Shabbat peace. Worship calms the mind and nourishes the soul, and connects us to one another in a way unlike any other.

So come whenever you can. Decide which service or services you'll attend this month. Start with once a month, then see where it takes you. It won't be too long before coming to services becomes a necessary part of your being, instead of something for which you feel you need to find the time.

*L'shalom,*  
*Sarah Gluck*



## Young Family Events for January and February



### Young Family Shabbat Experiences

**Saturday, February 24 at 9:00 a.m.**

Join Cantor Pincus and Kindergarten Teacher Amy Rubin for an interactive Shabbat experience designed for our youngest children and their families.

### Young Family Schmooze

**Sunday, January 21 at 9:00 a.m.**

in the TBE Café. Join other parents/loved ones of young children for an informal opportunity to get to know one another better.



### Young Family Pajama Party

**Saturday, January 28 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.**

Mark your calendars now for this popular event. We will learn about the holiday of Tu B'Shvat with stories, crafts, and games, and we will celebrate Havdalah (the end of Shabbat) together.

[www.tinyurl.com/TBEYFPajamaParty2018](http://www.tinyurl.com/TBEYFPajamaParty2018)

## Pinat HaIvrit—Hebrew Corner

As I write this, we are in the midst of a deep freeze, with icy conditions in the South and snow blanketing much of the Northeast. And yet, the Jewish calendar has us looking forward to celebrating Tu B'Shevat\* (ט"ו בשבט), Jewish Arbor Day, also known as חג האילנות (*chag ha-ilanot*), the Birthday of Trees.

Here in New Jersey, we have weeks to go before spring. Because Tu B'Shevat falls in the middle of our winter season, we need to remember that the holiday originated in the Land of Israel, where the beauty of spring begins to reveal itself at this time of year. As the seasons change, the hills of the desert are — for a short, magnificent while — brilliant green; wild cyclamen bloom pink, white, and red in the rocky soil; and the fragrant blossoms of almond trees scent the air. The photos on this page were taken in Israel at this time of year. So very lovely.

Tu B'Shevat helps link us to Israel. It also helps us connect to the earth and reminds us of our obligation to take care of it. Even though the ground in New Jersey is inhospitable to planting right now, we can celebrate Tu B'Shevat by learning its history and customs; dedicating ourselves to caring for and preserving the environment; planting trees, either here or in Israel; and, above all, remembering the Source of the beauty and bounty of nature.

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

*Lamdeini Elohai bareich v'hitpalleil*

*Al sod aleh kameil al nogah p'ri vasheil*

*Al ha-cheirut ha-zot lir'ot lachush linshom*

*Lada'at l'yacheil l'hikasheil.*

*Lameid et siftotai b'rachah v'shir haleil*

*B'hitchadeish z'man'cha im boker v'im leil*

*L'val y'hi yomi ha-yom — kitmol shilshom*

*L'val yih'yeh alai yomi — hergeil.*

למדני אלהי בריך והתפלל

על־סוד עליה קמל על נגה פרי בשל

על־החרות הזאת לראות לחוש לנשם

לדעת ליחל להכשיל.

למד את שפתותי ברכה ושיר־הלל

בהתחדש ומנחם עס־בקר ועס־ליל

לבלי־יהי יומי היום -- כתמול שלשום

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 ripe fruit,  
For this freedom — to see, to feel, to breathe,  
To know, to hope, to falter.

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

*L'shalom,*  
Sarah Gluck

\*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.



## Youth at TBE

December and January have been/will be jam-packed with excitement for our youth groups!

We kicked off December with the URJ Biennial Conference in Boston! Of the 22 members of our congregation who attended, two were Talia Rubin and Erica Milgram, members of our teen youth group. Talia said her favorite part of the conference was a session she attended called "Teens and Stress" that focused on the mental health and anxieties of teenagers, and how congregations could support their teens in meaningful ways. Erica commented that the "sessions were really interesting and it was also great to see my friends from Heller High again."

Only a week or so later, we were celebrating Chanukah! The third through fifth graders had a blast creating edible dreidels, making beaded dreidel keychains, dancing to an amazing Chanukah playlist, and then playing a "Syrians vs. Maccabees" version of Hungry Hungry Hippos, with the balls symbolizing the oil and other resources.

Over winter break, 12 teenagers ventured out to Camp

Harlam for NFTY-GER Winter Kallah! There, they participated in programs promoting social action, creative services (including some based around puzzles and Broadway musicals), and as always, lots of singing, dancing, and quality time together.

In the coming weeks, we're excited to be hosting our Winter shul-in for the 9th through 12th graders on January 20th. Stay tuned for an email from Rachel coming soon! Additionally, we'll be sending teens to NFTY-GER's regional elections later in January, and then gearing up for the Purim Carnival in March.

*L'shalom,*

**Rachel Frish**

Director of Youth Engagement



### Links to URJ Camps and Summer Programs

Creative Arts: <https://6pointscreativearts.org>

Sci Tech: <https://6pointsscitech.org>

Sports: <https://6pointssports.org>

Harlam: <https://campharlam.org>

Mitzvah Corps: <https://mitzvahcorps.org>

NFTY in Israel: <https://nftyisrael.org>

## Losing My Voice, Finding Perspective

*By Sarah Friedman*

Originally published July 14, 2017 by URJ Kutz Camp Blog. Reprinted with permission.

So I'd like to start off by saying that I've never actually written a blog post before. Like, ever. So I hope I'm doing it right. But I guess I'll find out. For those of you who don't know, I spent these past four weeks at URJ Kutz camp in Warwick, NY. Here I've spent my days doing everything from exploring my skills as a leader to self-defense to even learning how political activism ties into late night TV. My time here has been unforgettable and I'm taking advantage of every moment I have while I'm still here.



I'd been at Kutz for quite some time now, since I was here for Mechina as well. As the Membership Vice President of NFTY-GER, I spent five days within the Membership Network exploring and inviting in different leadership skills to bring back to my region. Through the two hour blocks of network time and friendships made, I valued my time at Mechina very much and was sad to see it end. But all good things come to an end, and I was glad to finally get to begin camp, which I had been looking forward to for months. My first Jewish summer camp! My childhood dreams were coming true and I was finally getting to have that summer camp experience that all my Jewish friends had talked about. I was ready, everything was just as I imagined it to be. Everywhere you turned you were greeted by staff saying "Welcome Home!", my cabin even had a theme (caterpillars! So cute, right?) and I immediately clicked with my RA's and cabin mates, some of whom I had even met already. But there was only one small issue, and that was that I had lost my voice. I couldn't speak loudly at all. I didn't want my first impression with new people to be my hoarse voice. But that wasn't even the worst part. I couldn't sing.

Every day here at camp we have services, sometimes in the morning, sometimes at night, depending on the day. I love to sing at services; it gives me the feeling of being intertwined with not only my religion and with God but with the others around me. So services were definitely hardest for me. However, on the second day of camp we had an evening service. The sun was setting on the lake,

the sky was an array of orange and pink and just altogether beautiful. The song leaders began to sing this wonderful melody to the song "Sellah", and since I couldn't sing I just sat and listened. Something I really didn't do often, since usually I'm the one who's rambling on about something. I hated not being able to sing. I felt hopeless, useless, weak. But in that moment I didn't care. The harmonies of the song had moved me and all thought and worry about the summer had drained from within me. The voices of those around me collected as one and I was lost in an ocean of music and all I wanted was for it to continue forever.

With my hands intertwined with my two friends beside me, I shut my eyes and just swayed. I had found a new way to connect with God. I didn't realize that sometimes just listening could be as engaging as the activity itself. Tears clouded my eyes and began to stream down the side of my face; the music was just so beautiful that I couldn't help but cry. I let go, and surprisingly didn't feel weak anymore. I opened my eyes to see the sky reflecting off Lake Rolyn, the blue melting into pink, the pink dissolving into orange. A swan flew across the water, completing the moment perfectly. In that moment, I knew Kutz was where I belonged. It's where I wanted to be, and I was undeniably content. This was one of those moments that you can't forget. And that's coming from someone who forgets things very easily. Kutz was just what I needed, and I didn't want to be anywhere else. There was nothing for me to think in that moment besides how beautiful life was, how much I should value it more and put the damn phone down and just observe. I learned that sometimes it's good to take a step back and really look at things from new perspectives. The outcome can really shock you, just like how it shocked me.

So I challenge you, reader. Look at things with a new perspective. Whether it be taking a step back and appreciating the little things or something as simple as just listening to services instead of partaking in them. And when you achieve that moment just like I did, when you realize that life is just so incredibly beautiful and pure, you'll find serenity. I challenge you to just pause and appreciate what you have and what's in front of you. Life is precious, and also fragile. One wrong move and a piece of it is broken forever. A piece that can't be fixed and will never be the same as it used to be. Be careful with what you have, appreciate it, and don't let things like school or cell phones control you. You're your own person, this is your life. It's all ahead of you, the future is in your hands. What are you going to do with it?



## Biennial Impressions

As many of you know, a large delegation from Temple Beth-El attended the Union for Reform Judaism's Biennial Convention, held in Boston on December 6-10. Our heads are still spinning and our hearts still dancing from the learning opportunities, significant speeches, musical presentations, and — the highlight of every Biennial — the very special opportunity to share Shabbat with thousands of other Reform Jews.

Biennial participants from TBE were Andrea Bradley, Dave Cohen, Gary Cohen, Liz Cohen, Sim Cohen, Lisa Friedman, Rachel Frish, Rabbi Arnie Gluck, Sarah Gluck, Leslie Klein, Beth Lavranchuk, Jim Lavranchuk, Jay Lavroff, Erica Milgram, Leigh Miller, Robin Osman, Cantor Emily Pincus, Amy A. Rubin, Amy E. Rubin, Talia Rubin, Elayne Weitz, and Steve Weitz. We thought you would be interested in hearing some of their impressions, shared in response to the following:

1. Which speaker or speech made the greatest impression on you? Why?
2. Which learning session did you find the most interesting/had the greatest impact/offered a significant takeaway? Why?
3. Describe your favorite worship experience. What made it special?
4. Offer one takeaway from the Biennial experience overall.

Loved the Reverend Dr. Barber; he gave such a powerful and empowering speech. He offered us a glimpse inside another style of worship, with the power and majesty of a preacher. A wonderful message and a wonderful delivery.

Loved the Baby Boomer Symposium — so many ideas about how we can continue to engage our baby boomers and our younger baby boomers. Developing relationships is the name of the game, and connecting with our community in smaller groups, and on issues and interests they share, will be key to our continued strength.

Loved the singalong after Shabbat evening services. Joy, song, energy.

Loved being IN a complete Jewish community, learning and worshipping together. Such strength in numbers, such joy in togetherness.

*Andrea Bradley*

I was very moved by Reverend Barber. He was a wonderful way to start my experience at Biennial — very spiritual and motivating.

I went to a lot of the technology sessions, which were not particularly moving or inspiring. However, I did learn what many other congregations are doing to further engage their membership, and realized there is much more we can and should be doing.

I was only able to attend the Friday evening service, so I would say that that was the one I enjoyed.

My takeaway from Biennial: we are not alone in our struggles and successes. This was a great way to see the bigger picture of our community.

*Gary Cohen*

Tough call, but I would say Elizabeth Warren. She maintains an incredibly positive energy despite the toxic environment she works in, and inspires us to join her in fighting the good fight. And her championship of consumer and worker protections is so spot on. I had never seen her in person, and feeling her energy was really inspiring for me.

I loved the workshop on Voter Engagement. Good new insights into how to do “deep canvassing” on issues, partner with interfaith groups, and move toward 100 percent voter engagement in our congregation.

The Wednesday-morning worship was intimate, welcoming, musical, and set a great kavvanah for the week.

The takeaway for me is deeper and broader engagement with congregations on immigrant justice and for Reform Jewish Voices of New Jersey (RJVNJ). For our congregation, it is the urgency of putting our Brit Olam plan in place.

*Liz Cohen*





Rabbi David Stern. He spoke eloquently and concisely about a number of issues on welcoming others and growing our communities. Most significantly, he spoke about the way children and teens, in regard to their engagement in Jewish life, are often considered a statistic to measure and/or tout, rather than as Jewish souls to nurture. He was exceptional.

I found the session on speaking to our teens about Israel and Israel engagement on campus to be very meaningful. The depth of the panel was impressive, and they complemented one another in a way that made the learning coherent and meaningful. While the message conveyed is one we already embrace at TBE, it was a rich discussion. This message is that Israel education for younger children and high school teens needs to go beyond a “milk and honey” narrative that only attempts to teach love of Israel, and to expose children in developmentally appropriate ways to the complicated realities that exist and can go hand-in-hand with our love of Israel.

Havdalah. Having Dan Nichols and all the NFTY teens lead that worship was powerful.

Being surrounded by not just a few but thousands of committed Reform Jews who strive to live active, meaningful Jewish lives was very powerful.

*Lisa Friedman*

Rabbi David Stern gave an eloquent and passionate presentation about how supporting the Jewish growth of our youth demands the fullness of our devotion. Our youth, he said, are not our future; they are our present.

Rabbi Donniel Hartman gave a clear and insightful talk about the breakdown in understanding between Israel and world Jewry. Israelis see Jewish sovereignty as the only way to keep Jews safe and secure. American Jews believe that Jews can live in safety and security under American democracy, and see Zionism as an opportunity to reach for values higher than survival.

Nava Tehila's Shacharit chanting service was moving, spiritual, and deeply engaging of all the participants. Powerful!

It is good to be part of a movement that stands for big and important things. Collectively, we are a powerful Jewish phenomenon in our time. That being said, we face many challenges that test us to rise to our best.

*Rabbi Gluck*

I loved Rabbi David Stern's speech. He preaches so beautifully and with such depth of feeling and content. His statement that children are not our future but our present and that we must “treat them not as hothouses to be experimented with to achieve some demographic end, but as living, breathing, laughing, thinking members of our communities” resonated deep within me and touched my heart.

I enjoyed learning with Shira Kline — musician, early childhood educator, and master teacher — who shared her special approach to t'fillah for young children.

Friday-morning worship with Nava Tehila was a gift for the soul and the highlight of my Biennial experience.

Sharing Shabbat services with several thousand Reform Jews never fails to be moving, inspiring, and uplifting!

*Sarah Gluck*

Elizabeth Warren! Her message that the fight for justice can be worthwhile even if you do not achieve your ultimate goal was inspiring.

Rabbi Michael Marmur: “Judaism is like peanut butter.” There is crunchy and smooth. Most importantly, it is best to learn and grow and not try to suppress the aspects of it that you have trouble incorporating in your own life.

Morning worship with students from HUC New York was a beautiful blend of music and liturgy — spiritual and not performance-oriented. Plus, it was wonderful to see the students who are our future clergy create such a beautiful experience.

I think the Biennial demonstrated the importance that the URJ is currently placing on Jewish values and how we can put them into action at a very challenging time, when many in our country need allies and a voice. The issues addressed were economic justice, health care and immigration reform, just to name a few. I was reassured to see the URJ find its voice.

*Beth Lavranchuk*

Rabbi David Stern, head of the CCAR. He not only spoke about the critically important issue of the role of young people in the Reform movement and Judaism in general, but did so with such genuine feeling and emotion that I could not help but get caught up in what he was saying. I particularly enjoyed listening to him recall his own experience growing up, when a member of his congregation gave him 12 blank, post-dated checks as a bar mitzvah gift to use monthly as he saw fit, thereby demonstrating confidence in his judgment and ability. His statement that “we’ve got company” (our young people) was very powerful.

“Hot Topics on College Campuses.” It was very interesting not only because I follow such issues (e.g., BDS) closely and currently have two kids on campuses, but because the attendees were a great mix of students, parents, clergy, and synagogue leaders, each of whom brought their own perspective. The students were especially interesting. They spoke of interacting positively with Jews of all backgrounds. We also discussed the subject of Reform rabbis on campus and in Hillel. I talked about the success of Rutgers and how it can and should be replicated elsewhere. I also had a pointed discussion with Rabbi Jonah Pessner on the topic, especially about why the Union should pay greater attention to what's happening at Rutgers.

Shabbat morning. Good energy, nice stories behind the aliyot. I have to say, though, that if you strip away the distinctiveness of those honored with the aliyot and of sitting with nice folks from out of town, and get down to the basics, I think our services at TBE are better, more thought-provoking, and more enjoyable.

We need to make sure that we regularly program for and engage with congregants of all ages. For example, as was discussed in one of the sessions I attended, baby boomers are statistically the largest cohort of temple members, yet many temples focus most of their efforts on young people with religious school-age kids. We have started addressing our own varied demographics and interests through our affinity groups. The effort deserves and commands further attention.

*Jay Lavroff*

I work closely with Rabbi Josh Weinberg in a cohort called “The Teaching Israel Program,” so I tried to go to his workshops to hear what he had to say about ARZA and Israel in general. Rabbi Weinberg is an amazing speaker who always has great things to say about the Zionist movement. I felt I could easily connect to what he was saying.

The workshop that I felt I could take away the most from would be the inclusion course, led by Lisa David and Lori Zlotoff, along with others. They explained ways that we can make temples, camps, etc. more inclusive for children with disabilities. As a teacher’s assistant at my school for kids with disabilities, as well as experiencing this at Temple Beth-El and Camp Harlam, I feel I could use some of the tips shared to help make my communities more inclusive to all.

My favorite worship experience was the Thursday afternoon service presented by Kutz Camp for teens. I have participated in various creative services over the years, but none quite like this one. It was very hands on. For example, we were given a single strand of yarn for the Mourner’s Kaddish, and were given the choice to do what we wanted with it. I now wear this piece of yarn around my wrist with four knots in it. One each for my grandparents, all of whom have passed away.

I signed up for Biennial not knowing exactly what it was. I knew most of my friends from Israel were going, and was excited for the chance to see them again. However, I did not expect to be so blown away by all the speakers, presentations, and services. I left Boston with so much more knowledge than I had before. I enjoyed the teen track, as well as having conversations with many adults. Having the freedom to choose which workshops to go to and to manage my own time was really nice to do.

*Erica Milgram*

Rabbi Michael Marmur made the greatest impression on me. Words fail to describe how outstanding his teaching is. He is brilliant, inspiring, thought-provoking, funny, and much more. If you ever have the opportunity to see him teach, don’t miss it!

The session Best Principles for Congregational Engagement — From Seekers to Congregational Leaders was most impactful for me. Four interesting speakers shared a wide variety of ideas for congregational engagement.

After the Shabbat evening service, I participated in the song session, Israeli dancing, and the kumzits (singalong). While these activities were not exactly worship experiences, they took place on Shabbat, felt sacred, and I enjoyed them immensely.

My takeaway is to start with why and focus on relationships, not programs.

*Robin Osman*

Senator Elizabeth Warren was great, but the most impactful speaker for me was Marc Freedman, who spoke at the Baby Boomer symposium. His remarks offered me a new perspective. The session on the Eight Principles that Drive Strong Congregations was the most interesting. Good concepts to mull over and strive toward.

The morning service on the Wednesday before many people had arrived. It was just some lucky newcomers and the choir. The singing in that service was simply beautiful. I felt lifted up for the start of Biennial. Also, Ma’ariv on the first afternoon was an interfaith service. The minister’s words were so moving and the Muslim call to worship was hauntingly beautiful.

My one takeaway is to cultivate a longer-term orientation, a “future focus,” if you will.

*Amy E. Rubin*

Friday night services were my biggest takeaway. I loved looking around and seeing close to 6,000 Jews chanting, singing, dancing, and praying together, as though we were all one. And I also loved the fact that almost the entire service was in Hebrew.

*Elayne Weitz*

I thought Senator Elizabeth Warren’s speech was both affirming and inspiring. Her words reminded me that, no matter what the political landscape, our individual and collective efforts of speaking truth to power really make a difference in the lives of the poor, the marginalized and the oppressed.

The Baby Boomers Symposium reframed my understanding of this slice of life. Generally speaking, never before has there been such a large age cohort that’s this well educated, this financially secure, and this healthy. For people of my generation, the years following middle age but preceding old age are their own discrete period of both challenge and opportunity. While many boomers are ready to retire from decades of work, we want to stay engaged and continue to make meaningful contributions to our communities, including our synagogues.

I love the Shabbat services. I find that uniting my voice in worship with 6,000 fellow Reform Jews is a completely uplifting experience.

Our Reform Movement is alive and well! United in our efforts, we can bring Jewish values to life and help to create a world of justice, wholeness and compassion.

*Steve Weitz*

There is much more to tell, and we look forward to sharing with all of you over the coming months. In the meantime, please take some time to experience some of the Biennial online by visiting <https://urj.org/blog/2017/12/11/reliving-urj-biennial-speeches-video-and-more> and following the links to transcripts and videos of the many speakers, and song sessions.



# Jewish LIFE

## SUNDAY MORNINGS

### January 7

Calling all Torah chanters past, present, and future!  
Learn to Chant Torah with Cantor Pincus, Introduction •  
9:00-10:00, Beit Midrash  
Biblical Hebrew with Sarah Gluck • 10:00-11:20, Rm. 201

### January 14

Interpretive Lenses: Reading and Understanding Torah  
with Rabbi Gluck • 9:00-10:30, Beit Midrash — final  
session for this year  
Biblical Hebrew • 10:30-11:50, Rm. 201

### January 28

Hebrew Reading Refresher and Prayer Practice with Sarah  
Gluck • 9:00-10:00, Rm. 201  
Biblical Hebrew • 10:00-11:20, Rm. 201

### February 4

Hebrew Reading Refresher and Prayer Practice with Sarah  
Gluck • 9:00-10:00, Rm. 201  
Biblical Hebrew with Sarah Gluck • 10:00-11:20, Rm. 201

### February 11

Hebrew Reading Refresher and Prayer Practice with Sarah  
Gluck • 8:45-9:30, Rm. 201  
Learn to Chant Torah with Cantor Pincus, Session 2 • 9:30-  
10:30, Beit Midrash  
Biblical Hebrew with Sarah Gluck • 10:30-11:50, Rm. 201

### February 25

Hebrew Reading Refresher and Prayer Practice with Sarah  
Gluck, 8:45-9:30, Rm. 201  
Learn to Chant Torah with Cantor Pincus, Session 3 • 9:30-  
10:30, Beit Midrash  
Biblical Hebrew with Sarah Gluck • 10:30-11:50, Rm. 201

### March 4

Hebrew Reading Refresher and Prayer Practice with Sarah  
Gluck, 8:45-9:30, Rm. 201  
Learn to Chant Torah with Cantor Pincus, Session 4 • 9:30-  
10:30, Beit Midrash  
Biblical Hebrew with Sarah Gluck • 10:30-11:50, Rm. 201

### March 11

Hebrew Reading Refresher and Prayer Practice with Sarah  
Gluck, 8:45-9:30, Rm. 201  
Learn to Chant Torah with Cantor Pincus, Session 5 • 9:30-  
10:30, Beit Midrash  
Biblical Hebrew with Sarah Gluck • 10:30-11:50, Rm. 201

### March 18

Hebrew Reading Refresher and Prayer Practice with Sarah  
Gluck, 8:45-9:30, Rm. 201  
Learn to Chant Torah with Cantor Pincus, Session 6 • 9:30-  
10:30, Beit Midrash  
Biblical Hebrew with Sarah Gluck • 10:30-11:50, Rm. 201

### March 25

Hebrew Reading Refresher and Prayer Practice with Sarah  
Gluck, 8:45-9:30, Rm. 201  
Learn to Chant Torah with Cantor Pincus, Session 7 • 9:30-  
10:30, Beit Midrash  
Biblical Hebrew with Sarah Gluck • 10:30-11:50, Rm. 201

### April 15

Hebrew Reading Refresher and Prayer Practice with Sarah  
Gluck, 9:00-10:00, Rm. 201  
Biblical Hebrew with Sarah Gluck, 10:00-11:20, Rm. 201

### April 22

Hebrew Reading Refresher and Prayer Practice with Sarah  
Gluck, 9:00-10:00, Rm. 201  
Biblical Hebrew with Sarah Gluck, 10:00-11:20, Rm. 201

## TUESDAY EVENINGS

### The Meaning and Purpose of Life According to Jewish Text and Teaching

Instructor: Rabbi Gluck  
Last year, the Sai Baba community that meets at Temple  
Beth-El invited Rabbi Gluck to speak about Jewish  
scriptural views of the purpose of human life and how we  
are to lead it. The questions and subsequent discussion  
were so engaging that Rabbi Gluck was inspired to expand

it into a mini-course for our congregation. Please join him  
for four Tuesday evenings of study and conversation.

Tuesdays, 7:00-8:30 p.m. in the Beit Midrash  
April 17 and 24; May 8 and 15

## THURSDAY EVENINGS

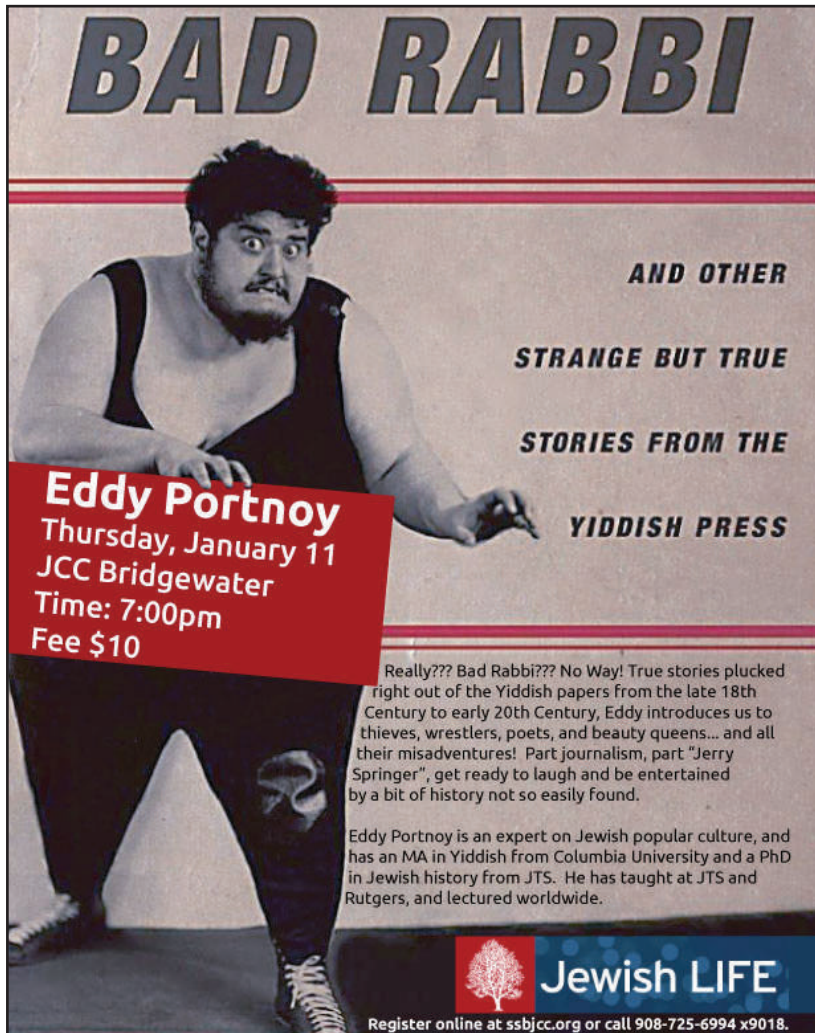
### Israeli Dancing

Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. in the multipurpose room  
January 4, 11, 18, 25; February 1, 8, 15, 22; March 1, 8, 15,  
22, 27; April 4, 12, 19, 26; May 3, 10, 17, 24, 31; June 7, 14,  
21, 26; July 5, 12

## SATURDAY EVENINGS

### Israeli Film Series

Saturdays, 7:00 p.m.  
March 17, *Keep Quiet*  
April 21, *Transit*  
May 12, *Brothers*  
See the Cultural Arts page for details.




**BAD RABBI**

AND OTHER  
**STRANGE BUT TRUE**  
STORIES FROM THE  
**YIDDISH PRESS**

**Eddy Portnoy**  
Thursday, January 11  
JCC Bridgewater  
Time: 7:00pm  
Fee \$10

Really??? Bad Rabbi??? No Way! True stories plucked right out of the Yiddish papers from the late 18th Century to early 20th Century, Eddy introduces us to thieves, wrestlers, poets, and beauty queens... and all their misadventures! Part journalism, part "Jerry Springer", get ready to laugh and be entertained by a bit of history not so easily found.

Eddy Portnoy is an expert on Jewish popular culture, and has an MA in Yiddish from Columbia University and a PhD in Jewish history from JTS. He has taught at JTS and Rutgers, and lectured worldwide.

 **Jewish LIFE**  
Register online at [ssbjcc.org](http://ssbjcc.org) or call 908-725-6994 x9018.



## When Can We Share Shabbat Together Again?

### Parashat B'shalach January 27, 2018

New Jersey & Friends Shabbaton  
Temple Ner Tamid, Bloomfield



**Nefesh Mountain** are the pioneers of a new sound where Jewish Spirit and Soul meet with Bluegrass and Old-time musical traditions. Founders, husband and wife team **Eric Lindberg** and **Doni Zasloff**, blend their love for both these rich traditions and have created a new genre that marries these two seemingly disparate worlds. **Alan Grubner**, on violin, and **Tim Kiah**, on bass, complete the sound of this ensemble. To find out more about this fabulous group go to <http://www.nefeshmountain.com>

For more information, visit  
<https://tinyurl.com/NJRegionalShabbaton2018>





"Part thriller, part history, this meticulously researched memoir tells a searing story of human kindness in brutal times." —NICHOLAS GAGE, *Introducing author of Eliza*

YVETTE MANESSIS CORPORON

Internationally bestselling author of  
*When the Cypress Whispers*

## SOMETHING BEAUTIFUL HAPPENED

A Story of Survival and  
Courage in the Face of Evil



**Thursday, January 18**  
JCC Bridgewater  
Time: 7:00pm  
Fee \$10

**Yvette Corporon**  
**Something Beautiful Happened**  
*A Story of Survival, Faith and Courage in the Face of Evil*

Seventy years after her grandmother helped hide a Jewish family on a Greek island during World War II, Yvette Corporon sets out to track down their descendants, and discovers a new way to understand tragedy, forgiveness and the power of kindness. In beautifully told interweaving storylines, the past and present come together in a nuanced, heartfelt story about the power of faith, the importance of kindness, and the courage to stand up for what's right in the face of evil.

Yvette Corporon is a three-time Emmy Award winning writer, author and producer. She has received the Silurian Award for Excellence in Journalism and the NYC Council & Comptroller's Award for Greek Heritage & Culture.

Register online at [ssbjcc.org](http://ssbjcc.org) or call 908-725-6994 x9018.  
Event is co-sponsored with Jewish Family Service.



**Jewish LIFE**

**TBE Not for Primetime Players  
Proudly Presents:**

## SITCOMS IN SHUSHAN



**Coming to a Bimah Near You  
Wednesday, February 28 at 7:00 p.m.**

**Be there....or be a hamantaschen**

## What Judaism Means to Me

by Shelley Drozd

*Editor's note: The following is an excerpt of remarks made by Shelley Drozd during Yom Kippur's Reflection Service. We enjoyed it so much we wanted to share her words with you.*



For starters, I feel my Judaism in my DNA. I come from a long line of Glasers who arrived in this country from Latvia in the late 1800s. After pushing a cart of dry goods around the Neshanic countryside for awhile, my great-grandfather Sachne sent for his bride from the old country, settled in Raritan, and bought a store. His son David—my grandfather – would marry Rebecca Bloom, also from Latvia. Together they would have 10 children, who would keep that store operating for more than 100 years.

The Glasers were humble merchants, but they were also a proud founding family of one of the earliest Jewish communities in our area. Founded as Congregation Ansche Chesed, today it is Temple Sholom of Bridgewater. When I was very young and the temple was still in Somerville, my father and I used to walk across town to shul on the High Holy Days. Now, every time the Days of Awe roll around, it makes me smile to think about how he relished reminding my brother and me—sometimes playfully and sometimes pointedly—that “the book is open.”

There's no doubt I inherited from my mother the DNA that compels service to the community. In her younger days, Mom was active in Sisterhood and Hadassah, and even ran bingo for awhile at Temple Sholom. She held meetings, sat on boards, got active in local politics, and hosted frequent food and social events. Since she did all this with us kids in tow, I had a front-row seat to the difference she was making all around us.

My parents imprinted upon me the Judaism that honors tradition and service. But it took my interfaith marriage to teach me how to practice Judaism in a way my largely cultural upbringing didn't. Before I married Joseph, who was raised Catholic, we agreed we would raise our children in the Jewish faith. Still, when our only daughter, Rebekah, finally came along, I realized how woefully underqualified I was for that task.

And so I resolved that our family would learn together. First, I made sure Rebekah was steeped in the traditions and company of the elder Glasers, who blessedly were with us for a very long time. Those great-aunts and uncles helped Beks understand l'dor vador, her place in our long, generational chain. We also joined Temple Beth-El for its warm welcoming of families like ours. Joe had never experienced a rabbi as accessible to him as Beth-El's new, young rabbi, Arnie Gluck. I have no doubt that Arnie's wise counsel to our young family helped bring Joe comfortably into the Jewish fold.

Eventually, we left New Jersey and built a house in the more affordable Poconos. We also joined the “local” Reform temple in Easton, some 30 miles away, immersing ourselves in the life of this small, historic Jewish community, now 175 years old. Before I knew it, my closet became crowded with all the hats I was wearing. Music teacher. Executive board member. Fundraiser. Ritual chair. Head of the rabbi search committee.

For his part, Joe helped build sukkahs, paint classrooms, and spent many a Saturday night printing easel-sized lyric sheets for my lessons at school the next Sunday morning. He also made gallons of homemade spaghetti sauce for our klezmer spaghetti dinner fundraiser, where, like at home, he ran the kitchen like clockwork. Meanwhile, Rebekah was learning her alef-bet and her prayers, which I learned right alongside her. And we all forged friendships that endure to this day.

As I grew older, I began to long for a way to marry my Jewish life with my professional life. In 2006 I saw a path. I sat at two deathbeds that year. One was blessed, a 96-year-old uncle who was ready to go, and one was tragic: the untimely death of my best childhood friend. I watched the care and comfort given my loved ones by hospice nurses and hospital chaplains. Inspired, I became a hospice volunteer and returned to school, eventually earning a degree in religious studies from Moravian College and Theological Seminary. I plan to begin my clinical pastoral education training soon.

Visiting different faith communities was a requirement of my world religions class at the seminary. Some of my classmates were from New Jersey, and didn't want to return to the Lehigh Valley for Shabbat services at our shul. I told them I had just the place, and arranged to meet them at Temple Beth-El.

That visit was a homecoming and a revelation for me. And just like 20 years earlier, I knew Beth-El was where my family once again belonged. And so I drive 30 miles again: for services, for choir, for learning opportunities, for the essential social justice work of the Interfaith Hospitality Network. You, Temple Beth-El, are worth every mile. To quote a Catie Curtis song, “If I can't change the world, I'll change the world within my reach.” I'm here to tell you Temple Beth-El is a great place to start doing that.



## Time for Tu BiShvat

You've packed away the chanukiot and the holiday wrapping paper for another year, rung in the New Year, and settled in for a long, cold New Jersey winter. But as the holiday of Tu BiShevat reminds us, the life of the earth, of the plants and trees and all their bounty, goes on silently, just beneath the crystalline snow dusting the tree branches and the surface of the ground.

Tu BiShevat celebrates this continuity, beauty and abundance of the natural world, and in particular the fruits, vegetables and grains that nourish and sustain us. Therefore, on this holiday it's traditional to eat the seven foods mentioned in the Torah: wheat, barley, grapes, pomegranates, figs, olives and dates. Various types of nuts, especially almonds, are also traditional. And, because of the holiday's focus on fruits and vegetables, Tu BiShevat seders or dinners are typically vegetarian or vegan in nature.

In the U.S., the customs and practices that have grown up around this holiday are relatively recent, so there are not as many well-known dishes that are specifically associated with Tu BiShevat, as there are latkes for Chanukah or hamantaschen for Purim. But that gives you more latitude for creating your own culinary traditions.

For starters, think about recasting old favorites – such as tabbouleh, kasha varnishkes (bulghur wheat, mushrooms and bowtie pasta), or figs and dates stuffed with ricotta or goat cheese – for your Tu BiShevat table. Set out bowls of nuts, perhaps tossed with some simple herbs and salt, or glazed with a simple sugar syrup and some cinnamon. Festoon your table with some colorful varieties of olives in small bowls. Or consider setting out some jewel-like pomegranate seeds, tossed with clementine sections in a glass bowl to show off their colors.

Here are three other recipes that use one or more of the “special seven.” Enjoy!

### Olive Salad

#### Ingredients:

4 c. assorted pitted olives – the more variety, the better  
 ¼ c. olive oil  
 3 T. balsamic vinegar  
 1 red pepper, finely chopped  
 ½ purple onion, chopped  
 ½ c. chopped fresh parsley or cilantro  
 2 chopped scallions  
 Salt and pepper to taste

Combine the olives with the chopped vegetables and herbs. Whisk together the olive oil and balsamic vinegar and dress the salad with it. Season with salt and pepper to taste.

*Source: Adapted from The Jewish Press website, January 26, 2015.*

### Date Nut Loaf

½ lb. dates, chopped	½ c. honey
1 ½ c. hot water	1 tsp. vanilla
2 ½ c. all-purpose or cake flour (such as Swans Down)	1 egg
2 tsp. baking powder	½ c. chopped walnuts
Pinch of salt	½ c. chopped almonds
2 T. melted butter	

Preheat the oven to 325 degrees. Add the chopped dates to the hot water, and boil for five minutes. Set aside. Mix together all dry ingredients. Beat them thoroughly, add to the date mixture, and combine. Add the honey, butter, vanilla and egg. Mix well; then add the nuts. Mix again, just to combine, and turn the batter into a well-greased loaf pan. Bake for one hour and 15 minutes.

*Source: The Joys of Jewish Cooking, by Stephen and Ethel Longstreet, Doubleday Publishing, 1974.*

### Mushroom-Barley Soup

½ cup raw pearled barley  
 6 ½ c. vegetable stock or water  
 ½ – 1 tsp. salt  
 3-4 T. tamari or regular soy sauce  
 3-4 T. dry sherry  
 3 T. butter  
 4-5 cloves minced garlic (this may seem like a lot, but because it simmers in the stock, the garlic flavor isn't excessive)  
 1 ¼ c. chopped onion  
 1 lb. fresh mushrooms, sliced

Cook the barley in 1 ½ cups of the stock or water, until tender. You can cook it right in the soup kettle. Add the remaining stock or water, tamari and sherry and set aside.

In a separate saucepan, sauté the onions in butter until translucent, and then add the garlic and cook briefly. Add the mushrooms and salt. When all is tender, add the vegetables to the barley, including any liquid the vegetables express during cooking.

Give the soup a generous grinding of black pepper and simmer for 20 minutes, covered, over very low heat. Taste and correct seasoning.

Delicious with a hearty slice of rye bread!

*Source: The Moosewood Cookbook, by Mollie Katzen, Ten Speed Press, 1977.*

## College Connection



**Chanukah 2017**

We are happy to share with you that the College Connection program sent 69 packages out to our college students in time for Chanukah on December 12. Freshmen and sophomores received a battery-powered electric menorah, gelt, a dreidel, a small banner and a card. Juniors and seniors received Chanukah socks, back by popular demand from last year (!), gelt, a dreidel and a Chanukah banner to hang in their rooms.

We were so happy to hear back from several of our college students, thanking us for the package. They also received a Happy Chanukah email greeting from the temple with wishes for good luck on their final exams! Many students mentioned it was very thoughtful for our temple to remember them at this time of year.

If your college student is not a member of the College Connection program, it is not too late to add them! Please send their name, school address, and an email address they access at school to Cindy Scott at [c.scott93@yahoo.com](mailto:c.scott93@yahoo.com).

## Cultural Arts

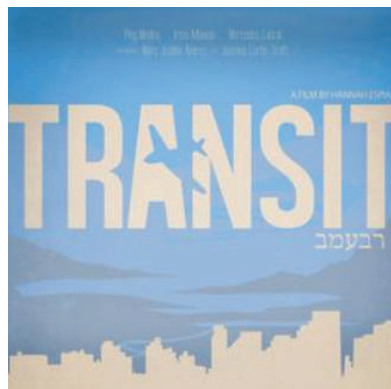
### Jewish LIFE Israeli Film Series Saturdays, 7:00 p.m.

#### March 17, *Keep Quiet*



Rising through the ranks of Hungary's far right extremist party, Csaszar Szegedi has built a career of denying the Holocaust happened and dehumanizing Jews. His world is rocked, however, when he discovers the family secret that his maternal grandparents were Jewish as well as Holocaust survivors. This shocking revelation causes an improbable, but seemingly genuine, conversion from prejudiced provocateur to devout Jew. But is his story one of genuine epiphany and rectitude or an act of fraud and moral impropriety? You decide!

#### April 21, *Transit*



*Transit* explores the intersecting stories of Filipinos in Tel Aviv when a newly enacted law deporting the children of migrant workers looms over their lives. Janet, a domestic worker on an expired visa, struggles to hide her half-Israeli daughter, Yael — a rebellious teenager caught up in a juvenile romance. More vulnerable to the deportation law because he is under the age of five is Janet's four-year old nephew, Joshua, whose father, Moises, works during the week as a caregiver. Janet and Moises try to hide the child from the immigration police, who regularly patrol the neighborhood. The film examines what it means to be a family and what it means to be a stranger, within one's home and in a foreign land.

#### May 12, *Brothers*



Dan chooses to work on the land, living in a kibbutz in the South of Israel. Aaron, his brother, is a doctor of law and philosophy and a distinguished scholar of the Torah. He comes to Jerusalem from the United States to defend the rights of Torah students. The conflict which arises between the two brothers reflects that of a society torn between its religious and political principles. This film opens a subtle yet essential debate on the question of separation of the state and religion in Israel. Rabbi Gluck will lead a discussion following the film.

## Renaissance Happenings

### The Scoop

A lovely sunny, snow-covered day set the stage for our annual Chanukah luncheon, held with festive décor at TBE. Assorted member potluck specialties were enjoyed, while reminiscent Chanukah tunes filled the air. Gifts were exchanged in a lighthearted game. The social concluded with planning our future events calendar. Member suggestions are duly noted.

*Esther Wallach*  
Renaissance Group

### Mark Your Calendars

**Wed., Feb. 4  
1:00 p.m.** **Valentine's Day Luncheon at A Toute Heure, Cranford, NJ (BYO)**  
Carpool from TBE. If you have a special sweet or funny memory you care to share, bring it along. Interested? RSVP by January 30 to Esther at [hwallach77@comcast.net](mailto:hwallach77@comcast.net)

**Sat., May 12  
Noon (brunch)  
2:00 p.m. (show)** **Senior Brunch & Play, A Night of Broadway presented by SKIT (Show Kids Invitational Theater)** at Voorhees High School, Glen Gardner, NJ. Email Barry at [barryskolky@yahoo.com](mailto:barryskolky@yahoo.com) for more information.

### Proposed Events - Details to Follow

**April** **Paid-Up Membership Luncheon**  
New location and date TBD. Not sure if you are paid up? Email Bob Taber at [fct4gc@gmail.com](mailto:fct4gc@gmail.com)

**August** **Somerset Patriots Ball Game and Girasole Dinner, Bound Brook**

**Summer or Fall** **Two-Hour Cruise and Brunch Outing, Lake Hopatcong, NJ**

**Fall** **Free Tour of Swaminarayan Hindu Temple, Robbinsville, NJ**  
Carpool from TBE. Opened in 2014, an awe-inspiring work of marble craftsmanship.



*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](mailto:thalerz@embarqmail.com).*

## Ritual

*You've all been to an oneg after services....  
Let's try a PRE-NEG before services.*

**January 26 — 7:00 p.m.**

Come early for Shabbat services to enjoy delicious hors d'oeuvres and a chance to catch up with old friends and meet new ones.

This will be an easy opportunity to make connections over a glass of wine or a nosh of cheese. Participants can socialize, enjoy light refreshments, and share stories.

Stay for Shabbat Shirah Services at 8:00 p.m. with the Tefillah Band and the Kolot El Choir. See more about Shabbat Shirah on page 3.





## Sisterhood

### Purim Bags Coming Soon!

The start of a secular new year means marks an important occasion at Temple Beth El: the run-up to annual Purim goodie bag fundraiser.

Work is under way on this annual event, which is Sisterhood's biggest fundraiser of the year. The event gives every congregant and the larger community an opportunity to purchase goodie bags of treats and tchotchkes to give to family, friends and fellow congregants. Proceeds benefit a needed TBE project.

"We have institutionalized our goal to give a bag to every temple member," said Cindy Scott, who plans and oversees the annual fundraiser with Laura Miller. "We have done that for the past three years. People feel good about that."

A portion of proceeds from this year's fundraiser will help pay for the remainder of the TBE recarpeting project that began in August 2017 and will continue with recarpeting the administrative offices. Proceeds from the past two Purim goodie bags fundraisers helped pay for the new carpeting installed throughout the sanctuary and quiet room, as well as the lobby. Including proceeds anticipated from this year's fundraiser, Sisterhood expects it will contribute \$15,000 toward the full recarpeting project.

Congregants can expect to receive the annual mailing about how to order Purim goodie bags in early January. Orders are due February 1, and a team of volunteers will begin assembling the goodie bags on February 18 at TBE. A corps of drivers will collect the bags on February 25.

The Festival of Purim begins at sundown February 28 and ends the evening of March 1.

This year, Sisterhood hopes to surpass the same goal as in previous years – to make sure every temple member receives a goodie bag.

In 2017, 515 goodie bags were delivered to TBE members, non-TBE members, religious school teachers

and temple staff. There also were 63 drivers covering 43 routes.

Temple children can gain community service hours by helping with this project, whether assembling bags or helping their parents drop off deliveries.

Volunteers interested in helping assemble Purim goodie bags or driving a delivery route may contact Cindy Andrews at [cjrandrews@gmail.com](mailto:cjrandrews@gmail.com).



*Cindy Scott and Laura Miller with the 2017 Purim bags.*



*Proceeds from this year's Purim bag fundraiser will pay for the remainder of the recarpeting project that began in August. Shown here is the new carpet in the sanctuary. The administrative offices are the next phase.*



## Women's Torah Study

(one of the many perks of Sisterhood membership)

**Next Session: Wednesday, January 31 at 7:30 p.m.**

Hosted by: Shuey Horowitz, 23 Haynes Court, Hillsborough

Discussion Leader: Cindy Andrews

### **Parashat Yitro (Exodus 18:1–20:23)**

Moses follows Yitro's advice and appoints judges to help him lead the people. Later, the Israelites encounter God at Mount Sinai. God gives the Ten Commandments aloud directly to the people. Come join us to discuss the Israelites' experience and what message it might have for us as modern women. The evening is enjoyable and the conversation is lively and engaging.

RSVP to Gayle Skolky at [gskolky@gmail.com](mailto:gskolky@gmail.com) or 908-575-0444.

## Sisterhood Brightens Thanksgiving

Sisterhood's annual Thanksgiving baskets collection was another success, with an increase in food donations to help those in need.

Carol Ahlert and Barbara Johnston oversee the annual Sisterhood service project. Under their leadership and with the support of Religious School families and donations from numerous congregants, 50 client families of HomeSharing received all the fixings for Thanksgiving dinner, and 22 client families of the Interfaith Hospitality Network received turkeys and fixings.

Sisterhood purchased 10 turkeys to supplement donations by temple members as well as religious school children. Wegmans Food Markets in Bridgewater also provided a \$150 gift card to help with purchases.

Sisterhood thanks TBE congregants, the Religious School and Wegmans for their help in making the annual Thanksgiving baskets program a success.





## Social Action

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

### Jamie Pear: Repairing the World by Working with Children



Here's Jamie with the men in her life: husband, Eric, and sons Ethan (9) and Adam (6).

Childhood examples of tikkun olam helped inform Jamie Pear's life's work.

Jamie, a TBE member and resident of Bridgewater, has spent much of her career helping children, and training others to serve the most vulnerable among them.

Jamie says she has "always been passionate about working with children," following in her mother's footsteps to devote herself to a career in early childhood education and working in underserved communities. She has served in many capacities throughout her career, from expanding a playroom program for homeless children in Massachusetts, to working with foster children as a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) in New Jersey, to now facilitating online classes for graduate students studying social work at Boston University.

After earning her bachelor's degree in sociology from Clark University in Worcester, Mass., and a master's degree in social work from Boston University, Jamie worked in central Massachusetts to give homeless children and their families the gift of a top-quality playroom at homeless shelters.

Jamie and her team would transform a shelter's playroom in one day – and with weeks of advanced planning – to give children in need a great, safe place to play. She found this work especially fulfilling.

"The children and parents were often brought to tears by the amazing playrooms," she recalls. "These spaces were developed with the highest quality furniture, toys, décor and materials. Not only were the designs focused

on best practices in learning through play, but they were intentionally created to let the families know that they deserved only the best. This is what every child deserves."

The needs of vulnerable children are only growing, and Jamie is hopeful that people and communities will consider becoming involved with youngsters to help them succeed.

"I think we are seeing concerning changes in the systems that support children and their families," Pear said. "Getting involved as a volunteer with children can mean learning about the issues that impact them and advocating for programs that serve this vulnerable population."

During her time with CASA SHaW, which serves foster children in Somerset, Hunterdon and Warren counties, Jamie supervised volunteers who advocated for children in the foster care system. CASA volunteers undergo training to provide comprehensive reports updating a foster child's situation to New Jersey Family Court, and to all other parties involved. CASA research has shown that children with a CASA representative spend less time in the foster care system than those without an advocate.

CASA, like many organizations that work to benefit children in need, is always looking for volunteers. Jamie notes that most volunteer opportunities that involve working with children will require some level of training. Prospective volunteers also should expect to undergo several background checks, as well as fingerprinting.

For those who would like to learn more about advocating for children, Jamie recommends starting with volunteer opportunities that require less of an ongoing commitment. For example, "You can also find other ways to support CASA SHaW through events, outreach, and smaller projects," she points out.

Another great starting point, Jamie said, would be working shifts during weeks when the Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN) brings client families to TBE.

The IHN works with a number of religious communities in the region to help provide temporary shelter and counseling for those who need it. TBE hosts IHN clients approximately every seven weeks and often needs volunteers during hosting week to help on several fronts, ranging from providing or serving a meal to spending time with clients and other needed activities.

The effort to work with IHN families has multiple benefits.

"Spending time with families who may have different experiences from your own can broaden your lens and enrich your understanding of family dynamics, struggles and strengths," Jamie said.

For more about the Interfaith Hospitality Network, visit: [www.ihnsc.org/help/](http://www.ihnsc.org/help/)

To learn more about CASA SHaW, visit: <https://www.casashaw.org/> or see the related article on the next page.



## What is a Court Appointed Special Advocate?

CASAs are volunteers appointed by a judge to discover the best possible outcome for an abused or neglected child's future. The goal of a CASA volunteer is to ensure that every child is placed into a safe, permanent home where he or she will have hope for a better life.

These volunteers commit several hours each month to doing an independent, fact-finding investigation on a child's circumstances. This includes reviewing records, researching information and talking to everyone involved in a child's case: social workers, attorneys, Division of Child Protection and Permanency workers, parents, teachers, family members and the child. The volunteers then make a recommendation to the Family Court to further the best interests of the child.

## What kind of training is involved in becoming a CASA?

CASA volunteers undergo more than 30 hours of training, agree to criminal background checks, and commit to a minimum of two years of service with the program. They must be at least 21 years old and have positive references.

## How can I help locally?

Volunteers are needed for CASA SHaW, which serves foster children in Somerset, Hunterdon and Warren counties. Currently, that region has more than 450 children in foster care, and less than half are paired with a CASA.

Statistics show that children with CASAs are more likely to graduate high school and live in a stable foster care environment; less likely to remain in the foster care system long-term; and receive more services.

## Where can I learn more about becoming a CASA volunteer?

Information sessions about becoming a CASA SHaW volunteer are scheduled for January 22 in Somerset County; February 6 and 21 in Hunterdon County; and March 6 and 19 in Warren County. For more specific information about the information sessions, visit [www.casashaw.org](http://www.casashaw.org) or call Karen Cassano, CASA SHaW volunteer trainer, at (908) 689-5515.

*Source: CASA Of Somerset, Hunterdon and Warren Counties*

Escape the cold and join other TBE baby-boomers  
and empty-nesters for an informal dinner out.

Saturday, January 20 at 7:00 p.m.

Mediterranean buffet at Sahara Restaurant (337 N Main St., Manville)

The family-style buffet is \$30 per person.

RSVP to Debbie Herman (908-963-6003) or  
Susan Goldberg (848-702-5411) by Tuesday, January 16.

It is bound to be a fun evening of warmth and laughter,  
no matter what the weather has in store!

## 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 February 11-18**

### 2017-2018 IHN Hosting Schedule

February 11-18      June 3-10  
April 22-29      August 12-19

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

### IHN Coordinators Contact List

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



## Mark Your Calendars

**March 9-10**

### National Day of Unplugging

The National Day of Unplugging runs from sundown to sundown. Carve out one day to unwind, unplug, relax, reflect, get outdoors, and connect with loved ones. Make it a weekly habit.

Visit [www.nationaldayofunplugging.com](http://www.nationaldayofunplugging.com) for more information.

# Lifecycle

## Our Condolences to...

Cindy Andrews, on the passing of her mother, Jacqueline Rubenstein  
 Jill Geller, on the passing of her mother, Arlene Golub  
 Alison Hoffner, on the passing of her mother, Rebecca Landsman  
 Caryn Shinske, on the passing of her friend, Jay Jefferson Cooke  
 Nicole Oringer, on the passing of her father, John Gunzler  
 Ken Snyder, on the passing of his father, Arnold Irving Snyder Stuart  
 Rugg, on the passing of his nephew, Jeffrey S. Rugg  
 Bill Miller, on the passing of his mother, Jacqueline Miller  
 Evan Lerner, on the passing of his father, Julian Lerner  
 Jeff Stuart, on the passing of his mother, Jill Stuart  
 Russ Johnston, on the passing of his sister, Claudia N. Johnston Amy  
 Berger, on the passing of her mother, Beverly Yourman Arthur  
 Roswell, on the passing of his sister, Elaine Roswell

## Mazel Tov to...

Joe and Shelley Drozd on the engagement of their daughter, Rebekah, to Brian Weber. A November wedding is planned.

## 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](http://new.livestream.com/OurBethEl) from a personal computer or mobile device (apps are available for [apple](#), [android](#) and [roku](#) devices) for a list of upcoming and recent livestream events from Temple Beth-El.

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

**Mitzvah Committee:** To offer or request help, please contact Carol Ahlert, [carolahlert@yahoo.com](mailto:carolahlert@yahoo.com), or 908-359-9357.

**In the event of a loss during the evening or on the weekend, call Rabbi Gluck at 908-722-0674, ext. 311, or 908-229-1618.**

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

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



Temple Beth-El is a proud participant in the Amazon Associates Program. ([https://www.amazon.com/?\\_encoding=UTF8&tag=tembetel02-20](https://www.amazon.com/?_encoding=UTF8&tag=tembetel02-20)).

## Jewish Hospice Care



- Excellent Nurse to Patient Ratio
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- Bereavement Support Monthly Meeting
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# *Yahrzeits* J a n u a r y

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

## **To be read January 5 and 6**

Justin Galler, husband of Pat Galler  
Jeanette Herman, mother of Ira Herman  
Milton Levenberg, father of Richard Levenberg  
Eleanor Attner, mother of Paul Attner  
Irving Glatt, father of Evelyn Silverstein  
Alan Schneider, husband of Pauline Schneider  
Helen Bernstein, great-aunt of Keith Holler  
Nathan Spinner, brother of Max Spinner  
Michael Zerring, brother of Judith Goldberg  
Elsie Keiles, mother of Ann Weinstein  
Wesley Goldman, father of Shari Albin  
Harold Gliksman, brother of Michael Gliksman  
Esther Rubin Polokoff, grandmother of Kenneth Rubin

## **To be read January 12 and 13**

Ida Okun, mother of Charles Okun  
Margaret Levine, grandmother of Jeremy Bloch  
Milton Spivack, father of Geri Lane  
Rose Della Ventura, grandmother of Stephen Swinick  
Betty Weiss, mother of Michael Weiss  
Barry Adler, father of Derek Adler  
Michael Millstein, brother of Randi Millstein  
Brian Ruderman, husband of Eileen Ruderman  
Julian Freedman, stepfather of Cindy Weiss  
Libby Rita Friedman, mother of Neil Friedman  
Sol Goldberg, father of Michael Goldberg  
Celia Shubitz, grandmother of Gerald Shubitz  
George Rugg, father of Stuart Rugg  
Fryderyk Wojcik, father of Annie Heimberg  
Harry Brody, father of Bruce Brody  
Annaliese Stuart, aunt of Robert Adler  
Fannie Febesh, mother of Ilene Rothschild  
Stephanie L. Graham, wife of Scott Graham  
Ben Lavin, father of Liz Cohen  
Harry Schwartz, uncle of Sylvia Rubin  
Joseph Silverman, father of Lloyd Silverman  
Sophie Brown, mother of Marvin Brown  
Rebecca Cohen, mother of Saul Cohen  
Gussie Osman, grandmother of Larry Osman

## **To be read January 19 and 20**

Ina Roistacher, grandmother of Mara White  
Mary White, mother of Michael White  
Leon Blitman, stepfather of Mara White  
Larry Hillman, father of Lillian Swickle  
Max Adler, father of Robert Adler  
Toby L. Allaway, sister of Carol Levison  
Jack Cudzynowski, father of Joe Cudzynowski  
Harry Bernstein, grandfather of Amy McBride  
Carole Vitelli, mother of Scott Richard  
Edward Klein, father of Leslie Klein  
Charles Lowenthal, grandfather of Lynn Small  
Richard Schiff, uncle of Rick Miller  
Ethel Tischfield, mother of Jay Tischfield  
Albert Waldorf, father of William Waldorf  
Lawrence T. Bernstein, uncle of Amy McBride

Louis Faer, father of Beverly Bober  
Maurice Goldberg, father of Gari Bloom  
Norman Miller, father of Rick Miller  
Shalom Weyl, father of Lewin Weyl  
Leona Berkowitz, mother of Steve Berkowitz  
Gussie Bernstein, grandmother of Amy McBride  
Irvin Goldman, brother of Shari Albin  
Rebecca Spevack, mother of Gail Wohl  
Ida Vogel, sister of Max Spinner  
Ernest A. Compain, grandfather of David Gold  
Dr. Raymond Taub, husband of Goldie Taub  
Rosalie Weitz, mother of Steven Weitz

## **To be read January 26 and 27**

Rose Greenberg, mother of Elaine Krantz  
Anne Marie Lavranchuk, mother of James Lavranchuk  
Morris Bailin, father of Gary Bailin  
Lawrence Bouchonville, father of Maria Landau  
Ida Drexler, grandmother of Howard Engler  
Marilyn Engler, mother of Howard Engler  
Bella Falk, mother of Laura Marshall  
Lillian Giniger, grandmother of David Kornberg  
Anna Herskowitz, grandmother of Helene Fine  
Herman Rubin, husband of Sylvia Rubin  
Selma Smith, mother of Joseph Smith  
Lorraine Perlin, sister-in-law of Beatrice Cohen  
Samuel Gerber, father of Jennifer Gerber  
Shana Rudnitsky, mother of Jennifer Haftel  
Bernard Simon, father of Carol Landesman  
Howard Strand, father of Thomas Strand  
Fanny Wohl, grandmother of Robyn Becker  
Philip Tesser, father of Laurie Novak  
Morris L. Wang, father of Andrea Auerbach  
Arnold Sietz, father of Sharon Sietz  
Ida Toborowsky, mother of Robert Taber  
Ann Gordon, grandmother of Julie Hersh  
Elaine Wedeen, mother of Ken Wedeen

## **To be read February 2 and 3**

Gail Ellen Gold, mother of David Gold and Sarah Gold  
Fannie Kaplin, mother of Phyllis Greenberg  
Alexander Finn Miller, father of Susan Brown  
Roz Ringel, mother of Jeff Ringel  
Cindy Cipos, sister of Barry Hoffner  
Rosalie Stark, mother of Simon Stark  
Rebecca Taub, mother-in-law of Goldie Taub  
Raymond Bateman, brother of Caren Bateman  
Joseph Beck, father of Michael Beck  
Herbert Landesman, father of Glen Landesman  
Lucien Sabah, uncle of Ghislaine Silverman  
Sidney Spector, father of Susan Plan  
Paula Mittleman Edelson, cousin of Goldie Taub  
Rose Feldman, grandmother of Larry Osman  
Julius Frenkel, grandfather of Gary Friedman  
Peter Stein, brother of Mitchell Stein  
Sandra Haftel, mother of Benjamin Haftel  
Florence Zatz, mother of Iris Naroden

# *Yahrzeits* February

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

## **To be read February 9 and 10**

Gail Bashein Shinske, mother of Caryn Shinske  
Beth Gold Soodik, grandmother of Kimberly Beman  
Sol Weinstein, father-in-law of Ann Weinstein  
Norman Weitman, father of Nanette Mantell  
Alice Bober, mother of Michael Bober  
Sol Feldman, grandfather of Larry Osman  
Morris Katchen, father of Beverly Cohen  
Simon Schutzman, grandfather of Cheryl Nelson  
Abraham Small, grandfather of Brian Small  
Edward M. Fink, husband of Rita Fink  
Lillian Jurgrau, mother of Fern Jurgrau-Schiffman  
Ida Springer, aunt of Gerald Shubitz  
Farra Tebbi-Lewis, daughter of Farajollah and Mahin Tebbi  
Norma Albin, mother of Robert Albin  
Lawrence deMackiewicz, brother of Carrie Feuer  
Bernard Levin, father of Harold Levin  
Loretta Block, mother of Felicia Falzone  
Lillian Etkins, mother of Donna Etkins  
Eva Brooks, aunt of Cindy Mangel

## **To be read February 16 and 17**

Samuel Chasin, grandfather of Gerald Shubitz  
Stanley Engler, father of Howard Engler  
Lillian Freed, mother of Diane Morrison  
Augusta Koen, mother of Peter Koen  
Martin Leeds, father of Jodi Bloom  
Bert Schneider, father of Arthur Schneider  
Jessica Schoenberg, sister of Isa Beck  
Marion Friedberg, mother of Morton Friedberg  
Perry Goldfeder, great-uncle of Lynn Small  
Miriam Halpern, mother of Morris Halpern  
Norman Kohn, father of Hal Kohn  
Rose Reinhart Sayne, mother of Morton Reinhart  
Roslyn Sietz, mother of Sharon Sietz  
Charles Mangel, father of Howard Mangel  
Sarah Zerring, mother of Judith Goldberg  
Janice Hoffner, mother of Barry Hoffner  
Ralph B. Jackson, father of June Greenbaum  
Paul Novak, father of Dr. Gerald Novak  
Henry Schwartz, father of Vicki Schwartz  
Harry Cohen, father of Rita Fink  
Philip Auerbach, father-in-law of Andrea Auerbach  
Joseph Farber, father of Edith Hurwitz  
Bette K. Lewin, mother of Carol Levison  
Sara Rechtleben, mother of Deborah Tompa  
Bessie Tucker, mother of Barbara Cohen  
Harold Brandman, father of Ed Brandman  
Joseph Curau, Sr., father of Joseph Curau  
Matilda Goldberg, mother of Michael Goldberg  
Roslyn Newman, grandmother of Jan Miller

## **To be read February 23 and 24**

Sophia Tentler, mother of Simona Rivkin  
Bernard Weigl, grandfather of Lynn Small  
Irene Cohen, sister of Stanley Kanterman  
Rabbi Matthew Derby, father of Frank Derby  
Al Freiman, father of Roy Freiman  
Beatrice Klein, mother of David Klein  
David Mendelson, brother of Stanley Mendelson  
Anna Rosen, mother of Rochelle Levin  
Shaul Yarkoni, father of Yaniv Yarkoni  
Vincent Falzone, father of Scott Falzone  
Miriam Meyer, aunt of Alan Fass  
Molly Schutzman, grandmother of Cheryl Nelson  
Bertha Posner, aunt of Marcy Rosenfeld  
Irv Rabinowitz, father of Sarah Gluck  
Alfred Goldberg, grandfather of Shavaun Gliksman  
Cary E. Goldberg, father of Lisa Goldberg  
Rose Spinner, mother of Max Spinner  
Charles Fetaya, father of Pat Fetaya  
Adam Goldberg, brother of Carl Goldberg  
Mary Beth Lieb, mother of Wendy Spinner  
David Marcus, father of Richard Marcus  
Marjorie Silverman, wife of Lloyd Silverman,  
mother of Jeff Silverman  
Benjamin Wald, father of David Wald

## **To be read March 2 and 3**

Estelle Freeman, mother of Richard Freeman  
William Knauer, father of Leonard Knauer  
Ruth Papier, grandmother of Shelley Drozd  
Harold Jurgrau, father of Fern Jurgrau-Schiffman  
Harriet Morrison, sister-in-law of Leon Morrison  
Beverly Weitman, mother of Nanette Mantell  
Greta Bauer, mother of Ulrich Bauer  
Dorothy Dallow, mother of Brian Dallow  
Gus Friedman, father of Marc Friedman  
Anna Rosenthal, mother of Arlene Hysen  
Billie Sharon Crumley, sister of Stuart Southland  
Rose Grossman, mother of Linda Strand  
Augusta Auerbach, mother-in-law of Andrea Auerbach  
Morris Schenkman, father of Eugene Schenkman  
Herman Blond, father of David Blond  
Walter Klimczak, father of Joan Weiss  
Florence Naidorff, mother of Judy Schachter

## Acts of Tzedakah

### General Fund

In honor of Gordon Lovas' conversion

*Amy and Ken Rubin*

In memory of Jackie Rubenstein

*Cynthia Scott*

*Amy and Ken Rubin*

*Robert and Jeanne Burgermeister*

*Jay Rubenstein*

*Linda Roskein*

In memory of Harry Brody and Gustave Kaitz

*Bruce and Reva Lee Brody*

In memory of Elaine Roswell

*Larry and Robin Osman*

*Amy and Ken Rubin*

### Ariel E. Malberg Social Action Fund

In memory of Jackie Rubenstein

*Marc and Alta Malberg*

In memory of Mildred Trachtenberg

*Marc and Alta Malberg*

### Adult Education Fund

In memory of Jackie Rubenstein

*Caren Bateman and Keith Chanoch*

### Cultural Arts Fund

*Dave and Liz Cohen*

### Jules Swickle Chesed Fund

*Daniel and Rebecca Guss*

*Bank of America Foundation*

### Library Fund

In memory of Florence Levenson

*Edith and Stuart Rugg*

### Mazon Hunger Fund

In honor of Barbara and Russ Johnston

*Oscar Gonzalez and Jodi Siegal*

In memory of Jay Jefferson Cooke

*Rhona Ferling*

### Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

In memory of Jackie Rubenstein and Marilyn Rosen Feldman

*Larry and Robin Osman*

In memory of Jeffrey Rugg

*Edith and Stuart Rugg*

In memory of Jackie Rubenstein

*Cindy Andrews and Family*

In appreciation of Rabbi Gluck

*Keith and Nicole Oringer*

In honor of the naming of our children

*Matthew and Melissa Horch*

### Religious School Enrichment Fund

In honor of Sarah Gluck

*Goldie Taub*

### Memorial Fund

In memory of Judith Cohen and Jeanette Tuckman

*Jeanette and Edward Tuckman*

In memory of Roslyn and Leonard Eber

*Beth Moran*

In memory of Jackie Rubenstein

*Barbara and Russ Johnston*

In memory of Isabelle Mendelson

*Stanley Mendelson*

In memory of Zena Fish and Eugene Bradley

*Patrick and Andrea Bradley*

In memory of Warren Thaler

*Harriet Thaler*

In memory of Herb Sloan

*Judith Sloan*

In memory of Bernice Skowronek

*Joshua Skowronek*

In memory of Ira Tiplitz

*Andrea and Matthew Wolkofsky*

In memory of Al Sweetwood and Roberta Meyers

*Gail and Ed Meyers*

In memory of Jules Blake

*Barbara Blake*

In memory of Esther Cohen

*Rita Fink*

In memory of Ida Okun

*Charles and Madelyn Okun*

In memory of Sol Goldberg and Michael Zerring

*Michael and Judith Goldberg*

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

- |                                     |                             |                                     |                                  |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| • Adult Education                   | • Garden                    | • Library                           | • Ariel E. Malberg Social Action |
| • Beautification                    | • General Fund              | • Mazon Hunger Fund                 | Fund (including IHN)             |
| • B'nei Mitzvah Fund                | • Holocaust Education       | • Memorial                          | • Special Needs                  |
| • Brotherhood Youth Scholarship     | • Israel Matters            | • Prayer Book                       | • Yad Chazakah Fund              |
| • Cantor Pincus' Discretionary Fund | • Israel Travel Fund        | • Rabbi Gluck's Discretionary Fund  | • Youth Activities               |
| • Cemetery                          | • Jules Swickle Chesed Fund | • Religious School Enrichment       |                                  |
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We are not able to accept verbal or email dedications and donations.



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# Welcome TO THE WORLD

Mason William Weitz arrived on December 31, 2017, weighing in at a whopping 9 lbs 3 oz. He's the son of Daniel and Danielle Weitz, who first met as teens at URJ Camp Harlam. Parents and baby are doing fine, and grandparents Steven and Elayne Weitz couldn't be happier! Mason joins cousins Olivia and Lilah Weitz in the growing Weitz family.



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## Calendar of Events

### Monday, January 1

New Year's Day — Offices Closed

### Tuesday, January 2

7:00 p.m. Jewish LIFE: Mussar: Seeking Everyday Holiness  
7:00 p.m. Mah Jongg

### Thursday, January 4

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

### Friday, January 5

8:00 p.m. Shabbat Evening Service

### Saturday, January 6

9:00 a.m. Shabbat Experience for Young Families  
10:00 a.m. Shabbat Minyan Service and Torah Study  
7:00 p.m. Jewish LIFE: Israeli Film Series *Apples from the Desert*

### Sunday, January 7

9:00 a.m. Jewish LIFE: Trope with Cantor Pincus/Adult B'nei Mitzvah Class  
9:00 a.m. Sunday School  
9:00 a.m. RS Camp Program  
10:00 a.m. Jewish LIFE: Beginning Biblical Hebrew  
11:30 a.m. Jewish Spirituality Group

### Monday, January 8

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

### Tuesday, January 9

7:30 p.m. Membership Committee Meeting  
7:30 p.m. Young Family Initiative Meeting

### Wednesday, January 10

4:30 p.m. Hebrew School  
6:30 p.m. Confirmation Academy  
7:30 p.m. Sisterhood Board Meeting  
7:30 p.m. B'rit K'hillah Meeting

### Thursday, January 11

7:00 p.m. Jewish LIFE: Eddy Portnoy, Bad Rabbi and Other Strange Stories  
7:30 p.m. Jewish LIFE: Israeli Folk Dancing

### Friday, January 12

Grade 8/9 Trip to NYC Departs  
8:00 p.m. Shabbat Evening Service with Social Action

### Saturday, January 13

Grade 8/9 Trip to NYC  
10:00 a.m. Shabbat Minyan Service and Torah Study

### Sunday, January 14

Grade 8/9 Trip to NYC Returns  
9:00 a.m. Jewish LIFE: Interpretive Lenses: Reading and Understanding Torah with Rabbi Gluck  
10:30 a.m. Jewish LIFE: Beginning Biblical Hebrew  
1:00 p.m. Wise Aging Group

### Monday, January 15

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

### Tuesday, January 16

7:00 p.m. Jewish LIFE: Mussar: Seeking Everyday Holiness

### Wednesday, January 17

7:00 p.m. TBE Reads *Hillbilly Elegy*  
7:30 p.m. Investment Committee Meeting

### Thursday, January 18

7:00 p.m. Jewish LIFE: Yvette Corporon  
7:30 p.m. Jewish LIFE: Israeli Folk Dancing

### Friday, January 19

7:00 p.m. Family Shabbat Service

### Saturday, January 20

10:00 a.m. Shabbat Minyan Service and Torah Study  
7:00 p.m. Youth: SMOOCHY Shul-in  
7:00 p.m. Empty Nester and Baby Boomer Event (Dinner at Sahara's)

### Sunday, January 21

9:00 a.m. Young Family Schmooze  
9:00 a.m. Sunday School with Grade 6 Family Ed

### Monday, January 22

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

### Wednesday, January 24

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

### Thursday, January 25

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

### Friday, January 26

Shabbat Shirah  
7:00 p.m. Shabbat Pre-Neg  
7:00 p.m. Youth: Blue Jean Shabbat  
8:00 p.m. Shabbat Evening Service with Choir and Tefillah Band for Shabbat Shirah

### Saturday, January 27

Shabbat Shirah  
9:00 a.m. Regional Shabbaton  
5:00 p.m. Young Family Pajama Party  
5:00 p.m. Youth: Grade 6/7 Tu BiShvat Event  
7:00 p.m. Game Night

### Sunday, January 28

9:00 a.m. Sunday School with Grade 4 Family Ed  
9:00 a.m. Jewish LIFE: Hebrew Reading Refresher + Prayer Practice/Adult B'nei Mitzvah Class  
10:00 a.m. Jewish LIFE: Beginning Biblical Hebrew  
10:00 a.m. Youth: NFTY-GER Elections (Time TBA)  
1:00 p.m. Wise Aging Group

### Monday, January 29

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

### Tuesday, January 30

7:00 p.m. Jewish LIFE: Mussar: Seeking Everyday Holiness

### Wednesday, January 31

4:30 p.m. Hebrew School  
6:30 p.m. Confirmation Academy  
7:30 p.m. Women's Torah Study

Visit our online calendar at [www.ourbethel.org/calendar](http://www.ourbethel.org/calendar) for more information, room locations and updated information.

## Calendar of Events

### Thursday, February 1

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

### Friday, February 2

Post-Confirmation Trip to Atlanta  
8:00 p.m. Shabbat Evening Service with Brotherhood

### Saturday, February 3

Post-Confirmation Trip to Atlanta  
10:00 a.m. Shabbat Minyan Service and Torah Study  
12:00 p.m. Tu B'Shvat Seder and Potluck Luncheon

### Sunday, February 4

Post-Confirmation Trip to Atlanta  
9:00 a.m. Sunday School  
9:00 a.m. Jewish LIFE: Hebrew Reading Refresher +  
Prayer Practice/Adult B'nei Mitzvah Class  
10:00 a.m. Jewish LIFE: Beginning Biblical Hebrew  
11:30 a.m. Jewish Spirituality Group  
1:00 p.m. Wise Aging Group

### Monday, February 5

4:30 p.m. Hebrew School  
6:30 p.m. Youth Culture Committee Meeting  
7:00 p.m. Mah Jongg  
7:30 p.m. Ritual Committee Meeting  
7:30 p.m. School Committee Meeting

### Wednesday, February 7

4:30 p.m. Hebrew School  
6:30 p.m. Confirmation Academy  
7:00 p.m. Greenfaith Meeting  
7:30 p.m. Membership Committee Meeting

### Thursday, February 8

7:00 p.m. Jewish LIFE: Abigail Progrebin, My Jewish Year  
7:30 p.m. Jewish LIFE: Israeli Folk Dancing

### Friday, February 9

7:00 p.m. Family Shabbat Service with Consecration  
7:00 p.m. Youth: Grade 4/5 Shabbaton

### Saturday, February 10

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

### Sunday, February 11

IHN Hosting Week  
8:45 a.m. Jewish LIFE: Hebrew Reading Refresher +  
Prayer Practice/Adult B'nei Mitzvah Class  
9:00 a.m. Sunday School with Grade 2 Family Ed  
9:00 a.m. Brotherhood Breakfast  
9:00 a.m. Young Family Schmooze  
9:30 a.m. Jewish LIFE: Trope with Cantor Pincus/Adult  
B'nei Mitzvah Class  
10:30 a.m. Jewish LIFE: Beginning Biblical Hebrew  
11:00 a.m. RS: Madrichim Training  
1:00 p.m. Wise Aging Group

### Monday, February 12

IHN Hosting Week  
4:30 p.m. Hebrew School  
7:00 p.m. Mah Jongg  
7:30 p.m. Oversight Committee Meeting

### Tuesday, February 13

IHN Hosting Week  
5:00 p.m. Youth: Grade 6/7 Event  
7:00 p.m. Jewish LIFE: Mussar: Seeking Everyday  
Holiness

### Wednesday, February 14

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

### Thursday, February 15

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

### Friday, February 16

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

### Saturday, February 17

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

### Sunday, February 18

IHN Hosting Week

### Monday, February 19

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

### Wednesday, February 21

6:30 p.m. Confirmation Academy  
7:30 p.m. Sisterhood Board Meeting

### Thursday, February 22

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

### Friday, February 23

Confirmation L'Taken (RAC Trip) Departs  
8:00 p.m. Shabbat Evening Service with the Choir

### Saturday, February 24

Confirmation L'Taken (RAC Trip)  
9:00 a.m. Shabbat Experience for Young Families  
10:00 a.m. Shabbat Minyan Service and Torah Study  
7:00 p.m. Game Night  
7:30 p.m. Brotherhood Poker Tourney

### Sunday, February 25

Confirmation L'Taken (RAC Trip)  
8:45 a.m. Jewish LIFE: Hebrew Reading Refresher +  
Prayer Practice/Adult B'nei Mitzvah Class  
9:00 a.m. Purim Bag Pickup  
9:00 a.m. Sunday School  
9:00 a.m. Grade 5 Field Trip to NYC (Time TBD)  
9:30 a.m. Jewish LIFE: Trope with Cantor Pincus/Adult  
B'nei Mitzvah Class  
10:30 a.m. Jewish LIFE: Beginning Biblical Hebrew  
12:30 a.m. Jewish LIFE: Community-wide JCC Purim  
Carnival  
1:00 p.m. Wise Aging Group

### Monday, February 26

Confirmation L'Taken (RAC Trip) Returns  
4:30 p.m. Hebrew School  
6:30 p.m. Post-Confirmation  
7:00 p.m. Mah Jongg  
7:30 p.m. Board of Trustees Meeting

### Tuesday, February 27

7:00 p.m. Jewish LIFE: Mussar: Seeking Everyday  
Holiness

### Wednesday, February 28

4:30 p.m. Hebrew School  
7:00 p.m. Erev Purim — Megillah Reading and Purim  
Spiel



## Contacting Temple Beth-El

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To Contact the Temple Beth-El Staff by email:

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