

Hanukkah at the Stamford Government Center



Providing Food, Gifts, Hats & Gloves to Local Shelters

SEE PAGE 8 FOR MORE



100
TEMPLE BETH EL
CELEBRATING OUR FIRST 100 YEARS

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OUR STAFF IS MOST EAGER TO ASSIST YOU

Monday-Thursday, 9am-5:00 pm | Friday, 9am - 2:00pm

Phone: 203-322-6901 Fax: 203-322-0532

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LIVING AMPHIBIOUSLY

As we turn the page to 2022, it has become clear that life has changed irreversibly. With the sudden emergence of the Omicron variant, we are forced to accept the reality that Covid is not going away any time soon.



So now the question that seems to be predominate is no longer how to get beyond Covid, but how do we live with it?

The first Shabbat in January will introduce us to part of the solution. In the Torah we'll begin to recount the Ten Plagues, and in particular the second one, the plague of frogs. We need to be like the Israelites in Egypt, who had to bear the impact of this affliction. The Torah tells us that some of the Ten Plagues bypassed ("passed over") the Israelites, but not the first three. The bloody Nile was no less bloody for our ancestors (Ex. 7:21) than for their Egyptian neighbors. The frogs were no less froggy, covering the "whole land of Egypt" (8:2). Same holds for vermin (8:13). The text states explicitly that the vermin affected "all of Egypt."

Only when the fourth plague is announced does the pattern shift so that the Israelites are spared: *"And in that day I will set apart the land of Goshen, in which My people dwell, that no swarms of flies shall be there, in order that you may know that I am the Lord in the midst of the land."* (Ex 8:22). Thank God, no flies. The Israelites were spared, most famously, from the final plague, the death of the first born.

But for blood, frogs and vermin, the Israelites had to endure and adapt, just as we have to adapt to the current plague. It spares no one.

So how does one adapt to a plague. Here's a hint:
Ribit. Ribit.

According to an authoritative source – a children's song – *One morning when Pharaoh woke in his bed there were frogs in his bed and frogs on his head.* We feel the same way.

Covid here, Covid there, Covid jumping everywhere!

We have to learn how to live amphibiously. We need to get used to a hybrid existence, maintaining our social networks, because if we have learned one thing over the past two years, it's that we need social connections; and if we've learned something else, it's that it is possible to stay connected even when physical proximity isn't feasible.

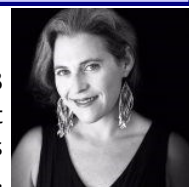
How do we deal with this? Neither by burying our heads in the sand nor our bodies in the basement. We need to learn how to thrive both in-person and online, and to be able to shift between the two effortlessly. We need to become permanently amphibious. Hybrid is the word of the year for 2022, describing our cars, our food, our workplaces, and our social and religious gatherings too.

Right now, all our services and most educational events are available online. We've done many social gatherings and some religious services in person as well, and we can shift

Continued on page 16...

AN INVITATION

It has been a long and winding 18 months since I first became the Cantor at Temple Beth El and because of COVID, it has also been a time of isolation and separation. As we embark on the cold winter months and the new secular year of 2022, I would like to extend an invitation for connection with all of you. I would love to get to know you better, your hopes, your dreams, and your hearts' longings. As loneliness threatens us all and becomes even more pervasive in the winter months, I hope that you will respond to this invitation so that we may set a time to meet, to talk, to share stories, and develop connection.



The best way to contact me is by e-mail Cantor@tbe.org which I check often. I would love to set appointments to meet in person, at a mutually agreeable location, or virtually either via phone or on ZOOM. My office hours by appointment are Tuesdays and Wednesdays and if those days don't work, we can always arrange an alternative day and time.

I leave you with the words of Oriah Mountain Dreamer, **The Invitation**, and hope that you will take me up on mine.

Cantor Katie Kaplan

The Invitation

By Oriah Mountain Dreamer

It doesn't interest me
what you do for a living.
I want to know
what you ache for
and if you dare to dream
of meeting your heart's longing.

It doesn't interest me
how old you are.
I want to know
if you will risk
looking like a fool
for love
for your dream
for the adventure of being alive.

It doesn't interest me
what planets are
squaring your moon...
I want to know
if you have touched
the centre of your own sorrow
if you have been opened
by life's betrayals
or have become shrivelled and closed
from fear of further pain.

I want to know
if you can sit with pain
mine or your own

Continued on page 16...

REFLECTING BACK

Dear TBE Family,

As 2021 comes to an end, the time has come for me to announce that I am leaving my job as Engagement Coordinator in order to return to my clinical field. I will be working at The Waverly Group as a therapist for children and adolescents, while also training to become a Certified Gottman Couple's Therapist. While I am excited to shift back to my field of Clinical Social Work, leaving this position is bittersweet.

Temple Beth El has not just been a job to me, but a community and a home. After growing up in the congregation, I knew when I moved back to Stamford five years ago that I wanted to return to TBE, though I wasn't sure what it would be like to find my community as an adult - without the framework of my Religious School classes, Junior Choir rehearsals, or helping out with Hebrew tutoring, as I did here before leaving for college in the 90's.

I was lucky to find my home once again. I started my work here almost four years ago as Young Families Coordinator and loved getting to know so many parents and children through our programs; so much so that I chose to expand my reach after a year as Engagement Coordinator. I have learned so much working with the Membership Committee, recruiting and engaging prospective and returning members, and have found great fulfillment collaborating with so many inspiring, creative minds to design innovative ways to connect our congregants to one another. I feel so fortunate to have met so many wonderful people, and to have seen so many different parts of our community that I didn't even know existed. TBE has proven that it indeed has a place for everyone.

One thing that I wish for this community, as I step away from my role, is that you will all continue connecting with one another. Join or start a TBE Club, organize or participate in one of many Mitzvah Projects or committees this congregation offers, become an Ambassador to prospective and new members, attend Shabbat services, join our new Networking Club, join the Parents Committee for family programming, check out a social event, and introduce yourself to someone new. There are so many amazing people in this congregation, and I hope you are all able to take the time to search and connect with one another - you'll be glad you did.

Wishing you all the best,
Jami Fener

TBE MITZVAH PROJECTS

We are proud to share some beautiful Mitzvah Projects, initiated and completed by our amazing congregants.

Operation Gratitude by Peter Wolly

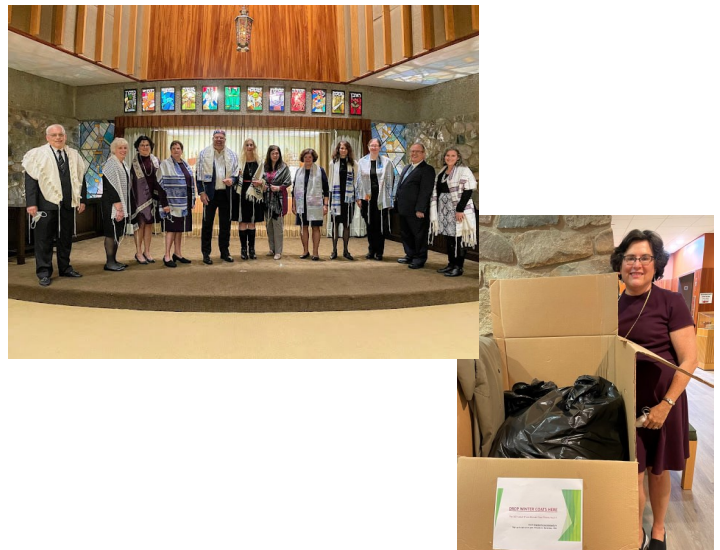
Peter Wolly took part in Operation Gratitude's Halloween Candy Give Back Program which has connected communities with their military, veteran, and first responder heroes each fall since 2007. Excess Halloween candy is collected so that volunteers like Peter can then distribute it to these first responders, providing a sweet opportunity for grateful Americans to thank those who serve our nation. The candy is a morale boost - everyone loves candy - but it also allows first responders to use the treats to make connections with others by giving them out at community events such as parades or holiday parties.

Peter has "purchased" the majority of his own kids' Halloween candy every year since they've been toddlers, and has donated it to Operation Gratitude, but this is the first year that he has organized the candy drop-off drive. In the end, he collected over 350 lbs. which he delivered to a Hartford hospital on Veteran's day! Way to go, Peter!



TBE's Adult B'nai Mitzvah Class Coat Drive

As their Mitzvah Project this fall, the 2021 TBE Adult B'nai Mitzvah class collected 36 winter coats for children and adults. The coats were donated to Person-to-Person in Darien. The woman collecting the coats expressed her gratitude for the donation of so many, very good quality, warm coats which she said are desperately needed. Many thanks to the class: Melody Bryant, Saffron Castle, Fran Ginsburg, Paula Green, Juli Harris, Leslie Heyison, Barbara Rothstein, Hope Stanger and Brian Sterenka. Thank you all for organizing this important drive!





TBE Clubs is a TBE initiative that engages small groups of congregants in meaningful activities that fuel the body and inspire the soul. Equally important, TBE Clubs act as a way by which congregants can pursue their passions and find new friends within the synagogue community.

Here is a current list of available clubs, which can also be found on the TBE website at: <https://www.tbe.org/tbe-clubs/>. TBE members interested in joining a club should reach out to the club's point person for more information. If you have any questions or have an idea to start your own club, new clubs will be forming in Fall 2021 - more information coming soon!

PROFESSIONAL NETWORKING CLUB (See page 10)

TBE is looking to launch a Professional Networking Club. In an effort to develop a robust start, we are looking to create a database to assist other members. This professional networking group will engage members to: Build both personal and professional relationships, potentially growing their business, develop soft skills and assist other members in need. We are looking to:

Learn
Engage
Advise
Religion (Jewish Ethics)
Network

Point Person: Eric Sigman at ESigman1@gmail.com

Looking forward to networking and learning with you.

TBE MUSICIANS & SINGERS

This intergenerational club will bring together musicians and singers of all ages and experience levels to participate and hopefully perform at the synagogue when the COVID pandemic is behind us. The theme of this group is "Jews that Rock," performing material by Jewish artists, such as Carol King and Billy Joel. The point person, Paul, is a drummer, so he is looking for a bass, guitar, and keyboard player to create the core band. Other club members are invited to sing and/or rotate through different instruments.

Point Person: Paul Weinstein at drpaulweinstein@gmail.com or (203) 219-4191

HEART-TO-HEART

This group is focused on providing support for those dealing with or suffering from grief and loss. We will offer a safe space for listening and sharing, and provide tools to help members move through difficult situations and feelings. The group's intention is to guide members in reclaiming their light inside. Heart-to-Heart will meet over Zoom for now, twice a month, every other Wednesday at 7:00 pm.

Point Person: Hope Stanger HHC, Trauma Therapist and Holistic Health Counselor, at theholisticempire@yahoo.com

or (203) 357-0242; or Pamela Tinkham LCSW, Trauma Therapist and Yoga Therapist, at pamelatinkham@gmail.com

BROADWAY AND MOVIES REVISITED

Join other theatre and film lovers to watch movie versions of Broadway shows, as well as films of the past and present. We will compare and discuss shows beyond entertainment value, including their messages as reflections of society, history, and culture. The club will meet monthly over Zoom for the time being.

Point Person: Barbara Rothstein at brothstein320@gmail.com or (203) 614-8053; Carl Shapiro at cshapiro@optonline.net or (203) 273-1968

MITZVAH GARDEN CLUB

The club will provide its members the opportunity to plant and grow their own vegetables and/or flowers in TBE's very special Mitzvah Garden. Members will meet individually or as a family and each will be able to plant and care for their own bed(s) with the produce/flowers of their choosing. Beds are still available so please reach out soon!

Point Person: Meryl Silverstein at merylandhank@optonline.net or (203) 588-0026

HIKING AND WALKING CLUB

Club members will explore the beautiful trails, gardens and other venues within a one-hour drive of TBE. There may be a visit to a small museum or lunch after the hike/walk. Hikes/walks will be scheduled during the week and on Sundays to accommodate varied schedules. Point Person: Leslie Heyison at lheyison@gmail.com or (646) 354-3950

TBE STEMers

For those interested in learning and teaching others in the field of science, this is the club for you. We will discuss Jewish topics of interest, such as medical and research ethics, as well as present on individual areas in which we specialize. Meetings will take place monthly over Zoom for now. On occasion, we will also organize lectures and speakers for the congregation.

Point Person: Fran Ginsburg at ginsstamf@gmail.com or (203) 979-9570





SHABBAT AND FESTIVAL SERVICES



Shabbat morning services will be held on Zoom.

Friday night services will be held on Livestream only
on January 7 & 14. Please check the weekly Shabbat
Announcements for the venue of future Friday night services.

JANUARY

Shabbat, January 1

Shabbat Service 10:00 a.m.

Friday, January 7

Kabbalat Shabbat Service 7:00 p.m. - Livestream only

Shabbat, January 8

Shabbat Service 10:00 a.m.

ShaBaBimBam 11:00 a.m. on Zoom

Friday, January 14 - Martin Luther King Weekend

Kabbalat Shabbat Service 7:00 p.m. - Livestream only

Rabbi Gerry Ginsburg delivers the D'var Torah

Shabbat, January 15

Shabbat Service 10:00 a.m.

Rabbi Gerry Ginsburg delivers the D'var Torah

Friday, January 21

Kabbalat Shabbat Service 7:00 p.m.

Shabbat, January 22

Shabbat Service 10:00 a.m.

SYLVIE ROSENBERG, BAT MITZVAH

Friday, January 28

Kabbalat Shabbat Service 7:00 p.m.

Shabbat, January 29

Shabbat Service 10:00 a.m.

FEBRUARY

Friday, February 4

Kabbalat Shabbat Service 7:00 p.m.

Shabbat, February 5

Shabbat Service 10:00 a.m.

ShaBaBimBam 11:00 a.m.

Friday, February 11

Kabbalat Shabbat Service 7:00 p.m.

Shabbat, February 12

Shabbat Service 10:00 a.m.

Friday, February 18

Kabbalat Shabbat Service 7:00 p.m.

Shabbat, February 19

Shabbat Service 10:00 a.m.

Friday, February 25

Kabbalat Shabbat Service 7:00 p.m.

"You've Got A Friend" - Meet and Greet Cantor Katie Kaplan

Shabbat, February 26

Shabbat Service 10:00 a.m.

B'NAI MITZVAH



January 22

SYLVIE ROSENBERG

Daughter of Julie and Remi

Sister of Jonah

Attends Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy

Mitzvah Project: Collecting soup

boxes, cans and mixes, and socks for

local food bank and shelters

ADULT EDUCATION

THE GREAT (AND LESS GREAT) JEWISH IDEAS OF THE PAST HALF CENTURY

With Rabbi Joshua Hammerman

On selected Tuesday nights at 7:00 pm

January 4, 25 | February 1, 15, 22

This 20-session class is based on the new collection, "The New Jewish Canon: Ideas and Debates 1980-2015,"

The class will read and discuss excerpts from such classic works as Harold Kushner's "When Bad Things Happen to Good People," Elie Wiesel's Nobel Peace Prize acceptance speech, Abraham Joshua Heschel's "Moral Grandeur and Spiritual Audacity," Jonathan Sacks' "The Dignity of Difference," and many more. We'll read from a wide variety of thinkers reflecting a vast spectrum ranging from Mair Kahane to Irving (Yitz) Greenberg to Peter Beinart.

It's recommended that participants purchase the textbook (\$39.00 paperback), but PDF files of assigned texts will also be available. Please register at www.tinyurl.com/greatideas21-22

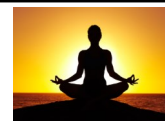
We will begin on Zoom, subject to change to hybrid when the Covid-19 situation improves.

MEDITATION AND GUIDED IMAGERY

with

Katie Kaplan, Cantorial Soloist

January 11 and February 8 at 7:00pm



Join us as we use breath, chant, and visualization to carve out a moment of peace in our lives.

(Zoom link available in the Shabbat Announcements)

MIDWINTER THEOLOGICAL PROGRAM JONAH

Thursdays at 7:00pm

January 20, 27, February 3, 10

Jewish & Christian Perspectives on Jonah

Thursday, January 20

Presenters:

Rabbi Joshua Hammerman and Reverend Dr. Harry Pappas
on Zoom from Temple Beth El

MAZAL TOV TO...

Lois Stark and Gary Lessen on the birth of a granddaughter, Lily Bea, born to Emily Lessen and Robbie Sparno.

Lisa and Jeff Manheim on the birth of a son, Oz Emmanuel.

Denise and David Greenman on the birth of a granddaughter, Layla Simone, born to Jen and Matt Sakofs.

Binnie Ditesheim on the birth of a great-granddaughter, Mia Helen, born to Abigail and Eric Frick.



Share your family's simcha (engagement, marriage, birth, Bar or Bat Mitzvah of a child or grandchild) and other joyous event. Just contact the TBE office at office@tbe.org or 203-322-6901, ext. 301.

HONORABLE MENSCHEN TODAH RABAH TO OUR TORAH READERS!

MELODY BRYANT ★ SAFFRON CASTLE ★ FRAN GINSBURG
RABBI GERRY GINSBURG ★ PAULA GREEN ★ JULI HARRIS
LESLIE HEYISON ★ LISA GROVE-RAIDER
RABBI JOSHUA HAMMERMAN
CANTOR KATIE KAPLAN ★ BERT MADWED
LEO MAHLER ★ NAOMI MARKS BARBARA ROTHSTEIN
SUSAN SCHNEIDERMAN ★ NATE SIGMAN
HOPE STANGER ★ BRIAN STERANKA
EDEN WEISEL ★ SHELBY WEISEL

THANK YOU FOR SPONSORING THE SHABBAT ANNOUNCEMENTS

ALISSA WOOL and PETER WEISEL

THANK YOU FOR SPONSORING KIDDUSH AND THE ONEG-TO-GO

ALISSA WOOL and PETER WEISEL

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL ANNUAL BRIT MILAH



YOUNG FAMILIES

TBE ShaBaBimBam

A Shabbat program for families with children 5 and younger (older siblings welcome!)



Shabbat Mornings 11:00am



Led by Natasha Fenster
and Steve Epstein!

January 8, 2022 - Virtual
February 5, 2022
March 5, 2022
April 2, 2022
May 7, 2022
June 4, 2022

Questions?
Contact office@tbe.org

Temple Beth El
350 Roxbury Road, Stamford, CT
203-322-6901 | www.tbe.org
[facebook.com/youngfamiliesTBE](https://www.facebook.com/youngfamiliesTBE)

We will meet on Zoom
in January

Click here to join the fun:
<https://zoom.us/j/93618704145>
Password: 461750

HAVE YOU VISITED OUR WEBSITE?

www.tbe.org

Find out about the latest news and upcoming activities ... access our online membership directory ... register for events and make donations ... connect to TBE's Twitter and Facebook pages ... and much more.

Hello Fellow Volunteers at TBE,

Another Temple Beth El Christmas Eve Shelter project has concluded! We had all hoped 2021 would return to the full event that it has been for so many years but unfortunately it did not.

Good news:

- TBE provided meals, drinks, gifts, desserts to over 200 people at three different shelters on Christmas Eve
- The recipients were very appreciative of all we provided to make their holiday a little bit brighter
- We had over 60 TBE families participating in the event
- As a congregation we worked together to accomplish what was needed to provide for those less fortunate in our community
- We stayed safe and did not contribute to the spread of COVID in our community

Bad news:

- Santa and Mrs. Claus could not hand out the gifts
- We did not get to hear our three magnificent choirs sing holiday songs and raise the spirits of the residents (usually led by Caryl Poser, Sue Schneiderman and Leslie Heyison/Jodi Maxner)
- We missed Rabbi Hammerman and Mara saying words of wisdom to the residents at the shelters
- We did not get to be in person and work side by side with our fellow congregants
- We did not get to share a meal at Ocha after our work was done at the shelters

Although we were all disappointed in the modified events, we should focus mostly on why we do this event. It is to provide for people in our community that need a hand during difficult times. It is to perform tzedakah. It is to remind ourselves what is important in life and to make sure we keep perspective on things which is not always easy to do in Fairfield County.

So, the main objectives we have accomplished!

We hope that 2022 brings an end to the pandemic (maybe we'll be in an endemic phase) so that we can come together in person to do tzedakah.

This event would not be possible if not for the efforts of my co-chairs Karen Resnick and Joy Katz. Year after year they are the site leaders for New Covenant and Pacific House respectively. They are a sounding board and generate ideas with me on how to organize the event. They collect the items and deliver them to the site. This year Karen, Bill, Molly and Rachel also worked side by side with Belle Horwitz and Jon Weiner to package the "to go" lunch boxes at New Covenant, make the hot chocolate and hand out the gifts. At Pacific House and Franklin Street, we did not have people at the site due to COVID protocols at the shelters.

This year we switched to SignUpGenius since Google

Beth El Cares focuses on chesed and tzedakah by helping the poor and unfortunate through mitzvot, both in our synagogue and the greater Stamford community. We welcome volunteers! This is the work we are currently engaged in. If you are interested in volunteering in any of these endeavors, please contact the person listed.

Reyut (Friendship): Committed to serving the needs of those in our TBE community, including friendly visits, assistance with errands and transportation, Shabbat bag delivery to hospitalized patients. Contact Melanie Massell at reyut@tbe.org or 203-324-7190.

Project Ezra: Providing pre-shiva meals to the bereaved in the congregation. Contact Joy Katz at joykatz@yahoo.com or 203-329-3359.

Serving the homeless: Helping prepare and serve food — you can do either or both — to the homeless at New Covenant Center in Stamford on the fifth Thursday of each month. Times are 2:30-4:15 pm and 4:15-5:30 pm. Contact Amy Temple at aetemple@optonline.net or 203-496-1309.

High Holiday Food Drive: Contact Sharon Turshen at 203-323-3872

Christmas dinners at local homeless shelters: Contact Amy Temple at aetemple@optonline.net or 203-496-1309.

Sheets was difficult for some people. I want to thank Mindy and Linda for helping get the Signup Genius set up and for keeping me informed of the donations coming in. I really appreciate their help!

It is hard to put into words the gratitude I feel toward all of you for volunteering to help with the TBE Christmas Eve lunch/dinners despite the trying times many of us have been experiencing ourselves. This has not been any easy year for any of us, yet we came together as a community to do what we could to brighten people's day at the holidays. When this event started decades ago it was at Pacific House and we provided the meal and gifts to one shelter. It has grown to include choirs providing lively entertainment at three shelters. It is a monumental task but with the congregants at Temple Beth El it goes very smoothly and effortlessly. You are all so generous with your time and your purse. No one has to ask twice. Once the request goes out, people are continuously responding and committing to donate and to help. You truly make it so easy, and I am so grateful to be a part of this wonderfully, generous community.

Many of you have volunteered for 10+ years. This year we continued to get new people jumping in to volunteer and join the effort.


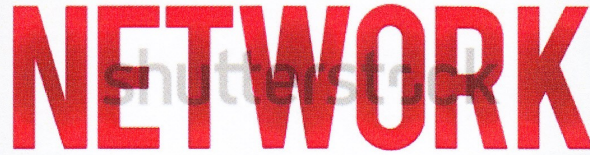
In total we had well over 60 families contributing money, food, paper goods and gifts.

I am including an apology in case I have left anyone out of the acknowledgements or the email distribution. Even if I missed your name, please know I appreciate what you do

Continued on page 19...

@ TBE

DATABASE



Sign - up: <https://tinyurl.com/TBENetwork>

TBE UPDATES COVID-19 GUIDELINES

The TBE Reopening Committee has modified the set of COVID-19 guidelines governing in-person, onsite activities held at the synagogue. These changes are based on current guidance/regulations from federal, state and local public-health agencies, as well as best practices at other religious institutions.

To view the guidelines, please go to tbe.org/covid-guidelines.

The Reopening Committee is chaired by Past-President Gary Lessen and comprised of congregants with medical, safety and other needed areas of expertise.



Special Occasion?

Sponsor The Shabbat E-announcements
(sent every week via e-mail)

The Shabbat Announcements
(distributed each Shabbat at the Temple)

and the Shabbat-O-Gram
(e-mailed every Thursday night)

All three publications for \$72

All sponsors will be acknowledged at the beginning of each of these announcements and also listed in our bi-monthly Bulletin.

Call Mindy in the office at 322-6901 ext. 301.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE A GABBAI?



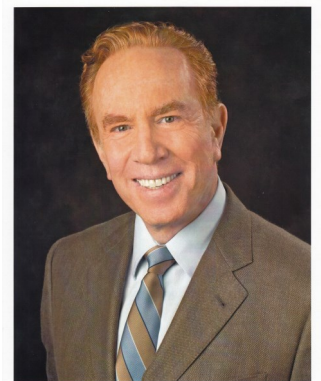
Training available!

**Please contact Rabbi Hammerman
at rabbi@tbe.org.**



SAVE THE DATE! TEMPLE ROCK 2022 SATURDAY, MARCH 19, 2022

**Honoring
Alan Kalter, z'l**



YOU CAN MAKE OUR TEMPLE ROCK AUCTION AN EVEN BIGGER SUCCESS!

Do you know someone who might be willing to donate:

- ♦ A unique experience or cool product?
Autographed memorabilia?
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- ♦ Gift card to a favorite restaurant?
- ♦ Merchandise or tickets from someone you do business with?

**Contact Steven Lander for more information
execdir@tbe.org.**

The World Awaits



SISTERHOOD



Welcome 2022! I hope everyone has a wonderful, safe, and healthy New Year. With Covid again on the rise we are keeping our winter activities on Zoom, but we hope to have an in-person Sisterhood Shabbat service in May. We had many activities last year and continue to add more this year. Sisterhood continues to be in good shape financially due to all of you. Thank you, Sisterhood members! Your Sisterhood membership dues of \$36 is hard at work.

Our Fall events included:

OCTOBER: A huge thank you to **Caroline Temlock Teichman** for a fantastic presentation titled, *Perspectives by Caroline: My Journey with Photography* for our Annual Sisterhood Brunch. Although our overhead projector didn't work, Caroline pivoted to an outstanding interactive presentation, teaching us how to take better pictures with our phones. Included on the next page are several pictures we took using Caroline's ideas. Despite most of us being neither artistic nor photography buffs, we greatly enjoyed her presentation. Her explanation of how she came to photography was most interesting. The tips that she gave us will undoubtedly be helpful for any amateur photographer.

Caroline also donated a picture as a Grand Prize that **Lisa Grove-Raider** won! Congratulations Lisa! Thank you, Caroline, so much for sharing your talent with Sisterhood.

In addition to the Sisterhood Board, I would like to thank volunteers: **Jaffe Gross, Eileen H. Rosner, Sandy Siegartel, Judy Aronin, Fran Ginsburg, Leslie Heyison**, and new member, **Madelyne Kirch** for their help. A special thank you to volunteer **Carol Krim** who donated the beautiful cloth napkins for our event!

NOVEMBER: Thank you to **Dora Salm** for leading Sisterhood Book Group co-sponsored with TBE Tzedek Committee and their Chair, **Julie Rosenberg**, which was our biggest book discussion turn out ever! The book was: *The Personal Librarian*, by Marie Benedict. Thanks to **Carol Krim** for suggesting this book.

Thank you to **Naomi Marks** for her event: *Think you know everything about Chanukah?* We all shared our menorah's which included Naomi's 4-foot menorah!

DECEMBER: After 80 years since the Japanese Attack on Pearl Harbor, we invited historian Mark Albertson to speak on the its strategic significance. It received rave reviews.

Here is a quick look at some of our planned events:

March 7, 2022 at 7:30pm: **Paper Cutting Workshop for Purim**, on Zoom, open to everyone ages 12-100+.

May 7, 2022 at 10:00am: **Sisterhood Shabbat Service** organized by **Fran Ginsburg**.

Thank you to my Sisterhood Board, **Steve Lander, Rad, Alberto, Mindy** and **Linda** for making 2021 so successful. Please contact me If you are interested in becoming a

Board member of Sisterhood at sisterhood@tbe.org. So far, we have over 200 members!! If you have new ideas or would like to volunteer, we would love to have you join us – it is a great way to meet people!

Have a happy, healthy New Year.

With Thanks, Appreciation and Friendship,
Karen Resnick, Sisterhood President

Please contact Sisterhood at sisterhood@tbe.org or feel free to call/email a Sisterhood board member with any comments. We love hearing from you and are always looking for volunteers!

Karen Resnick, President

203-536-3115, kmr925@sbcbglobal.net

Judy Schneiderman, Treasurer

203-569-4969, judy2125@optimum.net

Dora Salm, Secretary

203-461-8596, d_salm@yahoo.com

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Beth Silver 203-249-7046, beth@silverconsulting.net

Donna Wolff 917-601-1878, donnawolff27@gmail.com

MEN'S CLUB



TBE MEN'S CLUB SPONSORS

BLOOD DRIVE

Wednesday, January 5, 2022
9:00am - 5:00pm

www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/donation-time

Annual Sisterhood Membership Brunch

Perspectives by Caroline: My Journey with Photography



Thank you to Fran Ginsburg, Gail G. Trell, Carol Battin, Susan Plotzky, Rosalea Fisher, and Leslie Heyison for sending in your Sisterhood Brunch pictures.

Temple Beth El

Paver Campaign 2021-2022

Celebrating Our First 100 Years

Building a stronger future...

To mark our 100th year, Temple Beth El invites you to purchase a commemorative brick for the walkway of our beautiful new entrance. The brick walkway will be visible to all who enter our building and will serve as a permanent reminder of our Temple's first 100 years. By purchasing a personalized, laser-engraved brick for you, your family or as a gift, you are creating a lasting legacy and making a positive financial impact. You have been a part of TBE's past and present. Now you can be part of its future. Thank you for helping us pave the way...*One brick at a time!*

Commemorate a significant life events · Bar/Bat Mitzvah · Baby naming · Wedding · Memorialize family members and friends.

Installation of bricks will take place during the Summer months of 2022. Funds from this campaign will be used to create a patio for outdoor events.

For more information contact Steven Lander, Executive Director at 203-322-6901, ext. 304 or e-mail: execdir@tbe.org.

Purchase of a brick is a tax deductible donation.

DONATE ONLINE
Go to: www.tbe.org/donate/

OPPORTUNITIES FOR GIVING

- ☒ Adult Education Fund
- ☒ Beth El Cares
- ☒ Beth Elders
- ☒ Debra Wald Goldberg Kindergarten Scholarship Fund
- ☒ Frank & Rose Rosner Memorial Fund (maintenance)
- ☒ General Fund
- ☒ Kiddush Fund
- ☒ Matthew Klein Memorial Sanctuary Garden Fund
- ☒ Emmet Manheim Playground Fund
- ☒ Mitzvah Garden Fund
- ☒ Music Fund
- ☒ Prayer Book Fund
- ☒ Project Ezra Fund
- ☒ Religious School Fund
- ☒ Reyut Shabbat Bag Fund
- ☒ Security Fund
- ☒ Solar Fund in memory of Norma Mann, z'l
- ☒ Youth Fund

DISCRETIONARY FUNDS

- ☒ Rabbi Joshua Hammerman's Mitzvah Fund
- ☒ Cantorial Soloist Katie Kaplan's Mitzvah Fund
- ☒ Hazzan Sidney Rabinowitz' Mitzvah Fund

ATTENTION PARENTS OF COLLEGE STUDENTS

Rabbi Hammerman would like to stay in touch with your child while they are away at college. Please send their e-mail address to Mindy in the Temple office at office@tbe.org. *Thank you!*



TREE OF LIFE

A beautiful way to commemorate a special occasion is to purchase a "leaf" on our beautiful "Tree of Life" sculpture adorning our Temple lobby. There are many more leaves available for your own personal inscriptions.



The following categories are still available:

Triple Chai	\$1,000
Silver Leaves - Gold Border	\$750
Silver Leaves	\$250

CONTRIBUTING SHARES OF STOCK TO TEMPLE BETH EL

One way to boost your charitable contributions to Temple Beth El is to give shares of appreciated stock instead of cash. You do not pay any tax on your capital gain, and your charitable deduction is the shares' entire fair market value.

Beth El members may contribute shares of stock to satisfy their dues pledge, their annual fund pledge, and other contributions to the Temple.

After consulting your tax advisor, please contact the TBE office at 203-322-6901.

DID YOU KNOW?

TBE offers free family membership for the first year to any member's child on the occasion of his or her marriage. For more information, contact Steve Lander at 203-322-6901, ext. 304.



SEEKING SHABBAT GREETERS WHEN WE RETURN

Do you like getting a warm "Shabbat Shalom" as you enter shul on Saturday morning?

Our greeting program has been extremely well received. To keep this program going, we need volunteer greeters like you.

For more information Contact Eileen H. Rosner at rosnereileen@gmail.com.

Thanks for helping make Temple Beth El a warm and welcoming place to be.

CELEBRATING A SPECIAL EVENT? COMMEMORATING A YAHRTZEIT?

Please consider sponsoring a VIRTUAL Kiddush, following Shabbat Services, or a Kiddush-to-Go, following our Friday evening services.

Contact Steven Lander for all of the new, reasonably priced Kiddush options at 203-322-6901, ext. 304 or execdir@tbe.org.

PAY YOUR DUES ONLINE

Go to www.tbe.org/donate and click on member payments.

Questions? Contact Linda at 203-322-6901, ext. 302 or lindar@tbe.org.

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS

IN HONOR OF:

CANTOR KATIE KAPLAN ON COMPLETING THE CICA PROGRAM AND BEING ORDAINED AS CANTOR

Melanie Massell

LESLIE HEYISON ON BECOMING A BAT MITZVAH

Michael, Lisa, Hilary, Anders & Caila Heyison, Cathy, Elyse and Ann, Suzanne & Norman Stone, Stacey & Eliot Essensfeld

FRAN GINSBURG ON BECOMING A BAT MITZVAH

Michelle & Robert Carmen, Suzanne & Norman Stone, Marsha & Warren Fisher, Judy Schneiderman

THE ADULT B'NAI MITZVAH CLASS OF 2021

TBE Sisterhood, Beth, Pete & Jake Silver, Helen & Marty Donner

HOPE STRANGER, BRIAN STERANKA, PAULA GREEN, LESLIE HEYISON, FRAN GINSBURG ON BECOMING B'NAI MITZVAH

Beverly & David Stein

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Irma Ross, Fran & Rabbi Gerry Ginsburg

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Maxine & Jay Freilich

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In memory of...

Leonard Klein, z'l by the Nekritz Family

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A Mahzor Lev Shalem has been dedicated in honor of...

Dr. Fran Ginsburg on becoming a Bat Mitzvah by Barbara Brafman & Larry Stein

YOUTH FUND

In memory of...

Fannie Bufferd, z'l by Ilene & Jim Locker & Family

ADULT EDUCATION FUND

In memory of...

Sam Grochow, z'l by Barbara & Warren Brandt

In honor of...

The Adult B'nai Mitzvah Class of 2021 by Meryl & Hank Silverstein

EMMET MANHEIM PLAYGROUND FUND

In honor of...

The birth of Oz Emmanuel Manheim by Heidi & Harrison Ganz, Cathy Friedman & Michael Wolly, Shira & Marc Nerenberg, Shirley & Burt Harris

RABBI JOSHUA HAMMERMAN MITZVAH FUND

In honor of...

Rabbi Joshua Hammerman in gratitude for his many kindnesses and to the Daily Minyan for their support by Meryl & Hank Silverstein

The birth of Oz Emmanuel Manheim by Sharon & Jeff Turshen

Leslie Heyison on becoming a Bat Mitzvah by Shirley Halprin

In memory of...

Hannah Bresslour, z'l by Marcia & Mark Staines

Ida Drucker, z'l by Sharon & Jeff Turshen, Rochelle & Doug Turshen, Beverly & David Stein, Leslie & Richard Jarbeau, Devra Jaffe-Berkowitz & Parry Berkowitz & Family, Polly & Harry Geller, Fran & Rabbi Gerry Ginsburg, Meredith Huse, Cia Marion, Susan & Art Greenwald, Kenneth Melmed

Herbert Katz, z'l by Sharon & Steven Katz

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In memory of...

Jeanne Klein, z'l by Pamela Tinkham

Robert Scharff, z'l by Andrea Levine

Hannah Bresslour, z'l by Marcia & Mark Staines

In honor of...

Leslie Heyison on becoming a Bat Mitzvah by Shirley Halprin

Cantor Katie Kaplan on completing the CICA Program and being ordained as Cantor by Leslie & Joe Heyison

Juli Harris becoming a Bat Mitzvah by Scott Sekuler

SHABBAT BAG FUND

In memory of...

Freda Novick, z'l by Meryl & Hank Silverstein

Etta Rich, z'l by Meryl & Hank Silverstein

FRANK AND ROSE ROSNER MEMORIAL FUND

In honor of...

Eileen H. Rosner for all she does quietly for all members of TBE by Phyllis & Harvey Walzer

Steven Lander in appreciation by Marilyn Petroff

BETH EL CARES FUND

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In memory of...

Alan Kalter, z'l by Rhoda & Avram Freedberg

KIDDUSH FUND

In memory of...

Mildred Grossman, z'l by Carol & Willy Sander

CANTOR KATIE KAPLAN continued from page 3...

without moving to hide it
or fade it
or fix it.

I want to know
if you can be with joy
mine or your own
if you can dance with wildness
and let the ecstasy fill you
to the tips of your fingers and toes
without cautioning us
to be careful
to be realistic
to remember the limitations
of being human.

It doesn't interest me
if the story you are telling me
is true.

I want to know if you can
disappoint another
to be true to yourself.
If you can bear
the accusation of betrayal
and not betray your own soul.
If you can be faithless
and therefore trustworthy.

I want to know if you can see Beauty
even when it is not pretty
every day.
And if you can source your own life
from its presence.

I want to know
if you can live with failure
yours and mine
and still stand at the edge of the lake
and shout to the silver of the full moon,
"Yes."

It doesn't interest me
to know where you live
or how much money you have.
I want to know if you can get up
after the night of grief and despair
weary and bruised to the bone
and do what needs to be done
to feed the children.

It doesn't interest me
who you know
or how you came to be here.
I want to know if you will stand
in the centre of the fire
with me
and not shrink back.

It doesn't interest me
where or what or with whom

you have studied.
I want to know
what sustains you
from the inside
when all else falls away.

I want to know
if you can be alone
with yourself
and if you truly like
the company you keep
in the empty moments.

ON ONE FOOT continued from page 3...

on a dime between the sanctuary and Zoom. The hybrid option gives us an additional advantage – we never have to cancel due to weather! So, it's important for you to check our email announcements for last minute changes and links. But you're used to adapting on the fly by now, right?

As we continue to adjust our sails to the shifting winds of Covid, we are reminded that the most important thing is to stay safe, which means vaccination, boosters, masks and distancing. But for a healthy religious institution like ours, it also means striving for excellence on this hybrid playing field, so that congregants can be inspired and connected to their community no matter how they choose to engage, whether in person or online. That's been our goal for nearly two years now. What's new for 2022 is that now we understand that this will be our challenge for a long time to come.

Yes, the book of Exodus will have a special meaning for us this year. Life is complicated these days, but to paraphrase a famous frog, it was never easy being green. If we learn to live amphibiously, it comes with the reluctant admission that *there will always be frogs here, frogs there, frogs everywhere*. But we can do this. We're the folks who turned a plague into a children's song. Now we simply have to turn it into an opportunity to reach people and engage them, wherever they are.

And for everyone, my best wishes for a better 2022. Better times are coming. But don't merely be optimistic. Be hopeful. As Rabbi Jonathan Sacks said, "Optimism is the belief that things are going to get better. Hope is the belief that we can make things better. Optimism is a passive virtue, hope is an active one. It takes no courage to be an optimist, but it does need courage to hope."

A happy – and hopeful – New Year!

On a personal note, my thanks to Jami Fener, who informed us that she will be moving on to other professional opportunities and leaving our staff, where she has played many roles. Jami and her family have been such an important part of TBE since their arrival (when she was 12) and thankfully that will not change. THANK YOU FOR EVERYTHING, JAMI!



Rabbi Joshua Hammerman



REMEMBERING OUR LOVED ONES



Joanne & Marshall Goldberg **RUTH ABRAMS**
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 Michael Stein

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In memory of...

Gerty & Curtis Hayworth, z'l by Karen, Rich & Geoff Hainbach

INFORMATION FOR YOU...

When making a donation an acknowledgement will be
 mailed to the designee for donations of \$10 or more.
 Donations of less than \$10 will be acknowledged only in the
 Bulletin. All donations will be published in the Bulletin
 unless you state that you wish to be anonymous.

WE MOURN THE PASSING OF...

SHELDON PEARLMAN, husband of Rhoda Pearlman
DEBORAH MONAHAN, sister of Allen Kezsbom
JOY FISHER, mother of Marc Fisher
STUART BUTTERMAN, brother of Michael Buttermann
NINA DERMAN, mother of Paula Shulman
CORYNNE KLEIN, mother of Stacye Nekritz

SHIVA NOTICES AVAILABLE ON-LINE

Congregants who are looking for shiva information can now
 quickly look online instead of searching their inbox for the
 announcement or calling the synagogue office. Just go to
 TBE's website (www.tbe.org) and click "Shiva Notices"
 under the WHAT'S NEW menu.

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL PAINT A PRAYER



The students worked with artist Jennifer Levine to create three canvases inspired by the *Hashkiveinu* prayer and the song, *One Day*, by Matisyahu.

We sing these together as one special prayer in services on Friday nights and in Religious School during tefilah. This prayer has become something that is truly special to the students in our Religious School over the years.



The canvases represent not only the *Hashkiveinu* prayer, but the sense of connection our students have to Temple Beth El, which is truly a shelter of peace for our community.



Get involved, please...

Help Wanted! In order to maintain our vibrant and dynamic community, the Fund-Raising Committee needs more members to support TBE and volunteer their skills and talents. Many of these opportunities ask for very small-time commitments. Please consider getting involved with the:

Annual Appeal | Temple Rock | Cantor's Concert

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact us and we will give you more information.

Thank you!

Art Laichtman
Fund-Raising Chair
aelaichtman@optimum.net

MEMORIAL PLAQUES



Inscribe the names of your loved ones on a plaque for our Chapel wall along with a light to commemorate their *yahrtzeit* and *yizkor* observances throughout the year.

For details, contact Mindy at office@tbe.org or 203-322-6901, ext. 301.

THE TBE 100 MITZVAH PROJECT

The TBE 100 Mitzvah Project provides opportunities for congregants to honor TBE's centennial through the performance of *gemilut hasadim* (acts of loving kindness) that help charitable organizations in need of volunteers and non-monetary contributions.

Mitzvah Opportunities at the Schoke Jewish Family Service of Fairfield County

- **Work at the kosher food pantry** at SJFS. Distribute food during walk-in hours: Monday - Wednesday, 10:30 am-12:30 pm. Organize and maintain the pantry: Monday - Friday, 9 am - 4 pm.
- **Deliver meals and food items** to homebound clients. Time is flexible.
- **Participate in Mitzvah Monday** with your kids on the third Monday of each month (from 3 pm-5 pm. Bring kosher food items to the pantry and help stock shelves. GREAT for teens!
- **Visit a homebound client** for a "friendly visit" to alleviate loneliness. Time is flexible.
- **Donate food and non-food items.** Items can be dropped off at the TBE office or at SJFS.

If you are interested in doing one or more of these mitzvahs, please contact Jill Knopoff at (203) 921-4161. Don't forget to mention you're from TBE.

After completing a mitzvah, please send a note to mitzvah100@tbe.org with the name or names of the family members who participated, the mitzvah, and a photo if possible.

BETH EL CARES continued from page 9...

to make this day possible.

With a heavy heart, I am announcing that this was my last year leading this event. It is a very worthy event and near and dear to my heart in that I believe having food to eat is the most basic need that everyone should be provided with. However, I have been doing this event for a very long time and it is time for someone else to take the helm. I have grown it from one shelter to three and have expanded the scope to include entertainment with our beautiful choirs. It is time for someone else to come forward and lead the effort and come with fresh ideas. If you are even contemplating volunteering to lead this effort in 2022, please reach out to me. I can provide you with all the information you will need to take on this very rewarding project. Perhaps two people want to co-chair this event to lessen the workload. That would be fine too.

Wishing everyone a safe, healthy, COVID-free and happy 2022!

Regards,

Amy Temple

203-496-1309 | aetemple@optonline.net

HOW WILL YOU ASSURE JEWISH TOMORROWS?



Commit to leaving a legacy and help ensure that Temple Beth El will be part of the fabric of the Stamford Jewish community for many years to come.

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Stamford, CT 06902
www.tbe.org



To create your legacy contact Steven Lander
execdir@tbe.org | 203-322-6901, ext. 304

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Proud to be the official TBE videographer

*Tom was able to capture the spirit and joy of our
B'nai Mitzvah service and party in a video we
will always treasure. He was also a pleasure to
work with from start to finish.*

Jared Finkelstein

*If you are looking for a videographer, look no
further! Tom was a delight to work with and the
finished product was incredible. He created
separate videos of my daughter's Bat Mitzvah
service and celebration and captured all
aspects of the joy of the day.*

Jill Teich

Thomas Pace, Jr. ♦ 203.335.0168
T & J Video Service

We also transfer home movies/video to DVD.

The deadline for the
March-April 2022 Bulletin
will be Tuesday, February 1, 2022.

FETHI PHOTOGRAPHY

cell: 914-629-2204

fethic@me.com

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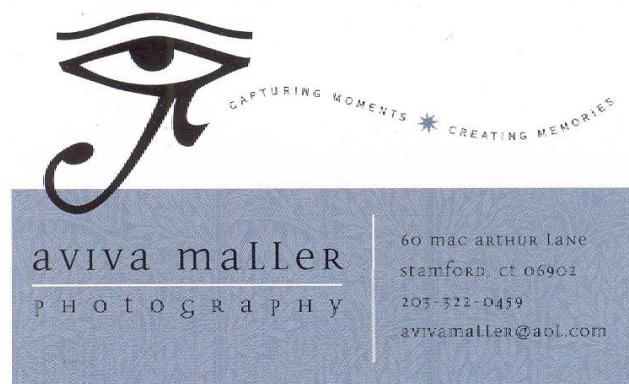
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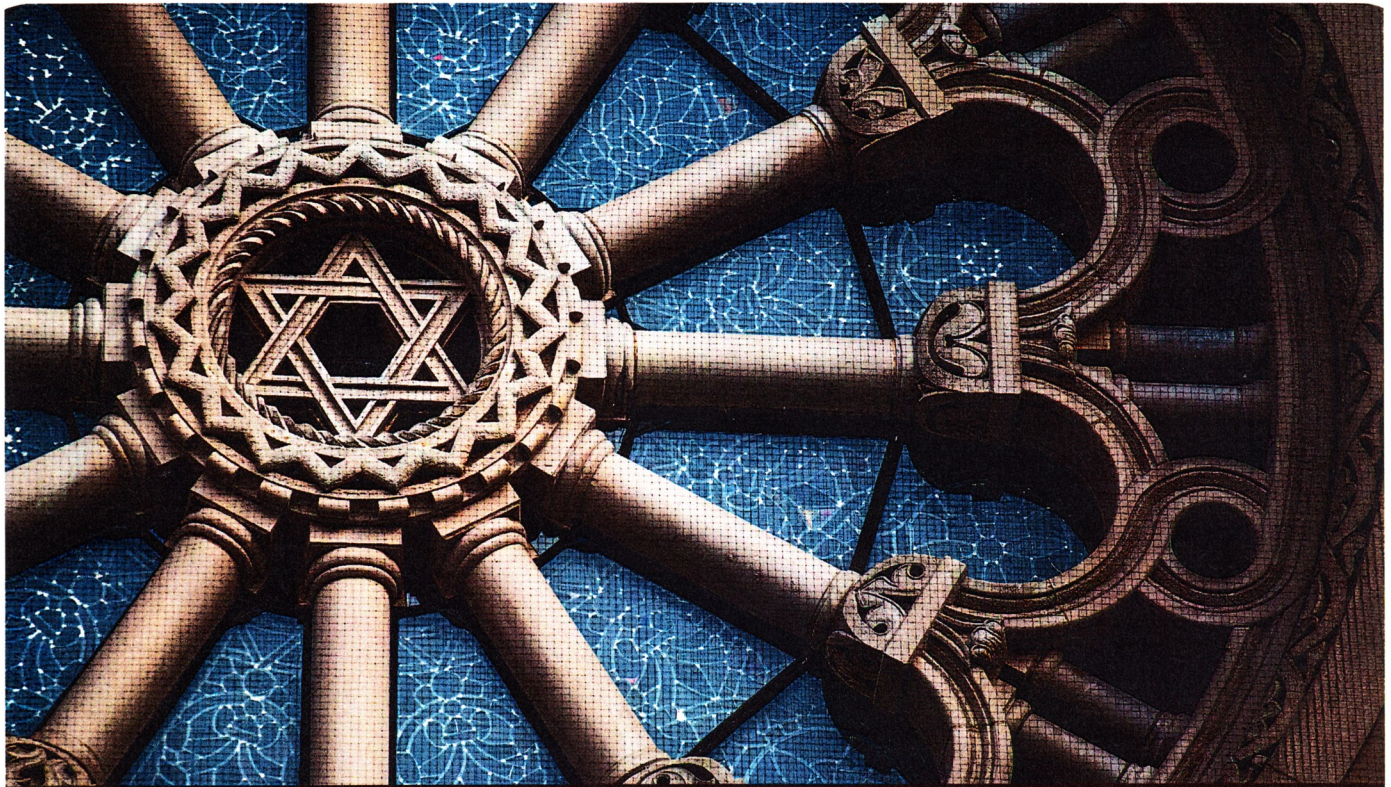
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