

# Temple Beth El Bulletin

Volume 49 Issue 6 (bi-monthly)

November-December 2022

Cheshvan/Kislev 5783

## TBE Membership Survey Is Available

Have you filled out your TBE Membership Survey yet? If not, please email [tbesurvey@tbe.org](mailto:tbesurvey@tbe.org) for the link. All of us benefit from a vibrant and growing synagogue community, which is why your input is needed as your Board of Trustees begins planning for the future. The survey ends November 20.

## High Holiday Food Drive 2022





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**COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS****Empty Nesters**

Sue and Carl Shapiro.....	203-353-0657
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**High Holy Days Task Force**

Devra Jaffe-Berkowitz .....	203-978-1113
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**High Holy Days Food Drive**

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Leslie Glenn.....	203-273-7215
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Joy Katz.....	203-329-3359
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Melanie Massell .....	203-324-7190
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**Ritual Committee**

Devra Jaffe-Berkowitz .....	203-978-1113
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**Social Action Committee**

Julie Rosenberg .....	203-975-8880
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**Tzedek Committee**

Julie Rosenberg .....	203-975-8880
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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**

Joshua Hammerman, Rabbi (rabbi@tbe.org)	ext. 307
Katie Kaplan, Cantor (cantor@tbe.org)	ext. 315
Sidney G. Rabinowitz, Hazzan Emeritus (hazzan@tbe.org)	ext. 309
Steven Lander, Executive Director (execdir@tbe.org)	ext. 304
Lisa Gittelman-Udi, Director of Congregational Learning (eddir@tbe.org)	ext. 305
Rabbi Gerry Ginsburg, Assoc. Rabbi (rabbiginsburg@tbe.org)	ext. 300
Dayna Patashnik, Engagement Coordinator (tbeengagement@gmail.com)	
Linda Rezak, Bookkeeper (lindar@tbe.org)	ext. 302
Mindy Rogoff, Temple Secretary (office@tbe.org)	ext. 301
Alberto Eyzaguirre, Facilities Manager (maint@tbe.org)	ext. 314

With the High Holidays still fresh in our minds and its inspirational moments lingering in the air, I want to share with you here brief excerpts from each of the four sermons I delivered. My intent was to present a unified message of hope and resilience, drawing on the remarkable strength of the Jewish people and the wisdom of our sources. If you would like to see the complete texts or watch the videos, go to <https://www.joshuahammerman.com/2022/09/rosh-hashanah-sermons-5783.html> for Rosh Hashanah and for Yom Kippur.



### Rosh Hashanah, Day 1: *Our Break the Glass Moment*

We can't avoid a world full of curses, not 30 centuries ago and not today. But we can choose blessing. It is in our control to make that choice. It is in our power. **We can forge a better world where AR 15s don't threaten our children in their classrooms or our neighbors at the supermarket. We can defeat the virulent forms of authoritarianism and those conspiracy theories that threaten every ounce of goodness and civility that God calls upon us to choose.** We can forge a better world for the sick and feeble, and those threatened with hate or discrimination. We can choose to rid our world of the pestilence of pandemic, and we can choose to rid our world of evil dictators who commit genocide on their neighbors and toss missiles on crowded theaters and rape children.

**Our task is to choose blessing. It is in our control to make that choice. It is in our power.**

For we know that in the most accursed place in Jewish history there is a Cave of Optimism. And Ukraine has a Jewish president. And black holes somehow shine the brightest.

### Rosh Hashanah, Day 2: *Dear Gen Z (and Millennials)*

In the 19th century, Lord Acton wrote, "Power corrupts. Absolute power corrupts absolutely."

**But that's not what Judaism says.** Judaism says that **power ennobles.** But only if that power is utilized to ennoble others. Power is a gift, our tradition teaches, but only if we use it wisely. And with the advent of Zionism, Jews have made the conscious choice of power and morality over victimhood and self-pity. Zionism is a gift. Two thousand years in the waiting. But only if we use it wisely.

To be a Jew is to ennoble the world - because we can. To feed the hungry - because we can. To assist victims who are half a world away - because we can. We may or may not be a chosen people, but we are, in the words of Michael Medved, [a "choosing people."](#) To be Jewish is an act of will - we exercise our will, not arbitrarily. To be Jewish is to choose the hard way - to dream up the impossible, and then to fulfill it.

We're the ones who tackle racism and hate head on. While Christians and Muslims spent most of the Middle Ages building fences and re-drawing borders, Jews were constantly traversing them, carrying the best that every culture could offer. We traveled the world spreading a message of peace and justice, because we *had to* - we kept getting kicked out of every darned country.

Continued on page 18...

### Returning to Reality & Repairing the World *Teshuvah, Tefilah, Tzedakah... AND Tikkun Olam*

In all seriousness though, this past month-and-a-half has been full of so many emotional, musical, and spiritual moments. We began early September with my son's Bar Mitzvah, hosted a musical *Selichot* service with three congregations, soared through Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, dwelled in our Sukkot huts, shook the 4 species in 6 directions, sang Hallel with *ruach* filled voices, danced with the Torahs, completed reading the Torah, and returned back to the beginning again with *Bereishit* on Simchat Torah. As I seek to grasp the sensations and recall the moments of this past couple of months, it feels *ki-chalom ya'uf*, like a fleeting dream. These words, nestled in the *Un'tane tokef* prayer truly call to mind the impermanence of our existence and experiences. Though we move through incredible moments of gladness, celebration, and joy, these words highlight the fragility that is always present in every moment. We may not be able to recall or hold onto anything for very long, so it is best to try and live each moment to its fullest and seek to be as present in our bodies, minds, and hearts as possible at all times.

We can't be fully present in any manner without acknowledging this beautiful planet on which we reside. We walk daily on her ground, gaze into her sky, and breathe the air specially cleaned and filtered by the trees in a beautiful symbiotic relationship. When marveling during the foliage season at our interconnectedness with the trees, I wondered to myself, has it EVER been this beautiful before? Have the colors ever been this bright? How can one tree literally have every color of the rainbow within its leaves? How do we humans go about our days and not just stop to marvel at the trees all the time? Do you think they might be trying to get our attention? If so, mission accomplished. Trees, you have my attention.

While reflecting on the beauty of the trees here on earth, I recently read about William Shatner's reaction following his recent mission into outer space at 90 years of age. Shatner went to space expecting to finally reach the great beyond and experience some moment of profound wisdom and accomplishment. What he actually experienced, however, was far from his anticipated reaction. He shared that upon breaking through the earth's atmosphere of only 50 miles thick, he experienced an overwhelming feeling of dread when entering the black, darkness of outer space. He likened this sensation to one of death. Looking back at earth, he felt a deep sadness in realizing that all of life was behind him back on earth. Overcome by emotion, he said about planet earth, "It is so fragile."

What Shatner experienced has been coined by Frank White as, "The Overview Effect." The Overview Effect is experienced when astronauts reach outer space after years of looking up and outward toward the moon and other planetary objects, only to turn back and see the earth, suspended in darkness, blue, green, beautiful, and fragile.



Continued on page 18...



## Meet the King of Kosher Gospel Black Jewish Musician Joshua Nelson



It doesn't really matter how many other people are on stage when you go to a Joshua Nelson show. It can be his own singers, it can be the wonderful (and at this point venerable) Klezmatics, it could be just about anybody. You in the audience won't notice them. All you'll see is Joshua Nelson. You'll see a black man, a Jew, singing his own music. You'll see a man dressed in a brightly colored robe with a colored hat regal, radiating intensity.

So, who is Joshua Nelson?

To begin with, he's soft spoken. "I'm just a regular person," he said.

His career, as the singer of what he calls "Kosher Gospel," began when he was 8. His grandmother was a big fan of Marian Anderson, the black contralto who sang both opera and spirituals, was a civil rights advocate, and in many ways embodied the struggle for those rights.

"I was going through my grandmother's records. I happened to put on a Mahalia Jackson record. Her greatest hits album. I didn't really know anything about Mahalia Jackson when I put the album on," Mr. Nelson said.

"About two years later my grandmother went to a program celebrating the life of Mahalia Jackson, and she came back but it wasn't Mahalia Jackson on their tape and my grandmother was saying, 'You better sing it! It's not her.' And I got furious that they couldn't hear how different it was. It was somebody from a Broadway show.

"I like things to be right, so I started collecting her records. My grandmother said, 'No one sings like Mahalia Jackson.' So, I would collect those records and I learned to sing from them. I learned the nuances from them."

"At 13, I made my debut. It was at a Baptist church. My grandmother was Jewish, my grandfather was Baptist, and they were a little nervous because they didn't want me to embarrass them. And what happened is that I sang, and people were like, 'Oh, my God! your grandson sings like Mahalia Jackson!' And they were so proud."

"They didn't know that I was studying this. Nobody did. I would just go to my room and practice. And Mahalia was such a huge icon in the Black community that I started singing everywhere. And at the same time I was going to Sharey Tefilo Hebrew school. That's Temple Sharey Tefilo-Israel in South Orange, NJ."

Mr. Nelson's family history is complicated. "My grandmother passed away 12 years ago at 94," he said. "She was African American. She had roots in Senegal, and she was Jewish, and she adopted my mother. It was really a secret," he continued. "She couldn't have children. It was a different time then. Adoption was often kept secret; people had not yet realized that such secrets were hard to keep, and hard on the children they were meant to protect. It was also well before DNA tests and the internet. Even if children eventually learned they were adopted, it was much harder

*Continued on page 19...*







## SHABBAT AND FESTIVAL SERVICES



All services will be held in the sanctuary in addition to Livestream on Friday night and Zoom on Shabbat morning unless otherwise noted.

### NOVEMBER

**Friday, November 4**  
Kabbalat Shabbat 7:00 p.m.

**Shabbat, November 5**  
Shabbat Service 10:00 a.m.  
BENJAMIN DAVIDSON, BAR MITZVAH

**Friday, November 11**  
Kabbalat Shabbat 7:00 p.m.  
HAWAIIAN SHABBAT

**Shabbat, November 12**  
Shabbat Service 10:00 a.m.  
ShaBaBimBam 11:00 a.m.

**Friday, November 18**  
Kabbalat Shabbat 7:00 p.m.

**Shabbat, November 19**  
Shabbat Service 10:00 a.m.  
SARAH GILBERT, BAT MITZVAH

**Friday, November 25**  
Kabbalat Shabbat 7:00 p.m.

**Shabbat, November 26**  
Shabbat Service 10:00 a.m.

### DECEMBER

**Friday, December 2**  
Kabbalat Shabbat 7:00 p.m.

**Shabbat, December 3**  
Shabbat Service 10:00 a.m.  
JONAH SHAPIRO, BAR MITZVAH

**Friday, December 9**  
Kabbalat Shabbat 7:00 p.m.

**Shabbat, December 10**  
Shabbat Service 10:00 a.m.

**Friday, December 16**  
Hanukkah Dinner - watch for details  
Kabbalat Shabbat 7:00 p.m.

**Shabbat, December 17**  
Shabbat Service 10:00 a.m.  
ShaBaBimBam 11:00 a.m.

**Friday, December 23, Hanukkah**  
Kabbalat Shabbat 7:00 p.m.

**Shabbat, December 24, Hanukkah**  
Shabbat Service 10:00 a.m.

**Friday, December 30**  
Kabbalat Shabbat 7:00 p.m.

**Shabbat, December 31**  
Shabbat Service 10:00 a.m.



# TBE Hanukkah Shabbat

SAVE THE DATE!

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2022**

**Chinese Food & Potato Latke Shabbat Dinner**

**Kabbalat Shabbat Service led by Rabbi Joshua Hammerman,  
Cantor Katie Kaplan and special musical guests.**

**Details to follow...**



# TBE

## HAWAIIAN SHABBAT!

Friday Evening, November 11

Join us for Shabbat Services  
Hawaiian Style

Featuring Guest Musical Artist Rachel Haymer  
Singer-Songwriter, "*Shaloha Ambassador*,"  
Rachel blends her Jewish and Hawaiian roots,  
bringing us a re-imagining of the Shabbat  
service infused with the Hawaiian spirit.



6:00pm: Hawaiian Style Shabbat Dinner

RSVP for dinner: [www.tinyurl.com/aloha-tbe](http://www.tinyurl.com/aloha-tbe)

7:00pm: Kabbalat Shabbat Service

Service led by Rabbi Hammerman and Cantor Kaplan  
with Chris Coogan, accompanist



In honor of Veteran's Day, we will pay tribute to the veterans  
in our community. If you or a member of your family is/was a  
veteran, please contact the TBE office to add your name to  
our list of honorees: [office@tbe.org](mailto:office@tbe.org)

Can't attend in person? Join us online: <http://www.tbe.org/tbe-live/>

Temple Beth El, 350 Roxbury Rd., Stamford, CT 06902  
203-322-6901      [office@tbe.org](mailto:office@tbe.org)      [www.tbe.org](http://www.tbe.org)





## MAZAL TOV TO...

*Betsy and Kevan Herald on the birth of a grandson, Ezra Sam, born to Rachel Herald Priem and Richard Priem.*

*Maxine and Jay Freilich on the birth of a grandson, Andy Isaac, born to Nikki and Brian Freilich.*

*Heidi and Harrison Ganz on the marriage of their son, Evan, to Ashley Sheridan.*

*Barbara and Steve Rothstein on the birth of a grandson, Ryan Andrew, born to Carol and Evan Rothstein.*

*Rebecca and Andy Lehrfeld on the birth of a granddaughter, Sasha Rose, born to Nayla and Jonathan Lehrfeld.*

*Debbie and Leon Shapiro on the birth of a granddaughter, Jolie Tricia, born to Danielle and Michael Lazarus.*



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](mailto:office@tbe.org) or 203-322-6901, ext. 301.

## HONORABLE MENSCHEN TODAH RABAH TO OUR TORAH READERS!

RABBI GERRY GINSBURG ★ RABBI JOSHUA HAMMERMAN  
JOY KATZ ★ CAROL KRIM ★ JOSH LEVINE  
BERT MADWED ★ AARON NAPACH  
SUSAN SCHNEIDERMAN ★ LAEL SHAPIRO

## THANK YOU FOR SPONSORING THE SHABBAT ANNOUNCEMENTS

AMY and ARON DAVIDSON  
ELISSA and JAMES HYMAN  
LESLIE and DAVID NAPACH

## THANK YOU FOR SPONSORING KIDDUSH

AMY and ARON DAVIDSON  
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LESLIE and DAVID NAPACH

## 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](https://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.

## BETH EL CARES

*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](mailto:reyut@tbe.org) or 203-324-7190.

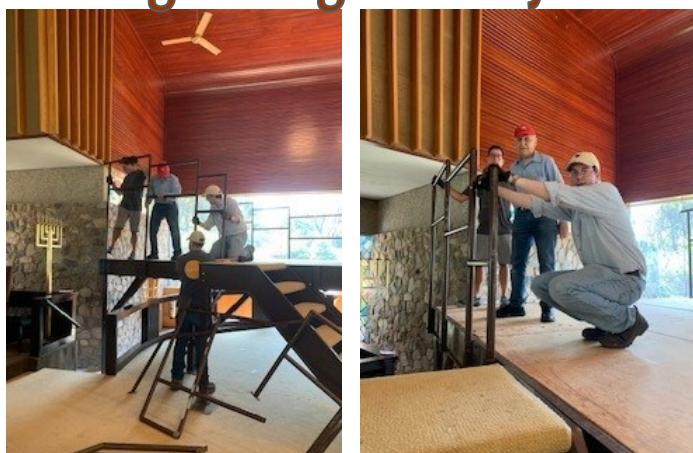
**Project Ezra:** Providing pre-shiva meals to the bereaved in the congregation. Contact Joy Katz at [joyakatz@yahoo.com](mailto:joyakatz@yahoo.com) or 203-329-3359.

**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 Julie Rosenberg at [julierosenbergspl@gmail.com](mailto:julierosenbergspl@gmail.com) or 203-273-6794.

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

**Christmas dinners at local homeless shelters:** Contact Julie Rosenberg at [julierosenbergspl@gmail.com](mailto:julierosenbergspl@gmail.com) or 203-273-6794.

## Building the High Holiday Bimah





## KESHER BETH EL

During October, our students and teachers have been getting to know each other. Older grades have been reviewing and evaluating their Hebrew decoding and prayer reading. We've begun our regular Jewish studies learning curricula in our class sessions. And the month of October was filled with special activities and holiday celebrations!

During our first session at Congregation Beth El, we made decorations for the sukkah with Ofek, our Israeli sheliach!



Later that week, we had an amazing Sukkah decorating party making and hanging our decorations...



And we made our own, edible sukkot.

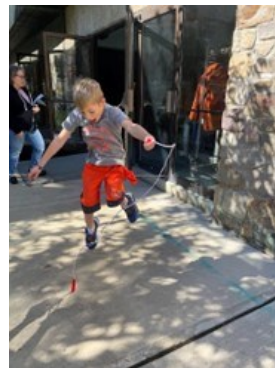


In our mid-October session, at Temple Beth El, we visited the sukkah.



Everyone had a chance to perform the mitzvah of sitting in the sukkah, eating in the sukkah, and shaking the lulav.

Our Sukkah Hop luncheon was fun for all.



We also celebrated Simchat Torah together and had a Kids' Choice Day session where our students were able to choose elective activities for part of the morning.

During the month of November, we will have Israel themed activities with Ofek, visit the Jewish Family Services Food Pantry Truck, have "Cantor Time" sessions with Cantor Katie, and participate in another Kids' Choice Day session. Our sixth and seventh grade students will also begin "L'Dor V'Dor" their Jewish Family History project with the Jewish Historical Society of Fairfield County.

Before we know it, it will be time to celebrate Hanukkah! We are working on some special plans including a special candle lighting ceremony and a Hanukkah Shabbat celebration! Watch for emails coming soon.



## B'NAI MITZVAH

November 5

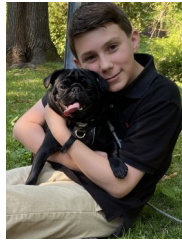
### **BENJAMIN DAVIDSON**

Son of Amy and Aron

Brother of Jacob

Attends St. Luke's School

Mitzvah Project: Lucky Dog Refuge



December 3

### **JONAH SHAPIRO**

Son of Danielle and Lael Shapiro

Brother of Maya

Attend Scofield Magnet Middle School

Mitzvah Project: Helping Children Near and Far



**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**TBE THURSDAY NIGHT SOCIAL CLUB**  
presents  
**LATKE AND VODKA**  
Details to follow...

## ADULT EDUCATION

### **Nusach: Singing Sacred Time**

with Cantor Katie Kaplan

Tuesday, October 25, November 1, 8 at 7:00pm on Zoom

Join Cantor Katie on a journey through sacred time and space as we explore Nusach, the musical modes of the weekday, Shabbat, and High Holiday/Festival liturgy.

### **Journeys Through Our Prayer Services-1st semester**

with Rabbi Gerry Ginsburg

Wednesday, November 2, 9, 16 and 30, December 7, 14  
at 7:30pm in-person and Zoom

A look at Shabbat. How is the Friday night, Kabbalat Shabbat structured? What do the prayers mean?

No prior knowledge of Hebrew required.

All materials will be provided.

### **Meditation and Guided Imagery**

with Cantor Katie Kaplan

Tuesday, November 22, December 13, January 17 at 7:00pm

Join Cantor Kaplan on a meditative journey utilizing guided imagery and chant. All are welcome.



## TBE Teen Trip to the Lower East Side of NYC



## TBE CLUBS

TBE Clubs engage 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 which can also be found on the TBE website at: <https://www.tbe.org/tbe-clubs/>.



### HEART-TO-HEART

This group is focused on providing support for those dealing with or suffering from grief and loss. We 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 meets on Zoom, twice a month, on Wednesdays at 7:00 pm.

**Point Person:** Hope Stanger HHC, Trauma Therapist and Holistic Health Counselor, at [theholisticempire@yahoo.com](mailto:theholisticempire@yahoo.com) or (203) 357-0242; or Pamela Tinkham LCSW, Trauma Therapist and Yoga Therapist, at [pamelatinkham@gmail.com](mailto: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.

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

### MITZVAH GARDEN CLUB

The garden has been put to bed for the winter. Two experienced and two first-time gardeners grew a variety of vegetables and herbs from tried-and-true tomatoes to exotic lemongrass. We had the joy of eating our own produce and sharing with friends and family. Please join us next season.

**Point Person:** Meryl Silverstein at [merylandhank@optonline.net](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:ginsstamf@gmail.com) or (203) 979-9570

## YOUNG FAMILIES

**For families with children 5 and younger  
(older siblings welcome!)**

### TBE ShaBaBimBam



**Led by Natasha Fenster and Steve Epstein!**

**Saturday Mornings 11:00am**

<b>Sep. 10</b>	<b>Oct. 15</b>	<b>Nov. 12</b>
<b>Dec. 17</b>	<b>Jan. 21</b>	<b>Feb. 11</b>
<b>Mar. 4</b>	<b>Apr. 22</b>	<b>May 6</b>

**RSVP:** [youngfamilies@tbe.org](mailto:youngfamilies@tbe.org)

**Please provide names of participants,  
email address, and phone #.**

## More Sukkah Hop!





# Let's play mah jong!



**TBE Sisterhood invites you to a fun night!**

Beginners and advanced players welcome.  
Bring your friends - members and non-members.

We have instructors and refreshments!!!

**Tuesday, November 15 at 7:00pm**

In-person only in the TBE social hall.

**NO CHARGE.**

PLEASE RSVP, so we know how many tables we need,  
to Fran Ginsburg at [ginsstamf@gmail.com](mailto:ginsstamf@gmail.com) or  
203-979-9570

Temple Beth El Sisterhood, 350 Roxbury Rd, Stamford, CT 06902  
[www.tbe.org](http://www.tbe.org) | 203-322-6901



# Annual Sisterhood Membership Brunch

with Dr. Elissa Kaplan, guest speaker



Thank you to all who helped put up and take down the sukkah this year!



CHECK US OUT ON

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Thank you!

Art Laichtman, Fund-Raising Chair  
[aelaichtman@optimum.net](mailto:aelaichtman@optimum.net)





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

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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](mailto: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.



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

### DID YOU KNOW?

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### SEEKING SHABBAT GREETERS

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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](mailto:rosnereileen@gmail.com).

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

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

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Questions? Contact Linda at 203-322-6901, ext. 302 or [lindar@tbe.org](mailto:lindar@tbe.org).



# Noah's Ark



Have you seen our replica of Noah's Ark in the hallway of Kesher Beth El? It is walnut, measures 76" by 72", and has 149 plaques and 18 larger animals that can include engraved messages in honor of a family's children or anyone else, or in honor of a significant family event .

We are asking you to consider honoring your children (or anyone else) by donating \$250 to this project and buying a plaque. We hope that you might be further moved to buy one of the remaining animals for a donation of \$1,000.

*Proceeds to benefit Kesher Beth El.*

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Emily, Scott & Adam Worobey

#### SANDY & FRED GOLOVE BECAUSE WE LOVE THEM

Beth & Robert Golove

#### CANTOR KATIE KAPLAN FOR INCLUDING THOSE FROM AFAR AT HIGH HOLIDAY SERVICES

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#### *In memory of...*

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#### NORMAN BLOMBERG, z'I

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### MEMORIAL PLAQUES



Inscribe the names of your loved ones on a plaque in our Chapel foyer 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.

### 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.



### WE MOURN THE PASSING OF...

SALLY ABBEY, mother of Debbie Morgenthau  
 NANCY GOODMAN, mother of Jeffrey Goodman  
 NORMAN BLOMBERG, brother of Richard Blomberg  
 DENA KAPLAN, mother of Mitchell Kaplan

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Find out about the latest news and upcoming activities ...  
 access our online membership directory ... register for  
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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.

And then we built a Jewish state - because no one else would take us in. No one. Including this place. Land that I love.

So that's what it means to be Jewish. And that's why the world needs us now more than ever. And that's why you need to be proud. And that's also why we need a Jewish state.

### **Kol Nidre: Do You Speak Jewish?**

As Cynthia Ozick put it, "History is linked to heritage, and heritage—preeminently its expression in language—is what most particularly defines a civilization."

Or, in the immortal words of Aunt Betty, "Do you speak Jewish?"

Now you do. And with all due respect to the Baal Shem Tov, it's not enough just to take out your shepherd's whistle. Authentic prayer can take all forms. But Judaism is a highly literate faith. We are the people of the book. To water that down and to lose our literacy would be – to use another Jewish term, a great [Shanda](#).

We rightly bemoan the banning and burning of books. But how much better is it if we collectively forfeit our library cards? How much better is it if our books remain unopened, we allow our Jewishness to grow rusty and never pass it on to the next generation?

*"Vshinantam Ivanecha, vdibarta bam" These words shall be in your heart, and you shall repeat them to your children and speak of them."*

That's from the Sh'ma, the very first prayer we learn and the last one we say before we die.

*Baruch Sheemar V'haya ha-olam* Blessed is the One who speaks, and worlds come into being.

So, nu, let's resolve to speak more Jewish this year – and that means to speak more Jewish. Let's make our Aunt Bettys burst with pride. Let's make them [Verklempt](#). And through that, let's discover our common language, shared throughout the annals of civilization.

There is no time to waste. *Yala* – let's get on with it.

### **Yom Kippur Day: A Bridge in Prague: A Doctrine of Non-Detachment**

[Eastern religions](#) promote non-attachment. To be fair, I am a great admirer of eastern thought, and the Dalai Lama, for one, makes clear that detachment [does not mean disengagement or indifference](#). So, this is not a polemic against eastern traditions.

But I can state unequivocally that in Judaism, attachment is the objective. Attachment to life, to our loved ones, to the ideals we cherish, and, yes, even to the material things that make those other attachments more real to us, things that are tangible, touchable, huggable, smellable, that pique our senses and make us feel completely alive and aware. From a toddler's first Pooh Bear to the tallis we choose to be buried with.

Think of Queen Elizabeth's funeral, and that overpowering moment when her crown was removed from the top of her casket – there was actually something very Jewish about that moment, steeped in ritual, demonstrating how our lives are saturated in the sanctity of things.

Our Torah scrolls have crowns too. Think of how powerful it is to kiss the Torah, to remove that crown and open up the scroll to reveal the sacred word.

This sermon is my case for a doctrine of non-Detachment.

This view of earth provides a grand scaling out of the minutiae of daily concerns and a scaling in of the oneness of our existence and the need to care for the earth and her delicate atmosphere (the only thing protecting the earth from the dark, black abyss of outer space). It provides a view of all life on earth as existing or disappearing together. Regardless of politics, beliefs, borders, countries, continents, or any of the issues that divide us, once the earth is viewed in this manner, it becomes urgently apparent that we, as human beings, will survive or perish depending on how we collectively care for our planet. That certainly provides another spin for our *untane tokef* prayer. As we sway back and forth together chanting that *teshuvah*, *tefilah*, and *tzedakah* will avert the decree, perhaps we should be adding *tikkun olam* (repairing the world) to the repetitive chant that we ingrain in our systems.

So, how can we weave these words of *tikkun olam* into our minds, bodies, and spirits and more importantly, take action together here at TBE to make a difference? Our solar roof here at TBE is wonderful and a great contribution, overall to the reduction of our drain on non-renewable resources. Yet in the coming months, I'd like to personally go even further to examine my own footprint and see if there are ways in which I can tread more lightly upon this planet. I invite you to join me in this pledge to reduce waste and step up our care and stewardship of the earth. I offer some suggestions below for us to consider and encourage you to choose at least one that feels compelling to you:

- Committing to using a reusable water bottle
- Eliminating paper towels from our homes
- Turning off the lights when we leave a room
- Installing solar on our roofs at home, even if we don't love the way it looks
- Setting the thermostat back a few degrees
- Carpooling to work and other locations
- Planting pollinator gardens
- Lobbying to politicians for greener policies
- Donating to organizations supporting in environmental sustainability
- Spending more time unplugged in nature

While each of us already probably does a few things on this list, the time is now to double down and do a few more and not let ourselves off the hook so easily. Will you join me? If so, please contact me at [cantor@tbe.org](mailto:cantor@tbe.org) and we can form a group to help one another stay accountable to protect and repair this beautiful planet so that hopefully one day, it will be more than just a *fleeting dream*.

Cantor Katie Kaplan

### **Sources and Additional Information**

If reading this article digitally, here is a link to the video OVERVIEW posted by Planetary Collective | <https://vimeo.com/55073825>

Article referencing Shatner's interview <https://people.com/human-interest/william-shatner-explains-reaction-to-space-flight-today-show/>



HAZZAN SIDNEY RABINOWITZ continued from page 4...

for them to search adoption records than it is today.”

“My mother was given up for adoption by a Romanian Jewish lady who had a relationship with a Black guy. She couldn’t keep the child.”

“People would ask me how I could be Jewish and sing songs with Jesus in them. So I did some studying,” Mr. Nelson said.

He learned that the gospel songs they sang were field songs; work songs that enslaved people, who were captured from different tribes from different parts of Africa, would sing to make time and work go more easily. “They were field songs, not songs about Jesus,” he said. “This was prior to their conversion to Christianity.”

“After they converted, the spirituals were secret codes about escaping. So, when they sang ‘Steal Away to Jesus,’ the master thought they were singing about Jesus, but “steal” means “escape” and Jesus was the North Star. It’s the same thing with *Down by the Riverside*. That was about escaping,” Mr. Nelson said.

“Those slave songs were so ingenious because the slave masters loved to hear their slaves sing.”

“As a Jew I said, ‘You know we can’t concentrate on the religious dimensions. It’s about the soul of the African American story from Africa to the present. In my opinion, Black Jews had a little problem because they didn’t realize the distinctiveness of the field song, so I combined it with Hebrew songs, and that made it kosher.’”

Mr. Nelson talked a bit more about his career. “I used to teach bar and bat mitzvah kids,” he said. “It helped me to teach them, and they were having so much fun that they didn’t realize that they were learning,” he said. “People sometimes get into a stalemate. They get stuck emotionally. They say ‘This is boring. This is corny.’ When the kids would say that I would say, ‘No, it doesn’t have to be that way. You are making it that way.’”

When he taught at Sharey Tefilo, the school had about 800 students. Eventually he stopped. “It was taking a toll on my voice,” he said. “There was so much talking.” And it interfered with his concert schedule, but still he missed it.

For almost 30 years, Mr. Nelson led the choir at Hopewell Baptist Church in Newark, NJ. For much of that time, the church met in the building originally built for Temple B’nai Jeshurun, which decamped for Short Hills in the 1970s. “The minister heard me sing at a funeral and asked, ‘Would you come and play for me?’ Mr. Nelson reported. I said, ‘I’m Jewish, will that bother you?’ And he said, ‘I’m Christian, will that bother you?’”

“It has been an amazing journey. Something you didn’t think was even possible became possible and nurtured my whole life. It just opened my brain. And I thank G-d for an amazing life. This has nothing to do with houses or cars or money. It is the experience of seeing so much of connecting with people beyond my own realm.

“When you travel around so much, you have to have a place, a home.”

קורל החזן He served as the cantor at a shul in Marlboro for the High Holy Days this year. He’s a complicated musician!



Hazzan Sidney G. Rabinowitz

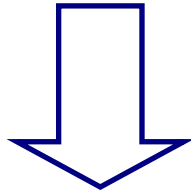
## High Holidays 5783 So glad that you joined us.

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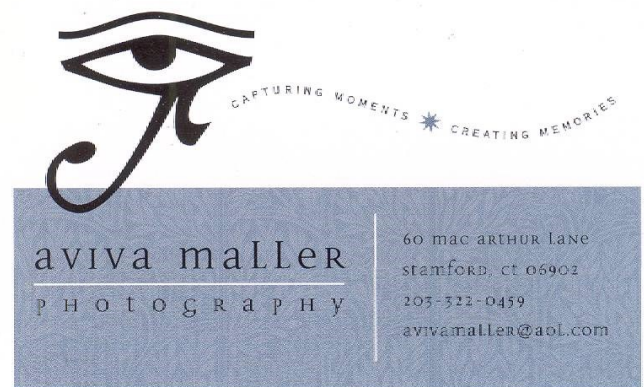
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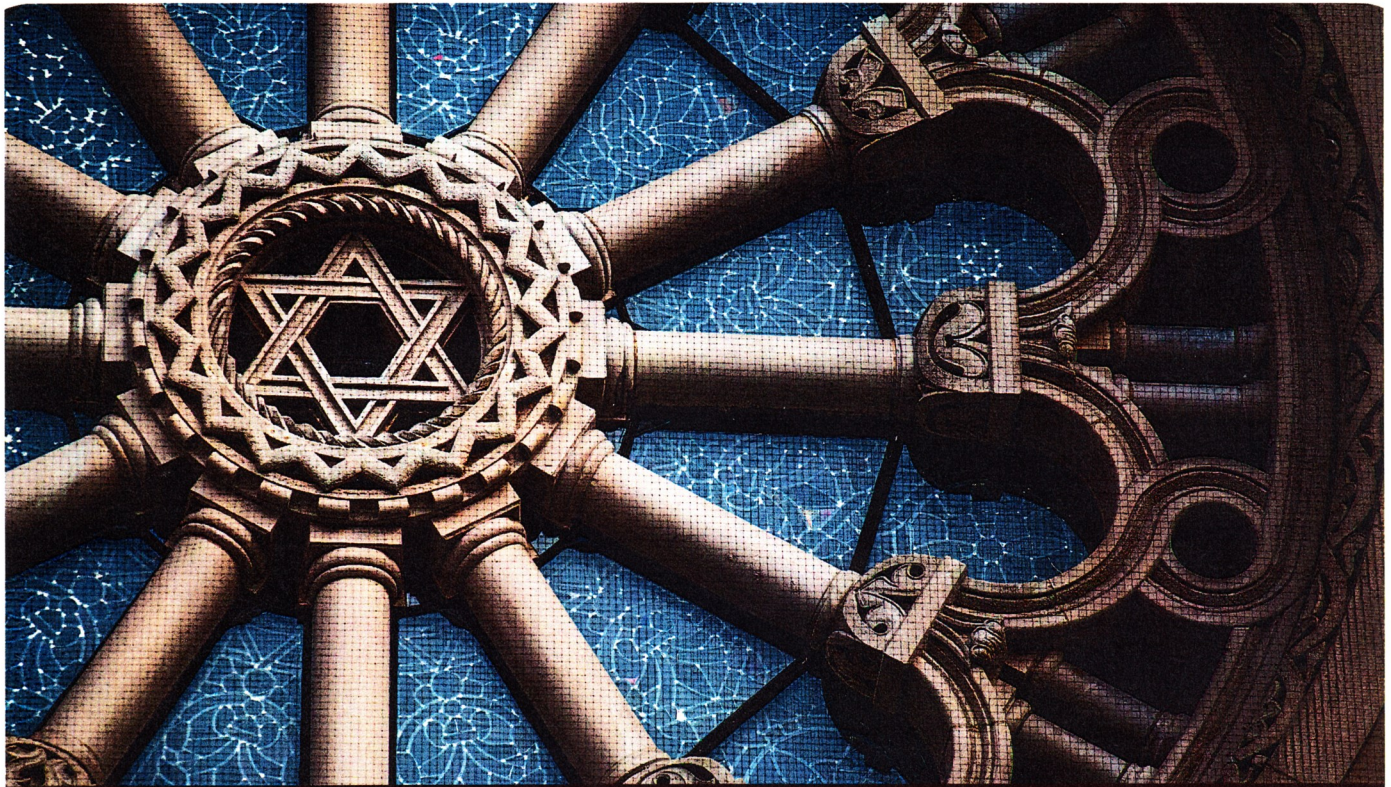
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