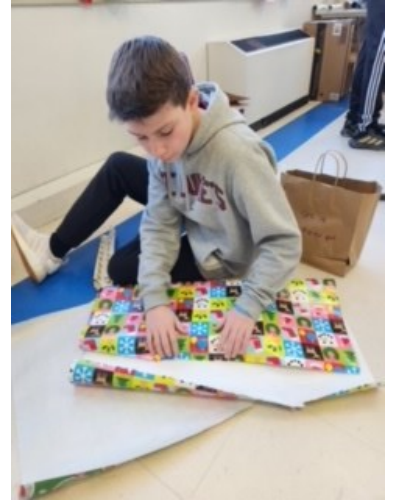


## TBE Mitzvah Makers



We partnered with the JCC's JCares Gift Drive that collected gifts for Stamford Public School students.

## Beth El Cares

Food and gifts were provided to shelters at Pacific House, Franklin Street and New Covenant House by TBE volunteers.





**TEMPLE BETH EL - BOARD OF TRUSTEES****EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

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Peter K. Kempner	203-968-8079
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Gary P. Lessen	203-322-7617
Sylvan D. Pomerantz	203-968-0605
Brian Rogol	212-531-8203
Eileen H. Rosner	203-461-0506
Carl R. Weinberg	203-322-8675
Mia M. Weinstein	203-595-0528

**WHERE TO FIND IT**

Joshua Hammerman, Rabbi.....	Page 3
Katie Kaplan, Cantor .....	Page 3
January-February Service Schedule.....	Page 4
Beth El Cares.....	Page 5
Keshet Beth El .....	Page 6
TBE Clubs .....	Page 9
Sisterhood .....	Page 10

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

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Susan Frieden.....	203-869-4282

**Fund Raising**

Arthur Laichtman.....	203-461-8223
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**High Holy Days Task Force**

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

Sharon Turshen.....	203-323-3872
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**Human Resources**

Carl Weinberg .....	203-322-8675
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**Immigration Task Force**

Leslie Glenn.....	203-273-7215
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**Marketing and Communications**

Stan Friedman.....	203-322-0416
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**Membership Committee**

Kahla Cooper.....	203-554-7888
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**Project Ezra**

Joy Katz.....	203-329-3359
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**Reyut Committee**

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

## Whose Side is God On, Anyway?

During the fall, I had the honor of joining with clergy colleagues from Saint Francis Episcopal Church and St John's Lutheran in a three-way dialogue on how our faith traditions interpret the Bible differently. The series was so popular that we are adding three more sessions this winter. Check page 7 in this Bulletin for details. The sessions will be on Zoom only.



Continuing on this biblical theme, we'll explore how our different faiths look at the Adam and Eve story (Was it "The Fall" or simply a failure to communicate?); also, we'll examine Psalm 22. When the Psalmist utters those fateful, heartfelt words, *My God, my God, why have You forsaken me?* is the "me" referring to the Jewish people in Exile, Jesus on the cross, or, as is most likely in its original context, just the author of that particular poem?

It's fascinating to see how a few Hebrew words can be understood in such different ways, and how those meanings can change over time. And to complicate matters further, the Christian reading of the Bible comes not directly from the Hebrew, but primarily from the 3<sup>rd</sup> century BCE Greek translation known as the Septuagint, which introduced some ambiguities to the Hebrew original.

Here's a great example. In one of our sessions, we discussed Isaiah 7:14: *Assuredly, my Lord will give you a sign of His own accord! Look, the young woman is with child and about to give birth to a son. Let her name him Immanuel. (JPS translation)*

The literal translation of the Hebrew word *alma* is "young woman," but the Septuagint translated it as *parthenos* in the Greek, which can mean both "young woman" and "virgin." Either translation is correct for *parthenos*, but the Hebrew word *alma* never meant virgin in the Hebrew Bible. Not once, and it occurs nine times. The mistranslation was likely not intentional, if in fact it was a mistranslation at all, when looking at it from the Greek perspective. Add to it a Hellenistic mythic culture where gods routinely had sex with mortals, which would make a virgin birth not so unthinkable.

So, was Christianity wrong to read the text in that way? Is the Hebrew more correct because it is the original? And what does virgin birth really mean, anyway? Was Joseph a virgin too? If God is the father, does that mean God's not a virgin? And why is sex thought of in such a negative way, anyway, that the savior needed to be born so... *immaculately*? As you can imagine, questions like these led to some incredible – and very open and honest – conversations.

At the core of this enormous interpretive gap between classical Judaism and Christianity, there's a huge difference between an 8<sup>th</sup> century BCE prophet spinning a parable about a young woman is about to give birth, something routine and unspectacular and designed to make a point about a contemporary political situation; and saying that a virgin will give birth – *in seven hundred years*.

While I went into the session absolutely convinced that

*Continued on page 17...*

## Once Upon an Orchid

Many of you may remember my Yom Kippur remarks in which I shared the story of my "orchid graveyard" on my windowsill and the great surprise, joy, and awe that I experienced when finding that one of my orchids was going to bloom again. Well, three months later, the plant that I spoke of is in full bloom with 11 enormous flowers unfurled in all their splendor. I was gifted another beautiful plant already in bloom which has joined the display, and one of my other seemingly dormant plants has since sprouted a vine on which new buds will hopefully appear in the coming months.



I don't know if I was clear when I expressed that prior to this, I did not have much success with plants. I don't consider myself a gardener, though I love the idea of gardening, and I generally prefer to not have one more thing to worry about on a regular basis. However, with the journey of these beautiful flowers, something in me has changed.

I eagerly greet them each day, check on them, talk to them, and smile when I come down the stairs. The sight of their full bloom fills me with such immense joy, pride, and gratitude. What beauty, right here in my home! That I should have the fortune to witness firsthand their opening, their sacred unfurling while resting in divine presence upon my windowsill feels to be a blessing in its own right.

In a time of darkness, when the days have been slowly decreasing in sunlight, these flowers have filled my home with a different kind of radiance. They inspired me to adopt a few more plants and to care for them throughout both periods of flowering growth and seemingly dormant phases. This, in turn, has prompted me to expand this mindset to include myself and other loved ones. It can be so easy to become discouraged when the days grow short, a project goes south, a friendship seems to fade, or the flowers begin to fall from our lives. I hope that by sharing this story you may also see more clearly that all phases of life contain beauty, hope, and possibility. Perhaps this story of my orchids can help you find the inspiration to not give up on a plant, a loved one in your life, or on yourself. Happy Secular New Year 2023!

*Cantor Katie Kaplan*

*Continued on page 17...*





## SHABBAT AND FESTIVAL SERVICES



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

### JANUARY

#### Friday, January 6

Kabbalat Shabbat 7:00 pm

#### Shabbat, January 7

Shabbat Service 10:00 am

#### Friday, January 13

Kabbalat Shabbat 7:00 pm

#### Shabbat, January 14

Shabbat Service 10:00 am

#### Friday, January 20

Kabbalat Shabbat 7:00 pm

#### Shabbat, January 21

Shabbat Service 10:00 am

ShaBaBimBam 11:00 am

#### Friday, January 27

Kabbalat Shabbat 7:00 pm

#### Shabbat, January 28

Shabbat Service 10:00 am

Havdalah Family Night 5:30 pm

### FEBRUARY

#### Friday, February 3

Kabbalat Shabbat 7:00 pm

#### Shabbat, February 4

Shabbat Service 10:00 am

#### Friday, February 10

Kabbalat Shabbat 7:00 pm

#### Shabbat, February 11

Shabbat Service 10:00 am

ShaBaBimBam 11:00 am

#### Friday, February 17

Kabbalat Shabbat 7:00 pm

#### Shabbat, February 18

Shabbat Service 10:00 am

#### Friday, February 24

Kabbalat Shabbat 7:00 pm

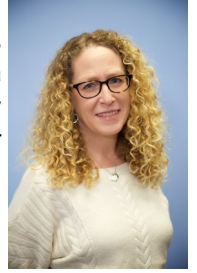
#### Shabbat, February 25

Shabbat Service 10:00 am

Middle-Eastern Havdalah 6:30 pm

## TBE WELCOMES DAYNA PATASHNIK AS ENGAGEMENT COORDINATOR

Temple Beth El is proud to welcome Dayna Patashnik in her new role as Engagement Coordinator. Dayna has a strong connection to TBE both personally and professionally. A member of TBE for over 17 years, she has been a teacher in the K'tanim program since 2009. In 2021, she launched the TBE middle school social action/community service program "Mitzvah Makers" developing innovative programming and building community partnerships through volunteer activities.



In this role, Dayna will embrace new and prospective members to TBE as well as engaging with current members to ensure everyone has a deep level of connection to our temple community and their Jewish identity. Dayna welcomes the opportunity to work with TBE in a new capacity and she is very excited about her new position. "I look forward to working closely with clergy, staff, board members and volunteers to serve the TBE congregation and the greater Stamford community," Dayna stated.

"We are pleased to welcome Dayna into her expanded role at TBE. Her passion for TBE and the Jewish community makes her the perfect fit for this important position," said President of Temple Beth El, Scott Krowitz.

Dayna is a resident of Stamford and is married to David Patashnik. They are the proud parents of Aaron and Andrew.

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

*We are so excited that you are part  
of the TBE community.*

REBECCA and ANDREW BENENSON

IRINA and GARY BETSER

JUDITH and ARTHUR COPELAND

LISA CUSCUNA

ELAINE and ROBERT ERICHSON

LINDA FELD

STACY FERBER

HOWARD FRIEDBERG

ASHLEY and EVAN GANZ

ARLENE HALL

HANNAH and MICHAEL MAY

SUSAN and WILLIAM NABEL

ALLISON and GARY POSKAR

ANNEA and STEVEN ROSENBERG

JOYCE RESNICK and BOB SCHUMACHER

KAREN SHEFTELL

STACEY and DANIEL WARSHAW

SHARON and STEPHEN WINER

BRIAN YOMTOV



## MAZAL TOV TO...

*Emily and Sean Altman on the birth of a son, Elijah Levi, and to the proud grandparents, Honni and Sylvan Pomerantz.*

*Lori and Stuart Ratner on the birth of a grandson, Andrew Taylor, born to Yana and David Ratner.*

*Lisa and Michael Rome on the birth of a granddaughter, Sydney Morgan, born to Lauren and Barry Marks.*

*Lynn Villency Cohen and Stephen Cohen on the engagement of their daughter Rachel to Daniel Grey, and to Judge Stanley Novack, the proud grandfather.*

*Lois Stark and Gary Lessen on the birth of a grandson, Ben Paxton Arenson, born to Stacy Lessen and Gregg Arenson.*

*Roni Lang on receiving the Social Worker of the Year Award from the National Association of Social Workers-CT Chapter*



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!

BENJAMIN DAVIDSON ★ JACOB DAVIDSON  
ASHER FARBER ★ ILANA GILBERT ★ RAPHAEL GILBERT,  
SARAH GILBERT ★ RABBI GERRY GINSBURG  
RABBI JOSHUA HAMMERMAN ★ ELISE KITAEFF  
JOSH LEVINE ★ BERT MADWED ★ LEO MAHLER  
STUART NEKRITZ ★ JULIE ROSENBERG ★ ERIC SAMUELS  
SUSAN SCHNEIDERMAN ★ LAEL SHAPIRO  
MAYA SHAPIRO ★ JONAH SHAPIRO

## THANK YOU FOR SPONSORING THE SHABBAT ANNOUNCEMENTS

DANIELLE and LAEL SHAPIRO

## THANK YOU FOR SPONSORING KIDDUSH

DANIELLE and LAEL SHAPIRO

## HAVE YOU SEEN OUR NEW PAVER WALKWAY?



## 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 [julierosenbergsjp@gmail.com](mailto:julierosenbergsjp@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 [julierosenbergsjp@gmail.com](mailto:julierosenbergsjp@gmail.com) or 203-273-6794.

## HAVE YOU VISITED OUR WEBSITE?

[www.tbe.org](http://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.

## 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](http://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.



# Celebrating Hanukkah



## HANUKKAH SKIT



[Click here](#) to see more Kesher Beth El activities.





## 2022 TBE MEMBERSHIP SURVEY RESULTS

The TBE Strategic Planning Committee is currently analyzing the results of the recent TBE Membership Survey and will be presenting its findings to the Board of Trustees and in a report to the congregation, which will appear in an upcoming edition of the TBE Bulletin.

The committee is also putting the finishing touches on a rabbinic survey, which will be sent out to the congregation in mid-January. This shorter survey will focus specifically on the selection of a new senior rabbi, scheduled to succeed Rabbi Hammerman in July 2024 when he transitions to Rabbi Emeritus. Please watch your inbox for more information.

At this time, we are also announcing the 10 winning respondents who took the membership survey and entered the last few digits of their Social Security numbers into a drawing for a \$25 Amazon gift certificate. If you took the survey and the last four digits of your Social Security number matches one of those below, please stop by the TBE office after January 2 to claim your prize. Bring proof of your Social Security number with you.



Thank you for your engagement in our planning process.

0024	4234
1316	7014
3777	7881
3809	8636
3973	9112

## ADULT EDUCATION

**Journeys Through Our Prayer Services-2nd semester  
with Rabbi Gerry Ginsburg**  
**Exploring the Weekday Services**  
**Wednesday evenings from 7:00-8:00pm on Zoom**  
**January 18, 25; February 1, 8, 15, 22; March 1**

How do *arvit* (nighttime), *shacharit* (morning), and *mincha* (afternoon) services differ from Shabbat? How are they similar? What are the major themes of these services?

No knowledge of Hebrew is required to participate.

All materials will be provided.

RSVP to Rabbi Gerry Ginsburg at [rabbiginsburg@tbe.org](mailto:rabbiginsburg@tbe.org)

Zoom details will be sent via email. Check your inbox.

**Meditation and Guided Imagery  
with Cantor Katie Kaplan**

Tuesday, January 17 at 7:00pm on Zoom

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

Zoom details will be sent via email. Check your inbox.

**Interfaith Book Study:**

**The Bible with and Without Jesus**

Thursday evenings at 6:30pm on Zoom

January 26 and February 2, 9

Join TBE, St. John's Lutheran Church and St. Francis Episcopal Church to explore how Jews and Christians read and interpret biblical material the same and differently.

Zoom details will be sent via email. Check your inbox.

## Kesher Beth El Celebrates Hanukkah with Mayor Caroline Simmons at the Government Center



“What happens at **TEMPLE ROCK**  
stays at **TEMPLE ROCK**”



**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2023 FROM 7:00 TO 11 PM**

“LUCKY” COCKTAILS

“ALL IN” YOU CAN EAT BUFFET

“ROLL ‘EM” LIVE AND ONLINE AUCTION

“THE SKY’S THE LIMIT” PADDLE RAISE

BLACK TIE / VEGAS ATTIRE OPTIONAL

\$150 per person

Diamond Sponsor \$2,000

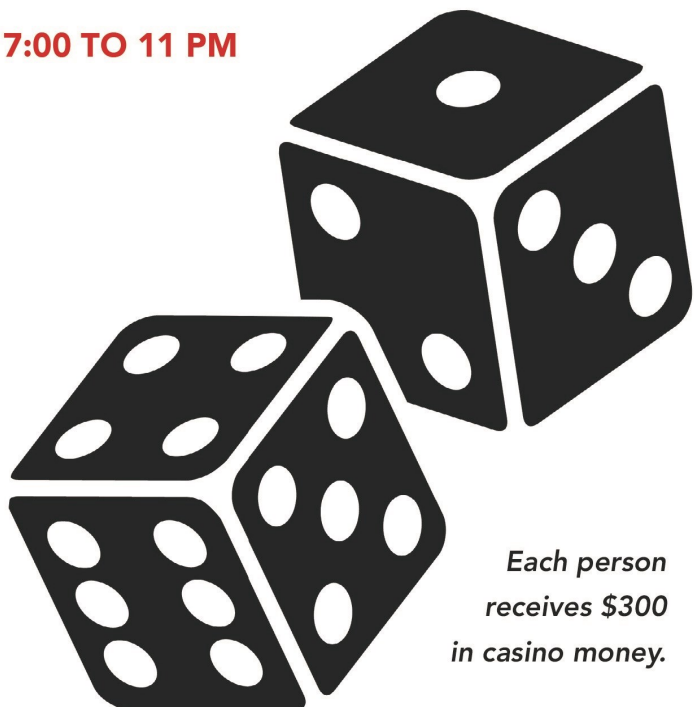
four people and \$350 auction credit

Patrons \$1,000

two people and \$150 auction credit

Friends \$500

two people and \$50 auction credit



*Each person  
receives \$300  
in casino money.*

RSVP BY JANUARY 25

Reserve online at [www.tinyurl.com/tbetr2023](http://www.tinyurl.com/tbetr2023)

For information please call Steve Lander 203-322-6901, ext 304



## 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.

**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.

**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. 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.

**Point Person:** Leslie Heyison at [lheyson@gmail.com](mailto:lheyson@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.

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

## Special Occasion?

**Sponsor the Shabbat Announcements**  
(emailed every Thursday afternoon)

**and In This Moment**  
(emailed weekly)

**Both 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.**

## 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 #.**



**Worldwide Wrap 2023**  
**Sunday, February 12 at 10:45 am**

**For 7th grade and 2023 B'nai Mitzvah  
students and parents**

**Please join us and Jews from all over the world  
as we roll up our sleeves and participate  
in this annual event.**

*Details to follow...*

**SISTERHOOD CLOTHING DRIVE****November 13, 2022**

We thank the following people for helping at the Sisterhood clothing drive. Without you, the clothing drive would not have been so successful!

**Amy Davidson, Lisa Grove-Raider, Juli Harris, Nancy Kapchan and especially her friend Enrique, Mitchell Kaplan, Dayna Patashnik, Dora Salm, Judy Schneiderman, Rebecca Sigman**

A special thank you to everyone in the community who donated clothes to the clothing drive.

**SAVE THIS DATE!****Women & Whiskey**

With TBE Sisterhood  
Wednesday, January 25, 2023  
7:30 - 9:30 pm

Location...To be announced.

**CHECK US OUT ON****facebook**

[facebook.com/tbestamford/](https://facebook.com/tbestamford/)

**HAVE YOU SEEN OUR NEW PAVER WALKWAY WITH  
HANDICAP RAMP AND PROTECTIVE BOLLISERS?**

**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, January 24 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.

**TBE Sisterhood Presents****THEATER NIGHT****THE WISDOM OF EVE**

**Thursday, March 2 at 8:00 pm**  
Doors open at 7:00 pm  
at

Curtain Call, 1349 Newfield Avenue, Stamford, CT

Only 30 tickets available at \$28 each.

First-come, first-served.

Click here to reserve: [www.tinyurl.com/drama3-2](http://www.tinyurl.com/drama3-2).

This theater has a BYOEEverything format. Food and drink are welcome.

Questions? Contact Nancy Kapchan 203-435-0389.

Adapted from the story by Mary Orr on which the film *All About Eve* and the hit musical *Applause* were based. This stage version is an engrossing and revealing inside story of life in New York's theatre world, related in terms of an unscrupulous and manipulative ingénue's rise to Broadway stardom.





## Temple Beth El Executive Committee 2022-2023



Scott Krowitz  
President



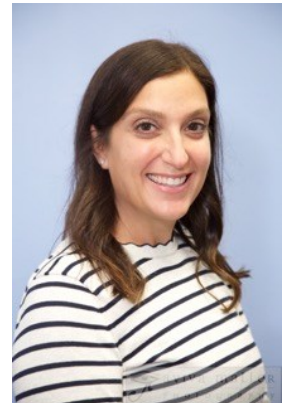
Lisa Manheim  
Imm. Past-President



Devra Jaffe-Berkowitz  
1st Vice-President



Jeff Cohen  
Vice-President



Kahla Cooper  
Vice-President



Dana Horowitz  
Vice-President



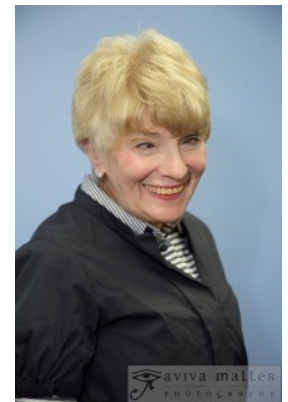
Art Laichtman  
Vice-President



Julie Rosenberg  
Vice-President



Rob Cohen  
Treasurer



Susan Frieden  
Assistant Treasurer



Chris Maroc  
Secretary



Stan Friedman  
Advisor



Carl R. Weinberg  
Past-President & Advisor

Photos by Aviva Maller Photography

## Temple Beth El Board of Trustees 2022-2023



Debra Adler-Klein



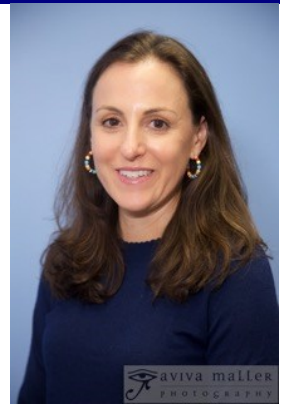
David Amsellem



Jon Eisenstein



Suzanne Fruithandler



Leslie Glenn



Susan Greenwald



Michael Handel



Marsha Matthews



Vicki Kobliner



Mitch Nadel



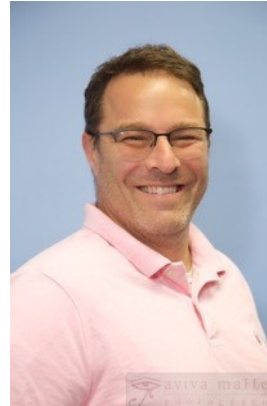
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- ☒ Frank and Rose Rosner Memorial Fund
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### MEMORIAL PLAQUES



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

### PAVER CAMPAIGN

**In celebration of our first 100 years!**

Consider adding a paver to our new walkway. Three sizes are available.

Click here for details: <https://4everbricks.com/donors/TBE/>

Questions? Contact Steven Lander at [execdir@tbe.org](mailto:execdir@tbe.org).

### 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](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.

The following categories are still available:

Triple Chai	\$1,000
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Silver Leaves	\$250

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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

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](mailto: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.

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**BENJAMIN DAVIDSON BECOMING A BAR MITZVAH**

Marsha Colten & Robert Cohen, Susan & Art Greenwald

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Marsha Colten & Robert Cohen

**THE BIRTH OF JOLIE TRICIA LAZARUS**

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Suzanne & Rob Fruithandler

**RABBI GERRY GINSBURG FOR HIS SUPPORT DURING A DIFFICULT TIME**

Karen Spiegel

**COMPLETE AND SPEEDY RECOVERY FOR ROSALEA FISHER**

Suzanne & Norman Stone

**RONI LANG'S NOMINATION FOR SOCIAL WORKER OF THE YEAR BY THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS**

Ilene & Simon Sumberg

**THE BIRTH OF BEN PAXTON ARENSON**

Betsy & Peter Kempner, Carol & Allen Krim, Maxine & Jay Freilich

**OZ MANHEIM ON HIS FIRST BIRTHDAY**

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**RONI LANG BEING SELECTED BY THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS-CT CHAPTER AS SOCIAL WORKER OF THE YEAR**

Allan Lang

**FRAN & RABBI GERRY GINSBURG FOR THEIR KINDNESS DURING SHIVA FOR MARTIN STEINMETZ, z'l**

Karen Resnick, Mollie and Rachel Steinmetz

**SUSAN SCHNEIDERMAN FOR HER KINDNESS DURING SHIVA FOR MARTIN STEINMETZ, z'l**

Karen Resnick, Mollie and Rachel Steinmetz

**THE BIRTH OF RYAN ANDREW ROTHSTEIN**

Fran & Rabbi Gerry Ginsburg

**JONAH SHAPIRO ON BECOMING A BAR MITZVAH**

Carol & Allen Krim

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In appreciation by Karen and Ed Gartner

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Cantor Katie Kaplan for her generosity of time and spirit by  
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Jerome Ratner, z'l by Lori & Stuart Ratner

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Herbert Katz, z'l by Sharon & Steven Katz

#### *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





## REMEMBERING OUR LOVED ONES



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 Marlyn Agatstein ..... **CHARLOTTE ACKERMAN**  
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### IN MEMORY OF:

#### **EVELYN KUGELMAN, z'l**

Judy Schneiderman, Beth, Pete & Jake Silver, Fran & Rabbi Gerry Ginsburg

#### **ELEANORE AGATSTEIN, z'l**

Maxine & Jay Freilich, Fran & Rabbi Gerry Ginsburg

#### **SYLVIA BECKER, z'l**

Judy Schneiderman

#### **MARTIN STEINMETZ, z'l**

Judy Schneiderman, Susan Schneiderman, Beth, Pete & Jake Silver, Fran & Rabbi Gerry Ginsburg, Edward Robins

#### **ALICE TERISTEIN, z'l**

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#### **HENRY DAVID CLAYMAN, z'l**

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### 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](http://www.tbe.org)) and click "Shiva Notices" under the WHAT'S NEW menu.

### WE MOURN THE PASSING OF...

**EVELYN KUGELMAN**, mother of Juli Harris  
**ELEANORE AGATSTEIN**, mother of Richard Agatstein  
**MARTIN STEINMETZ**, father of Mollie and Rachel Steinmetz  
**JOSEPH LEVINE**, father of Jane Levine

### 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.



Isaiah was spinning a parable about a pregnant (and clearly non-virginal) young lass in his day, with absolutely no allusion to anything that would be happening in Nazareth and Bethlehem many centuries later, I came out of it with a new appreciation for how religious ideas evolve. The meaning and significance of this verse has changed so much over the centuries, for Christians and for Jews. For Christians, the Gospels hardly dwell on the topic of virgin birth and the passage from Isaiah. Think of how Moses' birth narrative is barely touched upon in Exodus. Yes, it's a miracle how he survived Pharaoh's henchmen and the torrents of the Nile, but that's all taken care of in a couple of verses on Exodus. Similarly, the Jesus birth narratives just weren't that relevant to Christian faith, which was much more centered on his adult ministry and crucifixion. But it sure came to be relevant to Christians over the ensuing centuries, just as Christmas rose to its supreme status in their religious festival cycle (though most of my Christian clergy friends tell me that Easter is still much more important).

In part because of that, Isaiah 7:14 also became a focal point for Jews. As an example, *Immanuel*, which means *God is with us*, became the name that launched a thousand synagogues (okay, maybe 20, according to this list - [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_synagogues\\_in\\_the\\_United\\_States](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_synagogues_in_the_United_States)), and a verse in the very next chapter of Isaiah (8:10), where the phrase *Imanu-El* occurs again, proclaims that our enemies will never defeat us. This verse inspired a popular Purim song. (See <http://www.hebrewsongs.com/?song=utsueitsa>). Interestingly, the term *Immanuel* is found nowhere else in the Hebrew Bible, other than those two chapters. For Isaiah, Immanuel was just a name.

So, whose side is God on, anyway? Pick your translation of a single word, *alma*, and you can spin diametrically opposing views of history. That's what makes religion so interesting – and so dangerous.

And it's what makes religious dialogue so important.

We have long placed a great emphasis on multiculturalism, inclusiveness and dialogue here. Over Martin Luther King weekend in January, I'll be involved in our city's celebration downtown, and we'll also be featuring a gospel-style Shabbat service. We are responding to the increasing mistrust all around us in the only way that we can – by opening our arms and reaching out to our neighbors.

The Talmud quotes God as stating, "Both the Gentiles and Israelites are my handiwork, therefore, how can I let the former perish on account of the latter?" (*Sanhedrin* 98b).

We need to be doing intense dialogue because it is our job, as Jews, to heal this world. We won't always agree with our neighbors, but have much to learn from them, and they from us. The world is divided into two right now, those who talk and those who shoot. When others threaten us, we need to defend ourselves. But otherwise, we need to cultivate dialogue and understanding.

We are all hoping for a 2023 that will feature more talking and less shooting.

Happy secular New Year.



Rabbi Joshua Hammerman

## Orchid Return

Unfurling  
petal by petal,  
bud by bud,  
for weeks I've watched in awe  
as you've come  
into bloom.

Majestically fuschia,  
your velvet flesh  
signifies royalty.  
Holding shape,  
filling space,  
you reign  
upon the windowsill  
for all to see.

I can scarcely walk by  
without being called to  
attention,  
fawning over your presence  
in reverent appreciation.

Each new bud,  
emerging in bloom,  
heralds the truth  
of your divine spark  
throughout all creation.

Cyclically restored  
by the moon and her seasons  
in response to our  
hope and longing,  
you return  
quietly in the night  
to wake us from  
our great slumber,  
reminding us,  
you were never really  
gone at all.



# Noah's Ark

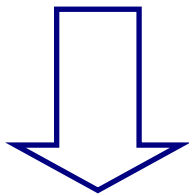


Have you seen our replica of Noah's Ark in the hallway of Kesher Beth El? It is walnut, measures 76" by 72", and has 149 plaques and 18 larger animals that can include engraved messages in honor of a family's children or anyone else, or in honor of a significant family event .

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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CONTACT MINDY ROGOFF FOR DETAILS.  
[office@tbe.org](mailto:office@tbe.org)

The deadline for the  
March-April 2023 Bulletin  
will be Wednesday, February 1, 2023.

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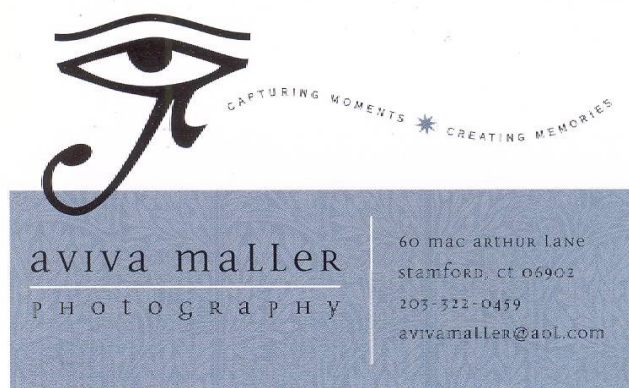
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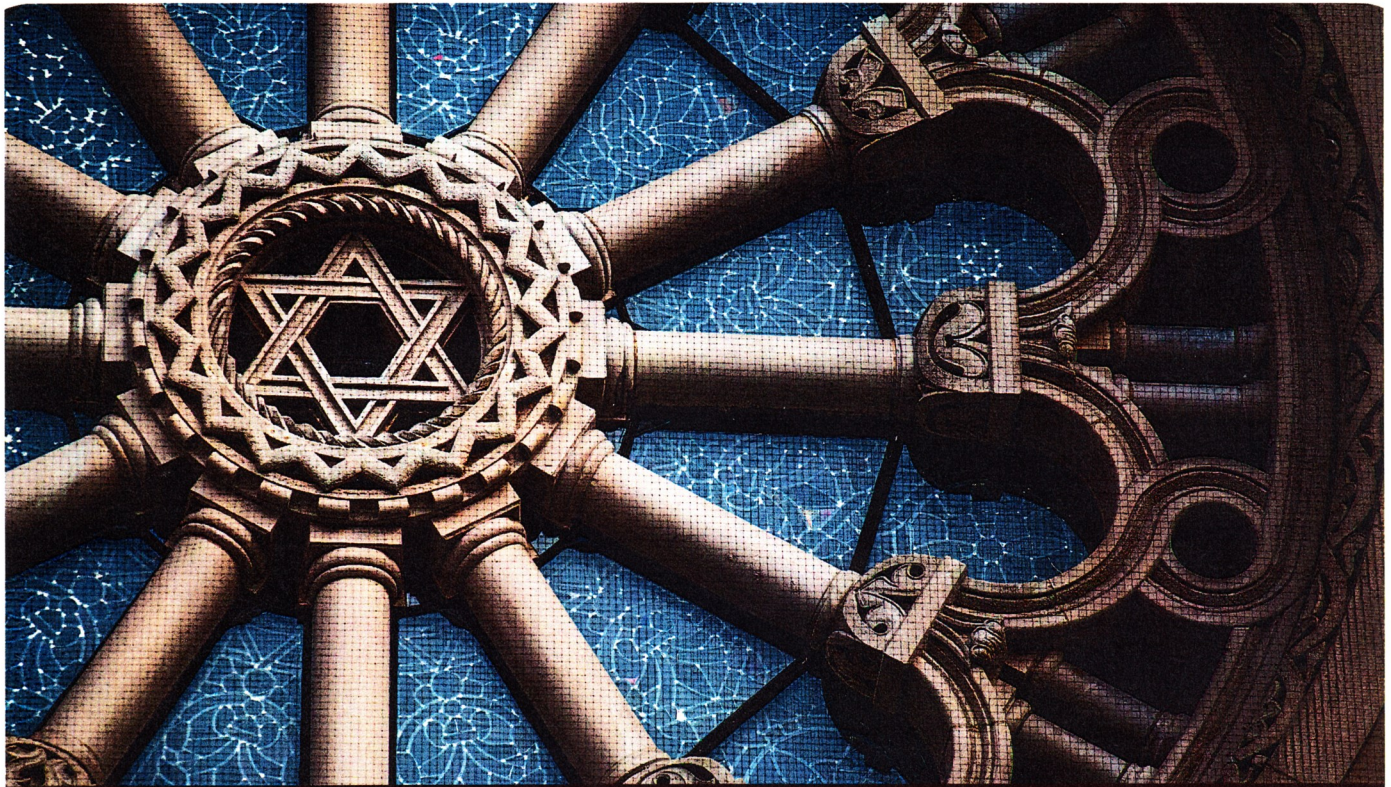
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