

## World Wide Wrap 2023

Seventh Grade and 2023 B'nai Mitzvah students and parents joined Jews from all over the world by rolling up their sleeves and participating in the annual World Wide Wrap.



## TBE Mitzvah Makers MLK Day of Service

TBE Mitzvah Makers participated in JCares MLK Day of Service; projects included making sandwiches, decorating and packing lunch bags for men's shelter Pacific House, making lasagnas for women and children's shelter Inspirica, and writing notes and packaging cookies for Stamford First Responders.

TBE Mitzvah Makers is open to all 6th - 8th graders. Contact [tbeengagement@gmail.com](mailto:tbeengagement@gmail.com) for upcoming events.



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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**

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## “The Tent Peg Business,” Re-revisited

When the wilderness tabernacle is completed, near the end of the Book of Exodus, we are told, “And it came to pass that the tabernacle was ‘one’” (Exod. 36:13). Commenting on this curious expression, Rabbi Mordecai Yosef Leiner of Izbica (d. 1854) observes:



*In the building of the tabernacle, all Israel were joined in their hearts; no one felt superior to his fellow. At first, each skilled individual did his own part of the construction, and it seemed to each one that his work was extraordinary. Afterwards, once they saw how their several contributions to the “service” of the tabernacle were integrated – all the boards, the sockets, the curtains and the loops fit together as if one person had done it all. Then they realized how each one of them had depended on the other. Then they understood how what all they had accomplished was not by virtue of their own skill alone but that the Holy One had guided the hands of everyone who had worked on the tabernacle. They had only later merely joined in completing its master building plan, so that “it came to pass that the tabernacle was one” (Exod. 36:13). Moreover, the one who made the Holy Ark itself was unable to feel superior to the one who had only made the courtyard tent pegs.*

This midrash inspired a seminal article that has influenced synagogues greatly over the past two generations. It’s called “The Tent Peg Business,” by Rabbi Lawrence Kushner, and it was more recently updated by his daughter, Rabbi Noa Kushner. These ideas have been integral to my thinking, as a longtime admirer of Lawrence Kushner, whose congregation in Sudbury, MA became a place of pilgrimage for me and many others back when I was in high school. He also spent a weekend here as a scholar in residence back in the ‘90s. You can find the complete essay at <https://ejewishphilanthropy.com/the-tent-peg-business-revisited-part-1/>

There are so many lessons to be found in this motherlode of out-of-the-box ideas. Here are some of the Kushners’ suggestions, which are still fresh:

1. Jews need one another, and therefore congregations, to do primary religious acts that they should not, and probably cannot, do alone. Doing primary religious acts is the only way we have of growing as Jews. Consequently, it is also the only justification for the existence of a congregation. Everything else congregations do, Jews can always do cheaper, easier, and better somewhere else.
2. There are three ancient kinds of primary Jewish acts: communal prayer, holy study, and good deeds (or in the classical language of Pirkei Avot: avodah, Torah, and g’milut chasadim). This is not a capricious categorization. Prayer (avodah) is emotional: song, candles, dance, meditation, and silence – a matter of

*Continued on page 21...*

## Writing a Jewish Song that Matters

In the summer of 2019, a lifetime ago before COVID, I attended my first songwriting retreat entitled, “Writing a Song that Matters” hosted by singer/songwriter Dar Williams and Friends. I went to the Garrison Institute in upstate, NY, knowing nobody and having only written a handful of songs on my own. Eagerly I packed all my instruments and headed to this beautiful former monastery, knowing that this week of creativity, inspiration, and music was going to have a major impact on my life. At the time, I was still teaching full-time for St. Luke’s School, but all the snippets of my songs included lines like, “go where you want to grow,” and “take a chance, break free.” I knew that I had outgrown my surroundings and my life was about to change, but I couldn’t quite figure out how to make it happen. The artistic process through songwriting helped me work several things out at the same time all while becoming part of an incredible community of creative souls.



During my 1:1 session with Dar working on one of my songs, she asked if I knew fellow Jewish singer-songwriter Sue Horowitz. I had met Sue through the Women Cantors’ Network but didn’t realize that Sue had recently started her own group for Jewish songwriters, The Jewish Collaborative Songwriting Retreat. Dar suggested I connect with Sue and her group (most of the songs I was writing were clearly Jewish songs) and I filed that bit of information away not realizing at the time how valuable it would become. During COVID, when everything took place online, I took a leap and attended one of Sue’s winter retreats with JCSR and immediately felt a deep connection and sense of community with my fellow Jewish singer/songwriters.

The JCSR group of artists is an incredibly special, truly collaborative group. I stress the word collaborative because it is such a contrast to the word competitive. In this group, I immediately felt a sense of belonging and began to participate in co-writing with several different musicians. Each writing partner offered another opportunity to expand possibilities, think creatively, solve problems, and work together. In collaboration, I’ve written several wonderful pieces, some of which I’ve included in services already, and others which are still considered “wet paint” and not totally finalized.

The friendships and collaborations are special, and they also inspire me to write more confidently in my own voice as a songwriter. At TBE, you may recognize some of my original music and settings of liturgy: “Hava Nashira, L’cha Dodi, V’imru Amen, Healing Niggun, In Darkness, Esa Einai, Send Healing Now, and Song of the Doe.” In collaboration, I’ve been exploring, co-creating, and dreaming up innovative approaches with partners who inspire and nurture the creative process. With Caitlin McLaughlin (fellow JCSR member), I recently composed a V’shamru/Niggun that we’ve also been singing during Friday evening services.

*Continued on page 22...*



## 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.

### MARCH

**Friday, March 3**

Kabbalat Shabbat 7:00 pm

**Shabbat, March 4**

Shabbat Service 10:00 am

ShaBaBimBam 11:00 am

**Monday, March 6 - Erev Purim**

TeeBees Celebrate Purim 5:30 pm

Family Megillah Reading 6:00 pm

Bubble Trouble Show

Adult Megillah Reading 7:30 pm

**Tuesday, March 7 - Purim**

**Friday, March 10**

Kabbalat Shabbat 7:00 pm

**Shabbat, March 11**

Shabbat Service 10:00 am

**Friday, March 17**

Kabbalat Shabbat 7:00 pm

**Shabbat, March 18**

Shabbat Service 10:00 am

**Friday, March 24**

Shabbuzz Shalom 5:30 pm

Kabbalat Shabbat 7:00 pm

**Shabbat March 25**

Shabbat Service 10:00 am

GABRIEL PARKER, BAR MITZVAH

**Friday, March 31**

Kabbalat Shabbat 7:00 pm

### APRIL

**Shabbat, April 1**

Shabbat Service 10:00 am

**Wednesday, April 5 - Erev Passover**

First Seder

**Thursday, April 6 - Passover, Day 1**

Passover Service 10:00 am

Second Seder

**Friday, April 7 - Passover, Day 2**

Passover Service 10:00 am

Kabbalat Shabbat 7:00 pm

**Shabbat, April 8 - Chol Hamoed Passover**

Shabbat Service 10:00 am

**Wednesday, April 12 - Passover, Day 7**

Passover Service 10:00 am

**Thursday, April 13 - Passover, Day 8**

Passover Service 10:00 am

Yizkor

**Friday, April 14**

Kabbalat Shabbat 7:00 pm

**Shabbat, April 15**

Shabbat Service 10:00 am

**Friday, April 21**

Kabbalat Shabbat 7:00 pm

**Shabbat, April 22**

Shabbat Service 10:00 am

ShaBaBimBam 11:00 am

**Friday, April 28**

Kabbalat Shabbat 7:00 pm

**Shabbat, April 29**

Shabbat Service 10:00 am

Praying the Margins

### ORDER DELICIOUS FOOD FOR YOUR PASSOVER SEDERS PREPARED BY W CATERING AND EVENTS

**Deadline to place an order  
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29 at NOON**

**Pick-up at TBE  
TUESDAY, APRIL 4 from 1-4pm**

Go to: [www.tinyurl.com/sederfood2023](http://www.tinyurl.com/sederfood2023)



**Passover begins on  
Wednesday, April 5, 2023.**

[Click here](#)  
for the Rabbinical Assembly's  
Passover Guide.





## YOUNG FAMILIES



**PURIM@TBE**

**Monday, March 6 @ Temple Beth El**  
350 Roxbury Road Stamford

**5:30pm-6pm**  
Hamantaschen and Crafts with  
the **TeeBeEs!** (Baby to 5)  
Lite dinner will be served.

**6pm**  
Family service +Costume Parade +  
**Bubble Show**  
(Kids of all ages!) **OPEN TO ALL!**

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

**TBE ShaBaBimBam**



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

**Saturday Mornings 11:00am**

**Mar. 4      Apr. 22      May 6**

**RSVP: [youngfamilies@tbe.org](mailto:youngfamilies@tbe.org)**  
**Please provide names of participants,  
email address, and phone #.**

**CHECK US OUT ON**

**facebook**

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

## WATCH FOR DETAILS!

### COFFEE WITH THE CANTOR

Kick-off your morning or jumpstart your afternoon with a cup of coffee and conversation with Cantor Katie Kaplan.

“Join me out for coffee. I would love to sit and talk with you, whether for five minutes or a half-hour, with others, or individually.” Cantor Katie

Tuesday, March 21 at Turning Point Coffee Roasters  
8:30-10:00 am

Tuesday, March 28 at Starbucks on High Ridge Road  
3:00-4:30 pm

### TUNEFUL TUESDAYS

#### Midday Lunchtime Community Singing

March 21 & 28 from 11:15 am - 12:30 pm  
at Temple Beth El

Come one and all if you would like to sing in community and learn melodies for the services with Cantor Katie Kaplan! Even if you don't consider yourself a “singer,” but you would like to be able to sing along and get into the music and prayers, come join us!

### HONORING EARTH DAY TBE ENVIRONMENTAL CLUB

Sunday April 2 from 1-2:30pm  
In-Person at Temple Beth El and on Zoom

Help reduce your feeling of helplessness about climate change. Learn and share different ways to help the earth and feel good. Create the future you want to see.

Contact Jamie Morvitz: [jamiemorvitz87@gmail.com](mailto:jamiemorvitz87@gmail.com)

Zoom details to follow.

### PRAYING THE MARGINS

Shabbat, April 29 at 10:00 am

Cantor Kaplan will lead a creative approach to the Shabbat morning service featuring the beautiful English readings in the margins of the Siddur Lev Shalem along with inspired, musical chanting and singing.

## B'NAI MITZVAH

March 25

### GABRIEL PARKER

Son of Cynthia and Adam

Attends Scotts Ridge Middle School

Mitzvah Project: ROAR (Ridgefield  
Operation for Animal Rescue)



## MAZAL TOV TO...

*Joanne and Marshall Goldberg on the birth of a granddaughter, Vienna, born to Grace Gould and Jonathan Goldberg.*

*Binnie Ditesheim on the birth of great-granddaughters Ruthie Mauve and Rose Aurora born to Samantha and Graig Fischgrund.*

*Dorothy Levine and Alvin Rosenthal on the birth of a grandson, Simon Daniel, born to Lisa Rosenfeld and Bryan Beaudreault.*

*Denise and David Greenman and Ilene and Bert Madwed on the birth of a granddaughter, Jamie Hannah, born to Dana and Jason Greenman.*

*Susan and Carl Shapiro on the engagements of their children: Harrison to Elana Reiss, Mitchell to Maddie Fuller and Peri to Nat Heller.*



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 ★ VIVIAN KAPLAN

BERT MADWED ★ LEO MAHLER ★ SOL ROSE

SYLVIE ROSENBERG ★ SUSAN SCHNEIDERMAN

## THANK YOU FOR SPONSORING THE ONEG SHABBAT

SUSAN FRIEDEN

## 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.**

## 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.



## TBE Membership Survey Results

The TBE Membership Survey was conducted from October 24 to November 27, 2022. During that time, 274 congregants participated, providing a 95% confidence level that the results reflect the views of the total population within plus or minus five percent. We appreciate this important input from the congregation.

The following are the salient findings from the survey.

### Meeting Your Needs

In the first two questions, members were given a series of items associated with TBE membership and asked to rate each item as to (1) its importance to them and (2) their satisfaction that TBE was meeting their needs. The following table lists those items by the percentage of respondents who considered the item either important or very important. Column 3 indicates the percentage from that subset that were satisfied or very satisfied. For example, 83% of respondents rated *Connection to Jewish values* as important or very important and, out of that 83%, 76% were satisfied or very satisfied.

	Imp/Very Imp	Sat/Very Sat
Pastoral support at lifecycle events	85%	64%
Connection to Jewish values	83%	76%
Observance of Jewish holidays/customs	72%	80%
Personal connection to the clergy	66%	52%
Fostering a connection to Israel	55%	57%
Participating in Tikkun Olam	54%	76%
Prayer services/Spiritual growth	48%	57%
Involvement in social justice	43%	63%
Developing social/professional relationships	34%	56%
Attending adult education/intellectual growth	27%	45%

In Question 3, members were asked to provide an overall satisfaction rating for their TBE membership. Seventy-nine percent (79%) of respondents were somewhat to very satisfied.

### Ritual and Practices

Over the next 12 months, 64% of respondents expect to attend Friday evening services more than four to six times as compared to 37% that expect to attend Saturday morning services more than four to six times. When asked what would motivate you to attend services more frequently, “being with friends and people I know” topped the list for both services — 43% for Friday and 38% for Saturday, followed by “more special services” on Friday evening (39%) and “sit-down kiddush/lunch with occasional speaker” on Saturday morning (30%). Only a small percentage of respondents indicated they might occasionally attend daily minyan.

Results for other questions in this area include:

- Zoom and livestream were deemed to be important alternatives to in-person attendance and should continue.
- 48% of respondents indicated they read Hebrew from the Siddur reasonably to very well; 52% said their proficiency is very limited to not at all.
- Almost 50% of respondents light candles at home on Friday evening and most say the blessings over the wine and bread. In the comments, many recognize this as a special moment that brings family and friends together.

Finally, members were asked where they would place themselves philosophically and religiously with respect to Jewish ritual and practices. Approximately one quarter of respondents said they were right in the middle; one quarter, moderately to extremely traditional; and 40% were moderately to extremely progressive. Ten percent checked off Unsure/Does not apply.

### You as a Congregant

This section of the survey touched on a wide range of subject matter related to members’ perceptions of the overall climate at TBE, the TBE brand and governance. A weighted average was calculated for each item based on a 7-point agreement scale, from strongly disagree to strongly agree. Scores of 5.0 and above were considered areas of favorable agreement. Scores below 5.0 were areas where improvement was needed. There were no scores of notable concern. Important observations derived from this section include:

- Respondents feel a strong sense of belonging at TBE and agree we provide a warm, welcoming environment to new members, including interfaith and non-traditional families. While it’s easy to make friends and become part of the TBE community, some cited difficulty breaking into existing groups.
- Both clergy and lay leadership need to work harder to meet congregants’ needs. Highest on this list is connecting members with Jewish traditions and Jewish life in a meaningful way.

Continued on page 22...

## "MINCHA BUNCH"

### Temple Beth El 's "Mincha Bunch": A Diamond in the Post Pandemic Rough

By Cantor Katie Kaplan

The "Mincha Bunch" or the "Minyanaires" as they call themselves, came together out of necessity during March of 2020 when Temple Beth El of Stamford moved its weekday morning minyan to a 1pm daily Mincha minyan on Zoom. In the early pandemic days, the minyan served as a place to check in on one another, pray for healing, and support the community members saying Kaddish or observing a Yahrzeit.

As the days of the pandemic turned into weeks and then into years, one thing became clear, the daily online Zoom minyan was not just a temporary solution for a time of crisis. Instead, we witnessed the beautiful thriving of an online *Zoomagoge* community, in which members consistently showed up to make a minyan every single day since the pandemic hit. It became a place and time of connection for those who were spread across the country, homebound, battling through illness, sitting shiva, and in need of healing prayers and support.

Gaby Rattner, a regular attendee, discovered the minyan after her father died this past July. She wanted to follow the example her father had set when his own parents died, and she vowed to say Kaddish every day. Working full-time she knew it would be challenging to attend an in-person minyan daily and she was so grateful to find TBE's minyan. She shared, "I expected to keep my promise. I did not expect to enjoy it. I did not expect to feel connected to a group of people I had never met. And yet, within a few days, both things began to happen. And when I worried that there might not be ten people available every day, that worry was put to rest as I saw the dedication with which people join this gathering every weekday at one." Gaby is one of several "Minyanaires" who joined to say Kaddish daily, or as frequently as possible, during the first year of losing a parent or loved one. Upon finding the comfort and support of the Zoom minyan, it is not unusual for members to come back frequently following a first yahrzeit to help provide the minyan of comfort and support for others in their time of need.

The minyan is led by a rotation of clergy and lay leaders at the Temple. Each day the service varies a bit, depending on who is leading the davening, but one thing remains consistent: The profound sense of community. Each day, the group is greeted and held in love, given the opportunity to check in, and offered the ability to recite prayers for healing. Members are encouraged to share the names, in Hebrew, English, or initials, of those in need of healing in the chat as well as *unmuting* to speak the names out loud into the sacred container of the Zoom sanctuary. Together the group transmits energy and directs prayers for healing out into the world. Another time in which all voices are *unmuted* is for the Mourners Kaddish. At first, when leading this service, the sound of all the voices at once was overwhelming. Now, I can say it is one of the most beautiful moments in the service, hearing voices fading in and out, reciting the Kaddish together, honoring tradition and fulfilling mitzvot.

Sometimes the service contains more music, other times it is more centered in the Jewish calendar of festivals, holidays, and moon cycles. Sometimes there are several yahrzeits on the same day, drawing as many as 50 devices and other times the minyan continues along with a core of 10-20 attendees daily. Regardless of numbers, the feeling of presence and connection takes center stage in this "Mincha Bunch," gaining its name from the windows in Zoom resembling that of the famous television show, "The Brady Bunch."

If you are looking for a place to pray, say Kaddish, observe a yahrzeit in community, and find connection, please consider Zooming into our 1pm minyan Monday-Friday at Temple Beth El. Please contact Executive Director, Steve Lander for Zoom credentials at [execdir@tbe.org](mailto:execdir@tbe.org)



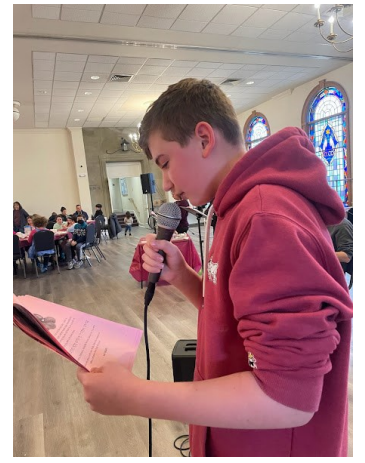


## K'tanim

K'Tanim met on 11/20, 12/11, and 1/22. Each month we played with friends, had circle time, sang and danced at music with Jonathan, and read stories. For crafts, we made fall decorations, decorated die cut menorahs, and made usable Shabbat candles. We made and enjoyed eating our snack each month, including edible menorahs and edible Shabbat candles. YUM!



## Tu B'Shevat



## Hands-On Havdalah





## SISTERHOOD



**Women & Whiskey, at the home of Leslie Glenn and led by Erica Kraypohl, was an enjoyable evening of fun and sisterhood.**



Please contact Sisterhood at [sisterhood@tbe.org](mailto: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!

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**Juli Harris** 203-276-0589, [jaharris99@aol.com](mailto:jaharris99@aol.com)

**Nancy Kapchan** 203-435-0389, [ngkapchan@gmail.com](mailto:ngkapchan@gmail.com)

**Paula Shulman** 203-461-9396, [paulashulman51@gmail.com](mailto:paulashulman51@gmail.com)

### 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](mailto:aelaichtman@optimum.net)

## SALE OF HAMETZ FORM 2023/5783

I, \_\_\_\_\_, hereby authorize Rabbi Joshua Hammerman to act as my shaliach (representative) and empower him (or any agent operating on his behalf) to sell all hametz owned by me, or in which I have a share, whether it is in my possession, being shipped to me, or stored elsewhere, as of 10:00 a.m. on April 5, 2023. This includes any stocks or shares in corporations or businesses that buy or sell hametz. (The term, "hametz," is understood according to the Rabbinic definition of leavened food and is to include all types of such food or liquids in pure or mixed forms). Since the buyer must have free access to the hametz he purchases, I also agree to authorize him to rent those premises in which these foods are stored and agree to keep these items separated and to seal them off. This sale is to be concluded in accordance with all the requirements of Jewish law and the terms of the general authorization contract used by the Rabbi for this purpose. Stores engaged in the sale of hametz during Passover are excluded.

Estimated value of my hametz foodstuffs and liquids \_\_\_\_\_.

My signature below legally grants Rabbi Hammerman, or his agent, the power to act on my behalf in this matter in accordance with both halachic regulations and the laws of Connecticut and other states. I agree to abide in good faith by the results of this sale without any reservations, either expressed or implied.

Witness my hand this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2023.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State \_\_\_\_\_

Business address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State \_\_\_\_\_

Summer home \_\_\_\_\_

City, State \_\_\_\_\_

Other addresses \_\_\_\_\_

### **IMPORTANT!**

**To be valid this letter must be received by April 4, 2023.**

**You may email your form to [rabbi@tbe.org](mailto:rabbi@tbe.org), or fax to 203-322-0532**

**or mail to:  
Rabbi Joshua Hammerman, 350 Roxbury Road,  
Stamford, CT 06902**



# TBE INTRODUCTION TO JUDAISM

**Join Rabbi Hammerman  
Thursday evenings,  
7:00-8:00 pm on Zoom**

March 2:	What is Judaism
March 9:	Bible and Ancient Israel
March 23:	Talmud and Rabbinic Judaism
March 30:	Passover and the Festival Cycle
April 27:	Shabbat
May 4:	Holocaust and Israel
May 11:	Kashrut and Jewish Food
May 18:	Prayer
June 1:	God and Messiah
June 8:	Ethics and Being a Mensch

A learning opportunity for those who want a better understanding of Judaism: Jewish, non-Jewish or Jewish-adjacent, Jewish-curious, and those who are considering conversion. Open to everyone!

PLEASE REGISTER TO ATTEND: [www.tinyurl.com/judaism2023](http://www.tinyurl.com/judaism2023)

Temple Beth El, 350 Roxbury Rd., Stamford, CT  
203-322-6901 office@tbe.org www.tbe.org  
Facebook.com/tbestamford



# TBE CELEBRATES SHABBAT ACROSS AMERICA

Friday, March 3, 2023

**6:00 PM: Shabbat Dinner**

**7:00 PM: Kabbalat Shabbat Service**

**Led by Rabbi Joshua Hammerman and  
Cantor Katie Kaplan**



**Matt Blumenthal, CT State Representative  
for Stamford, and TBE member  
will speak at the service.**



**Shabbat Dinner RSVP:**  
[www.tinyurl.com/tbesaa2023](http://www.tinyurl.com/tbesaa2023)  
or call 203-322-6901 x301

**RSVP for SHABBAT DINNER by Monday, February 27**

**Shabbat Dinner: \$18/adult, \$12/child age 3-13 (under 3 no charge)  
\$65 maximum per immediate family**

**After February 27: \$20 per adult, \$14 per child, \$75 per immediate family  
Maximum applies to the immediate family only.**

**Grandparents and extended family members not included.**

**There is no charge to attend the Kabbalat Shabbat service at 7:00pm.**

**Temple Beth El, 350 Roxbury Rd. Stamford, CT 06902  
203-322-6901    office@tbe.org    www.tbe.org  
[www.facebook.com/tbestamford](https://www.facebook.com/tbestamford)**







**FAMILY SERVICE & MEGILLAH READING & COSTUME PARADE**

**AT 6 PM**

**FOLLOWED BY**

**HAMANTASCHEN & THE BIG BUBBLE BONANZA**

**ADULT MEGILLAH READING 8PM**

**FREE ADMISSION - EVERYONE WELCOME**

**Sponsored by Leo P Gallagher & Son Funeral Home**



**PURIM  
SPECTACULAR!**



**MONDAY, MARCH 6  
6 pm**

*"Spectacular"*

Festival International De La Arts Mexico

*"Mezmerizes all ages!"*

The Great Escape and Splashwater Kingdom

*"Fabulous"*

Eileen Tecza, Director Howe Auditorium

**Temple Beth El 350 Roxbury Road Stamford, CT · [www.tbe.org](http://www.tbe.org)**





# Passover Cooking Demonstration

by Food Writer and Cookbook Author  
of Hip Kosher and The Modern Kosher Kitchen

***Ronnie Fein***

**Monday, March 20**

**7:30 - 9pm at Temple Beth El**

**350 Roxbury Road, Stamford, CT**

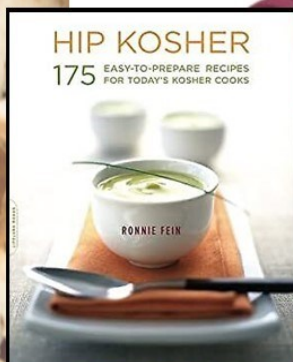
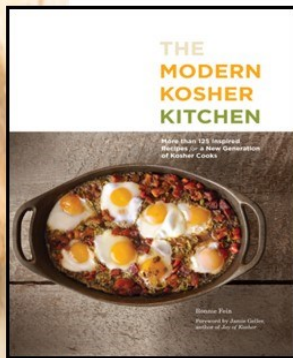
**FREE • Everyone welcome**

To reserve: [www.tinyurl.com/tbematzah](http://www.tinyurl.com/tbematzah).

Learn to make:

- Fig and Coconut Charoset
- Roasted Salmon with Horseradish Crust
- Salmon Hash
- Bubbe's Compote

Sponsored by the  
**TBE Men's Club  
and Sisterhood.**





# WORDStoACTION

Empowering Students and Parents to Address Antisemitism

Join ADL at this interactive workshop to learn about antisemitism.

Increase your understanding, explore effective resources and strategies to respond. *Receive tools to advocate for your child.*



## UNDERSTAND RESPOND

Become empowered to overcome antisemitism

Temple Beth El Stamford

7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students *and parents*

March 26, 2023

11:00 am – 1:00 pm

*Funded in part by The Beckerman Family Foundation*

ADL is a 100+ year-old global anti-hate organization founded to protect the Jewish people that relentlessly fights the escalation of all forms of hate, in every community, to secure justice and fair treatment for all • [adl.org](https://adl.org)

**ADL**®

**TBE  
ADULT  
LEARNING**



## **THE STATE OF ANTISEMITISM AND HATE IN CONNECTICUT: WHAT WE CAN DO ABOUT IT**



**Presented by Stacey G. Sobel  
Sunday, March 26, 10:00am  
in the Temple Beth El Social Hall**

**Breakfast will be served.**

Stacey G. Sobel is the Director of Connecticut ADL (the Anti-Defamation League) and is passionate about ADL's mission of fighting hate for good. For nearly a decade, Stacey was the executive director of Child Advocates of Connecticut, serving the needs of abused and neglected children. Stacey is a past President of Temple Israel, Westport and past President of Westport Hadassah. A lawyer by training, earlier in her career Stacey was in private practice and served in the General Counsel's office of Continental Can Company.

Temple Beth El, 350 Roxbury Rd. Stamford, CT  
203-322-6901 office@tbe.org www.tbe.org  
Facebook.com/tbestamford





# Paddle Raise 2023

**30' x 40' Patio with  
20' x 30' Pergola**

**Help us build another  
beautiful outdoor venue at TBE!**

**TO DONATE GO TO  
[www.tinyurl.com/tbepr2023](http://www.tinyurl.com/tbepr2023)**

**Outdoor Services - Weddings - Cocktail Parties  
Social Events and so much more...**

This year's paddle raise will be used to put a 20' x 40' pergola on a beautiful 30' x 40' paver patio on the lawn to the left of the sanctuary where we build our Sukkah.

As part of our Paver Campaign to build the beautiful paver walkway to our new front entrance, we announced we would build a paver patio with the profits from that project. NOW, you can help us construct a beautiful wood Pergola on that patio that can also be used as a frame for our Sukkah! If we raise enough money we will add lights and power to the pergola as well as a paver walkway from the Rosner Room to the new patio.

This will be a beautiful and very functional addition to our outdoor facilities. It will be made available for private and community events as well as many TBE Shabbat services and special events. Our sanctuary tells the story that we are a congregation of windows, not walls and now when we look out those windows we will have a beautiful view of the patio pergola on one side and the Matthew Klein Memorial Garden on the other.



**DONATE ONLINE**  
Go to: [www.tbe.org/donate/](http://www.tbe.org/donate/)

### OPPORTUNITIES FOR GIVING

- ☒ Adult Education Fund
- ☒ Paver Walkway Campaign
- ☒ Beth El Cares
- ☒ Rabbi Hammerman's or Cantor Kaplan's Mitzvah Fund
- ☒ Goldberg Scholarship Fund
- ☒ Emmet Manheim Memorial Playground
- ☒ Kiddush Fund
- ☒ Matthew Klein Memorial Sanctuary Garden Fund
- ☒ Music Fund
- ☒ Project Ezra
- ☒ Religious School Fund
- ☒ Frank and Rose Rosner Memorial Fund
- ☒ Security Fund
- ☒ Shabbat Bags
- ☒ Youth Fund

### 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
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

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.

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

### PAY YOUR DUES ONLINE

Go to [www.tbe.org/donate](http://www.tbe.org/donate) and click on member payments.

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



## WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS

### IN HONOR OF:

#### A SPEEDY RECOVERY FOR WILLY SANDER

Carol Sander

#### THE BIRTH OF RUTHIE MAUVE FISCHGRUND AND ROSE AURORA FISCHGRUND

Susan & Richard Blomberg, Betsy & Peter Kempner

### MUSIC FUND

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

Susie Mitchel, z'l by Caryl Ferber Poser & Peter Poser

### BETH EL CARES

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

Larry Rezak, z'l by Barbara & Warren Brandt

Pam Radin, z'l by Barbara & Warren Brandt

Esther Yomtov, z'l by Brian, Rowan & Jordanna Yomtov

Lydia & Jerome Nekritz, z'l by Stacey & Stuart Nekritz

Corynne & Leonard Klein, z'l by Stacey & Stuart Nekritz

David Camner, z'l by Barbara & Warren Brandt

### KIDDUSH FUND

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

Bertram Lavine, z'l by Lori & Stuart Ratner

### RABBI JOSHUA HAMMERMAN MITZVAH FUND

#### *In honor of...*

Rabbi Joshua Hammerman for his support in connection with Joseph Levine's passing by the Levine/Tronick Family

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

Larry Rezak, z'l by The Sigman Family

Richard Cohen, z'l by Barbara & Paul Schwartz

Howard Aisenberg, z'l by Andrew Aisenberg

Gertrude Wolfson, z'l by Sheila & Daniel Wolfson

David Camner, z'l by Carol & Allen Krim

Rabbi Mark Golub, z'l by David Golub

Gloria Aisenberg, z'l by Andrew Aisenberg

### CANTOR KATIE KAPLAN MITZVAH FUND

#### *In honor of...*

Cantor Katie Kaplan for her participation in the funeral for Evelyn Kugelman, z'l, by Juli Harris

### GOLDBERG SCHOLARSHIP FUND

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

Debra Goldberg, z'l by Kenneth Goldberg

### EMMET MANHEIM PLAYGROUND FUND

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

Joseph Levine, z'l by The Hayden Family



**Have you seen our new PAVER WALKWAY?**

Pavers are now available for installation this Spring.  
Commemorate significant life events.  
Pavers are \$250-\$500 & \$1,000 Tax deductible!

Contact Steven Lander, [execdir@tbe.org](mailto:execdir@tbe.org) for details.

IN LOVING MEMORY  
OF ALAN KALTER  
1943 - 2021  
PEGGY KALTER

DEBRA ADLER-KLEIN  
AND MATTHEW KLEIN

IN HONOR OF  
OUR LOVING PARENTS  
AND GRANDPARENTS  
DEBRA ADLER-KLEIN  
AND MATTHEW KLEIN

REBECCA "LOVE" TIRE  
MOVE ME BRIGHTLY  
I ROCK MY SOUL

JERRY AND JANE GOLDBERG  
IN HONOR OF  
THEIR BIRTH ANNIVERSARY

SHAR & DAVID VIDAL  
2021



## REMEMBERING OUR LOVED ONES



Joanne & Marshall Goldberg ..... **ISADORE ABRAMS**  
 Marlyn & Richard Agatstein ..... **WILLIAM ACKERMAN**  
 Lisa & Michael Rome ..... **ARNOLD APPLEBAUM**  
 Sheila & Gordon Brown ..... **HINDA ASHER**  
 Betty & Sherwin Baer ..... **LEONARD BAER**  
 Maddy Shapiro ..... **ROSE BELITZ**  
 Maxine & Frederic Brody ..... **DAVID BRODY**  
 Sheila & Gordon Brown ..... **ARTHUR BROWN**  
 Stewart Casper ..... **IRWIN CASPER**  
 Melanie Massell ..... **JUDGE FRANK D'ANDREA**  
 Evelyn & Bruce Kahn ..... **IDA ELKAN**  
 Stacy Ferber ..... **BEVERLY FERBER**  
 Rosalea & Dick Fisher ..... **FANNY FISHER**  
 Marilyn Galler Sofer & Mitch Sofer ..... **SARA GALLER**  
 Heidi & Harrison Ganz ..... **ARNOLD GANZ**  
 Marcia & Stanley Gershman ..... **HARVEY GERSHMAN**  
 Fran & Rabbi Gerry Ginsburg ..... **DAVID GINSBURG**  
 Bracha & Jerry Silber ..... **HINDA GINZBERG**  
 Leo Gold ..... **SAMUEL GOLD**  
 Olga & Ronald Goldstein ..... **CARRIE GOLDSTEIN**  
 Grecia Gross ..... **RONALD GROSS**  
 Robin, Jarad & Spencer Evans ..... **MITCHELL GUNTY**  
 Leonor Lopez ..... **FERNANDO HALPERN**  
 Carolyn Nadel-Farin & Phil Farin ..... **SYLVIA HANTMAN**  
 Steven Grushkin & Family ..... **LILLIAN HELLMAN**  
 Nancy & Jeff Herz ..... **JIM HERZ**  
 Susan Frieden ..... **RUTH HILFER**  
 Madge & Michael Kellick ..... **ELMER HUPPERT**  
 Jerry Jacobs & Family ..... **MURRY JACOBS**  
 Sari & Alan Jaffe ..... **TILLIE JAFFE**  
 Madge & Michael Kellick ..... **IDA KELICK**  
 Donners & Kleiners ..... **SHIRLEY KLEINER**  
 Bernice Trel ..... **ARTHUR KORNGOLD**  
 Kathy & Howard Kraus & Family ..... **DANA KRAUS**  
 Ellen Krinick-Porto, Myron & Sam Porto .... **EUGENE KRINICK**  
 Ann & Julius Lasnick ..... **BADANA & HERMAN LASNICK**  
 Helen & Marty Donner ..... **SUSAN LEIFER**  
 Bobbe & Ben Evans ..... **DEBORAH LEPANE**  
 Leonor Lopez ..... **JOSÉ LOPEZ**  
 Myra & John Graubard ..... **IRVING LUBITZ**  
 Gloria & Mark Zweibel ..... **HYMAN MELNICK**  
 Michelle & Alan Moskowitz ..... **GERALD MOSKOWITZ**  
 Susan & William Nabel ..... **EDWARD NABEL**  
 Susan & William Nabel ..... **ELIZABETH NABEL**  
 Roslyn & Merritt Nesin ..... **ALEXANDER NESIN**  
 Roslyn & Merritt Nesin ..... **EUGENE NESIN**  
 Meryl & Hank Silverstein ..... **FREDA NOVICK**  
 Sandra & David Oberhand ..... **MICHAEL OBERHAND**  
 Suzanne Pianin ..... **RICHARD PIANIN**  
 Julie & Lenny Rakowitz ..... **DAVID RAKOWITZ**  
 Meryl & Hank Silverstein ..... **ETTA RICH**  
 Rosalea & Dick Fisher ..... **NORMAN SANDLER**  
 Gail & Bruce Stone ..... **CELIA & PHILIP SALTZMAN**  
 Lori & Bruce Tobin ..... **BARBARA SCHWARTZ**  
 Debora & Paul Weinstein ..... **MARILYN SCHWARTZ**  
 Marsha Shendell ..... **MILDROSE SHENDELL**

Sheila & Gordon Brown ..... **HOWARD SHEVRIN**  
 Sheila & Gordon Brown ..... **MAX SHEVRIN**  
 Nancy Wolfson & Family ..... **SOPHIE SIDEROWF**  
 Bracha & Jerry Silber ..... **LOLA & CHARLES SILBER**  
 Barbara Rosenberg ..... **JACK SKYDEL**  
 Alan Sosnowitz ..... **LILLY SOSNOWITZ**  
 Ellen & Joel Mellis ..... **WILLIAM STEINAM**  
 Donna Wolff ..... **RHODA RITA STONE**  
 Gail & Bruce Stone ..... **SADIE & FRANK STONE**  
 Marge Pavlov & Andrew Sverdlove ..... **LEE SVERDLOVE**  
 Madge Pavlov & Andrew Sverdlove... **MICHAEL SVERDLOVE**  
 Lorelee & Phil Granowitz ..... **WALLY WALLACH**  
 Nancy Wolfson & Family ..... **GERTRUDE WOLFSON**  
 Malerie Yolen-Cohen & Jeff Cohen ..... **BURT YOLEN**

### IN MEMORY OF:

#### LARRY REZAK, z'l

Melanie Massell, Sheila & Daniel Wolfson, Carol & Allen Krim, Pamela Tinkham, Sharon & Steve Katz, Betsy & Peter Kempner, Sue Frieden, Sally & Jim Rothkopf, Sheila & Daniel Wolfson, Jack DeGrado, Beverly & David Stein, Ruth Kwartin, Helen & Marty Donner, Jamie Morvitz & Matt Miller, Laura Markowitz, Carol & Wil Brewer, Marsha Colten & Robert Cohen, Dora & David Salm

#### JOSEPH LEVINE, z'l

Pamela Tinkham, The Wolly/Horowitz Family

#### JULIE EPSTEIN, z'l

Ilyse & Dean Schuckman, Beverly & David Stein

#### MARCIA MOYER, z'l

Betsy & Peter Kempner, Robin Evans & Jeffrey Perry

#### THELMA RATNER, z'l

Liz & Scott Krowitz, Lois Stark & Gary Lessen

### 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...

LAWRENCE REZAK, husband of Linda Rezak  
 MARCIA MOYER, mother of Lisa Rome  
 RICHARD COHEN, husband of Laurel Cohen  
 SUSIE MITCHELL, sister of Marlyn Agatstein  
 THELMA RATNER, mother of Stuart Ratner  
 ROGER POSER, brother of Peter Poser

### 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.



the heart. Study (Torah) is intellectual reading, questioning, discussion, and rigorous logic and argument – a matter of the head. And good deeds (g'milut chasadim) are public acts: helping, repairing, matching, fighting, and doing – matters of the hand. Only rare individuals are able to do all three with equal fervor and skill. And so, our membership in a congregation and association with a broad spectrum of Jews will compensate for our personal deficiencies.

3. We can broaden the description of primary Jewish acts to include all mitzvot. Specifically, I (Noa Kushner) want to emphasize a religious connection to Israel as well as interpersonal ethics (I'shon hara, etc.).
4. In order to maintain their congregations, Jews must do many other things that are not inherently Jewish. These secondary acts include maintaining a building, raising money, and perhaps forming a board of directors. (It should be here noted, however, that in the long history of our people there have been healthy, vibrant, and solvent congregations that had none of the above.)
5. Congregations, unfortunately, often get so caught up in doing secondary acts that they actually begin to think that maintaining the building, raising money, or the board of directors is the reason for the existence of the congregation. Their members are busy at work, but because they have forgotten why they are at work, their efforts are hollow and come to naught.
6. It's so easy for everything attached to a Jewish organization (websites! dues!) to become sacrosanct. But supportive facets of Jewish communal life (what Lawrence Kushner calls the secondary acts) are ripe for experimental approaches precisely due to the fact that they are not inherently holy. In other words, because the stakes are relatively low, we can afford to swing and miss. Precisely because they are inherently holy, we must also experiment with our approaches to Torah, avodah, and g'milut chasadim. At The Kitchen, we use "storahtelling" to translate all our Torah readings. We bring in members of the community who are improvisational actors to make it come alive. Yes, it's risky, but so is perpetuating a Torah service where no one is learning any Torah. Here, because the stakes are high, we can't afford to ignore possibilities. We've got to go beyond what's expected and accept that our leadership roles require us to take risks and be susceptible to new criticisms.
7. A goal of all institutions is stability and longevity. But our question is: At what points do stability and longevity compromise the business of nourishing and enlivening Jews and Jewish experiences?
8. Forty years ago, Dr. Eugene Borowitz wryly proposed the creation of biodegradable congregations – communities that had predetermined life spans. (This may now be happening in many communities even though it was not part of the original plan.) To be sure,

some synagogues will continue successfully on their current trajectories. But for many, it may now be time to consider "disruptive business models." Kodak, for example, lost sight of its primary mission of "capturing moments" and became fixated instead on its own technology. Our own "technology," too, is only relevant so long as it builds Jews and those ready to practice Jewish life.

9. At the same time, to be sure, an innovative idea is not inherently successful by virtue of its novelty alone. There is only one test: Does the idea build Jews?
10. There is no evidence whatsoever to support the notion that people who are drawn into the congregation for an innocuous nonreligious event, such as gourmet cooking, move onto activities of more primary religious worth any sooner than if they had been left alone to discover their own inevitable and personal religious agendas and timetables. Indeed, there is substantial data to suggest that congregations that run many "basement" activities in hopes of getting people from there onto upper floors, only wind up adding on to the basement.
11. Just because it works for one generation does not mean it will work for the next. In fact, we might even say that if it worked for one generation, that is a good indication that it will not work for the next.
12. It's time to quit asking: "Who is a Jew?" and, instead, ask: "Who wants to do Jewish?" Enough with being gatekeepers, it's time to invite in the people who might well want to connect with Judaism but don't know that they are welcome.
13. Finally, the members of the congregation must nurture one another because they need one another; they simply cannot do it alone. Hermits and monasteries are noticeably absent from Jewish history; we are hopelessly communal people.



Rabbi Joshua Hammerman

*Happy Passover from Temple Beth El*



## MEMBERSHIP SURVEY continued from page 7...

- Volunteerism continues to be an issue. Twenty percent (20%) of respondents indicated a desire to volunteer if they knew more about opportunities to contribute; most others indicated they could not afford the time with their already busy lives.
- There needs to be more transparency regarding board decisions and synagogue finances.
- Respondents see TBE as well regarded in the community. They also feel it's important for TBE to be involved in social justice and political issues, partnering more with both Jewish and non-Jewish organizations.
- An overwhelming number of respondents agree that they would recommend TBE membership to a family member or friend and plan to be members of TBE five years from now.

### Demographics

Fifty-two percent (52%) of respondents identified themselves as women, 44% as men. One percent (1%) selected another gender category, while 3% opted not to answer. The age spread among respondents closely resembled that of the congregation. Almost half the respondents have been TBE members for 20 years or more. The top three reasons for joining TBE were “only Conservative synagogue in Stamford” at 69%, “Hebrew school/B-mitzvah training” second at 48%, and “warm and welcoming community” third at 37%.

The most heavily used social media platform is Facebook, followed by Instagram.

### Conclusion

The results of the survey indicate a level of overall satisfaction with TBE for which we can all take pride. Congregants continue to see TBE as a warm, caring community where members can connect and grow as Jews in both mind and spirit. However, there is clearly room for improvement in a number of areas. This is more pronounced in adult congregants ages 50 and under. Also, written comments from respondents suggest a variety of changes they would like to see — from prayer services to teen programming.

A series of focus groups is being planned to allow the Board of Trustees to delve deeper into these areas to assess what can be done to better meet members' needs and to find new, innovative ways to increase participation in synagogue life and strengthen Jewish identity. In addition, survey results have been provided to the clergy and various committees for further discussion and action.

Questions and comments regarding this report should be sent to [tbesurvey@tbe.org](mailto:tbesurvey@tbe.org).

## CANTOR KATIE KAPLAN continued from page 3...

Remember Hawaiian Shabbat!!? The fabulous Rachel Haymer is also a member of this community and we met at the in-person retreat this past summer! Some of you may also remember the special online Havdalah program last Passover in which we were joined by Ben Pagliaro (fellow JCSR member). Ben is going to be joining us again at TBE in person May 5-7th for a special artist-in-residence weekend sharing his music and beautiful presence with us and we met through JCSR.

Attending these retreats, creating sacred space, and being in a collaborative community is medicine for the soul that then becomes an infusion for the community. After recharging a depleted battery, there is space and resources available to manifest dreams and to show up to meet the present moment. Music then accompanies our deepest longings to express the wide range of what it means to be human.

I am so excited to share my original music with you all, to introduce you to friends and colleagues, and to open our hearts to this journey of life. In doing this, I will truly be “Writing a Jewish Song that Matters.”

Cantor Katie Kaplan

### TEMPLE ROCK 2023



It is hard to believe that another Temple Rock has come and gone. We hope that you had a wonderful time, that you got to see some old friends (and were introduced to potential new ones), that you came away with a good item or two from the auction, that you enhanced your skills at the blackjack and other tables, and that perhaps you found yourself on the dance floor for a moment or two.

On behalf of the Temple Rock committee and the TBE Board of Trustees, we would like to thank you for being part of Temple Rock this year. We are proud to report that this year's Temple Rock event was not only a success in terms of the excitement shared by all but also that we exceeded our budgetary goal as a result of all of your support. Your continued financial support of TBE is very much appreciated by all of us. We really are very fortunate to have generous people like you at Temple Beth El.

our special thanks to Aviva Maller for all she did to turn our social hall into TBE Ocean's Eleven. Aviva took photos throughout the night, and we are pleased to have them all here for you to view. Click [HERE](#) to see the photos and relive a great evening.

Again, our thanks. We look forward to seeing you at next year's Temple Rock.

Scott Krowitz  
TBE President



# Noah's Ark

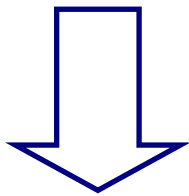


Have you seen our replica of Noah's Ark in the hallway of Kesher Beth El? It is walnut, measures 76" by 72", and has 149 plaques and 18 larger animals that can include engraved messages in honor of a family's children or anyone else, or in honor of a significant family event .

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  
May-June 2023 Bulletin  
will be Monday, April 3, 2023.**

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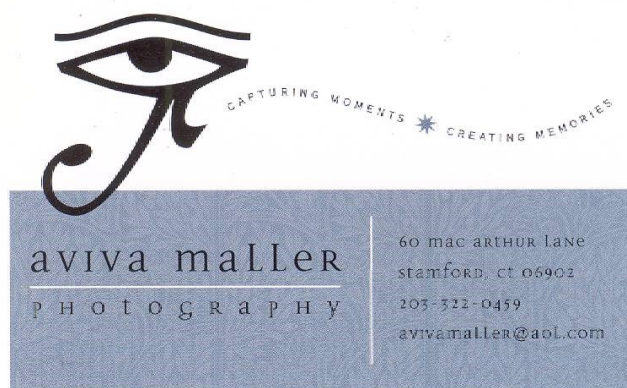
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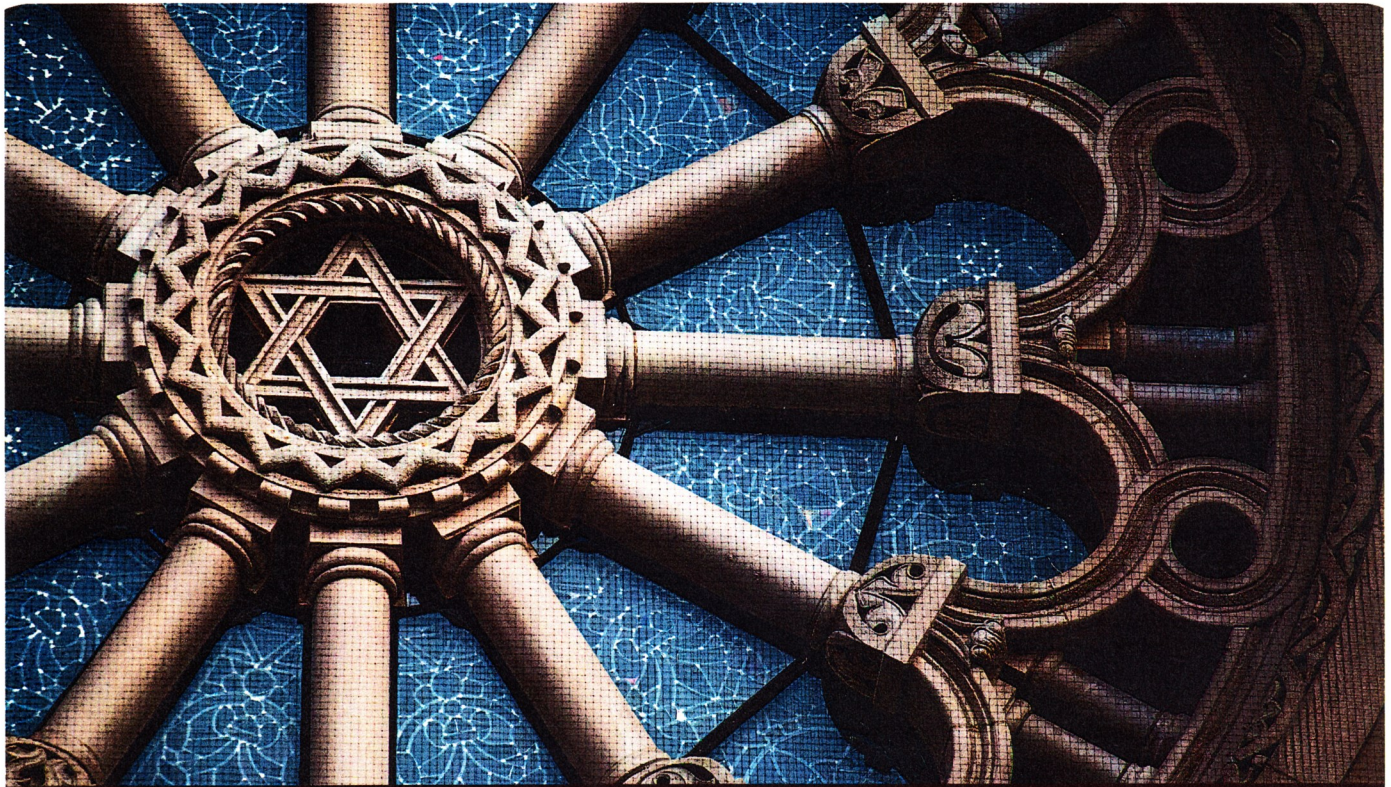
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