

Kesher Beth El Decorating our Sukkah and Writing Letters to Israeli Soldiers



The TeeBeEs Enjoy Shabbat and Sukkot!



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WHERE TO FIND IT

| | |
|--|------------|
| Joshua Hammerman, Rabbi | Page 3 |
| Katie Kaplan, Cantor | Page 3 |
| November-December Service Schedule | Page 5 |
| Beth El Cares | Page 6 |
| Sisterhood | Page 10-11 |
| Men's Club | Page 14 |

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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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| Alberto Eyzaguirre, Facilities Manager (maint@tbe.org) | ext. 314 |

ON ONE FOOT

As I write this, Israel is enduring some of the most difficult times of its existence. The suffering of its citizens and of the Jewish people are always on our minds. We at TBE are also mourning the passing of Hazzan Rabinowitz, an inspiration to all of us for half a century.



Coming off the High Holidays, I feel that a key message I tried to convey, especially on Kol Nidre night, is the need for Jewish unity – and my strong belief that despite the great internal divisions and external attacks Israel and the Jewish people face, unity is not only possible, but part of our very DNA. Below are some quotes from my High Holidays sermons, which reinforced several important messages that have long been foundational to my agenda: Mindfulness, humanity, unity and being fully present for every moment of our lives.

You can read, watch and listen to all my High Holiday sermons on my website, joshuahammerman.com – in fact, you can find there almost all of the 138 High Holiday sermons that I've shared with you.

So now, some “highlights.”

Rosh Hashanah, Day 1:

My pension director tells me that maybe only a dozen Conservative rabbis in this country have remained with their congregations for this length of time. It's a tiny pool – too small for any survey to accurately measure – and the pool is shrinking. It just doesn't happen anymore. It's easy to take that remarkable accomplishment for granted. I certainly don't. I am totally aware that this is not just any old goodbye, and for many of you, it's as hard for you as it is for me – and for some maybe even harder. So, we are a unicorn. I say “we” because this is as much your accomplishment as mine. In this congregation's 102-year history, there have been essentially just three senior rabbis. I understand that for each of you, this transition is something different. I've known some of you for thirty years, others for two weeks. But they've been two good weeks! And now, each of those clocks is synchronized, as we count down inexorably toward zero.

But here's a paradox. We are so sidetracked by all the multitasking, we're so busy being busy, that we've lost control of time, and we neglect to do those things that have to be done. As life whizzes by faster, we increasingly procrastinate, and put off that phone call to a sick relative; the “I love you” to a partner or child; that letter to an elected official; that volunteer project. There is always something else to do. And just as we're about to do it, a banner pops up on the screen, interrupting our train of thought. I'm a notorious procrastinator. I wrote this sermon yesterday. Well, not really, but where Hillel said, “If not now, when?” my motto is, “If not now, later!”

From a God's eye view, the Jewish people will be here in thousands of years because we've already proven that we can last thousands of years. For a hundred generations our

Continued on page 18...

KATIE KAPLAN, CANTOR

Welcoming Rabbi Josh Warshawsky to Temple Beth El



I can't believe the Artist in Residence weekend is finally upon us and we are about to welcome Rabbi Josh Warshawsky to Temple Beth El, November 2-5th, for a very full and robust weekend of music, *tefilah*, teaching, and learning. This weekend has been in the works for almost two years and is made possible by the generous support from Debby and Jack Goldberg, Malerie Yolen-Cohen and Jeff Cohen, and Dana and Carl Weinberg as sponsors. We also have a fantastic committee of congregants coming together to ensure that each event runs smoothly throughout the weekend. It should be a feel-good time for us to be together, restoring our individual and collective souls with music and prayer.

I first encountered Josh and his music when attending Song Leader Boot Camp in St. Louis, MO in 2017 and then again when attending virtually in 2021 and 2022. His music and teaching style captivated me instantly and I immediately began thinking about how wonderful it would be to have him come to Temple Beth El to sing and teach and lead us in prayer. I then began listening to the podcast *The Light Lab*, hosted by Eliana Light in conjunction with Rabbi Josh Warshawsky and Cantor Ellen Dreskin. I've listened as they have taken their followers to the heart of Jewish prayer utilizing various siddurim as well as Jewish text sources and made the prayer experience come alive. This is the kind of approach to *tefilah* that gets me very excited about engaging in communal Jewish prayer, and when facilitated by a wonderful leader, it can be truly inspirational.

Down to earth, kind, humble, and deeply spiritual, Josh Warshawsky is a rabbi, musician, gatherer, healer, teacher, and all-around mensch. I can't wait for everyone at TBE to have the opportunity to sing and learn with him. Please try to select at least two different events at which to join us this weekend so that you can come away renewed and inspired.

The schedule for the upcoming weekend is below:

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 2nd

7:30-8:30pm at TBE

Dessert and Sing-a-Long and get to meet Rabbi Josh Warshawsky

Come have a sweet treat and learn the melodies that Josh will be singing throughout the weekend for Shabbat services and as part of his concert. This is a casual chance to come and sing together and raise our voices.

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 3rd

Adult Lunch and Learn

12:00-12:30 light lunch

12:30-1:30pm The Healing Power of Psalms with Rabbi Josh Warshawsky

Exploring the range of human emotion through dialogue and music

Continued on page 20...

HIGH HOLIDAY FOOD DRIVE

RESULTS OF THE 2023 HIGH HOLIDAY FOOD DRIVE

The members of Temple Beth El continued their tradition of helping our neighbors. The weather presented a challenge but people showed their support by bringing their filled bags in pouring rain and continued bringing bags of food throughout the extended time of the food drive. As a result, we donated more food (and included two cash donations) than we did last year, and continue to be one of Person 2 Person's biggest supporters.

In a statement regarding this year's food drive, Rick Nixon, Manager, Person to Person, stated, "I'm pleased to announce that TBE topped last year's results providing over 1.5 tons of food! This provides enough shelf stable food for over 5,400 meals and will go a long way helping our client families achieve financial stability in these challenging times. This food is especially important since P2P is now serving more clients than ever delivering over 2.5 million meals a year!"

My personal thanks to everyone who contributed to our food drive! I would like to add a special thanks to the volunteers who worked tirelessly to unpack bags and sort the food, including members of the Interfaith Social Ministry Collaborative: Linda Atkins, Millie Avnir, Lori Drucker, Jane Feder, Amy Fishkow, Barbara Friedman, Patty Gawle, Fran Ginsburg, Susan Greenwald, Audrey Kolev, Gary Lessen, Bill Levin, Alan Moskowitz, Dayna Patashnik, Eileen H. Rosner, Jeff Rutstein, Lois Stark, Ken Temple, and Jeff Turshen. There were also several people who volunteered but were not needed since we finished our task earlier than anticipated: Marlyn Agatstein, Nancy Bisset, Amy Davidson, Dick Fisher, Mark Lingle, Iva Mandel, Gwendolyn Morris, Julie Rosenberg, and Suzanne Stevens. I would also like to thank the students who helped load the truck on Yom Kippur. The TBE food drive would not be possible without the help of all of these volunteers.

Todah Rabah!

Sharon Turshen
Chairperson, High Holiday Food Drive

B'NAI MITZVAH

December 2

HANNAH ZELAZNY

Daughter of Stephanie and Daniel
Sister of Jakob and Benjamin
Attends: Scofield Middle School
Mitzvah Project: Supporting Shelter Residents



December 15

MILLIE AVNER

Daughter of Jessica and Dan
Sister of Addison and Benjamin
Attends: Scofield Middle School
Mitzvah Project: Soles4Souls



WORDS FROM OUR KALLAH AND CHATAN BEREISHIT ON SUKKOT 2023

We are both very touched and surprised to be recognized with this honor. Although this is a festive holiday, we can't lose sight of what is happening in Israel at this time. Our prayers and thoughts go out to family, friends and the entire State of Israel.

Coincidentally, I celebrated my Bat Mitzvah on this date and my portion was Bereishit! Therefore, this is even more special.

We said when our son was married last month, we felt the chuppah is not only the bride and groom's first home but an extension of our home. TBE has been an extension of our home. Over the last 27 years, we have seen our kids grow up here, and be a place for all of us to worship, learn and make friends.

We wish to thank everyone who has recognized us for our volunteer work. Our volunteer work has been done out of love and our commitment to help when needed and to those in need. We genuinely welcome any and all future requests!

Chag Sameach!

Susan and Carl Shapiro

Steak, Sushi & Scotch in the Sukkah





SHABBAT AND FESTIVAL SERVICES



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

NOVEMBER

Friday, November 3 - Artist in Residence Weekend
Shabbat Dinner with Rabbi Josh Warshawsky 5:30 pm
Kabbalat Shabbat 7:00 pm

Shabbat, November 4 - Artist in Residence Weekend
Shabbat-in-the-Round 10:00 am
with Rabbi Josh Warshawsky
Congregational Kiddush/Luncheon
with Rabbi Josh Warshawsky

Friday, November 10
Shabbuzz Shalom 5:00 pm
Kabbalat Shabbat Service 7:00 pm

Shabbat, November 11
Shabbat Service 10:00 am

Friday, November 17
Kabbalat Shabbat Service 7:00 pm

Shabbat, November 18
Shabbat Service 10:00 am
ShabbuzzBimBam 11:00 am

Friday, November 24
Kabbalat Shabbat Service 7:00 pm

Shabbat, November 25
Shabbat Service 10:00 am

DECEMBER

Friday, December 1
Kabbalat Shabbat 7:00 pm

Shabbat, December 2
Shabbat Service 10:00 am
HANNA ZELAZNY, BAT MITZVAH

Friday, December 8
ShabbuzzBimBam Hanukkah 5:00 pm
Family Hanukkah Shabbat Dinner 5:30 pm
Kabbalat Shabbat Service 7:00 pm

Shabbat, December 9
Hanukkah, 2nd day
Shabbat Service 10:00 am

Friday, December 15
Hanukkah, 8th day
Kabbalat Shabbat Service 7:00 pm

Shabbat, December 16
Shabbat Service 10:00 am
MILLIE AVNIR, BAT MITZVAH

Friday, December 22
Kabbalat Shabbat Service 7:00 pm

Shabbat, December 23
Shabbat Service 10:00 am

Friday, December 29
Kabbalat Shabbat Service 7:00 pm

Shabbat, December 30
Shabbat Service 10:00 am

HAVE YOU VISITED OUR WEBSITE?

www.tbe.org

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

TBE Teens Celebrate Sukkot with Yoav Yaron, UJF's Community Emmisary



MAZAL TOV TO...

Marilyn Galler Sofer and Mitch Sofer on the birth of a granddaughter, Amelia Sara, born to Michal Sofer Hobbs and Chris Hobbs.

Lieba and Steven Lander on the birth of a grandson, Levi Miles, born to Karen Lander-Lafferty and Kevin Lafferty.



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

HONORABLE MENSCHEN TODAH RABAH TO OUR TORAH READERS

RABBI GERRY GINSBURG

RABBI JOSHUA HAMMERMAN ★ BERT MADWED
LEO MAHLER ★ NAOMI MARKS ★ ELIANA NADEL
SUSAN SCHNEIDERMAN ★ LAEL SHAPIRO

WE THANK OUR HIGH HOLIDAY TORAH READERS

LEX COHEN ★ CANTOR KATIE KAPLAN ★ NEIL KATZ
KYLE NADEL ★ NAOMI MARKS ★ JOSH OLIN
REBEKAH RAZ ★ JONAH ROSENBERG ★ BEN WINARSKY
MADDIE WINARSKY

THANK YOU FOR SPONSORING KIDDUSH

KAHLA and GORDON COOPER
LIZ and SCOTT KROWITZ
JILL SWARTZ NADEL and MITCH NADEL

THANK YOU FOR SPONSORING THE SHABBAT ANNOUNCEMENTS

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ALBERTO, RAD, LINDA and MINDY

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Hazzan Emeritus, Sidney Rabinowitz, z'l
Memorial Service
Sunday, November 12, 2023
6:00pm

If you would like to share an anecdote or say a few words, please contact Rabbi Hammerman at rabbi@tbe.org or Eileen H. Rosner at rosnereileen@gmail.com

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 or 203-274-1708.

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

Serving the homeless: Helping prepare and serve food — you can do either or both — to the homeless at New Covenant Center in Stamford on the fifth Thursday of each month. Times are 2:30-4:15 pm and 4:15-5:30 pm. Contact Julie Rosenberg at julierosenbergspl@gmail.com or 203-273-6794.

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

Christmas dinners at local homeless shelters: Contact Julie Rosenberg at julierosenbergspl@gmail.com or 203-273-6794.

BETH EL CEMETERY ASSOCIATION

Information about the Beth El Cemetery Association, Inc. is available from:

Allan Lang at 203-327-6418
or
Eileen H. Rosner at 203-461-0506

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!

Contact Steven Lander for information.
execdir@tbe.org

When we recall Hazzan Sidney G. Rabinowitz, many images come to mind. For some, it is of the caring smile at bedside in the hospital, or that warm hand clasp at a house of shiva. For others it is the twinkle of an eye under the *huppah*. For many it is the word “e-nun-ci-ate,” which first appeared in the nightmares of 12-year olds, then in their most cherished memories for the remainder of their lives.

But for me the most vivid memory is also one of the first. It was a simple greeting, in the humble spirit of Abraham. Not a bow, like we’ve seen from him so often on the High Holidays for Aleinu, but with the same idea behind it. A sense of true humility, a desire for true friendship, a feeling that there is never a distance of status or stature, just two human beings, two with Yiddishkeit in their hearts, one reaching out to the other.

It was the day I moved in next door, in July, 1987, and even before the first box was unpacked, there was Hazzan Rabinowitz, walking over to my driveway, with a basket of bread and wine in hand to welcome us. The Hazzan was sending a message that I understood immediately. For we read in the book of Genesis how Abraham was greeted by Melchizedek, the King of Salem, with bread and wine and a heap of humility, following an epic battle in which the two were allies. Since then, bread and wine have become a symbol of Jewish hospitality, and that king’s city, later renamed Jerusalem, was to become a symbol of peace.

The sages asked, “Who is wise? The one who learns from all others,” and Abraham learned well from this encounter, for we flash forward to Abraham as he is seeking a burial place for his wife Sarah, and he comes across the people of Heth, the Hittites. And the text says, “*Vayakam Avraham vayishtachu l’**am ha’aretz** livnay heth.*” Literally, “And Abraham arose and bowed down to the people of the land, to the children of Heth.” This verse is packed with the spirit of humility, with great “***derech eretz***” common decency, to “*amei ha-aretz*” to total strangers.

Rabbi S. Wagschal, in his book, “” to *Derech Eretz*,” writes, “The essential ingredients of what we call *derech eretz* are: impartiality, humility, sensitivity towards the feelings and rights of others, an understanding of human nature; a sense of justice; and respect for each individual and for humanity as a whole.” The rabbis taught that *derech eretz* as a norm of human behavior preceded the Torah by 26 generations, and in *Pirke Avot* we read, “Where there is no Torah, there is no *derech eretz*, and if there is no *derech eretz*, there is no Torah.”

Hazzan Rabinowitz stood at the point, the pinnacle, where Torah and *derech eretz* intersected, and that is the secret to his great success and why we cherished him so. As our *shaliach tzibur*, he stood before God representing the entire congregation, not just the most accomplished ones, not just the wealthiest, not just the ones who come closest to moral perfection. The Hazzan reached down with all his strength, he dug his hands down into the earth, beneath the lowest of the low, and like a push from the diaphragm to

reach the high notes, he lifts us all up to Godliness.

This is done with music and prayer, most visibly, and by all *hazzanim*. But it is what is *least* visible that distinguished Hazzan Rabinowitz from all the rest. It was the one-on-one bowing and digging and lifting, the hard-hat work of the spirit. It was knowing what is troubling dozens of families at all times; it was knowing how to reach scores of b’nai mitzvah students at the same time; it was answering every call, it was filling every need, and it was finding the time to do that without neglecting the needs of his own beloved family.

A reporter once asked me if I knew anyone who worked harder than Hazzan Rabinowitz. I replied, “Not even God. At least God takes a day off once a week.” But to do God’s work here on earth, that was a never-ending task, and for the Hazzan it was a labor of love. I saw that immediately in July of ‘87 - and even before he came to me with the bread and wine of the King of Salem. Because just days before, I had seen him by chance at the Kotel, in Jerusalem itself, as he escorted a Beth El group and I was there with a group from my old congregation.

You know, people love to talk about rabbis and cantors. It’s universal. There’s a whole genre of jokes about the intrigue that supposedly goes on. The competitiveness, the jealousies that are assumed must be there. The stories of rabbi-cantor battles are legendary. But, for the most part, that didn’t happen here, and for a few key reasons: It doesn’t hurt when the rabbi is from a cantorial family, and his father and uncle both knew and worked with our cantor. But most of all, it’s because of the deep mutual respect we shared. Ours was a partnership, and one that we knew was precious to the Temple. Did we ever disagree? Of course! Did I ever win? C’mon! Get real! Who here ever said no to the Hazzan? Well I did. Once. So...who here ever said no a second time?

And the funny thing is that this partnership was forged even though we seemed to be predestined for conflict. After all, when I was brought here as assistant rabbi I was told that my prime responsibility would be to see to the spiritual development of the kids. I was here two days and said to the president, “C’mon. Who’s kidding here? You’ve got the most active cantor when it comes to youth involvement and you’re asking me to do the youth?”

And yet, from day one, we found a way to work together that allowed us each to do what we do best for the congregation -- and we found that we were amazingly complementary. Conservative Judaism rests on the balance between tradition and change. The dialogue between the two of us created the synthesis that made for a dynamic Conservative congregation. Which doesn’t mean that he was all tradition and that I was solely an agent of change. In fact, Hazzan Rabinowitz was one of the most innovative cantors around, and I often am a vigorous defender of the status quo. But the dialectic was there, and it was the

Continued on page 20...

TBE ARTIST IN RESIDENCE WEEKEND

Featuring

RABBI JOSH WARSHAWSKY!

Musician, Teacher, Gatherer, Composer

Thursday-Sunday
November 2-5, 2023

THU. NOV. 2, 7:30-8:30pm at TBE
Dessert Sing-a-Long and meet the artist!

FRI. NOV. 3, 12:00-1:30pm
Adult Lunch and Learn
12:00-12:30pm Light Lunch
The Healing Power of Psalms
RSVP: www.tinyurl.com/learn11-3

FRI. NOV. 3, 5:30pm
Congregation Shabbat Dinner
\$18/person, \$12/child (3-13) max \$45 for family
RSVP: www.tinyurl.com/dinner11-3

Kabbalat Shabbat Services, 7:00pm

SAT. NOV. 4, 10:00am
SHABBAT SERVICES—SHABBAT IN THE ROUND
Followed by a Congregational Kiddush Lunch
with Songs and Teaching

SAT. NOV. 4, 7:30pm
HAVDALAH AND CONCERT
Featuring Josh W and Coleen Dieker
Followed by a Dessert Oneg

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5
Josh attends and teaches with
KESHER BETH EL 9:30-11:15am
Concert for Students & Families 11:15-12:00pm
with TeeBeEs

Artist in Residence Weekend
sponsored by
Malerie Yolen-Cohen and Jeff Cohen
Debby and Jack Goldberg
Dana and Carl Weinberg

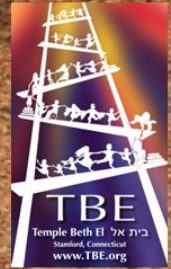


Rabbi Josh Warshawsky is a nationally touring Jewish musician, song leader, composer, and teacher of Torah. Get to know Rabbi Josh:

joshwarshawsky.com

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EVERYONE
MATTERS



TBE ADULT LEARNING

**Kavod Habriot: What Torah Can Teach Us About Human Dignity
with Rabbi Lauren Tuchman**



Thursdays, November 9, 16, 30, 7:00-8:15pm on Zoom

\$18 per participant

Please register here: www.tinyurl.com/adultednov-2023

In this three-part series, we will examine sections of Talmud and Torah that directly pertain to disability and/or human dignity with attention to how these ancient texts illuminate ways in which people exercise personal agency or choice - or don't. Our series will be in conversation with Rabbi Dr. Julia Watts Belser's latest book: *Loving Our Own Bones: Disability Wisdom and the Spiritual Subversiveness of Knowing Ourselves Whole*, published by Beacon Press.

While you may wish to have a copy for your personal library, the sections of the book we will be using will be provided as part of the source sheet for each week's class. Our first class will focus on three pieces of midrash from the Babylonian Talmud while the final two sessions will each focus on that week's Torah portion.

Temple Beth El, 350 Roxbury Rd. Stamford, CT 06902
203-322-6901 office@tbe.org www.tbe.org facebook.com/tbestamford



TBE SISTERHOOD ANNUAL CLOTHING DRIVE

Do a mitzvah!

**Sunday, November 5 from 10:00am
through Monday, November 6 at 10:00am**

Volunteers will be there to help you on Sunday from 10am-12pm, but you may drop off until Monday at 10:00am.

Location:

Please drop-off at the loading dock/kitchen doors, by the dumpsters.

Items to Donate: Usable and wearable clothing and shoes for all seasons and all sizes for men, women, kids, pocketbooks, belts, baby accessories, backpacks, hats, scarves, briefcases, gloves, ties, handbags, blankets, tablecloths, bed sheets, drapery, curtains, pillows, towels, quilts, comforters, stuffed animals and bicycles.

Items NOT accepted: car seats, cribs, hair dryers, mattresses, pack & plays, baby walkers, baby bath seats, toys with lead, hard toys, VHS tapes, CDs, books, box TVs/monitors, oversized play sets or outdoor play sets. Workout/exercise equipment, appliances, furniture, lamps, house decor, board games, electronics, glassware, pots, pans, rugs, baby gear.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION: PLEASE READ

Put all items into tightly tied plastic bags. Shoes laces must be tied and shoes bagged separate from clothes. Bicycles and scooters may be dropped off without being packaged or wrapped.

Questions? sisterhood@tbe.org

**SISTERHOOD THANKS YOU FOR YOUR DONATIONS
AND ENTHUSIASM TO HELP OTHERS IN NEED!**

**We will receive money for every pound we collect.
The money raised will be used for Sisterhood/TBE programming.
Your donations will help deserving families in the USA and abroad.**

You will receive a tax form for all items donated.



Let's play mah jong!



TBE Sisterhood invites you to a fun night!

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

We have instructors and refreshments!!!

Tuesday, November 14 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 or
203-979-9570.

Temple Beth El Sisterhood, 350 Roxbury Rd, Stamford, CT 06902
www.tbe.org | 203-322-6901

Temple Beth El TeeBeEs,
UJF, & PJ Library Present

Shabbuzz Shalom

WHEN: Friday Nov 10th

TIME: 5-6:30PM



*Thank our local first responders by making cards and putting together hot cocoa packets

*Hear stories from PJ Library

*Stay for dinner with your TeeBeEs friends

This Shabbuzz Shalom is only \$10/family!

FREE for Hive members!! 

Register at: www.tinyurl.com/shabbuzz11-10

Join the Hive: tinyurl.com/teebees2023

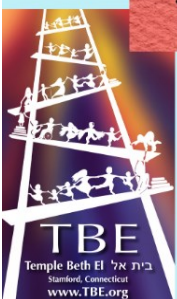
Questions? Contact:

youngfamilies@tbe.org

Temple Beth El

350 Roxbury Rd. Stamford, CT 06902

203-322-6901



United Jewish
Federation
of Stamford, New Canaan, and Darien
Serving Greater Fairfield County

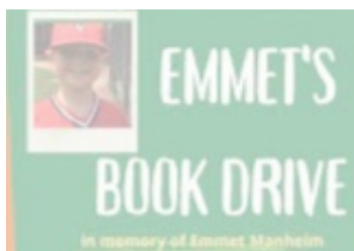
PJ Library & PJ OUR WAY



TEMPLE BETH EL MITZVAH MAKERS



Mitzvah Makers is a community service/social action program for Jewish students grades 6-8



Mitzvah Makers meets monthly and allows the opportunity to give back to both TBE and the Stamford community with a wide range of projects.

Some past projects have included food, book, & holiday gift drives, environmental projects, partnering with community & afterschool programs.

What would YOU like to do THIS year??

**For more information,
contact and watch for emails from Dayna Patashnik
tbemitzvahmakers@gmail.com**

GRINSPOON LIFE & LEGACY

WHY WE MADE A GRINSPOON LIFE & LEGACY GIFT Steven and Lieba Lander

As a couple for over 50 years, we have always volunteered and worked to assure the survival of the Jewish Community in Norwalk where we live and Stamford where we volunteer and work. It is our pleasure and privilege to support Temple Beth El and Chabad as part of our Legacy Giving through the Grinspoon Life and Legacy program.



Steven stated: Temple Beth El has not only been my place of employment for the last 16 years, but also my spiritual home. As a member of the professional team, I see how important each gift is to create a well-funded endowment that will provide the financial security needed to sustain a thriving Jewish Community for decades to come.

Today, Temple Beth El and our beautiful building on Roxbury Road stand as a testament to our founders' vision as we strive to build lives of beauty and meaning for each member. Together, we pray and rejoice; work and play; welcome and mourn. At Temple Beth El, our congregants are committed to each other, to the remarkable history of our synagogue, and to the power of living Jewishly in a world that demands much of us.

Although TBE's finances today are stable, there will be growing building expenses and economic downturns, making our financial stability vulnerable. A proper endowment fund will help TBE continue to provide for a level of excellence in our lifecycle events and celebrations, Shabbat and holiday observances, Jewish education and life-long learning, and social justice programming.

Now is the time to build upon our strengths and provide Temple Beth El with the financial security it needs to remain a visionary and thriving congregation for generations to come.

Lieba stated: For over 28 years I have watched the children of Chabad Gan Yeladim, as young as 3 months old, experience the joy and connection to Judaism. And now I see them return with their children to continue their legacy. As a teacher of these children, I feel it is my responsibility and privilege to ensure that their children's children have the same opportunities!

We hope you will consider joining us in making a legacy gift to the Grinspoon Life & Legacy to ensure financial security to all of the very important institutions in our community so that their impact will continue for generations to come.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE A GABBAI?



Training available!

Please contact Rabbi Hammerman
at rabbi@tbe.org.



MEN'S CLUB

HEARING MEN'S VOICES From Hebrew School to the Present

The Men's Club invites all TBE men to the first Hearing Men's Voices (HMV) session in the new year (5784) on **Tuesday, November 14, at 8 pm**. Our topic for discussion: From Hebrew School to the Present.



This HMV will explore how your experiences, both positive and negative, at Hebrew School, youth group, Jewish summer camp, etc., have shaped your Jewish journey. Share your suggestions about what could be changed or improved going forward.

What experience was the primary influence in your practice of Judaism today (e.g., Hebrew school, USY, adult education)? What do you wish you had learned in Hebrew school? If you have children or grandchildren, are you aware of how they are obtaining their Jewish education? What would you like to see Jewish education look like today?

Join us as we explore these questions and more during our session.

Arrive 15-20 minutes early for some refreshments and schmoozing before we begin. To ensure we have enough facilitators to break into small discussion groups, please [register for the session by clicking here](#).

If you've never been to an HMV session before, give us a try. We're just a bunch of guys from the Men's Club getting to know each other better and engaging in rich and meaningful dialog about issues of common interest.

We also ask that you familiarize yourself with the ground rules that govern all HMV sessions. [A list of HMV ground rules can be found here](#).

We look forward to hearing your voice. And please ask other men in the congregation whom you know to join us.

CRITICAL VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR BUILDING ONE COMMUNITY (B1C) IN STAMFORD

B1C has a terrific tutoring program for elementary students but doesn't have enough tutors. 14 volunteers (adults or teenagers) are needed on Monday - Thursday from 4:30pm-5:45pm. The kids speak English so you do not need to speak another language but Spanish or French would be useful. Each volunteer works with up to three children.

Volunteers must commit to a minimum of three consecutive months for one session a week, have basic technology skills and familiar with how math is currently taught at the elementary level. Teenagers must be 16 years of age or older. To volunteer, register on the B1C website at <https://building1community.org/engage/volunteer-form/> and indicate it is for the Homework Club. You can also contact Margarita Zimmerman, B1C's Volunteer Director at mzimmerman@b1c.org

DONATE ONLINE
Go to: 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 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.

ATTENTION PARENTS OF COLLEGE STUDENTS



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

TREE OF LIFE



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

The following categories are still available:

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

CONTRIBUTING SHARES OF STOCK TO TEMPLE BETH EL

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

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

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

DID YOU KNOW?

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



SEEKING SHABBAT GREETERS

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

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

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

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

CELEBRATING A SPECIAL EVENT? COMMEMORATING A YAHRTZEIT?

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

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

PAY YOUR DUES ONLINE

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

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

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS

IN HONOR OF:

EILEEN H. ROSNER ON HER MILESTONE BIRTHDAY AND IN RECOGNITION OF ALL SHE DOES FOR TBE

Ellie Mirne

A SPEEDY RECOVERY FOR STEVEN LANDER

Barbara Jacobs, Suzanne Horn & Norman Stone, Laichtman Family, Melanie Massell, Romanowitz Family

THE BIRTH OF MELODY SAGE MILLER

Suzanne Horn & Norman Stone

EILEEN H. ROSNER ON HER BIG BIRTHDAY

Denise & David Greenman, Fran & Rabbi Gerry Ginsburg, Caryl Ferber Poser, Peter Poser & Stacy Ferber, Leslie & Joe Heyison, Jamie Morvitz & Matt Miller

SHEILA ROMANOWITZ ON BEING HONORED BY UNITED JEWISH FEDERATION

Alan Benet

THE MARRIAGE OF SUPATSARA DITKHLOY AND MICHAEL STAINES

Marcia & Mark Staines

SANDY & FRED GOLOVE BECAUSE WE LOVE THEM

Beth & Bobby Golove

REFUAH SHELEIMA FOR ALAN JAFFE

Suzanne Horn & Norman Stone

JUDY DALGIN & NORM SUCHIN IN APPRECIATION

Suzanne Horn & Norman Stone

THE MARRIAGE OF ELANA & HARRISON SHAPIRO

Susan Wise

IN APPRECIATION OF RABBI JOSHUA HAMMERMAN AND CANTOR KATIE KAPLAN ON THE OCCASION OF THE AUFRUF OF HARRISON AND ELANA

Sue & Carl Shapiro

THE BIRTH OF LEVI MILES LAFFERTY

Judy Dalgin & Norm Suchin, Betsy & Peter Kempner, Susan & Art Greenwald, Jamie Morvitz & Matt Miller

A SPEEDY RECOVERY FOR MARSHA SHENDELL

Judy Dalgin & Norm Suchin

CAROL & ALLEN KRIM IN APPRECIATION

Suzanne Horn & Norman Stone

SUE & CARL SHAPIRO FOR BEING HONORED ON SIMCHAT TORAH

Marilyn Galler Sofer & Mitch Sofer, Susan & Art Greenwald

SUE & CARL SHAPIRO ON THE ENGAGEMENTS AND WEDDINGS OF THEIR THREE CHILDREN

Susan & Art Greenwald

SCOTT KROWITZ IN APPRECIATION FOR HIS LEADERSHIP

Susan & Art Greenwald

IN APPRECIATION OF RABBI JOSHUA HAMMERMAN AND CANTOR KATIE KAPLAN

Romanowitz Family

RABBI JOSHUA HAMMERMAN MITZVAH FUND

In honor of...

The naming of Zoë Reese Usdin by Allison & Jason Usdin

The birth of Amelia Sara Hobbs by Sharon & Jeff Turshen

Rabbi Joshua Hammerman for his thoughtful and moving High Holiday sermons by Roni & Allan Lang

In memory of...

Evelyn Kucker, z'l, by Susan & Marc Peyser

Malvina Rothman, z'l, by Linda & Joe Rothman

Hazzan Sidney G. Rabinowitz, z'l, by Marcia Braunstein, Sharon & Jeff Turshen

CANTOR KATIE KAPLAN MITZVAH FUND

In honor of...

Cantor Katie Kaplan for her inspiring High Holiday music by Roni & Allan Lang

In memory of...

Leona & Abraham Worobey, z'l, by Scott Emily & Adam Worobey

Hazzan Sidney G. Rabinowitz, z'l, by Jamie Morvitz & Matt Miller

MEN'S CLUB

In memory of...

Alan Silberman, z'l, by Bunny & Bob Bragdon

MUSIC FUND

In memory of...

Leslie Horowitz, z'l, by Rona & Gary Sterling

Hazzan Sidney G. Rabinowitz, z'l, by Marsha Colten & Robert Cohen, Maxine & Jay Freilich

BETH EL CARES

In memory of...

Barry Lomove, z'l, by Beverly & Alan Kezsbom

FRANK & ROSE ROSNER MEMORIAL FUND

In honor of...

Eileen H. Rosner on her special birthday by Marsha Colten & Robert Cohen

Eileen H. Rosner on her special birthday and in appreciation of her service to TBE by Roni & Allan Lang

SECURITY FUND

In memory of...

Herb Bloomenthal, z'l, by Amy & Mel Bloomenthal

KIDDUSH FUND

In memory of...

Leslie Horowitz, z'l, by Irv and Barney Horowitz

PROJECT EZRA FUND

In memory of...

John Graubard, z'l, by Cindy Jennes



REMEMBERING OUR LOVED ONES



Beverly & David Stein **SEYMOUR ABRAMS**
 Maddy Shapiro & Family **MORRIS BELITZ**
 Susan & Richard Blomberg **NORMAN BLOMBERG**
 Susan & Richard Blomberg **PHILIP BLOMBERG**
 Susan & Richard Blomberg **ROSE BLOMBERG**
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 Stacy & Don Cooper & Family **JOSEPH COOPER**
 Joan & Robert Rosenthal **EVE DOCTOR**
 Marcia Bick Gershman & Stanley Gershman.... **RITA GERSHMAN**
 Fran & Rabbi Gerry Ginsburg **NATHANIEL GINSBURG**
 Barbara Malloy **BENNETT GLAZER**
 Leonor Lopez **CAROLINA HALPERN**
 Gail Solomon Hecht & Harvey Hecht **SAMUEL HECHT**
 Madge & Michael Kellick **LOUISE HUPPERT**
 Ann & Julius Lanick **FLORENCE KAPLAN**
 Denise & David Greenman **SAMUEL KESSLER**
 Susan & Richard Blomberg **FRANZISKA KONIGSBACHER**
 Kathy & Howard Kraus **ALVIN KRAUS**
 Roni & Allan Lang **RUTH LANG**
 Beverly & David Stein **MOORE LASHER**
 Lisa & Jeff Manheim **EMMET MANHEIM**
 Melanie Massell **LEONARD MASSELL**
 Ruth Kwartin **MILDRED MILLER**
 Robin Evans & Jeffrey Perry **ALEXANDER PERRY**
 Rhonna & Brian Rogol **THEODORE ROGOL**
 Rosenblum Family **HARRIET ROSENBLUM**
 Sally & James Rothkopf **HARRY ROTHKOPF**
 Carol Schwartz & Family **HARRY SCHECTER**
 Sue & Carl Shapiro **IRVING SHAPIRO**
 Roslyn & Merritt Nesin **PEARL SHAPIRO**
 Marsha Shendell & Family **HYMAN SHENDELL**
 Susan Plutzer **NATHAN SIEMAN**
 Sue & Carl Shapiro **NATALIE SKALKA**
 Magida Family **AL SOLOVE**
 Alan Sosnowitz **IRVING SOSNOWITZ**
 Bernice Trell **ROBERT TRELL**
 Ronnie & Ed Fein **WILLIAM VAIL**
 Harriet & Seymour Weinstein **GOLDIE WEINSTEIN**
 Nancy Wolfson & Family **JAMES WOLFSON**
 Zelazny Family **JOSEPH ZELAZNY**

Special Occasion?

Sponsor the Shabbat Announcements
 (emailed every Thursday afternoon)

Donation of \$72

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

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

IN MEMORY OF:

LESLIE HOROWITZ, z'l

Barbara Jacobs, Diana & Steven Press, Liz & Len Lawton, Stacy & Jared Tafeen, Bettina & Howie Stoller, Nancy & David Rudinger, Brenda, Susie, Elena & Dora Lisa Rosenbaum, Fran & Rabbi Gerry Ginsburg

WILLIAM BERKOWITZ, z'l

Liz & Bill Gilbert, Laura Markowitz, Fran & Rabbi Gerry Ginsburg

EVELYN KUCKER, z'l

Laura Markowitz

MICHAEL VAIL, z'l

Pamela Tinkham, Liz & Scott Krowitz, Susan & Richard Blomberg

ALAN SILBERMAN, z'l

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Sue & Carl Shapiro & Family

HAZZAN SIDNEY G. RABINOWITZ, z'l

Herb Bregman, Laura Markowitz, Betsy Diamant-Cohen, Fran & Rabbi Gerry Ginsburg, Peggy & Neil Perlman

SHIVA NOTICES AVAILABLE ON-LINE

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

WE MOURN THE PASSING OF...

SIDNEY G. RABINOWITZ, HAZZAN EMERITUS TBE

MICHAEL VAIL, brother of Ronnie Fein

RENEE PARKER, mother of Adam Parker

ALAN SILBERMAN, husband of Mary C. Silberman

HERBERT RUBIN, father of Caroline Temlock Teichman

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.

ancestors prayed to return to Jerusalem three times daily. A hundred generations. If just one generation had stopped facing Jerusalem, we wouldn't be here. Each person mattered. Each prayer recited by each person – it mattered. I wouldn't bet against the Jewish people, despite the great challenges we face now, here and in Israel. I wouldn't bet against us, and not because of God (which I can say from this God's eye view) but because of each of you. Each of you matters. And I know you'll come through. Why? Because you are here today! Something mysterious has drawn you back here today.

Today is Shabbat. The very fact that Shabbat supersedes Rosh Hashanah, and we don't blow the shofar today, is a key sign that, from the Jewish perspective, the relentless march of time needs to pause and take a back seat to this weekly taste of eternity. It's a lesson we need to learn, even if it means delaying our shofar gratification for one day. And we need to sit back and cherish our remaining time together. Rosh Hashanah is all about our rush to get things done. Shabbat is about the appreciation of what we've done already. Rosh Hashanah is the forced rush of a Tekia Gedola, creating waves of sound. Shabbat is a light breeze that ripples across the surface of the water. Hayom Harat Olam – Today the world is born, but we'll hold our breath one more day before celebrating that birthday tomorrow, with the shofar's blast.

We are all on different clocks. We walk at different speeds. We learn at different paces. We pray in different rhythms. But in the end, we can't mark time alone. All our clocks chime differently, but our goal should be to make them chime in harmony. Teach us to count our days – to measure those paces, so that our hearts may be guided by kindness, as we hold out our hand to help our siblings shuffling with a numbing fear through the rain-soaked lot at Panera. And as I held my brother's hand, drenched in that parking lot, and saw how dependent he was on me and in a strange way vice versa, I realized that however we mark time, our time is meant to be shared.

Day 2:

Judaism can help us in a number of ways, to 1) establish ethical guidelines for programming and implementation of A.I., 2) to warn us of the dangers of playing God and playing with fire; and 3) to drill into our minds the distinction between that which is Melachuti – artificial – and Amiti – real. The Hebrew word for real is also the word for truth. What a brilliant concept!

We need ten for a minyan. But when we count a minyan, we say, traditionally, "Not one, not two, not three." **Because even when we need a specific number of people, we never reduce people into becoming specific numbers** – we never assign their personhood a value that is less than infinity.

In the Talmud, (Yoma 22b) Rabbi Eleazar says: Whosoever counts Israel, transgresses a [biblical] prohibition, as it is said (Hosea 22:1): 'Yet the number of the children of Israel shall be as the sand of the sea, which cannot be measured.'" The commentator Rashi explains that "the evil eye has power over numbered things." **So the custom developed** to try to avoid

spotlighting individuals whenever counting them – even for something as important as a minyan.

Counting standardizes human beings. It creates a sameness, sets boundaries that objectify and limit us. Assigning people numbers dulls the spark of divinity within them.

Just as everything in the past 80 years was tainted by the lurking potential for nuclear annihilation, so everything now is tainted by the growing shadow of artificiality. The digital age, which held such promise, has turned out to be a Trojan horse. We are in a gargantuan struggle to reestablish the preeminence of the real.

Relationships and professional roles cannot be contrived, fabricated, planned, calculated, or programmed. True relationship cannot be "artificial." Paradoxically the most difficult of all things to achieve, is to be, simply, oneself.

To have known me here for these past 36 years is to know that I have always looked at religion from the prism of the humanities, not as doctrine but as lived experience, not as something supernatural but something very down to earth, a product of the human condition and a contributor toward human flourishing. **Lo Bashamayim hee** – it says in Deuteronomy. "It's not in the heavens." "This thing is very close to you, in your mouth and in your heart." Religion is right here – in your heart. That's what's real – and our sacred wisdom reminds us of precisely that.

Kol Nidre:

In April, Justice Minister Yariv Levin admitted that elements of his **plan would "end democracy"** because it would essentially give the coalition unfettered power. Levin's admission, with the country already seething, confirmed the suspicions of many that this had never been about fine-tuning the judiciary. It was a project much more nefarious. So that's why these unprecedented protests are happening. Let me explain why they matter to us.

In the words of Yuval Noah Harari, the mega best-selling author of "Sapiens," "Imagine a world in which "Judaism" becomes a synonym for religious fanaticism, racism and brutal oppression. Could Judaism survive such a spiritual destruction?" That is the world that would inevitably result from the dismantling of judicial checks and balances.

Yuval Noah Harari speaks of two kinds of Judaism, symbolized by the two most noteworthy Jews alive today, whose paths crossed at the UN this week. There's Netanyahu Judaism, and there's Zelensky Judaism: Zelensky, who lives in a place where Jews have often faced grave danger, is never ashamed to call himself a Jew. But he's also proud of his Ukrainian nationality. Fearless, human, relatable, he looks at the world in a very Jewish way, pursuing justice and fighting corruption and hate.

I've stood here countless times talking so lovingly about Israel, and I love it not one iota less than I did when I arrived. But when elements within the government of Israel are on the cusp of doing something so duplicitous, so dangerous, so

Continued on page 19...

hateful, so power hungry and so anti-democratic, we have to stop making excuses for it. And we have to insist that our American Jewish organizations stand up for democracy at the hour of greatest need. As Daniel Gordis, who has usually defended Netanyahu, [said recently](#), one day, grandchildren will ask their grandparents what they did right now to save Israel's democracy. We have to speak out.

Despite all that has torn us apart, I remain optimistic. Here are some examples of why. On a What's App group, someone asks to borrow an Israeli flag for a pro-reform rally in Jerusalem to be held on a Thursday night. Someone replies, "Sure, no problem," but he needs it back for the anti-reform rally to be held right after Shabbat. "Of course," replies the guy and says thank you.

But we can never stop dreaming. For these dreams reflect the real Israel that I grew up believing in, the real Israel of the protesters today, the real Israel that can yet come in to being – the real Israeli government that existed just a year ago and can again – a true unity government. It reflects the real Judaism that American Jews and Israelis can share. And it reflects the real America too. As divided as Israelis seem to be, and Americans too, the people are not as divided as the politicians. In both countries, the vast majority cherishes democratic values. We can build unity from that foundation. "We can either fall into a very dark, extreme, racist place where the Israel that we know, in all its social and economic aspects, will be destroyed," says Shikma Bressler, one of the leaders of the movement, the physicist who is not a politician. "Or we can build a new, stronger, better democracy for the good of all the people."

Yom Kippur Day:

Admittedly, my profession is an extreme example, but shouldn't the seamless integration of work and life be what we all strive to achieve? Isn't that what brings happiness, meaning and fulfillment? I happen to be a rabbi – and guess what my pleasure reading is on vacation, when I'm supposedly off the clock? Jewish history. My favorite TV series this year, watched when I supposedly wasn't working? Mrs. Maisel and Fauda, and my favorite films were Golda and Oppenheimer. I didn't ask for overtime pay. But for me, there is no separation between work and life. And that's why it's a good thing that I love my work.

Many of you won't recognize even one of these names. But they are our living scrolls. Their stories are OUR stories. They are your stories too. Each of these lives has lent a sense of exaltation to the human condition and the Jewish narrative – each of their stories has merged with the life of this community; and each of their stories has merged with mine – and each, like a wave, has receded from the shore – from where you are now sitting – where they once sat – into the Oneness of the universe.

I've discovered that life can be a thrilling ride if we greet each day with fresh eyes. In Deuteronomy (26:16) it says, "The Lord your God commands you this day to observe these laws and rules, and to observe them faithfully..." Rashi asks why it

says, "this day?" Why not every day? The commentator's response: "Every day, every time one fulfills a mitzvah, it should feel as if it is the first." That's how I've counted my days. Every day, like the first. And that's how I've approached my work-life. There have been well over a thousand bar and bat mitzvahs here during my tenure. I've wanted each one to feel like the first. I missed only one.

Our collective Jewish people's shiva and my personal shiva fused together as one. As much as people came to comfort me, they also looked to me for comfort. As much as they helped to restore the natural order of things for me, we all sat together, low to the ground, and mourned the untimely loss of good, innocent people, for vulnerable people, for people at prayer, for people who had only love in their hearts – and we mourned for their innocence and the loss of ours. One on one on one on one, the healing took place, down in the trenches of the mourning bench.

To paraphrase the [old country song](#), Mama don't let your babies grow up to be rabbis! I would never recommend it to anyone. But I wouldn't trade these 40 years in the biz for anything. It has made me a much better person than I ever would have been. I've had to do things I never would have done, like setting aside superficial differences to focus on what's really important. I can't tell you how much it meant to me recently when a congregant with whom I have had major political differences turned and said to me, "But we always knew you would be there for us." There have been times when I wondered whether I might have lived my best life being a little less of a mensch. But then there are times like, well, last week, when I made good on a promise I'd made to John Graubard before his death, [to share one of his jokes in a High Holidays sermon](#). I know it meant so much to his family. They told me. How many professions give you that chance to make someone on his death bed happy? That's one of the gifts of being a rabbi. Even the simplest gesture can mean so much to people. It's both a gift and an unbelievably weighty responsibility.

I used to explain it as being like a juggler with a thousand balls in the air. But the juggler has it easy, because they're just balls. It's more like what God deals with. No, I'm not saying I'm like God, but there is a scene in the Jim Carrey movie Bruce Almighty, where Carrey takes God's job for a day and he is [buried under a blizzard of prayers](#) written on post-its, like all those notes at the Western Wall. I can imagine God today, on Yom Kippur, feeling overwhelmed by an avalanche of prayers. And then, when someone actually reads what's on those post-its, their heart breaks, again and again. A juggler is not reading those balls in the air, but when hundreds of you come up to this ark during Neilah, I know what you've all been through, your joys and your sorrows, and I can hear the whispers of what you might well be praying for. The sheer weight of all those prayers is overwhelming.

That's the first question a rabbi has to ask – whether referring to biological children or all the other ones, including

Continued on page 21...

engine that made us run. And yes, there was a slight generational difference, though both he and I realized that each of us, along with Rabbi Goldman, must be there for congregants of all ages. This balance helped all members of the congregation to feel that at least one clergy person was the exact right fit for their needs at that time.

And there are other ways that we complemented each other so perfectly:

He had daughters, I have sons. His dog was small and well trained, mine have been large and occasionally off the wall. I don't know about the two of us, but the dogs should really have been renamed Oscar and Felix. Maggie, the dog we had while we worked together, spent lots of time on Suzie's front lawn. And the dogs were actually a reflection of our different teaching styles. The styles were different, but the results were wonderful for the student who had the chance to work with us both. Now I don't intend to compare Bar/Bat Mitzvah students with dogs here, but I am firmly convinced that I couldn't do what I do with the kids if he didn't do what he did so well. Most of the time, I got to be the "good cop."

The same was true for services, for all the life cycle events we did, for everything: Because he did what he did so well, and only because of that, could I do what I did, and pull it off.

We were a partnership in every sense of the word, and just as with all relationships that work, in the end we discovered not how complementary we are, but how similar.

If we were both strong-willed it is because we both cared so much about the future of Judaism and about this community. We both shed the same tears over Israel. We both kvelled and cried when people like Jill Gullotta became an adult bat mitzvah on this pulpit, because we knew that for this victim of a terribly debilitating stroke, we had helped her to climb her Everest.

Jill had nearly died from a stroke back when her daughter Allison was born and had lived the remainder of her life confined to a wheelchair, unable to communicate easily. Allison never knew her mother as the vibrant woman that she had once been, but her illness only brought out her inner beauty all the more. Jill had come to my attention when I received a call from her nursing home saying that they had a resident who wanted to become bat mitzvah. And so Jill was introduced to the team of Temple Beth El. With the patient tutoring of Rosalea Fisher and the tireless help of Hazzan Rabinowitz, Jill realized her dream, right on our pulpit, in one of the most inspiring services I've ever witnessed. Jill died a few years after that. Then, several years later, Allison followed in her mother's footsteps onto our bima and became a bat mitzvah herself.

How can you go through a moment like that together and not be bound for life? And to see him work with so many with varying disabilities, and elders, and the children, as I did all the time, how could one not grow to love the man?

And it's the little things that I saw. If a person of limited means needed low cost housing, the Hazzan was on the

phone. If a non-member called in desperate need of a minyan at his home, he finished his work here then went out and did the little extra. If recent Russian immigrants wanted to become Bar/Bat Mitzvah, he started a class. If an adult wanted to learn Hebrew, he set aside time. We could easily fill our sanctuary with the people he helped in truly unique and special ways.

Torah and *derech eretz*: Learning and kindness; an iron will and a heart of gold. They all came together in this man. The voice, of course the voice. The music; of course the music. But more, much, much more. More than a Hazzan indeed.

He said the "G" in his name stood for Gershwin. Whether or not it always did, it is absolutely the case that for this congregation, "**Our Love is Here to Stay.**"

*Our love is here to stay
Together we're
Going a long, long way
In time the Rockies may crumble
Gibraltar may tumble
They're only made of clay
But our love is here to stay*

May his memory be for a blessing.

Rabbi Joshua Hammerman

KATIE KAPLAN, CANTOR *continued from page 3...*

Registration requested, no cost for program

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 3rd

5:30pm Congregation Shabbat Dinner

Please Register - \$18 per person max \$45 for family standard Shabbat dinner pricing

7pm Services

In the Sanctuary and on Livestream

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 4th

10am-12pm Shabbat Morning Services: SHABBAT IN THE ROUND STYLE

12pm Congregational Kiddush Lunch with Songs and Teaching

In the Social Hall and on Zoom

SATURDAY EVENING NOVEMBER 4th

HAVDALAH AND CONCERT at 7:30pm

Featuring Josh Warshawsky and Coleen Dieker
Free and Open to the Public

Coleen Dieker is a violinist, singer, songwriter, and performer who frequently performs with Josh Warshawsky and co-writes music with him as well. She will be coming in to join him all the way from LA for a performance you won't want to miss.

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 5th

Josh attends and teaches with KESHER BETH EL

11:15am-12:00pm Concert for Students and their Families.

In the Sanctuary

Continued on page 21...

ON ONE FOOT continued from page 18...

all the kids whose B'nai Mitzvah I refused to miss. Did I raise nice kids? I think I did. I couldn't be prouder of mine – and I'm pretty darn proud of yours. They're all my kids, by the way. That has no expiration date. Every Jewish child deserves to have their own childhood rabbi, who will love them unconditionally and always be there for them – and that relationship lasts for life.

And now, 37 years after I spoke to this congregation for the first time and saw seedlings, I now look out and see 37 fully grown gardens. One stacked on top of the other. And each pew is stacked 37 times, like planes over La Guardia. Circling. Circling. I see them all, the dead, the living, the not yet dreamed of. It feels like that last scene from Les Misérables, which opened on Broadway one month after my opening night here. And, as I see you, marking this moment, I'm taking a mental snapshot right...now... and will carry it with me for



the rest of my days, wherever I find myself, next Yom Kippur, and the one after that, and God willing, beyond.

Rabbi Joshua Hammerman

KATIE KAPLAN, CANTOR continued from page 20...

Followed by donuts, muffins, coffee, juice, etc. in the social hall, oneg style

Bring the younger set of TBE members and friends to enjoy Josh Warshawsky's camp song leader style vibe, sing and dance, and enjoy the music at this family centered concert!

Cantor Katie Kaplan

Happy Hanukkah!



Have you seen our new PAVER WALKWAY?

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Contact Steven Lander, execdir@tbe.org for details.

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2011

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YOU DO FOR TBE

PEACE * LOVE * TBE
MOVE ME BRIGHTLY
I ROCK MY SOUL

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

Noah's Ark

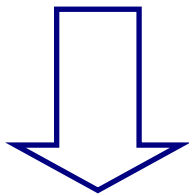


Have you seen our replica of Noah's Ark in the hallway of Kesher Beth El? It is walnut, measures 76" by 72", and has 149 plaques and 18 larger animals that can include engraved messages in honor of a family's children or anyone else, or in honor of a significant family event .

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.
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The deadline for the
January-February 2024 Bulletin
will be Friday, December 1, 2023.

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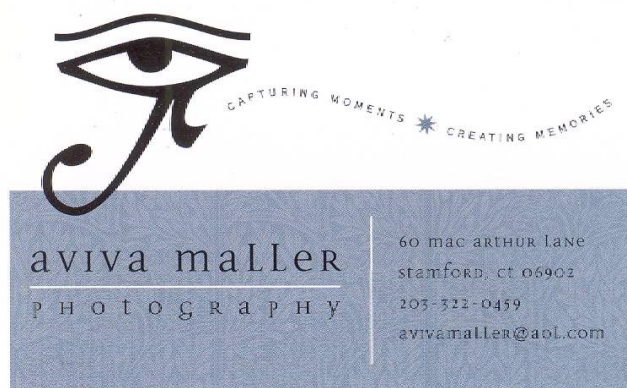
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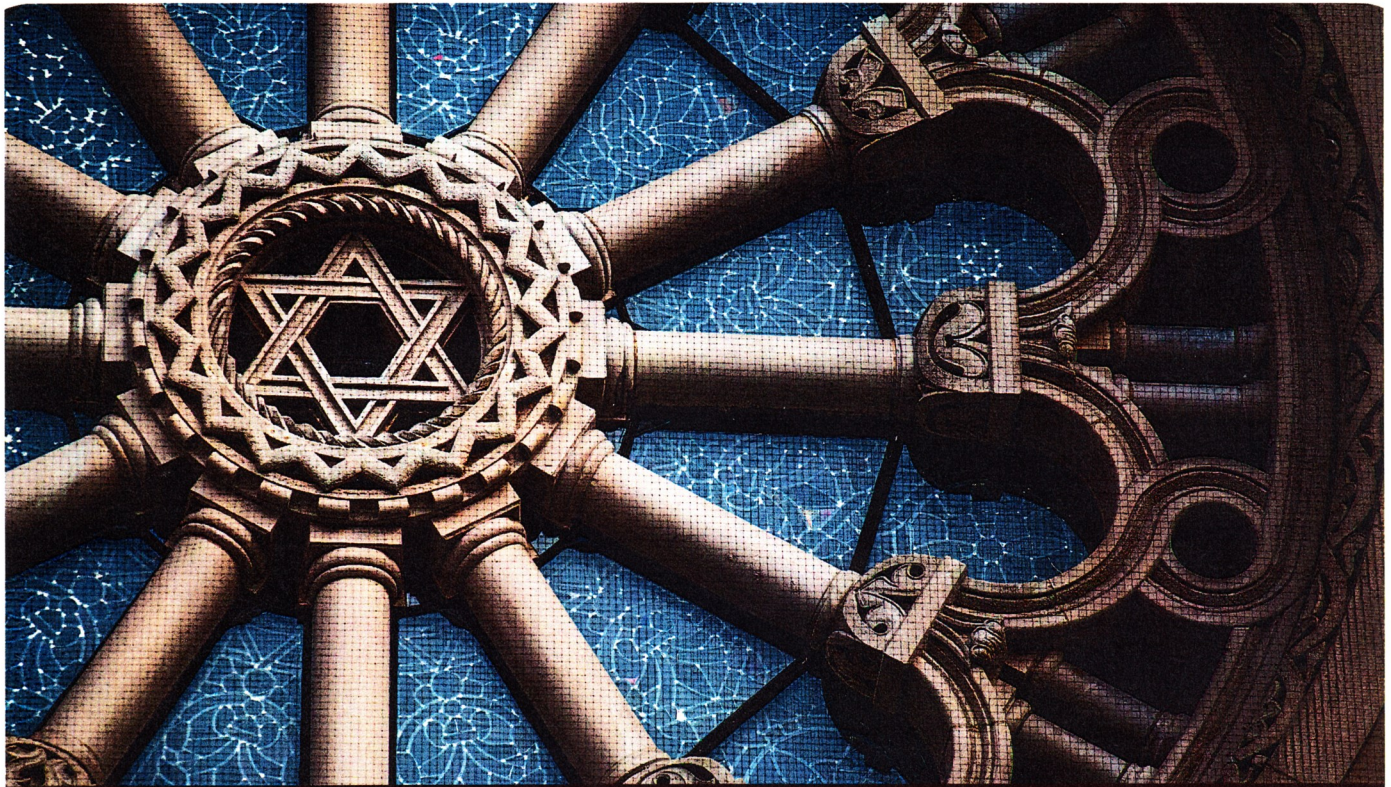
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