

HANUKKAH CANDLE LIGHTING AT STAMFORD GOVERNMENT CENTER

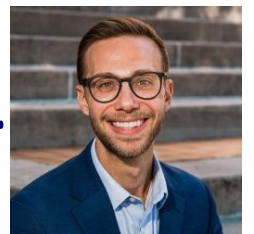


TBE MITZVAH MAKERS: HUNGER AND HOMELESS AWARENESS



RABBI MICHAEL KNOFF, RABBINIC CANDIDATE, WILL VISIT TBE.

SEE PAGE 5 FOR DETAILS...



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Mia M. Weinstein	203-595-0528

WHERE TO FIND IT

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Katie Kaplan, Cantor	Page 3
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COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS**Empty Nesters**

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Social Action Committee

Julie Rosenberg	203-975-8880
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Tzedek Committee

Julie Rosenberg	203-975-8880
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OUR STAFF IS MOST EAGER TO ASSIST YOU**Monday-Thursday, 9am-5:00 pm | Friday, 9am - 2:00pm****Phone: 203-322-6901 Fax: 203-322-0532**

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

"STATE OF THE ART SYNAGOGUE"

At the conclusion of each programming year, I used to lay out my "State of the Synagogue" report, with a focus on religion, education, youth and social programming (the president would give the financials.). I dug one out from 30 years ago, June 1994. You can see some of the dreams we had then and assess how those concepts have withstood the test of time. To see the whole bulletin [click here](#).



It was a time of great ambition and growth here. Our membership had grown to an all-time high of 700 families, having gained 120 new families in the prior two years. It's hard to recall that we averaged 50 attendees on a Shabbat morning (with no B'nai Mitzvah) back then and sustained it for many years, with home-cooked lunches whipped up by our Shabbat committee. We had multiple children's services each week, plus Tot Shabbats on Friday nights. Some of what we did then can be replicated, though the challenges are far greater now. And of course it's not about attendance alone. Here's how I envisioned it back then:

SHABBAT MORNING GROWS AND GROWS:

Everything about Beth El is growing, including service attendance (with the notable exception of the morning Minyan, which will be given much attention over the coming year). There was a time when a quorum of ten on an "ordinary" Shabbat could hardly be taken for granted. Now it's not unusual to have fifty "regulars" present when nothing special is going on; more to the point, however, is that there are so few ordinary Shabbatot, and most weeks we have two or three times that number throughout our building.

Without sacrificing any of the beauty of our Friday night services, Shabbat morning has become the time when things REALLY happen here; when we learn about the latest in Israel, or of how we can combat AIDS and homelessness, or help one another recover from the battering life inflicts upon us the other six days of the week. We celebrate B'nai and B'not Mitzvah as community milestones, and people are once again beginning to come back to the synagogue to mark other key events in their lives: anniversaries, graduations and special birthdays, arrivals and departures, births and deaths. Our children's services, lunches and monthly Secondservice have dramatically enhanced the quality of our Shabbatot, and all who have helped to make this possible deserve our gratitude.

The Shabbat lunch program has grown so much since the fall that it can no longer be subsidized solely by synagogue funds. With barely a single request, several families came forth to sponsor some of the meals so that the congregation could continue to enjoy our in-house edibles free of charge. I hope more will consider doing so for next year. There's no better way to share the joy of your simha with the rest of us.

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An Open Invitation for Connection

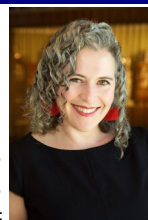
Dear Friends,

This year has brought tremendous highs and lows and we are all working to recalibrate and find our way through the world as we've come to encounter it lately. I am very aware of the challenges we are all facing as Jews, the rhetoric, biased media, and loneliness that accompanies the quiet that many find themselves surrounded by in social groups or on social media. Where is the outcry and where is the support? For some of you, I know you have great support networks and friends who reach out and check on you regularly. For others, I know you feel the silence and have expressed to me that you are shocked that friends and colleagues haven't even acknowledged the horrors of October 7th, let alone the intergenerational trauma that has been reactivated in our collective psyche. So, what can we do about this disconnect? We can get together. We can share stories and we can offer support to one another in processing our discomfort and also in sharing our joys and simchas.

I write with an invitation to schedule a meet up with me for coffee or tea. While I plan to continue periodically offering a group time for, "Coffee with the Cantor," this invitation is for you to schedule time individually or in smaller groups directly with me. I will do my best to schedule as many meetups as I can so that we can talk, share stories, get to know each other, and offer support. The best way to reach me is via email Cantor@tbe.org and I look forward to hearing from you. If you have other suggestions for opportunities to get together, I'm all ears and look forward to connecting.

Happy Secular New Year! May 2024 bring us all that we can dream, hope, and pray for.

B'Shalom,
Cantor Katie Kaplan



**Rabbi Josh Warshawsky, Artist in Residence,
was warmly welcomed at Shabbat dinner
at the home of Susan and Art Greenwald.**





SHABBAT AND FESTIVAL SERVICES



Services will be on Livestream on Friday night and on Zoom on Shabbat morning unless otherwise noted.

JANUARY

Friday, January 5

TeeBeEs Shabbuzz Shalom 5:00 pm

Congregational Shabbat Dinner 5:30 pm

Welcoming Rabbi Michael and Adira Knopf

Kabbalat Shabbat Service 7:00 pm

Led by Rabbi Michael Knopf and Cantor Katie Kaplan

Oneg Shabbat Meet & Greet Rabbi Knopf 8:00 pm

Shabbat, January 6

Shabbat Morning Service 10:00 am

Led by Rabbi Michael Knopf

Kiddush Luncheon with the Knopfs

Community Forum Q&A with Rabbi Knopf 1:00 pm

Friday, January 12 - MLK Weekend

Kabbalat Shabbat 7:00 pm

Shabbat, January 13 - MLK Weekend

Shabbat Morning Service 10:00 am

TeeBeEs ShabbuzzBimBam 11:00 am

Friday, January 19

Kabbalat Shabbat 7:00 pm

Shabbat, January 20

Shabbat Morning Service 10:00 am

Friday, January 26

Kabbalat Shabbat 7:00 pm

Shabbat, January 27

Shabbat Morning Service 10:00 am

Kesher Beth El Havdalah 6:00 pm

FEBRUARY

Friday, February 2

Kabbalat Shabbat 7:00 pm

Kesher Beth El Shabbat

Shabbat, February 3

Shabbat Morning Service 10:00 am

Friday, February 9

Kabbalat Shabbat 7:00 pm

Shabbat, February 10

Shabbat Morning Service 10:00 am

TeeBeEs ShabbuzzBimBam Havdalah 5:00 pm

Friday, February 16

Kabbalat Shabbat 7:00 pm

Shabbat, February 17

Shabbat Morning Service 10:00 am

Friday, February 23

Kabbalat Shabbat 7:00 pm

Shabbat, February 24

Shabbat Morning Service 10:00 am

TeeBeEs ShabbuzzBimBam 11:00 am

Tree of Life Gathering – October 27, 2023

Shabbat Shalom.

I am Sylvan Pomerantz and as many of you know, I am a Pittsburgher. I am a product and proud descendent of Squirrel Hill; a unique, relatively small neighborhood in which more than half of the Jews in the entire Pittsburgh metropolitan area live. Such a Jewish community exists nowhere else in the United States.



Growing up there, Jewish life was easy. On any day you could buy... a challah at Silberberg's bakery, meat from Mr. Berkman, the kosher butcher, a bar mitzvah suit at Freedmans, new shoes at Little's Shoes, while eating a delicious, corned beef on rye. You could buy a newspaper in Yiddish or have a conversation in Hebrew; anything you could ever want to live a good Jewish life was there. No matter where you would venture in Squirrel Hill from work to home, from the JCC to Woolworths, you were a part of a community of acceptance, a community in which everyone knew or at least recognized everyone else and always said "hello."

Now one of the oldest Jewish neighborhoods in the country, Squirrel Hill is still renowned for its tight knit Jewish community and multigenerational families. And of course, Fred Rogers always had a wonderful day in the neighborhood, living just two blocks from the Tree of Life Synagogue for many years.

The Tree of Life Synagogue served as my house of worship where my family and many of my friends received our Jewish education, celebrated mitzvahs, funerals and life cycle events. It was and remained a synagogue, even recently in its declining years, a congregation where everyone knew everyone, and everyone was welcome. Cecil and David Rosenthal, acquaintances of my brother Richard, made sure of that every Shabbat.

Tragically, on October 27, 2018, a gunman entered the synagogue and killed eleven Jews worshipping at Shabbat services, including Cecil and David, simply because they were Jewish.

Last Friday, I went back home to join my family, our Tree of Life family, friends, community leaders, politicians and hundreds of men, women and children for prayers, poetry and music at Schenley Park for an outdoor commemoration of the 11 lives taken five years ago.

At the beginning of the ceremony in a solemn moment, 11 memorial candles were lit by family members of the victims followed by Rabbi Jeffrey Meyers, the Tree of Life rabbi, who also survived the shooting, chanting the El Malei Rahamim.

During the program, the gathering was moved by several classical and Israeli musical pieces performed by young musicians on the Violins of Hope, restored instruments on which Jewish musicians played in various concentration camps.

The speakers at the ceremony included U.S. Attorney

Continued on page 17...

Rabbi Michael Knopf to Visit TBE from January 4-7

LAST DAY TO REGISTER: SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31



After an extensive review of the candidates that have applied to-date for our senior rabbi position, the Rabbinic Search Committee has invited Rabbi Michael Rose Knopf to join us for the weekend of **January 4-7, 2024**. He will be accompanied by his wife Adira.

Rabbi Knopf is presently the rabbi for Temple Beth-El Richmond, where he has served for almost 10 years. Named one of “America’s Most Inspiring Rabbis” by *The Forward*, he is passionate about building an inclusive, supportive, and deeply intertwined community for people of all backgrounds, ages, and stages.

Rabbi Knopf graduated from the Jewish Theological Seminary (Talmud and Rabbinics, *Magna Cum Laude*) and the Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies (Master of Arts in Rabbinic Studies, Rabbinic Ordination).

On the lighter side, he’s a pop culture buff, political junkie, and enjoys movies, traveling and pizza.

You can read more about Rabbi Knopf by going to the rabbinical search timeline at tbe.org/rabbi-search and clicking on the December 5 entry.

The Search Committee has put together a number of activities throughout the weekend that will allow you to get to know Rabbi Knopf in various synagogue settings. You can find a listing of activities at tbe.org/knopf-weekend.

After reviewing these activities, you should click on the link you’ll find on the page to submit a form (one per family) indicating which activities you and your family will attend.

If you need assistance completing/submitting the form, please call the TBE office at 203-322-6901, x301.

We look forward to seeing you during this most important weekend for our congregation.

Scott Krowitz
TBE President

Devra Jaffe-Berkowitz
Search Committee Co-chair

Lisa Manheim
Search Committee Co-chair

MEN’S CLUB SAVE THE DATE!

The Men’s Club will welcome guest speaker Dr. Yonatan Morse, Assistant Professor of Political Science at the University of Connecticut.

Dr. Morse will discuss his recent trip to Israel.

Tuesday, January 30 at 7:00pm
at Temple Beth El



MAZAL TOV TO...

Sharon and Steve Winer on the marriage of their son, Scott to Remi Lubcher.

Yaffa and Pinchas Gross on the birth of a granddaughter, Yofiel, born to Michelle Gross and Yoav Bar-Asher.

Ilene Kirschner Madwed and Bert Madwed on the birth of a granddaughter, Hannah Sasha.

Rhonna and Brian Rogol on the birth of a grandson, Chase Theodore, born to Sharon and Josh Rogol.

Catherine and Robert Friedman on the birth of a grandson, Ellis, born to Sarah and Jeff Grossbard.



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

MILLIE AVNIR ★ BARRY ERNER ★ RABBI GERRY GINSBURG
RABBI JOSHUA HAMMERMAN ★ BERT MADWED
SUSAN SCHNEIDERMAN ★ HANNAH ZELAZNY

THANK YOU FOR SPONSORING KIDDUSH

JESSICA and DAN AVNIR
JAFFA and PINCHAS GROSS
JAMIE MORVITZ and MATT MILLER
STEPHANIE and DAN ZELAZNY

THANK YOU FOR SPONSORING THE SHABBAT ANNOUNCEMENTS

JESSICA and DAN AVNIR

WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE A GABBAI?



Training available!
Please contact Rabbi Hammerman
at rabbi@tbe.org.



CHECK US OUT ON
facebook

facebook.com/tbestamford/

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 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 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



**Join us on Shabbat, January 13
for ShabbuzzBimBam at 11:00 am!**

Meet Our New Members

**JOANNA and MARK ZANER
and CALEB**

Joanna, Mark and Caleb (age 2)
live in Norwalk, CT.

Joanna shared, "We joined TBE
because I grew up in Stamford as
a member of TBE, becoming Bat
Mitzvah with Rabbi Hammerman
in 2000. I attended college out
of state and only moved back to
CT in 2021, but I continued
attending services at TBE with my parents over the years.

It's great to officially be a part of the Beth El community
again, especially joining TeeBeEs to attend services and
events with Caleb and also his Gaga (my mom). It's so
special to all be together!"



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.



Let's play mah jong!



TBE Sisterhood invites you to a fun night!

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

We have instructors and refreshments!!!

Tuesday, January 23 at 7:00pm

In-person only in the TBE social hall.

NO CHARGE.

A \$5 donation towards security would be appreciated.

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



Sisterhood Membership Brunch

Sunday, January 28, 2024 at 10:30 am

Moderated by Suzy Leopold
Suzy Approved Book Tours
www.suzyapprovedbooktours.com



MEET OUR PANEL OF AUTHORS



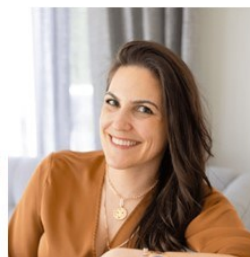
Jackie Friedland
The Stockwell Letters
www.jacquelinefriedland.com

Heather Frimmer
Better to Trust
www.heatherfrimmer.com



Galia Gichon
The Accidental Suffragist
www.galiagichonauthor.com

Samantha Woodruff
The Lobotomist's Wife
www.samanthawoodruff.com



FREE FOR SISTERHOOD MEMBERS

RSVP by Tuesday, January 23, 2024

Sisterhood members click here to register: www.tinyurl.com/brunch 1-28

Annual dues are \$36. If you would like to join Sisterhood and attend the brunch click here: www.tinyurl.com/brunch 1-28

Questions? Contact Naomi Marks at nsobel@hotmail.com

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

AJC
Westchester/
Fairfield

COLLEGE
STUDENTS

THE TIME IS NOW!

PARENTS

TEENS

TEEN AND PARENT SUMMIT:
EMPOWERING TEENS & PARENTS
TO COUNTER ANTISEMITISM

Thursday, Jan. 11
7 - 9 PM

Stamford JCC • 1035 Newfield Avenue • Stamford, CT

This summit is designed for teens in 8th grade through college AND for parents. It will include **break-out sessions led by AJC experts to help you answer the tough questions.** NOW more than ever, we must empower our students and ourselves to be educated, strong Jewish advocates and to combat antisemitism, hate and intolerance online, on campus, and in the classroom.

- Real life scenarios
- How to answer the tough questions
 - Translating hate
 - Call to action

HOST COMMITTEE (*in formation*)

Doreen Cortell
Beth & Jeff Goodman
Karen Malkin

Amy & Aron Davidson
Dana Horowitz
Randi & Craig L. Price
Julie Rosenberg

Rachel & Keith Friedman
Marc & Michelle Lechner
Risa Raich

OPEN TO THE COMMUNITY

Scan here
to sign up!



Students sing with Rabbi Josh Warshawsky, Artist in Residence



Hanukkah Kids Choice Day



Painting Rocks with hopes and prayers for hostages in Gaza to add to the Congregation Beth El Luminary Display

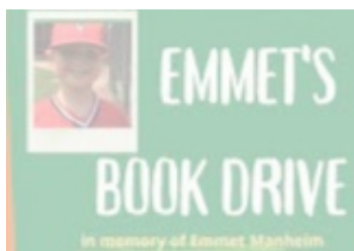




TEMPLE BETH EL MITZVAH MAKERS



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**

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 (very few remaining)	\$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.

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.

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.

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS

IN HONOR OF:

REFUAH SHELEIMA FOR FRAN GINSBURG

Suzanne & Norman Stone, Arlene & Carl Rosen

THE BIRTH OF MELODY SAGE MILLER

Carol & Allen Krim

SHARON & JEFF TURSHEN ON THEIR 50th WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Rochelle Udell Turshen & Douglas Turshen

STEPHNE BEHREND FOR BEING HONORED BY THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE

Suzanne & Norman Stone

SUSAN FRIEDEN FOR BEING HONORED BY THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE

Suzanne & Norman Stone

HANNAH ZELAZNY ON BECOMING A BAT MITZVAH

Marsha Colten & Robert Cohen

OUR SON, SCOTT, AND OUR DAUGHTER-IN-LAW, REMI, ON THEIR MARRIAGE

Sharon & Stephen Winer

CAROL & ALLEN KRIM ON THEIR WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Suzanne & Norman Stone

RABBI JOSHUA HAMMERMAN MITZVAH FUND

In honor of...

The birth of Yofiel Bar-Asher by Sharon & Jeff Turshen

The birth of Hannah Sasha Madwed by Sharon & Jeff Turshen

In memory of...

Hanna Bresslour, z'l, by Marcia & Mark Staines

Hazzan Sidney G. Rabinowitz, z'l, by Sheila & Daniel Wolfson

James Wolfson, z'l, by Sheila & Daniel Wolfson

Max Mizel, z'l, by Sheila & Daniel Wolfson

Steven Shindler, z'l, by Sheila & Daniel Wolfson

CANTOR KATIE KAPLAN MITZVAH FUND

In honor of...

In appreciation by Karen & Ed Gartner

In memory of...

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BETH EL CARES

In memory of...

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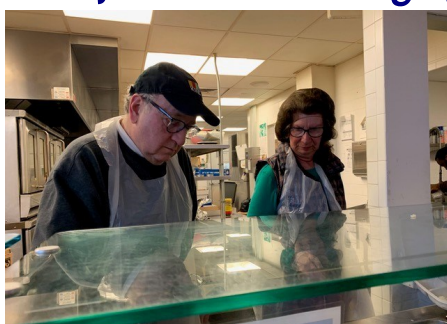
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In memory of...

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Providing gifts, serving holiday dinner and bringing cheer to local shelters





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Betsy & Peter Kempner, Sue Frieden

NATALIE STEIN, z'l

Sharon & Jeff Turshen



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...

JACOB DEUTCH, father of Charisse Litchman
STEVEN SHINDLER, husband of Karen Shindler
DOROTHY EISNER, mother of Suzanne Olin
NATALIE STEIN, mother of David Stein
ENID GANZ, mother of Harrison Ganz
ANN LASNICK, wife of Julius Lasnick
SHERYL BENJAMIN, mother of Brad Benjamin

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.

You can read how we established havurot (friendship groups) and had our first healing service, to reach people where they are at. We are doing some of that now.

It was at this time that secular Jewish organizations were returning to the notion that the synagogue is the prime address for Jewish identity. And here in Stamford we partnered to make that happen. As I wrote back then:

Our secular institutions didn't know what to do. An emergency catchword was created: "Jewish continuity." It became the apple pie issue for funding, research and programming. "How do we keep Jews Jewish?" they asked. Then Barry Shrage, a visionary federation leader in Boston (who will speak in Stamford on June 1) said, "Look around, folks. The answer has been here all along. It's the synagogue, the very place we all left at age 13. That's the key to continuity."

Shrage was right and his words are being heeded. In Boston, innovative synagogue programs are now receiving federation grants. And in Stamford, an infusion of new rabbinic leadership, most notably my new colleagues David Wolfman and Ely Rosenzweig, has helped us to turn a corner in bringing together our secular and sacred institutions. And our local federation and agencies are working with synagogues in a manner that was unthinkable only a few years ago. The UJF and JCC both co-sponsored special Shabbat speakers here this year, and the community's Holocaust Memorial Program, held for the first time at a synagogue, gained a sense of transcendence and dignity that it never had before.

The synagogue is where you'll find the answer, but here we don't call it "Jewish continuity." We call it holiness. Whenever Jews — especially adult Jews — gather in earnest to seek the Sacred, Jewish continuity is assured. Without it, Judaism becomes a mile wide and an inch deep — make that one generation deep.

Here's how I concluded the State of the Synagogue address:

CONCLUSION:

A bit of advice given to a young Native American at the time of his initiation:

"As you go the way of life, you will see a great chasm. Jump.

It's not as wide as you think."

And in our tradition, Rabbi Nachman of Bratslav said:

"The whole world is a very narrow bridge — what matters is that you not fear from it."

For the most part, this message has strayed from the usual format of congratulations and thank-yous. There are hundreds of people to thank, and I wish I had the space to do so. I didn't cover every area of synagogue life; far from it. We've also got lots of great things coming up for next year. You'll read about them elsewhere.

As we hit our 75th anniversary, we've got to ask ourselves far more important questions: What is our role? How can we

help more people find purpose and direction? How can we help our city? How can we help the Jewish people? How can we help humanity? How can we serve God?

To answer these questions honestly, we've got to shake off the cobwebs from our souls. We've got to leap through the entrance to our sanctuary as if leaping across a great chasm, and ascend our bima with the combination of explosive excitement and awe-struck trembling that we are spanning that chasm on a very narrow bridge.

Without fear, the fear of growth, of change, of opening ourselves up to new ideas or new people, of admitting errors, of forgiving and moving on, this congregation will continue to become what it must become.

Get involved! Be a part, not apart. Overcome the fear and leap across the chasm. When your feet leave the ground, you'll find that you are not alone anymore. For the bridge across the divide will consist of human hands, one extended to the other. The bridge will be narrow, but firm. And together, with courage and pride, we'll cross it.

-Rabbi Joshua Hammerman

It's helpful to look through these old bulletins (if only to see the names and faces of the b'nai mitzvah students!). It really helps us to gain perspective, on what we've accomplished, what remains to be accomplished, and most of all, how the collective accomplishments of a congregation are not the point of our existence at all. It's how we touch individuals at key moments in their lives.

As a bonus, [click here](#) for a bulletin from earlier that same year. And see below a very timely article by a certain 12th grader who was destined to become TBE's next president.



Rabbi Joshua Hammerman

BETH EL CARES VOLUNTEERS AT LOCAL SHELTERS AT HOLIDAY TIME



TREE OF LIFE GATHERING continued from page 4...

Eric Olshan, who oversaw the criminal prosecution of the shooter. Upon reaching the stage, Mr. Olshan walked over to the memorial candles and stood to show his last respects to the departed. He then shared with the gathering something personal about each of the victims, their individual personalities, and their common devotion to their faith. He said of the 11 individuals whom he had never met, "I am a better person because I have had the privilege of learning even just a little bit about those 11 people, and for having been part of this five year act of remembering them and their beautiful lives."

In remembrance they were:

Joyce Fienberg ☆ Richard Gottfried ☆ Rose Mallinger ☆ Jerry Rabinowitz ☆ Cecil Rosenthal ☆ David Rosenthal ☆ Bernice Simon ☆ Sylvan Simon ☆ Daniel Stein ☆ Melvin Wax ☆ Irving Younger

My TBE friends, let us continue to hold dear the memories of these precious lives taken from us. Let us also rejoice that these precious individuals and their place of worship will not be forgotten or erased. At this time, there are plans for The Tree of Life building to be renovated and re-purposed to include spaces for worship, community activities and programs to address anti-Semitism. In addition, The Holocaust Center of Pittsburgh plans to be located in the new building.

Sylvan Pomerantz
TBE Past-President

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

A photograph of a large, multi-paned glass entrance door of a building. The door is set into a stone wall. In front of the door is a paved walkway made of light-colored rectangular pavers. Some pavers have inscriptions on them. A black box with white text is overlaid on the bottom right of the image.

Have you seen our new PAVER WALKWAY?

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

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IN HONOR OF ALL
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MOVE ME BRIGHTLY
"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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**The deadline for the
 March-April 2024 Bulletin
 will be Thursday, February 1, 2024.**

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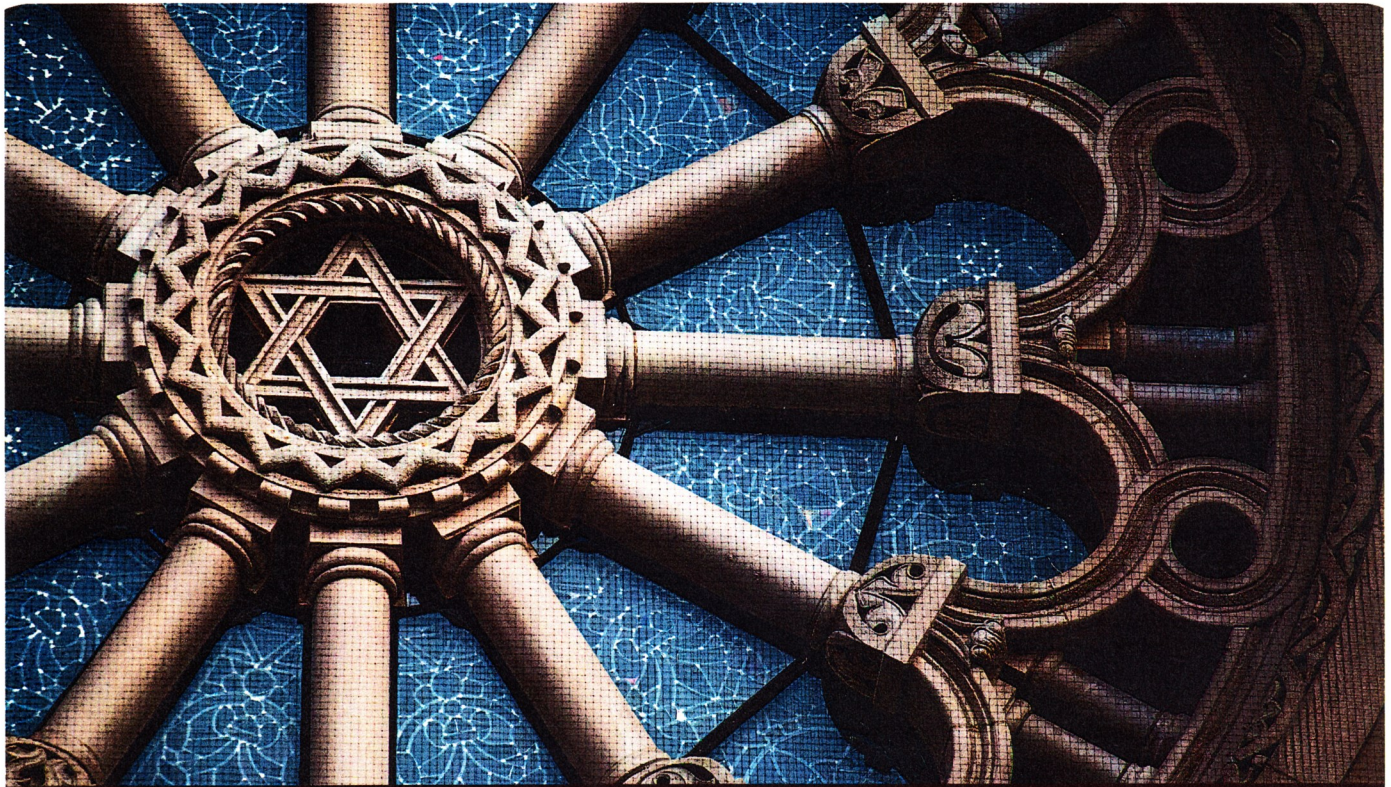
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