

Temple Beth El Bulletin

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May-June 2024

Nisan/Iyar/Sivan 5784

PURIM 2024



TBE Coffeehouse with Sue Horowitz



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

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The Last Word

This is my final Bulletin article as your senior rabbi. I'll continue to contribute to the Bulletin, so it's not goodbye. But still, it seems that a final message should be a little different. So I've collected a few key passages from messages written over the years (You can see a number of my Bulletin messages at <https://www.joshuahammerman.com/search/label/TBE%20Bulletins>) that reflect some of the key points I've returned to often.

In an article from Feb., 2014, I welcomed the New York Limmud Conference to Stamford by describing our hometown as a haven of Jewish diversity and mutual respect. As we marked the passing of Senator Lieberman last month, we can only wonder whether the promise of a tolerant, unified community can still be realized in these increasingly polarized times. I wrote:

Only in Jewish Stamford could the Conservative rabbi meet the new Reform rabbi for the first time at an Orthodox shul — on Tisha b'Av! With veteran political aisle-crossers like Joe Lieberman and Dick Blumenthal having called Stamford home, we are among the nation's prime exporters of bipartisanship to the nation's capital.

In September, 1995, I wrote about how every nook and cranny of a synagogue should reflect our highest values. At that time, we had just dedicated an accessible bathroom, which has since also become our all-gender facility. Here's what I wrote:

In Judaism, bodily functions are sacred and worthy of blessings. What messages does our new, accessible bathroom convey?

- *That all are welcome here. Everybody counts.*
- *That we reach out to embrace people who are different, because within each of us resides the image of God.*
- *That we hear the Torah's call to be especially kind to those who have suffered, for we were slaves in the land of Egypt.*
- *That we will spare no expense to do what is right and just.*

So, tell me: Is it just a bathroom then, or an expression of our deepest convictions? And how about our new tallit rack, set up exactly in between the men's and women's bathrooms? What message does this tell people about egalitarianism and the sanctity of the tallit? Yes, every inch of our building is "religious." And every inch of your home too.

In a 1995 bulletin article celebrating the Temple's 75th anniversary, I counted down my top five memories of my first seven-years at TBE. Here's what I included then:

September 11, 1987 *I was officially welcomed as Beth El's first Assistant Rabbi at a special service before a large crowd. President Alan Kalter opened the proceedings by explaining why an assistant rabbi was necessary for Beth El (not yet called TBE) and why I was the one for the job. I don't know about anyone else, but he convinced me. Alan could be very persuasive. Then Rabbi Goldman spoke eloquently about the*

Continued on page 20...



Some Enchanted Evening Cantor Katie Kaplan and Friends sing The Jewish American Songbook



Another year has come 'round the bend and we are approaching my fourth Annual Norma and Milton Mann Memorial Cantor's Concert at Temple Beth El. I'm delighted to be putting something together that will appeal to everyone! This concert, *Some Enchanted Evening*, will feature songs of Harold Arlen, Irving Berlin, George and Ira Gershwin, Richard Rodgers, Oscar Hammerstein, Lorenz Hart, and more. Songs from these composers have become codified as The Jewish American Songbook. With works primarily spanning the years of 1910-1960, these songs have danced their way in and out of our lives and hearts. Favorite melodies and recognizable songs from Broadway shows, Silver Screen, and the Jazz Club are sure to have you tapping your toes while invoking a nostalgic smile.

I will be joined by Cantor Micah Morgovsky from Temple Sinai along with Cantor Shimon Smith, the Music Director from Romemu in New York City, to sing songs, duets, and ensemble numbers together with fun and flair. Both of these singers are so enjoyable to work with and perform alongside, and I'm sure we will have such a fun time creating the magic of this concert that everyone will enjoy being under the spell that this music will cast.

Along with the singers, we will be joined on stage by a five-piece jazz ensemble featuring the following musicians: Chris Coogan (piano/vocal), Koby Hayon (guitar), Nadav Snir-Zelniker (percussion), Peter Slavov (bass), and Nir Naaman (trumpet) for *Some Enchanted Evening* of song. Songs from this period of time have resonated with me ever since I was a child and they set the backdrop for my pursuit of music and love of theater. Each song tells a story, and each story unlocks a bit of understanding of what it means to be human. These brilliant Jewish composers understood this better than most and brought out the full range of human emotion in their songs.

As part of the evening, we will be honoring Carl and Dana Weinberg for their immense contributions to Temple Beth El over the years. Together, their model of leading by example has helped us arrive in this moment as the Temple Beth El of the past, present, and future is being synthesized. I hope you will join us in celebrating their accomplishments and honoring them by placing an ad in the journal and honoring them with your presence at the concert.

I hope to see you here at Temple Beth El for the concert on Sunday June 9th at 7 pm!

Cantor Katie Kaplan



SHABBAT AND FESTIVAL SERVICES



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

MAY

Friday, May 3

Kabbalat Shabbat 7:00 pm

Shabbat, May 4

Shabbat Service 10:00 am

MEN'S CLUB SHABBAT

Friday, May 10

Kabbalat Shabbat 7:00 pm

Keshet Beth El Shabbat

Shabbat, May 11

Shabbat Service 10:00 am

Friday, May 17

Kabbalat Shabbat 7:00 pm

MEDITERRANEAN SHABBAT

Shabbat, May 18

Shabbat Service 10:00 am

ILANA and MADELYN METH, B'NOT MITZVAH

Friday, May 24

Kabbalat Shabbat 7:00 pm

Shabbat, May 25

Shabbat Service 10:00 am

Friday, May 31

Kabbalat Shabbat 7:00 pm

PRIDE SHABBAT

JUNE

Shabbat, June 1

Shabbat Service 10:00 am

PRIDE SHABBAT

Friday, June 7

Kabbalat Shabbat 7:00 pm

Shabbat, June 8

Shabbat Service 10:00 am

JULES ALEXANDER, BAT MITZVAH

Wednesday, June 12 - Shavuot, day 1

Shavuot Service 10:00 am

Thursday, June 13 - Shavuot, day 2

Shavuot Service 10:00 am

Yizkor

Friday, June 14

Kabbalat Shabbat 7:00 pm

Shabbat, June 15

Shabbat Service 10:00 am

SISTERHOOD SHABBAT

Friday, June 21

Kabbalat Shabbat 7:00 pm

RABBI JOSHUA and MARA HAMMERMAN

FAREWELL SHABBAT

Shabbat, June 22

Shabbat Service 10:00 am

Friday, June 28

Kabbalat Shabbat 7:00 pm

Shabbat, June 29

Shabbat Service 10:00 am

INTERFAITH SEDER AT UCONN



COFFEE WITH THE CANTOR



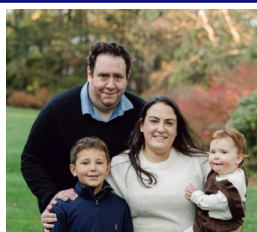
WE WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS

Esther & Adam Rattner...

...live in Stamford with their children Lincoln, 9 years old, and Sophie, 2 years old.

Why we joined TBE...

We joined TBE at the encouragement of our dear friends Lisa and Jeff Manheim. Sophie and Oz go to school together and are best friends. We have found the community to be friendly, warm and inviting with lots of programming your young families.



Melissa Dreyfus Erner & Barry Erner...

...live in Stamford

Why we joined TBE...

While TBE is a much larger synagogue than we are used to, we have found it to be very warm and welcoming.



Susan & Hy Pomerance...

...live in Stamford

Why we joined TBE...

We moved to Stamford at the end of 2021 and TBE seemed like a natural choice for us. We know other members of the synagogue including, Mitch and Marilyn Sofer, and our aunt, Laurel Cohen, a long time member of Beth El.



We received a very warm welcome from Beth El when we first moved here and we are glad to be part of this vibrant congregation.

B'NAI MITZVAH

May 18, 2024

Ilana Meth, Bat Mitzvah

Daughter of Jennifer and Harris

Sister of Madelyn

Attends Eastern Middle School

Mitzvah Project: Beneath Your Wings



May 18, 2024

Madelyn Meth, Bat Mitzvah

Daughter of Jennifer and Harris

Sister of Ilana

Attends Eastern Middle School

Mitzvah Project: For Holit



June 8, 2024

Jules Alexander, Bat Mitzvah

Daughter of Natalie and Jeffrey

Sister of Jordan

Attends Saxe Middle School

Mitzvah Project: Cinderella Project



To view more Mitzvah Projects from our B'nai Mitzvah program, [click here](#).

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.

TBE WELCOMED STAAM WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY'S A CAPELLA GROUP



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.

MAZAL TOV TO...

Stephne and Kerrin Behrend on the birth of a granddaughter, Asa Behr Krewson, born to Michelle Behrend and Cameron Krewson



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

JUDY ARONIN ★ GRANT BRADLEY ★ JESSICA BRADLEY
SAMMI BRADLEY ★ JONATHAN BRIER ★ MICHAEL BRIER
AARON FRIEDMAN ★ JOSHUA FRIEDMAN
KEITH FRIEDMAN ★ RACHEL FRIEDMAN
CANTOR KATIE KAPLAN ★ JONATHAN LEHRFELD
LISA GROVE RAIDER ★ RABBI GERRY GINSBURG
RABBI JOSHUA HAMMERMAN ★ JOSH LEVINE
BERT MADWED ★ STEVEN RITZ ★ SUSAN SCHNEIDERMAN
SUNNY SENDERSKY ★ LAEL SHAPIRO

THANK YOU FOR SPONSORING KIDDUSH

ANONYMOUS
JESSICA and JONATHAN BRADLEY
RACHEL and KEITH FRIEDMAN
CANTOR KATIE and ERIC KAPLAN
ARI and LEO LINDER

THANK YOU FOR SPONSORING THE SHABBAT ANNOUNCEMENTS

JESSICA and JONATHAN BRADLEY

WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE A GABBAI?



Training available!

Please contact Rabbi Hammerman
at rabbi@tbe.org.



Join Us!
**ANNUAL
MEMBERSHIP
MEETING**

Wednesday, May 29 at 7:30pm

in the TBE Social Hall

Fred Weisman Tikkun Olam Award will be presented.

TBE Volunteer of the Year Award will be presented.

- ◊ Reports from the TBE lay leadership & professional staff
- ◊ Vote on the election of new members to the Board of Trustees
- ◊ Refreshments and more...



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

The 5th graders learned about the Torah scroll with Rabbi Ita Paskind and they viewed the V'ahavta prayer.



Kesher Beth El students sang with TBE guests STAAM Washington University's Jewish A Capella Group

The K'tanim class created their own Cup of Elijah for Passover.



YOUNG FAMILIES AT TBE





Men's Club Shabbat

Shabbat, May 4, 2024
Parashat Achare-Mot

The Shabbat morning service starting at 10:00 am
will be led by members
of the Temple Beth El Men's Club.

All are welcome!

If you can't join us in person, join us on Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84219091174>

Meeting ID: 842 1909 1174 | Passcode: 402829

Please stay for Kiddush following the service
sponsored by the Men's Club.

Temple Beth El, 350 Roxbury Road, Stamford, CT 06902
203-322-6901 | www.tbe.org | office@tbe.org



Yom HaShoah *A Day of Remembrance*



THE YELLOW CANDLE

The Men's Club of Temple Beth El has been delivering a Yom HaShoah Yahrtzeit (Yellow) Candle to local members of our congregation.

Please join our fellow congregants, and people throughout the country, in lighting this special candle to “Remember the Holocaust” on Yom HaShoah, which begins Sunday night, May 5.

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



TBE
Mediterranean Shabbat
Friday May 17, 7:00pm

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



**Featuring a quartet of fantastic musicians:
Koby Hayon, Yousif Sheronick,
Marc Phaneuf, and Bryan Copeland**



**The service will be followed by a special oneg
of falafel, hummus, and baklava!**

Please RSVP so we know how much food to order:
<https://tinyurl.com/hummus5-17>

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

**Temple Beth El, 350 Roxbury Rd., Stamford
203-322-6901 www.tbe.org office@tbe.org**



The TBE Kulanu Working Group Presents:

TALES OF TRAUMA, RESILIENCE AND HEALING

Tuesday, May 21, 2024 at 7 pm
at Temple Beth El, 350 Roxbury Road, Stamford, CT

You are invited to a special presentation of Hope and Healing with
Lisa Fliegel, Trauma Therapist



Lisa has helped communities in Israel and the US facing trauma post-October 7th. She has also worked with communities in inner city Boston, and Northern Ireland. Her clinical insights and personal narratives will provide us with tools for coping with traumatic events and give guidance to build a resilient and peaceful community.

Special Musical Performance by Cantor Katie Kaplan!



OPEN TO THE COMMUNITY! Light refreshments will be served.

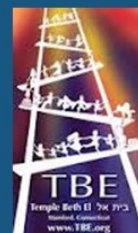
Please RSVP: <https://tinyurl.com/kulanu5-21>

Questions: Contact us at office@tbe.org.

This event is sponsored by Marilyn Sofer,
Debra Adler Klein, Scott Krowitz, and Scott Sekuler.



This program is co-sponsored by the
Schoke Jewish Family Service Anachnu Group,
Temple Beth El, 350 Roxbury Road Stamford, CT
www.tbe.org 203-322-6901



NORMA AND MILTON MANN MEMORIAL TBE CANTOR'S CONCERT

Some Enchanted Evening



Cantor Katie Kaplan

*and friends sing songs from 1910 to 1960 by
Harold Arlen, Irving Berlin, the Gershwins,
Rodgers and Hammerstein and more ...*

Honoring Carl and Dana Weinberg

Some Enchanted Evening

Join Cantor Katie Kaplan, Cantor Micah Morgovsky and
Shimon Smith along with musicians, Chris Coogan, Koby Hayon,
Nadav Snir-Zelniker, Peter Slavov, and Nir Naaman
for an enchanted evening of song.

Sunday, June 9, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

TEMPLE BETH EL

350 Roxbury Road, Stamford Connecticut • (203) 322-6901

General admission by June 1: Tickets \$36 • At the door: Tickets \$45

Students ages 10-18 free

To purchase tickets or place an ad in the Journal, go to www.tinyurl.com/tbecc24 or complete and return the enclosed card.

For further information, call 203-322-6901, ext. 301 or office@tbe.org



*SAVE THE
Date*

**TO CELEBRATE
RABBI & MARA
HAMMERMAN**

**06.21.24
7 PM**

**JOIN US AT FRIDAY
NIGHT SERVICES**

TEMPLE BETH EL
350 ROXBURY ROAD
STAMFORD, CT. 06902



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: May 28 and June 18 at 7:00pm

In-person only in the TBE social hall.

Fee: \$5 per person to cover security cost.

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 Shabbat

Shabbat, June 15, 2024

10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Parashat Naso

In-person in the sanctuary and on Zoom

**A unique and meaningful service
led entirely by women.**

All are welcome.

**Shabbat service will be followed
by Kiddush in the social hall.**

If you would like to have a part in the service, please contact
Fran Ginsburg at ginsstamf@gmail.com

Can't join us in-person? Join us on Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84219091174>

Meeting ID: 842 1909 1174 | Passcode: 402829

**Temple Beth El, 350 Roxbury Road, Stamford, CT 06902
203-322-6901 | sisterhood@tbe.org | www.tbe.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 (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.



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.

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:

THE BIRTH OF NOAH SKYE COHEN

Lois Stark & Gary Lessen

THE BIRTH OF JOSEPHINE CICCARELLI ARONICA

Susan & Art Greenwald

THE BIRTH OF NATHAN ZACHARY WEISS

Maxine & Jay Freilich

THE BIRTH OF ASA BEHR KREWSON

Betsy & Peter Kempner, Liz & Scott Krowitz, Beverly & David Stein, Maxine & Jay Freilich

MERYL & HANK SILVERSTEIN ON THEIR GRANDSON

BECOMING A BAR MITZVAH

Suzanne & Norman Stone

LIZ KROWITZ FOR A REFUAH SHELEIMA

Suzanne & Norman Stone

ARI & LEO LINDER ON THEIR MARRIAGE

Judy Schneiderman

CANTOR KATIE KAPLAN ON THE 30th ANNIVERSARY OF HER BAT MITZVAH

Suzanne Horn & Norman Stone

FRAN & RABBI GERRY GINSBURG ON THE ADOPTION OF THEIR GRANDDAUGHTERS

Suzanne Horn & Norman Stone

BETH EL CARES

In memory of...

Joan Behrend, z'l, by Evelyn & Bruce Kahn

KESHER BETH EL FUND

In honor of...

In appreciation by Leonor Lopez

RABBI JOSHUA HAMMERMAN MITZVAH FUND

In honor of...

The birth of Asa Behr Krewson by Sharon & Jeff Turshen
Cantor Katie Kaplan on the 30th anniversary of her Bat Mitzvah by Judy Schneiderman, Susan Schneiderman

In memory of...

Alan Shameer, z'l, by Marge Shameer & Sherry Cohen
Joan Behrend, z'l, by Sharon & Jeff Turshen
Emma Sterenka, z'l, by Sharon & Jeff Turshen

CANTOR KATIE KAPLAN MITZVAH FUND

In honor of...

Leo & Ari Linder on their marriage by Sharon & Jeff Turshen,
Jennifer & Harris Meth

In memory of...

Joan Behrend, z'l, by Caryl Ferber Poser & Peter Poser

EMMET MANHEIM PLAYGROUND FUND

In memory of...

Mitchell Gunty, z', by Robin, Jarad & Spencer Evans

YOUTH PROGRAM FUND

In memory of...

Irene "Poldy" Locker, z'l, by Ilene & Jim Locker & Family
Bernard Kveskin, z'l, by Ilene & Jim Locker & Family
Rose Kveskin, z'l, by Ilene & Jim Locker & Family

MUSIC FUND

In memory of...

Emma Sterenka, z'l, by Pamela Tinkham



Have you seen our new PAVER WALKWAY?

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

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

IN LOVING MEMORY
OF ALAN KALTER
1943 - 2021
PEGGY KALTER

PEACE "LOVE" THE
MONEY WE BRIGHTLY
TO ROCK MY SOUL

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

JOAN AND JEFF BEHREND
IN HONOR OF
THEIR BIRTHDAYS

SHARON & JEFF TURSHEN
2021

AVIVA MALLER
IN HONOR OF ALL
YOU DO FOR TRE



REMEMBERING OUR LOVED ONES



Gail & Jack Abrams **HARRY ABRAMS**
 Mindy & Jeff Hausman **DAVID ANNIS**
 Meredith & Eric Reuben **GERALD BAUM**
 Meredith & Eric Reuben **SADYE BAUM**
 Nadel Family **BETH BENNETT**
 Rita & Michael Buttermann **DAVID BUTTERMAN**
 Susan Wise **ISADORE CHERNIACK**
 Ronnie & Edward Fein **GEORGE FEIN**
 Stacy Ferber **AUGUSTA FERBER**
 Nancy & Brad Benjamin **LOIS FINK**
 Karen & Phil Welt & Family **JOHN GAULT**
 Barbara Malloy **THELMA GLAZER**
 Lorelee & Phil Granowitz **IRVING GRANOWITZ**
 Elaine & Robert Erichson **BETTY & EMIL GREENBERG**
 Elaine & Robert Erichson **JOSHUA GREENBERG**
 Steven Grushkin & Family **MERVIN GRUSHKIN**
 Leonor Lopez **JOSÉ HALPERN**
 Evelyn & Bruce Kahn **GEORGE KAHN**
 Marsha Shendell & Family **DANIEL KAISER**
 Julius Lasnick **JULES KAPLAN**
 Sharon & Steven Katz **NORA KATZ**
 Susan & Richard Blomberg **KURT KONIGSBACHER**
 Bernice Trell **ARTHUR KORNGOLD**
 Harriet & Seymour Weinstein **HILDA LERNER**
 Peggy Kalter **RITA LODISE**
 Stephanie & Larry Sherman **ROBERT MALIN**
 Laura Markowitz **ROSALIE MARKOWITZ**
 Carolyn Nadel-Farin **KENNETH NADEL**
 Sandra & David Oberhand **EMANUEL OBERHAND**
 Gail & Jack Abrams **MARGARET ROTH**
 Carol Schwartz & Family **EVELYN SCHECTER**
 Mina Roth-Dornfeld **ALLYN SCHOTTENFELD**
 Marilyn Galler Sofer & Mitch Sofer **GERTRUDE SOFER**
 Magida Family **CELIA SOLOVE**
 Marge Pavlov & Andrew Sverdlove **LEE SVERDLOVE**
 Marge Pavlov & Andrew Sverdlove **MICHAEL SVERDLOVE**
 Ronnie & Ed Fein **LILY VAIL**
 Karen & Phil Welt **ROSE WELT**
 Malerie Yolen-Cohen & Jeff Cohen **BURTON YOLEN**

IN MEMORY OF:

JOAN BEHREND, z'l
 Beverly Magida, Susan & Richard Blomberg, Carol & Allen Krim, Betsy & Peter Kempner, Sue Frieden, Robin Evans & Jeffrey Perry, Lorelee & Phil Granowitz, Linda & Joe Rothman, Liz & Scott Krowitz
JOAN DRUCKMAN, z'l
 Beverly & David Stein
FLORENCE ARONSON, z'l
 Connie & Alan Freeman, Liz & Scott Krowitz, Betsy & Peter Kempner
REGINA RESNICK, z'l
 Liz & Scott Krowitz

MATTHEW KLEIN MEMORIAL GARDEN FUND

TILLIE LIEBERMAN, z'l
 Brian, Rowan & Jordana Yomtov

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...

JERRY JACOBS, z'l
JOAN DRUCKMAN, mother of Greg Druckman
JOEL SABAN, grandfather of Lindsay Shulman
REGINA RESNICK, mother of Joyce Resnick
FLORENCE ARONSON, mother of Maxine Freilich
EMMA STERENKA, mother of Brian Sterenka

Shavuot 2024

Please join us for Shavuot festival services

Wednesday, June 12, 2024
 10:00 am - 12:00 pm
 In-Person and Livestream

Thursday, June 13, 2024
 10:00 am - 12:00 pm - including Yizkor
 In-Person and Livestream

Services will be followed by a festive Kiddush

All are welcome.

Jewish value of welcoming newcomers, and I felt most welcome. Finally, Hazzan Rabinowitz dedicated a new musical composition in my honor, based on Isaiah and entitled, "The Lord is in Our Midst." At that point, I began to get a little concerned that expectations were getting a bit too high. But what a welcome it was.

December 24, 1987 Who would have thought that one of my top memories would be a Christmas Eve? But this one was so moving. The old homeless shelter was packed on this cold night. Inside there was only warmth. My job was to dole out the stuffing, and as the people passed, most of their heads were down, I wished each a Merry Christmas and shook their hands. Many lifted their eyes to say thank you, and I wasn't sure if it was for the food or the moment of humanity. I spoke of dignity to those assembled on that night, of love of neighbor and the spark of God in each human being. And then I led them in a round of Jingle Bells. It was moments like this that gave birth to Beth El Cares.

June 1990 With typical chutzpah, we tried what many considered untenable: A Talmud class. Weekly, intensive, and in the summer. The year of the Talmud, we called it, with a little flair for the dramatic., grabbing hold of the coattails of all the publicity gained by the publication of the Steinsaltz Talmud translation. We hoped for a response, but nothing, nothing prepared us for what was to happen. 52 people showed up on the first night, and after that, almost as many showed each week. And here we were, a group of 20th Century Americans, debating whether pressed figs, stalks of flax, and loose eggs found on the ground can be kept by the finder. As we penetrated the text, rabbis from centuries ago were welcomed into the discussion. This class galvanized our entire adult ed program.

September 19, 1992 A whirlwind month, including my memorable installation and the High Holidays. But perhaps the greatest thrill came from the unlikely source, a regular Shabbat morning. We staged our "Grand Opening," unveiling our new prayer book and user-friendly service guides, our three children's services and most of all our lunches. This was our first community lunch. And it was graciously sponsored by Eileen Rosner. We planned for 80 and hoped for 100. Twice that many showed up and before we knew it, the food was gone. Now we plan better and make more; the food's better too. We don't get 200 people every week like we did that day; But from that day on there was no turning back. Shabbat morning at Beth El, the complete package was here to stay.

June 28, 1994 What a way to spend my anniversary - on a 10 hour El Al flight, separated from Mara by two very well-behaved children in need of constant entertainment. But what a trip it was. The Beth El Israel tour came as close to perfection as any project I've ever undertaken. All the ingredients were there: our excellent tour coordinator, Pamela Allen; a superb guide and driver; a group of about 30 - the perfect size, varying in age, but consistent in how they cared for one another, like one big family. And Israel, at a time filled with excitement and hope. We even had coolish weather for a while. Then after our return, I received what might have been

my favorite backhanded compliment ever, as more than one participant said., "We didn't think it could be so much fun going with a rabbi." I guess I never imagined it would be so much fun to lead a group to Israel with two lovely but very young children. On my anniversary.

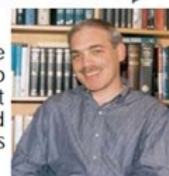
Here's a bulletin article [from May 2004](#), describing the holy work that we do in synagogue life:

ON ONE FOOT The Job We Are Here to Do

As we roll into May, we begin to evaluate the year gone by and look ahead to what we can do over the coming months. It is a time for synagogues to take stock and replenish themselves organizationally, just as we do individually on the High Holy Days.

Rabbi Harold Kushner once wrote about responding to the typical cynic who says to him, "I tried to get involved in your synagogue but found it to be full of petty, small minded hypocrites." He would resist the temptation to say, "There's always room for one more," and instead would respond, "A synagogue that admitted only saints would be like a hospital that admitted only healthy people. It would be a lot easier to run, and a more pleasant place to be, but I'm not sure we would be doing the job we are here to do."

Rabbi Kushner's point is important to remember as we think about those who do the work that we are here to do, so tirelessly, so patiently, so lovingly. Some do it for a salary, others as volunteers, but there is no one here who doesn't do it for the love of the work itself. And, although the appreciation is never up to level that it could be, the rewards are great. The work itself is the reward. And the presence of a few who may be small-minded, slightly insensitive or simply having a bad day - that only enhances the satisfaction. When the chronic smilers leave smiling, that's no great accomplishment; but when we've gotten the perpetual complainers to smile, now THAT'S something to hang your hat on.



Here's an excerpt from [the final message written by Hazzan Rabinowitz z'l, before he became emeritus in 2002](#). If you translate from Hazzan-ese to Hammerman-ese, he expresses many of the sentiments I wish to share with you now:

THE HAZZAN'S VOICE

With this column, thirty-two years of monthly קול החרון messages of Kol Hahazzan come to a conclusion. Periodically, I will submit an article for publication, but it will find a place further into the bulletin. This spot, as you open your monthly bulletin, I relinquish to my successor, who, I presume, will continue the tradition of keeping you abreast of what is of interest in the world of haz-zanuth.



Continued on page 21...

After all the opportunities I have had to address you at services and at functions, it is difficult not to become repetitive. Some things do need to be restated. As I assume the position of Hazzan Emeritus, it is incumbent upon me to vacate the pulpit in favor of your new Hazzan, Deborah Jacobson. However, as we have shared three decades of life-cycle events and have established binding relationships, Sandy and I have no desire to absolve those relationships. I do want to keep in touch, and, if you so desire, to be another participant as you mourn or celebrate. My new little office will, when I am available, have the same open-door policy as was practiced in past years. I will be as close as your phone at all times no matter where we may reside.

My step to emeritus status is not to be considered as retirement. My days will be as full as ever, only now, on my own schedule. So, as I conclude this communication with you, I cannot conclude it with a "good-bye." A simple *L'hitraot*, until we see each other again, will suffice.

As we proclaim with the conclusion of a Book of the Torah, *Chazak Chazak, V'nitchazeik* – let us be strong – physically, emotionally, spiritually, in our determination for all Israel, and let us strengthen each other.



L'hitraot,
Hazzan Sidney G. Rabinowitz

AND NOW, IN CONCLUSION....

While this is not goodbye, after over 40 years in the pulpit rabbinate, it is time to find new ways to make a difference. For the first time in four decades, I'll be liberated from the 24/7 pressures of pulpit life. As I [said in my Yom Kippur sermon](#), I've never gotten caught up in the game of needing to live up to others' expectations. But it's my own expectations that are the crux of the matter. Those expectations are always sky-high. I wake up literally every morning knowing that somewhere, with someone, I could be doing better.

Now I'll wake up and just say, "Pass the coffee." That will be a great relief.

And for the first time in over 40 years, I will not need to do the rabbinic version of "teaching to the test," whenever I lecture or write. I've never been shy about expressing my opinion (God knows) but I've always done that knowing that I would have to answer to the usual critiques, many of them valid. At times I looked at the finished product and wondered whether it reflected more of what I needed to say or what you needed – and wanted – to hear. Rabbis do that all the time. It's part of the inherent tension when your students are also your bosses. And it's not healthy, because true spiritual leaders cannot simply be preaching what they think the people want to hear. As Heschel wrote of the biblical prophet, "*He is neither a singing saint nor a moralizing poet. His images must not shine, they must burn.*" You can't deliver a message that burns if you are giving them what you think will earn a high-five. (See my list of [Top Ten Taboo Sermons, from 2003](#)). I've done better than most at preserving my integrity while pleasing most of my bosses, but I'm so glad to be jumping off that merry-go-round, no longer having to teach to the test.

[I wrote about my many bosses in June 1995:](#) Back then, the boss I was most concerned about was, in fact, myself:

...Not myself now, but myself 25 years from now, the one who will be looking back at a full career. I want to be able to say that I made a difference, that I did all I could to seek my destiny and fulfill it.

Nikos Kazantzakis posited that if we are each a bow in God's hands, then there are three kinds of prayers uttered by three kinds of souls. The first says, "Draw me, Lord, lest I rot"; the second, "Do not overdraw me, Lord, I shall break"; and the third says, "Overdraw me, Lord, and who cares if I break." If I may combine metaphors, a quarter-century from now I want God to have spent all the arrows in the quiver marked "Hammerman."

For when all is said and done, I will have to answer to no boss. But I will have to account for all those unused arrows – and for the bow that refused to be overdrawn.

So now I look back – and look ahead – and realize that there are several arrows still to be fired. It is up to me, and no one else, to make sure that they are. For that to happen, there'll have to be a lot less "teaching to the test" and a lot more plumbing the depths of my soul to see what messages I need to share. Some of my praying will be with my mouth, some with my pen and some with my feet. In an existential election year here, and with Israel tottering at the edge, what can I do? (I was considering going to Georgia to hand out water at sweltering polling stations, but that didn't work out so well for Larry David.) Opportunities will present themselves, and I'll be open to them.

It's time to draw that bow.

I'll be continuing to produce my "In This Moment" newsletter regularly, along with other writings. If you want to continue to read my stuff, join the hundreds who have already subscribed to [my Substack page](#). Subscriptions are free, but I will also be offering a paid option for those who want extra goodies or just wish to help support my work (which I very much appreciate). I am planning to continue to use "In This Moment" as a means to present diverse views on what's happening in Israel and around the Jewish world. And like the Shabbat-O-Grams that I've been sending you [since November of 1996](#), I'll aim to get one to your inbox on Thursday or Friday each week.

You can sign up for my newsletter at <https://rabbijoshuahammerman.substack.com>.

You would be doing me a great favor by signing up and getting a few relatives and friends to sign up too. I want to stay in touch with as many of you as I can.

I hope you can make it to the final Shabbat for Mara and myself on June 21. Please make sure to RSVP online, even if you are unable to make it, so you can share a memory. Mara and I will read all of them!

And my door will continue to be open, in one office or the other or somewhere else, until the end of June and beyond, for those who wish to reminisce or just to talk. We'll be living just fifty miles up the road. Stop by if you're passing through Madison. You can say you're visiting "Rabbi Hammonasset."



My best wishes to you and yours for a life filled with blessing and love.

Rabbi Joshua Hammerman

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.

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**The deadline for the
July-August 2024 Bulletin
will be Monday, June 3, 2024.**

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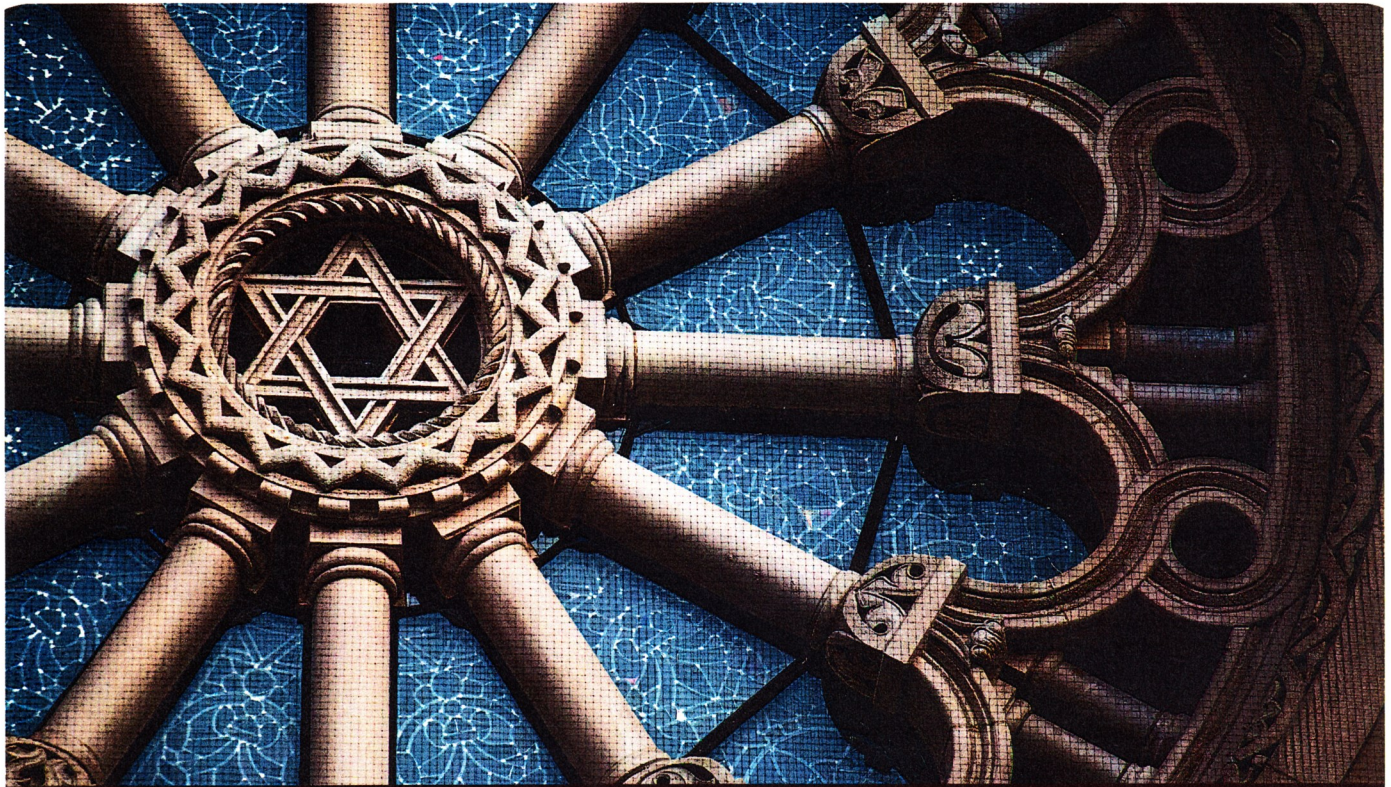
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