

Volume 53 Issue 3(bi-monthly)

May-June 2026

Iyar/Sivan/Tammuz 5786

# Shavuot

## SHAVUOT 2026/5786

Shavuot begins at sundown on Thursday, May 21  
and ends at sundown on Saturday, May 23.

Thursday, May 21

Tikkun Leil Shavuot 7:00 pm

A joint TBE and Temple Sinai program of Torah learning and discussion.  
Details to follow.

Friday, May 22—Shavuot 1st day

Shavuot Service 10:00 am\*

There will be no weekday minyan at 1:00 pm

Shabbat, May 23 - Shavuot 2nd day

Shabbat/Shavuot service at 10:00 am\*

Yizkor

Can't join us in person? Join us on Livestream

<http://www.tbe.org/tbe-live/>

Our office will close on Thursday, May 21 at 2:00 pm  
and will reopen on Monday, May 25 at 9:00 am.

\*Services will be in-person and on Livestream

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**WHERE TO FIND IT**

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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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## MICHAEL ROSE KNOPF, SENIOR RABBI

Our Jewish community desperately needs to talk about Israel — and yet it is a conversation that many of us quietly avoid.

I understand why. Israel has become something of a third rail in Jewish communal life today: A subject so charged, so laden with competing loyalties and painful disagreements, that many of us have simply stopped talking about it in any meaningful way. We worry about saying the wrong thing, offending someone we love, or being misunderstood. And so we say nothing — or we retreat to the safe harbors of bumper-sticker sloganeering, either reflexive defense or reflexive criticism, neither of which does justice to the complexity and richness of the reality.

This is tragic: The Jewish people, we who bequeathed the world the gifts of Midrash and Talmud, we who pioneered the art of constructive disagreement and respectful debate across lines of profound difference, have ceased to speak with one another about one of the most important Jewish subjects of our time because it is seen as too “divisive.” A middle ground is desperately needed between propaganda and knee-jerk criticism, a space required for open dialogue, so people can form mature relationships with, and a nuanced understanding of, Israel.

A mature relationship with Israel is crucial for individuals’ Jewish identities as well as for the strength and vibrancy of the American Jewish community and the wellbeing of the State of Israel. Yet the connection between Jews and the Jewish State is noticeably and demonstrably eroding as Israel becomes a political wedge-issue that drives many to disillusionment and disengagement. This reality calls for moving past the strategies of confrontation, avoidance, or obfuscation, approaches that betray our tradition, our values, and our broader Jewish and global responsibilities. This moment calls for deep, meaningful, mature, nuanced, thoughtful, sensitive, supportive, respectful, and honest engagement.

This spring, Temple Beth El and Temple Sinai are joining together to create exactly that kind of space. Our collaborative Israel engagement initiative is a multi-part series designed to bring our communities into serious, honest, and accessible learning and conversation about Israel — its history, its internal debates, its relationship to the Diaspora Jewish community, and its place in the world today. We have worked hard to build a series that is genuinely balanced and intellectually serious: Not advocacy masquerading as education, but real learning from diverse voices and perspectives.

### The series includes:

**ROOTS Program** (April 19, 3:00 PM, Temple Sinai) — We open with one of the most remarkable conversations happening in the Israel space today: ROOTS/Shorashim/Judur, which brings together a right-wing Orthodox Israeli who lives in a West Bank settlement and a Palestinian counterpart in genuine dialogue and partnership. This is not a debate. It is a model of what honest encounter across profound difference can look like.



## KATIE KAPLAN, CANTOR

### EmBODY SHABBAT

One Question: 4 Answers (Inspired by Pesach)

What does it mean to EmBODY Shabbat?

- An opportunity to connect with the Divine.
- An opportunity to connect with your own body as a sanctuary for the Divine.
- Different practices can connect different people in different ways.
- To align mind, body, and soul as one through prayer, chant, movement, and practice.

Shabbat is a day of rest and restoration. It is a time for reflection, relaxation, and returning home to ourselves. While one way in which we are able to observe Shabbat at Temple Beth El includes the traditional sanctuary worship experience, I’ve also been very interested in exploring different “on ramps” for people to engage in the Shabbat experience. I was thrilled when approached by our congregant Rochelle Mitlak, who also is a Kripalau certified Yoga instructor, about a possible collaboration. Rochelle was open to shaping her yoga offering in many different ways and together we came up with the idea for EmBODY Shabbat.

During this practice we combine chant, kavanah (intention), asanas, yoga flow, guided meditation, and sensory exploration all centered around Jewish time, the weekly parsha, and the holiday cycle.

For example, in our first session which took place during parshat Beshallach, which contains the crossing of the Red Sea, our practice contained asanas (yoga movements) that resembled moving through water. We also did a walking meditation that included a stop at our shore like set-up to select a shell from the sea to take back to one’s mat for inspiration and a meditative moment. In our second session, which occurred during parshat Tzav, we received the instructions for the Kohanim. In this session participants began by randomly selecting a verse from the parsha from our makeshift alter in the front of the room. They had time to contemplate their verse and its potential significance in their lives before sharing them out loud toward the end of the practice. They then returned to their mats to receive guidance, breathwork, and centering before beginning a chant by Rabbi Shefa Gold based on the first line of the parsha “Eish tamid tukad al hamizbeach, lo tichbeh,” Fire always shall be kept burning on the altar; it shall not go out. (Leviticus 6:6) I kept the beat on the drum while we chanted, over and over again, sinking more deeply into the practice with each repetition of the verse. Rochelle then oriented the participants toward their individual inner fires as we contemplated the everyday demands that are placed upon us as human beings, threatening to extinguish our light. We took the practice into our bodies with guided meditations and also rose up on our toes, stretching our palms upwards, as Aaron and his sons had been instructed to do:



*Continued on page 4...*

*Continued on page 4...*

## MICHAEL ROSE KNOPF Continued from page 3...

**Scholar-in-Residence Weekend with Rabbi Arie Hasit** (May 9–11, Temple Beth El) — Rabbi Arie Hasit, Associate Dean of the Schechter Rabbinical Seminary in Jerusalem and one of the leading voices in Israel’s Masorti movement, will join us for a full weekend of learning and conversation. Arie — who also happens to be one of my oldest and dearest friends — will speak on Friday evening, Saturday morning during Sisterhood Shabbat, and lead a Saturday afternoon study session on “Women’s Leadership as Old as the Torah.” His lens is that of someone who has given his life to building a pluralistic, democratic, and religiously diverse Israel from within.

**Tikkun Leil Shavuot** (May 21, 7:00–10:00 PM, Temple Beth El) — Our study session this year will focus on Israel: our covenantal relationship to the land, the obligations that relationship carries, and the questions it raises for us in this moment.

**Congregational Book Read with Rabbi Art Green** (May 31, 5:00–7:00 PM, Temple Beth El)

We invite the entire congregation to read Rabbi Art Green’s new book, *Can Judaism Be Saved? Its Future After Gaza*, and join us for an evening conversation with the author. Rabbi Green is one of the great Jewish theologians and scholars of our generation. His voice is not primarily a political one, but a spiritual and textual one, bringing the depth of our tradition to bear on the most urgent questions of our time. Wine and cheese reception follows.

I hope you will join us — for one program or for all of them. And I hope you will read the book. Not because any of us has the answers, but because we are a community that takes questions seriously, that believes honest engagement is a form of love, and that trusts our tradition to sustain us even — especially — when the conversation is hard.

Hard as it may be, this is the conversation we need to be having right now, and I’m looking forward to learning with and from you!

Rabbi Michael Knopf

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

וַיִּתֵּן אֶת־הַלֵּל עַל כַּפֵּי אַהֲרֹן וְעַל כַּפֵּי בָנָיו וַיִּנֶּה אֹתָם תְּנוּפָה לִפְנֵי יְהוָה:

He placed all these on the palms of Aaron and on the palms of his sons and elevated them as an elevation offering before God.

In our yoga practice we embodied this verse, moving in and out of postures while placing ourselves directly at the heart of the story. We ended by anointing our feet with the essential oil of lavender, a fragrance of relaxation and renewal, while resting in *shivasna* - connecting our sense of smell to the full body experience of this Shabbat practice.

Rochelle and I are grateful for the first two classes we were able to teach together and look forward to continuing to develop this practice as an offering at Temple Beth El. Our next date for a Shabbat Lab in which we will have another EmBODY Shabbat practice is on Saturday May 2 at 10:45a.m. If this is of interest to you, or if you have any questions, I encourage you to e-mail me ([cantor@tbe.org](mailto:cantor@tbe.org)) and/or come and check it out.

Cantor Katie Kaplan

## JOSHUA HAMMERMAN, RABBI EMERITUS

### Lessons from the Dugout



My cousin Ken Davidoff and I have always had spirited conversations about baseball. Since he grew up in New Jersey, he offered me a sounding board to prepare this Boston boy for a career in Stamford, which although in New England, is well behind enemy lines. At the same time, I was exceedingly proud to read his byline in *Newsday* and the *New York Post* and to see his familiar face on the New York channels.

He is also one of the nicest, most upstanding *menschen* I’ve ever known. So when I heard he was coming out with a book this spring, I immediately thought of bringing him to Stamford. So, with the help of TBE’s Men’s Club and the Stamford Senior Men’s group, he’ll be making a stop in town as part of his book tour, on the morning of May 14 at Congregation Agudath Sholom. It will be part of the Senior Men’s Group’s regular meeting that day, but non-men and non-seniors (and non-Jews, for that matter) are all most welcome.

It will be a special pleasure for me to be in conversation with Ken, about his book, *101 Lessons from the Dugout*, which features a foreword by New York Mets all-time great David Wright. The book brilliantly takes a deeper look at the many intricacies of baseball strategy, like stealing a base or the sacrifice bunt, and applies them to basic lessons of everyday life. From homework to humility to punctuality and perseverance, this book offers a game plan for happiness and success in the major leagues of life. It’s directed ostensibly to younger players and fans, but I can think of quite a few of us veteran baseball buffs who could learn from this book.

There are also a number of key Jewish values that can be learned from these lessons from the dugout, and I’ll discuss some of them during our May 14 conversation. Borrowing from my own book’s terminology, Ken’s book is a “*Menschmarks for the Mound*.” You would almost think Ken might have a few rabbis and cantors in the family!

As an added plus, this May 14 event will provide me with an opportunity to catch up with some of you, as well as a chance to shoot the breeze with Ken about being on different sides of the Yankee-Red Sox rivalry. See you then – and don’t forget to pick up a copy of “*101 Lessons from the Dugout*.”



Read more about Ken’s appearance on the flyer found in this bulletin.

Rabbi Joshua Hammerman



## SHABBAT SERVICES

Friday Night services are held at 7:00 pm

Shabbat Morning services are held at 10:00 am

Our services may be seen on livestream

<http://www.tbe.org/tbe-live/>

All are welcome!

### CELEBRATE SPECIAL OCCASIONS ON SHABBAT MORNING

Celebrate a birthday with our TBE family! We warmly invite you to celebrate your birthday with the congregation on Shabbat morning. During that service, we will invite you for a celebratory Aliyah. We hope you will share in that joyous moment. If possible, please let us know ahead of time which Shabbat you'll be attending, and we will gladly provide you with an Aliyah at that time. Please also note that we are proud to continue marking special milestone birthdays with personal blessings in addition to this new ritual. If you fall into that category, you may contact Eileen H. Rosner at [rosnereileen@gmail.com](mailto:rosnereileen@gmail.com) to make the appropriate arrangements.

Celebrate an anniversary! On behalf of the entire congregation, we invite you to celebrate your wedding anniversary with the congregation with an Aliyah on Shabbat. If possible, please let us know ahead of time which Shabbat you'll be attending, and we will gladly provide you with an Aliyah at that time.

While it is most certainly not expected, if you would like to elevate your birthday or anniversary celebration and the congregation's joy by helping to sponsor Kiddush on the Shabbat of your Aliyah, we would be most grateful for your generosity. Please call Mindy Rogoff at 203-322-6901, ext. 301 or [office@tbe.org](mailto:office@tbe.org).

### Special Occasion?

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

or

**Rabbi Knopf's Shabbat Reflections**  
(emailed every Friday morning)

**Donation of \$118**

**All sponsors will be acknowledged at the top of each of the eblasts and also listed in our bi-monthly Bulletin.**

**Contact Mindy to reserve your date**  
[office@tbe.org](mailto:office@tbe.org)

## WE WELCOME YOU TO JOIN US ON SHABBAT MORNINGS

We warmly welcome you to show up for services on Shabbat in whatever way is meaningful to you. A reminder: you don't have to attend services to come for lunch on Shabbat! Services begin at 10 am, and we get to lunch around 12:15 pm. You can also show up for and/or leave services any time:

- From 10 until about 10:30 am, we sing the joyous and soulful melodies of P'sukei D'zimrah, the preliminary service.
- From about 10:30 to 10:45 am is the morning service, Shahrut (including greatest hits like Shema and the Amidah).
- We take the Torah out at about 10:45 am, and chant from the Torah and Haftarah portions until about 11:30 am.
- The D'var Torah (sermon) takes place around 11:30 am.

Between 11:45 am-12:15 pm, we conclude the service with Musaf, Aleinu, and Adon Olam (we always invite children up to help lead some of these final prayers, and any kid who helps lead gets to pick a prize from the Rabbi's "Tchotchke Chest"!).

And for those who wish to partake, you are welcome to make a "L'chaim!" with us on a beverage of your choosing (whether alcoholic or non-alcoholic) after services.

### 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 Ron Zussman [rmzussman@gmail.com](mailto:rmzussman@gmail.com) or Erica Newman [execdir@tbe.org](mailto:execdir@tbe.org) for information.

### 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 Jon Eisenstein at [jon.eisenstein@gmail.com](mailto:jon.eisenstein@gmail.com)

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

## B'NOT MITZVAH

Shabbat, May 16

### **BLAKE ROSEN, BAT MITZVAH**

Daughter of Lindsay and Peter

Sister of Jack and Reed

Attends Saxe Middle School

Mitzvah Project: Filling in the Blanks



Shabbat, May 30

### **ADDISON AVNIR, BAT MITZVAH**

Daughter of Jessica and Dan

Sister of Benjamin and Millie

Attends Scofield Magnet Middle School

Mitzvah Project: Birthday Boxes



## MAZAL TOV TO...

*Loralee & Phil Granowitz on the birth of a granddaughter, Bluma Scheffler Granowitz, born to Eliza Scheffler and Andy Granowitz*

*Meira Rosenberg and David Friedman on the birth of a grandson, Eli Simon Friedman Gamber, born to Marissa Friedman and William Gamber*

*Aviva and Michael Maller on the engagement of their son Jacob to Danielle Arlotta.*

*Liz and Scott Krowitz on the marriage of their son Andrew to Julia Ditkoff.*



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

## HONORABLE MENSCHEN TODAH RABAH TO OUR TORAH READERS

BARRY ERNER ✪ RABBI GERRY GINSBURG

TERRY HAZEN ✪ NEIL KATZ ✪ LEO LINDER

BERT MADWED ✪ IVA GOLUB MANDEL ✪ MATT MILLER

LAEL SHAPIRO ✪ BAILEE WAHREN

## IMPORTANT MESSAGE FOR TBE MEMBERS

Your bill for the new fiscal year will be mailed at the beginning of July. Please remember that High Holiday tickets are released to TBE members in good standing. A member in good standing has an account that will be paid in full by July 1 and who has either paid the coming year's dues or has made payment arrangements.

## BETH EL CARES

*Beth El Cares focuses on chesed and tzedakah by helping the poor and unfortunate through mitzvot, both in our synagogue and the greater Stamford community. We welcome volunteers! This is the work we are currently engaged in. If you are interested in volunteering in any of these endeavors, please contact the person listed.*

**Reyut (Friendship):** Committed to serving the needs of those in our TBE community, including friendly visits, assistance with errands and transportation, Shabbat bag delivery to hospitalized patients. Contact Melanie Massell at [reyut@tbe.org](mailto:reyut@tbe.org) or 203-274-1708.

**Project Ezra:** Providing shiva meals to the bereaved in the congregation. Contact Debbie Adler-Klein at [dakmd75@gmail.com](mailto:dakmd75@gmail.com) or 203-253-1664.

**Serving the homeless:** Help prepare and serve food — you can do either or both throughout the year. Contact Julie Rosenberg at [julierenbergsjp@gmail.com](mailto:julierosenbergsjp@gmail.com) or 203-273-6794.

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

**Christmas dinners at local homeless shelters:** Contact Karen Resnick at [kmr925@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kmr925@sbcglobal.net) or 203-536-3115.

## THANK YOU FOR SPONSORING ONEG/KIDDUSH

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JENNIFER & HARRIS METH

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## 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

**Temple Beth El, Stamford  
and  
Congregation Beth El, Norwalk  
Proudly Present:**

**KESHER BETH EL**  
*Beth El Connections: Two Synagogues,  
One Learning Community*



**IN PERSON SUNDAY MORNINGS GRADES K-7**  
**ZOOM HEBREW TUTORIALS THURSDAY**  
**AFTERNOONS GRADES 3-7**

- **Monthly Sunday Morning Learning Program for ages 3-4**
- **Amazing Holiday Celebrations**
- **Experiential, Interactive Learning**
- **Small Group Hebrew Learning**
- **Weekly Tefilah (worship service) led by our clergy, teachers, and students**
- **TRY US OUT FOR A YEAR! For grades K-2, registration for the first year is open to non-members; tuition is reduced 50% for the first year for members.**

For more information contact Leo Linder:  
[eddir@tbe.org](mailto:eddir@tbe.org).

**K'TANIM**

**A monthly Jewish learning Sunday drop-off program for 3 and 4 year-olds.**  
**9:00am-11:45am**

**GAMES! MUSIC! TORAH! HOLIDAYS!**  
**STORIES! CRAFTS! BLESSINGS! FUN!**

You do not need to be a member of a synagogue to participate.

Questions? Contact Leo Linder at [eddir@tbe.org](mailto:eddir@tbe.org).



Spring at Keshet is full of excitement! The joint Purim celebration for TBE and CBE saw Keshet students take center stage - literally! After exploring some Purim-themed activity booths, students presented the Purim Spiel, written and directed by Keshet alum Maddy Kessler. And when it was time to read the Megillah, TEN students got to share their hard work and preparation by reading from the scroll for the very first time!

Of course, Pesach follows right on the heels of Purim, and the first-ever Pesach Carnival was a great chance for students to get hands-on with the parts of the Seder in fun and creative ways. There were crafts, games, prizes, surprising Karpas candidates, creative ways to wash hands, fresh-grated maror, and even an epic Afikomen hunt.

But holidays aren't the only highlight of Keshet! In March students in grades 6 and 7 learned how to put on a tallis and tefillin at World Wide Wrap, thanks to the TBE Men's Club. They also held a mock Torah service to practice putting together all the different parts that they'd learn and get a better sense of what their B'Mitzvah will look like. 4th graders received their very own siddurim to use in school, at shul, and anywhere they might want to pray. And along with the traditional settings, students are also earning beautiful new melodies for prayers, some of which they sang with Cantor Kaplan and Noah Aronson at the TBE Cantor's Concert in April!

We're still giving back to the community by bringing eggs and shelf-stable milk to CBE and boxes of pasta and rice to TBE and are looking forward to JFS' Mitzvah Day in April and our end-of-year Tzedakah Carnival in May.

Interested in joining us or want to learn more? Email me ([eddir@tbe.org](mailto:eddir@tbe.org)) for more info or to arrange a trial day!

*Leo Linder, Keshet Director*



# TBE Musical Kabbalat Shabbat

## Friday, May 1 at 7:00pm

Kabbalat Shabbat led by  
Cantor Katie Kaplan and Leo Linder, Cantorial Intern



Featuring special musical guests Em Lebow & Barbara Orwick



Can't join us in person? Join us on Livestream:

<http://www.tbe.org/tbe-live/>

Temple Beth El, 350 Roxbury Road, Stamford, CT 06902  
203-322-6901 [www.tbe.org](http://www.tbe.org)



# Shabbat Lab

## Shabbat, May 2, 2026

### 10:00am: Shabbat Service

Led by Rabbi Michael Knopf in the sanctuary with livestream  
[www.tbe.org/tbe-live/](http://www.tbe.org/tbe-live/)

### 10:45am: EmBODYing Shabbat

An alternative to our main sanctuary Shabbat morning service, this Embodiment Shabbat Experience will take place from 10:45am-12:15pm upstairs in the triple classroom.

Led by certified Yoga instructor, Rochelle Mitlak, along with Cantor Katie.

Join us to physically and mentally embody Shabbat through chant, breath work, yoga poses, and meditation.

Click here to register: [www.tinyurl.com/tbelab5-2](http://www.tinyurl.com/tbelab5-2)

A personal Yoga mat and/or blanket is advised, but not required. All poses will also be offered with modifications so that all are able to participate in this session.

### 12:00pm: Kiddush Luncheon for All

12:45pm: The Six Scrolls: Book of Ruth  
with Rabbi Gerry Ginsburg

Come for any or all parts of the morning.



Temple Beth El, 350 Roxbury Rd. Stamford, CT  
203-322-6901 office@tbe.org  
[www.tbe.org](http://www.tbe.org)





# POPTORAH LIVE!

Join Rabbis Michael Knopf and Jesse Olitzky for a special live recording of their acclaimed podcast *PopTorah*, where Jewish wisdom meets pop culture. Through humor, insight, and lively debate, the rabbis explore what today's stories – from film, music, and television – reveal about timeless spiritual and ethical questions. Come be part of the conversation as *PopTorah* goes live for the first time at Temple Beth El!

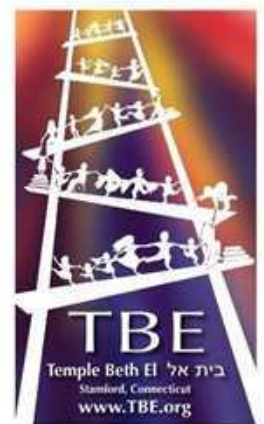
Date: Tuesday, May 5

Time: 7:00 - 8:30 pm

Location: TBE Sanctuary



[Click here to RSVP](#)  
or go to [bit.ly/tbe-pt](https://bit.ly/tbe-pt)



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**TEMPLE BETH EL**  
**PRESENTS**  
**OUR THIRD SESSION OF**  
**MIDRASH & MIXOLOGY**  
**MAY 7 AT 7:00PM**



- **THEMED EXOTIC COCKTAILS BY BARRY ERNER**
- **MIDRASH W/RABBI KNOPF TO COMPLEMENT THE COCKTAILS**
- **MEANINGFUL CONVERSATION**

**SEATS ARE LIMITED | FIRST-COME FIRST-SERVED**  
**TO RSVP, GO TO [HTTPS://BIT.LY/TBEM57](https://bit.ly/tbem57)**  
**\$18 COVER CHARGE PER PERSON**

**AT THE HOME OF...**  
**MELISSA DREYFUS-ERNER AND BARRY ERNER**  
(address provided upon acceptance to class)



# *Sisterhood Shabbat*

**Shabbat, May 9, 2026**

**10:00 am - 12:00 pm**

**Parashat Behar-Bechukotai**

**A unique and meaningful service led by women followed by Kiddush Luncheon.**

**All are welcome.**

**The D'var Torah will be delivered by Rabbi Arie Hasit, Scholar-in-Residence who will also speak after Kiddush Luncheon.**

**RSVP for Kiddush so we may prepare:**

**[www.tinyurl.com/tbasis5-9](http://www.tinyurl.com/tbasis5-9)**

**If you would like to participate in the service contact Fran Ginsburg at [ginsstamf@gmail.com](mailto:ginsstamf@gmail.com)**

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

**<http://www.tbe.org/tbe-live/>**

**Temple Beth El, 350 Roxbury Road, Stamford, CT 06902  
203-322-6901 | [sisterhood@tbe.org](mailto:sisterhood@tbe.org) | [www.tbe.org](http://www.tbe.org)**



בית המדרש לרבנים  
 ע"ש שכטר  
 Rabbinical Seminary



## SCHOLAR IN RESIDENCE WEEKEND

**ISRAEL: COMPLEX CONVERSATIONS  
 ON THE JEWISH FUTURE WITH  
 RABBI ARIE HASIT**

**FRI. MAY 8**



**7:00PM SHABBAT SERVICES AT TBE**

Rabbi Hasit will give the d'var Torah, focused on current events in Israel and building an inclusive Jewish state. The service will be followed by dessert and Q&A.

**SAT. MAY 9**



**10:00AM SISTERHOOD SHABBAT**

Rabbi Hasit will give the d'var Torah, drawing on themes relevant to creating a pluralistic society in Israel.

**12:00PM KIDDUSH LUNCH**

Rabbi Hasit will lead a study session on "Women's Leadership as Old as the Torah."

**7:30PM HAVDALAH**

Light meal (*Seudah Shlishit*) during which Rabbi Hasit will discuss the future of Conservative Judaism followed by Havdalah.

**SUN. MAY 10**



**9:30AM FILM SCREENING**

We will watch "The Women's Balcony" a comedy/drama set in Israel. Final thoughts from Rabbi Hasit. \$18/person. Proceeds to benefit the Schechter Rabbinical Seminary.

Rabbi Arie Hasit is the Associate Dean of the Schechter Rabbinical Seminary, which trains rabbis and other Jewish professionals for service in Israel and around the world. Rabbi Hasit also serves as a member of the Israeli Rabbinical Assembly's law committee and is the rabbinic advisor to Ramah Programs in Israel.

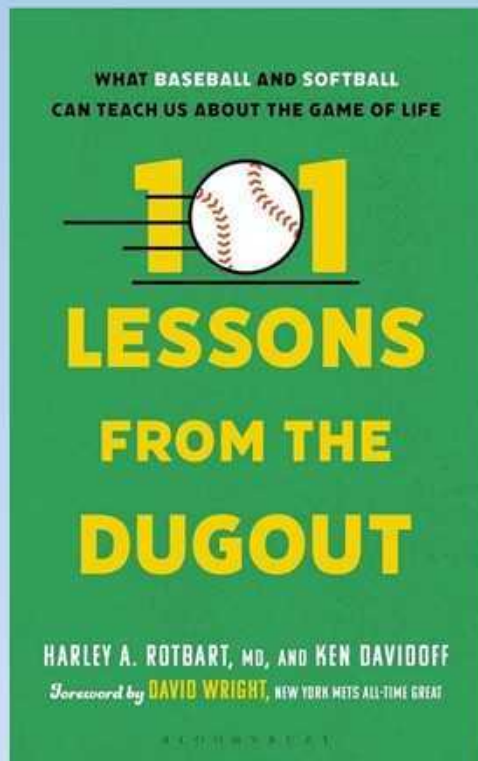
**Temple Beth El, 350 Roxbury Road, Stamford, CT - 203-322-6901 - [www.tbe.org](http://www.tbe.org)**

CLICK [HERE](#) TO REGISTER FOR ANY OR ALL EVENTS



## SENIOR MEN'S ASSOCIATION OF STAMFORD

Join us on Thursday, May 14<sup>th</sup> from 11 am to noon for a book talk and signing with author and former NY Post baseball columnist Ken Davidoff and Rabbi Emeritus Josh Hammerman



Every player or fan of baseball and softball thinks they know the game - and they do, at least the rules and the strategy. But take a deeper look, and you'll see there is so much more to be learned beyond the strikeouts, walks, base stealing and double plays. In *101 Lessons from the Dugout*, famed baseball writer and insider Ken Davidoff decodes these messages in brief snippets for everyone.

Mr. Davidoff will be interviewed by Josh Hammerman, Rabbi Emeritus of Temple Beth El in Stamford. All are welcome to attend.



The session will take place at Congregation Agudath Sholom (301 Strawberry Hill Avenue in Stamford) on the second floor. Parking is accessible from Colonial Road. Please use the entrance by the flagpoles and press the buzzer to be admitted.



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*Join Us!*

# ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

**Wednesday, May 20, 2026  
TBE Social Hall @ 7:30 pm**

The Board of Trustees invites the congregation to Temple Beth El's 2026 Annual Membership Meeting. Agenda items include:

- Reports from TBE lay leadership, clergy and professional staff on the state of the synagogue and plans for the future
- Vote on the election of new members to the Board of Trustees (go to [tbe.org/2026-bot-nominees](https://tbe.org/2026-bot-nominees) for the slate of candidates)
- Vote on a change to the TBE Bylaws (go to [tbe.org/2026-bylaws-change](https://tbe.org/2026-bylaws-change) for details)
- Presentation of the Fred Weisman Tikkun Olam award to Joan Weisman
- Presentation of the Volunteer of the Year Award to Debra Adler-Klein
- Presentation of the Teen Volunteer of the Year Award to Madelyn Meth

**Dessert and coffee will be served**

All TBE members in good standing are encouraged to attend the meeting and vote. However, if you cannot attend, you may vote by proxy. To learn more, go to [tbe.org/2026-proxy-voting](https://tbe.org/2026-proxy-voting).



Slate of Nominees



Bylaws Change



Proxy Voting

# Rap with the Rabbi

*Real talk, real Torah, real connection.*

## **Open Office Hours with Rabbi Michael Knopf**

Thursday,

May 21

1:30–3:00 PM

**Temple Beth El**

**350 Roxbury Rd**



Photo: Rabbi Michael Knopf

Come by, pull up a chair, and connect.

This is your chance to ask questions, share ideas, or just chat with Rabbi Knopf in a relaxed, group setting.

No agenda—just conversation, curiosity, and community.

RSVP required so we can plan appropriately.

[www.tinyurl.com/raprabbi5-21](http://www.tinyurl.com/raprabbi5-21)

Let's play  
mah jong  
and canasta!



**TBE Sisterhood invites you to a fun night!**

### **mah jong**

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

We have instructors and refreshments!!!

### **Canasta**

Canasta lessons will be offered to a maximum of eight beginners. Advanced players are welcome if we have groups of four.

**Tuesday, May 26 & June 16 at 7:00pm**

in the TBE social hall

Fee: \$10 per person to cover security cost

PLEASE RSVP, so we know how many tables we need, to  
Fran Ginsburg at [ginsstamf@gmail.com](mailto:ginsstamf@gmail.com) or 203-979-9570.

Temple Beth El Sisterhood, 350 Roxbury Rd, Stamford, CT 06902  
[www.tbe.org](http://www.tbe.org) | 203-322-6901



**A Congregational Book Read & Discussion**

# CAN JUDAISM BE SAVED?

## ITS FUTURE AFTER GAZA

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Read the book, then join us for a thought-provoking discussion featuring author Rabbi Arthur Green about the future of Jewish identity, the role of Israel, and the moral responsibility of the Jewish people.

Rabbi Green is a preeminent Jewish scholar, theologian, and educator. A foremost student of Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel, z'l, Rabbi Green has devoted his life to making Judaism's mystical and spiritual brilliance accessible to all.



**Sunday, May 31 - 5:00-7:00pm @ TBE**

A wine & cheese reception will follow  
RSVP at [tinyurl.com/cbr2026](https://tinyurl.com/cbr2026)



*Can Judaism Be Saved* is available at Amazon.com on  
Kindle and paperback

**WHAT'S IN  
YOUR IN  
CLOSET?**



## **TBE SISTERHOOD SEMI-ANNUAL CLOTHING DRIVE**

***Do a mitzvah!***

**Sunday, May 31 from 9:00am - 2:00pm**

**Volunteers will be there to help.**

**Location:**

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

**Items to Donate:** Usable and wearable clothing: shoes; handbags; belts; outerwear; baby accessories; tablecloths; draperies/curtains; towels; bedding; luggage, etc.

**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:**

- All items in untied plastic bags
- Separate shoes (keep pairs together), handbags, belts, etc.
- Bicycles and scooters do not need to be bagged.
- Tax forms will be provided upon request.

**Questions? [sisterhood@tbe.org](mailto:sisterhood@tbe.org)**

***Thank you for your support!***

**Temple Beth El Sisterhood  
350 Roxbury Road, Stamford, CT  
[www.tbe.org](http://www.tbe.org) | 203-322-6901**

# Men's Club Sails with Captain Alan



**Join us for a relaxing and fun-filled evening on Long Island Sound with Captain Alan at the helm of La Retreat! Enjoy smooth sailing, great company, and breathtaking sunset views as we cruise the waters. No experience needed, just bring your sense of adventure! Light refreshments and sandwiches will be available. BYOB**

**Hosted by Alan Benet**

**\$36 per person - limited to Men's Club members only.**

**First-come first-served for the first 6 people to sign-up for each date; then there will be a waitlist.**

**Proceeds to benefit TBE Men's Club**

**Tuesday, June 2 or Monday, June 8**

**Register here: [www.tinyurl.com/mensail2026](http://www.tinyurl.com/mensail2026)**

**Meet at Schooner Cove at 4:30PM.**

**(Alan will provide directions after registration.)**

**Returning approximately 8PM flexible based on input from crew.**

**Questions: Contact Carl Shapiro at [cshapiro@optonline.net](mailto:cshapiro@optonline.net)**

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# BETH EL B'YACHAD: TBE TOGETHER

## Small Groups Initiative

Come together to connect with others at TBE through shared interests, identities, and life stages.

These groups are entirely **lay-led**, and the meeting schedule and activities are determined by the members.

**You can join our current groups or start your own!**

20s and 30s Group

Walking Group

Dog Group

Israel and Us: Discussion Group

**If you would like to start a group or would like more information reach out to our Rabbinic Intern Abby Allen at [aballen@jtsa.edu](mailto:aballen@jtsa.edu)**

**Sign up here: [www.tinyurl.com/tbesmallgroups](http://www.tinyurl.com/tbesmallgroups)**

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

### OPPORTUNITIES FOR GIVING

- Adult Education Fund
- Paver Walkway Campaign
- Beth El Cares
- Rabbi Knopf'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

### 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

Call the office for information 203-322-6901.

### 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.

CHECK US OUT ON  
**facebook**

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

### 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 Mindy Rogoff at 203-322-6901, ext. 301.



### HAVE YOU VISITED OUR WEBSITE?

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

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

## Ramah Family Camps 2026

Fun for the whole family with counselor-led adventures.  
Family and adult-only time, and a magical Ramah Shabbat!

SPRING  
FAMILY SHABBATON

MAY 29-31  
2026

AUGUST  
FAMILY CAMP

AUGUST 19-23  
2026



 **Ramah**  
YEAR-ROUND  
[ramahfamilycamp.org](http://ramahfamilycamp.org)

## WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS

### IN HONOR OF:

#### IN APPRECIATION OF OUR ALIYAH AND JOY'S READING TORAH

Joy & Larry Katz

#### IN APPRECIATION OF REPRO SHABBAT

Cathy Sacks

#### LESLIE GLENN AND NEIL KATZ ON THEIR MILESTONE BIRTHDAYS

Linda & Michael Gordon, Beth and Howard Kushnick

#### THE BIRTH OF MELODY RACHEL ASH

Sharon & Jeff Turshen

#### THE MARRIAGE OF ANDREW KROWITZ AND JULIA DITKOFF

Barbara & Stan Friedman, Sharon & Jeff Turshen

### ADULT EDUCATION FUND

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

Gertrude Sofer, z'l, by Marilyn & Mitch Sofer

Joel Brest, z'l, by the Lowenthal Family

Betty Benjamin, z'l, by Burton Benjamin

### EMMET MANHEIM PLAYGROUND FUND

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

Emmet Manheim, z'l, by Dana Horowitz, Susan & Jared Blank

### YOUTH FUND

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

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

### SECURITY FUND

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

Phyllis Siegel, z'l, by Michelle & Greg Marrinan

Ethel Rosenthal, z'l, by Linda & Joe Rothman

### RABBI MICHAEL KNOPF MITZVAH FUND

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

A speedy recovery for Judy Schneiderman by Marsha Matthews

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

George Heller, z'l, by Phyllis Heller

Beatrice Abraham, z'l, by Robin, Jarad & Spencer Evans

### CANTOR KATIE KAPLAN MITZVAH FUND

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

Suzanne Horn for her successful recovery from surgery by Carol & Allen Krim

Bailee Wahren on becoming a Bat Mitzvah by The Meth Family

In appreciation by Phyllis Heller

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

Lily Perry, z'l, by Robin Evans & Jeffrey Perry

### SHABBAT BAG FUND

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

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

Harvey Novick, z'l, by Meryl & Hank Silverstein

### BETH EL CARES

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

Tillie Lieberman, z'l, by Brian, Rowan & Jordana Yomtov

David Spiegel, z'l, by Barbara & Warren Brandt

Rosalie Markowitz, z'l, by Laura Markowitz

### STEVEN AND LIEBA LANDER LECTURE FUND

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

Nathan Alientuch, z'l, by Barbara & Stan Friedman

# Purim 2026





## REMEMBERING OUR LOVED ONES



Judy & Bob Amster .....**MAX AMSTER**  
 Mindy, Jeff & Steph Hausman..... **JEAN & DAVID ANNIS**  
 Maxine & Jay Freilich..... **FLORENCE & KARL ARONSON**  
 Maxine & Jay Freilich..... **RICHARD ARONSON**  
 Meredith & Eric Reuben ..... **SADYE BAUM**  
 Behrend Family ..... **JOAN BEHREND**  
 Burton Benjamin..... **DANIEL BENJAMIN**  
 Amy Fishkow..... **JAMES BENJAMIN**  
 Mitchell Nadel & Family .....**BETH BOURNE BENNETT**  
 Rita & Michael Buttermann.....**GRETE BERKOWITZ**  
 Nancy Greene .....**DEBORAH BERMAN**  
 Carol & Wil Brewer ..... **LESLIE BREWER**  
 Sharon & Steve Katz.....**BETTY BRINER**  
 Susan Wise ..... **ISADORE CHERNIACK**  
 Mimi Cohen..... **SAUL COHEN**  
 Melanie Massell ..... **JUDGE FRANK D'ANDREA, JR.**  
 Lori & Stuart Ratner ..... **IRVING EDELSTEIN**  
 Evelyn & Bruce Kahn ..... **MARGOT NEU EPSTEIN**  
 Ronnie & Edward Fein ..... **GEORGE FEIN**  
 Stacy Ferber .....**AUGUSTA & HYMAN FERBER**  
 Stacy Ferber ..... **BEVERLY FERBER**  
 Nancy & Brad Benjamin..... **LOIS & HAROLD FINK**  
 Judy Schneiderman ..... **IDA FINKELSTEIN**  
 Maxine & Jay Freilich..... **RUTH & SEYMOUR FREILICH**  
 Karen & Phil Welt & Family .....**JEANETTE GAULT**  
 Bracha & Jerry Silber ..... **HINDA GINZBERG**  
 Marlyn & Rich Agatstein..... **LENORE GOLD**  
 Joanne & Marshall Goldberg ..... **ARTHUR GOLDBERG**  
 Olga & Ronald Goldstein ..... **CARRIE GOLDSTEIN**  
 Sandy, Bill & Alexandra Gottlin .....**KURT GORWITZ**  
 Elaine Erichson..... **EMIL GREENBERG**  
 Steven Grushkin & Family ..... **MERVIN GRUSHKIN**  
 Robin, Jarad & Spencer Evans ..... **HOWARD GUNTY**  
 Leonor Lopez.....**JOSÉ HALPERN**  
 Nancy & Jeff Herz ..... **JIM HERZ**  
 Julius Lasnick ..... **JULES KAPLAN**  
 Suzanne & Bob Kahn ..... **JULIUS KOHN**  
 Susan & Richard Blomberg . **RENEE & KURT KONIGSBACHER**  
 Susan & Richard Blomberg ..... **LOUIS KONIGSBACHER**  
 Harriet & Seymour Weinstein ..... **HILDA LERNER**  
 Barbara & Steven Rothstein ..... **EVELYN LIEBERFARB**  
 Stephanie & Larry Sherman .....**MOLLIE & JACOB MALIN**  
 Stephanie & Larry Sherman ..... **ROBERT MALIN**  
 Barbara Malloy..... **HOWARD MALLOY**  
 Barbara Brafman & Larry Stein ..... **JEANNETTE MOTT**  
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 Eleanor Mirne ..... **ARTHUR NUSSDORF**  
 Sandra & David Oberhand..... **EMANUEL OBERHAND**  
 Francine & Robert Plansky ..... **PAUL PLANSKY**  
 Shelley & Brian Zielinsky..... **ALICE RATZKER**  
 Lori & Stuart Ratner ..... **PAUL ROBBINS**  
 Judy Schneiderman ..... **RUTH ROSENBERG**  
 Barbara & Steven Rothstein ..... **IRVING ROTHSTEIN**  
 Barbara & Ed Drotman ..... **MOLLIE & MICHAEL SCHMALL**  
 Carol Schwartz & Family ..... **EDWARD SCHWARTZ**  
 Lori & Stuart Ratner ..... **YETTA SCHWARTZ**  
 Bracha & Jerry Silber ..... **CHARLES SILBER**  
 Meryl & Hank Silverstein ..... **STEVEN SILVERSTEIN**

Lori & Stuart Ratner .....**ANNIE STEINBERGER**  
 Susan & Warren Stern ..... **IRENE STERN**  
 Rosalie & Joe Wise..... **SAMUEL STERN**  
 Ronnie & Edward Fein ..... **LILY VAIL**  
 Phyllis Walzer..... **SOPHIE & RUDOPH WALZER**

### IN MEMORY OF:

**SHIRLEY BRODY, z'I**  
 Debora & Paul Weinstein  
**GEORGE HELLER, z'I**  
 Joan & Howie Breslow  
**NORMA SHAPIRO, z'I**  
 Karen & Scott Herckis  
**BRUCE STONE, z'I**  
 Elayne Jassey, Betsey & Arthur Selkowitz, Carol & Bill Kaufman, Joan & Howard Breslow, Kathleen Bratton & Brian Wruble, Marsha Colten & Robert Cohen, Judy & Bob Amster  
**FRED S. GOLOVE, z'I**  
 Patricia Black  
**DAVID LANDER, z'I**  
 Sharon & Jeff Turshen, Sheila Romanowitz

### WE MOURN THE PASSING OF...

**BRUCE STONE** husband of Gail Stone  
**MARILYN FUNTLEYDER** mother of Jill Teich  
**DAVID LANDER** brother of Steven Lander

### SHIVA NOTICES AVAILABLE ON-LINE

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

### MEMORIAL PLAQUES



Inscribe the names of your loved ones on a plaque in our Chapel foyer along with a light to commemorate their *yahrtzeit* and *yizkor* observances throughout the year.  
 For details, contact Mindy at [office@tbe.org](mailto:office@tbe.org) or 203-322-6901, ext. 301.

**The deadline for the  
 July-August 2026 Bulletin  
 will be Monday, June 1, 2026.**



**Have you seen our PAVER WALKWAY?**

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

**Contact Erica Newman, [execdir@tbe.org](mailto:execdir@tbe.org) for details.**

IN LOVING MEMORY  
OF ALAN KALTER  
1943 - 2021  
PEGGY KALTER

IN HONOR OF  
OUR LOVING PARENTS  
SAD GRANDPARENTS  
DEBRA AZUL-KLEIN  
AND ELEANOR KLEIN



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WHILE THE PLANNER ENVISIONS  
THE AMBIANCE OF CELEBRATION,  
HER CONCEPT IS INSPIRED BY THE SOUL  
AND SPIRIT OF HER CELEBRANTS.

HOW WILL YOU ASSURE  
JEWISH TOMORROWS?



Commit to leaving a legacy and help ensure that Temple Beth El will be part of the fabric of the Stamford Jewish community for many years to come. [Click here](#) for our LIFE & LEGACY Honor Roll.

TEMPLE BETH EL  
350 Roxbury Road  
Stamford, CT 06902  
[www.tbe.org](http://www.tbe.org)



To create your legacy contact Erica Newman  
execdir@tbe.org | 203-322-6901, ext. 304



Israeli Dance classes offered at Temple Beth El

Prior experience is not required.

Learn classic and modern dances to popular songs;  
Enjoy the social aspect! Reap physical & mental benefits!

**Beginner Classes:**

Thursday evenings: 6:45 PM - 7:45 PM

Sunday afternoons: 12:45 PM - 1:45 PM

Intermediate level classes follow

**Special events: Available to teach, lead and/or perform:**

Temple events, Hebrew school, weddings, bridal showers, birthdays, Bar/Bat Mitzvahs

Contact Leng Phone: 203.912.4086 IsraeliDanceTeacher@gmail.com  
[www.CTIsraeliDance.com](http://www.CTIsraeliDance.com)



aviva maller

203-554-6758

PHOTOGRAPHY

avivamallerphoto@me.com  
www.avivamallerphotography.com

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HER REFLECTION IS SEEN IN THE EYES  
OR THE VERY SOUL OF HER SUBJECTS.

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Dedicated to TBE's event space

[www.thebigeventspace.com](http://www.thebigeventspace.com)

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