

On Expressing Thanks on Thanksgiving

Perhaps more than any other newsletter article, I am acutely aware that election day will occur soon after this issue hits our inboxes. With that in mind, I have two messages for us for the month of November. One is to vote. The other is to remember to give thanks.

I will always stress the importance of voting as our civic responsibility and the way we stand up to be heard. Our news feeds are saturated with the reasons why this election matters so much, so I will not use this forum to add my voice to theirs other than to simply say: vote!

The outcome of the November 3 election will bring its own challenges. We pray that the dark clouds that have been swirling around us will begin to give way to light. We pray that our democracy proves its enduring strength such that we will transition from pre- to post-election season with characteristic calm.

Whatever may happen through the month of November politically, spiritually, November is our month of thanksgiving. Thanksgiving is among my favorite “Jewish” holidays because giving thanks and counting our blessings is a central Jewish spiritual practice. As Jews, we begin and end our days with expressions of gratitude. It seems only right we should have a special holiday dedicated to gratitude as well.

It’s not going to be easy this year, but as the saying goes, when the going gets tough, the tough get going. After 10 months, we may be beyond the shock and sadness of spending yet another holiday without extended family and friends, but it is still hard. Regardless of what happens on November 3, we may also be reeling with the aftershocks of the election and the state of our polarized nation. We may also be struggling with illness in our families or community; the state of our national and personal economy; or a new wave of cabin fever. Indeed, sitting here at the end of October, they all seem inevitable on some level.

Enter Thanksgiving as a spiritual balm and our assignment for the month of November. Without minimizing all the things that weigh on our souls, our job this month is to give light to the good. Name the good. Claim the good. Most importantly, *let it claim you.*

I invite you to a challenge I call a gratitude slam. Take 2 minutes each day—and work up to 5 minutes. Set a timer. Close your eyes and bring to mind and voice anything, everything and everyone you can think of to be grateful for. Stick to it until the timer goes off. Bring yourself back if you start to veer off track. It doesn’t matter if what comes to mind is as small as a smile or as large as life itself, health or work. You can express thanks for something as simple as a clear breath or a day without pain or as complex as getting through a math problem or another day of homeschooling a middle schooler. During this practice, the only rule is to keep coming up with things for which we are grateful until the timer goes off. There are far more good things than we usually ever acknowledge. The more you dig, I promise, the more you will find.



All Kabbalat Shabbat (Friday night services) at Temple Beth-El will be via Zoom video conferencing technology until further notice. For bar mitzvah services on YouTube click [here](#).

To use Zoom:

1. Download the Zoom program at <https://zoom.us>
 2. Click [here](#) to enter
 3. Enable your camera to view
 4. Make sure your computer's sound/microphone is muted. (All participants will be muted during the service.)
 5. Wait to be granted access from the "waiting room."
- Zoom on your computer/laptop, iPad/tablet or cell phone.

To follow the service with a digital flip book siddur, click [here](#)

Virtual is good, but really bringing Shabbat into your home is even better! Set up candles, wine/juice and challah/bread in front of your screen and let's literally light the candles, make kiddush and motzi together.

All Shabbat morning services and pot luck dinners are suspended until further notice.

Friday, November 6	<i>Zoom</i>	
First Friday Kabbalat Shabbat Family services		6:30pm
Friday, November 13	<i>Zoom</i>	
Kabbalat Shabbat services		8:00 pm
Friday, November 20	<i>Zoom</i>	
Kabbalat Shabbat services		6:30 pm
Saturday, November 21	<i>YouTube</i>	
Shabbat Morning Service		10:30 am
Bar Mitzvah of Rafael Lantz		
Friday, November 27	<i>Zoom</i>	
Kabbalat Shabbat services (lay-led)		8:00 pm
Friday, December 4	<i>Zoom</i>	
First Friday Kabbalat Shabbat Family services		6:30 pm
Saturday, December 5	<i>YouTube</i>	
Shabbat morning service		10:30 am
Bar Mitzvah of Jeremy Friedlander		

See page 3 for information on our new YouTube channel!



Temple Beth-El

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www.betheljc.org



Office hours: Mon-Fri 10am – 1pm

Rabbi Moritt is available for virtual pastoral counseling and her other usual duties during this challenging time. To keep our employees healthy, most are working from home with adjusted hours and limited access to files. Our phones and emails are up and running.

Rabbi Leana Moritt rabbimoritt@betheljc.org

Rabbi Emeritus Kenneth Brickman
rabbibrickman@betheljc.org

Cantorial Soloist/Director of Education

Marian Kleinman

morahmarian@betheljc.org

Tom Rosensweet, President tom@betheljc.org

Karen Seemen Pinn, Vice President

Nancy Sambul, Vice President

Mike Noveck, Vice President

Michael Shuchman, Treasurer

Suzanne Goldstein-Smith, Financial Sec.

Laraine Schwartz, Recording Secretary

Bob Kahan, Office Manager

admin@betheljc.org

Kay Magilavy, Past President

kay@betheljc.org

Irwin Rosen, Past President

Shabbat Candle Lighting



Friday, November 6	4:28 pm
Friday, November 13	4:21 pm
Friday, November 20	4:16 pm

Friday, November 27	4:13 pm
Friday, December 4	4:11 pm

Rabbi's Message

(continued from page 1)

Then, when your timer goes off, jot down those people who made some of these possible. Text, or even better, call them. Tell them you've been thinking of them and thank them. It will make their day. It will make you feel good too.

And while you are at it, remember to express gratitude for being part of our Temple Beth-El community. We are an extraordinary lot and it is tempting to minimize what support, strength, continuity and friendship it brings to us. It may be easy to think that we don't matter to the Temple, but that, too, would also be a mistake. Everyone's efforts and contributions reverberate exponentially throughout our community and make us that much more resilient to what the world keeps throwing at us. Community and gratitude are, in fact, our secret power. Let us use this month to bask in its light.

With gratitude and friendship,
Rabbi Leana Moritt

Amelie Mentha in our synagogue sukkah



Live Streaming from our Sanctuary!

Temple Beth-El is taking our first tentative steps back into our building. Thank you to the Transition Task Force who worked to create the safety protocols to make it possible to celebrate this year's *b'nai mitzvah* in the sanctuary. Thank you also to many of our *b'nai mitzvah* families and others, who made it possible to install permanent live-stream technology in our sanctuary so all can participate in the service. Among the many regulations we have instituted is a building capacity limit of 25 people as long as it is deemed safe. Please, God, if/as the COVID-19 danger passes, we will expand both the use of the technology and our capacity in our building.

We now have our own YouTube Channel to watch live: <https://bit.ly/2HoQV3i>

facebook

Temple Beth El Jersey City Members is a **Private** Facebook Group created exclusively for our Temple Beth-El member community to continue being together while promoting health and wellness. If you are a member you will be accepted immediately. For security purposes we are limiting this group to members only. If you are not yet a member, please consider joining.

There is also a separate page for Beth-El families!



We recognize that many people are having (or will have) financial challenges this year. We value them as members of our congregational family and want them to continue under any circumstances. As such we encourage all our renewing members to make a Terumah pledge AND an initial payment — regardless of the amount — **now**. [Click here](#) to renew your membership pledge and learn more about "giving what you can" during difficult times. But this year more than ever, we want to continue our relationship and keep the doors to membership open for all.

For those members who are not suffering financial hardship, and who have been less impacted by the current situation, more than ever we encourage them to ensure that other families can maintain their membership by donating an extra amount to help those in need. This act of generosity is considered a great mitzvah, assisting our own temple community in a time of need. The temple is facing a significant financial shortfall that will grow worse due to the lower Terumah pledges of those who can't contribute more this year. We encourage those who can to spare a little more this year.

The Board has set the suggested Terumah for those who can afford it at \$2,400 per household for the fiscal year 2020-2021. This figure is not an equal amount per household, but is based on our awareness of the range of our members' resources and their past Terumah pledge levels. We anticipate achieving the budgeted Terumah income if those who have the means give at or above the \$2400 level. If you can contribute at this level or higher, please share your blessings to help us reach a balanced budget for the coming year. If you need to give less, please do so at a level that prioritizes Temple Beth-El so that we can remain financially stable and continue to serve our community.

The services, celebrations, programs, education, and pastoral care provided by Temple Beth-El cost money and we struggle to balance our budget every year. Please make your generous donation so that we can continue to serve Reform Jews in Hudson County.

Every pledge at every level is deeply appreciated.

[Click Here to Renew Your Terumah Pledge Now](#)



**Moved? Changed emails?
We want to stay in touch.**

Please take a moment to let us know if we've got it right or if you'd rather we use different contact information. Send your preferred email address, phone numbers and mailing address of all the

members of your household to Bob Kahan, our Office Manager at admin@betheljc.org

We know that if you're reading this, we have *your* email. However, we may not have your partner's or your friend's email address. Will you help us by asking them to send us an accurate email address if they do not receive Temple emails? Thank you!



Our Twitter feed has over **800** followers!
Check it out [here](#).



**Election Day is
November 3**

Absentee ballots must be postmarked or returned in person by this date. For information on tracking your ballot, click [here](#)

Dear Friends,

We are asking for your understanding and your prayers. We have learned that our Cantorial Soloist and Religious School Director, Morah Marian Kleinman, has a medical issue which requires her to take a leave of absence. She will be having surgery on November 5 and will then be in recovery for up to 3 months.



We very much look forward to Morah Marian's return as soon as she is able. She is very eager to return to us as well. Our wishes and prayers will be with her every step of the way. Since she will be focusing on healing, we are sure you understand that she will not be able to return calls and emails during her convalescence, even those wishing her well. She asks that you give her the time she needs to recover.

In the meantime, we have all teamed together to make sure that her responsibilities are fully covered. We are very grateful to those in the Temple family who have stepped up, and are confident that all school activities, bar/bat mitzvah training, and services will continue smoothly in her absence.

Specifically, our accompanist Ben Rauch and Rabbi Moritt will continue to lead our Shabbat services. Rosa Escandon (Morah Chaya/4th Grade) has offered to step up and cover Morah Marian's school administrative duties during her absence. Ben Rauch and Sarah Cohen will be covering music and art in the school.

In a wonderful turn of fate, Cantor Miranda Beckenstein will be tutoring our bar/bat mitzvah children. Miranda was our very first student cantor, subbing for our legendary Cantor Berman before he died. Miranda has over 35 years of experience tutoring children for bar/bat mitzvah and we know she will be able to step in smoothly and professionally in Morah Marian's absence.

While Morah Marian is out, if you need to be in touch with Rosa Escandon for school issues, please email her at rosa@betheljc.org. If you need to be in touch with Cantor Beckenstein, please email her at mandy@betheljc.org.

Of course if you have any questions or concerns, Rabbi Moritt and the two of us are happy to talk. While Morah Marian is not eager to talk about her condition at this time, she is happy to speak about your children until November 3.

Sincerely,

Tom Rosensweet
Board President

Karen Seemen-Pinn
VP, Education and Religious Practices

Neighbors helping Neighbors



Social Distancing is especially hard on our seniors and disabled folks. **We want to help.** We started and still prioritize our seniors and disabled folks, but very soon realized that the social distancing necessitated by this pandemic isn't hard only on them.

- If you are living alone or are now out of work, we want to know.
- If you are having difficulties getting essential food or medication into your home, if you are living alone, out of work or feeling isolated, please contact Nancy Sambul at

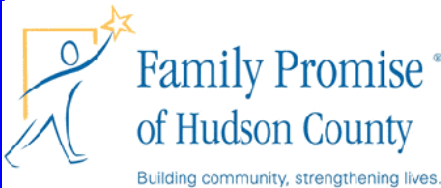
nancy@betheljc.org. Our members want to help as best as we can. If you are able to help deliver groceries or medication on one of your trips, or if you are able to make calls to check in on our elderly and isolated, please let Nancy know.

Congratulations to our Bar Mitzvah!



Rafael Skvirsky Lantz, son of Michael Lantz and Karina Skvirsky will become a Bar Mitzvah on November 21, 2020. He was born in New York City and currently lives in Jersey City, NJ. He has been playing soccer since he was five years old. He loves to read fantasy fiction, play video games and paint miniatures. Rafael believes in doing mitzvahs every day. He gives money to the homeless, helps his grandparents and is vigilant about wearing his mask and practicing social distance.

Rafael attends Lower Manhattan Community Middle School and is in the 8th grade. He plays soccer in the Downtown Soccer League in New York City and loves to hang out with his friends afterschool. His favorite class in school is music where he creates riffs and short songs using electronic music composition software. He also plays guitar. One of his favorite parts about preparing for his Bar Mitzvah has been learning all of the songs. He truly loves memorizing and singing them. Rafael is grateful to his grandparents Alan and Anexora Skvirsky and Doris Lantz, who have encouraged and supported him in his journey to become a Jewish man. He is an enthusiastic participant in Passover and all the Jewish Holidays, which he enjoys with his cousins.



Family Promise during Covid-19

Over five years ago, Temple Beth-El began working with congregations throughout the area to launch Family Promise of Hudson County. As many of you may recall, Family Promise has provided hosting opportunity for working families, so they can stay together while struggling to get back on their feet and move to a new home. Many have lost jobs or suffered other adverse circumstances, leaving them temporarily homeless. Family Promise provides social services for these people to find jobs and housing and return to the normalcy of their lives as a family.

Prior to the pandemic, Temple Beth-El participated by hosting four or five families, all with children, to sleep over in Temple Beth El's Social Hall, four times a year. After a full day of school and work the families returned to Temple Beth El for dinner and evening activities. Enter Covid-19 and this plan came to a screeching halt, as you can well imagine.

But the work continues, albeit in different ways. Especially in this current crisis, there are so many people in great need of our help. Email Lari at lari@bethjc.org **subject line: Family Promise**, and tell us what you would like to do to help out. Let us know your questions. Let us know how you plan to make this New Year one of giving to those less fortunate than yourself.

We are Family Promise
Transforming the lives of
homeless families. Because
every child deserves a home.

Religious School

Community

Hillel says: *Do not separate yourself from the community; do not have confidence in yourself until the day of your death; do not judge another until you stand in his place; do not say something that shouldn't be heard, in the end it will be heard; do not say, "when I have time I will study," lest you never find time.* (Pirkay Avot 2:4)



We can learn a lot from the pithy words of Hillel, even though he lived a long time ago (between the years 110 BCE and 10 CE). The need for community and working as a team is essential to the vitality of our Religious School community. We work together to build a Sukkah, raise our children, and to support each other through both the good times and the turbulent times. We also work together as we study, and with a creative, open mind, can learn much from one another despite the many differences from one individual to another.

One of the many remarkable features of our TBE Religious School community (and that of our Temple) is that our children are from many different local public and private schools, including Jersey City, Hoboken, and Bayonne. Our virtual school has allowed at least one student to continue to attend from another state, too! We can see this as a problem – “when should we have our Religious School vacation breaks?” – or we can find our many common goals and joys together. It takes all of us!



Thank you for being part of our TBE community! I am honored to be here with you to celebrate *Shabbat* and holidays, to study and learn, to comfort and to be joyous *Kol tuv* (All the best),

Marian

moramarian@betheljc.org

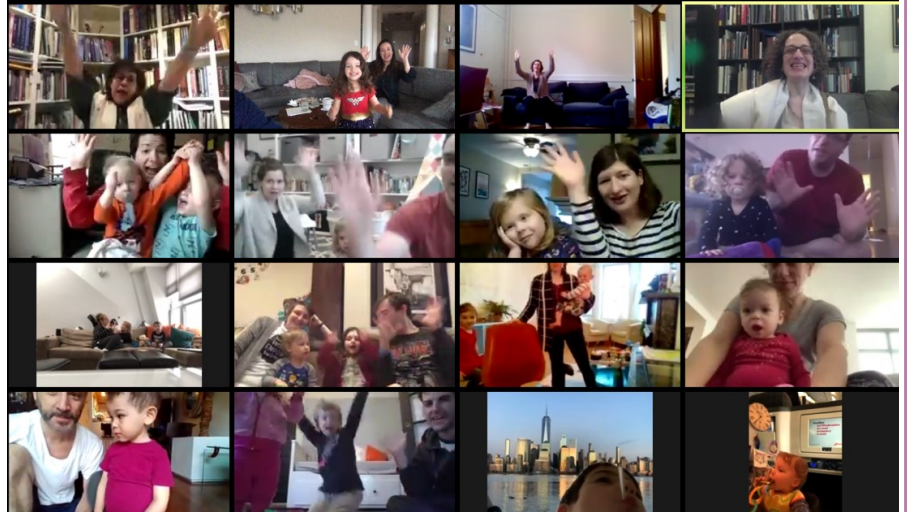
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**Saturday, November 14
@ 10:30 over Zoom!**

Calling all children 0-5 and their grownups! We can't wait to "see" you again at Tot Shabbat! Bring your favorite stuffed animals, and even more important, bring you ruach (spirit) and singing voices! Bracha the bear is waiting for us to return to our Temple! Meanwhile, Rabbi Moritt and Morah Marian Kleinman bring Tot Shabbat to your home. We will sing, dance tell a story and have fun together! Click [here](#) to join in. Have juice and challah/bread ready at home as we will make the blessings and enjoy our snacks together.



Mark your calendars for Tot Shabbat mornings:
 December 19 January 16 February 20 March 20
 April 17 May 15 June 12 July 10 August 14

Watch your emails for when we return from our virtual location back to our Beth-El home. If you are not on our Tot Shabbat list, please email office@betheljc.org and ask to be added to our email list. Drop-ins always welcome.

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Introduction to Hebrew for Adults



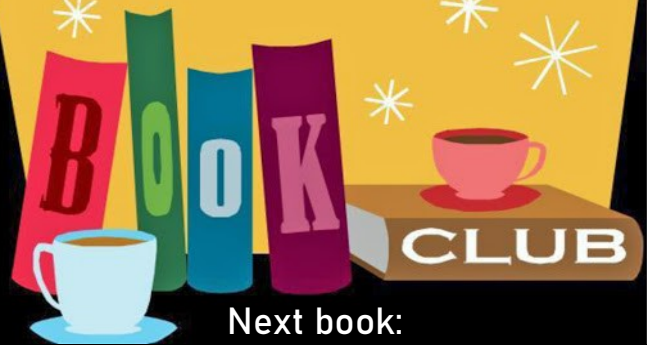
Wednesdays 7-7:30pm beginning December 2

If you have always wanted to learn to read Hebrew or brush up on your Hebrew skills, join us.

This 13-week course will introduce you to the letters and vowels of the Hebrew language to enable Hebrew decoding. Following this course, you will be able to follow along in the *siddur* (prayer book) in Hebrew. Basic Hebrew prayer vocabulary words will also be introduced. All are welcome.

Free for all, but students will be required to purchase their own text books.

Join the TBE



Next book:

Kaddish.com

by Nathan Englander

Thursday, December 3 @ 8pm

**All meetings will be on Zoom
until further notice.**

Email Joanna Tartikoff at bookclub@betheljc.org
for the Zoom link.

Tributes

- To celebrate a happy occasion
- To say I'm sorry for your loss
- To remember your loved ones
- To thank someone for a kindness

A card acknowledging your contribution will be sent to the recipient, and the message will be listed in the newsletter. To send a tribute, use the form [online](#) or write, email or call the Temple office.

Sustaining Fund

Nancy Berkoff
Marian Kleinman
Novetta & Joel Ruffin

In memory of Eileen Eisenberg
Michael Eisenberg &
Fran Karp-Eisenberg

In memory of Priscilla Wagner Fields
Kenneth & Sheila Fields

In memory of my husband, Buddy
Sandy Frank

In memory of Meredith's father,
Richard Epstein
Jeffrey Goodman &
Meredith Epstein Goodman

In memory of my husband,
Jack Karten, on his Yahrzeit
Phyllis Karten

In memory of Marjorie Rennet and
grandparents
Allison R. Kirshenbaum

In memory of my father and mother,
Robert & Ulda Aaronson
Barbara McMurray

In honor of Helen Chaplan Paster
Sharon Paster

In honor of my new grandson, Ryan
Judy Pesin & Louis Borriello

In memory of my parents,
Morris and Ethel Pesin
Sam Pesin

In memory of my father,
Dr. Samuel Cohen
Roberta Price

In memory of Murray Harr
on his Yarzeit
Lynn & Michael J. Reichgott

In memory of Tom's father,
Alvin Rosensweet, on his Yarzeit
Tom Rosensweet & Barbara Hines

In appreciation for the Aliyah
Fred & Karen Schnur

In memory of Eileen Eisenberg
Sergio Stifelman & Sara J. Welch

Food Pantry Donations

Jeff Kaplowitz
Alan Porwich, Alan
Irwin Rosen & Sharon Hirshberg
Tom Rosensweet & Barbara Hines
Laraine Schwartz
Robert & Hillela Ward

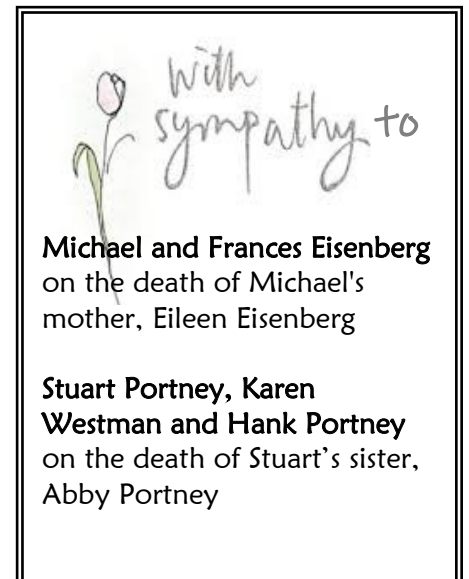
Rabbi Discretionary Fund

Aaron & Giovanna Dunkel

Music Fund

To Fran and Michael Eisenberg
in memory of Eileen Eisenberg
Irwin Rosen & Sharon Hirshberg
Fred & Karen Schnur
Sergio Stifelman &
Sara J. Welch

To Stuart Portney in memory of your
beloved sister
Fred & Karen Schnur



If you or a loved one are ill and would like to be added to our *misheberach l'cholim* list (prayer for healing), please let Rabbi Moritt know at rabbimoritt@betheljc.org

We are happy to pray for the healing of body, spirit, psyche and relationship of anyone of any religion. Please include the Hebrew name of the person/people in your prayers (if known) and your phone number so we can be in touch.

As eager as we are to pray for your healing, we are especially happy when we can take you off the list, fully restored. Remember to let us know that too.



to
Paul and Becky Anderson on the Simchat Ben
 and naming of their son, Lincoln Jack Anderson,
 Lev Yaakov.

Mayor Steven , Jacklyn and Jaxon Fulop who
 welcomed their new daughter and sister,
 Stasha Mae, on October 11.



to
Ben Rauch and Sarah Joseph,
 who were married on
 October 18 in Israel!

Thank you for the following donations:

High Holiday Flowers were donated by
 Jerold (Jerry) & Ellen Schwartz
 in honor of Blanche & David Dohrman

Sukkah Decorations were donated by
 Gutterman Brothers

Donations for live-streaming equipment in the sanctuary were made by Michele & Craig Linder,
 Laura Katzive & Dan Ackman, Don & Neelam Mankoff, and Michael & Joelle Friedland.



Save Temple Beth-El as your charity at smile.amazon.com. It costs you nothing, and up to 6% of what you spend on most Amazon offerings will come back to Temple Beth-El!



WEEKLY on Wednesdays at TBE

Our neighbors need your generosity

Please lend a hand by volunteering [here](#) for our Wednesday Food Pantry and/or by donating the foods and clothing listed [here](#), or by donating funds [here](#) so that we may purchase needed items. Our neighbors in need can use them. (See below if you'd like to use a QR code to access the wishlist.)

Donations to the Food Pantry are tax-deductible. If you donate cash, you'll receive an acknowledgement as usual. If you donate items, email the receipt to kpd@betheljc.org or click [here](#) for a downloadable copy of the Temple's In-Kind Donation Form. Click on the second form to donate, complete it, and send it to kpd@betheljc.org. Keep a copy of the blank for future use.

Thank you so much for your support in keeping our food pantry running during these difficult times. And please stay safe and well.



Scan with QR Studio



Extraordinary times may compel one to make difficult decisions for which they were not previously prepared. Whether you find yourself faced with the decisions surrounding the death of a family member or you are considering making advance plans, Temple Beth-El has a plot of burial grounds in **Mount Moriah Cemetery in Fairview, NJ.**

Mount Moriah is a beautiful and well-maintained cemetery that has been serving the Jewish Community for over 100 years. The cemetery is located on the slopes of the Palisades just a few minutes from Hudson County, between Kennedy Blvd and Routes 1&9. The Temple's graves are located on the main road of the cemetery and are adjacent to our original plot where, among many of our founding members, our founding rabbi, the late Maurice Thorne is buried. These graves are available for purchase, either as a family plot or individual graves. For further information, please contact Larry Gutterman at admin@betheljc.org

A Traditional Jewish Experience



Barry Wien - NJ Lic. No. 2885
 Frank Patti, Jr. - NJ Lic. No. 4169
 Arthur Musicant - NJ Lic. No. 2544
 Frank Patti, Sr. Director - NJ Lic. No. 2693

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Yarzeits



<p>Week ending November 7 Samuel Harwood Victor Ruskin Mary Kushner Irving Sweet Evelyn Shugar Brauer Helen K. Wellen</p> <p>Week ending November 14 Fanny Altman Patti Mayersohn Walter Gaines Rachel Newman Richard Epstein Esther Lerner Steven Pinkowitz Maurice J. "Buddy" Frank Hortense Frank</p> <p>Week ending November 21 Samuel A. Cohen Sylvia F. Shapiro Sarah Felberbuam Edna Press Herman Sue Zitter Ruth Lubow Louis Mayersohn Silvia R. Brodsky</p>	<p>Week ending November 28 Alan Robert Levine Laura Moritt Katz Milton Wiener Phyllis Barison Cynthia Barrett Helen Schnur Abraham Wolen Mary Lou Goldstein Jack Gurwitz David B. Finkelstein Daniel Isidore Koplowitz</p> <p>Week ending December 5 Fred Umschweis Ronde Joyce Wasserman Herbert Ziff Sigmund Arthur Newman Elliott Porte Judith Nadler Susan Siegler Comstock Jane Tuchscher Koskuba Aid Kushner Jon Edward Rottenberg Abraham L. Wellen Rose Schimel</p>
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Yahrzeits/Memorial Plaques/ Simcha Tree Leaves

Remember and Honor



The yahrzeit, or anniversary of a loved one's passing, is a time to remember the person, in the synagogue by reciting the Kaddish prayer, through the giving of extra charity and through learning. Each week at services we speak aloud the names of those people whose yahrzeit has occurred that week.

- To update your family's yahrzeit listings go to the [TBE yahrzeit list](#) or call or write the office.
- To purchase a Memorial Plaque to honor the memory of your loved ones click [here](#)
- To purchase a Simcha Tree Leaf to honor or congratulate friends or family members for special events or accomplishments please click [here](#)

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Contact ads@betheljc.org

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