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The Reform Congregation of Jersey City

April 2021

Nissan— Iyar 5781

V'shinantam l'vanecha: From the Foundation Up

You say potato. I say potahto. Temple. Shul. Synagogue. These are the names we commonly use to describe Jewish religious institutions. “Temple” recalls the Holy Temple in Jerusalem, the original Center of Jewish Life. Shul is Yiddish and refers to a center of Jewish learning. Synagogue is Greek for “bring together,” which highlights gathering as the central activity of Jewish life. This isn’t too far off from the original three Hebrew names for the places Jews gather: *beit ha-kneset*; *beit ha-midrash*; and *beit ha-tefilla*, or respectively, house of assembly; house of study; house of prayer.

These names underscore what we know: that there are many ways to transmit Jewish culture, values, rituals and peoplehood. Building a strong Jewish identity and community relies on a multipronged approach. Learning, praying and gathering together to play, eat and act as Jews are all equally important and a rich Jewish life draws upon all these experiences. All are seen as holy acts.

Not only are learning, gathering and praying equally holy, but as far as space is concerned, they are interchangeable. We can dance and learn in a sanctuary. We can pray and eat in a classroom. We can chant and study Torah in a social hall. For the Jewish people, having a space restricted to one religious purpose misrepresents a Jewish definition of a sacred act and unnecessarily narrows a Jewish definition of religion itself.

This isn’t to say Judaism doesn’t have a foundational core: Torah and our children. We don’t have to go any further than the *Shema*, which reminds us 3 times daily: *V'shinantam l'vanecha*: and you will teach and reinforce [living by Torah] to your children and continually speak of them and their values. The *Shema* continues, paraphrased, that Torah is to be lived and taught wherever we go, whatever we do and at all hours of the day.

So, of all the sacred things that Temple Beth-El does—indeed, that any synagogue does—it is teaching our children that is foundational to our people’s mission statement. Of course, much teaching happens in a classroom, but when a synagogue lives up to all its names, integrating a strong, positive Jewish identity happens in learning, playing, celebrating, eating, dancing, helping, storytelling, praying, schmoozing, doing, listening—the list goes on. If learning starts and stops at the classroom door, it is sadly hollowed out.

So much of our lives have been hollowed out this past year. TBE has been thinking hard about how we will reclaim our lives as we emerge from this year’s pandemic. So, when we thought about what is foundational, the answer was easy: getting our children back into an environment where they can learn and live their Judaism fully and safely.

This is the place from which our ‘Foundations’ project was born. As we plan for reopening and getting our kids back into the building for school in the fall, we will reclaim our Jewish lives working from our ‘foundations’ up. The answer to how was staring us right in the face. Our Social Hall is the ‘foundation’ of our building, but is also the place from which to develop the ‘foundation’ of our community—our children, our celebrations and our being back together again—fully as a house of learning, a house of being together and a house of prayer.



continued on page 7

All Kabbalat Shabbat (Friday night services) at Temple Beth-El will be via Zoom video conferencing technology until further notice.

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, April 2	<i>Zoom</i>	6:30 pm
First Friday Kabbalat Shabbat Services featuring grades K, 1, 2, 6		
Friday, April 9	<i>Zoom</i>	8:00 pm
Kabbalat Shabbat Services		
Saturday, April 10	<i>Livestream</i>	10:30 am
Shabbat Morning Service Bar Mitzvah of Dexter Hudspeth Livestreamed over YouTube: https://youtu.be/5bksk_2UvYg		
Friday, April 16	<i>Zoom</i>	8:00 pm
Kabbalat Shabbat Services		
Friday, April 23	<i>Zoom</i>	8:00 pm
Kabbalat Shabbat Services		
Saturday, April 24	<i>Livestream</i>	10:30 am
Shabbat Morning Service Bar Mitzvah of Ben Rosenberg Livestreamed over YouTube: https://youtu.be/5bksk_2UvYg		
Friday, April 30	<i>Zoom</i>	6:00 pm
Musical Kabbalat Shabbat Services with Joshua Nelson (see page 4 for details) To RSVP click here For zoom link click here		
Friday, May 7		6:30 pm
First Friday Kabbalat Shabbat Services featuring Grades 3, 4, 5, 7		



Temple Beth-El

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UNION for REFORM JUDAISM
האיחוד ליהדות רפורמית

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

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Bob Kahan, Office Manager

admin@betheljc.org

Kay Magilavy, Past President

kay@betheljc.org

Irwin Rosen, Past President



Shabbat Candle Lighting

Friday, April 2	7:04 pm	Friday, April 23	7:26 pm
Friday, April 9	7:12 pm	Friday, April 30	7:34 pm
Friday, April 16	7:19 pm	Friday, May 7	7:41 pm



Thursday, April 15 @ 7:30 pm

Register by clicking [here](#)

Zoom link [here](#)

Bioethics, Justice and Covid-19

with
Rosamond Rhodes, Ph.D.



Join us for a lecture by Professor Rosamond Rhodes, Ph.D., who will provide a framework for thinking about matters of justice and will explain how this perspective applies to the allocation of medical resources that physicians distribute every day. She will conclude by applying her analysis of justice to COVID-19 decisions about the allocation of ventilators and prioritization for vaccination.

ROSAMOND RHODES, Ph.D., is the proud grandmother of Jacob, Benjamin, and Sasha Rosenberg. A leading figure in the field of Bioethics, she is Professor of Medical Education and Director of Bioethics Education at Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, Professor of Philosophy at The Graduate Center, CUNY, and Professor of Bioethics and Associate Director of the Clarkson-Mount Sinai Bioethics Program. She has published hundreds of articles and chapters; co-edited and authored several books and guides in the field of Bioethics.



tot Shabbat
Saturday, April 17
@ 10:30 over Zoom!

(Tot Shabbat Outside starting in May!)
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 your ruach (spirit) and singing voices!

Bracha the bear is waiting for us to return to our Temple! Meanwhile, Rabbi Moritt and Morah Marian will 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.



Future Tot Shabbat mornings: May 15 June 12 July 10 August 14

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.

sponsored by PJ Library

KABBALAT SHABBAT April 30 6:00-7:30pm

Joshua Nelson, an African-American Jew, is an internationally renowned, Grammy-nominated gospel singer. He mixes Jewish prayer with gospel music to create Kosher Gospel. He will have you up and dancing!



To RSVP click [here](#)
For zoom link click [here](#)

WITH JOSHUA NELSON



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How to participate in our Religious School

by Marion Kleinman, Director of Education

Join us at 6:30pm on Friday, April 2 and Friday, May 7, to see our students featured in these Family Shabbat services. Here's a "sneak preview" of part of our upcoming Friday, April 2nd service. Thank you to Ms. Joanna and her Kindergarten and second grade students for providing this video in advance, for all of us: Click [here](#) to view.



At our February and March YEC (Youth Education Committee) meetings, we discussed a plan to safely return to in-person classes for the upcoming 2021—2022 school year at Temple Beth-El. The decision was reached to transform our Social Hall to use for classes each Sunday morning. Parents and our TBE community are vitally important to help with this transition and change. Please be in touch with Rabbi or me to find out how you can assist and watch for invitations to help. Join our YEC which meets once a month.

Spring is in the air, and our teachers and students have all been busy! After Hebrew classes, which students always attend each week even when there's a special activity, we started our Pesach FUN-Day Sunday with guest visitor Donna Siani! Morah Donna lead everyone through a virtual "dance midrash" to explore the Pesach story. Then we headed to workshops, learning opportunities disguised as games! Thank you to the many families who attended with their children, and to the teachers for the special preparations. Ms. Mazie and Ms. Hara led the Pesach themed Jeopardy style game show; Ms. Brenda and Ms. Rosa ran a scavenger hunt to dive deeply into the symbols and feelings of Pesach; and Ms. Hadas and Mr. Nathan invited the children to "beat the clock" with a meaningful overview that talked about the many elements of the Seder.

Please continue to encourage your children to practice their Hebrew skills, starting at age 8 (Grade 3) and throughout their lives. It's an important Jewish tradition to prepare our children to lead Shabbat services and thus set apart the holy day of Shabbat. Students learn the prayers and blessings, songs and hymns, and we enjoy their blossoming participation as they advance. This spring, our children are preparing virtual presentations for the 6:30pm Family Shabbat services on Friday, April 2 and Friday, May 7.

We celebrate freedom each spring during *Pesach*. As we read the story of slavery in ancient Egypt and eat the "bread of affliction," *matzah*, we realize how blessed we are today. I am grateful to be here at Temple Beth-El with all of you.

Reminder: You can already complete and submit your Religious School registration form for the upcoming 5782 (2021-2022) Religious School year. Please do this at your earliest convenience using the form at our website. We need your registration in order to plan class schedules and teacher assignments for September. Please contact me right away if you have any questions about enrollment for the fall.

Chag Sameach (Happy Holiday),

Marion

morahmarian@betheljc.org www.betheljc.org

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL NOTES and DATES

First Friday of each month at 6:30 pm — FAMILY Shabbat Services

Religious School Students are expected to attend each month!

Friday, April 2 — Grades K, 1 2 & 6 are presenting in the service

Friday, May 7 — Grades 3, 4, 5 & 7 are presenting in the service

KADIMAH! *Spring Update*

HONORING OUR PAST.
BUILDING OUR FUTURE.

To our fellow members and longtime friends and supporters of Temple Beth-El,

Greetings from your Kadimah! Committee! We hope you're staying safe and healthy and your spring is off to a promising start!

Due to the unforeseen challenges that Covid-19 presented all of us, our original plans to resume the capital fundraising campaign last year were, unfortunately, derailed. Rather than seeing this *pause* in work as a negative, we're grateful for the extra time that has allowed us the unique opportunity to re-evaluate the true needs of our congregation and community as it stands today — as opposed to six years ago when this project first began.

As a result, we're so thrilled to share exciting updates as we reimagine the next phase of the Kadimah! Campaign, from the *foundation*, up! The idea of *foundation* for Temple Beth-El today starts with the children, our school and our community. It also reflects, quite literally, the foundation of the building, the social hall, where so many of our members join together, special gatherings and events take place, year after year. So, what better place to begin, than with the foundation of the building and community of Temple Beth-El!

Since the fall of 2020, your Kadimah! Committee has been laying the groundwork in reestablishing relationships and resuming conversations with key members and committees within Temple Beth-El as well as Landau Zinder, the architect leading the designs of the building renovation project. We've also formally engaged Grace Construction, the lead contractor and construction team, as well as enlisted a structural and mechanical engineer integral to work this project requires. Most recently, the Kadimah! Committee along with Rabbi Moritt met with Landau Zinder, Grace Construction and the full team at the building to do a thorough walk-through and discuss the new priorities and vision for the renovation project.

All the while, we've had very promising discussions with key members of the community who are both excited and committed to moving this work forward to ensure we can get our building functional, operational and, most importantly, safe for our Temple Beth-El community to come home to.

As we await next steps from Landau Zinder, we are incredibly optimistic and confident in resuming the next, reimagined phase of the Kadimah! Capital Campaign.

Should you wish to join our committee, please email the Kadimah! Committee at peter@betheljc.org.



Rabbi's Message *(continued from page 1)*

There will be a lot more to say in the coming weeks and months about how we will bring this plan to fruition as well as how we can all be part of this inspiring project. In the meantime, we are invigorated and excited for the next stages. We are profoundly grateful to the Kadimah! and Youth Education Committees, particularly Peter Retzlaff, Chloe Lipman and Laura Katzive for all their work and dedication so far. Thank them when you see them and ask how you can get involved- let the story and the plan go viral. This is a virus we can truly be excited about!

Rabbi Leana Moritt

PAJAMA HAVDALAH
 Saturday, April 24
 6:45-7:15 pm

Join Morah Marian and some of her favorite stuffed animals as the stars come out on Saturday night to say goodbye to Shabbat with a little story, a little song and a little mystery in the light of Havdalah.

Future Pajama Havdalahs:
 May 22 — Rabbi Moritt
 June 26 — Morah Marian
 July 24 — Rabbi Moritt
 August 21 — Morah Marian

Zoom meeting id: 850 2112 6695
 Passcode: havdallah

In partnership with 



Temple Beth-El is a conduit for COVID-19 vaccines.

Fill in **this form** if you are currently eligible for a COVID vaccine.

This form is for "standby appointments" for either a pre-arranged appointment or a last-minute vaccine in the event there is extra medicine available at the end of a day or unfilled appointments. If you have not already, you should also register for a vaccine on other appointment/registration systems.

Please only fill out this form if you are currently eligible for a Covid vaccine in New Jersey.

Once the eligibility criteria expands in New Jersey, newly eligible people may fill out this form at that point.

You do not need to be a member of Temple Beth-El to fill out this form.

IF YOU HAVE ALREADY FILLED OUT THIS FORM FOR A STANDBY VACCINE, DO NOT FILL IT OUT AGAIN.

PEACE ISLANDS
 INSTITUTE

Jewish/Muslim Dialog with our Neighbors

There are a few slots available to partner with Peace Islands Institute in a Jewish/Muslim dialog. Temple Beth-El will be part of a growing grassroots initiative in which a small group of members of each community gathers — not to hear a lecture, but to really engage on a particular topic in each of the approximately 7 sessions/one per month. If you would like to be part of this initiative, please let Rabbi Moritt know by April 6.



Dexter Elliot Hudspeth

Dexter Hudspeth, son of Eric Hudspeth and Loryn Sotsky, will become a bar mitzvah on April 10. Dex is an eighth grader at Woodrow Wilson school in Bayonne. Art and Social Studies are his favorite subjects and he also plays the saxophone and is very close to receiving his black belt in Tai Kwon Do.

Dexter started Hebrew school at Temple Beth-El in 2018 and sings in the youth choir and performed as Haman in last year's Purim shpiel. He has even learned to blow shofar and had the wonderful opportunity to do so with Rabbi Moritt on the Temple steps for the High Holidays this year. He also enjoyed volunteering with Family Promise, TBE's family shelter program.

Writing his Dvar Torah was his favorite part of his bar mitzvah preparation, and he plans to continue to learn about his religion and Jewish history. He always has a lot of questions about everything he learns. He's thankful for the help of Rabbi Moritt, Cantor Wallach, Morah Marian and Morah Miranda with his bar mitzvah studies.



Ben Rosenberg

My name is Benjamin Rosenberg. I will become a bar mitzvah on April 24. I live in Jersey City with my mother, father, brother and sister. My older brother Jacob is 16 and had his bar-mitzvah at the Temple Beth El. My sister Sasha is nine years old and attends Hebrew school at Temple Beth El.

When I am not studying for my bar-mitzvah I like playing soccer where I am on the Jersey City travel team. Over COVID I have enjoyed playing a lot of board games with my family; my favorite is Settlers of Catan. I attend Waterfront Montessori, where I have gone since kindergarten. Next year I will be a freshman at Montclair Kimberly Academy (MKA).

I actually had part of my bar-mitzvah last April, but because of COVID, was not able to read from the Torah, so I am fortunate enough that I get to do my bar-mitzvah again.

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

Acknowledgement of your contribution will be sent to the recipient and the message will be listed in the newsletter. To make a donation and offer a tribute for any reason, click [here](#) or contact the [office](#)

Food Pantry Donations

Fred & Karen Schnur
Tom Rosensweet & Barbara Hines

Sustaining Fund

Suzanne Goldstein Smith
& John Thompson
Donald & Neelam Mankoff
Harriet & Gerald Miller
Jonathan Pinn & Karen Seemen-Pinn
Tom Rosensweet & Barbara Hines

Streaming Service Donations

Chris Eig & Jennifer Dusel

Music Fund

In memory of grandmother
Cecelia Wahl Cohen
Irwin Rosen & Sharon Hirshberg

Thank you to Morah Marian for her
fun Purim Shpiel and great direction
Nancy & Nathan Sambul

Belated 84th Birthday to Harvey
Roter
Nancy & Nathan Sambul

Huge thank you to all the
Purim bag delivery volunteers
Nancy & Nathan Sambul

In memory of Martin Davis
on his yahrzeit
Nancy & Nathan Sambul

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Larry Gutterman

In memory of my sister,
Abby Portney
Stuart Portney

Temple Finances in the Time of Covid

Covid-19 has badly damaged our finances in a year in which we were already anticipating a shortfall. We now forecast a deficit of \$80,000 for the year fiscal year ending June 30. The US Government has helped by forgiving our \$36,000 PPP loan but we are still badly in need of additional funds.

The Board has seeded this campaign with pledges of \$17,230, more than one-third of our goal, but we need the entire Beth-El community to help us raise another \$50,000. We understand that the pandemic has hurt some of our members financially, but every contribution helps.

If you are fortunate enough, please consider a donation of \$1,000. If that's too much, we are most appreciative of any amount that suits your budget. Passover is the perfect time to honor our ancestors by doing what we can to keep Reform Judaism thriving in Hudson County.

Please do what you can. Donate [here](#). Click "Event Ticket or Fundraising Initiative" and then check "2021 Board Challenge" on the dropdown.

Thank you, as always, for your support.

Tom Rosensweet, President

Youth Group

Sunday, April 4

Junior Youth Group (5th-7th grades) 2:30-4:00 pm

Senior Youth Group (8th-12th grades) 4:00-5:30 pm

(Youth Group usually meets the last weekend of the month but we didn't want to disrupt anyone's Passover plans!)

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Thursday, April 29

Devil in Jerusalem: A Novel

by Naomi Ragen

Look for the new date soon, and email Joanna Tartikoff at bookclub@betheljc.org for the Zoom link.

Ying's Gifts & Accessories

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WEEKLY on Wednesdays at TBE

Our neighbors need your generosity

Please lend a hand by volunteering [here](#) for our Wednesday Food Pantry, by donating the foods and clothing listed [here](#), or by donating funds [here](#) so we can 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

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. 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!



Prayers for Healing

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.



Family Promise of Hudson County

Building community, strengthening lives.

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. Family Promise has provided hosting opportunities and social services for working families, so they can stay together while struggling to get back on their feet and move to a new home. 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 how you plan to make this year one of giving to those less fortunate than yourself.



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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 Thorner 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

**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](#)

Yahrzeits



Week ending April 3

- Arlene Hysen
- Andy Lackowitz
- Lennox McKell
- Eilleen T. W. Pollack
- Harry Sandlaufer
- Rose Sternberg
- Irving Vogelman

- Yetta DeNoble
- Liliyen Meshell-Chiltern
- Anna Padlipsky
- Leon Sambul

Week ending April 24

- Herman Barda
- Rabbi Samuel A. Berman
- Elizabeth Daniel
- Rubin L. Gorewitz
- Fred G. Moritt

Week ending April 10

- Libby Bergen
- Lothar Daniel
- Jerome Sinclair Leibowitz
- Deborah Baker Terry
- Howard Weil

Week ending May 1

- Florence Goldberg
- Ruth Golin
- Clara Karten
- Eugene Rottenberg

Week ending April 17

- Ellen Baker



**Online Cooking
or Bridge**

If you are interested in forming an online **Temple Bridge group** or an **online cooking group** please get in touch with Joanna Tartikoff at bookclub@betheljc.org.



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



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!