



The Reform Congregation of Jersey City

P 201-333-4229

www.betheljc.org

September 2019 Elul—Tishrei 5779-5780



Yamim Nora'im

High Holy Days at Temple Beth-El 2019/5780

All are welcome to all services and events!
Beth-El Members will receive their entrance cards for Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur. Visitors are asked to preregister online at <https://betheljc.org/hhtix> so we may welcome you properly.
See our full High Holy Day Schedule on page 6.
And for a very special start to the New Year, join us in the Torah Project, where we will restore all five of our beautiful Torah scrolls—and you can help with the writing! **See page 3 for details.**

And Now, Write For Yourself This Song!

by Rabbi Moritt

We all have one—that song or that album. You know what I'm talking about—that recording we played over and over until it was worn out and everyone else was sick of hearing it. For me it was the Beatles' Abbey Road. I still know every lyric; every harmony part and every drum beat like the back of my own hand. It is seared into my being forever. What was it for you?

Did you know that the last and 613th mitzvah in the Torah is to make the Torah like that? We are taught the Torah – every book, every song, story – indeed every letter is so precious that each of us are supposed to write a Torah ourselves. Why? Like our favorite album, our sages understood that by writing it ourselves, it gets under our skin. Yes, writing our own *sefer* Torah is, in fact the 613th commandment.

We read at the end of the book of Deuteronomy: "And now, write for yourselves this song, and teach it to the children of Israel. Place it into their mouths, in order that this song will be for Me as a witness for the children of Israel." (31:19) And it goes double for our leaders, who have the responsibility of ruling by the lessons of Torah. Deuteronomy teaches that in addition to the Torah that every Jew must write, kings have the obligation to write a second Torah. (Deut. 17:18) The song in the text is *Ha'azinu*, but the rabbis interpreted this passage as referring to writing the entire Torah. Legend teaches that Moses himself wrote or completed a Torah scroll on the very day he passed away. So important is this principal--Jewish law says that even if we have a Torah scroll that we inherited from a parent, we are still obligated to write one.

We have this mitzvah to underscore the centrality of this miraculous book to us and to our tradition. It is a book that has withstood the test of time and has inspired modern and ancient civilizations. Our Torah is the basis of law and much of western society to this day. It binds us as a people. Torah teaches us about ourselves and about what it means to live a good and meaningful life and so much more.

OK Rabbi, but how does this translate to us? Practically speaking, let's face it: few of us would have much use for a Torah scroll sitting in the back of our closets. And wouldn't typing one out and printing it on a laser printer or reading it on an e-reader be more efficient?

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Friday, September 6:

	First Friday Pot Luck Dinner	6:30 pm
	Kabbalat Shabbat Family Services & oneg	7:30 pm

Saturday, September 7

Shabbat morning services celebrating the bat mitzvah of Sophie Graff 10:30 am

Friday, September 13

Kabbalat Shabbat Service followed by oneg 8:00 pm

Saturday, September 14

Shabbat Morning Services followed by Torah Study 10:30 am

Friday, September 20

Kabbalat Shabbat services followed by oneg 8:00 pm

Saturday, September 21

Shabbat Morning Services followed by Torah Study 10:30 am



Program in preparation for the High Holy Days: Dessert, Havdalah, film and discussion: Crimes and Misdemeanors with 6:30 pm

discussion led by Rabbi Steven Kushner and Rabbi Moritt, followed by Slichot prayers and the installation ceremony of our High Holy Day Torah Mantles

Friday, September 27

Kabbalat Shabbat Services followed by oneg 8:00 pm

Saturday, September 28

Shabbat Morning Services followed by Torah Study 10:30 am

Friday, October 4

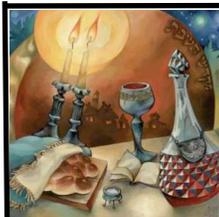
First Friday Pot Luck Dinner 6:30 pm

Kabbalat Shabbat Family Services 7:30 pm

Saturday, October 5

Shabbat morning services followed by Torah Study 10:30 am

High Holy Day service schedule on page 6



Thanking those who sponsored food or flowers for our bimah or Oneg Shabbats (through August 16)

Rabbis Leana Moritt and Steven Kushner on the occasion of their marriage

Irene Hersberg in memory of her mother, Florence, on her Yarzeit

Tom Rosensweet & Barbara Hines in memory of Tom's mother, Beatrice, on her Yarzeit.

how to Host an Oneg Shabbat

Would you like to sponsor an oneg Shabbat? This joyful gathering is a great way to recognize an accomplishment, celebrate a birthday, let the world know you are happy, or honor the memory of a loved one on a yarzeit. Choose your date! [Click here](#) to go to the sponsorship form.



Temple Beth-El

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Jersey City, NJ 07304

Phone: 201-333-4229 Fax: 201-938-0445

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UNION for REFORM JUDAISM
האיחוד ליהדות רפורמית

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Mon-Fri 10am – 1pm

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School Co-Director kay@betheljc.org

Irwin Rosen, Past President

To see the full roster of trustees & committees

[click here](#) or visit www.betheljc.org



Shabbat & Holiday Candle Lighting

Friday, September 6 7:03 pm

Friday, September 13 6:51 pm

Friday, September 20 6:39 pm

Friday, September 27 6:27 pm

Sunday, September 29 6:24 pm

Rabbi's Message

continued from page 1

Yes, but just as I only really know Abbey Road because of the time I spent with every note, so too we keep the Torah precious by preserving the majestic form our scrolls have embodied for thousands of years. We write a Torah so we may live a life of Torah and sing its songs. And really — do we want our children can stand on the bimah on the morning of their b'nai mitzvah and receive an iPad or a paperback passed from generation to generation? Or rather, do we want them to be connected to the timeless thread that connects them to countless generations before them?

To sustain their ancient form, Torah scrolls have been copied letter by letter, word for word in the same exact form for thousands of years, typos and all! The instructions for the parchment; the ink; the quill; the writer and the format have followed the same unbroken tradition for almost as long. It is a fascinating process to witness and anyone who has the chance to see the artistry of *sof'rut* (the scribal arts) up close would be wise to accept the invitation. It is fascinating and beautiful.

When a congregation writes a Torah, it is truly cause for celebration. Temple Beth-El will have a lot to celebrate this year on Simchat Torah when we dance with our scrolls. This is because if all goes according to plan, by the time we get to that holiday, we will be dancing with 5 completed and kosher scrolls for the first time in a very long time.

This will not happen, however, without you. Of course, now that you know how important it is to write a Torah scroll, you want to know how you can take part at Beth-El! Well, luckily for all of us, one does not need to write the entire Torah or do it oneself; one may commission a *sofer* (scribe) to write it.

We are all invited to participate in a very special mitzvah project. One of our Torah scrolls will be literally be completed and co-written by us as individuals and as a congregation. If you have not already, avail yourself of the opportunity to buy a letter or passage in the Torah and fulfill the mitzvah of writing a Torah in your lifetime. You will literally hold the quill while the *sofer* guides your hand on the parchment to complete this sacred and humbling task. (See details in the box below.) I hope to see the entire congregation present on the days our *soferim* are working to appreciate the art, craft and restoration expertise they will bring to our Torah scrolls.

This project also honors Beth-El's past while ensuring our future. There is an unspoken agreement that whenever anybody is called to the Torah, all of the community members temporarily give that person full ownership of the Torah for the duration of that *aliyah*. When our children are called to the Torah as b'nai mitzvah, we pass them the *yad* (pointer) in a symbolic communal passing of that ownership and privilege. In that moment, and through our being part of writing that Torah, we imbue that child with our Jewish hopes.

With this Torah writing and repair effort successfully completed this fall, those of us who participate in this incredible experience will merit the gratification of knowing that our children and children of future generations will be able to grasp, carry and read from scrolls we wrote ourselves.

To (almost) quote Abbey Road: And in the end, the Torah you take is equal to the Torah you make. I can't imagine a better legacy.



The Torah Project

About 130 years ago, in Lithuania, a scribe of Hebrew sacred texts, a *sofer* completed his work

on a beautiful Torah. All that was left was to guide the hand of the person who commissioned the writing of this scroll as he filled in the letters of the powerful first words of the Torah: "In the beginning, God created the heaven and the earth." But, for reasons as unknown to us as the identity of the *sofer*, this final touch was not completed.

The scroll and four others, each with its unique story, came to Temple Beth-El many years ago and have been read again and again on Shabbat, on holidays and at Bar and Bat Mitzvahs. Between a century of use and the challenging environmental conditions in our sanctuary since the copper theft on the roof, all five of our beautiful scrolls are in need of professional restoration. You can help make it happen. There are 20 letters of the Lithuanian scroll still left unfinished by the original scribe.

YOU can write one of these letters under the supervision of a *sofer* on Sunday, September 15. For details on this project and the funds it will raise for the Temple, go to <https://betheljc.org/write-a-torah/>

From the President by Tom Rosensweet

The cicadas always get me. By mid-August every year, their loud, rhythmic buzz reminds me that Everlasting Summer is just a surfing-movie illusion and that school is just around the corner. We may not have spent our summers surfing in Pittsburgh but still, a bad day of summer always seemed better than a good day of school.

Once you got started, though, it wasn't so bad. Seeing friends, getting back to the old routines, starting some new ones for a new year, reminded us that life can be one part Circle of Life and one part Something New.

And once school starts, surely the High Holy Days can't be far behind. We celebrate the new year on the Jewish calendar and we atone for our sins and pledge to do better this time around.

We'll be slower to anger, we'll watch our tongues, we'll be kinder and more understanding to our partners and children. We'll use our time more constructively. We'll do something for our fellow man. Well, I have a few ideas for you.

Give something back. Give to your community. Temple Beth-El has four ways we help to provide support to people who need it.

- We have a Food Pantry that dispenses food on Wednesday evenings to about 30 people, and we need \$300 of food every week plus a few volunteers. Check the weekly Temple email to see what we need and to access our Amazon Wishlist, which helps ensure that we have what we need for our visitors. Amazon also donates a portion of your purchase to Temple Beth-El.
- We participate in Family Promise, providing homeless families with a place to stay for a week, four weeks per year. We need volunteers including people to make a dinner for our guests.
- We participate in Jersey City Together, a community organizing group that focuses on housing issues, education and crime and policing.
- And, each year at the High Holidays, we collect donations for Mazon, an organization that fights hunger among people of all faiths in the U.S. and Israel.

By the way, all of these activities are organized by our Social Action Committee. And that reminds me of another way you can pitch in. Volunteer for a Temple Committee. Most of our committees could use some help, even just a few hours a month. You could participate in our Facilities Committee, Cemetery, Fundraising, Membership, Lifelong Learning, Religious Practices, and...Social Action.

You can find out how to **VOLUNTEER** volunteer by looking for relevant articles in our weekly email or by writing to me. I'll hook you up.



Terumah for Fiscal Year 2019-20

The Board has recommended no increase in the suggested amount for Terumah Free Will Giving dues program for the coming year. We have kept it at \$2,400 per year.

By now, most of our longtime members understand how Terumah works, but it doesn't hurt to explain it again.

The Temple needs your donations to survive. It's that simple. But we know that some people can afford to give significantly more than can others. We ask you to give as much as you can so that the larger donations can complement the smaller ones, supporting a community in which all members are treated equally.

We have no Gold or Platinum membership cards, only the knowledge that your support will enable our 155-year-old congregation to continue providing Shabbat and holiday services and life-cycle events, and keep helping our less fortunate members and neighbors.

Please go to <https://betheljc.org/pledge> today and make your pledge and your payment arrangements. And please give as generously as you can. We have barely broken even for the past few years, so we really need for each member to donate as much as they can to ensure that Temple Beth-El continues on the exciting path of growth and renewal that we've set for ourselves. We'll get there if we all do what we can.

Cantorial Thoughts by Cantor Risa Wallach

'It has been said that at the time when one who had transgressed the Law brought his sacrifice to the holy temple in Jerusalem, the priest would look at him and perceive all his thoughts. If he found that the man had not yet repented completely, the priest would direct the Levites to begin to chant a melody, in order to bring the sinner to teshuba*(sp). Music leads us to the threshold of repentance, of unbearable relevance of God. I would define myself as a person who has been smitten by music. As a person who has never recovered from the blows of music. And yet, music is a vessel that may hold anything. It may express vulgarity; it may impart sublimity. It may utter vanity; it may inspire humility. It may engender fury, it may kindle compassion. It may convey stupidity and it can be the voice of grandeur. It often voices man's highest reverence, but often brings to expression frightful arrogance. Cantorial music is first of all music in the service of the liturgical word.'

Abraham Joshua Heschel, *The Vocation of the Cantor* (*spelling is Heschel's)



The month of Elul marks the beginning of the process of "returning" in the Jewish calendar. The *Yamim Nora'im* or Days of Awe include Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur as well as the ten days in between. *Teshuva* describes not only the atonement that is a central aspect of the Jewish observance of the season, but also the process of return. We return to our best vision of our lives, ourselves and of our world. We begin the daily recitation of Psalm 27, the Psalm for the Days of Awe, during Elul. We begin anticipating the upcoming holiday observances, and we may even begin to reflect on the atonement we will undertake in the coming month.

Being a cantor means that I begin preparing for leading High Holy Day services during the summer. I begin thinking about the music of the festivals, the chanting in familiar musical modes called *nusach*, which is unique for each type of festival, each time of day, and for weekdays or Shabbat. I start to hear in my mind the special trope used only at the High Holy Days, and the special changes in the unique Yamim Noraim liturgy itself.

The *nusach* is the traditional chant of Jewish liturgy within a musical mode, which relies on specific musical motifs (short musical patterns), and improvisation with a musical mode or scale. The motifs are most often defined as the opening, closing and middle part of a musical phrase. The most well-known of closing motifs would be followed by the response 'Amen' in the same short motif.

The Ashkenazi *nusach* dates back at least seven centuries and is rooted in Eastern, Central and Western Europe, with influences that likely came from the Ottoman Empire. Some of the High Holy Day melodies are among the oldest in our tradition, and are referred to as 'Mi Sinai' tunes. That is, they are thought of as being so old, and their origin so unknown, that they may as well have come from God at Mount Sinai! During the crusades there was an effort to make them a fixed element of ritual, as Jewish life became threatened in the Rhineland region. A few examples of Mi Sinai tunes are Kol Nidre; the Aleinu Gadol; and Ha Melech, the opening line to the Shacharit or morning service on High Holy Days. There may be different versions of these melodies, but they have enough in common that their musical DNA remains the same across time and geography.

And of course, there are musical settings composed by older and more contemporary composers, some of which have become traditional elements of the Selichot, Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur services. The musical settings may resemble popular music of the time, such as the classical music milieu of the Jewish choirmaster Solomon Sulzer, who worked and composed in Vienna at the same time as Franz Schubert.

Whatever the melody, it can be quite evocative of the time of year, of the moments we may have shared with family and loved ones in years past, moments of grief in loss in as in the Yizkor (memorial service), and of the turning of the seasons from summer to fall. Music is the vehicle that helps bring expression to that which may be beyond or outside of spoken words. It bridges the gap between our souls and the places to which they may want to travel.

On Thursday, September 12th at 7:30 pm, Rabbi Moritt and I will present an evening event called the "High Holy Day Warm-up." Often the holidays come upon us and we have frantically prepared all of the logistics, with no time left to reflect or engage in the meaning of the festival from a new angle.

This year we will sit together, learn about aspects of the Yamim Noraim, and begin to re-engage with the varied and wonderful music of the High Holy Days. We invite you to join us, and sincerely hope to see you, your friends and family on September 12th at Temple Beth El. Come sing and learn with us!



**Saturday,
September 14
10.30 — noon**

Calling all children 0-5
and their grownups!



Join Rabbi Moritt, Cantor Wallach and Bracha the Beth-El Bear for a morning of Shabbat song, story, movement, crafts, snack and friendship.

Celebrate your birthday at Tot Shabbat by signing up to bring a special snack in honor of your child's special day or just sign up to help us celebrate Shabbat. We will provide juice. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0f4eaba62eabfdo-totshabbat>

Mark your Calendars for Tot Shabbat mornings all year:

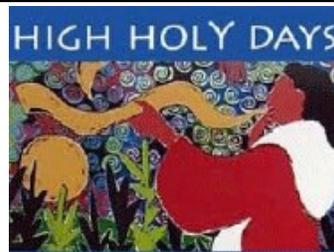
Oct 19- in the Sukkah!	Feb 22	Jun 13
Nov 16	Mar 28	Jul 11
Dec 21	Apr 25	Aug 15
Jan 11	May 16	

Watch your emails for special Downtown Tot Shabbat dates. If you are not our Tot Shabbat list, please email office@betheljc.org and ask to be added to our email list. Drop-ins always welcome.



Bat Mitzvah

Sophie Graff, daughter of Jon and Elsa Graff, will become a Bat mitzvah on September 7. Sophie is an 8th grader at Primary Prep. She loves fencing, cooking and singing. Among her good deeds, Sophie enjoys volunteering at the Hoboken Shelter, where she helps prep food and clean. Sophie's favorite part of being Jewish is celebrating the holidays with family.



High Holy Day Musical Warm-up

Thursday September 12 7:30 pm
Join Cantor Wallach and Rabbi Moritt for a musical and spiritual preparation and reflection on the upcoming holy days.

Selichot Pre-High Holy Day Preparation

Saturday, September 21 6:30 pm
*Dessert, Havdalah, film and discussion
Followed by Slichot prayers and the installation ceremony of our High Holy Day Torah Mantles*

ROSH HASHANAH

Sunday, September 29 **Rosh Hashanah Eve**
Evening Service 8:00 pm
Followed by dessert reception to welcome Cantor Risa Wallach

Monday, September 30 **Rosh Hashanah Day 1**

Morning Service 10:00 am
Family Service 2:15 pm
Followed by "Happy Birthday to the World" nosh

Tashlich at Liberty State Park 4:30 pm
Gather along water near picnic area at the end of Morris Pesin Drive.

Tuesday, October 1 **Rosh Hashanah Day 2**
Morning Service 10:00 am

YOM KIPPUR

Tuesday, October 8 **Kol Nidre**
Evening Service 7:30 pm

Wednesday, October 9 **Yom Kippur Day**
Morning Service 10:00 am – 1:00 pm
Family Service in Sanctuary 2:00 – 3:00 pm
Forum in the Social Hall 2:00 – 3:00 pm
Music & Private Prayer in Sanctuary 3:00 pm
Yizkor Service 3:30 pm
Mincha & Ne'ilah/afternoon
& closing Service 4:30 pm
Havdalah and Tekiat Shofar:

approximately 7:20 pm
Communal Break-the-Fast immediately following Ne'ilah. [RSVP to office@betheljc.org](mailto:office@betheljc.org)

Meet the Temple Leadership!

Curious about the leadership of Temple Beth-El? During the course of the year, we'll bring you brief bios, so you can learn about the people helping to run our Temple.



Before the Internet, there was no easy way to find a reform congregation in Hudson County. Having subscribed to the Jersey Journal as soon as we moved to Downtown in February 1989, I read about a Purim celebration at Temple Beth-El, the Reform Congregation of Jersey City which I attended – even before Ken Brickman became our rabbi that July!

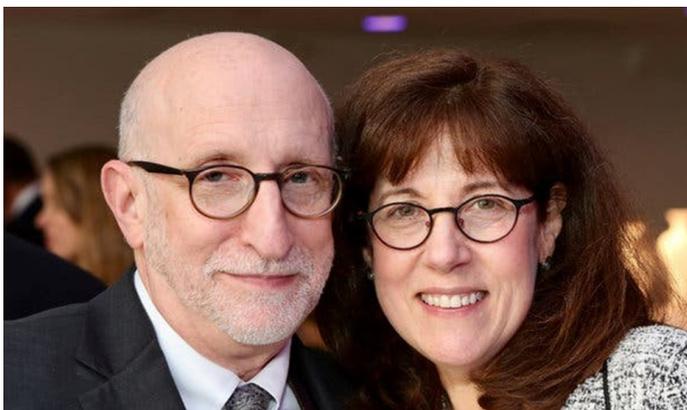
I've been involved with the Jersey City Library Adult Literacy Program (ESL and Basic Literacy) since 2001, first as Executive Director, and now as the Director of Financy and Grants. I retired as a Trusts and Estate Attorney in 2005. I'm currently a CASA volunteer (Court Appointed Special Advocate) working as the eyes and ears of a Hudson County Family Court Judge in a case involving a child in foster care. And I drive refugee families on Thursday nights to Alan Mentha's Welcome Home Fun Club when I am in town.

I've been a Trustee or an Officer since I was first elected in May 1990. And I celebrated my 50th birthday by finally having a Bat Mitzvah. I'm extremely proud to belong to such a caring community. TBE is my spiritual home.

And, because I'm short with white hair, I'm often addressed as "Kay" – which I love since I think Kay has the most beautiful hair in the world!

Recognize this couple? Their wedding announcement in

The New York Times July 7, 2019



Rabbi Leana Moritt and Rabbi Steven Carter Kushner are to be married July 7 at Temple Ner Tamid in Bloomfield N.J. Rabbi Rex Perlmeter is to officiate, leading the ceremony with his wife, Rabbi Rachel Hertzman.

Rabbi Moritt, 56, is the rabbi at Temple Beth-El of Jersey City. She graduated from N.Y.U. She is the vice president of the New Jersey-West Hudson Valley Association of Reform Rabbis.

She is a daughter of R. Skye Moritt of Magliaso, Switzerland, and the late Fred G. Moritt. The bride's father was a judge in Brooklyn for the Civil Court of

the City of New York, and also served in the New York Senate from 1945 to 1957. He also composed dozens of songs including "Sing Everyone Sing," sung by the tenor Jan Peerce in 1951. Her mother, a stay-at-home parent, was a Pan Am stewardess in the 1950s, and in the 1980s a part-time historian of houses in Eastern Long Island for the Society for the Preservation for Long Island Antiquities.

Rabbi Kushner, 69, is the emeritus rabbi at Temple Ner Tamid. He graduated from Wayne State University. He is a son of the late Miriam E. Kushner and the late Aid Kushner, who lived in Detroit. The groom's mother was a stay-at-home parent, who in the 1930s and '40s was a classical pianist in Detroit. The groom's father worked as a salesman at Sears, and from 1934 to 1940 was an athletic trainer for the Detroit Lions football team. Rabbi Kushner is a descendant of John Alden and Priscilla Mullins, passengers on the Mayflower.

The couple met in 2009 over Torah study at a diner in Little Falls, N.J., when a mutual friend invited Rabbi Moritt to join an ongoing Torah study group, in which Rabbi Kushner was, and still is, a member.

Yom Kippur Memorial Book

Temple Beth-El's Yom Kippur Yizkor Memorial Book is distributed at the Yom Kippur Yizkor Service as a way to honor the memories of deceased family members and friends.

Members and non-members are welcome to participate in this mitzvah.

If you would like your loved ones listed, please complete the form below and return it to the Temple **by September 13**, or complete the form online at <http://betheljc.org/mbook>

In keeping with the Jewish tradition of combining memorial observance with acts of Tzedakah (charity), it is customary to include a donation to the Temple with each submission.

If you have submitted names for our Yom Kippur Yizkor Memorial Book in the past and there are no changes from your previous submission, please so indicate on the form.

The closing date for inclusion in the Memorial Book is September 13.

2019/5780 Yizkor Book

Your name(s) as you wish to be listed: (e.g., Abe and Sarah Melech or The Melech Family)

_____ Please use listing from last Yom Kippur **OR** _____ Please use listing below:

Name of loved one

Relationship (father, mother, etc.)

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Continue your list on another sheet of paper if needed.

Phone/Email _____ in case we have questions.

If you would like to make a donation in memory of your loved ones, we suggest \$18 minimum per name, but any amount is welcome.

\$ 18 per name listed

_____ names x \$18 \$ _____

Additional voluntary donation \$ _____

Total donation \$ _____

____ Check enclosed ____ Paid online at www.betheljc.org/donate

**Mail this form to: Temple Beth-El, 2419 Kennedy Blvd, Jersey City, NJ 07304.
or complete the online at <http://betheljc.org/mbook>**



Family Promise October 20-27 — We Need YOU

by Laraine (Lari) Schwartz

I am pleased to announce that we have successfully completed three of our four weeks as host for 4-5 temporarily homeless families. Thank you all for your generous time and support to help the Family Promise families feel safe and secure as they all travel this precarious road back to having a home of their own.

Family Promise is a national program that helps working families stay together, boys and girls, fathers and mothers, all while struggling to get back on their feet and move to a new home. Family Promise of Hudson County housed people totaling over 2200 nights in 2018. Temple Beth-El is one of 13 congregations that has committed to four weeks of hosting a year. This summer we began a “buddy” system with United Synagogue of Hoboken, which will also provide volunteers. We are hopeful that our two synagogues will be able to keep Family Promise adequately staffed.

Despite this being our second year hosting families, many people at Temple are still surprised to learn of the program and don't know about this wonderful opportunity, the mitzvah for you and your family and the safe space we provide for the families. Basically, we set up our Social Hall four times a year so that 4 or 5 temporarily working homeless families have a place to eat and sleep and feel “at home.” Every time I walk into our Social Hall during our hosting week and see the set up of partitions and mattresses and children and their parents, all cozy in a place that I so often pray within, I feel so blessed and truly moved that we offer this space and share it as a home for others, and it is all possible with the help of people like you.

Temple Beth-El will once again be hosting Family Promise October 20—27. To make this happen WE NEED YOUR HELP. **The success of our sharing our space depends on the generosity of your time and energy.**

We need VOLUNTEERS:

- To bring **dinner** for 10 to 13 people every night.
- To come with your own children or on your own to **entertain** the families, especially the kids, at 6:30 and have dinner with the families. Mostly the kids need to be amused as their parents relax. I find the kids entertain me!! The adults all are mostly working mothers and they come back from work, exhausted from the day's travels to and from work and the searching for housing and keeping their children safe and under some care by some organization!
- To **sleep** in our Social Hall with the families. You usually will get a full night's sleep, and all the while you will have a supervisory presence and turn the lights back on in the a.m. The families sleep around 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. and get a ride early at 6:30 a.m. to the Family Promise Day Center, located at the Fountain of Salvation on Communipaw Avenue in Jersey City.

You may wonder how these families fell into such dire straits. Some families have lost jobs or are working at employment that does not pay sufficient income to meet the bills every month. Others suffer adverse circumstances such as caring for special needs children that demand time and money that would otherwise be used for working or housing. Family Promise provides social services and day services to help these people find jobs and housing and return to the normalcy of their lives as a family.

This is a great opportunity for families with children, for the mitzvah, to serve our community at large. Especially in this day, when the world watches as children are being separated from their parents, Family Promise's aim is to keep families together. Family Promise helps children learn first hand that others are less fortunate, and this is a wonderful time to give to the community around us. Volunteer training is available.



Three ways to contact us with questions or to volunteer:

SIGN UP NOW at www.betheljc.org

GO TO SIGN UP GENIUS at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0548A8A92CA4F58-family7>

EMAIL Lari at lari@betheljc.org, subject line: Family Promise questions.

Introduction to Judaism Beginning Again This Fall!

20 week program
Thursday evenings at 7:30 pm
beginning October 24

If you're curious about Judaism and what this 3,000-year-old tradition has to offer you or your family's life, welcome!

Open to all, our class is designed for individuals and couples from Jewish and various faith traditions and cultural backgrounds and those who have had no religious upbringing. It is perfect for interfaith couples wanting to broaden their understanding of Judaism or who are raising or plan to raise Jewish children. It is equally appropriate for seekers or Jews who want a meaningful adult Jewish learning experience.

Our class will focus on the "hows" and "whys" of Judaism and cover highlights, core concepts, master stories, key figures and the building blocks of Judaism. We will cover ethics, the Sabbath and holidays, prayer, life cycle events, dietary customs, the Jewish people and Israel. We will delve into Jewish theology, history and the meaning and practice of Jewish living. Each session will be a conversation, encouraging multiple perspectives, inquiries and questions. Inspiring readings for each week will be assigned ahead of time, and additional readings and viewing option will be suggested as the course progresses.

For non-Jewish participants, this class can serve as preparation for conversion to Judaism; however, commitment to conversion is not required at any point in the program. Rabbi Moritt is also available to meet privately with students exploring conversion. Synagogue membership is not required.

Please be in touch her at RabbiMoritt@betheljc.org with questions, to register or to set up a meeting. Meeting is necessary before registering.

Cost: Free for members. \$200 for non-members.

Students will also share in the cost of one Shabbat dinner and take turns bringing snacks for the class. All are welcome.



INTRODUCTION TO JUDAISM is an engaging 20-session course for anyone who wants to gain a deeper understanding of Jewish life. Discover what could be meaningful to you in liberal Judaism.

This course is designed for individuals and couples from various faith traditions and cultural backgrounds and those who have had no religious upbringing. It is perfect for interfaith couples, those raising Jewish children, spiritual seekers, individuals considering conversion, and Jews who want a meaningful adult Jewish learning experience.

All people, perspectives, and questions are welcome!

**Temple Beth-El,
Jersey City, NJ**
Thursdays at 7:30PM
Beginning Oct. 24th
Instructor:
Rabbi Leana Moritt
For more information,
please contact:
RabbiMoritt@betheljc.org
201.333.4229

Register now at ReformJudaism.org/Intro/NJ or RabbiMoritt@betheljc.org



Created in partnership with the Union for Reform Judaism and local Reform congregations, Introduction to Judaism is a course for anyone interested in exploring Judaism.

Member
Spotlight

Our Last Leaf – Molly Heitner by Nancy Sambul

In 1989, at the first Shabbat evening service I attended, there was an incredible group of women who immediately introduced themselves. Several had lived in Van Vorst Park area and were excited that someone from downtown had found Temple Beth-El. From that first meeting, they all became my Temple Beth-El “Aunties.”

They were the leaders of the synagogue, the women that made almost everything happen. Monthly Sisterhood luncheons, with the November Jewish Book discussion, Oneg Shabbats; sitting in the Berman House stuffing, stamping, addressing and mailing newsletters, willingly participating in every committee to produce all the events – from fundraising to lifelong learning. As Molly said to me: “We just did whatever needed to be done, whatever we could do.”



Jeanette Lewin & Molly Heitner

So, it’s no surprise that these were the people who were all on the committee in 1986 that produced our very successful celebration of 70 years in our current sanctuary. I wish all current members had known Bea Kaplan, Judy Kaplan, Shirley Haar, Mimi Nickelsporn, Ruth Lubow and Jeanette Lewin.

But fortunately, we still have Molly Heitner.

Molly and Charles Heitner were members of the Bergen Avenue Synagogue where Molly’s family had long belonged. But, after her father died, the women of the Beth-El Sisterhood were so kind and friendly. They would always invite her to attend the monthly sisterhood luncheon/meetings. She finally encouraged Charles to move their membership over to Temple Beth-El, and all three of her sons (Kenneth, Richard z’l and Alan) had their bar mitzvahs here.

She instilled a great love of Judaism in her children and grandchildren. Kenneth was the President of Central Synagogue for many years and remains an active member there. She has 5 grandchildren and several great-grandchildren who bring her great joy with their frequent telephone calls.

Molly lives in the Saint John’s Place condominium apartments, which used to have close to 10 member families. (The Bettingers still live in her building.) It was such a lovely place that both Shirley Haar and Judy Kaplan moved to the sister rental building at 10 Huron Place when they sold their homes on Jewett Avenue. Molly’s sister lived in the apartment next door.



Mimi Nickelsporn, Bea Kaplan & Judy Kaplan

Charles owned a shoe store in Hoboken and Molly worked in administration at NJCU. In fact, when we attended the annual Martin Luther King luncheon at NJCU this past January, it was incredible how many staff members approached our table to say hello, and they were so excited to see her.

Molly is not always able to attend services but comes as often as she can. So be on the lookout in case you get a chance to meet her.

Welcome to our newest members:

Cantor Risa and Rhetta Wallach of Union City



Roots and Wings— Notes on the School from Kay Magilavy

When I was growing up, it seemed every year brought a new move. My father served in the Army Air Corps (later the Air Force) and was posted from one end of the country to another. Once he retired, we moved to Chicago where he studied at the University of Chicago under the GI Bill and then went from job to job to job.

I never liked the moves. What few friends you could make as the perpetual “new kid” in town were left behind. Fortunately, from the time I was in second grade through Consecration in 10th grade, we belonged to synagogues that gave me friends and family who were never left behind. I loved the Torah stories, the history and poetry of the Tanach and the lessons taught by the “Wise Men” of Chelm.

Like Jacob, I always felt that each new move into another town in another state would take me out of God’s reach, and I would find myself in a place with no Jewish roots. But I never did. I continued to find myself, through Religious School and holiday celebrations, embraced by a generations-old bargain that reminded me that each minute brings an opportunity to better the world, one smile, one act of Tzedakah, one kind word at a time. That the Judaism I know is less concerned with belief than what you do with that belief.

This is the connection with Jewish tradition that I have tried to bring into the curriculum, the activities and the faculty of TBE’s Religious School. We study a lot of Torah stories, and bring those stories to life. We mine the stories for Jewish values and talk about how we can live them today. We don’t learn by rote, we learn by heart.

School begins this year on September 8th. Our faculty include our wonderful Rabbi Moritt and Cantor Wallach, Mazie Ferreira Da Silva, Hara Benjamin-Garritano, Nate Wild, Ivy Epstein-Barille and Brenda Eagle. If you have not yet registered your returning student, please do so here: <https://betheljc.org/religious-school-continuing-student-registration/> If you are thinking of registering with us, I would be happy to speak with you to answer any questions. Please drop me a note at kay@betheljc.org.

Looking forward to a soaring year.

Yarzeits/Memorial Plaques/Simcha Tree Leaves

The yarzeit, 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 yarzeit has occurred that week. To update your family’s yarzeit listings go to <https://betheljc.org/yarzeit-list/> or call in your information or write to the office.

To purchase a Memorial Plaque to honor the memory of your loved ones go to <https://betheljc.org/plaque>

You may also purchase a Simcha Tree Leaf to honor or congratulate friends or family members for special events or accomplishments. Please visit <https://betheljc.org/donate>

Yarzeits



Week ending August 31 Joan Baum Samuel Bettinger Rose Goldman Neal F. Kessman Esther Krieger Harry Vogelman	Joseph Schonberger Morris “Jibby” Wellen Claire Werner	Week ending September 21 Okay June Clifton Abraham Goldberg Marcel Mordecai Gutman Eleanor Mayersohn Lionel Parnes Minnie Schwartz Sol Smith Harry F. Solomon Philip Weinrobe	Max Joseph Greengold Louis Levine David Magilavy David Schteingart Lazar Zlotowicz
Week ending September 7 Maurice A. Brickman Marjorie Lubowsky Anthony J. Pizsel Toby Rosen	Week ending September 14 Julius Bleiweis Lena Genser Joseph Gunsberg Jack Karten Judy K. Nash Milton Wegodsky	Week ending September 28 J. Leon Brodsky	Week ending October 5 Phyllis A. Canter Dan Fulop Era H. Gross Samuel Newman Dan Rudberg Simon Weil

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 at <http://www.betheljc.org/donate/> or write, email or call the Temple office.

Sustaining Fund (General Fund)

In appreciation of High Holy day services

Rachel & Bill Rood

In grateful honor of Kay Magilavy's dedicated tireless direction, service, and guidance to Temple Beth-El and the Religious School of Temples Beth-El/Beth-Am for 18 wonderful years

Nancy & Nathan Sambul

In honor of the marriage of Rabbis Leana Moritt & Steven Kushner

Bernard Beck

Suzanne Goldstein Smith &

John Thompson

Jeffrey Goodman &

Meredith Epstein Goodman

Irwin Rosen

Ellen Silver & Edward Eisenberg

David Voremberg & Fran Snyder

In memory of Jane Doefer

Dr. Harvey & Shirley Roter

In memory of Carol Blum's mother, Claire Blum

Dr. Harvey & Shirley Roter

In memory of my father, David Canter, on his Yarzeit

Robert Canter

In memory of my mother, Ursula Cohen

Ellen Cohen

In memory of Dr. Samuel A. Cohen

Ellen Cohen

In memory of my brother, Edward Cohen

Ellen Cohen

In memory of my step-mother, Cecilia Wahl Cohen

Ellen Cohen

In memory of my beloved father, Manny Eagle, on his Yarzeit

Ardella Eagle

In memory of my grandfather, Max Harrison, on his Yarzeit

Ardella Eagle

In memory of my father, Max Harrison, on his Yarzeit

Mimi Eagle

In memory of my mother, Harlene Epstein, on her Yarzeit

Ivy Epstein-Barile

In memory of my father, Charles Goldstein, on his Yarzeit

Elliott & Stacey Goldstein

In memory of my husband, Charles Heitner, on his Yarzeit

Molly Heitner

In memory of my mother, Florence Hersberg, on her Yarzeit

Irene Hersberg

In memory of my father, Arthur Weinberger, on his Yarzeit

Helene Milovsky

In memory of Tom's mother, Beatrice Rosensweet, on her Yarzeit

Tom Rosensweet &

Barbara Hines

Music Fund

In honor of Kay Magilavy & Norman Mayersohn on the occasion of their daughter, Julia's, marriage

Irwin Rosen

In honor of Tom Rosensweet in recognition of his re-election as President of Temple Beth-El

Irwin Rosen

In honor of the marriage of Rabbis Leana Moritt & Steven Kushner

Fred & Karen Schnur

Wishing Rabbi Kenneth Brickman a complete and speedy recovery

Irwin Rosen & Sharon Hirshberg

In honor of the service of the outgoing Trustees and Officers of Temple Beth-El and Mazel Tov to the incoming Trustees and Officers of Temple Beth-El

Nancy & Nathan Sambul

In memory of Jeff Abers and Ted Abers beloved mother, Roz Abers

Irwin Rosen & Sharon Hirshberg

In memory of Carol Blum's mother, Claire Blum

Irwin Rosen & Sharon Hirshberg

In memory of Nancy aunt, Bernice, on her first Yarzeit

Nancy & Nathan Sambul

In memory of Nathan's step-father, Murray Pollner, on his Yarzeit

Nancy & Nathan Sambul

In memory of Nathan's mother, Bernice Pollner, on her first Yarzeit

Nancy & Nathan Sambul

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Aaron & Giovanna Dunkel

Michael & Tyler Schonberger

*With
Sympathy*

On the passing of Clair Blum,
mother of Carol Blum and
mother-in-law of Andrew Elkins.

*Zichrona livrachta. May her
memory always bring blessing.*



**Weekly Food Pantry
Wednesdays 5-6:30pm**

Help provide food and basic necessities for our neighbors in need. Adding a few items to your regular shopping trips can make a world of difference. If you prefer to shop online, you can make your purchases using our [Amazon wishlist](#). We've even created a QR code that takes you right to it. For details on how it works, or a general list of the most needed items, [click here](#).



Scan with QR Studio

Volunteers are needed every week to distribute donated food and clothing. Sign up [here](#) to let us know you are coming.



Haircuts & Grooming

Know how great you feel with a new haircut? Now you can give the gift of clean self-esteem to our neighbors in need. In partnership with Vincent and Lisa's HairZone on Bergen Avenue, TBE's Food Pantry is now offering coupons for free haircuts (including shaves/beard trims as appropriate). To chip in, please visit betheljc.org/donate or send a check for \$36 to the office — and make someone's day!



Temple Beth-El has cemetery plots in the beautiful locations of Mount Moriah Cemetery in Fairview, NJ and Mount Lebanon Cemetery in Iselin (Woodbridge). Please email TBE Cemetery Committee member Larry Gutterman at LPGutterman@verizon.net. He would be happy to discuss it further.

**The Holidays Continue!
Celebrate Sukkot, Shemini Atzeret,
Simchat Torah and Religious School
Consecration at Beth-El:**

Sunday, October 13
Erev Sukkot Family Dinner 6:00 - 6:45 pm
 Sukkot celebration in song 6:45 - 7:15 pm

Friday, October 18
Pot luck Shabbat Dinner in the Sukkah 6.30pm
 Meet & Greet the Lulav and Etrog

Sunday, October 20
Yizkor 5:00—5:40 pm
Religious School Consecration: Celebrating our young Torah scholars and new students 6:00 pm
Shemini Atzeret/Simchat Torah 7:00 pm
 Join with our music, singing and dancing as we celebrate starting the Torah anew and beginning a blessed new year ahead! All are welcome.

Sunday, October 13-20
 Our **Sukkah will be open** during the entire week of Sukkot for all who would like to **enjoy a meal or dwell within it** for reflection and community. It is a mitzvah to dwell in the Sukkah all week, so join us and enjoy the beautiful fall weather.



See our temple's Facebook page [here](#). And there's a separate page for Beth-El families [here](#).



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



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Contact Nancy Sambul, Sips Chair at nancy.sambul@yahoo.com to obtain a Donation Form and Letter to use with vendors you approach. Or download them at <https://betheljc.org/sips>

- ◆ **Mystery Bags** remain a big favorite. They're loved by all who bought a bag for \$50 or \$100. Each bag has dining cards and coupons worth more the cost of the bag. Please ask those restaurants that you patronize for **dining cards / certificates of \$50 or \$100**. (We can even use smaller gifts of \$10 or \$5 from ice cream stores, pizza parlors, etc. to add more value to each bag.) The more certificates we get, the more bags we can offer for sale.
- ◆ We already get **Theater Ticket** donations from Roundabout Theatre, Second Stage, Signature Theatre and JCity Theater. Are you a subscriber to Manhattan Theater Club or NJPAC? Please help secure performance tickets to other venues.
- ◆ Own, manage or frequent a business or company? A store, entertainment business, or professional practice could provide a **gift basket** or a **gift certificate** towards your merchandise or services.
- ◆ Have access to exciting "behind-the-scene" or "hard-to-get" experiences? Television shows? Amusement and theme parks? Donate an entry.
- ◆ Have a talent or skill that you do at a professional ability level? Your musical, cooking, or artistic talents can offer a great time for someone else. (For example, we already have someone who will be donating Face Painting to a children's birthday party.)
- ◆ Have a passion for collectibles, memorabilia or fine wine? One of your finds could become a fellow collector's new treasure.
- ◆ Enjoy entertaining in your home? You could be caterer for a day and help make an unforgettable evening.
- ◆ Maintain access to sports tickets? Hold membership in a golf, tennis or country club? Donate tickets or host a guest.
- ◆ Have unused gift cards for major retailers or local boutiques? Donate them!
- ◆ Know of a great idea for the auction? Let us know!

Wine & Spirits Donations Please!!!



Back by popular demand: the **Ring Toss!**

For \$10, guests get to throw up to 3 loops. If a ring lands on a bottle, they get to take it home. Not land? Then they've made a nice donation. We need donations of reds, whites and bubbly, even hard liquor. It's all welcome.

Please contribute a bottle valued at around \$10 or more. If you write your name on the receipt and tape it to the bottle, you'll get a tax receipt for In-Kind Donation from TBE. Please, help us make this a bigger success by having more bottles to offer.

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