



2419 Kennedy Blvd, Jersey City, NJ 07304  
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The Reform Congregation of Jersey City  
August 2021  
Av — Elul 5781

Celebrating our 150th year as a  
congregation & 95 years in our home!

## Remembering at the Threshold of our Home

by Rabbi Leana Moritt

We probably have at least one in our homes, but what are they for? A *mezuzah*: is it a good luck amulet? A sign of peoplehood and solidarity? A connection to the Divine? Or something else? The Torah, in fact, the Shema teaches: “Inscribe these words upon the doorposts of your house...thus shall you remember...”

Indeed, the purpose of a *mezuzah* is to bring our attention to the transitions in and out of our homes. It serves as a visual reminder of the threshold we are about to cross, from the outside world to the sacred space that is our home. The practice of gazing upon, touching or even kissing the *mezuzah* is an opportunity to pause and think about what we want to leave behind from the outside world or from that day and what we want to allow in — both physically and spiritually in our values, language and practices.

The Jewish home is seen as a sacred place for family, safety, love, peace and sanctity. It is created and sustained as such when we are mindful about what fills it. We all know there are practices, words, sounds, objects, and other things that we would not want in our home. They would detract from its sanctity. Conversely, we also know what of ourselves and our world we want integrated in our home to elevate its sanctity.

In “normal” times, this can be a profound practice. But these are not normal times. By now, most of us have been vaccinated. (If you have not yet, I strongly encourage you to do so. Please remember it is a *mitzvah*.) After 18 months, we are profoundly grateful for the promise of normalcy and health that the vaccinations can bring. Please God, even more of our population will be vaccinated and we will reach the point where the virus and its variants will have no place to land- here and throughout the world.

With the vaccine, we are coming in and out of our homes more now than we have been than in the last 18 months; we are welcoming others in to our homes more as well. While this has been a welcome and life-affirming relief, it is also a spiritual *mezuzah* opportunity.

Remember we are still in a precarious time in which children and not enough adults have been immunized such that we can let our guard down. The Torah teaches: “You shall not stand idly by the blood of your neighbor.” (Lev 19:16). As you make decisions about what you do as you pass outside the threshold of your homes, and as you make decisions about who you permit in your homes, remember that your decisions can have profound ramifications on people’s life, health and wellbeing.

The virus is subsiding, but still threatening so many. So, my first *mezuzah* invitation to you is to use your *mezuzah* as a *kavvanah* (intention) to remember to create the healthiest and most sensible boundaries in your home and lives as you can.

At the same time, and especially as time goes on, I also invite you to use your *mezuzah* for another spiritual practice. Ask yourself: what have I learned about resilience while holed up in my home for so long? What have I

*continued on page 3*

**See important High Holiday information on page 4!**



**Service Information**

We are back LIVE in-person every week from the Temple. Please read our protocols carefully.

First Friday Family Services for the next several months will be live on our lawn (weather permitting) and will not be viewable from home. In case of rain, we will go inside. Pot luck dinners are still suspended until further notice, but please bring a picnic from 6-6:30.

All other services are in our sanctuary and are open to those who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 and will be livestreamed [here](#). Masks are required for all in our building\*. If you are following the service from home and would like to access the siddur, click [here](#).

**Friday, August 6** **LIVE! On the Temple lawn!**  
 "Pre-neg" on the lawn and/or BYO dinner 6-6:30 pm  
 First Friday Family Kabbalat Shabbat Services  
*This service will not be viewable over Zoom or YouTube.*

**Friday, August 13**  
 Kabbalat Shabbat services 8:00 pm  
*Also available to view livestreamed over YouTube from our sanctuary: <https://bit.ly/3ac8BuD>*

**Friday, August 20**  
 Kabbalat Shabbat services 8:00 pm  
*Also available to view livestreamed over YouTube from our sanctuary: <https://bit.ly/3ac8BuD>*

**Friday, August 27**  
 Kabbalat Shabbat Services 8:00 pm  
*Also available to view livestreamed over YouTube from our sanctuary: <https://bit.ly/3ac8BuD>*

**Saturday, August 28**  
 Selichot Program in preparation 7:30 pm  
 for High Holy Days: Havdalah, film and discussion, followed by Selichot prayers and the installation ceremony of our High Holy Day Torah Mantles. See page 10 for details

**Friday, September 3** **LIVE! On the Temple lawn!**  
 BYO picnic on the lawn. 6—6:30 pm  
 First Friday Family Kabbalat Shabbat services  
*This service will not be viewable over Zoom.*

**Friday, September 10**  
 Kabbalat Shabbat Shuvah services 8:00 pm  
*Also available to view livestreamed over YouTube from our sanctuary: <https://bit.ly/3ac8BuD>*



**Temple Beth-El**

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 Jersey City, NJ 07304

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Office hours: Mon-Fri 10am – 1pm

Our office is only sporadically open and much of our staff is still working from home with limited access to files. Our phones, emails and website are up and running.

**Rabbi Leana Moritt** [rabbimoritt@betheljc.org](mailto:rabbimoritt@betheljc.org)

**Rabbi Emeritus Kenneth Brickman**  
[rabbibrickman@betheljc.org](mailto:rabbibrickman@betheljc.org)

**Cantorial Soloist/Director of Education**

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**Mike Noveck**, Vice President

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**Deborah Lipp**, Recording Secretary

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**Kay Magilavy**, Past President

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**Irwin Rosen**, Past President



**Shabbat Candle Lighting**

Friday, August 6 7:48 pm

Friday, August 13 7:39 pm

Friday, August 20 7:29 pm

Friday, August 27 7:18 pm

Friday, September 3 7:07 pm

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

learned about priorities? Family? Relationships? Community? Inner strength? Patience? Creativity? Fortitude? What are the lessons I have learned during the pandemic? Can we remember all the characteristics we found or developed while in our homes, and draw them forth as we gaze upon our *mezuzot*? Might we use our *mezuzot* to remind us of what we always carried within us but perhaps did not know? Can we use the *mezuzah* to help us remember and strengthen us as we cross over back into a healthy world?

We have lost so much and so many in the last 18 months. May it be that we are able to use the lessons we have learned to transform this time into meaning, into blessing and into *tikkun* (repair).

In friendship,

*Rabbi Leana Moritt*

### From the President

It's only mid-summer but the leadership of Temple Beth-El is all about the High Holidays. There would be no holiday services — or anything else at Temple — without our many dedicated volunteers.

The Transition Committee has met numerous times and has now set a policy for how many people may attend our in-person services and how we'll decide who gets to attend. We'll be live streaming for those who watch from home.

You should have received information by now about registering to attend; if you haven't, it's because you aren't turning up on our list of Members in Good Standing. If you believe that you are a member, and you haven't received an email about registration, it may be because you haven't made your Terumah pledge for our new fiscal year that began July 1, or haven't made at least a partial payment. Don't lose another day! Registration closes August 15.

If you *have* pledged and paid but haven't received the registration information, please contact Bob Kahan, our Office Manager, at once. He's at [admin@betheljc.org](mailto:admin@betheljc.org)

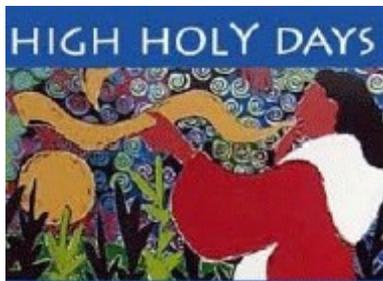
We're sprucing up the building, engaging ushers and making our list of people to be honored with readings or other forms of participation in our High Holy Day services.

At the same time, we're getting ready for the new Religious School year. We told you a few months ago that we're getting back to the renovation of the Temple with "Foundations." We're actively raising funds now to renovate the Foundation of our building — the Social Hall — into a bright, attractive and healthy space that will house the Foundation of our community — our religious school and our students — while still being usable for a whole variety of Temple events. You'll be hearing lots more about Foundations.

We're fortunate to have a lot of people who find different ways to participate in our community. We should all be grateful to the very talented volunteers who contribute their time to help the wheels keep turning...and we always need more. Some people participate by sending their children to our Temple Beth-El Religious School. What could be more important than that? Some contribute money so that Jewish life can thrive here in Hudson County. And a dedicated group of members come to Shabbat services!

We all express our Jewishness in different ways, so I hope that the approaching High Holidays find you thinking about how to renew your commitment to our Jewish community. Not only your financial commitment, but your participation in whatever ways meet your needs and help your congregation meet *its* needs. However you participate, all are welcome at Temple Beth-El.

*Tom Rosensweet*



## Registration for High Holy Days is now open

After yearning to be together for the holidays through the pandemic, we are very pleased and quite relieved to start registration for our in-sanctuary High Holy Day services for 2021/5782. **Pre-registration for all High Holy Day Services is required for all and no one will gain admission without registration, authorization and submitting vaccination documentation.**

By now you have read that 200 masked and fully vaccinated members will be permitted to attend our adult services and 150 masked members will be permitted to attend our Family Services. While we are proud of our history of welcoming all regardless of membership status, this year, for reasons of health, ethics and fairness, we must prioritize our members in good standing in calculating attendance.

If you have not yet submitted or renewed your membership with a Terumah pledge and payment, you must do so before you register for the High Holy Days to be considered for entrance. [Renew your membership here](#). If you have completed your membership renewal/application, you may [register for High Holy Day entrance](#). Then be sure to submit your vaccination information by August 17 as requested below.

**Vaccination Documentation** for you and each of your attending family members (age 12+) can be submitted in one of five ways below, and must be done by **August 17**. (You may redact your date of birth and lot number if you wish):

1. Email: Send copy of card as an attachment to Bob Kahan, office manager, [here](#).
2. Text: Text an image of your card to 201-233-9182.
3. Regular Mail: Send a copy of your card to: Loryn Sotsky, RPC Chair, 76 West 55th Street, Bayonne, NJ 07002
4. Zoom: Contact our office manager, Bob Kahan to set up a Zoom appointment. Show him your/your family's vaccination card(s) (physical card or a photo on your phone) on Zoom. Bob's hours are Tuesday — Friday from 11am—4pm.
5. Google Form: [Click here to upload your COVID-19 Vaccination Record Card](#) (Google account required)

If you are not vaccinated or you do not wish to attend in-person services, there is no need to submit any documentation.

While our leadership stands behind this decision for our collective and individual health and wellness, we understand this policy may exclude some unvaccinated members. While we highly encourage you to perform the mitzvah (spiritual imperative) of being vaccinated for Covid-19 now in time to attend, there are several services that do not require vaccination. Please see the full list of services on page 8. All of our services will also be available to watch streamed live on YouTube [here](#). We will also lend *machzorim* (prayer books) to our members praying from home (see page 5 of this newsletter).

Finally, you can help add to the beauty and sanctity of our services with your presence by ushering. Please consider taking a short shift at one of our services by signing up to usher [here](#).



## Ushers & Greeters High Holy Day Ushering: We need you!



Greeting our members and guests is a crucial way to help ensure our services run smoothly, everyone feels valued and welcome and we create a sacred space for the holidays. Please consider accepting one or more shifts as an usher for our High Holy Days. Shifts are generally between 1-2 hours.

Duties include: A warm smile, directing people to available seats, ensuring people know where to find the appropriate books, handouts and restrooms. A very important ushering role is also checking in those people who have been assigned bimah honors and reminding them of their cues. In the case of the occasional absence of an assigned honoree, the usher will tap an alternative person seated in the congregation.

Please consider signing up for one or more shifts over the many services we will hold and sign up [here](#). A representative of the Religious Practices Committee will confirm your assignment(s) shortly before the holidays after calculating volunteers and available slots. Thank you!

## High Holy Day Machzorim (Prayer Books) available to borrow



We understand that the pandemic coupled with our more restrictive entrance guidelines will have more of our members praying from home this year. Temple Beth-El is happy to loan each member family up to 2 machzorim sets for home use during the High Holy Days 2021/5782 for those families who do not join us for in-person services. All sanctuary services will be live-streamed on YouTube.

[Please click here to reserve your books.](#) (Sign-up required.) You may pick up your machzor on Wednesday September 1 between 6—8 pm, or Friday September 3 between 1—5 pm and return them to the Temple on Friday September 17 between 4—7 pm or Sunday September 19 between 9 am —1 pm. Please notes these days since our office is not regularly open yet and random pick up/drop off times are not possible. If you prefer to purchase your own machzor either in print or Kindle, click [here](#).

If you have any questions, please be in touch with Loryn Sotsky, our Religious Practices Chair at [lorynsotsky@yahoo.com](mailto:lorynsotsky@yahoo.com)



## Embracing the Rainbow Jewish values through the lens of the LGBTQ Experiences Thursday, August 5 @ 7.30pm

Please join Rabbi Leana Moritt and cohost Beth Achenbach for a talk on the Jewish values and perspectives that steer us towards embracing all individuals, including our LGBTQ communities. We will discuss a little Torah, a bit about multiple genders in the Mishnah, and much more! We will also pass along a resource sheet of local LGBTQ organizations and hotlines.

All are welcome to attend this Adult Learning event on Zoom as Temple Beth-El celebrates Jersey City Pride Month. Please register [here](#) to receive the event link!

## Religious School

by Marian Kleinman, Director of Education

**We look forward to the 5782 (2021-2022) school year  
at Temple Beth-El Jersey City!**



*Parents! Please stop in for coffee with us on the first day of school, Sunday, September 12. It'll be good to see you again and catch up after summer vacation!*

As the summer continues, we're firming up our plans for the upcoming school year. Classes will be in person and our Religious School will follow all of the recommended health protocols from Jersey City Schools and the CDC to ensure safety for our children. The new school year promises to be fun, active, and packed with stimulating events. Our program each year includes experiential learning and community building and is filled with *ruach* (spirit) and learning!

There are many activities to look forward to this year. Starting in September, I hope you'll join us for all of the Family High Holy Day services! Soon after *Yom Kippur*, learn with our Faculty Team, Rabbi Moritt, and me at our *Sukkot* Family Fun-Day. We will be learning about the ecology of *Sukkot* and much more, and will decorate our *Sukkah* at this Family Day on our second day of school (Sunday, September 19). Also, throughout the school year on the first Friday of each month, students participate in and help lead our worship services. Please plan to attend these monthly services — add all these dates to your calendar!

Before the school year begins, I hope you'll consider and explore your expectations and the importance of your active involvement in your child's Jewish education. Students in kindergarten through Grade 2 become part of our community as they dip into the basics of Judaism. Learning about our heritage continues in all of the higher grades. In Grade 3, students begin to learn the Hebrew alphabet and how to read Hebrew, and Hebrew learning continues in Grades 5-7. Since our students attend only once a week, parents are the key to achieving Hebrew competence, by encouraging students to consistently practice and review at home. Students in Grades 3-7 have Hebrew "homework" — to read and review their Hebrew lessons/textbook (or blessings and prayers) at least three times a week in addition to Sundays, for at least 15 minutes each time. It's not much to ask, and it helps ensure great progress!

If you haven't already done so, please enroll your child/children for the 5782 (2021-2022) school year. Use this link [here](#). Please complete your enrollment as soon as possible, as this assists us in preparing for next year's classes at TBE.

Also, please feel free to give my phone number and/or email address to parents you know and parents you meet, if they're interested in learning about our Religious School. We enjoy welcoming your children back to school in the fall, and we encourage new families to join us at our beautiful Religious School.

We look forward to seeing you in September! Please plan to attend Shabbat services at Beth-El this summer. For the children, it's a great way to review Hebrew and to continue to connect with friends and our community.

May you and your family be blessed with a summer of health, happiness, and peace.

*L'shanah Tovah!* (Happy New Year) — Marian

[morahmarian@betheljc.org](mailto:morahmarian@betheljc.org)

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

***See next page for important Religious School dates!***

## September – November Religious School Dates for Your Calendar

<i>Rosh Hashanah</i>	September 6-8
First day of Religious School, Grades K-7	Sunday, September 12
Parent’s Time: Coffee and <i>Schmooze</i> with each other and with our Youth Education Committee Chairs	Sunday, September 12
<i>Yom Kippur</i>	September 15-16
Sukkah Decorating – Family Education, All Grades	Sunday, September 19
Family Shabbat Service – Grade 7 participants	Friday, October 1 at 6:30 pm
Bar Mitzvah Meeting, Grades 5-7, with Rabbi Moritt	Sunday, October 3
Family Shabbat Service – Grade 6 participants	Friday, November 5 at 6:30 pm
Chanukah Fun – Family Education, All Grades	Sunday, November 21
No school (Thanksgiving Weekend)	Sunday, November 28
Consecration (all new students)	Friday, December 3 at 6:30 pm

For more dates and the full year Religious School Calendar, visit our website [here](#)

### The Holidays Continue! Celebrate Sukkot, Shemini Atzeret & Simchat Torah at Temple Beth-El:

Monday, September 20 7:00 pm  
**Erev Sukkot**  
Welcome the harvest holiday of Sukkot with song and waving the lulav. BYO picnic dinner to enjoy in the sukkah.



Friday September 24  
**Picnic in the Sukkah**  
Meet and greet the lulav & etrog 6:00 pm  
**Kabbalat Shabbat** in the Temple Sukkah 6:30 pm



Saturday September 25  
**Tot Shabbat** in the Temple Sukkah 10:30 am

Monday, September 27 7:00 pm  
**Shemini Atzeret/Simchat Torah**  
Join with our music, singing and dancing as we celebrate starting the Torah anew and beginning a blessed new year ahead! All are welcome.

Tuesday, September 28 9:00 am  
**Yizkor Memorial Service**  
ZOOM: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/775213809>

September 21—27  
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.

## 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 online [here](#)

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 August 25.**

### Yamim Nora'im 5782 High Holy Days 2021 Schedule of Services

#### Selichot

Saturday August 28 7:30pm  
 In preparation for the High Holy Days: Film & Discussion,  
 followed by Selichot prayers and the installation ceremony of our  
 white High Holy Day Torah Mantles

#### ROSH HASHANAH

Monday, September 6	Erev Rosh Hashana*	8.00 pm
Tuesday September 7	Rosh Hashana Day 1	
	Morning Service*	10:00 am
	Shofar & Shmooze on our front steps ***	1:30 pm
	Family Services for Rosh Hashana**	2:30 pm
	Tashlich in Liberty State Park***	4:30 pm
Wednesday September 8	Rosh Hashana Day 2*	10:00 am

#### YOM KIPPUR

Wednesday, September 15	Kol Nidre*	6:30 pm
Thursday, September 16	Yom Kippur Day	
	Morning Services*	10:00 am
	Contemplative Meditative Walk in Lincoln Park led by Robb Kushner***	2:00 pm
	Family Services for Yom Kippur**	2:00 pm
	Yizkor*	3:30 pm
	Mincha/Ne'ilah & Havdalah*	4:30 pm

\*Indicates a cap of 200 people

\*\*Indicates a cap of 150 people

\*\*\*Outdoors & Available to all.



**Saturday, August 14 @ 10:30 am**

**LIVE IN-PERSON Tot Shabbat in Hamilton Park!**

*Weather permitting. Decision will be made Friday afternoon, so watch your email.*



Calling all children 0-5 and their grownups! Last month's Live in the Park was a smash success. Welcome back Bracha the Bear! Join us for singing, dancing, storytime, snack and an age-appropriate activity. *We will follow State mask and social distancing requirements.*

Thank you to Megan & Jon Russek, (Adelaide's mom) and Megan & Guillermo Cancio (Pearl's mom & dad) for bringing the challah, snack and juice boxes this month. Please consider volunteering for next month.

Mark your calendars for Tot Shabbat mornings through the end of the calendar year. Watch for location details.

*September 25 (on the Temple lawn)    October 30    November 20    December 18*

If you are not on our Tot Shabbat list, please email [office@betheljc.org](mailto:office@betheljc.org) and ask to be added to our email list.

sponsored by  PJ Library

## Youth Group

*Save the date: Sunday, September 26*

**Join your peers for some social fun!**

Temple Beth-El's monthly Youth Group activities are fun and encourage our teens and pre-teens to develop a social conscience while they also develop a Jewish social network. The gatherings supplement our Religious School experiences and encourage children and teens to create lasting bonds with each other, their Jewish identity, social activism, and our congregation. Rosa Escandon, our Youth Group Director, leads our 2 groups: Junior Youth Group (grades 5-7) and Senior Youth Group (grades 8-12).

As a Reform synagogue, Temple Beth-El is part of the NFTY (National Federation of Temple Youth) network (<https://nfty.org/>). For more information or to get on our Youth Group email list, contact [Rosa@betheljc.org](mailto:Rosa@betheljc.org).

## HEBREW HIGH

**Beginning in October this year, teens who have already become bar or bat mitzvah are invited to join our new Teen Education Program!**

Hebrew High meets virtually once a month to provide 8<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> graders an intensive student-centered opportunity to deepen their Jewish knowledge as their intellect grows. The live virtual classes, which will occasionally meet in person, expand on their prior Religious School experiences and offer opportunities for community service both within our congregation and out into society. As teens' capacity for complex ethical thought develops and as their questions and concerns grow more worldly and complex, it's a chance to delve into Jewish topics that interest them. Taught by Rabbi Moritt and Morah Marian, the program leads into a Confirmation at the end of tenth grade.

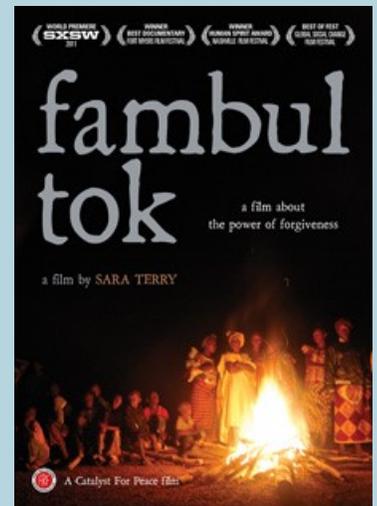
For more information, contact [Rabbi Moritt](#) or [Morah Marian](#).



Saturday, August 28 at 7:30 pm

Join us for a screening of the powerful documentary Fambul Tok. In this powerful 52 minute documentary, victims and perpetrators of Sierra Leon’s brutal civil war come together for the first time in tradition-based truth-telling and forgiveness ceremonies. By reviving their ancient practice of fambul tok (family talk), Sierra Leoneans are building sustainable piece at the grassroots level.

Our Selichot program will also include Havdalah, haunting holiday melodies and penitential prayers, and ceremonially changing Ark and Torah garb to white for the holidays.



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](mailto: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*



**August 1—7**  
Florence Hersberg  
Eleonore Kahan  
Esther Krieger  
Bernice Pollner  
Jean Weil

**August 8—14**  
Marshall E. Bloomfield  
Janice Seiner Colker

**August 15— 21**  
David Canter  
Blanche Dohrman  
Charles Goldstein  
Rita Opper  
Beatrice Rosensweet

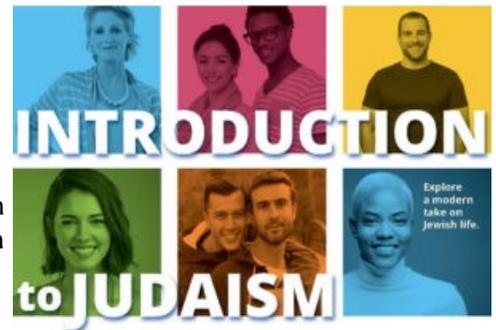
**August 22—28**  
Joan Baum  
Marcel Mordecai Gutman  
Rosa Halpern Heller  
Lefkowitz

Eleanor Mayersohn  
Lionel Parnes  
Philip Weinrobe

**August 29-31**  
Samuel Bettinger  
Joseph Greengold  
Neal F. Kessman  
David Magilavy  
Sol Smith  
Harry Vogelman

## Introduction to Judaism Beginning Again This Fall!

You're curious about Judaism and what this 3,000-year-old tradition has to offer you or your family's life? Welcome.



Rabbi Moritt's Introduction to Judaism class will begin again on **Wednesday October 27**. Running for 20 weeks, the class will be held on Wednesday evenings beginning at 7:30 pm.

Open to all, our class is designed for individuals and couples from Jewish and various faith traditions and cultural backgrounds and well as those with 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. Synagogue membership is not required.

Please be in touch her at [RabbiMoritt@betheljc.org](mailto:RabbiMoritt@betheljc.org) with questions, to register or to set up a meeting. Rabbi Moritt meets with each student before registering. If you have already spoken, register [here](#).

Cost: Free for members. \$200 for non-members. All are invited. We anticipate this class will be held in-person. Students will be expected to purchase the assigned books, take turns bringing snacks and contribute to one communal Shabbat dinner.

And, starting in December, an optional Introduction to Hebrew class will be offered 30 minutes before class begins at no cost.

### Introduction to Hebrew I

Wednesdays 7-7:30 pm beginning December 1

*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. To sign up, contact [Rabbi Moritt](#).



## 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](#)

### Sustaining Fund

A donation was made by  
*Judith Baller-Fabian &  
 Judith & Allan Fabian  
 Gregory & Asha Yip-Ying*

In memory of Abraham Cohn on his  
 yahrzeit  
*Adrienne Cohn*

In memory of my father, Max  
 Harrison, on his yahrzeit  
*Ardella Eagle*

In memory of Manuel Cable on his  
 yahrzeit  
*Ardella Eagle*

In memory of my grandfather, Max  
 Harrison, on his yahrzeit  
*Ardella Eagle*

In memory of Bernie Kaye  
*Sandy Frank*

In memory of Lewis Dars on his  
 Yarzeit  
*Elliott & Stacey Goldstein*

In honor of my brother, Larry, on his  
 retirement  
*Suzanne Goldstein Smith &  
 John Thompson*

In memory of mother, Hortense  
 Gutmann  
*Stephen D. & Judith I. Gutmann*

In memory of Nathan & Sarah Wellen  
 and Dorothy Lee  
*Florence Wellen*

Condolences to Michael Shuchman  
 on the death of his beloved wife, Lisa  
*Nancy & Nathan Sambul*

**Food Pantry Donation**  
*Jonathan & Alexandra Donenfeld  
 Seth Lubin  
 Robert & Hillela Ward*

**Music Fund**  
 To Rabbi Moritt in recognition of her  
 13 years as a rabbi  
*Irwin Rosen & Sharon Hirshberg*

In memory of David Schnur  
*Irwin Rosen & Sharon Hirshberg*

Mazel Tov to Rabbis Moritt & Kushner  
 on the birth of their new  
 granddaughter  
*Nancy & Nathan Sambul*

Condolences to Karen & Fred Schnur  
 on the death of their son David  
*Nancy & Nathan Sambul*

In memory of Nathan's mother,  
 Bernice Pollner  
*Nancy & Nathan Sambul*

In memory of Nathan's stepfather,  
 Murray Pollner  
*Nancy & Nathan Sambul*

In memory of Nathan's grandfather,  
 Harry Vogelmann, on his yahrzeit  
*Nancy & Nathan Sambul*

In celebration of Nathan's 75<sup>th</sup>  
 birthday  
*Nancy & Nathan Sambul*

**Rabbi's Discretionary Fund**  
*Judith Baller-Fabian & Allan Fabian*

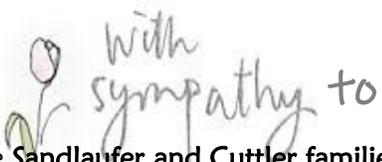
**2021 Spring Board Challenge**  
*Stephanie Chaiken*



**Mazel  
 Tov**

to  
 Rabbi Moritt and her husband  
 Rabbi Steven Kushner on the birth  
 of their new granddaughter, Noa  
 Juliet Estiz, on July 16.

Ulyana Bravo and Jeremiah Lowe on  
 the birth of their son, Liam Noah  
 Bravo Lowe, on July 30.



with  
 sympathy to

The Sandlaufer and Cuttler families on the death of longtime  
 Temple member and Jersey City resident **Marion Baron**  
 Parents **Karen & Fred Schnur**, sister **Marci Schnur**,  
 wife **Meredith** and daughters **Sammy and  
 Lexi Schnur**, on the death of **David Schnur**

**Michael Shuchman** on the death of his wife, **Lisa Shuchman**  
**Joanna, Jeff and Ava Tartikoff** on the death of Joanna's  
 father, **Hon. Gordon Lee Doerfer**

The family and friends of long-time Temple member  
**Barnard Kaye**

Click [here](#) to see our new Temple Beth-El website!  
 Current members — register for access to your member page!



Our Twitter feed has over 800 followers! Check it out [here](#) or search for Temple Beth-El Jersey City on Twitter.



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 Eydie Shapiro - Owner

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**Next meeting — Thursday, August 12**  
 Odessa Stories by Isaac Babel

Email Joanna Tartikoff at [bookclub@betheljc.org](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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!



Save Temple Beth-El as your charity at [smile.amazon.com](https://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!



### 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](mailto: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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## Voting Rights and Temple Beth-El!

We are so proud of our New Jersey Reform Congregations and RAC-NJ (Religious Action Center- NJ) for all the work they did to push the Fair Chance in Housing Act across the finish line this spring. Thanks to the work we did together, there are people in New Jersey who are going to have access to safe and secure housing for the first time. Please check out – and share – on your social media and/or in your congregation’s social media or other communications materials – [this article](#) from the Jewish Standard detailing the work RAC-NJ did to help push the bill across the finish line. We can continue to expand our power to act by telling the story of how we are making a difference for justice in the Garden State.

This summer, RAC-NJ has two priorities: preparing for this fall’s RAC-NJ civic engagement campaign (more details are on their way later this week) and showing up – *en masse* – for our **national Freedom to Vote campaign**. Across the country, Reform Jews are setting up meeting with our Senators to create political will to enact meaningful federal voting safeguards by advocating – at the same time and with one voice – for federal voting rights legislation. To date, RAC leaders across the country have scheduled 23 Zoom meetings with Senators from Maine to California, from Washington State to Texas and Florida, and more are getting confirmed daily.

As RAC-NJ, we want to make sure to show up to pull our weight in this national effort. On **August 4 at 3:30 p.m.**, RAC-NJ is meeting (via Zoom) with Senator Menendez’s General Counsel and with his Judiciary Policy Team, which handles voting rights. So far, we have 83 people registered from 13 of our congregations, and our hope is that if we meet our registration turnout goals, we will be able to convince the Senator to join us himself for at least part of the meeting. Can you participate in this Zoom and make your voice heard?

[Register to join our virtual lobby meeting with Senator Bob Menendez’s office](#) on **August 4, 2021, at 3:30 pm ET**. We will be advocating in support of the For the People Act (H.R.1/S.1) and the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act (H.R.4), both of which are essential to protecting the right to vote. Local leaders are working to set the agenda and slate of speakers. Together we can demonstrate RAC-NJ’s commitment to voting rights.

For more information on how to get involved with our Social Action efforts, contact Philip Gary or Alain Mentha or our Social Action Committee.

### RAC-NJ Presents: The Reform Movement's Freedom to Vote Lobby Meeting with Senator Bob Menendez

Please join us as we advocate in support of the For the People Act (H.R.1/S.1) and the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act (H.R.4), both of which are essential to protecting the right to vote.

*Together we can demonstrate RAC-NJ’s statewide commitment to voting rights.*



Wednesday, August 4, 2021, 3:30 pm

Register:  
[RAC.org/NJSenatorMenendez](https://rac.org/NJSenatorMenendez)