

2419 Kennedy Blvd, Jersey City, NJ 07304 www.betheljc.org ph 201.333.4229 office@betheljc.org

The Reform Congregation of Jersey City December 2021 Kislev — Tevet 5782

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



I Am Not Dead

by Rabbi Leana Moritt

Ah yes, the start of the holiday season! Thanksgiving, Hanukkah and that time of year when (many of us) have to consider changing our health insurance plans. At first it seems incongruous—it's cognitive dissonance. Crunching the numbers and thinking about doctors, out of pocket maximums, copays and deductibles feels like an intrusion on the season of light, joy, family and celebration.

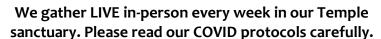
As far as I'm concerned, it's a big pain. Honestly, I resent the time it takes to go into the files and online to shop for insurance and all the analysis and effort it takes when I'd rather be spending time with my family or planning holiday fun. Still, thinking about our health and the health of our loved ones is a powerful reminder of what is important. Each year

brings its own equations, reflections on the passing of time and the cost/benefit analysis of more or less insurance.

But this year has brought its own extra challenge. In my own version of the classic "It's A Wonderful Life," this year I have to prove I am not dead. Yes, over Thanksgiving weekend, when spending time with my family should have been my only priority, I've been told I have come up with proof that I am still alive. As I write this,



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Services will continue in our sanctuary and are open to all ages. However, we require that all people 12 years old and older are fully vaccinated for COVID-19 and remain fully masked at all times. All our services will be livestreamed. If you are following the service from home and would like to access the siddur, click here.

Friday, December 3

Religious School Consecration — All-School Event 6:00 pm
First Friday Family Kabbalat Shabbat Services & 6:30 pm
Community Chanukah Candle Lighting —
bring your own hanukkiah!
Sufganiot/Hanukkah Donut Jubilee!
Also available livestreamed from our sanctuary here

Saturday, December 4

Shabbat morning services and bar mitzvah of 10:30 am Benjamin Gordon

Also available livestreamed from our sanctuary here

Friday, December 10

Kabbalat Shabbat services 8:00pm Also available livestreamed from our sanctuary here

Friday, December 17

Kabbalat Shabbat services 8:00 pm Also available livestreamed from our sanctuary here

Friday, December 24

Kabbalat Shabbat services 6:30 pm Also available livestreamed from our sanctuary here

Friday, December 31

Kabbalat Shabbat services 6:30 pm

Friday, January 7

First Friday Family Kabbalat Shabbat services 6:30 pm

Also available livestreamed from our sanctuary here

Click here for our new Temple Beth-El website & Member Section!

To access the member section, click on Member Login on the top right section of the homepage. You'll see a form to establish a unique username and password. Once in the Members Only section you'll find our Membership Directory, b'nai mitzvah materials, Religious School Parent Portal, Expense Reimbursement and In-Kind Donation Forms, and Yizkor online access.



Temple Beth-El

2419 Kennedy Boulevard at Harrison Avenue Jersey City, NJ 07304



Phone: 201-333-4229 Fax: 201-938-0445 office@betheljc.org www.betheljc.org

Office hours: Mon-Fri 10am – 1pm 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 rabbi Emeritus Kenneth Brickman

rabbibrickman@betheljc.org

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morahmarian@bethelic.org

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Shabbat Candle Lighting







Rabbi's Article (continued from page 1)

I'm still not sure what it will take to prove to the folks at Social Security that I am not dead, but such is my bureaucratic challenge during this coming week of Hanukkah.

If this wasn't serious, it would be funny. I still don't know to what extent my identity/information has been compromised. To be sure, securing health insurance for the next year is an important task. However, especially this year, and for purposes of this article, acknowledging that I (we!) are alive is a spiritual imperative in and of itself that calls us to action!

As a community, we have suffered a number of powerful losses this season. Many of us have felt them or face our own personal challenges. To that, we can add another variant of Covid looming on the horizon bringing even more uncertainty.

But the most important truth is that if you are reading this newsletter, you are alive!

This is something to celebrate and not to squander. It sounds obvious and even trite, but we cannot take this moment- any moment- for granted. We know intellectually that it can be over in a minute and likely this message emerges from losing our dear friend and congregant Judi Baller Fabian in a brutal instant right before our eyes just before Thanksgiving. Still, it reminds us of what we know and too often forget: being alive calls us to connect and praise; love and repair; enjoy and rejoice; sing and appreciate; fully live every moment we possibly can. As the Torah reminds us: בחרת בחיים 'charta ba-chayyim! Choose life! (Deut. 30:19) And about all the life affirming things the Torah teaches: מוס ביים 'chai bahem! We should live by them! (Lev. 18:5)

And for me, I'm going to put my hand to my heart, feel my breath, pull away from the computer; worry less about proving I'm alive to the Social Security Administration and Get Covered New Jersey, and focus more on being alive each moment with those I love. I wish the same for you over these holidays.

In friendship and l'shalom,

Rabbi Leana Moritt

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.



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Free for all, but students will be required to purchase their own text books. To sign up, contact Rabbi Moritt.

Jews of Color in the Reform Movement Affinity Space Gatherings

We are pleased to announce our Jews of Color & People of Color in the Reform Movement Affinity Space Gatherings! These gatherings are led by and for Jews of Color & People of Color who are Jewish Adjacent (those of us who are People of Color and do not identify as Jewish, but are partnered with a Jewish person or part of a Jewish family). For more information, click here.



GIWINGTUESDAY TO TUESDAY

As we approach the end of 2021, we are once again conducting a Giving Tuesday campaign to replace the funds that we usually generate each autumn from a gala and silent auction that raises \$15,000 or more towards our operating budget.

We also now need extensive funds because the synagogue suffered mold damage from the infiltration of water during Hurricane Ida. We must remediate the damage, build resiliency against future water infiltration, and replace the demolished infrastructure before we can renovate the Social Hall and add the classrooms that we need.

We are working to secure a loan from the U.S. Small Business Administration, and are optimistic about our chances, but we'll have to repay it.

In conjunction with National Giving Tuesday, on November 30, we are starting our Giving Tuesday to Tuesday Appeal to raise at least \$30,000. Our Giving Tuesday to Tuesday campaign runs from Tuesday, November 30 through Tuesday, December 28.

If you need another reason to be generous his year, I'll give you two: We are celebrating the 150th anniversary of the founding of Temple Beth-El and the 95th anniversary of our Temple on Kennedy Boulevard!

If you're planning to make year-end charitable contributions, please make Temple Beth-El your go-to charity. If each person reading this letter donated at \$95 or \$150, we could raise the money we need. I know this has been a difficult couple of years for many people, but if things have been good for you, please consider giving more — a donation of \$500 or \$1,000 would make a huge difference. Finally, please check whether your employer will match your contribution.

Talking about matches, we have received a generous matching challenge from an anonymous donor: For every \$5,000 we raise (up to \$25,000), there will be a \$1,000 match (or as much as \$5,000 from the donor). That gets us to the \$30,000 we are hoping to raise.

You can donate at https://www.betheljc.org/give/donate-pay/

Check the box for **Event Ticket/Fundraising Initiative**.

From the drop-down menu select "OTHER" and GIVING TUESDAY in the box.

Pay online, or send a check payable to Temple Beth-El of Jersey City to

2419 Kennedy Blvd, Jersey City, NJ 07305. Please write "Giving Tuesday" in the memo.

Thank you!





With great pride and joy, Temple Beth-El extends a hearty Mazel Tov to our friend and congregant, Mayor Steven Fulop, on his reelection to a third term. No person, except for the legendary Frank Hague (who served from 1917—1947) has ever been elected to a third term as mayor of Jersey City.

Steven is our second Jewish mayor. Charles K. Krieger, of blessed memory, a past president of Temple Beth-El, served as mayor for three months in 1971, having been appointed to serve on an interim basis following the conviction on federal corruption charges of Mayor Thomas Whelan, with the understanding that he would not run for reelection, and would work to restore "good government, confidence, and a sense of normalcy to City Hall."





Bar Mitzvah of Benjamin Gordon

Benjamin Gordon will become Bar Mitzvah on December 4th. Benjamin is a 7th grader at Hoboken Middle School. He enjoys playing basketball whenever he can, whether it's with friends or on the Hoboken team. He is also an avid Boston sports fan. Ben's favorite subject is math, but he also enjoys writing.

Ben's family joined Temple Beth-El when he started 3rd grade, at which point Ben and his younger brother Jake joined the religious school as well. He plans to continue attending religious school after his Bar Mitzvah.

Ben's enjoyed writing his D'var Torah and learning to chant his Torah portion in preparation for his Bar Mitzvah. Ben's favorite Jewish memories are enjoying a Passover seder with his family and celebrating Hanukkah. Ben would like to thank Rabbi Moritt, Morah Marian, his brother Jake, and his parents for helping him to prepare for his Bar Mitzvah.

CAMP HARLAM 2021 Fall Highlights

Virtual Information Sessions

Meet our directors | Learn about our program | Ask questions | URJ Camp Harlam: December 16 | 7 pm



In-person Tours

Meet our team | Explore our beautiful grounds
Get a taste of life as a Harlam camper!

December 5 | 11 am - 4 pm

Learn more & register at: CampHarlam.org/Future-Camper-Events



Thank you to everyone who participated in our Krispy Kreme Fundraiser. Please pick up your order on Sunday, December 5 between noon and 1 pm.



There have been several serious recent incidents of pedestrians hit by cars in the vicinity of Temple Beth-El, including the tragic death of our congregant, Judith Baller-Fabian by a hit-and-run driver. PLEASE be careful when arriving to and leaving the Temple.

Links Links Links!

One of the many benefits of our TBE newsletter being online is that I can include "live" links for you, so you can listen to music (and watch videos!) I hope that if you follow any links, you'll almost instantly return to read the rest of this newsletter. I'll come back to the music links in an instant.

I'm delighted to share with you that we have some very fun and special events happening here at TBE. For one, our fifth graders will participate in the Family Friday Shabbat Service (February 4). Even sooner, in a matter of weeks, we'll begin thinking about Purim, and I hope you'll sign up to participate in a Purim shpiel!



One of my favorite YouTube videos which is relevant and heart-warming this time of year is Carrie Newcomer's "Room at the Table." A key lyric is "Let our hearts not be hardened to those living on the margin: there's room at the table for everyone." Take a listen/look here and enjoy!

Here comes Hanukkah. Or is it Hannuka or Chanuka? There are many fun song videos you can find online. Prefer to start with some of the traditional songs? Click <u>here</u> for a terrific mash-up which revitalizes three well-known songs: Dreidel, Mi Yimalel, and Ma'oz Tzur by acapella group Shir Soul.

One of my favorite rounds, based on an older secular melody, is "Lotsa Latkes," which you can hear <u>here</u>. Do you know a tune for "Al Hanisim? Here's two. I grew up with this first one <u>here</u>, which was written by Dov Frimer/Shivat Zion. The second (text slightly different as it's the Purim variation) is by Safam <u>here</u>.

Over ten years ago, a Hanukkah video that went viral was "Candlelight" by the Maccabeats, a parody based on Mike Tompkins' a cappella version of Taio Cruz's "Dynamite." Have you seen it? Listen and watch <u>here</u>. This year, the Maccabeats released a new Chanukah song and video, "Latke Recipe," a parody of "Shut Up And Dance" originally performed by Walk the Moon, which you can watch here.

Finally, one more link today. This is for those of you wishing to review, practice, or learn some of the Shabbat prayers and blessings. Visit our website and click on "Learn," then click on "Prayer Resources." The recordings there are for everyone, not just those who are becoming *b'nai mitzvah*.

I look forward to seeing you at Temple Beth-El, to sharing Shabbat with you, and having fun together with you at our Hanukkah Fest and many other special gatherings.

Have a *Chag urim sameach* (Happy Festival of Light). Marian

morahmarian@betheljc.org

Winter Religious School Dates for Your Calendar

Consecration and Hanukkah Communal Candle-lighting (all school celebration)	Friday, December 3 at 6:00 pm
No school (Winter Break)	Sunday, December 26 and Sunday, January 2
No school (Martin Luther King, Jr. Day)	Sunday, January 16
Family Shabbat Service — Grade 5	Friday February 4 at 6:30 pm
All-School Field Trip (Superbowl Sunday)	Sunday, February 13
No school (President's Weekend)	Sunday, February 20
Purim Celebration, Shpiel, and Megillah reading	Wednesday, March 16

For more dates and the full year Religious School Calendar, visit our website here.

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Saturday, December 18 @ 10:30 am

If the weather permits, we will be outdoors. Please watch your emails for alternative plans.



Calling all children 0-5 and their grownups! Welcome back to the Temple! Join us for singing, dancing, storytime, snack and an age-appropriate activity.

As the weather turns colder, we are evaluating how to host Tot Shabbat when it is too cold or wet to be outside. Please respond to this survey to let us know your preferences. We will follow State mask and social distancing requirements and will require vaccination for all children 12 or older when indoors.

Thank you to Phil Gary & Amanda Resnikoff Gary and Mike Noveck for bringing the challah, snack and juice boxes this month. Please consider volunteering for next month by signing up here or contacting Morah Marian.

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

January 15 February 5 March 19 April 23 May 28 June 25 If you are not on our Tot Shabbat list, please email office@betheljc.org & ask to be added to our email list.

sponsored by





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.



over ZOOM (click here)
please note new date & time

At this meeting, Rabbi Moritt will explain the Temple Beth-El B'nai Mitzvah Program while offering parents a chance to ask questions and meet one another. We will discuss the process and activities both available and required of our students and ways that parents can meaningfully participate as well. Parents are required to attend this meeting at least once in the 24 months before their children begin b'nai mitzvah tutoring, which generally begins 6 months before their ceremony.





We have a special treat for Hanukkah! A film festival - streaming from Nov. 28th - Dec 5th!

The Hanukkah Film Festival 2021 runs for 8 days with 11 films, featuring both world and US premieres. Get an all-for-one Gold Pass for the discounted price of \$36.

Subscribers can share this holiday experience with the whole family.

See the trailer here

TBE will receive \$18 from every Gold Pass ticket. To learn more and see the list of films, click here. You must use code TBEJC to get the discounted rate of \$36, and have Temple Beth-El receive proceeds.

NOTE: If you subscribe **at any time** from Nov 28 to Dec 4, you will have **14 days** from your subscription date to view ALL the Festival movies.



Get yummy fresh CHALLAH every week! Subscribe today! A Triple Mitzvah!

- 1. Make your Shabbat more meaningful!2. Challah!
 - 3. Support Temple Beth-El!

\$180 for a 17-week subscription Challah pickup days/times/locations:

Thursdays: at the Temple 11am-4pm or in Hoboken 1:30-4pm at 770 Jackson St. (by prior arrangement through contacting Kristin Michaelson at challah@betheljc.org)

Fridays: at Shabbat Services Sundays: at Religious School

Challahs are parve, diary-free and are prepared in a nut-free & sesame-free environment. Challah delivery dates will be 1/6, 1/13, 1/20, 1/27, 2/3, 2/10, 2/17,2/24, 3/3, 3/10, 3/17, 3/24, 3/31, 4/7, 4/28, 5/5, and 5/12. Loaves of challah not picked up will be donated for Temple use.

Please place your orders by December 23. How to order: Go to https://www.bethelic.org/give/donate-pay/

- Check the box for Event Ticket/Fundraising Initiative.
- From the drop-down menu elect "Challah Subscription" and total quantity you are buying.
- Pay online or send a check payable to Temple Beth-El of Jersey City to 2419 Kennedy Blvd, Jersey City, NJ 07304. Please write "Challah Subscription" in the memo.



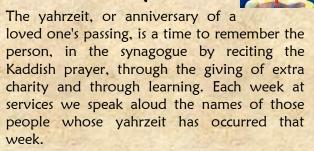


Extraordinary times may compel one to make difficult decisions for which they were not previously prepared. Whether you find yourself faced with the decisions surrounding the death of a family member or you are considering making advance plans, Temple Beth-El has a plot of burial grounds in Mount Moriah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



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



The Wellen family on the death of longtime Temple Beth-El member Florence Wellen, at the age of 98.

The family of Judith Baller-Fabian, who died at the age of 83. Tragically, Judi was struck by a hit and run driver in front of our Temple as she was arriving to study Torah.

Zichronam livracha. May their memory always be for a blessing

Yahrzeits



Week ending December 4

Hyman Golin Aid Kushner Manuel Levine Michelle Raskin Jon Edward Rottenberg Barbara Schwartzbard Abraham L. Wellen

Week ending December 11

Martin Burman Anna Simonds Gurwitz Solomon Roter Claudia Rotsztejn

Week ending December 18

Nestor Osvaldo Dron Rose Baritz Gurwitz Herman Opper

Week ending December 25

Milani Lee Lorraine Elinor Levine Leon Nathan Shuchman Ellen Straus

Week ending January 1

Pauline Yankowitz Harrison David Straus Mollie Weisenfeld Doris Woolf



Our Twitter feed has over **800** followers!

Check it out <u>here</u> or search for Temple Beth-El Jersey City on Twitter.



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 Flla Tarrio

In honor of Morah Marian Jonathan & Alexandra Donenfeld

In memory of Stacey's mother, Rosalind Dars, on her yarzeit Elliott & Stacey Goldstein

In memory of Mary Kushner Robb & Jill Kushner

In memory of Howard Bert Baker on his yarzeit

Jamie & Seth Lieberman

In memory of Laura Moritt Katz Rabbis Leana Moritt & Steven Kushner

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

Music Fund

In memory of Elliott Porte, Rachel Newman, and Sigmond Arthur Newman

Jay & Bonita (Bonnie) Heyman

In memory of Karen's father, Hyman Golin, on his yarzeit Fred & Karen Schnur

In memory of Fred's mother, Helen Schnur, on her yahrzeit Fred & Karen Schnur

In memory of Linda Barovick Irwin Rosen

To Rabbis Leana Moritt & Steven Kushner Mazel Tov on your new home Irwin Rosen

To Loryn Sotsky & Eric Hudspeth Mazel Tov in your new home Irwin Rosen Nancy & Nathan Sambul

Mazel Toy to the Honorable Steven Fulop on his re-election as Mayor of Jersey City Irwin Rosen

Mazel Toy to Ben Gordon and his family on his bar mitzvah Nancy & Nathan Sambul

Speedy get well to Alain Mentha Nancy & Nathan Sambul

In memory of Nancy's father, Dr. Jack Gurwitz, on his yahrzeit Nancy & Nathan Sambul

In memory of Nancy's mother, Rose Baritz Gurwitz, on her yahrzeit Nancy & Nathan Sambul

In memory of Nancy's grandmother, Annie Gurwitz, on her yahrzeit Nancy & Nathan Sambul

Food Pantry Donation

Michael Noveck & Meghan Howard-Noveck (from Ezra)



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facebook

Temple Beth El Jersey City Members

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!





GUTTERMAN

Funeral Directors 866-473-3700

GuttermanBrothers.com

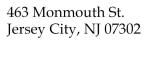
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Lawrence P. Gutterman **Executive Director** NJ Lic. No. 4507

Stephen M.Gutterman (1931 - 2005)

Irving R. Gutterman (1907-1985)





Wednesdays at TBE

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. (See below if you'd like to use a QR code to access the wishlist.)

Donations are tax-deductible. If you donate cash, you'll receive an acknowledgement as usual. If you donate items, email the receipt

to kpd@bethelic.org click here for downloadable copy of the Temple's In-Kind Donation Form. Click on the second form to donate, complete it. a n d send to kpd@betheljc.org.

Thank you so much for your support in keeping our food pantry running during these difficult times.





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