



2419 Kennedy Blvd, Jersey City, NJ 07304  
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The Reform Congregation of Jersey City  
April 2022  
Adar II — Nissan 5782

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

### Passover and Freedom

After three long years, many of us will finally celebrate Passover this year around a table filled with family and friends. I join with all of you who have felt bereft over the last two Passover seasons.



Bar none, the Passover seder is the Jewish ritual most observed by Jews all over the world. More than Shabbat, more than Hanukkah, more than Yom Kippur, more Jews celebrate Passover with a home seder meal than any other Jewish practice. During the centuries after the Spanish Inquisition



when observing Judaism was punishable by death on the Iberian Peninsula, Jews went to great and secret lengths to continue to make their own matzah. They even constructed special dining tables with secret compartments to hide their *haggadot* in case their seder was raided by the authorities and they needed to quickly hide any evidence of the ritual.

Stories such as this must remind us what a blessing it is to live in America today, where our religious freedom is so ingrained in our culture, we take it for granted.

I was reminded of this when I read the news of Madeleine Albright’s death on March 23. She was the first woman to hold the position of Secretary of State, under the Clinton administration. She was raised as a Catholic after her

*continued on page 3*



## Join Us for our Annual Communal Temple Beth-El Passover Seder

Led by Rabbi Leana Moritt

In partnership with Congregation B'nai Jacob

Saturday, April 16th at 5:30pm

Cost: Adults—\$75 Children ages 7-12—\$36 each Children 6 and under—Free

To register, please click [here](#).

Check off **Event/Fundraising** and choose **Passover Seder** on the drop down menu.

**Signup Deadline: Sunday, April 10 @ 6pm**

All attendees must be fully vaccinated and (if eligible) boosted for Covid-19. Documentation must be submitted by email before April 16 to Bob Kahan, our Office Manager at [office@betheljc.org](mailto:office@betheljc.org)

Since our social hall is under construction, Rabbi Moritt will lead our seder at Congregation B'nai Jacob, 176 West Side Ave, Jersey City, NJ 07305.

## **Borscht is Back! Saturday, June 11!**

See page 4 for details on buying tickets & ads for TBE’s 150th Anniversary Epic Comedy Blast!

**This month! Our mask and oneg protocols have changed. All our Shabbat services live and in person in our sanctuary.** Oneg refreshments have resumed!

We are also now be **mask-optional** for people who have submitted **documentation** that they are **fully vaccinated**. If you have not already done so, please submit your vaccination documentation to [office@betheljc.org](mailto:office@betheljc.org). Verification will be necessary before masks may be removed. Only those verified will be permitted to attend events with food. Children 5 and under are not required to be vaccinated or masked.

Of course, we are also continuing to livestream all our services for all who do not feel ready to return. Read our full Covid protocols [here](#). **Services that will be livestreamed from our sanctuary can be viewed [here](#).** If you are following the service from home and would like to access the siddur, click [here](#).

- Friday, April 1** 6:30 pm  
New Member Shabbat  
First Friday Family Kabbalat Shabbat services featuring grades K-2 and honoring our new members. Oneg after services.
- Saturday, April 2** 10:30 am  
Shabbat Morning Services and bar mitzvah of Benny Gabriel.
- Friday, April 8** 8:00 pm  
Kabbalat Shabbat services. Oneg following services.
- Saturday, April 9** 10:30 am  
Shabbat morning services and bar mitzvah of Etienne Fialon
- Friday, April 15**  
Erev Pesach — 1st Seder. No services at Temple.
- \*Saturday, April 16 at Congregation B'nai Jacob** 5:30 pm  
Community Passover Seder
- Friday, April 22** 8:00 pm  
Kabbalat Shabbat services. Passover oneg following services
- \*Saturday, April 23** 10:30 am  
Tot Shabbat in person in the Temple Beth-El Sanctuary.
- Friday, April 29** 8:00 pm  
Wine & Cheese “Pre-neg” 7:15 pm  
Kabbalat Shabbat services honoring our Gerot Tz’dakot affirming their Jewish identity. Oneg following services.
- Saturday, April 30** 10:30 am  
Shabbat Morning Services and bar mitzvah of Alexander Ricco
- Friday, May 6** 6:30 pm  
First Friday Family Kabbalat Shabbat services featuring grades 3 & 4. Oneg after services honoring our children.
- Saturday, May 7** 10:30 am  
Shabbat Morning Services and bat mitzvah of Erica Goodman

*\*These services will NOT be livestreamed.*



**Temple Beth-El**

2419 Kennedy Boulevard at Harrison Avenue  
Jersey City, NJ 07304

Phone: 201-333-4229

Fax: 201-938-0445

[office@betheljc.org](mailto:office@betheljc.org)  
[www.betheljc.org](http://www.betheljc.org)



Office hours: Mon-Fri 10am – 1pm  
Much of our staff is 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**  
**Marian Kleinman**

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

**Tom Rosensweet, President** [tom@betheljc.org](mailto:tom@betheljc.org)

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

**Kay Magilavy, Past President**

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

**Irwin Rosen, Past President**

**Shabbat Candle Lighting**



- Friday, April 1 7:03 pm
- Friday, April 8 7:10 pm
- Friday, April 15 7:15 pm
- Friday, April 22 7:25 pm
- Friday, April 29 7:32 pm
- Friday, May 6 7:40 pm



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

family fled Prague, Czechoslovakia—fleeing first from the Nazis in 1937 and then from the Communists in 1948. They never told Madeleine they were Jewish. It was a secret they kept from her and her siblings and carried to their grave.



It wasn't until she was 60 years old and a newspaper journalist presented her with genealogical evidence that she learned and accepted the truth of her Jewish identity. She subsequently learned that 26 family members, including three grandparents, had been murdered in the Holocaust. Traveling to Prague as Secretary of State, she encountered the name of her grandfather etched in the memorial wall of a Prague synagogue.

This story has always struck me as so very tragic but alas, also not uncommon for those who were so traumatized by the antisemitism of the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century. Today it is hard to imagine the pain and fear her parents felt that they would withhold such essential family information and identity from their children.

But this story brings us to our own Passover tables. The word "Pesach" has two meanings in Hebrew. The plain meaning is "pass over." I.e., the Angel of Death, *pass(ed) over* and spared the homes of the Israelites as they prepared to flee *Mitzrayim* (Egypt). But midrashically, the word can also be interpreted as "*peh sach*," meaning the "mouth (pe) speaks (sach)." The purpose of the seder is to spark conversations between the generations as to what freedom can mean to us as Jews.

Do your family members know your family's story? Do they know where they come from, the travels (fleeing) your ancestors experienced? Do they know why Judaism and the seder is important to you? Why was it important to your parents and grandparents? Do they know who they were named for (i.e., their Hebrew names?) Did your ancestors (or did you) feel they had to hide who they were or muffle their traditions? Why? Can you share stories of your sedarim growing up?

As we pray for those around the world and in our own country whose freedoms are curtailed, let us also not take our own freedom to be Jews for granted. Passover's power lies in its transmission of values and our sacred story from generation to generation. Especially if it has been a couple of years, may it be that we all take the time to cherish and acknowledge the freedom we have to live freely and openly to embrace and live our identities fully and meaningfully.

Wishing you a sweet and liberating Passover,

*Rabbi Leana Moritt*



After over two years, we are delighted to celebrate Shabbat with nosh and face to face community company. We are also excited about some new changes as follows:

- Oneg refreshments will be offered after services only for those whose full vaccination has been verified. Masks will be required at all times for all others\*
- Monthly wine and cheese "pre-negs" will be offered on the 3rd Shabbat of the month: April 29 (moved for Passover), May 20, June 17.
- Our first Friday (of the month) onegs will feature a special cake celebrating the school children co-leading that month's service.

Please consider sponsoring an oneg— for a special occasion or just celebrating being able to be together!

We thank you for your patience and community support over these two years  
and we can't wait to see you!

\*Neither masks nor vaccines are required for children under 5. If you have not done so already, please email our Office Manager, Bob Kahan, with your vaccination documentation. All wishing to remove their masks must be verified.

As with everything Covid, these rules are subject to change as the situation changes, hopefully only for the better.



## **BORSCHT IS BACK!**

Saturday, June 11th at 8 pm  
at the Ukrainian Community Center in Jersey City.

After 3 long years, we're thrilled to invite you support our epic  
11th Annual Evening of Comedy,  
Saturday Night Borscht  
hosted by **Phil Rivo** and featuring comic powerhouse, **Jessica Kirson**.

Save the date, buy your tickets and please buy and/or sell an ad in our  
journal [here](#) to celebrate the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Temple Beth-El.  
We need your support.



**Benny Gabriel** will become a bar mitzvah on April 2. Benny is currently in 7th grade at Hoboken Middle School. His favorite subject in school is English Language Arts. When he is not in school, he enjoys playing soccer as a goalkeeper.

Benny's family joined Temple Beth El in 2018 when they moved back to Hoboken from Philadelphia. He has been participating in religious school since. After his bar mitzvah, Benny plans to continue to use everything he is learning at Temple Beth El to be a good person.

Benny has put in a lot of time and effort to prepare for his bar mitzvah. His favorite part of the process has been learning Hebrew. His favorite Jewish memories are of spending time with his family during the high holidays.

Benny would like to thank his Hebrew school teachers, Rabbi Moritt, Morah Marian, his friends, and his Mom and Dad for all of their help and encouragement.



**Etienne Fialon** will become a bar mitzvah on April 9. Etienne was born in NYC and raised in Jersey City. He is a 7th grader at the Learning Community Charter School, which he has attended since pre-K.

When not in school or preparing for his bar mitzvah (quite diligently of course!), this year Etienne could be found preparing for his school musical *Into the Woods*, helping launch a D&D club at his school, practicing Jiu Jitsu, in the Pershing Field swimming pool, or hiking up a mountain with his family. In his downtime (and every chance he gets), Etienne likes to read, play Minecraft, watch YouTube videos, and seek out information to satisfy his insatiable curiosity.

Etienne has attended Temple Beth-El services since he was a baby and religious school since kindergarten. He enjoys family Shabbat dinners, and has especially appreciated taking part in acts of loving-kindness, such as visiting a relative in mourning and helping prepare meals for the food insecure. Etienne would like to thank Rabbi Moritt, Rabbi Hachen, Morah Marian, Kay, and all of his teachers at TBE (with a special shout out to Mazi, Yoni, Brenda and Hara) for teaching and preparing him over the past eight years.



**Alex Ricco** will become a Bar Mitzvah on April 30. Alex is a seventh grader at Secaucus Middle School, where he is on the honor roll. Alex spends his free time playing baseball on two teams as a pitcher, outfielder, and third baseman. When he is not playing baseball, he's hanging out with his friends or playing video games. Alex is also a gifted musician and plays the guitar, drums and piano.

Alex's family joined Temple Beth El in 2000. Alex began Hebrew school there in 2014, when he was in kindergarten.

Alex would like to thank Rabbi Moritt and Morah Marian for helping him study and prepare for his Bar Mitzvah. Alex would also like to thank his parents, Heather and Brian, and his big sister, Caitlin, for their support.



**Saturday, April 23 @ 10:30 am**

*Back in person at Temple Beth-El!*

Calling all children 0-5 and their grownups! Join your TBE friends, Rabbi Moritt & Morah Marian for singing, dancing, storytime, kiddush & motzi, and an age-appropriate craft. *Passover dietary traditions will be observed. (i.e., no chametz/products with grain other than matzah.)*

Mark your calendars for Tot Shabbat mornings through the end of the calendar year. We will be meeting outside in various outdoor locations when weather permits. Watch for location details.

May 28 June 25 July 9 August 20 September 17  
October 15 November 12 December 10

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

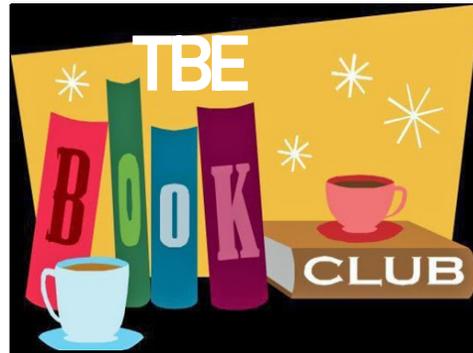
sponsored by PJ Library



**Save the Dates**

End of School Lag B’Omer Family Picnic on the lawn: May 15 11:30 -1:30

Shavuot Congregational Picnic and Ice Cream Social: June 5 noon - 3



The following are the books for the upcoming Book Club meetings:

Thursday, April 21: *Orphan's Daughter*, by Jan Cherubin\*

Thursday, May 26: *Rashi's Daughters / Book II: Miriam* by Maggie Anton

It is not necessary to have read Book I: *Joheved*, which we discussed last summer. But if you have time, you'll enjoy it as a prequel.

\* The author will join us to answer questions.

**Spring Religious School Dates for Your Calendar**

Family Shabbat Service – Grades K, 1, 2	Friday, April 1, at 6:30 pm
Family Shabbat Service – Grades 3 & 4	Friday, May 6 at 6:30 pm
Last Day of School Family Picnic & Lag B’Omer Celebration	Sunday, May 15 at 11:30 am
Shavuot Community Picnic & Ice Cream Social	Sunday, June 5 at 12 noon

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

## A HUGE Thank You Note from Nancy Sambul, Chair Purim Bag Fundraiser

Below is the CORRECTED Purim Letter\* with the names of the 38 donors to this year's Purim Bag Fund. Thank you to our donors. In addition to raising almost \$4,000, we want to thank our anonymous donor whose contribution of \$1,000 covered the cost of the Hammentashen, candies, paper bags and baggies.

Finally, Purim Bags do not deliver themselves to your homes. It takes members who volunteer to pick up the bags and drive or walk to your homes. To our volunteers, this could not happen without you:

Beth Achenbach  
Eric Bleich  
Joel Caminer & Ellen Simon  
Jeff Goodman  
Seth & Jamie Lieberman  
Craig Linder & family

Chloe Lipmann & Ben Litchman  
Seth Lubin  
Kay Magilavy  
Joanna Metelitsa  
Peter Retzlaff  
Irwin Rosen

Carina Rubaja Dron  
Nathan Sambul  
Mike & Tyler Schonberg  
Judith Schteingart  
Ian Silver

## Happy Purim from Temple Beth-El



Purim is a holiday of sweetness and joy, a time when we reflect on the power of an individual and the victory of the Jewish nation in the face of destruction. One of the nicest traditions on Purim is that of giving a gift of food to friends and tzedakah.

The following became sponsors of the Purim Fund so you can feast and be glad:

Rabbis Leana Moritt & Stephen Kushner  
Rabbi Kenneth L. Brickman & Michael Pizzi  
Nancy & Nathan Sambul  
Irwin Rosen & Sharon Hirshberg  
Kay Magilavy & Norman Mayersohn  
Hadas Bar  
Allison Pilgrim-Bell & Michiel Bell  
Arnold & Renee Bettinger  
Eric Bleich  
Merrick J. & Judith "Tina" Brodsky  
Lynn Brownstein & Alexander Haviland  
Joel Caminer & Ellen Simon  
Stephanie Chaiken  
Raimy & Brian Cheyne  
Sarah Colker & Joe Moskowitz  
Karen & Gary Cuttler  
Megan Dolbee-Russek & Jonathan Russek  
William Dubinsky & Elizabeth Moss  
Robin & Terry Ewert

Melinda & Neil Fried  
Philip Gary & Amanda Resnikoff-Gary  
Elliott & Stacey Goldstein  
Suzanne Goldstein-Smith & John Thompson  
Larry Gutterman  
Jason & Marina Kirschner  
Seth & Jamie Lieberman  
Craig & Michele Linder  
Mike Noveck & Meghan Howard-Noveck  
Joanna Metelitsa  
Sam Pesin  
Jonathan Pinn & Karen Seemen-Pinn  
Stuart Portnoy  
Peter Retzlaff & Alyssa Baer  
Harvey & Shirley Roter  
Alex Schkrutz & Robin Rosenzweig Schkrutz  
Karen & Fred Schnur  
Laraine "Lari" Schwartz  
Elia Tarrío

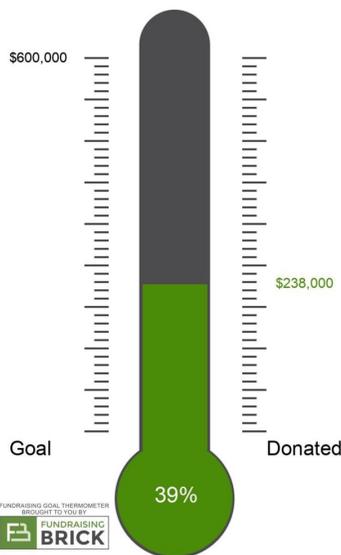
If your name is not on the above list, and you liked getting a Purim Bag, please show your appreciation and perform tzedakah by donating to the Purim Fund [here](#) – check OTHER and designate Purim Bags.

## Foundations: The Social Hall Renovation

Facilities Committee members continue to work with our architects, contractor, engineer and plumbers to finalize the plan to replace the heating system pipes. We want to be sure that, once the Social Hall renovation is done, new asbestos-free piping will be in place for the updated Sanctuary heating system. We hope these new pipes will last another 96 years! This involves an update to the plumbers' scope of work, as well as that of the asbestos remediators.



Next week, we'll have new renderings from the architects so you'll be able to see how the Social Hall will look when it's set up for school, and when it's set up for events.

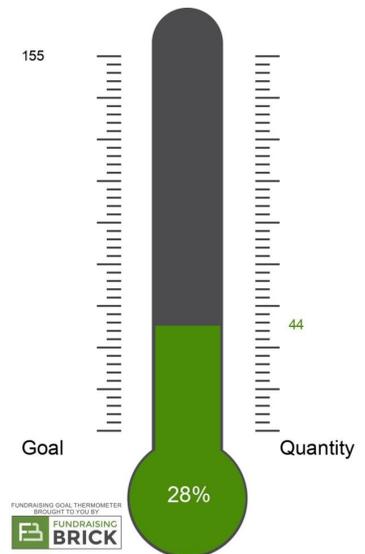


Our Kadimah! Committee continues their fundraising efforts. If Peter, Chloe or Joe reach out to you, please take their call and give generously.

### Progress as of 3/1/2022

The thermometer on the left shows the estimated cost of the Foundations phase of our renovation versus the amount we've raised for this phase.

The thermometer on the right shows our total membership and the number of our members who have contributed to the renovation.

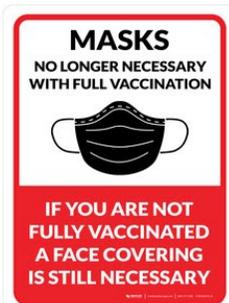


## The Covid Times, They Are A-Changing (we pray!)

Effective immediately, we will now be **mask-optional** for people who have submitted **documentation** that they are **fully vaccinated**.

Please submit your updated vaccination documentation [here](#) ASAP. Ushers and school personnel will be verifying people's vaccination status upon entering the building.

Our complete newly-updated COVID Protocols can be found [here](#).



### 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!

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

**YOM HASHOAH:**  
HOLOCAUST  
REMEMBRANCE DAY



**Yom Hashoah Program—Sunday, May 1 @ 1 pm**

Join us for a 45-minute Yom HaShoah program of stories and song, led by our Cantorial Soloist Marian Kleinman with some of our sixth and seventh graders participating. Watch the Weekly emails for more info.

**CAMP HARLAM**  
A URI CAMP

**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!

**Sunday, April 10**

Learn more  
[CampHarlam.org/Future-Camper-Events](http://CampHarlam.org/Future-Camper-Events)

**WE REMEMBER**  
Songs of Survivors

**PBS Documentary — Thursday, April 26**

Morah Marian's relative Freide Gorewitz is one of the four survivors featured in "We Remember: Songs of Survivors." The documentary, which premieres nationwide Thursday, April 26th on PBS, is a celebration of the lives of Hudson Valley Holocaust survivors... the wisdom they bring to our society... and the acknowledgement of a cathartic healing process where they turn their inner most personal stories into inspirational songs embracing their resilience and pride in surviving and living. Taking a unique storytelling approach, this documentary pairs four Holocaust survivors with talented local songwriters who spend months forming unique bonds to create songs that are at the very heart of their survivor's experiences.

Read more and watch the trailer [here](#)

Read the PBS Press Release [here](#)



*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**

in memory of Shirley Bouer  
*Jack & Cynthia Bouer  
Laurie Krim*

A donation was made by  
*Jonathan & Alexandra Donenfeld*

**Flower Donation**

In honor of the bat mitzvahs of  
Jordyn and Emily Eisen  
*Lara & Jared Eisen*

**Rabbi's Discretionary Fund**

In memory of mother, Milani Lee  
*Robb & Jill Kushner*

**Food Pantry Donation**

Irwin Rosen & Sharon Hirshberg  
Nathan & Nancy Sambul  
*Fred & Karen Schnur*

**Music Fund**

In memory of Shirley Bouer  
*Harvey & Shirley Roter*

In memory of grandmother,  
Cecilia Waul Cohen, on her yarzeit  
*Irwin Rosen & Sharon Hirshberg*

In memory of Jonathan Donenfeld's  
father, Kenneth Jay Donenfeld  
*Irwin Rosen*

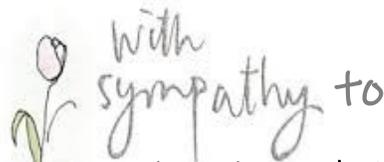
Wishing Meghan Haward-Noveck a  
speedy and complete recovery  
*Irwin Rosen*



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

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

For further information, please contact Larry Gutterman at [admin@betheljc.org](mailto:admin@betheljc.org)



Jon, Alex, Elsa and Manny Donenfeld  
on the death of Jon's father,  
Kenneth Jay Donenfeld.

## Yahrzeits

### Week ending April 2

Andy Lackowitz  
Lennox McKell  
Rose Sternberg  
Irving Vogelman

### Week ending April 23

Ellen Baker  
Herman Bardack  
Rabbi Samuel A. Berman  
Elizabeth Daniel  
Arlene Hysen  
Philip Sandick

### Week ending April 9

Libby Bergen  
Lothar Daniel  
John Magilavy  
Deborah Baker Terry  
Howard R. Weil

### Week ending April 30

Florence Berman  
Florence Goldberg  
Liliyen Meshell-Chiltern  
Harold I. Parnes  
Eugene Rottenberg

### Week ending April 16

Yetta De Noble  
Leon Sambul  
Nathan Schnur



## 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](#)

## 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.



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## 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@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).

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



Scan with QR Studio

## Ying's Gifts & Accessories

### GREAT BLOWOUT SALE!

Great sale on all items!

We carry gift items for all occasions, his & hers and much more!

Use code: Temple at checkout and receive 25% off your purchase. An additional 20% goes to the temple.

### Sale runs throughout the year!



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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!