



2419 Kennedy Blvd, Jersey City, NJ 07304  
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The Reform Congregation of Jersey City  
January 2023  
Tevet—Shevat 5783

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

### Temple Beth-El's 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Martin Luther King Service

Friday, January 20th @ 7:30 pm

Please join us for a service honoring the life, work and vision of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., with keynote address by

Rutgers University President Jonathan Holloway.

Featuring musical guests and participation by guest clergy, elected officials, and our children.



Jonathan Holloway, who was appointed the 21st president of Rutgers in 2020, is an eminent historian specializing in post-emancipation United States history with a focus on social and intellectual history. Dr. Holloway is the author of several books, most recently *The Cause of Freedom: A Concise History of African Americans*, published last year.

Prior to accepting the presidency of Rutgers, Dr. Holloway was provost of Northwestern University from 2017 to 2020 and a member of the faculty of Yale University from 1999 to 2017. At Yale, he served as Dean of Yale College and the Edmund S. Morgan Professor of African American Studies, History, and American Studies.

He earned his bachelor's degree with honors in American studies from Stanford University and a PhD in history from Yale University. Dr. Holloway serves on several boards, including the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the American Academy of Arts & Sciences, the Gates Cambridge Trust, and the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture. He is a Fellow of the Council on Foreign Relations.



### You're Invited to Our Groundbreaking Ceremony!

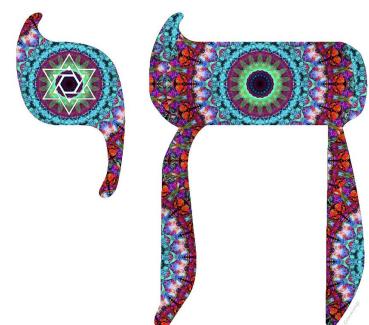
Sunday, February 5th 2023 \* 11:15am

We are thrilled to invite you to our Groundbreaking Ceremony to mark the beginning of the rebuilding of our community space, which suffered significant damage from Hurricane Ida.

Please join us for bagels and coffee, remarks from community leaders and Rabbi Moritt, and a musical performance by our Religious School children.

[RSVP here](#)

2419 John F. Kennedy Blvd, Jersey City, NJ 07304



*Have you taken the  
Chai Challenge yet?  
See page 2 and  
donate [here](#)*

# TAKE THE CHAI CHALLENGE



**HELP US  
GO FROM  
THIS**

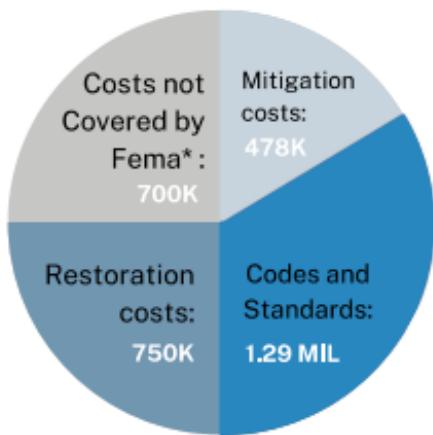
**TO THIS!**

If every member donates \$180/month (10x chai/18) for 12 months, we will reach our fundraising goal for the Social Hall this year.

Is \$180/month too big of a stretch? What multiple of chai monthly amount will you donate?



## \$3.2 MILLION OUR SOCIAL HALL BUDGET



The groundbreaking ceremony will be in February and we anticipate that, in partnership with FEMA and the Department of Homeland Security, we will have a completely and beautifully refurbished School facility and Social Hall by the start of the next school year.

**TO MAKE OUR TRANSFORMATION A REALITY...**  
**WE ARE LOOKING FOR 100% CONGREGATIONAL PARTICIPATION TO TAKE THIS CHALLENGE!**

## WHERE IS THE \$3.2 MIL COMING FROM?



516k: Goal for this year

106k: SBA Loan

310K: Money Raised

2.27 Million FEMA\*

**TO DONATE**

**PLEASE CLICK [HERE](#)**

All new windows streaming in natural light

A brand-new school facility with audio-quality movable walls

Ample space for all our celebrations and events

New bathrooms in our lower level

New HVAC in our lower level

A handicapped accessible elevator that goes from our basement to balcony

New Front Doors on sanctuary level

New security windows in our Annex Classrooms and Rabbi's office

New security perimeter fencing and lighting around our building

And More!

\*FEMA IS GIVING US 90% OF THE FUNDS TO COVER A SCOPE OF WORK COVERING THE COST OF RESTORATION; IMPROVEMENTS TO BRING US UP TO ALL CODES & STANDARDS; AND MITIGATION COSTS (LESS 106K SBA LOAN). SOME OF THE NECESSARY WORK IS NOT COVERED IN THE FEMA FULL BUDGETS. FUNDRAISING NEEDS, AND TIMELINE IS EXPECTED VERY SOON, FULL TRANSPARENCY WILL FOLLOW, THESE THERMOMETERS WILL CONTINUE TO UPDATE AS THE WORK PROGRESSES.

- All Shabbat services are live and in person in our sanctuary.
- Temple Beth-El no longer requires masking or proof of vaccination. However, we have established a “masked required” section of our sanctuary for those who feel most comfortable sitting among masked people.
- We are continuing to livestream all our services for all who do not feel ready to return. **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, January 6**

First Friday Family Kabbalat Shabbat Services with 6:30 pm Cantor Jeff. All Grade Shabbat. Oneg and cake honoring the children after services.

**Friday, January 13**

Kabbalat Shabbat Services. Oneg following services. 8:00 pm

**Friday, January 20**

**38<sup>th</sup> Annual Martin Luther King Shabbat Service** 7:30 pm with guest speaker Rutgers University President Jonathan Holloway. Oneg following services sponsored by Sam Pesin and Judy Pesin-Borrielo in memory of their parents, Morris and Ethel Pesin.

**Saturday, January 21**

Tot Shabbat (not livestreamed) 10:30 am

**Friday, January 27**

Shabbat Dinner. All attendees must pre-register by 7:00 pm Tuesday, Jan 24 [here](#). All are welcome to the oneg at 8:30 Kaddish will be offered for those who wish to recite it. This dinner will be in place of our usual Shabbat prayer services. (See page 5)

**Friday, February 3**

First Friday Family Kabbalat Shabbat Services with 6:30 pm Cantor Jeff. 6th Grade Shabbat. Oneg and cake honoring the children after services

**Sunday, February 5**

Groundbreaking Ceremony! 11:15 am

**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)  
**Cantor in Residence Jeff Warshauer** [CantorJeff@betheljc.org](mailto:CantorJeff@betheljc.org)  
**Lindsay Holeman**, Interim Education Dir. [lindsay@betheljc.org](mailto:lindsay@betheljc.org)  
**Tom Rosensweet**, President [tom@betheljc.org](mailto:tom@betheljc.org)  
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**Bob Kahan**, Office Mgr [admin@betheljc.org](mailto:admin@betheljc.org)  
**Kay Magilavy**, Past President  
**Irwin Rosen**, Past President



Please consider  
[sponsoring an oneg](#) —  
for a special occasion  
or just to celebrate being together!

**Shabbat Candle Lighting**

*to honor and enjoy Shabbat  
to bring light & peace into the home*

	Friday, January 6	4:26 pm	
	Friday, January 13	4:33 pm	
	Friday, January 20	4:41 pm	
	Friday, January 27	4:49 pm	
	Friday, February 3	4:58 pm	

## Religious School News

Dear Religious School families:

When Temple Beth-El was left without a school director on short notice at the beginning of this school year, Rosa Escandon stepped up to step in as our Interim School Director. Rosa – or Morah Chaya, as the students know her — hit the ground running, and over the last several months, she's been our school's guiding force: She's prepared our curriculum, developed our programming, worked with our teachers and families, and kept Sundays running smoothly! We are deeply appreciative for everything Rosa has done for Temple Beth-El this year.

And while it is now time for Rosa to turn her focus elsewhere, as she prepares for her wedding later this year, we are very happy that another member of our Temple Beth-El family will be stepping up to step in as we search for our permanent Educational Director: Lindsay Holeman, who currently teaches our kitah bet (*lower case*) second graders, will be filling Rosa's shoes when Rosa departs at the end of this month. Rosa and Lindsay will be working together in the coming weeks to ensure a smooth transition, and we are confident that our students will continue to enjoy the inspiring Jewish education that is at the heart of our religious school.

As her students can attest, Morah Lindsay is an enthusiastic and creative teacher, an experienced Jewish educator, and a beloved member of our synagogue community. We are thrilled that Lindsay joined Temple Beth-El as a teacher last year, and we're excited to see her plans for the remainder of this school year! Lindsay has written an introductory note here, but please feel free to email her with any questions, concerns, or just to introduce yourself at [lindsay.holeman@betheljc.org](mailto:lindsay.holeman@betheljc.org).

Warm regards,

**Karen Seemen Pinn**, VP Education

**Michele Linder**, Co-chair, Youth Education Committee

**Craig Linder**, Co-chair, Youth Education Committee

**Rabbi Leana Moritt**

Dear Families,

Thank you for welcoming me so warmly into the Temple Beth El community. I am excited to get started. I have many ideas I would love to implement and big shoes to fill as Rosa finishes her time here.

A little about me: I've been teaching throughout central New Jersey for the last fifteen years. I have a Bachelor of Arts degree from Goucher College in Towson, Maryland, where I volunteered regularly with the Hillel. After college I worked extensively with local nonprofits while starting graduate school at Rider University for Early Childhood Education. I am a certified K-12 ESL teacher (English as a Second Language) and I currently teach K-2 ESL in Jersey City. I grew up in Monmouth County and I taught Hebrew School at



Congregation Ohev Shalom in Marlboro, where I was bat mitzvahed. Additionally, I taught at Congregation Beth Shalom (Scotch Plains), Congregation Ahavat Olam (Howell), and Temple Shaari Emeth (Manalapan). I visited Israel twice and look forward to returning.

Throughout my career, I've taught children with special needs, gifted teens, and specialize in working with second language learners. As some of you know, I initially taught Kitah Bet class (second grade) the last few months at Temple Beth El. I've enjoyed getting to know the children, their parents, and the staff. I am confident we will make a great team as we move forward. I want to thank Rabbi Moritt, Rosa, and the board for this amazing opportunity.

*Lindsay Holeman*

## Our next Community Shabbat Dinner at TBE:

**Friday, January 27 @ 7 pm**



All attendees must pre-register [here](#) by Tuesday, January 24. This dinner will be in place of our usual Shabbat prayer services. Cost is \$18 per person for a fully catered Shabbat dinner. \$10 for children ages 3-10.

All are welcome to the oneg/dessert at 8:30. Kaddish will be offered then for those who wish to recite it.

Save the Dates!

wine & cheese "pre-neg"  
before services

**Friday, February 17**

**Friday, March 17**



**Saturday, January 21**

**@ 10:30 am**

*at Temple Beth-El*

Calling all children 0-5 and their grownups! Join your TBE friends, Rabbi Moritt and Ben Rauch for singing, dancing, storytime, kiddush, motzi, and an age-appropriate craft. Bracha the Bear is eager to see us again!

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

*March 18 April 22 May 13  
June 10 July 15 August 26*

If you are not on our Tot Shabbat list, please email the [office](#) & ask to be added to our email list.



sponsored by Library

## Pajama Havdalah

*A new program!*

**Saturday, February 4 @ 5 pm**

For children 7 and under Come to Temple in your pajamas (grownups too!) and with your special blanket and animal for pizza, *havdalah*, and a movie (*EI Canto*), complete with popcorn and snacks.

## Beth-El on Ice!

The NJ Devils hockey team hosted Hanukkah Night on Thursday, December 15. We had 45 congregants purchase tickets to see the Devils play the Philadelphia Flyers, celebrate Hanukkah, watch the Maccabeats perform, and get our picture taken on center ice! While not everyone could stay until the end of the game for the group photo, a great time was had by all. Join us next year, as we are absolutely going to make this an annual event!



A full Shabbat day of food for the body, mind and soul, beginning with YOGA, moving through the day with prayer, food, and study, and closing with havdalah.

The on-site cost is \$36 and the Zoom cost is \$18.

## Shabbat Bo

### January 28, 2023 • Shabbaton

This day is dedicated to the love of prayer, study & community.



9:30-10:30AM	YOGA  (BRING YOUR OWN MAT)
10:30-11:00PM	Registration  plus light breakfast
11:00AM	Shabbat Worship  (IN PERSON/ZOOM/YouTube)
12:45-1:45PM	LUNCH
1:45-3:00PM	Study Session Aleph  (IN PERSON or on ZOOM)
3:00-3:15PM	Se'udat Sh'lisheet
3:15-4:45PM	Study Session Bet  (IN PERSON + on ZOOM)
5:00PM	Havdalah  (IN PERSON + on ZOOM)

Register [here](#)



rpressman@nertamid.org for more details



- Join the tech crew and work our Livestream equipment at a Shabbat service. Contact [Seth Lubin](#)
- Love to shmooze? Want to help our building renovation plans become reality? Help the Temple talk up and grow our Kadimah! Development Team. Contact [Joe Koskuba](#)
- Know Wordpress or have tech skills? Help the Temple with occasional website updates or updating our digital infrastructure. Contact [Philip Gary](#) or [Rabbi Moritt](#)
- Want to create fun, welcoming and meaningful Temple events? Be part of our Religious Practices/Ushering team or Membership committee. Contact [Kristin Michaelson](#) or [Rabbi Moritt](#)
- Want to help feed the hungry and change the world? Contact [Laura Katzive](#)



Get yummy fresh CHALLAH every week! Subscribe today!

**Order Deadline**

**Tuesday, January 17**

A Triple Mitzvah:

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

\$180 for a 15-week subscription

Thursday, 1/26 — Thursday, 5/18

(skipping 2/16 & 4/6)

Loaves of challah not picked up will be donated for Temple use.

**Challah pickup days/times/locations:**

**Thursdays** at the Temple 11am-6pm

**Fridays** at Shabbat Services

**Sundays** at Religious School

*Challahs are parve, dairy-free and prepared in a nut-free & sesame-free environment.*

**How to order:**

Go to <https://www.betheljc.org/give/donate-pay/>

Check the box **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 07305.

Please write "Challah Subscription" in the memo.



## Change the World With One Hour of Your Time Food Pantry Every Thursday at Temple Beth-El

### The Temple Beth-El Food Pantry Urgently Needs Volunteers

Our Food Pantry is in its third year and is giving out more and more meals to our food-insecure neighbors every Thursday. Our members and friends have been generous with food donations.

To volunteer, please download the [Charity Quest App](#) to volunteer and donate. [Android](#) [Apple](#) Signing up through the App will make it easier for us to track. Team leaders (those with keys) should not sign up. Just let [Karen](#) and [Laura](#) know when you can go. Once someone registers, we will provide contact info to the team leader.

You can also help by donating the food listed [here](#), or by donating funds.

**Thank you to the following members who donated funds to the Food Pantry this month:**

**Deborah Lipp    Shawn McCarthy    Marion Roger    Nancy & Nathan Sambul**

## Tributes

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

### Sustaining Fund

A donation was made by *Mark & Beverly Cavanagh*

In honor of Tom Rosensweet's 70th Birthday  
*Elna A. Mukaida*

In memory of Jon Rottenberg  
*Mildred Rottenberg*

### Music Fund

In memory of Jon Pinn's mother  
*Irwin Rosen*

### Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

In memory of Bernice Portney  
*Innovative Planning Housing Metro Company, LLC*

### Religious School Fund

A donation was made by  
*Nancy & Nathan Sambul*



## membership MATTERS

Interested in becoming a member of Temple Beth-El or learning about our Terumah free-will giving approach to dues? Click [here](#) for information.

Are you already a member? If you haven't yet renewed your membership, please do so now by clicking [here](#) and making your new pledge for fiscal year 2022-23. Our community can only thrive if everyone participates to the best of their financial ability. We need your support.

We raised the suggested donation for the first time in four years to \$2,700 for this year but, under our Terumah free-will dues system, we welcome your pledge in any amount that you can afford. We only ask that you give as generously as you can.



**HARLAM**  
A URJ CAMP

It's not too early to think about camp for next summer!

Learn about Camp Harlam [here](#).



Jennifer Strong Mentha and Amelie Mentha on the loss of their husband and father, **Alain Mentha**, at the age of 57.

Daughters Shelly Phillips and Susan Kilgallen and family on the loss of long-time Temple member **Evelyn Malzberg**, at the age of 95.

Robb and Jill Kushner and family on the loss of Robb's father, **Larry Kushner**, at the age of 98.

Jon Pinn, Karen Seemen Pinn, and family on the loss of Jon's mother, **Susan Strauss Pinn**, at the age of 81.

**Zichronam livracha. May their memories be for a blessing.**



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

## **Yahrzeits/Memorial Plaques** *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](#)

## **yahrzeits**



### **Week ending**

**January 7**

Morris Donner  
Nestor Osvaldo Dron

Gloria Gary  
Ben Hersberg  
Willis Hines  
Ruth Cohen Kravtin  
Benjamin Migdall  
Murray Siegel

### **Week ending**

**January 14**

Shirley Bayarsky  
Lisa Feldman  
Dr. Nathan Frank  
Shirley Porte

### **Week ending**

**January 21**

Milton Ackman  
Marshall Bergen  
Pauline Yankowitz Harrison  
Dorothy Kahan

Harry B. Pearl

Jeannette S. Rabin  
David Straus  
Mollie Weisenfeld

### **Week ending** **January 28**

Isaura Catalina Enclada  
Calderon  
Carolyn Gromer  
Richard S. Heitner  
Natalie Kizner  
Anne Kolodny Roter  
Edward Schwartz  
Sylvia Wohl

### **Week ending February 4**

Charles Kenneth Brauer  
Fannie Noveck  
David Press  
Howard G. Sklower



## **Temple Beth-El Jersey City Members**

is a private Facebook Group created exclusively for our Temple Beth-El member community. 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.



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## Religious School News

Our Religious School has open enrollment. If you have friends who are interested but who have not yet explored or registered for schools, have them reach out to Director of Education [Lindsay Holeman](#), or enroll [here](#).

**Click [here](#) for our 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.

## 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!**

[www.yingtrading.net](http://www.yingtrading.net)

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Paypal secure

All purchases guaranteed.

See site for details. All major credit cards accepted.

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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!