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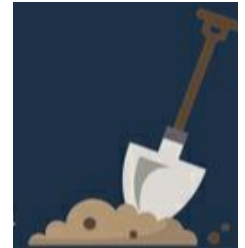
The Reform Congregation of Jersey City
March 2023
Adar— Nissan 5783

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

Our Groundbreaking Ceremony was a great success!

Thank you to all of you who were there and have donated to the rebuilding of our community space, which suffered significant damage from Hurricane Ida.
If you missed it, check out some of these photos.

[Here's](#) a wonderful newspaper article about the event. And [here](#) is the link to donate.



Celebrate Purim with us on Monday, March 6.



Featuring:
Costume Parade!
Megilla Reading! Shpiel!
General Silliness! Hamantaschen & Schnapps!

Mordy Potter
and the Philosopher's Bagel

A PURIM SHPIEL

TAKE THE CHAI CHALLENGE



HELP US GO FROM THIS

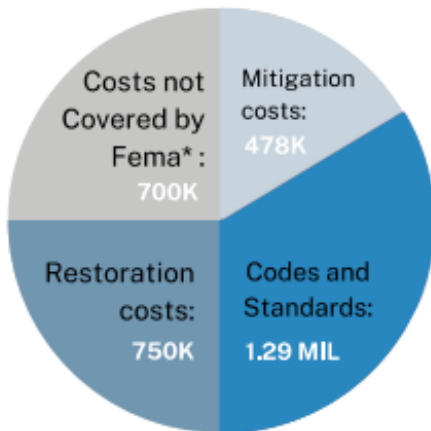
TO THIS!

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 Accept the Challenge 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, March 3

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

Saturday, March 4

Shabbat morning services and bar mitzvah of Sebastian Waldman 10:30 am

Friday, March 10

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

Friday, March 17

Wine & Cheese “pre-neg” 7:15 pm
Kabbalat Shabbat Services. Oneg following services. 8:00 pm

Saturday, March 18

Tot Shabbat (not livestreamed) 10:30 am

Friday, March 24

Community Shabbat Dinner 7:00 pm
All attendees must pre-register [here](#) by Tuesday, March 21.

Friday, March 31

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

Friday, April 7

First Friday Family Kabbalat Shabbat Services with Cantor Jeff 6:30 pm



Temple Beth-El

2419 Kennedy Boulevard at Harrison Avenue
Jersey City, NJ 07304

Phone: 201-333-4229

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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

Rabbi Emeritus Kenneth Brickman

rabbibrickman@betheljc.org

Cantor in Residence Jeff Warshauer

CantorJeff@betheljc.org

Lindsay Holeman, Interim Education Dir.

lindsay@betheljc.org

Tom Rosensweet, President tom@betheljc.org

Philip Gary, Vice President

Karen Seemen Pinn, Vice President

Nancy Sambul, Vice President

Chris Eig, Treasurer

Suzanne Goldstein Smith, Financial Sec.

Deborah Lipp, Recording Secretary

Bob Kahan, Office Mgr admin@betheljc.org

Kay Magilavy, Past President

Irwin Rosen, Past President



Thank you to Sam Pesin, Judy Pesin and Louis Borriello for sponsoring the oneg shabbat at our Martin Luther King service.

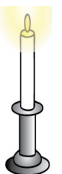
Please consider [sponsoring an oneg](#) — for a special occasion or just to celebrate being together!

Shabbat Candle Lighting

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



Friday, March 3	5:31 pm
Friday, March 10	5:39 pm
Friday, March 17	6:47 pm
Friday, March 24	6:54 pm
Friday, March 31	7:02pm



Monday, March 6 @ 6 pm

Mordy Potter

and the Philosopher's Bagel

A PURIM SHPIEL



Celebrate Purim with us!

Featuring:

Costume Parade! **Megilla Reading!** **Shpiel!**
General Silliness! **Hamantaschen!** **Schnapps!**

There will be mystery! There will be magic! There will be ... bagels?
Well, maybe hamantaschen.



wine & cheese "pre-neg"
before services
Friday, March 17
Friday, April 21
Friday, May 19



- 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](#)



Saturday, March 18
@ 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.

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 PJ Library

Our next Community Shabbat Dinner at TBE:
Friday, March 24 @ 7 pm



All attendees must pre-register [here](#) by March 21. This dinner will be in place of our usual Shabbat prayer services. Cost: \$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.

No Second Seder at TBE this year

We regret to inform you that, with the closing of sale of B'nai Jacob in March and the destruction of our Social Hall by Hurricane Ida in 2021, we are unable to hold a second seder this year. The cost of renting a kosher location and hiring a kosher caterer would be prohibitive. That is why we are working so hard to make the Chai Challenge a success. The sooner we raise the funds, the sooner we will have a Social Hall where we can hold our second seder events.

We wish you a very sweet Passover. A zeisin Pesach to all!
Next year in the Social Hall!

Nancy G. Sambul, VP, Membership and Fundraising



Sebastian Waldman, son of Cliff and Qing, will become a bar mitzvah on March 4th. His seventh-grade teachers think highly of him. He has a rich imagination that he often applies to rapidly learning and developing new computer programs and systems to do almost anything. Though he's a very good student--he almost always gets good scores--it's his teachers who often need to run hard to keep up with his creative mind. He asks very good questions. He's an avid skier who smiles at double-black diamonds.

Judaism is very meaningful to Sebastian and very complicated. His parents joined east and west. Mom was from Beijing, Dad was from N.Y. — one Jewish, the other not. This makes it so special that an important part of Sebastian must stand a bit separate to embrace such Hebrew values as mitzvahs, helping and welcoming strangers, and protecting the integrity of the human soul.

In preparing for his Bar Mitzvah, Sebastian enjoyed writing his D'var Torah with Rabbi Moritt, who is excellent at shaping the growing minds of independent thinkers. Thanks to Cantor Jeff who fought all obstacles to help prepare Sebastian. In preparing for his reading of the Torah, we are eternally indebted to Cantor Miranda Beckenstein who raises learning to a spiritual artform. Beyond words and notes, she breathed relevant Jewish values and stories in between focused lessons in a way that gave him a true friend and guide in this journey of initiation into Judaism, manhood, and... beyond. Both parents are so proud.

Purim Gift Bag Fundraiser

We do the shopping and packing; you get the mitzvah points!



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.

A Purim tradition is "*mishloach manot*" (mish-LO-ach ma-NOTE) — the mitzvah of sending gifts and food. The giving of *shaloch manot* fosters a feeling of closeness and hope in the community at a time of the year when we are still burdened with the bleakness of winter and still dealing with this past pandemic year.

The rabbis taught that we should not only give gifts to friends, but to someone who is new in the community, to those who are needy, and to those whose spirits would be bolstered by knowing that someone cares.

Donations from TBE members help us perform this mitzvah by delivering *shalach manot* gift bags to members who live within Hudson County.

If you enjoyed your gift bag, please consider making a donation to TBE of \$100 to support our Purim fundraiser. To participate, please click [here](#) or scan the QR code. Check off **Event/Fundraising** and choose **Purim Gift Bags**. *All donors will be acknowledged as the gift givers.*



Of course, join us for the fun, merriment, shpiel and schnapps and, of course, hamantaschen on **Purim evening, on March 6 at 6pm.**

Religious School News

Our School’s field trip to the New York Historical Society Museum was a success! The interactive exhibits, combined with plenty of creative phot opportunities engages our students’ attention and gave them wonderful insight into the Jewish history of how the deli developed into the cultural phenomenon it is today.

Thank you to all of our teaches and parent chaperones for working together to supervise everyone and making sure a great time was had by all!




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](#).




It’s not too early to think about camp for next summer!
Learn about Camp Harlam [here](#).



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:

Joel Caminer & Ellen Simon
Tom Rosensweet & Barbara Hines

Deborah Lipp
Nancy & Nathan Sambul in memory of Alain Mentha

Avital Romoff

Tributes

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

Sustaining Fund

Donations were made by

Lerone Edalati
Leana Moritt & Steven Kushner
Arvind & Ranu Patel
Sam Pesin

In memory of Millie Rottenberg

Jacqueline Burns
Harvey & Shirley Roter

In memory of Susan Strauss Pinn

Michele & Craig Linder

In memory of father,

Dr. Marshall Bergen
Carol B. Pantuck

Music Fund

In memory of Alain Mentha
Nancy & Nathan Sambul

In memory of Millie Rottenberg

Nancy & Nathan Sambul



Mazal Tov to **Sara Merin and Tom Stein** on the birth of their daughter **Isobel Merin Stein** on February 17.



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.

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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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



Week ending March 4

Rose Bleiweis
 George J. Bookman
 Isador Cuttler

Week ending March 11

Florence Bettinger
 Jules Edward Burman
 Cecelia Wahl Cohen
 Alice Hersberg
 David Roter
 Nathan Schwartz

Week ending March 18

Frieda Nemet
 Morris Spiegel

Week ending March 25

Kenneth Jay Donenfeld
 Solomon S. Lubow
 Bette Menkes
 Guy Mentha
 Herman Nemet

Week ending April 1

Ursula Cohen
 William Mankoff
 Eilleen T. W. Pollack
 Harry Sandlaufer

Yahrzeits *Remember and Honor*

To update your family's yahrzeit listings go to the [TBE yahrzeit list](#) or call or write the office.

